

New Heights

FALL 2009

Goucher
Quarterly





20 commencement 2009

The promise—and responsibilities—of change

24 step into the future

The Goucher College Athenaeum officially opens its doors.



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on the front cover: a peek at the newly completed Goucher College Athenaeum

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The *Goucher Quarterly* (USPS 223-920) is published in the spring, summer, fall, and winter by the Alumnae/i of Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland 21204. Periodical postage is paid at Baltimore.

postmaster

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as of September 2008

total students: 1,447 undergraduates,

872 graduate students

undergraduate faculty: 150.4

alumnae & alumni: 16,804

Many thanks go out to all the talented people who help produce this publication each quarter.

Goucher College is a private liberal arts and sciences college founded in 1885. For up-to-date information about the college, visit www.goucher.edu.



photo by Rachel Stark '09



photo by Holly Selby

contributors

Kate Maskarinec '09

Kate Maskarinec graduated in May with a bachelor of arts degree in media and communication studies and a minor in interdisciplinary studies. Shortly afterward, she returned to the college as the Goucher Associate. In this position, she works with the *Quarterly* as well as Alumnae/i Affairs and student outreach.

Sam Colon '09

Sam Colon of Long Beach, NY, majored in English with a concentration in writing. While at Goucher, he wrote for the *Goucher Review*. Now living in Baltimore city, he spent the summer working at the *Quarterly* and plans to pursue a career in writing.

Show us *your* Goucher

Goucher College has meant a great many things to a great many people over the years. In celebration of Goucher's 125th anniversary—coming in 2010—we're holding a photo contest. Send us your best photograph—the one that seems to capture a quintessential Goucher moment.

Does your favorite snapshot depict a silly moment during Sing Song? Your roommate accepting her diploma? You and your boyfriend stealing a kiss before class? Dr. Moment giving a lecture? The time you made the winning lacrosse goal?

All entries must include the name of the person who took the photo, caption information, and your e-mail address or telephone number. Digital images must be at least 300 dpi at full size. Submissions will not be returned. \$



Covershot,
Donnybrook Fair, 1981



The deadline for you to send us your entry is November 1, 2009.

We'll publish the contest winners in the *Quarterly*. Anyone in the Goucher community—alumnae/i, faculty, staff, students, parents—is invited to enter.

Please send your entry to: Photo Contest, *Quarterly*, Goucher College, 1021 Dulaney Valley Road, Baltimore, MD, 21204-2794 or photo@mail.goucher.edu.

Celebrating Old and New

Autumn always arrives with a sense of renewed excitement and anticipation. After all, the students are back, classes are in full swing and, on campus, the air practically crackles with intellectual energy. This season, there's more reason than ever to be excited as the college looks toward the future—and the past.

After two years of construction dust and noise, the Goucher College Athenaeum is now completed. Inside this issue, you will find a feature about the college's flagship building—an extraordinary new social, cultural, and academic hub for the campus and a physical manifestation of Goucher's vision for the future of liberal arts education (see p. 24). Still another article describes the closing of the Julia Rogers Library—and the opening of the college's new library in the Athenaeum (see p. 4).

This semester also marks the launch of Goucher College's grand 125th anniversary celebration, which will include speaker's series, panel discussions, and performances, among many other events (see p. 3). I also would like to invite all members of the Goucher community to take part in the *Quarterly* Photo Contest by sending in a favorite photograph, one that captures a quintessential Goucher moment (see facing page).

There's plenty else inside this issue, including a description of a road trip taken last summer by students who were inspired to spread the word about their college experience. Called the Goucher Vagabonds, this team of three current students crossed the country in a college van, visiting alumnae/i and current and incoming students (see p. 17). The trip was so successful that there's talk of sending a new team on a similar journey next year, too. And please don't miss the profiles of Eleanor Matlack Davis '26 and Ruth Whitney Seabold '26 (pp. 42 and 43). Both of these remarkable women celebrated their 105th birthdays in recent months.

Best regards,
Holly Selby | Editor

holly.selby@goucher.edu



feedback

The History Book Has It


There was a question in the most recent alum magazine about the origin of the use of the word “Donnybrook” (when I graduated in 1978, the yearbook was called *Donnybrook Fair*, and there was a field that we called Donnybrook as well).

The best reference to the naming of these that we ever found was in the book *The History of Goucher College*, published in 1938 by [Anna Heubeck] Knipp and [Thaddeus P.] Thomas. There must be a copy of this at the Goucher library or perhaps in the yearbook office. The relevant discussion starts on page 505. Can you pass this information on to whomever asked the question?

Thanks,

 Bonnie Jean Mohr '78

Editor's note: The *Quarterly* received several letters and calls offering information about the *Donnybrook Fair*. According to the Knipp and Thomas history, the yearbook, which was first published in 1895, was named for an Irish fair that for years was held outside Dublin. “We chose the name we liked best, and we are happy that a little babbling brook on our own campus has been christened Donnybrook to do honor to our choice,” said Mary Louise O’Neill ’96, the yearbook’s first editor-in-chief, when explaining how the yearbook was named.

 by mail
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Letters should be 250 words or fewer (longer letters may be edited for length) and must be accompanied by sender’s name, daytime phone, and current address. Submissions will be edited for clarity and style. Publication will be as space permits.

EST. 1885
125
years



Join the Party

Goucher College is
celebrating its
125th anniversary
beginning this fall
with panel discussions,
exhibits, and
just plain fun.

For information, visit
www.goucher.edu/125.

Thanking those who came before

By Sam Colon '09

Parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, and mentors were among those remembered and thanked by the seniors who participated last spring in Goucher's fourth annual Donning of the Kente Cloth ceremony. Held annually on college campuses nationwide, the ceremony represents an opportunity for students to acknowledge the influential roles that others have played in their lives. Although the occasion is traditionally a celebration of African-American heritage, at Goucher it has been expanded to include persons of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Participating seniors, each of whom was accompanied by a loved one, thanked publically those who had supported and inspired them and lit a candle of remembrance. After expressing their gratitude, the students donned a Kente cloth—a traditional African textile first woven in the 12th century by the Ashanti people for use in royal celebrations.

"We give thanks for all that has been given to us, all that has come through us," said **Shauntae Robinson '09** in her remarks. "With that and more, we look forward with hope and promise for future successes, with thanksgiving for opportunities to share of ourselves, with intent to make a difference to others, with pride in who we are and in who we will become." §



Keynote speaker
Goucher English Professor
Angelo Robinson



Shauntae Robinson '09
speaks at the
Kente Cloth ceremony.



Participants in the Donning of the Kente Cloth ceremony

Photos by Ben Droz '09



Did You Know?

Goucher College is launching a new graduate program called the Master of Arts in Cultural Sustainability (MACS) in January 2010. The new program is designed "for those who seek to make real change in the world." Its graduates will emerge qualified to work in nonprofits, museums, activist groups as well as socially responsible corporations.

Similar to three of Goucher's other graduate programs, the MACS program will be structured as a "limited residency." Students will complete coursework online, interacting with professors and classmates through Blackboard, wikis, and blogs. Twice a year, class members will spend a week on campus for one-on-one mentoring and fieldwork. Courses will be taught by adjunct faculty members who also work at prestigious institutions, such as the Smithsonian and the Library of Congress, says Deborah Cebula, director of Professional Graduate Programs & Lifelong Learning at the Welch Center for Graduate and Professional Studies.

"The beauty of this 'limited residency' online community, [is that] we can have faculty from anywhere and students from all over the world. It brings a richness to the conversation and dialogue," she says. §

Farewell, Julia Rogers Library.

By Kate Maskarinec '09

On July 10, 2009, after 57 years of operation, the Julia Rogers Library closed its doors for the final time, and its books and collections were moved to a new library in the Athenaeum, Goucher College's just-completed, \$48 million building.

Completed in the fall of 1952, the Julia Rogers Library eventually housed more than 300,000 volumes and 6,200 works on paper; its cramped archives were treasure troves of photographs, first editions, theses written by students, and lecture notes composed by long-retired professors. It also was the site of President Emerita Rhoda Dorsey's famous "map quizzes," row upon row of well-used wooden carrels, countless stolen catnaps (in the "big comfy chairs," as one alumna noted), and it served as an all-hours hangout during exams.

"It really is the end of an era. Julia Rogers has been a great resource for Goucher—for exploration, inspiration, and contemplation," says Nancy Magnuson, Goucher College's librarian since 1987. "We intend to bring the good spirits with us to the Athenaeum and are excited about fostering new memories in such a beautiful setting."



"It really is the end of an era. Julia Rogers has been a great resource for Goucher—for exploration, inspiration, and contemplation."





TOP LEFT
Marion Bowman Maginnis '54 spends an afternoon studying in one of the Julia Rogers Library carrels.

Photo *The Donnybrooke Fair* 1953

MIDDLE LEFT
Members of the library staff and friends give a farewell toast to the Julia Rogers Library on its last day of operation.

Photo by Valerie Wiseman '10

BOTTOM LEFT
College Librarian Nancy Magnuson holds a board with signatures and memories written by library staff members.

Photo by Valerie Wiseman '10

BELOW
Architect's renderings of the new library in the Athenaeum.

Rendering by RMJM Hillier



Hello, future.



Spanning four floors in the Athenaeum, the new library, which opened in August, offers its visitors bright and spacious surroundings in which to learn. Its exterior walls are made of treated glass that allow natural light in, while presenting expansive views of the campus and reducing heat absorption during the summer months. Operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the new space houses, in addition to its collections, more than 100 computers, a K-12 curriculum resource center for education students, group-study rooms wired for collaborative work, state-of-the-art digital equipment, and quiet reading areas.

There also are expanded archives and exhibition galleries in which collections and objects—a first edition of Jane Austen's classic *Emma* (one of only four existing copies), perhaps, or a 1528 Dutch Bible, one of the only nearly-complete copies of the holy book banned by an edict of Emperor Charles V—may be showcased. §



Disability Initiative raises awareness

by Jane Dummer '59 and Ed Duggan

One year ago Goucher College created the Disability Initiative, a campus-wide effort to prepare students to work and live with populations that are diverse not only by gender or ethnicity, but also by ability. Through the initiative, disability awareness programs were integrated into both Academic and Student Life divisions.

Programming last year featured lively discussions on disability offered during psychology classes, such as a talk about deaf culture presented by a staff member (with a sign-language interpreter) from the Hearing and Speech Agency, a nonprofit based in Maryland.

In addition, during a special education course, 26 nondisabled students spent part of a day using wheelchairs to attend classes, navigate campus eateries, and use public restrooms. Members of Goucher's tennis teams also competed against experienced wheelchair tennis players who came to campus from Baltimore Adapted Recreation and Sports, a nonprofit organization that sponsors recreation events for people with disabilities. Still other nondisabled students competed (in wheelchairs) against the Maryland Ravens, a nationally ranked wheelchair basketball team.

The new initiative has sparked interest throughout the Goucher community. Plans are underway to include disability awareness programming in classes during the year. And at their 50th Reunion last spring, members of the Class of 1959 voted to support the initiative and recommended to President Sanford J. Ungar that the program be formally integrated into the curriculum.

Ed Duggan is Goucher's Disability Initiative Coordinator.

Challenges bred success



Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female head of state, last spring told a Goucher College audience that lessons learned while overcoming defeat may ultimately have contributed to her success.

"The totality of those [difficult] experiences only helped to make me a stronger person," she said.

Sirleaf, who earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Colorado and a master's degree in public administration at Harvard University, is the author of the recently released book, *This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President*, in which she chronicles her life story.

From 1972-1973, Sirleaf served as Liberia's minister of finance. In 1980, after a military coup, she was forced to live in exile in Kenya. Five years later, she returned to campaign for the presidency, and was placed under house arrest. Told to choose between prison and exile, she moved to Washington, D.C. In 1997, she returned to Liberia and ran unsuccessfully for president. In 2005, however, she ran again, this time winning. "The odds were stacked against me, as they say," Sirleaf told the audience. "But, I always say that they forgot one thing—the power of women."

To hear a podcast of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's remarks, visit <http://www.goucher.edu/x32169.xml>.

Kudos

Great teacher

Melissa De Michaels Proebstle '87

this year was named the L.S. Wood Charitable Trust Teacher of the Year for Garfield School District Re-2 (Colorado). Proebstle, who majored in biological sciences, teaches sixth-grade science at Rifle Middle School. The award, which recognizes excellence in public school teaching, is given annually to a teacher in both the Roaring Fork and Garfield Re-2 school districts. It carries with it a \$2,000 award for the teacher and a matching \$2,000 gift for the winner's school department.



Guggenheim Fellow

Robert Beachy, associate professor of history, has been named a 2009 John Simon Guggenheim fellow. Beachy, who researches the history of homosexuality in Germany from the 1860s through the 1920s under the Nazi regime, is taking a break from teaching next year to finish his book, *Gay Berlin: Birthplace of Modern Identity*, scheduled for publication in 2011.



small footprints lead to a healthier planet

by Amanda Williams '10

Did you know that the production and distribution of the foods we eat contribute about a third of global greenhouse emissions?

Here are a few foods considered **high-carbon offenders:**

- X** Beef
- X** Imported goods
(such as coffee, sugar, and tropical fruit)
- X** Highly processed foods
(including chicken nuggets or frozen meals)

Low-carbon foods include:

- ✓** Locally grown produce
- ✓** Fresh turkey or chicken
- ✓** Locally caught fish



You've probably heard of the South Beach and Atkins diets, but have you heard of a low-carbon diet?

Instead of reducing waistlines, this meal plan helps reduce carbon footprints—the amount of greenhouse gas emissions caused, directly and indirectly, by an individual, organization, event, or product. Carbon, in the form of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, is one of the prime contributors to global warming and large-scale climate change around the world. Those who adhere to a low-carbon diet try to eat foods that cause the release of the least carbon possible during the production process.

Last semester, **Bon Appétit**, Goucher's food management company, celebrated Earth Day, which falls every April 22, by sponsoring its third annual Low Carbon Diet Day, aimed at raising awareness about the impact food choices have on the environment.

Throughout the day, Goucher's dining halls served meals featuring bison burgers, fish, and turkey—foods that have a relatively low impact on the environment. Gone were beef burgers, highly processed foods such as chicken nuggets, and coffee. During meals, a "low-carbon quiz" that tested diners' ability to make environmentally responsible menu choices was displayed on big-screen TVs placed throughout the dining halls.

"The biggest contribution we can make is to educate ourselves about the effects of food choices on climate change," says Norman Zwagil, manager of Bon Appétit.

To find out how your eating habits are ranked according to their carbon footprint, visit www.eatlowcarbon.org.

impromptu

(*im·promp'tōō*) *adj.* Something made or done offhand, at the moment, or without previous study; an extemporaneous composition, address, or remark.

By Sam Colon '09

Professor Rick Pringle, faculty co-facilitator of Goucher College's Read-A-Story/Write-A-Story and Enacta Story programs, has taught in the Psychology Department for 30 years. He describes why psychology fascinates him—and what he's planning for the upcoming year.

You've taught in Goucher's psychology department since 1979—what initially drew you to the field?

I was a math and physics person back in high school and always assumed I'd go in that direction. But as a college freshman, I tried psychology, and I never looked back. At first, my interest was perception: I did my doctorate [at Kansas State University] in visual cognition. After coming to Goucher, I got more interested in psychology as a humanistic enterprise—a place to study relational issues and the psychology of meaning.

Psychology is Goucher's most popular major, comprising 13 percent of declared majors in 2008. What's the appeal?

Psychology is a popular major nationwide. At Goucher, we have a very diverse department that represents many approaches. The college attracts many students who want to change the world, and they often find pathways into that kind of work through psychology or via interdisciplinary study, combining psychology with areas such as peace studies, women's studies, and the arts.

In 2005, you were instrumental in founding the Read-A-Story/Write-A Story program—an after-school literacy program in which Goucher students work one-on-one with students at Baltimore City's Dallas Nicholas Jr. Elementary School, often helping them produce their own books. How did the program come about?

Sofia Jasani '06 was doing an internship at Dallas Nicholas. She teamed up with an AmeriCorps Vista worker and came to me and said, "We've got an idea, centered on reading and writing, and we'd think you'd be really good at developing this." Together we decided that within my Qualitative Research class, we could invent an after-school reading-and-writing program. It started off small—six Goucher students and 12 children—and now it's flourishing. Last year, under the most recent student directors (**Heather Kantrowitz '09**, **Sharena Hagins '08**, **Jenna Rose '09**, and **Liza Krohn '09**), 60 to 70 Goucher students worked at the school each week.

Beyond Goucher, how do you spend your time?

I'm always reading, hiking, and getting outdoors. I read a lot of feminist and liberation literature. This interest stems partly from being a dad of three wonderful daughters, having taught at an all-female Goucher, now teaching at a co-ed Goucher, and trying to develop a psychology of care, social justice, and educational equity.

What are you particularly excited about as the academic year begins?

I'm preparing for a peace studies course, scheduled to begin in Fall 2010, which will address research methods. We're also hoping to expand the Read-a-Story/Write-a-Story program to two-hour sessions, four days per week and to include guest storytellers. On my sabbatical next spring, I plan to write a distillation of my research in relational psychology and the construction of masculinity.

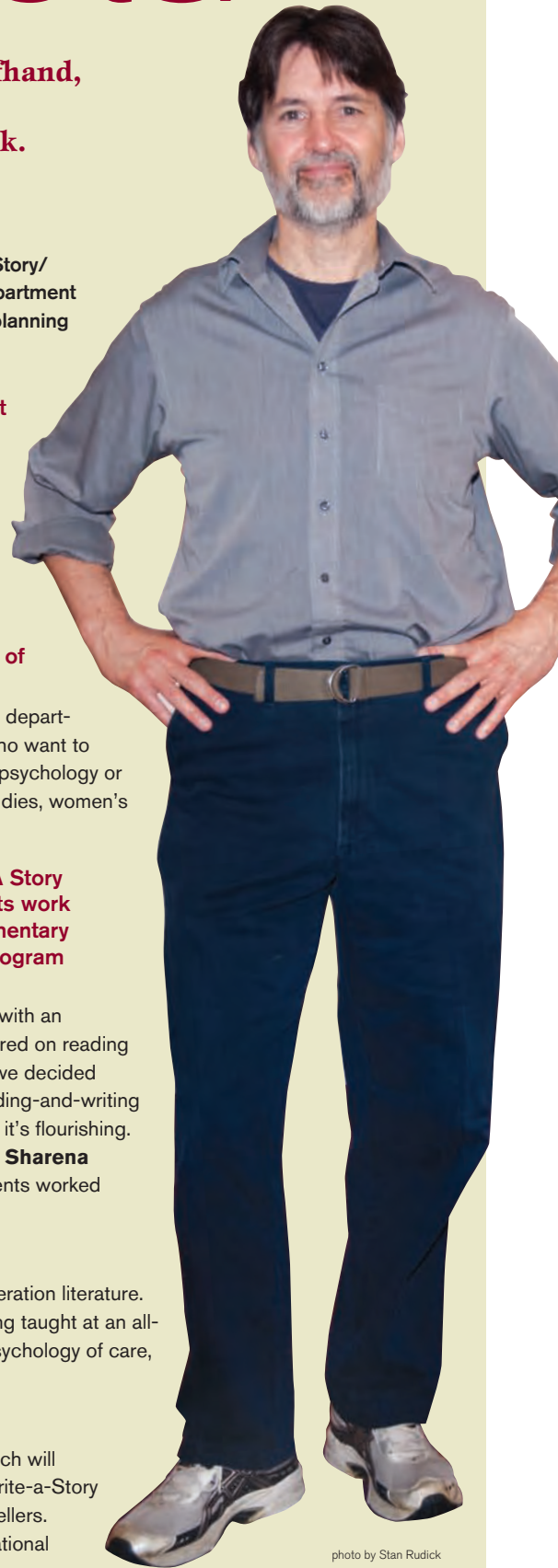


photo by Stan Rudick

giving to Goucher

Total Giving to Goucher Rises

Total giving to Goucher College rose from **\$8.1 million** last year to **\$9.8 million** during fiscal year 2008-09. "I would like to thank publically all of the alumnae/i and friends of Goucher College for their generosity this year," said Janet Wiley, vice president for development and alumnae/i affairs. **"Every gift means a great deal to the college."**

Here is a breakdown of total giving to Goucher College in fiscal year 2008-09:

\$4.5 million was given via realized bequests

\$3.6 million was given to restricted funds (i.e. scholarships, dance, studies abroad, library, etc.)

\$1.7 million was given to the Annual Fund

Nonetheless, because of the recession, Goucher's endowment, like those of many colleges nationwide, decreased significantly in the past year from its 2007 high of nearly \$212 million. That means that reaching the \$2 million goal for the Annual Fund is imperative, Wiley said. **"As anyone can see, the generosity of the members of the Goucher community is more important now than ever."**



**TRANSCENDING
BOUNDARIES**

The Campaign for Goucher College

If you would like to give to
Goucher College, please call
1.800.619.7564 or visit
www.goucher.edu/gift.

Giving Spotlight

Dorothy B. Krug '41

by Stephen Speicher '10 and Jay Michael Gilman '09

When Dorothy B. Krug '41 says that she has had a lifelong relationship with Goucher College, she truly means it. Her childhood home was located on the 2200 block of Baltimore City's St. Paul Street—directly across from what was then the college's downtown campus. "My playground was the Goucher lawn," Krug says.

The Baltimore native has vivid memories of years at Goucher spent studying, playing bridge, socializing with her sorority sisters, attending college-sponsored dances, and getting together with students from the Johns Hopkins University.

Krug, who majored in French, initially planned to become a teacher. After graduation, however, she changed her mind. "In those days if you weren't going to be a teacher, a lab technician, a librarian, or a social worker, you went to secretarial school," she says.

Indeed, Krug attended a Baltimore secretarial school and landed a job (through a connection made at Goucher) at a fledgling Baltimore investment firm called T. Rowe Price Associates Inc. "I'd never heard of it before," she says. "It took about 20 years before the company got so big you didn't know everyone there by name."

By 1950, Krug's position in the company had changed significantly. Instead of merely playing a secretarial role, she worked directly with clients, consulting and managing investment portfolios; she also oversaw hiring for the company. "By the time I retired in 1976, I was the head of personnel," Krug says.

Krug's success at T. Rowe Price did not come without challenges. She says that because she was a woman, many clients didn't want to talk to her. "There was much more acceptance [of women] in the company than at similar companies," she recalls, "but there still was a 'demarcation' between the men and the women." Nonetheless, Krug eventually became the first female vice president at T. Rowe Price.

A third-generation member of the Lovely Lane United Methodist Church, (located in the old Goucher neighborhood), Krug's commitment to both the city and Goucher College has never wavered. "I'm very interested in Baltimore's history, monuments—the fabric of the city," she says.

These days, Krug, a Goucher trustee emerita, lives at Broadmead, a retirement community, and continues to work on the Alumnae/i Tours Committee, which offers alumnae/i and friends trips to intriguing spots in Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and beyond.

Although her undergraduate years are long over, Krug attributes much of her success to lessons learned while in college. **"Goucher made me a well-rounded person, able to adjust to changes," she says. "I got hooked on Goucher and remained interested and involved all my life."**



Photo by Stan Rudick



Photo courtesy of: Cornell University Library, Collection: A. D. White Architectural Photographs

This article was drawn from a larger oral history project, **Shared Future; Common Past**, begun last summer by Speicher and Gilman. For more information about the project, e-mail SFCP@gmail.com.

Bright Lights, Big City

Glamorous was the word that came to mind at a party given last spring in Manhattan by **Kimara Ahnert '91**. Held at the hostess's Upper East Side cosmetics studio, Kimara Ahnert New York, the event drew nearly 40 Goucher alumnae/i from the New York City area. Amid sumptuous décor, partygoers nibbled on cheese and sipped white wine while reconnecting with old friends and making new acquaintances. **S**



TOP LEFT

(L to R) Robert Bull '93; Bill Pugh '94; Janet Wiley, vice president for development and alumnae/i affairs; and hostess Kimara Ahnert '91

MIDDLE LEFT

(L to R) Ana Vinaixa Zamora '94, Melissa Fenice '94, Suzanne Wilson '94, and Mindy Sabella '86

MIDDLE RIGHT

Jonathan "Wex" Wexler '94 and Steve Abraham '92

BOTTOM LEFT

(L to R) Jennifer M. Leichter '90, Anna Abrigo '90, and Nina M. Leichter '87

Photos by Caroline Bauerle '89

BRAGGING Rights

by Michael Sanders



Boncaro named Landmark Rookie of the Year

By scoring 28 goals and picking up 35 assists during his first season on Goucher's men's lacrosse team, **Kyle Boncaro '12** certainly caught the attention of the seven coaches in the Landmark Conference. He

was awarded both a first-team spot on the 2009 All-Landmark Conference Men's Lacrosse Team—and was selected Rookie of the Year in the Landmark Conference.

One of only three freshmen to earn All-Landmark Conference recognition in men's lacrosse, Boncaro led the Gophers in assists and points (63). His average of 4.20 points per game ranked first in the Landmark Conference, and only seven Division III players throughout the nation surpassed him in assists per contest (2.33).

Four of Boncaro's teammates joined him on the 2009 All-Landmark Conference Men's Lacrosse Team: midfielder **Brian Hoge '09** and defenseman **Justin Dunn '11** landed on the first team, and attackman **Sam Fitzpatrick '09** and defenseman **Andy Nielsen '09** were second-team selections.

great run for women's tennis squad

Goucher qualified for Landmark Conference postseason tournaments in four sports in 2008-09: volleyball, men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, and women's tennis. Sally Baum's women's tennis squad advanced to the finals. In the semifinals, the Gophers pinned a 5-4 setback on second-seeded Juniata. Winners in singles play against the Eagles were **Tanya Cooley '09** at No. 1, **Mouna Attarha '09** at No. 3 and **Chloe Scott-Giry '09** at No. 5, all in straight sets.

That win put the Gophers into the title match against top-seeded Moravian, and the Greyhounds prevailed 8-1. Still, Baum's team finished its 2008-09 campaign with a 13-5 record.

Carly Heinz '10 and Scott-Giry represented Goucher on the 2009 All-Landmark Conference Women's Tennis Team, both as second-team selections. Heinz fashioned a 6-4 record playing exclusively at No. 2 in the singles line-up, and Scott-Giry led the team in singles wins as she went 16-1.

Tersigni named to All-Landmark Conference first team

The 2009 All-Landmark Conference Women's Lacrosse Team also included five players from Goucher. Midfielder **Marlo Tersigni '09** was named to the first team, and the others—midfielder **Colleen Cole '11**, midfielder/defender **Jenny Lucey '09**, attacker **Becca Smith '12**, and goalkeeper **Brittany Foster '09**—were placed on the second team.

Tersigni's post-season honors didn't end with her selection to the All-Landmark Conference Team. The Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association also announced in May that she was a second-team midfielder on the 2009 All-Boardwalk Region Women's Lacrosse Team.

Tersigni led the Gophers in assists (21), points (57), draw controls (66), and caused turnovers (41) and ranked second in goals (36). Nationally, she ranked seventh in caused turnovers (2.64 per game) and 11th in draw controls (4.71 per game) in Division III.

fast feats

Three school records were broken and another was tied by athletes who represented Goucher at the 2009 Landmark Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championships, which were conducted in Gopher Stadium in April.

Steven Tenure '11 set a new record in the 400-meter hurdles with his time of :57.84, and **Chris Litz '11** did the same in the pole vault by successfully clearing 13 feet, 11.25 inches. Both finished in third place in those events.

Charlie Rooney '11 turned in the fastest time in the history of Goucher's track and field program in the 400-meter dash when he completed the event in :51.52 during the trials. In the finals, he placed eighth overall with his time of :52.83.

Scott Wenzler '10 tied the school record in the high jump by clearing 5 feet, 6 inches.

gopheReport

Kickin' it In Spain by Sam Colon '09

Twenty-one Goucher soccer players, along with two alumni, two coaches, and a gaggle of parents, traveled to Barcelona last summer to see the sights, experience a different culture, savor new foods, and, yes, play ball.

The Gophers performed well in the three games (1-1-1) they played during their one-week stay in Spain, which was arranged by Head Coach Gary Dunda with help from a sports-travel agency called Excel International Sports. Team members also learned a great deal from being exposed to a different playing style. "The technical ability of Spanish players is extremely high, which increases their speed of play to a very high level," Dunda explains. "For our team members to compete, we had to rely on our athletic ability and competitiveness."

The Gophers stayed in Callela, a resort town on the Mediterranean Sea. They also went sightseeing in Barcelona, making stops at La Sagrada Familia, which was designed by renowned architect Antoni Gaudi and has been under construction since 1882, and

the Barcelona Olympic Stadium, which was built for the 1992 games, as well as visiting the historic Catalonian towns of Besalu and Girona.

The Goucher group also joined 98,000 other fans for a professional soccer match between teams FC Barcelona and CA Osasuna. "You can't compare it to any other sporting event in America," says team co-captain **Tim McMullen '09**. "You're talking about the most passionate fans in the world. The environment is amazing; it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

But the best moment of all? According to Goucher men's soccer team co-captains McMullen and **Galen Guindon '10**, the highlight of the journey came during the first game the Gophers played in Spain: With just minutes to go in the second half, **Evan Rosse '09** scored the winning goal against UE Sant Vicenc de Torrello (2nd regional league of Barcelona). "Evan scored a goal with five minutes left," says McMullen. "It was a great overall team effort. From goalie to forward, everybody played amazingly." §



Members of the men's soccer team and friends on the steps of an ancient cathedral in Girona, Spain.

Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College 2009–10 Board of Directors

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Robert Lee Bull Jr. '93
AAGC Nominating Committee,
Facilitator

Vacant
Alumnae/i Fund Chair

mark your calendars

Oct. 9-11
ON CAMPUS

Family Weekend

Come celebrate Goucher's 125 anniversary! Bring your whole family for fun times for all ages.

Second
Wednesdays
ON CAMPUS

Lunch & Learn

Topical discussions with Rabbi Josh Snyder

For a complete schedule of events, visit www.goucher.edu/alumni or call toll-free, 1.800.272.2279. For information about Family Weekend, contact the Office of Student Engagement at 410.337.6124. For information about Lunch & Learn, e-mail hillel@goucher.edu or call 410.337.6545.

● OUT OF TOWN ● ON CAMPUS ● IN BALTIMORE

Alumnae/i athletic events

Here is a list of the alumnae/i games planned in the next months:

- Swimming: Oct. 9, 7:00 p.m.
- Volleyball: Oct. 9, 7 p.m.
- Cross Country: Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m.
- Men's Soccer: Oct. 10, 10 a.m.
- Women's Lacrosse: Oct. 10, 11 a.m.
- Men's Tennis: Oct. 10, 11 a.m.
- Women's Tennis: Oct. 10, 11 a.m.
- Women's Basketball: Nov. 7, 5 p.m.
- Men's Basketball: Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.

IT'S A GREAT TIME TO GET BACK IN TOUCH.

Join

GoucherConnect,
Goucher's new alumnae/i community:

- A secure alumnae/i directory
- Up-to-date event information
- Unique Goucher programming
- A bridge to Facebook



Register today at

www.goucher.edu/goucherconnect



Were you a member of one of Goucher's athletic teams? Come join current and past members of your team for one more game!

For information about alumnae/i games, e-mail gmilller@goucher.edu or 410.337.6385.

alumnae|iUpdate

Dear Goucher Alumnae and Alumni,

I am honored to have been elected as your new AAGC president and look forward to the next two years. However, the past two years also have been a time of excitement and commitment to the college. I want to publicly thank **Robert Bull '93** and the other outgoing directors for their dedication and service to Goucher College. Serving as vice president alongside Robert has been a privilege as well as an education; his leadership and expectations know no boundaries.

The campus is teeming with excitement. *Transcending Boundaries: The Campaign for Goucher College* is approaching its goal of \$80 million. The dedication this month of the Athenaeum, which includes a larger and more technologically advanced library, will be the gleaming (and “green”) centerpiece of the campus. This grand opening coincides with the college’s 125th anniversary, which offers all of us an opportunity to reflect upon our history and to anticipate eagerly the next 125 years!

In celebration of its anniversary, the college will present events throughout the year in which I hope you will participate. Additional information will follow, but in the meantime, mark your calendars for Alumnae/i Weekend (April 22–25, 2010). The occasion will offer a particularly celebratory time to reconnect with Goucher.

Last summer, the Goucher Vagabonds (a team of three current students) took a three-week, cross-country trip to re-engage with the Goucher community. They met with parents and students, as well as alumnae/i, some of whom provided hospitality, meals, and beds. The Vagabonds traveled over 8,400 miles while visiting 17 cities. It was exciting to see the enthusiasm of our current students for meeting our alumnae/i. We hope to have a new trio undertake this exhilarating journey to other parts of the country next year.

I encourage you to visit our website (www.Goucher.edu) and pay particular attention to GoucherConnect. This is an online directory created to assist you in connecting with fellow alumnae/i. The initial response to the launch has been great, and I urge those of you who have not yet signed up to do so. You are one of the more than 16,000 alumnae/i who live in all 50 states and in more than 50 countries. As your fellow alumnae and alumni, we in the AAGC want to further engage you as volunteer leaders. Whether you know it or not, each one of us is an ambassador for Goucher College every single day.

It is a privilege and joy to head the AAGC; I consider my relationship with Goucher to be a lifelong connection, and I hope you feel likewise. Remember, your involvement and commitment to the Goucher community can make all the difference.

Warm regards,
Katherine E. Healy '78
President AAGC



Photo by Stan Rudick



SAVE
THE DATE

ALUMNAE/
WEEKEND

APRIL
22-25



Volunteer Spotlight

Passionate about Public Service

by Holly Selby

Stacy Brown Vermynen '73



Photo by Stan Rudick

Stacy Brown Vermynen '73 never has been one to do things halfheartedly. At

Goucher, she threw herself into the social and political issues of the day, becoming a student government leader. As a professional, she built her own marketing company. As a parent, she changed careers so that she could focus on her children and the kinds of community service that would support them.

"People always say to me, 'Oh, you are so passionate.' And I think, 'Well, why do anything if you aren't passionate?'" Vermynen says. "That passion is what makes people interesting."

Vermynen, who last spring was awarded the 2009 Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College Public Service Award, was for years the executive director of LEAD (Leading Efforts Against Drugs), a nonprofit agency based in Chicago that promotes healthy family relationships and works to prevent alcohol and drug abuse.

The daughter of a salesman and an artist, Vermynen began her college career as a music composition major but switched to Western European studies when a professor told her to find another line of work. "He was very famous, but didn't have great interpersonal skills," Vermynen recalls. "Still, he did me a favor." She threw herself into volunteer work, began accepting internships at local businesses—and never looked back. **"At Goucher, they encourage you to think beyond the**

immediate to how you can change the world," she says. "They teach you to go for it."

After graduating, Vermynen attended the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. As one of 10 women in her class, she learned how to hold her own in a predominantly male environment. "It was a big change from Goucher, but it was helpful learning how to lead in what had been a male bastion," she says.

Those leadership skills paid off as she built a career in marketing and strategic planning, working for Fortune 500 companies before forming her own marketing firm. When her husband, David B. Vermynen, now the president and chief operating officer of Treehouse Foods, Inc., accepted a job in Chicago, she chose to concentrate on raising their three now-grown children and on community service. "My clients were on the West Coast, and my kids were in early adolescence. I knew if I kept my business, I would have to have a nanny so I decided to support them and to throw myself into community activities."

Vermynen sat on school boards, raised money for libraries and the arts, ran for local office and began volunteering at LEAD. "I realized that they needed strategic help," she says.

During 12 years at LEAD, Vermynen served as the president of the board and became executive director. The organization grew from a small

volunteer group to a United Way agency with a paid staff that now serves more than 1,000 families in the Chicago area. After retiring in 2008 from the agency, Vermynen spent a year as director of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Speakup Coalition for the Prevention of Underage Drinking. The group, which Vermynen helped found, has more than 120 members including students, parents, and medical, law enforcement, and religious professionals.

Now, Vermynen says, she again has found a new passion. Last May, she stepped down from the coalition and began studying to become a silversmith. "I noticed in the past few years that I was becoming a little less interested in what I was doing," she says. "And though I'll always be dedicated to alcohol and drug abuse prevention, I thought: It is time for a change. It is time for me to go."

These days she aims to become a professional artist. "It is invigorating," she says. "I just knew that if I didn't do this now, I never would."

For more information about preventing underage drinking, visit www.speakupflb.com.

Goucher Vagabonds Hit the Road

by Sam Colon '09

Three college students, a minivan, and a seemingly endless stretch of highway. These were the elements of a grand, three-week-long, cross-country road trip taken last summer by Goucher students **Aislyn Rose '10**, **Shayna Flynn '10**, and **Saajid King '10**. Part of Goucher's 125th anniversary celebration, the journey was an effort to connect current students with alumnae/i across the nation.

Called the Goucher Vagabonds, the team drove a minivan more than 8,406 miles and visited 17 cities while blogging about their adventures (and posting photographs) on GoucherConnect, the college's new online alumnae/i community. The trip, which was sponsored jointly by the Alumnae/i Affairs Office and the Student Government Association, allowed the students to meet dozens of alumnae/i and current students.

Early in their journey, the Vagabonds met with George and **Jody Meyer Pinion '77** in Charlotte, NC. Jody, who studied psychology and child development at Goucher, now is a nurse. She armed the trio with sweets,

peaches, oranges, and cinnamon bread before sending its members along their way. Next up was Atlanta, GA, where the team munched on burritos and tacos with **Gloria Kantor '04**, a communications major who now is interning at a radio station. The crew received another serving of Southern hospitality the very next day from **Alice McSpadden Williams '61**, who gave them a tour of her Georgia garden and showed them a magnificent evergreen magnolia.

Farther west, in Albuquerque, NM, the Vagabonds stopped by the Navajo Nation Indian Reservation to visit the home of **Tiffany Brody Blackbull '93**, an elementary school teacher. Three

stops later, they were at Universal Studios in Los Angeles, CA, visiting Goucher alumnae **Hollace Goodman Davids '69** and **Bette Einbinder '78** who work in the same building. When the crew stopped in Cleveland, OH, a week later, they listened in awe to **Chris McKay King '57**, a math major turned professional storyteller, who regaled them with the tale of the "Vanishing Hitchhiker."

"A bit spooky, we must say," the team members wrote on their blog.

To learn more about the Goucher Vagabonds' adventures, visit www.goucher.edu/vagabonds.



(L to R) Aislyn Rose '10, Shayna Flynn '10, and Saajid King '10

photo by Bill Weiss

come on in. stay awhile. send-offs | july/august

From Potomac, MD, to Los Angeles, CA, Goucher alumnae/i and parents opened their homes last July and August to new members of the Goucher community. The gatherings, known as Send-Offs, are aimed at introducing incoming first-year students and their families to one another, current students, and to alumnae/i before start of the new fall semester. Now in its third year, the initiative, which is organized by Alumnae/i Affairs, last summer included events held in 11 cities, including Philadelphia, PA, and Lincolnville, ME.



Incoming first-year students and their parents get to know one another at the Potomac, MD, home of Mindy Farber P'10. Her son, Warren Adams '10 and President Sanford J. Ungar also attended the event.

refresh and reinvigorate chautauqua, ny | last summer

Nearly 20 Goucher alumnae immersed themselves last summer in beautiful physical surroundings and invigorating intellectual debate while attending the Chautauqua Institution, held in Chautauqua, NY. The topic of discussion at the weeklong program was the ethics of capitalism. Participants of the excursion, which was organized by Goucher Alumnae/i Tours, stayed at the luxurious Athenaeum Hotel, a 128-year-old Victorian establishment. In addition to attending lectures, Goucher group members also were treated to quartet and piano performances, poetry discussions, and a comedy show.

Alumnae who traveled to the Chatauqua Institution included (L to R, back row): Betty Silverstein Spear '49, Sharon Beischer '65, Carolyn Talbott Gorsuch '47, Edith Albrecht '49, Louise Gutman Goldberg '47, Betty Serio Wanamaker '48; (L to R front row) Helen Medwedeff, Greenberg '61, Dorothy B. Krug '41, Louise Winslow Williams '44, and Ethel Weber Berney '46. (Not pictured) Beverly Cohen Nackman '52, Eleanor Dodson Parker '93, Muriel Weisberg Silverstein '47



alumnae/i trips+tours



Morgan Library and Museum, Jane Austen Exhibit

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

THIS TRIP INCLUDES:

Transportation, admission, muffins and juice in the morning, and snacks on the way home

COST: \$94

Amid renewed interest in Jane Austen's life and work, Manhattan's Morgan Library and Museum presents an exhibition that offers deep insight into the author's character and personality and the historical context in which she lived and wrote. The collection includes the only surviving manuscript of any of her novels, that of *Lady Susan*. You'll eat lunch on your own at the Morgan Café or one of the neighborhood restaurants. This trip is sponsored jointly by Goucher Alumnae/i Tours and the Friends of the Goucher College Library.

For more information, contact a trip leader:

Rhoda Dorsey (410.828.6161) or

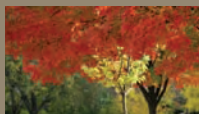
Hazel Sperry (410.252.0224)

Other Exciting Trips in 2009 include:



OCTOBER 3

Night Must Fall
at Olney Theatre
Center



OCTOBER 6

Montpelier in
Orange, VA



OCTOBER 9

Charles Dutoit and
the Philadelphia
Orchestra



OCTOBER 17

National Wildlife
Center, Patuxent
Research Refuge



OCTOBER 31–
NOVEMBER 1

Nemacolin and
Fallingwater



NOVEMBER 15

*Mistress of
Riversdale*
at the Riversdale
Mansion

For more information on any of the Alumnae/i Tours offerings, or to be added to the mailing list, please call 443.921.3599 or e-mail alumni@goucher.edu.



I
LOVE
YOU
DADDY

“It doesn’t mean our education is over—I venture to say it is just beginning.”

— Senior Speaker Margaret Elizabeth Vidler

the promise of

CHANGE

was in the air

COMMENCEMENT

'09

Every Commencement signals change, whether simply the passage of time, the departure of one senior class and the arrival of another, or the transition of graduates from students to world citizens. At Goucher College’s 118th Commencement, held on May 22, the necessity of change and the responsibilities that accompany it were the topics of the day. But, as President Sanford J. Ungar noted, some things will always remain the same. “Of course, Goucher will keep changing—as it has for 125 years and as it must—but it will never forget its friends in the Class of 2009, and it will always be here for you,” he said.

Azar Nafisi, author of the acclaimed memoir *Reading Lolita in Tehran* and keynote Commencement speaker, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa. Honorary doctorates also were presented to Robert E. Meyerhoff and Senator Paul Sarbanes. In addition, an honorary degree was awarded posthumously to the senator’s wife, Christine Dunbar Sarbanes, who for 14 years was a lecturer in classics at Goucher. Margaret Elizabeth Vidler '09 spoke on behalf of the graduates.



22



“[Two things I have come to understand:] the transience of life and the fragility of everything we take for granted... Rights are not given—a lot of history goes behind why we are sitting here today.” – Azar Nafisi, author and keynote speaker



Want more Commencement coverage? Visit www.goucher.edu/commencement



"We are sending students all around the world, and they are coming back and changing us, expanding our awareness of what is really happening out there." — *President Sanford J. Ungar*



"You have a special responsibility to attend to the functioning of the world, to disassociate your personal happiness from the society in which you live." — *Senator Paul Sarbanes*

Here's a look at what some members of the **Class of 2009** are doing:

- Interning in a forensic science laboratory
- Coaching lacrosse
- Dancing and choreographing in Berlin, Germany
- Writing comedy in New York City
- Attending a police academy
- Sailing along the coast of Croatia
- Working with Baltimore's Greater Homewood Community Corporation
- Digging at an archaeological site in Athens
- Attending dentistry school
- Volunteering in Africa



MARY FISHER HALL

HEUBECK HALL

VAN METER HIGHWAY

ALUMNAE &
ALUMNI HOUSE

Building for *the Future*

class Notes 1930-2008

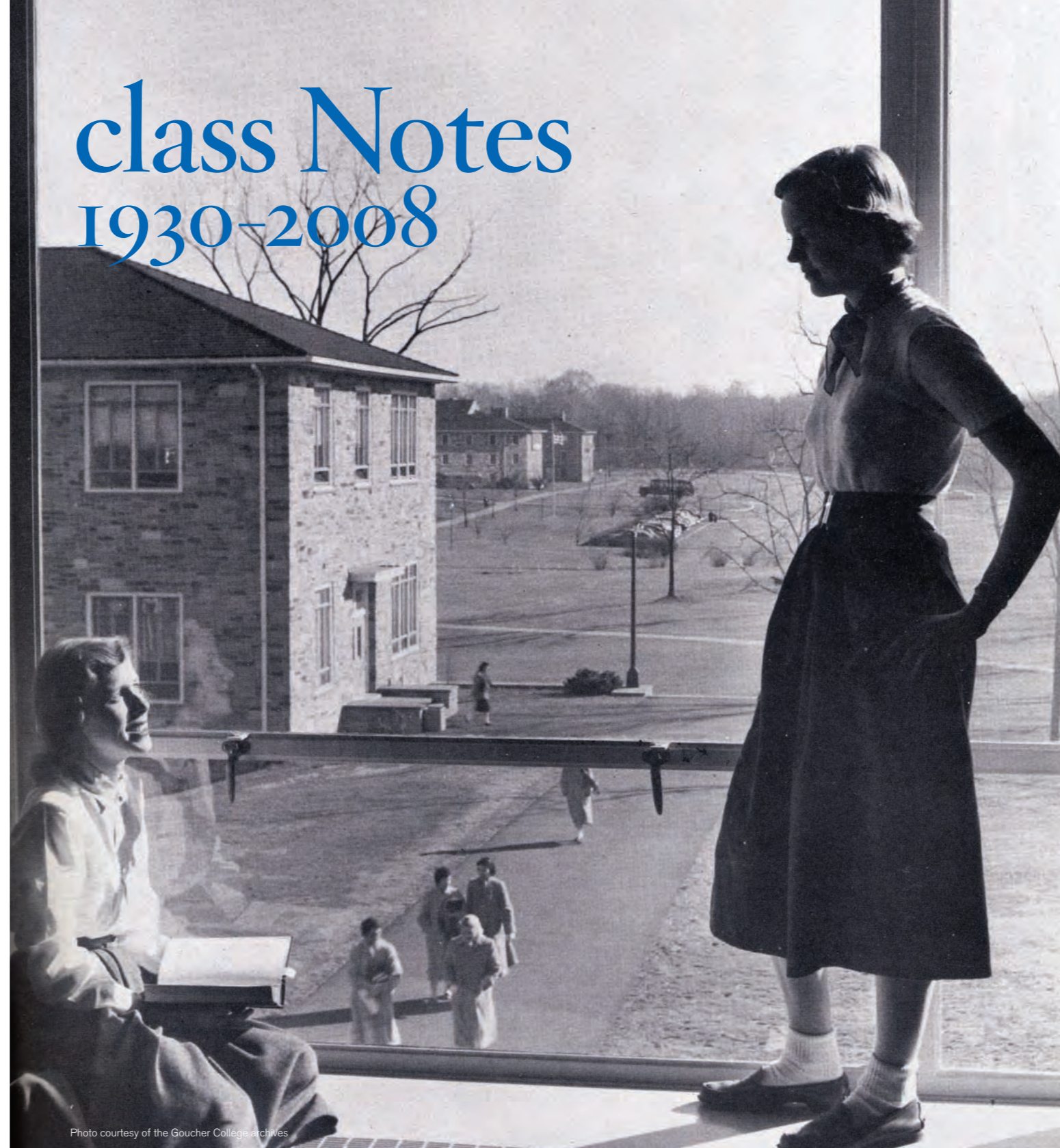
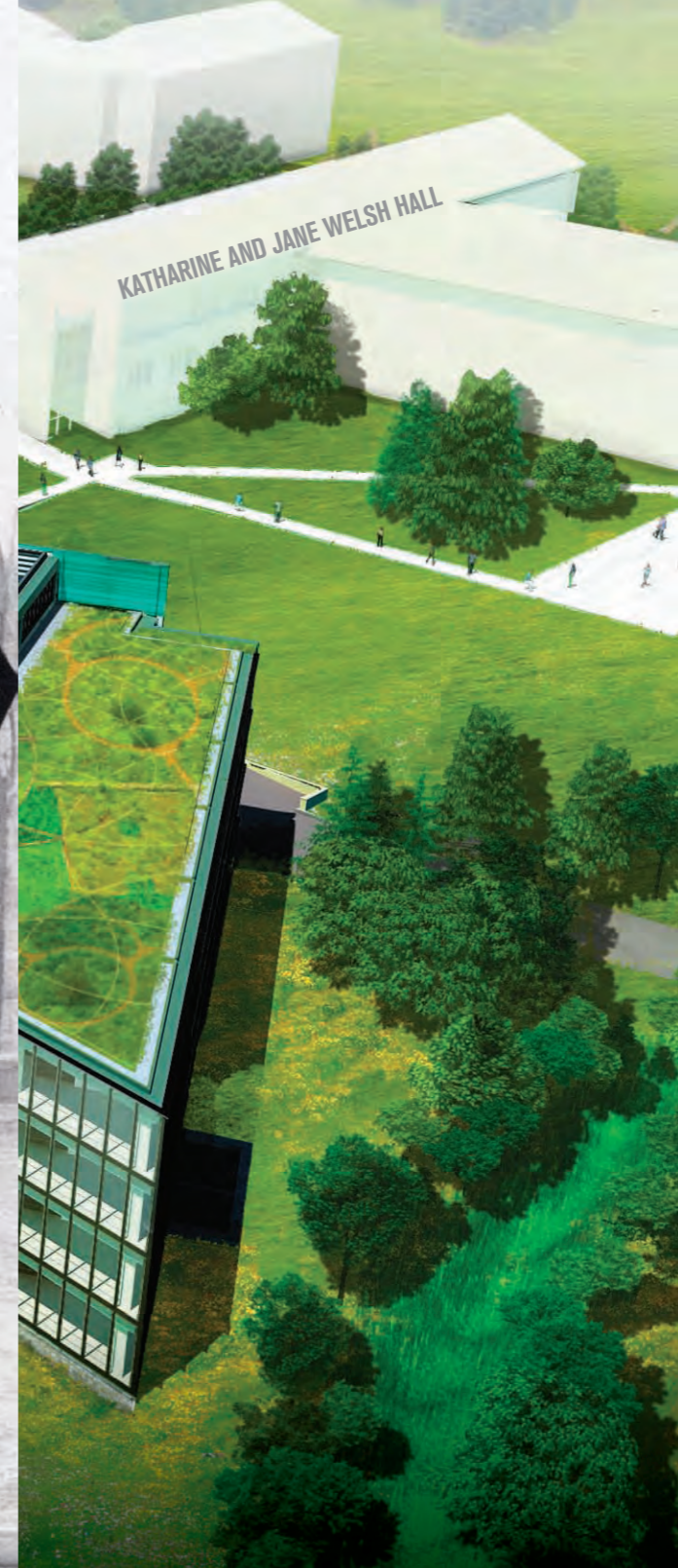


Photo courtesy of the Goucher College Archives



The years of muddy red clay, jungles of scaffolding, growling bulldozers, and clouds of dust have passed. The Goucher College Athenaeum—a building that will serve as a nexus of intellectual and social life—is complete, its doors open in time for the fall semester.

Envisioned as a new hub for the campus, the \$48 million building greets the Goucher community with a grand, three-level public forum that will serve as a town square, bringing together students, faculty, staff, and visitors to learn, mingle, people-watch, perform, and exchange ideas. Not least, it offers digital connections to the larger, global community. Its official opening in September launches a yearlong celebration of Goucher College's 125th anniversary.

The Athenaeum, with its striking exterior of redwood, copper, glass, and stone, houses the college's new library as well as a spacious art gallery and art conservation area. There is a stage for performance art or multimedia shows, a restaurant, group-study rooms wired for digital presentations, a cardio-exercise loft, and quiet reading corners.

"The Athenaeum is the physical manifestation of our efforts to build at Goucher College the liberal arts institution of the 21st century," says President Sanford J. Ungar. "Now that it is open, it is alive with the energy of all those who gather—students, faculty, staff, members of the surrounding community—at this intellectual, cultural, and social crossroads at the very heart of campus."

Centrally located, the Athenaeum stands between the college's residence halls and its administrative and academic buildings and is bordered on two sides by wide green spaces—to the east, a sloping lawn; to the south, a meadow seeded with plants intended to increase the biodiversity of the grounds. The Athenaeum's building materials complement the surrounding landscape: On its west wall, wood and copper mimic the reddish hues of the earth. Its south wall, made entirely of glass, acts as a shimmering mirror to the nearby deciduous and evergreen trees.

With its extraordinary intellectual, cultural, social, and environmental resources, the Athenaeum is where Goucher's future as a center for scholarship, community, and innovation is being realized.

re THE ATHENAEUM, Goucher's crown jewel, officially opens



For information about other Goucher College 125th anniversary events, please visit www.goucher.edu/125.

Graphic by RMJM Hillier



THE TIME IS **now**



Ground-breaking Start to Grand Finale
Beginning in January 2008, Baltimore photographer Jim Burger shot an image of the Athenaeum on the last Sunday of each month. The photographs were taken from the same vantage point: the top of the Alumnae & Alumni House. For more images of the Athenaeum, visit www.goucher.edu/x17081.xml.



Class Notes Policy

The opinions and views expressed in Class Notes do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor of the *Goucher Quarterly*, the Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College, or Goucher College. Notes will be edited for length and style.

Digital photographs should be at least 300 dpi at full size; please contact the editor if you have questions about resolution.

Please submit your news to the Class Notes representative listed by your class; if none is listed, please send it directly to the *Quarterly* office:

Write: *Goucher Quarterly*
1021 Dulaney Valley Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21204
Fax: 410.337.6185
E-mail: quarterly@goucher.edu

INTRODUCING THE Athenaeum

It is the college's new flagship building: a place in which the varied threads of life on campus—cultural, intellectual, social—will intersect and intertwine. It also represents the physical manifestation of Goucher's vision for its future and that of liberal arts education. Inside, you will find a forum, a stage, an art gallery, a library, and many other public spaces. What may not be as visible is the state-of-the-art software for teaching and research or the myriad "green" design features aimed at reducing the building's impact upon the environment. Here are a few highlights of the Goucher College Athenaeum:*

Terrace
Planted with honey locust trees, offering sun-dappled shade and benches of cut quarry stone

Community Service and Multicultural Affairs Center
(upper level, east side, not visible on this graphic representation) Supports service and diversity programs, equipped for exhibitions and other initiatives that draw community members to campus

Skylight
Outfitted with reflective shades that diffuse natural light and provide acoustical baffling

Information Commons
Furnished with more than 100 computers and staffed by reference librarians and technology experts to facilitate use of library resources and new technologies

Alice's Restaurant
(forum level, east side, not visible) Includes patio seating and offers light fare including paninis, smoothies, specialty coffees

Great Lawn
(east side, not visible) Gently sloping like an amphitheater (equipped for concerts and ceremonies)

Meeting/Conference Room
Lined on one wall with white oak cabinetry, includes full presentation capabilities (for meetings, speaker's series, conferences), with access to terrace overlooking west entrance

Commons
(east side, not visible) Serves students who travel daily to campus with spaces for socializing and for studying or napping

Library Atrium
Dramatic space spanning four levels and connecting library stacks to Athenaeum center, furnished with soft seating and tables for study

Library
Four levels, open 24/7, housing 300,000 volumes and offering access to more than 30,000 print and electronic journals

Green Roofs (2)
Planted with six types of indigenous greenery and succulents, which absorb heat and water runoff, preventing discharge into storm drains

Windows
Outfitted with layer of ceramic frit, which absorbs UV rays and protects books and collections inside

Blinds
Installed on every window, designed to adjust lighting automatically to complement natural light and protect library collections

Reading Points (4)
Located on all library levels, furnished with cozy seating for quiet reading; offer notable views of meadow and south entrance

Rain Garden and Meadow
Planted with flowering plants that attract birds and butterflies; will absorb and utilize water from building site, reducing flow into storm drains

Cardio Loft
Equipped with elliptical machines, stationary bicycles, and rowing machines

Donor Wall
(main entrance, not visible) Elegant, etched panels showcase names of donors to *Transcending Boundaries: The Campaign for Goucher College*

Art Conservatory
Climate-controlled space houses college art collections; equipped with compact mobile shelving to maximize space; adjacent to classroom, can be used for study

Forum
Spanning three levels, offers gathering place for "town meetings," multimedia productions, and performances; step seating and balcony standing room accommodate 250 to 800 people

Classroom
(behind red panels) One of several outfitted with state-of-the-art technology for teaching; connects to Forum and converts for use as reception area

West Terrace
(west side, not visible) Manicured expanse of lawn with walkway leading to lower, west-side entrance

Stage
Focal point of Forum, accommodates impromptu or formal performances and connects to group study room (which converts to stage "green room"); equipped with drop-down screens for multimedia events

Group Study Rooms
Located throughout building, spaces equipped with flat-screen monitors or projection systems for presentations and collaborative study sessions

Library Services Room
Research and work space for library management including cataloging, interlibrary loan, and collection management

*Graphic represents a cut-away of the building as viewed from the west. Not all rooms or features are visible.

VISIONARY. REBEL. MAVERICK.

In 1885, not everyone thought that educating women was a good idea.

But the college that John Goucher helped bring into being has always been ahead of its time. Goucher has also been a pioneer in off-campus internships, interdisciplinary study, and study abroad. It's quite a legacy.

And it doesn't end there. By including Goucher in your will, you can create your own enduring legacy, funding scholarships, research, facilities, faculty positions, and visiting artist programs—whatever you envision for Goucher's next 125 years.

Be a visionary. A rebel. A maverick. For more information about making a bequest to Goucher, call 410-337-6378 or visit www.goucher.edu/giftplan.



Rev. Dr. John Franklin Goucher in his study, 1901
Photo courtesy of Goucher College Special Collections

Being Thoughtful at Warp Speed

by Sanford J. Ungar

“Thank you for the need-based grant awarded to my daughter for this coming year,” began the e-mail I received the other day from the father of a rising sophomore. “It comes as a surprise and allows her to continue her studies at Goucher this year with much less worry.”

His message was addressed not only to me, but also to several members of the college’s staff who had paid attention a few months earlier to this man’s news of how the recession had suddenly devastated his family. I was glad to have received his e-mail, relieved that it did not get blocked by all the filters put in place by Goucher’s exceptionally talented information technology people to keep unwanted messages away.

As you might imagine, I get quite a bit of e-mail every day: the usual quotient of junk mail offering me improved health, financial windfalls, and enhanced companionship of various sorts; invitations to attend student-recruitment fairs and to promote Goucher in the most unlikely of places; announcements of seminars and “webinars” and hootenannies of all kinds that, if only I or one of my colleagues took part, would enable the college to achieve immediate perfection.

I get some good stuff out of cyberspace, too, of course—news headlines and information from bulletins, blogs, and listservs tailored to keep me up-to-date on issues where I have relevant background and genuine interest. I allow a few establishments and institutions to hector me at regular intervals, just in case I might come across some product or service or event that I cannot possibly live without. Naturally, we also conduct a great deal of the college’s business online, and I entertain the belief—perhaps it’s really a fantasy—that this helps avoid unnecessary phone calls and meetings. To be sure, there is the occasional scathing or vituperative e-mail from some member of the extended Goucher community, whose author probably never would have sent it had he or she paused to think about it for a minute. But more frequent are the unsolicited messages I get from parents like the father who thanked us for his daughter’s need-based grant, or from our remarkable students. These notes arrive at all hours, sometimes from a residence hall across campus, sometimes from one of Goucher’s study-abroad locations around the world, and various points in between, and they help me learn a

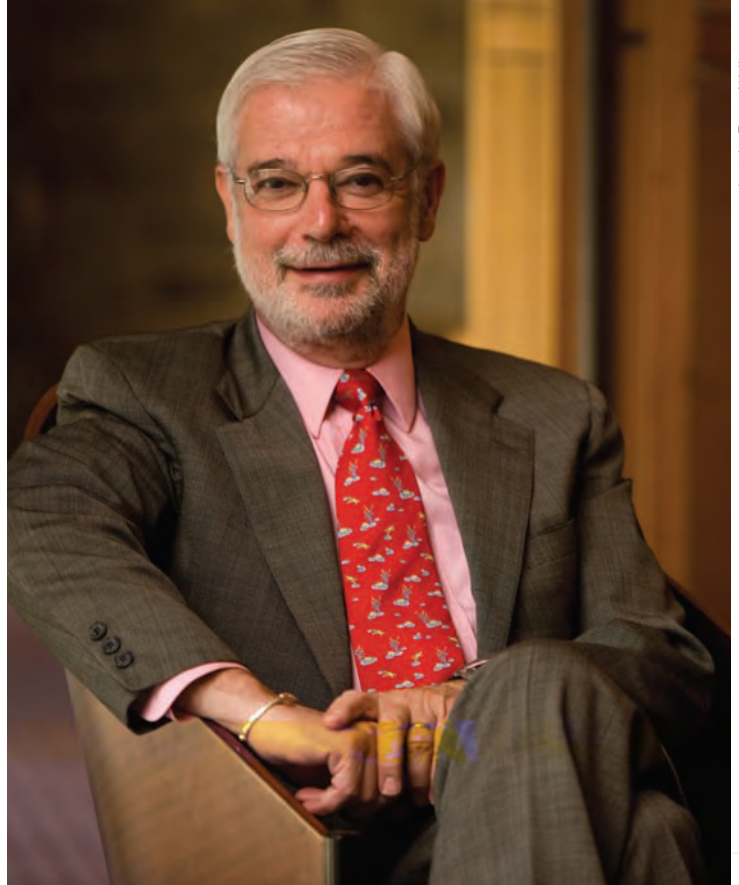


photo by Bruce Weller

great deal about the issues before us and, hopefully, do my job better.

One of those came late in the summer, from a very thoughtful science major who was outraged to learn that we would have a visit to campus this fall by Karl Rove, the mastermind of President George W. Bush’s political campaigns and policy formulation. My experience of Goucher students is that they are both principled and articulate, and while this young man was not the only one to object, he did so with particular eloquence. A few faculty members and alums also sent e-mails protesting Rove’s invitation; such a confluence of reactions always makes me think harder about what we are doing at Goucher and how we are explaining it.

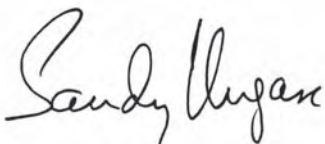
The objections landed in my e-mail box this time, though, just as I was working on the annual revisions to the syllabus for my fall freshman seminar on free speech—to be taught this year with John Bond, immediate past chair of our Board of Trustees. I was reminded of my own principle that we cannot get into the business of drawing a thick line in the sand between those who are appropriate to invite and engage in discussion and those who are not. If we did, who would keep the lists of acceptable and unacceptable speakers? Should it be a committee? How would its membership be chosen? Do we want to hear primarily from those with whom we agree? Would the committee or the community vote on every speaker? Would there be a provision for appeals? The process of filtering out unwelcome views

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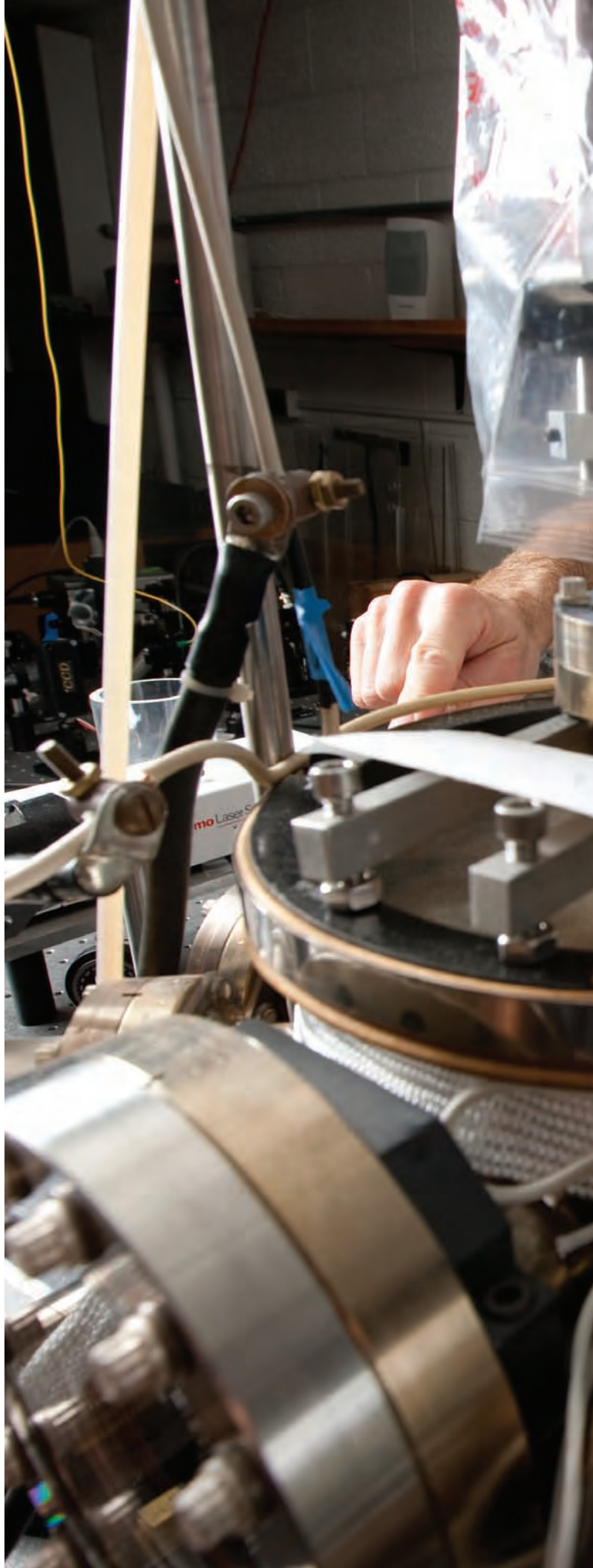
(without the aid of sophisticated computer algorithms, no less) might be at least as thorny and divisive as certain guests, renowned or reviled, who might offend our sensibilities while challenging our perspectives.

The dialogue has continued, though, and it is lively. We can afford to carry on this discussion on a rather high plane and test our boundaries, even in these tough economic times, because we have a fund from an anonymous donor that permits us to host some controversial speakers without having to dip into the college's precious resources. (Other students, by the way, have praised the invitation of Rove, saying he will be a welcome change—thus proving just how hard it is to come up with a single, universally accepted standard for deciding whom we would like to hear and meet.) Another key difference at Goucher is that many of Rove's stalwart critics on campus will be able to look him in the eye and challenge him while he is here.

It seems amazing to some of us who can remember sending letters home from college through "snail mail" and talking only occasionally to family members and friends on the phone, but all of these issues—the good, the bad, the hotly contested, and the humanitarian—are dealt with today at breakneck speed through technologies that are shifting all the time. We have to be agile as well as wise. As we launch our celebration of Goucher's 125th anniversary, it is important to recognize how very much has changed about the way we communicate with each other, and, at the same time, to use all the new instruments at our command to honor, rather than subvert, the unchanging values of this splendid college.



Sanford J. Ungar | President



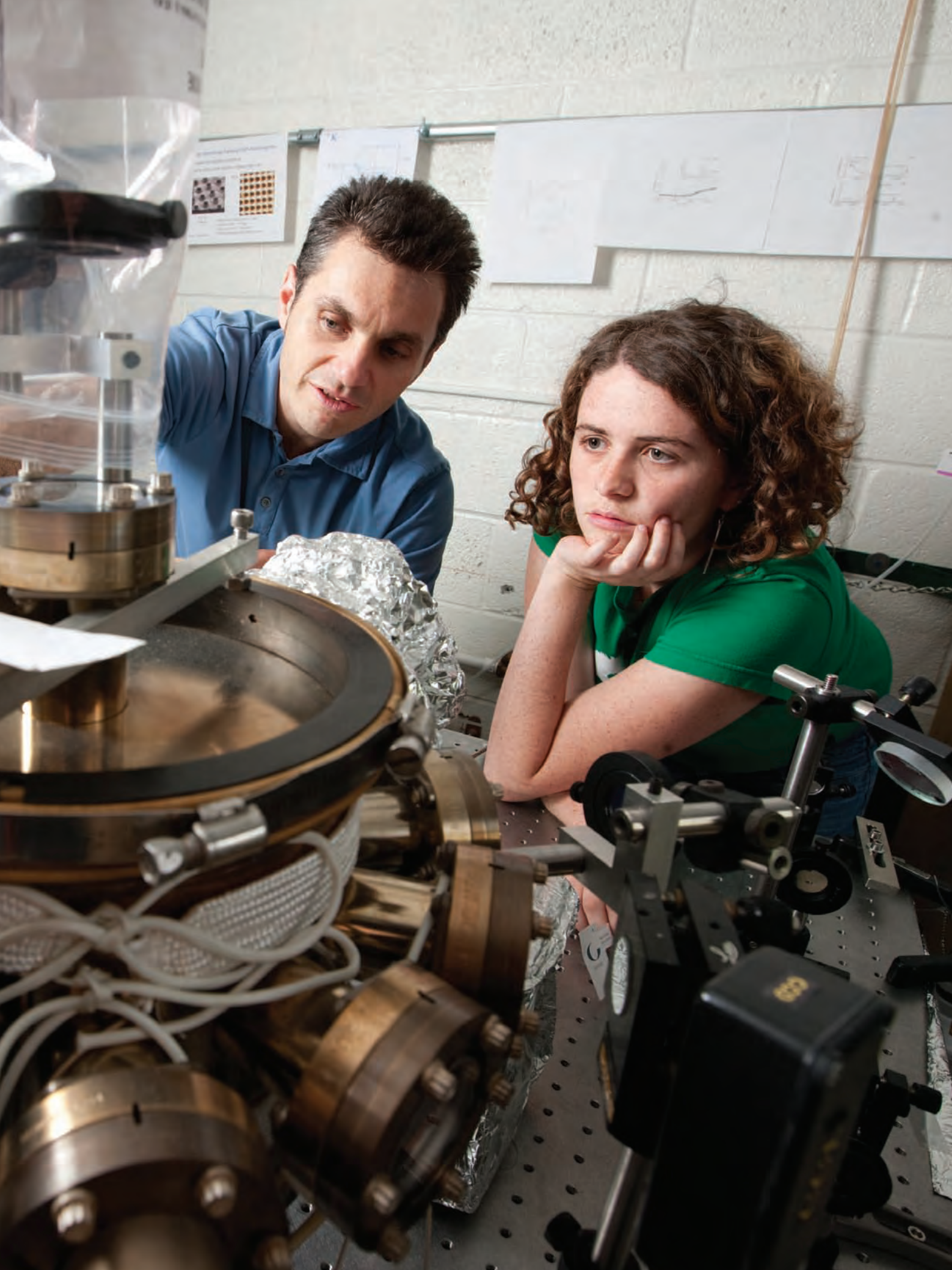




photo by Jim Burger

Coming in the next issue

How Brianna Bowling '92 built a successful software business

A PEEK INSIDE



- A conversation with Professor Rick Pringle about psychology and the Read-A-Story/Write-A-Story Program



- Kyle Boncaro '12 named Landmark Rookie of the Year



- What Ruth Whitney Seabold '26 and Eleanor (Ellen) Matlack Davis '26 are doing these days



- A farewell to Julia Rogers Library

- Viewpoint: On being agile and wise in the age of the Internet



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