

Summer/Fall 2011

Goucher  
**Quarterly**

Building a Green Way



photo by Bruce Weller



## 22 putting marriage in the hot seat

Maybe it's not you. Maybe it's not your spouse. Maybe marriage itself is the problem. In her new book, Pamela Haag M.F.A. '08 takes a hard look at the age-old institution.

## 16 Alumnae /i Weekend: by the numbers

How about three athletic heroes, 10 steel drums, and 113 cupcakes?

## 13 ladies first

The women's cross country team is poised for greatness. Coach John Caslin describes why he has high hopes for the upcoming season.

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**on the front cover:**

Adam Ortiz '96 transformed the main thoroughfare of Edmonston, MD, into a "green" street during his term as mayor (see p. 18).  
Photo by Bryan Burris

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**as of September 2010**

total students: 1,479 undergraduates,  
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total undergraduate faculty: 215  
alumnae and alumni: 19,967

The *Goucher Quarterly* is published as a service to all alumnae/i, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends by Goucher College, a private liberal arts and sciences college founded in 1885. For up-to-date information about the college, visit [www.goucher.edu](http://www.goucher.edu).

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

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courtesy of Jasmin Stanley '12



photo by David Zimand



courtesy of Bryan Burris

## Jasmin Stanley '12

A communications and media studies major, Stanley spent the summer in Berlin studying German film. She has worked as a video producer for the college's Development Office and as a photographer for the *Quindecim*, Goucher's student newspaper. Her photographs of Goucher's Donning of the Kente Cloth ceremony appear in this issue (see p. 3).

## Vanessa Keen '11

Keen, a communications and Spanish major, began working as the *Quarterly* intern in Fall 2009. This summer she was again the magazine's intern and a member of the Goucher Vagabonds West Coast team, which traveled to California to engage alumnae/i. Her interview of Bart Houseman, a professor of chemistry who celebrated his 50th year of teaching at Goucher, appears in this issue (see p. 26).

# contributors

## Bryan Burris

Bryan Burris is a Baltimore-based freelance photographer. His work has appeared in *Baltimore Magazine*, *SmartCEO*, *SmartWomanOnline*, and other publications. His photographs of **Pamela Haag M.F.A. '08**, the author of *Marriage Confidential*, and **Adam Ortiz '96**, winner of the 2011 AAGC Award for Excellence in Public Service, appear in this issue (see pp. 18 and 22).

# WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT THE OLD GANG IS UP TO?



Join **GoucherConnect**, Goucher's alumnae/i community:

- A password-protected alumnae/i directory
- Up-to-date information about exciting college events
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Keep up with old friends, form your own clubs, start discussions, and even plan your own get-togethers—with just a few clicks.

Register today at [www.goucher.edu/goucherconnect](http://www.goucher.edu/goucherconnect)



# I'd been wondering...

I first met **Pamela Haag M.F.A. '08**—whose provocative book *Marriage Confidential* is excerpted in this issue—online. Our email conversation began two years ago, when she sent me a sharply worded message about Class Notes that I answered as best I could at the time.

Her question, as I recall, was this:

*Why is it that the Class Notes reports written by the more senior alumnae/i frequently seem to include more varied and colorful news—professional accomplishments, world travels, just-published books/plays/poems, extraordinary gardening successes, impromptu meetings with old friends, and so on—than the reports sent in by the more recent graduates? In issue after issue, the news sent in by most of the class representatives from recently graduated classes is focused much more narrowly on weddings and births. Surely, the lives and successes of Goucher's younger alums are far richer than that.*

Truth be told, I'd been wondering the same thing.

Haag can be forgiven for having marriage on the brain: When she wrote her email, she was immersed in research for her book, a lively examination of our times in which she explores why, nearly 50 years after Betty Friedan debunked the myth of the “mad housewife,” the institution of marriage remains in many ways unchanged. As part of that research, Haag interviewed scores of people, explored an online community created for married men and women who want to cheat, and (employing what she admits is her favorite method of information gathering) eavesdropped shamelessly in restaurants, at parties, and in grocery store lines.

Obviously, folks in their late 20s and 30s are getting married (and having children) at a faster rate than members of other age groups, but while they are doing so, they're also earning graduate degrees, getting hired or promoted, sailing around the world, creating works of art, and beginning to make their mark in the world. Why, though, aren't more of them telling us about those aspects of their lives? Perhaps in the Facebook age, some alumnae/i figure anyone who knows them already has read about their new jobs, travels, and achievements. But why not share more of these successes with all Goucher graduates? Personally, I love reading about marriages and new babies—every bit as much as I enjoy learning about all facets of the lives of Goucher alumnae/i. I'll bet I am not alone. If anyone else has thoughts on this issue, I would love to hear them.

Best regards,  
Holly Selby | Editor

holly.selby@goucher.edu



## What's Your Excuse?

My dog ate my homework. The computer crashed. My roommate recycled my paper. There's nothing like a really good excuse—and on any campus, excuses, original, mundane, or just plain bizarre, abound. Here's one that we've just heard about: During her last two years at Goucher, **Dani McGrath '80** lived in an apartment above a barn in Monkton, MD, where she did chores in exchange for room and board for her horse. On the morning of her history final, McGrath discovered that her horse had fallen asleep with his tail in a water bucket, and, overnight, the water had frozen solid. To free her horse, McGrath had to defrost its tail with a hair dryer, which, of course, made her late for her exam. Years later, McGrath ran into her former history professor—George Foote—and made a point of telling him: “My horse’s tail *really* was frozen in a bucket.” Dr. Foote said that he had been telling her story over and over to subsequent students, citing it as the most creative reason he had ever heard for tardiness.

**We think McGrath's excuse is one of the funniest we've heard in a while. Do you have a good excuse?**

**Send us YOUR BEST EXCUSE**

**quarterly@goucher.edu**

**and we'll publish some of the highlights.**



## feedback

### Online vs. Print

This was the first time I read the *Quarterly* online—didn't look at it last time. I had never read something online that flows like a magazine. I spent about 20 minutes looking through it, but wouldn't pick it up again, as I might a printed magazine. Just thought you would like the feedback.

 *Sara Benjamin '97*

*Quarterly* online outstanding. Hate to admit it, but zoom feature is a boon for my eyes. (*What, me, getting older? Never!*) Looking forward to continuing reading in this format. Thanks.


 *Sharon Beischer Harwood '65*


Has Goucher decided to discontinue mailing the *Quarterly*? I always loved to read it sitting in comfort and was always interested in the class notes, which are not available online.

 *Charlene Johnson McGowan '50*

### We want to hear from you!

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.

 **by mail**  
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 1021 Dulaney Valley Road  
 Baltimore, MD 21204

 **by email**  
 quarterly@goucher.edu

## Reflection and Gratitude

With his voice breaking, **Donté Brandon '11** thanked his mother for working two jobs so that he could go to college. “She’s the strongest person I know,” he said. “I wouldn’t be here without the sacrifices she made.”

Brandon was among 16 seniors who gathered May 19 to thank mentors, parents, professors, and friends for the roles they have played in each student’s successes. Called a Kente Cloth Ceremony, this rite of passage is celebrated at colleges throughout the nation and offers students representing many cultures and ethnicities a chance to reflect upon their personal journeys. Through songs, anecdotes, or poetry, the students share stories and memories of those who came before them.

“One of the things my parents instilled in me is that you cannot leave others behind when you go forward,” said keynote speaker Nsenga Burton, associate professor of communication and media studies. “We are all your people. Go forth in life, but remain true to who you are in relation to your community.” §

Calvin Gladden, Goucher’s director of business and auxiliary services, adjusts the kente cloth for his son, Kyle Gladden '11.



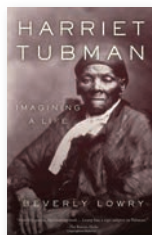
photos by Jasmin Stanley '12



Donté Brandon '11 hugs his mother, India Peters.



“Each person that I have interacted with has had an impact on the way I think, feel, and move about the world, and for that I say, *asante sana*—thank you [in Swahili],” said Nelwelwa Tomi '11. She was accompanied at the ceremony by her sister, Cecelela Tomi.



## A Captivated Audience

Citing the “impressive range” of her writing, which embraces figures from abolitionist Harriet Tubman to pickax-murderer Karla Faye Tucker, Madison Smartt Bell, award-winning writer and professor of English, compared author Beverly Lowry to fellow Southerner Flannery O’Connor. “I’m inclined to place her work in the tradition of the Southern grotesque, and I do mean that as a compliment,” said Bell.

Lowry, who was the Spring 2011 writer in residence at the Kratz Center for Creative Writing, captivated an audience of more than 50 students, faculty, and staff members. The author of six novels and three works of nonfiction, including *Harriet Tubman: Imagining a Life*; the winner of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award in 2007; and a member of the creative writing faculty at George Mason University; Lowry read from two unpublished pieces: a nonfiction account of four unsolved murders, and a love story. §



Steve Zimmer '92 (pictured with a student in Los Angeles) last spring came to campus to lead a discussion about school privatization, distribution of educational resources, and effective teaching methods.

## Public Education at a Crossroads: The View from Los Angeles

To Steve Zimmer '92, a member of the Los Angeles board of education, which oversees the nation's second-largest public school system, the key to succeeding as an educator is this: Be present in every sense of the word.

"Every teacher should ask himself, 'Are you willing to be fully present with the child?'" Zimmer said.

"Are your heart and mind open to being present?"

Zimmer, who has 19 years of experience as a teacher, spoke last spring to a group of Goucher students, faculty, and visitors. Describing the "pockets of extreme poverty in the nation and pockets of highly concentrated affluence" that many teachers witness each day, he drew parallels between the struggle to provide educational opportunities to all children and the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

"The achievement gap is our own Birmingham," he said, adding, "I don't have answers. But I definitely have a lot of conversation I'd like to have with you about the questions." §



For more information on Steve Zimmer and his work with the school board, visit [www.zimmer.laschoolboard.org](http://www.zimmer.laschoolboard.org).

### GO GREEN

Goucher has adopted its first climate action plan, aimed at **REDUCING ITS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

**20%**

by **2020.**



The new plan represents fulfillment of a 2007 pledge made by Goucher to work toward becoming climate-neutral (or having a neutral effect on global warming) by reducing or offsetting greenhouse gas production. Signed by Goucher President Sanford J. Ungar and other college and university presidents, the pledge requires participating institutions to develop strategies, deadlines, and tracking systems for reducing greenhouse gas production.



Steps already taken by the college include mandating that all new buildings or major renovations include features such as energy-efficient windows. Over the next five years, the college plans to convert its streetlights to energy-efficient light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and update building controls so that heating and cooling systems can be shut down when not in use, among other measures. §



## green spot



Gillian Ziegler '14 and Hadley Couraud '13 plant bald cypress saplings on the edge of the bayou at Wetland Watchers Park.

# Saving Bayous; Savoring Beignets

by Julie Steinbacher '10

**O**n March 12, 24 Goucher students arrived in New Orleans after a 27-hour train ride from Baltimore's Pennsylvania Station. They were exhausted, ready for showers, and slightly stir-crazy from their travels, but as soon as they stepped into the balmy New Orleans night, they felt rejuvenated. "It's a rush and a mad dash to keep everybody together," says Rachel "Kai" Conley '11, a project leader. "People are so happy after the long trip that they want to explore."

For the past five years, Goucher students have spent a week in the Big Easy helping the community to recover from Hurricane Katrina. Organized by the student-run Green Restoration Activities New Orleans, Louisiana (GRANOLA) Club, the project typically is funded by Innovation Grants (awarded annually by the college to imaginative undertakings), Social Justice Grants, and the Student Government Association. Although the project initially focused solely on post-hurricane reconstruction efforts, it now also includes a large environmental component. "The greening of the trip has increased each year," says Will Mathis '11, who, with Conley and Hadley Couraud '13, coordinated the venture. To ensure that the group left as small an environmental footprint as possible, its members traveled by train (to reduce fuel emissions), made use of the city's public transportation system, and shopped at local farmers' markets.

The project drew students from all disciplines—participants included history, French, political science, biology, peace studies, environmental studies, and international relations majors—and the week seemed to hold something for everyone. "A lot of alternative spring-break trips are about

volunteering. We have that volunteer experience, but we also have time to explore New Orleans, to listen to jazz, to go to the Café Du Monde, to eat beignets, to take swing dancing lessons, to stick both feet into the culture," Couraud says.

About half of the students spent the week with Rebuilding Together, a nonprofit group that restores and rebuilds storm-damaged homes. The others worked for Bayou Rebirth, a grassroots organization that educates the public about the local ecosystem and sponsors reconstruction of marshland. During the week, the environmental workers visited several sites, including the Lower Ninth Ward, where they planted trees with Common Ground Relief, a volunteer organization rebuilding communities in New Orleans. They spent two days at Wetland Watchers Park, a site on Lake Pontchartrain where indigenous flora was devastated by Katrina. Using shovels and shears, the students uprooted invasive vegetation such as the tenacious Chinese tallow, cleared brush in woody areas where the grasses towered at more than 10 feet tall, and relocated and planted native species like bald cypress saplings.

The work wasn't glamorous. Volunteers wore knee-high galoshes to protect themselves from snakes and to keep dry. "I would come back to the house covered from head-to-toe in mud and dirt and sand," says Couraud. "It was wonderful!" On their penultimate day in Louisiana, the students visited the U. S. Coast Guard's incident command post for the BP oil spill. There, they were briefed on the damage caused by the disaster, as well as continuing restoration efforts. They also met with two members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. S

photo by Ayumi Yasuda



## Red, White, and WHO?

The academic quad may seem an unlikely place for former running duo U.S. Sen. John McCain and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin to hold a rally, but in June that's exactly what appeared to be happening. In reality, the campus was one of several Maryland locations used as filming sites for *Game Change*, an HBO movie about the 2008 presidential campaign. Based on a bestselling book by political reporters Mark Halperin and John Heilemann, the film follows McCain (played by Ed Harris) and his "Straight Talk Express" campaign—from the selection of Palin (Julianne Moore) as running mate to the general election. (In addition, campaign manager Steve Schmidt is played by Woody Harrelson.) Scenes from the film also were shot on the steps of the Dorsey College Center and outside the Meyerhoff Arts Center. The film is scheduled for release this year. §

Will the real Sarah Palin please stand up?



photo by Ayumi Yasuda

## Tales of Hope

Author Walter Dean Myers shared tales of his childhood on March 24 with a crowd of more than 300 including dozens of children. A three-time finalist for the National Book Award and the writer of more than 80 books, Myers has come a long way from humble beginnings: As a baby, he was sent via Greyhound bus from Martinsburg, WV, to foster parents in Harlem. His gritty, young-adult novels draw upon his childhood experiences and the hardships he faced as an African-American youth dealing with learning difficulties. Through his books, Myers found a way to offer other children hope. "I began to write about black life, and now I'm free. I established values that were never there for me."

Myers' visit was the inaugural event of the Athenaeum Library Series, which provides an open community forum for programs on libraries, books, and reading. §

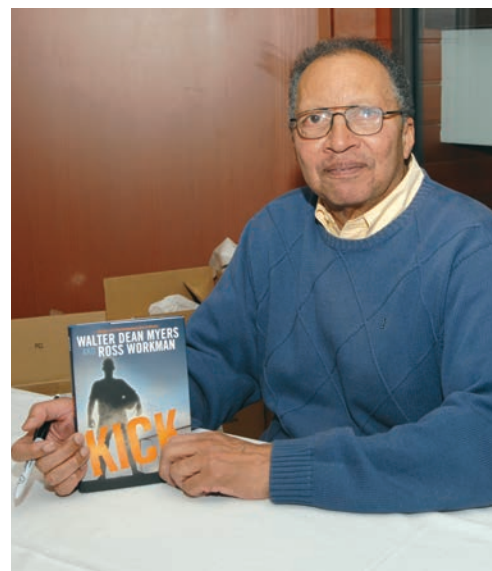


Photo by Stan Rutlick

According to Walter Dean Myers, the best advice he ever got came from a high school teacher who said: "One thing you can do is write. Whatever you do, keep writing."



# Revolutions Spark Discussion

“Smart mob,” “social media,” and “WikiLeaks” were buzz words last spring at several campus events focusing on the unprecedented protests and revolution in the Middle East. At the President’s Forum, held April 6, a panel of experts that included Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Karen DeYoung and Shibley Telhami, the Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland, College Park, discussed U.S. policy in the region, the forces that drove the uprisings, and democracy in the Middle East. “People in that part of the world have seized the narrative themselves,” said panelist Mona Eltahawy, an award-winning columnist on Arab and Muslim issues. “What you’re seeing today is the revolution of the ‘I.’”

Technology and its impact on the protests were the focus of “Revolution in 140 Characters,” a discussion, held April 11, that was organized by **Milena Rodban '08**, president of the Goucher College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. On April 14, David Sanger, chief Washington correspondent for *The New York Times* and the Roxana Cannon Arsht '35 Center for Ethics and Leadership scholar, presented a lecture titled “New Threats and New Revolutions: Obama Confronts the World” to an audience of about 150. “It’s easy and wonderful for American presidents to step out and say, ‘We are in support of universal values around the world,’ but we have to temper that with our own national interests,” he said. §

**Margaret Ajemian Ahnert M.F.A. '99**, author of *The Knock at the Door: A Journey through the Darkness of the Armenian Genocide* (Beaufort Books, 2007), is a 2011 Ellis Island Medal of Honor winner.

The medals are awarded annually to American citizens of diverse ethnic origin whose influence and achievements inspire and touch the lives of others.

**Gabrielle Rivera '04** is featured in the “It Gets Better Project,” an international video campaign aimed at preventing suicides among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and other bullied youths. Her message was included in *It Gets Better* (Dutton Adult, 2011), edited by Dan Savage and Terry Miller.

**Jill Sisson Quinn M.F.A. '08** received the John Burroughs Award for an Outstanding Published Nature Essay for “Sign Here if You Exist.” The essay was published in *Best American Science and Nature Writing 2011* (Mariner Books, 2011).



**Lily Susskind '09** last spring was featured in the Baltimore publication *b* as one of “10 People to Watch Under 30.” The dancer/choreographer is the founder of Effervescent Collective, an experimental dance company.



**Kelly Anne Graves '11** received a Fulbright Scholar Award for cognitive neuroscience research. She will spend nine months in Sri Lanka conducting a study on the neurological effects of compassion meditation.



**Praise and honor received for an achievement.**

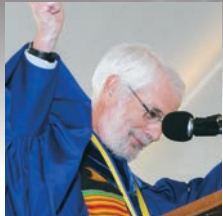
*ORIGIN: 19th century. Kudos comes from the Greek kýdos and means “glory.”*



Photo by Julia Ewan

**Wil Haygood**, a visiting professor in the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction program, received a 2011 fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation for a project that will culminate in a book about Thurgood Marshall’s confirmation to the Supreme Court.

**Elizabeth Spires**, professor of English, is one of 15 fellows at the New York Public Library’s Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. She will be in residence at the library during the academic year 2011-12 and will be working on a new collection of poems.



**“When you look around the world and the United States at a time of great political, social, financial, and even seismic upheaval, Goucher feels like an island of stability—and of clear, time-tested values—in a sea of chaos. We had a few rough spots during this year, but the essential good of this community asserted itself and got us through.” — President Sanford J. Ungar**



**“Goucher graduates, please note: That I am here now proves two things. First, your GPA and your life are not the same. Try not to confuse them. And last but not best... there is hope for all of us.” — Rosalind Fox Solomon '51, honorary degree recipient**



Photos by Jim Burger





“This is not the end of your education; this is just the beginning. What you’ve gotten here at Goucher is the foundation, the base upon which for you to continue learning. I’m sure you will be students of life and students of the world.” — *Dr. Ian G. Rawson, managing director of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti and keynote speaker*



# Stepping *into* the Real World

GOUCHER'S 120TH COMMENCEMENT



On May 20, 2011, Commencement—after being held for years on the field behind Mary Fisher Hall—took place beneath a lofty tent on the Winslow Great Lawn, the verdant expanse located between the Athenaeum and Welsh Hall. Calling the move a “great accomplishment,” President Sanford J. Ungar said, “The weather doesn’t matter under the big top, and there’s room here for everyone who wants to attend.” The venue offered ample seating—including chairs set before live-streaming video inside the Athenaeum—for the families and friends of the 354 graduating seniors.

Dr. Ian G. Rawson, managing director of Hôpital Albert Schweitzer Haiti, gave the keynote address and received the degree of doctor of humane letters, *honoris causa*. Honorary degrees also were awarded to artist and photographer Rosalind Fox Solomon '51 and former Baltimore County Executive James T. Smith Jr. Eli Cohen '11 spoke on behalf of the graduates.

“We have heard extraordinarily moving stories of how some of these graduates overcame hardship and adversity to get where they are today,” said Ungar. “We share their families’ pride and excitement on this occasion. We at Goucher are honored to have been a part of their lives so far. We have learned from them, even as they were learning from us.”



## Did You Know?

The GreenWeaver caps and gowns worn by Goucher graduates this year were made entirely from post-consumer plastic bottles.

More info:

[www.GreenWeaverMovement.com](http://www.GreenWeaverMovement.com)



## Lifelong Learner

Alex Wood '06

Some of the best things about Goucher, says Alex Wood '06, include the sense of community, the beautiful campus, and the Wiffle ball games.

Growing up in Evanston, IL, Alex Wood '06 liked nothing better than learning—the names of all the United States presidents, the mechanisms of the human body, the physics of a jet engine. He wanted to study colonial artifacts, navigate secret passageways, and discover the workings of the universe. Always, the unknown beckoned to him.

Wood's mother and father, an editor and a computer programmer, unflaggingly supported his penchant for learning. Whatever the topic, they helped him find books about his latest passion or showed him how to research it. "When I got interested in something," he says, "I would go all out."

But in high school, Wood began to feel stifled. Although he got good grades, he felt the curriculum was routine and boring. "I liked school, but I didn't really feel challenged," he says. Moreover, he lacked direction. "I didn't have a destination," says Wood. "I was just sort of going 'somewhere.'"

At Goucher, however, Wood found himself challenged once again. The college "made learning more

nuanced and intricate. It took it to a deeper level," says Wood. "I realized that my academic side and my personal interests were linked." He threw himself into his pursuits, joining several clubs, making new friends, and diving into his history major. His intense study gained recognition: He won the Julia Rogers Research Prize, awarded for excellent student research, and, in 2006, the Calvin Prize in History, awarded to an outstanding history major. He went abroad for the first time to England to study British politics and government. The trip, he says, "opened up a new world for me." Toward the end of his senior year, says Wood, "I felt very much armed with the knowledge, skills, and capacity to take on the unknown."

Five years later, Wood's enthusiasm for and appreciation of Goucher have not waned. He is a member of the John Franklin and Mary Fisher Goucher Society, which recognizes leading donors whose generosity accounts for the bulk of unrestricted giving to the Greater Goucher Fund. From 2007 to 2009, he served as a trustee, and, as a member of the 125th Anniversary Committee, helped plan the celebrations that marked the occasion. "I want to see Goucher be the best place it can be," says Wood. "The education I received from Goucher and the confidence it gave me have been instrumental in my success."

And he is still seeking new experiences. Since 2007, he has worked for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, an organization that provides policy leadership and program support for member institutions. The "mission of education" appeals to him. "I plan to attend graduate school to pursue a master's in public administration. It's a flexible degree," he says. "I want a career where there's some element of discovery and continual learning."

In the meantime, he has been exploring anything that sparks his interest. Last year he was fascinated by Starbucks' corporate strategy. A month ago, it was Great Britain's Edwardian era. These days, he's studying the impact of the recession on architecture and urban planning. What comes next? Wood says he's not sure. "I go wherever my curiosity takes me."

by Julie Steinbacher '10



# giving to Goucher



(L to R) Joan Marti Uht '52, Lorna Chang Mickle Post '52, and Beverly Cohen Nackman '52 try a selection of teas. (Top right, L to R) Louise Winslow Williams '44 and Mary Lou Dyer Beehler '47 enjoy the company of friends at the Mary Fisher tea.



"The sooner we expose our students to the larger world, the stronger and more prepared they will be to succeed," said Michele Cohen P'10, who supports the Michele and Marty Cohen Scholarship Fund, which provides need-based aid to students studying abroad. (L to R) Cohen and Morgan Skordian '11 attended the scholarship luncheon on April 14.



At the annual scholarship luncheon, students have the chance to meet scholarship donors and other alumnae/i. (L to R, front row) Choyce Miller '12, The Honorable Miriam Brown Hutchins '73, Caroline Oates '13, (L to R, back row) Lovell Kosh '12, Rachel Noonan '11, and Loren Crosier '11

## Tea and Toasts

Nearly 100 guests (many wearing fine hats) attended the Mary Fisher Tea, an elegant affair held March 22 to commemorate the birthday of Mary Fisher Goucher, wife of college founder John Franklin Goucher. The guests enjoyed a selection of fine teas and desserts as they were serenaded by the Reverend's Rebels, the all-women *a cappella* group. Goucher Trustee **Marilyn Southard Warshawsky '68** gave a presentation on the Gouchers' travels.

At another spring event, more than 140 donors and scholarship recipients attended a lunch held annually in their honor. Three additional scholarship recipients, who were studying abroad, joined the gathering virtually. "Studying in Italy has been a wonderful experience so far," said **Jackson Gilman-Forlini '12**, current recipient of the Margaret Messler Winslow '69 Fund for International Education. "I can't imagine not having done this." Gilman-Forlini, a music major studying Italian language and history in Siena, Italy, spoke to the group via Skype. §

- ▶ Cramming for exams? Walking by the Buddha? Having a favorite study spot? Using the photo copying machine? Peeking at the Goucher mummy?

**TELL US your favorite memory or anecdote about the Julia Rogers Library.** We'd love to hear it—and we'll publish some of the best.

Send your memories to the *Quarterly*, Goucher College, 1021 Dulany Valley Road, Baltimore, MD 21204-2794 or to [holly.selby@goucher.edu](mailto:holly.selby@goucher.edu).



What do you remember about the JULIA ROGERS LIBRARY?

# BRAGGING Rights



(L to R) Sanford J. Ungar, college president; Jeffrey Olenick '01; Michele Mohlman Dombrowski '96; Courtney Crangi '96; and Geoffrey Miller, director of athletics

## Hall of Fame

Determination, discipline, and sheer physical prowess were celebrated when three former Goucher athletes were inducted into the Goucher College Athletics Hall of Fame. But the ability to juggle the demands of being on the field and in the classroom also was touted. "We all feel very proud of our student athletes," said President Sanford J. Ungar. "And we feel strongly about calling them that: Student athletes."

The 2011 Hall of Fame inductees were **Courtney Crangi '96**, who is the all-time, single-season leading scorer for women's lacrosse in the NCAA Division III; **Michele Mohlman Dombrowski '96**, who earned All-America honors in lacrosse and hockey and, in 1996, was named the NCAA Maryland Woman of the Year; and **Jeffrey Olenick '01**, who was the college's first representative to the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championship and three times was named Capital Athletic Conference Cross Country Runner of the Year. "What I achieved at Goucher isn't measured in victories or plaques," Olenick said. "It is measured in determination, dedication, and the drive to succeed, and what I have taken from my years at Goucher, I use all the time in life."

## A Strong Lacrosse Season Produces Two All-Americans

The men's lacrosse team last season fell one game short of reaching its second consecutive NCAA Division III tournament. Goucher was defeated 12-8



by the Scranton Royals at the May 7 Landmark Conference Championship game in Gopher Stadium. Despite the loss, the team held an overall record of 11-6, and two Goucher players were honored for their individual performances. For the second year in a row, **Justin Dunn '11** and **Matt Lynch '12** were named honorable mentions on the Division III All-America team. They are the third and fourth players in the program's history to be recognized as All-Americans.

Dunn, a three-year starter and three-time all-conference first-team selection, continued to be a defensive stalwart in 2011, forcing a team high of 46 turnovers and scooping up 53 ground balls. In addition, he holds the school records for most caused turnovers in a game (7), a season (59), and a career (140).

Midfielder Lynch was named an All-American after supplying the Gophers with 30 goals and 26 assists in the 2011 season. In addition to his 56 points, he finished the season with a .323 shooting percentage, 47 ground balls, and 10 caused turnovers.

### Did you know?

Goucher's field hockey team was recognized by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association for having the second-highest grade point average in Division III Athletics. It was measured against the teams of more than 115 institutions. The 15-member team maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.55 in the Fall 2010 semester.

Sally Baum, head coach of the women's tennis team, and Richard Gavell, assistant coach, were named Coaching Staff of the Year by the Landmark Conference. This is Baum's second award from the conference: In 2008, she was named Coach of the Year for the 2007-08 season.



# gopheReport

## Full Speed Ahead: Women's Cross Country Team Has Great Potential

by Holly Selby

When cross country season begins this fall, there is particular reason to watch Goucher's women's team. Led by John Caslin, who has coached at Goucher for 18 years (and who also coaches the men's team), the nine-member team last season finished fourth in the Landmark Conference, came in first at the Catholic University Invitational, and took second at the Goucher Classic. This year, the team has the potential to be a regional powerhouse. We asked Coach Caslin what to watch for this season.



*The Goucher College Cross Country Classic, the only home meet this season, will be held October 15. The men compete at 10:30 a.m., and the women compete at 11:15 a.m. For more information about Goucher meets, visit [www.goucher.edu/athletics](http://www.goucher.edu/athletics).*



### **You've said that you have high hopes for this team. What do you think could happen this season?**

On paper, this team is the best team I have had in 18 years of coaching. It has a shot to be the first Goucher cross country team to win the Landmark Conference. It could be very, very good, but the summer is long. And in cross country, they say that half of your cross country season is what you do over the summer.

### **How did you build this team?**

It started three years ago in June. I was working at freshman orientation and a young woman came up to me and said, "I am interested in running, and I have never run before." I gave her the summer training program and said, "If you survive the summer program, we can talk." That was **Hadley Couraud '13**, and she came back in the fall and in her first year running, finished 11th in the conference.

### **Who else is on the team?**

Last year, we recruited five good first-year students. So as the 2010-11 season approached, I had a nice women's team of eight young, strong runners. Then in July, I received a phone call from **Kelsey Myette '12** who was a junior at Goucher and had been the starting point guard for the basketball team. She said she wanted to run cross country. She ended up being named the Landmark Conference Rookie of the Year. And if she has a good summer, she will have the potential to qualify for the NCAA National Championships. She would be only the second woman from Goucher to go to the nationals. [**Fraley Coles '08** qualified in 2007.]

### **You noted how important the summer is. What instructions did you give your runners?**

I hope that our training program mirrors what Goucher does academically: We work with each student individually to design the best program for that student. Most of the team will be running 35 to 50 miles a week. So each individual's program has the same quality, but it may not have the same quantity. It is about being physically strong and mentally prepared. S

# alumnae/i trips+tours



## A Chocoholic's Dream

Is chocolate the perfect food? Find out on a chocolate appreciation tour of Baltimore.

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Travel by bus throughout Baltimore to view demonstrations, speak with chocolatiers and chefs, and sample dishes that show off chocolate's versatility and flavor. The bus leaves Goucher College at 1 p.m. and returns at 5:15 p.m.

**THIS TRIP INCLUDES:** Transportation from Goucher College to destination points throughout Baltimore.

**COST:** \$80

If you have suggestions for future trips, please contact Margaret-Ann Radford-Wedemeyer, assistant vice president for development and alumnae/i affairs, at 410-337-6183 or [mradford@goucher.edu](mailto:mradford@goucher.edu).

## More exciting trips in 2011 include:



**NOVEMBER 5**  
Armchair Tour of Baltimore's Rowhouses



**NOVEMBER 29**  
Book Lovers' Blockbuster Tour of Washington, DC

To register for any tour, please go to [www.goucher.edu/tours](http://www.goucher.edu/tours) or call 410.337.6180 for additional assistance.

## mark your calendars

**Sept. 21**

ON CAMPUS

### Signature Event

The Kratz Center for Creative Writing presents National Book Award-winning author Sherman Alexie.

**Oct. 14-16**

ON CAMPUS

### Family Weekend/ Homecoming Weekend

From a crab feast to a hike in the woods, there will be something for young and old.

**Oct. 15**

ON CAMPUS

### Fleet Feet

The Goucher College Cross Country Classic features both men's and women's teams.

For more information about Family Weekend, held in conjunction with Homecoming, visit [www.goucher.edu/family](http://www.goucher.edu/family) or call 410.337.6124.

The Kratz Center event is free and open to the public. Reservations should be made online at <http://tickets.goucher.edu>. For information, contact [kratz@goucher.edu](mailto:kratz@goucher.edu).

For information about the cross country meet, visit [www.goucher.edu/athletics](http://www.goucher.edu/athletics).

IN BALTIMORE

ON CAMPUS

OUT OF TOWN



# alumnae|iUpdate

## Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College 2011–12 Board of Directors

**President**  
Kathryn Shaer Ellis '86  
*Lakeland, FL*

**Vice President**  
Steve Klepper '97  
*Baltimore, MD*

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*Macon, GA*

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*Albany, NY*

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*Baltimore, MD*

Tom Rose '95/M.Ed. '00  
*Baltimore, MD*

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*Baltimore, MD*

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*Collegeville, PA*

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Janet Wiley  
*Vice President for Development  
and Alumnae/i Affairs*

Margaret-Ann Radford-Wedemeyer  
*Assistant Vice President for  
Development and Alumnae/i Affairs*

Katherine E. Healy '78  
*AAGC Nominating Committee,  
Facilitator*

Vacant  
*Alumnae/i Fund, Chair*

## Dear Goucher Alumnae and Alumni,

Two years ago, when I first wrote to you as the newly elected president of the AAGC, we had recently launched GoucherConnect, our online alumnae/i directory, and were poised to kick off the college's 125th anniversary celebrations. Much work has been done since then, and now—as my term comes to an end—I'd like to reflect upon our accomplishments.

As you know, the AAGC conducted Summit 125, a yearlong, online conversation about how best to serve alumnae/i and the college in the future. Although that conversation centered upon graduates of the last 25 years, we followed it with an invitation to alumnae/i who are registered members of GoucherConnect to participate in a survey about their engagement with the college. Those results are informing our plans for the future; they also were forwarded to the college's Strategic Planning Committee.

Under the leadership of the AAGC, Goucher recently joined LinkedIn, the online professional community. Called the Goucher Professional Network (GPN), the initiative is open to all members of the Goucher community; hundreds of our friends and colleagues have already joined. Please check it out at [www.goucher.edu/linkedin](http://www.goucher.edu/linkedin), and sign up if you have not yet done so.

Once again, glorious spring weather greeted Alumnae/i Weekend attendees. For those who had not visited Goucher since the last Reunion, it undoubtedly was a surprise to see Welsh Hall and the Athenaeum in the center of campus. Van Meter Highway, which links the residence halls and academic spaces, was bustling with alumnae/i and current students.

At the annual AAGC retreat in June, we thanked the directors who were stepping off the board for their invaluable service; toasted the incoming president, Kathryn "Kathy" Shaer Ellis '86; and welcomed five new board members. We also discussed how we could develop a deeper culture of "giving back" to Goucher in which we all—newest graduates to more senior alumnae/i—will think, as one board member put it: "Goucher for Life."

Because more than 50 percent of our alumnae/i has graduated within the past 25 years, opportunities to broaden alumnae/i engagement with the college are evolving rapidly. While technology may allow for easier and faster outreach, the personal touch cannot and will not be cast aside. Whether you prefer pen and paper, email, or text to stay in touch, we hope to build and solidify your connection to Goucher.

As I leave the presidency of the AAGC, I would like to thank all of you for your support, encouragement, and input. I am delighted to bequeath the honor of being AAGC president to Kathy Ellis and trust that you will be as gracious with her as you were with me. I believe that each of us had a unique experience at Goucher, and I hope that for all of us, Goucher is indeed for life.

With warmest regards,

Katherine E. Healy '78  
President, AAGC

(L to R) Katherine E. Healy '78, outgoing AAGC president, passes the gavel to Kathryn Shaer Ellis '86.



Photos by Stan Rudick



3 Number of **inductees** into Goucher's Athletics Hall of Fame

10

Number of **drums** played at the "Hot Steel" party



5 Number of **types of beers** sampled at Professor Bob Welch's tasting



# Alumnae/i WEEKEND *by the* numbers

to see more Alumnae/i Weekend photographs, visit [www.goucher.edu/alumniweekend](http://www.goucher.edu/alumniweekend)



9

Number of **hats** worn by "Slick Chicks of '56"





# 113

Number of **cupcakes** in the edible periodic table created to celebrate Professor Bart Houseman's 50 years of teaching at Goucher



# 2,996,874

Number of **dollars** donated by Reunion classes

Number of **humans** reportedly eaten by zombies in the alumnae/i HvZ game

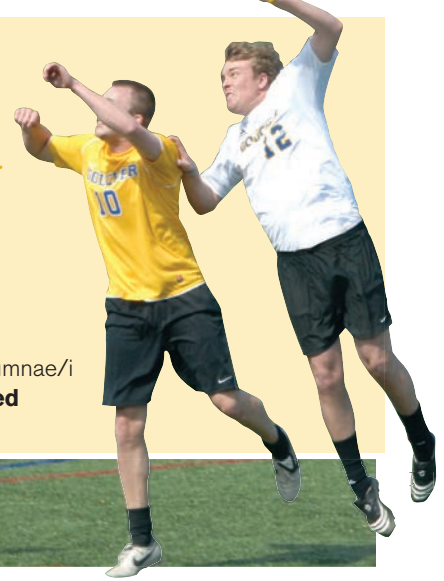
# 7



This year, **1,211** alumnae/i, family members, and friends came to campus to eat, drink, play, get reacquainted, learn, and just have fun. That's the **largest crowd** ever to attend Goucher's Alumnae/i Weekend. To celebrate the milestone, here's a look at some other numbers from the weekend:

# 6

Number of alumnae/i **games played**



# 10

Number of **buildings** included on the historic walking tour



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

# 94

Number of **birthdays** celebrated (thus far) by Josephine Levy Kohn '36, the oldest alumna to attend Reunion



# 75

Number of Reunion **events** offered



Interview by Holly Selby

Photos by Bryan Burris

# GREEN STREET

As the mayor of a small town in Maryland, Adam Ortiz '96 led the transformation of a main thoroughfare in need of repair into an eco-friendly avenue.

**FOR SIX YEARS, ADAM ORTIZ '96 SERVED AS THE VOLUNTEER MAYOR OF EDMONSTON, MD,** a small town just outside Washington, DC, that sits at one of the area's lowest points. The Anacostia River splits the town in half, and two bridges—one for cars, bikes, and pedestrians; one for freight trains—reconnect Edmonston's east and west sides.

While in office, Ortiz spearheaded changes that led to a drop in crime as well as oversaw the transformation of the town's main thoroughfare into a "green" street. The first of its kind in Maryland, the street, lined with maple, sycamore, elm, and oak trees, features bike lanes made of porous materials to absorb storm runoff and is home to streetlights that use wind power purchased through an energy provider. Ortiz, whose third term ended in June, was presented with the 2011 AAGC Award for Excellence in Public Service. Here, the political science major talks about his passion for public service, indie rock, and what he learned during his tenure as mayor.



Q

**Where did you get the idea to build a “green” street?**

In Edmonston, we’re kind of like the drain in a bathtub: A raindrop may run off a parking lot five miles away and wind up here along with millions of others. There have been four floods in the last decade, so we had the idea of taking what would have been a run-of-the-mill street project and making it environmentally responsible.

Q

**Did you have to sell the idea of the “green” street to the residents?**

Yes, I did. We threw town meetings and held public hearings. One thing Goucher taught me over and over is that in social science, there are few, if any, definitive answers, and the method and the means are as important as the answer. So we tried to hear as many voices as possible and use as many ideas as possible.

In terms of the actual argument, I pointed out that the main street is the way we connect with the world, and our street wasn’t sustainable and was rundown and was unwelcoming. It should reflect our dignity and promote our interconnections.

Q

**While mayor, you also worked full-time first as the deputy chief of staff for Maryland’s lieutenant governor and then as the head of a new office in Prince George’s County aimed at decreasing governmental waste, and increasing transparency. What was it like to juggle those responsibilities?**

My days included a lot of meetings in the mornings and nights, and hours and hours on the weekends, and resulted in many frustrated, now ex-girlfriends.

Q

**What did you learn from the experience of being a mayor?**

I learned that time moves very quickly and being in a position to influence your community and environment is humbling, but also a tremendous opportunity. Which means you should not sit idle for one, single minute.



**You were able to use \$1.3 million in federal stimulus money to build a “green” street. How did Edmonston obtain the money?**

First, the town raised the money for the project. Then we heard that President Obama wanted “shovel-ready” projects, and we had one, so we applied. Later, a bill was introduced by U.S. Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards [Prince George’s County] that would allow for more investments to be made in “green” streets. The bill is in committee.



**Q What would you do differently?**

I don’t really have any regrets, although there were times when I soft-pedaled things that I could have pushed harder.

**For example?**

Well, the train that passes through town hits the horn too hard every time. I would have like to have changed that. And we were unsuccessful at getting a bus to come to town to take people to the metro, which is about two miles away. You have to take two or more buses to get to the metro.

**Q You’re the eldest of four, aren’t you? What was your childhood like?**

I grew up in Hopewell, NY, which is near Poughkeepsie. We really struggled financially. My mom worked three different jobs. We were on the [subsidized] lunch program at school and, in time, our house was

foreclosed, so there was a lot of struggle and tension and despair. But my mom is, to this day, my biggest inspiration. Nobody worked harder or longer or looked out more for us than she did. She fully supported me getting into Goucher; she and Goucher are the two biggest influences on me and my public service.

**Q What were you like as a youth?**

I was a really sweet kid until I became a teenager, then I kind of flirted too much with juvenile delinquency and got myself into a lot of trouble and under influences that I shouldn’t have exposed myself to.

**Q What changed you?**

College wasn’t on my radar until a couple of friends of mine went. Then I had an “a-ha” moment in my junior year. I realized that the window of opportunity to chart my own course was rapidly disappearing. So I crammed for the SATs because I knew my grades weren’t good enough to get me into college. I cannot overstate the importance of need-



## Elements of a “green” street:

A bike lane made of permeable asphalt that reduces storm runoff and pollution



A canopy of maple, elm, sycamore, and oak trees that offers shade and reduces heat



“Rain gardens” lining the street that filter the water naturally through the ground



LED streetlights that use wind power purchased through an energy provider



based financial aid. Goucher saw something in me and was able to invest, and for that I am forever grateful.

### Q Did you expect to be a politician?

No, I was really called to public service and particularly on behalf of the disadvantaged. So I studied public policy at Goucher and my early career was in nonprofit and advocacy organizations covering social justice issues. But at one point, I became frustrated about how difficult it was to change policy from the outside, so I decided to be on the inside.

### Q What did your mother say in 2005 when you told her you were a mayor?

She was thrilled—beside herself. She had never seen me speak in public. I’ll never forget it: The first time she saw me, she covered her mouth with her hand. I was definitely a different person from the teenager who had lived with her a decade earlier.

### Q What are you doing these days?

I’m heading up a special accountability office in Prince George’s County to increase efficiency, transparency, and good government. There has been a pretty discouraging history of corruption and waste, and I will be part of the new team trying to right the ship. Residents have a right to get the best government possible for their tax dollar, and I will help deliver it.

### Q Do you have other political aspirations?

It is something I have a very open mind to ... but that decision is a compilation of opportunity and timing and what the people think. So we will have to see how things come together.

### Q Until that happens, what are you doing with your free time?

I’m going to catch up with friends and family, take up exercise again, and get back into my music—I like indie rock and play the guitar. And I am going to try to keep a girlfriend for more than a couple of weeks. §

IT'S LIKE THIS:

**ONE MINUTE**

you can't imagine *staying*;

**THE NEXT**

you can't imagine *leaving*.

*a* **REALIST**  
**HOPES** *only for a*  
**MATE**

whose neuroses mesh smoothly  
WITH HIS OR HER OWN.

Pamela Haag  
has *a lot* to  
say about  
marriage...

**MONOGAMY**  
**IS LIKE MARRIAGE'S**

*It's still there but we're not in*

THE BEST  
**ADVICE:**

*live* marriage  
as if you're  
always on  
**VACATION.**

It may not be  
**YOU**, it may not be  
**YOUR SPOUSE.**

*It may be the  
institution of  
marriage itself that  
needs to be fixed.*





INTERVIEW BY HOLLY SELBY  
PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS



Pamela Haag M.F.A. '08

# TAKES *on* MARRIAGE

In a **NEW BOOK**, the author writes of semi-happy marriages,  
*new twists* on old infidelities, & assortative mating

## **“JOHN IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD,”**

Pamela Haag M.F.A. '08 writes of her husband. “I have a nice marriage, a lovely husband. He likes me, too. But you never know. On other days, and in other moments, I think that this could very well be the last year of our marriage.”

With these very personal words, Haag introduces her book, *Marriage Confidential: The Post-Romantic Age of Workhorse Wives, Royal Children, Undersexed Spouses, and Rebel Couples Who Are Rewriting the Rules*, a provocative exploration of contemporary marriage. Published in June and featured in *Glamour* and *Redbook* magazines, on the *Today* show, and on NPR, the book is causing a stir.

Haag, a Baltimore-based writer who is the mother of a nine-year-old son and is married to a highly intelligent (and tolerant) financial

engineer, got the idea for her project about four years ago when she found herself thinking: “Is this it?” She soon realized that many other women and men with whom she came into contact daily were experiencing similar thoughts. Why is it, she wondered, that nearly 50 years after Betty Friedan exploded myths about marital bliss with *The Feminine Mystique*, when so many barriers to happiness for women have been toppled, that so many women find themselves feeling, as she puts it, “melancholy”?

So, Haag set out to explore the institution of marriage, a journey that led her to create an online avatar named Miranda, who prowls dating websites aimed specifically at married folks (at one point she had 250 virtual boyfriends). Among her surprising discoveries are new forms of marital partnership such as the “workhorse wife” and the “Tom Sawyer husband,” members of a marriage in which the wife has freed herself to work 18-hour days while the husband pursues his professional or personal dreams. The result is, as a *Washington Post* reviewer noted, “neither an advice book nor a polemic, just an extremely interesting conversation.”

*The following is an excerpt...*



## ESSENTIALLY, JOHN AND I MARRIED OURSELVES.

We were part of a much larger “assortative mating” trend. Assortative mating means that like is marrying like, with almost Linnaean precision.

In a 2005 article in *Demography*, Christine Schwartz and Robert Mare documented a trend toward strong assortative mating by education level and corresponding career tracks. “Educational homogamy” (similarity of spousal education and careers) decreased from 1940 to 1960, during the romantic heyday, but starting in the 1970s and continuing into the 21st century, the odds of educational intermarriage have decreased. Such studies imply that as equality grows within marriage, because we’re marrying our equals, inequality grows across marriages—rich marriages get richer and poor marriages get poorer. This subverts the romantic-era Cinderella narrative of marriage as a route to upward mobility, as well, for a less-educated woman.

...The trend toward marital homogamy will probably deepen because of changes in dating techniques as well. The founder of Craigslist, for example, observes that some

people “have gotten their entire lives, from spouse to house to car to furnishings to vacations,” from his service, so who needs to advertise? Spouse selection blurs into other life purchases, from Star Trek memorabilia to sofas. This is news.

**In 1952, the way you bought a refrigerator and the way you met your husband simply weren’t the same.** I remember distinctly from my late adolescence when the personal ads ran obscurely and ignobly in free city newspapers, one category removed from escort services and listings of places to sell eggs, sperm, and platelets. Today half of American singles use online personals to find mates. The 40 million visitors to online dating services—half of the American singles population—might well find a spouse through Match.com or its techno-kin.

By their design alone these services favor even more finely honed assortative

mating. Perhaps in a single person’s natural habitat—a party or a bus stop—a professional might find herself lured haphazardly by a small charming gesture, or by pheromones, and fall in love with an unlikely man. With online screening capacities, she can seek her own kind with surgical concision.

“That’s true,” John agrees. “Would I have chosen you online? I would have had a screen, such as, ‘must like cycling,’ or ‘must be an athlete.’”

“I would have had one, too,” I say, slightly miffed to think I’d have failed *his* screen. ‘Must know the difference between Eve Sedgwick and Edie Sedgwick,’ or ‘must not confuse *affect* and *effect*.’”

“Remember for our first date?” John recalls. “I asked you on a bike ride, and you wrote back and said, ‘Can’t we go to a bar, instead?’ And I overlooked that!” he marvels.

“Wasn’t that lucky for you!”

“We never would’ve connected over Match.com. We’d have weeded each other out on a hobby screen and ended up with someone even more exactly and precisely like us.”

....



# “MONOGAMY IS LIKE MARRIAGE’S APPENDIX. *It’s still there but we’re not entirely sure why.*”

All of this intimacy, in the sense of similarity, makes for strange variations on intimacy, in the sense of closeness. One Valentine’s Day not too long ago I found myself staring baffled at a blank card as 6 p.m. approached. I was trying to think of meaningful and honest words, to encapsulate the bond between us. I could hear John taking the mail out of our mailbox. *Quick! Write something!* I scrawled the next sentence-like thing that popped into my head: “Thanks for ALL that you do!” I might have been writing a corporate commercial to air on *Meet the Press*: “ADM,” the voice-over would boom. “For all that they do.” John and I joke about that phrase now, deploying the marital survival skill of humorous self-ridicule.

“We have something deeper than the deficits. It’s a soul mate bond,” John says these days. “I really see you that way.”

**Privately, the American embrace, and dilution, of Eastern spirituality amuses me a bit.** Even my husband does it! *Soul mate* is so ubiquitous now that it’s on its way to commercials for air freshener or instant coffee. It’s the new black for American marriage. In 2001 the Marriage Project commissioned a Gallup survey and found that twenty-somethings almost unanimously (at 96 percent) agreed with the statement “When you marry, you want your spouse to be your soul mate, first and foremost.” David Popenoe, the marriage researcher, worries that this is an inflated and self-defeating ideal for a spouse.

Probably so. But what interests me more than the term’s quixotic airiness is its lack of romanticism. This gold standard of 21st century marriage, while unrealistic, isn’t, strictly speaking, a romantic idea of finding a lover or an erotic counterpoint, a yin to your yang. It’s not an ideal distinguished by passion or sensuality, nor is it inherently specific to a marital bond. According to its now profoundly smudged Hindu roots, the soul mate is anyone, from a child to a hairdresser to an annoying

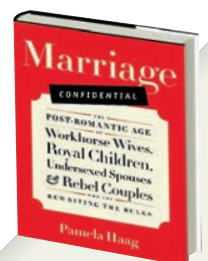
but karmically instructive neighbor, whom one has shared past lives with and will continue to encounter in future lives. Soul mate inflation runs rampant in America. A friend of mine applies it with sloppy largesse to our favorite bartender. The intimacy of a soul mate is unisex and generic, encompassing any kind of relationship. When I hear the term, as I so often do, I imagine an out-of-body marriage that floats incorporeally, one that regards itself as deeply intimate, but not romantic per se.

**Wedding vows, the crystallization of our dream at its inception, reveal similarly unisex ideals.** Couples increasingly prefer to personalize their vows, as part of the larger trend toward “unique” weddings. I gather a sample from online websites of the most popular wedding vows today. If we don’t select the soul mate idiom, we borrow a page from Wall Street and the corporate world and declare ourselves to be “partners.” As if we were rummaging through the annals of Cold War communism, we pledge ourselves stout “comrades,” or “partners in parenthood.” Favorite opening lines include: “I take you to be my partner” and “You are my best friend for life....”

This androgynous ideal for marriage contradicts the romantic one.... Marriage in the romantic heyday enjoyed a status as a *sui generis* bond. A post-romantic marriage shares more characteristics with other intimacies and social bonds.

The good news is that we’re marrying our “best friends” today. And, the bad news is that we’re marrying our “best friends”—because it has curious effects on marital happiness.... §

For more information about Pamela Haag’s book, or to see other articles about it, visit [www.MarriageConfidential.com](http://www.MarriageConfidential.com).



# impromptu

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

By Vanessa Keen '11

Renowned for attempting to invent a perpetual motion machine and an ever-present cup of coffee, **Bart Houseman** is celebrating his 50th year as a member of the chemistry faculty. Retired from full-time teaching in 1995, Houseman teaches introductory chemistry to students in Goucher's post-baccalaureate premedical program each summer.

**You're known for making chemistry accessible to all, sometimes deploying unusual techniques like using peas to explain the power of exponential numbers. What's the secret to staying enthusiastic?**

Boredom with teaching has never crossed my mind. I don't see myself teaching chemistry as much as I find myself teaching people, with chemistry as the medium. I enjoy teaching general chemistry the most, because it's the potential medium for the introduction of some mind-boggling concepts.

**You came here immediately after earning your doctorate at Wayne State University in Detroit. What drew you to Goucher?**

I had offers from about four colleges after I graduated, but I totally surprised myself when I found I couldn't resist Goucher. Out of all the schools I looked at, the faculty members were the smartest, and the teaching quality was outstanding. The fact that when I came to visit the azaleas were out in full bloom didn't hurt either.

**You're the co-author of a best-selling book that has little to do with chemistry. Tell us about that.**



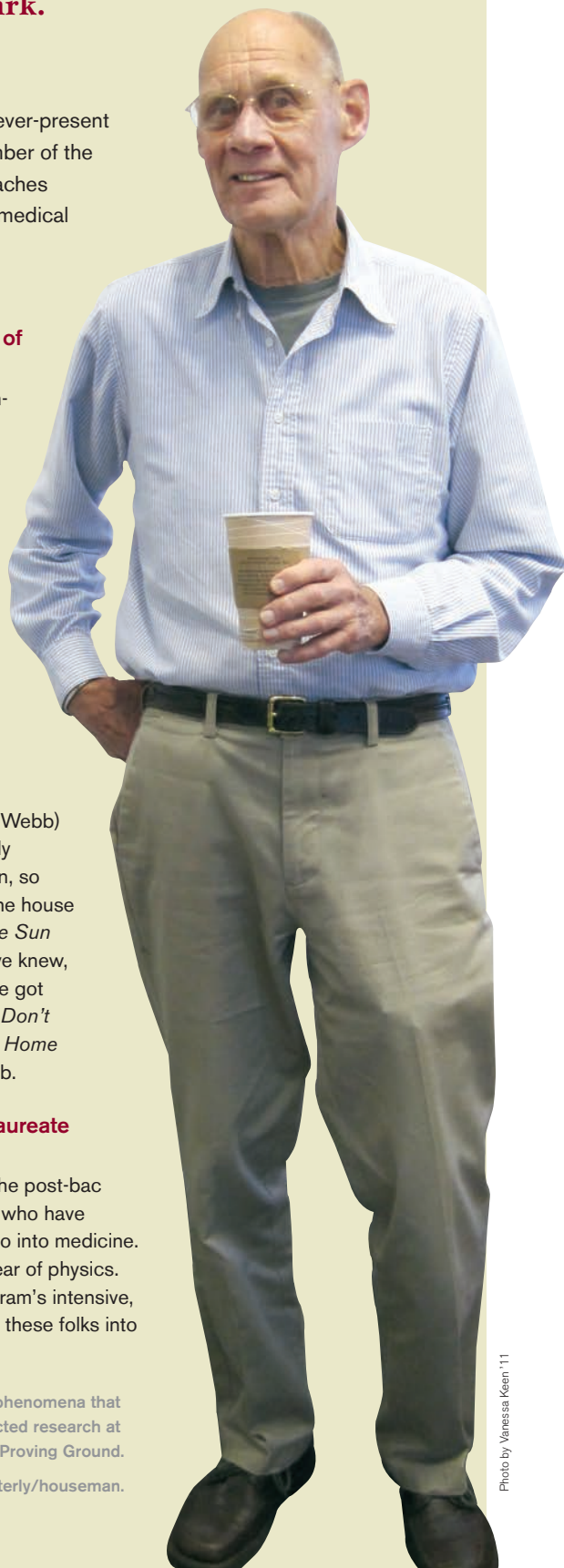
In the early 1970s another chemistry professor (the late James Webb) and I realized that the average Goucher woman knew absolutely nothing about fixing stuff. We were both experienced handymen, so we decided to teach a course about how to fix things around the house called "Nuts and Bolts in Contemporary Society." The *Baltimore Sun* and then the *New York Times* picked up the story. Next thing we knew, we were in *Time*, *Newsweek*, and the *National Geographic*. We got offers from no fewer than 10 publishers. So we wrote *The You Don't Need a Man to Fix It Book: The Woman's Guide to Confident Home Repair*, which made it all the way to the Book-of-the-Month Club.

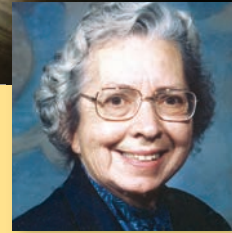
**You were one of the founding professors of Goucher's post-baccalaureate premedical program. How did that program begin?**

In 1983, George Delahunty, a biology professor, came up with the idea for the post-bac program and asked me to come on board. We accept 30 people every year who have majored in anything but the sciences—and who have realized they want to go into medicine. In a year, we give them two years of chemistry, 1 ½ years of biology, and a year of physics. I'm the guy that teaches them their very first course in the summer. The program's intensive, but very successful: Over the past several years, our success rate of getting these folks into med school has been 100 percent.

Bart Houseman's specialty is surface chemistry—the study of chemical phenomena that occur when two phases (for example, gas and liquid) meet. He has conducted research at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab and Aberdeen Proving Ground.

To hear a podcast of an interview with Bart Houseman, visit [www.goucher.edu/quarterly/houseman](http://www.goucher.edu/quarterly/houseman).





## Elsie Goedeke Shutt '48

### IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN

**Elsie Goedeke Shutt '48** majored in mathematics at Goucher, and it is little wonder that neither she nor her teachers ever imagined she'd devote her career to computer programming: The field didn't yet exist beyond the laboratories of a handful of exceptionally gifted mathematicians and engineers. There was little hardware and even less programming; in fact, only two years before Shutt's graduation, the first electronic computer—ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer)—had gone on display at the University of Pennsylvania. It covered about 1,800 square feet of floor and included 17,000-plus vacuum tubes; 1,500 mechanical relays; 70,000 resistors; some 5 million, hand-soldered connections; and weighed about 30 tons.

Not exactly a laptop.

After Goucher, Shutt went to Harvard Radcliffe Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to pursue an advanced degree in pure mathematics. As one of the first female teaching fellows, Shutt imagined an academic career for herself. But the summer job she held during graduate school, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, opened her eyes to possibilities beyond the classroom and lecture hall.

**The Army had moved ENIAC there, and Shutt spent holidays working on programming for ballistics research. Since no academic courses existed in computer programming, ENIAC and its sister machines served as her introduction to software. "I loved programming; it wasn't like work. It was like fun and games," she says.**

In 1953, Shutt married fellow graduate student Philip R. Shutt and pursued a career in programming, first working full time for Honeywell, and then, after the first of her three children was born, as a freelancer. Soon after, she began being offered projects that were too large to be handled by just one programmer.

**In 1958, Shutt, with the support and encouragement of friends and associates, founded Computations Incorporated (Complnc). As CEO, Shutt decided to hire primarily women, in particular mothers who wanted to balance child-rearing with career. "My idea was not to build a big company. My idea was to provide interesting work for competent, professional women programmers who were stuck at home and wanted to keep abreast of the field," Shutt says.**

Soon, Complnc grew to 15 employees, and Shutt was renting time on large, mainframe computers to perform systems analyses and design programs for schools, hospitals, large corporations, and the U.S. Air Force.

Now, after 53 years of running her own company, Shutt is ready to close shop. She's looking forward to volunteering with community projects and devoting her time more fully to the Great Books Discussion Program, a reading group she has been active in for years.

Running her own company for more than half a century and promoting the careers of nearly 40 women has been gratifying, Shutt says. "We wanted to keep up in the field, enjoy the work, and stay home with the children. And we did."

— Vanessa Keen '11



Katie Beechem '10 installs cylindrical sleeves that protect saplings from deer, which may nibble on them or rub their antlers against them, damaging the bark.



## Katie Beechem '10

### ROOTING FOR CHANGE

When **Katie Beechem '10** says she does field work, she really means it. On any given weekday, she may be found standing knee-deep in a meadow, wrapping cylindrical, plastic sleeves around young pin oaks to protect them from deer, or planting rows of slender chestnut oaks with the aim of reforesting Baltimore County.

Beechem, who majored in biology at Goucher, is a member of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps, a new program funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, the state of Maryland, and the U.S. Department of Labor. The initiative, which was launched last year, is modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps, a New Deal program aimed at conserving the land and providing jobs during the Great Depression. The Chesapeake Conservation Corp offers 16 men and women aged 18 to 25 a chance to work for one year on a restoration project—with the hope that some of them will pursue careers in conservation.

**“It is really good to have studied different environmental topics in class and to be out here now actually doing something to protect the environment,” says Beechem, whose year in the corps ends in November, but who will remain as a permanent member of the county’s reforestation crew.**

These days, Beechem spends her time visiting one or another of the 20 reforestation sites in Baltimore County. Working in crews of four, corps members plant and nurture

a variety of trees, including several species of oak, hickory, green and white ash, and red maple. During cold months, the teams might mulch or cut back the grass around each tree (which provides hiding spots for voles and field mice that may gnaw on and damage the trees). In the warmer months, the team is busy planting or pruning. “We are in the Piedmont zone, and we are trying to recreate what it used to be like,” Beechem says. “We choose trees that are native to Maryland, and we have thousands of them at the nursery, so we do a little bit each day.”

**Beechem, a native of Eugene, OR, came to Goucher for its science programs. “I was looking at colleges with strong biology and physics programs, and I read about Goucher in *Colleges that Change Lives* [Penguin Books, 1996], and one of the things highlighted was the science program.”**

A recipient of a Global Citizens Scholarship, Beechem particularly enjoyed studying salt marsh grasses with Cynthia Kicklighter, professor of biology, and researching aggressive behavior displayed by hummingbirds in Costa Rica while on an intensive course abroad. While she enjoys field work immensely, Beechem says: “I definitely would like to wind up doing something in environmental policy. It is interesting to me that the county has been so successful in creating a program that works. I have enjoyed learning what makes things happen on a local governmental level.” — Holly Selby



# in Memoriam



Mary  
Katherine  
Scarborough  
Scheeler

1927–2011

'49

**M**ary Katherine Scarborough Scheeler, civic activist, attorney, and columnist, died on March 31 of complications from a stroke. She was 83.

Mrs. Scheeler majored in political science at Goucher. After graduating, she taught at Garrison Junior High School and attended the University of Maryland School of Law at night. In 1953, she was admitted to the Maryland bar and married Charles Scheeler. A year later, she and her husband opened a law practice, Scheeler & Scheeler, in their home. Mrs. Scheeler practiced for 57 years in trusts and estates, often accepting hot meals in lieu of payment from needy clients. "Her clients were not just her clients—they were her friends," says Wilma Zimmerman '64, a family friend.

Mrs. Scheeler became a Goucher College trustee in 1978 and 20 years later was named trustee emerita. "She was renowned for her insightfulness, sense of fun, and unflagging graciousness," says Goucher President Emerita Rhoda M. Dorsey. Once, in 1991, former President Jimmy Carter visited campus. After a day of lectures, Carter needed to depart without attending a reception that was being held in his honor. Mrs. Scheeler, concerned that he would leave without sampling Maryland fare, baked and packed a crab casserole for him to carry onto the airplane. "Mary Katherine always thought of the little things; she was always concerned for the individual," Dorsey says.

Mrs. Scheeler served as a board member for the Franklin Square Hospital; Historic Hampton, Inc.; the Lutherville-Timonium Recreation Council; and the Baltimore County Historical Society, of which she was vice president from 1991 to 1993. In 1993, Governor William Donald Schaefer named her to the Baltimore County Board of Education.

Until shortly before her death, Mrs. Scheeler wrote a neighborhoods column for the *Towson Times*, often focusing on the historic Hampton mansion. She also was a judge, from 1958 to 1963, on the television quiz show, *It's in the Name*, in which contestants raced to create new words from the letters in a longer word. "I sat in a rocking chair with my cowboy hat on as a child and watched her," her son, Charles P. Scheeler, told *The Baltimore Sun*. "It was live TV. I was horrified the time a disgruntled contestant chased my mother across the set after she failed to give him credit for a word recognized by Webster's dictionary."

In addition to her husband and son, Charles, Mrs. Scheeler is survived by her sons, George D. Scheeler, and Donald C. Scheeler.

— By Julie Steinbacher '10



Janet Cane  
Fisher

1916–2010

'38

**J**anet Cane Fisher, a passionate volunteer and philanthropist, died on December 28, 2010. She was 94 years old.

Raised in Tuckahoe, NY, Mrs. Fisher met her late husband, Avery Fisher, at Grand Central Station en route to Goucher. He was so taken with her that he proceeded to call every "Cane" in the Westchester County telephone book until he found her, according to *The New York Times*. They were married in 1940.

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, both lovers of classical music, were frequently seen at concerts at the Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall—a venue named in Mr. Fisher's honor—and had warm relationships with many young musicians who benefitted from their philanthropy, including Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax. The couple funded the Avery Fisher Career Grants, which give professional assistance and recognition to talented instrumentalists, and the coveted Avery Fisher Prize, an award given to American musicians for outstanding achievement in classical music.

In 1985, Mrs. Fisher established the Janet and Avery Fisher Music Residency program at Goucher, an initiative that brings Career Grant recipients and other gifted musicians to perform and teach on campus. "The Goucher residencies represent a particularly warm and personal gift to the college because they combine the Fishers' support of young, gifted musicians with Janet's interest in Goucher College," says President Emerita Rhoda M. Dorsey.

Throughout the years, the residencies have shined a spotlight on the cultural life at Goucher by bringing to campus artists such as flute virtuoso Eugenia Zuckerman and renowned cellist Peter Wiley. "The Fisher Residency, a unique and exciting combination of lecture-demonstration, master class, and formal concert, has consistently delivered excellence in the form of the highest musical standards possible right to the Goucher Music Department's doorstep," says Lisa Weiss, professor of music.

Mrs. Fisher also was dedicated to several other organizations. She was an active board member of the Children's Orchestra Society, the 92nd Street Y, and City Meals-on-Wheels. When she was in her seventies, Mrs. Fisher was spotted by a modeling agent who insisted that she was the perfect face for a Gap ad. She became the only senior citizen to be so featured. True to form, she donated her wages from this work to the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund.

Pictured above: Janet Cane Fisher with Yo-Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax

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# G P N

GOUCHER PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

Whether you are an incoming student, a longtime alumna/us, a current parent, or a faculty or staff member, the Goucher Professional Network (GPN) is an ideal way to "link in" to Goucher. Launched this spring, GPN connects all members of the global Goucher community within LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network. As a group member you can:

- Easily find Goucher contacts
- Send messages to other group members
- Advertise or search for jobs
- Start a group discussion
- Join a career oriented subgroup

Join today at [www.goucher.edu/linkedin](http://www.goucher.edu/linkedin).

# Under the Big Top

by Sanford J. Ungar

I have found, in my ten years at Goucher, that the commencement season is an especially joyous and rewarding time. Surely every college and university president says this, but I do believe we have something special and unique going on here. Beginning with the Convocation in Kraushaar Auditorium late one afternoon in early May, where we award an ever-growing list of academic prizes and see some of the college's spectacular homegrown talent on display, on through the actual graduation ceremony on a Friday morning two weeks later, the Goucher community is at its best.

There are some very touching moments that not everyone gets to see, such as the Student Government Association giving its annual Outstanding Service Award to the unsung heroes on campus—this year, to the hard-working people from Facilities Management Services who keep the college running smoothly and help the students live comfortably. At the annual Goucher II graduation luncheon, celebrating those who came back to college outside the traditional age parameters, we hear extraordinary stories of determination, sacrifice, and gratitude; there was hardly a dry eye in the house this year.

Another annual highlight is the Donning of the Kente Cloth, a ceremony introduced in her senior year by Kimberley Gordy '06, now an assistant director of admissions and Goucher's coordinator of multicultural recruitment. It is an occasion for students representing various ethnicities and diasporas individually to express their appreciation for the people who helped them attain their college education, as they light a candle and are draped with a beautiful multi-colored stole. Part of traditional West African garb, Kente cloth is a royal and sacred material worn in times of celebration. At Goucher, the design features several symbolic elements that help convey the importance of the occasion: a key, which stands for success; an Ashanti stool, for royalty; and a diamond, for wealth. Here, too, emotion runs high, and one learns a great deal about family struggle and dedication.

Commencement itself had a new look this year, as it moved from its location of recent times behind Mary Fisher Hall to the beautiful and expansive Winslow Great Lawn (made possible by longtime trustee Margaret Messler Winslow '69) alongside the Athenaeum. Under a massive

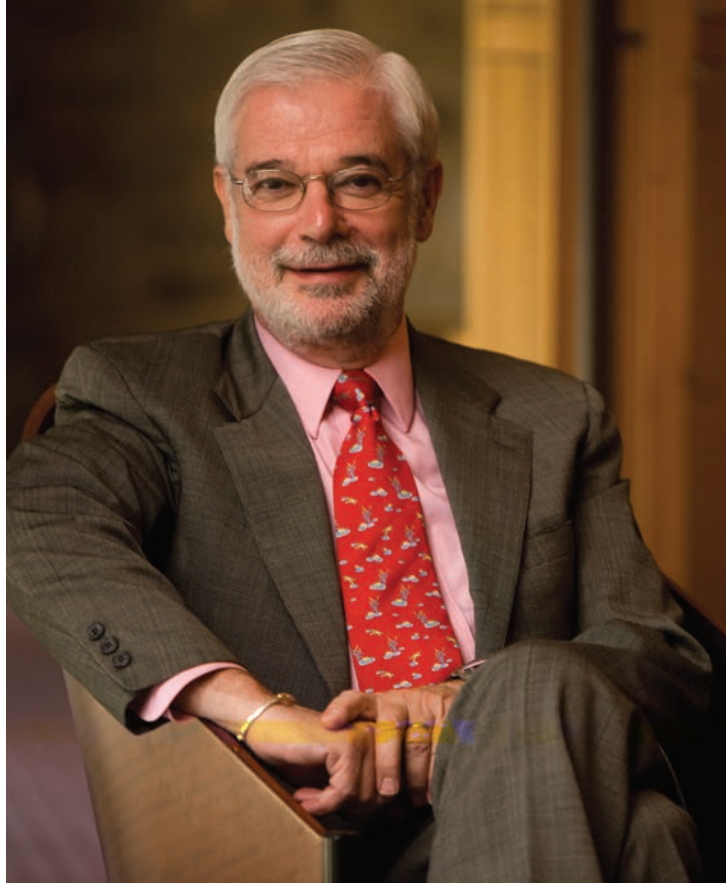


photo by Bruce Weller

big-top tent, we were able to set up 2,600 chairs and create a setting where Maryland's temperamental May weather would not matter and where tickets for admission are no longer necessary. For those who could not attend in person, the ceremony was live-streamed, and it was viewed by family members as far away as Tanzania, Serbia, Vietnam, and Israel, and many other points around the globe.

Details of Commencement and the words of our splendid honorary degree recipients appear elsewhere in this *Quarterly*, but we owe many people thanks for the successful transition to this new spot, especially Jill Zimmerman, professor of mathematics and computer science and the chief faculty marshal. Perhaps it is her control of the homemade robots in her lab in the Hoffberger Science Building that makes it possible for her to keep us all in line.

Goucher's undergraduate Class of 2011 seemed to have the usual share of superstars and fascinating people.

This year alone, we had eight graduating seniors accepted into Teach for America, a number more often associated with a large university than a small liberal arts college. These students have made commitments to teach for two or more years in low-income communities throughout the United States. Two of them, Morris Johnson and Kelley Moran, won this year's Elizabeth Deale Lawrence '66 and Bryan Huntington Lawrence prize of \$25,000 each to reward their commitment to public service and innovative teaching.

One of our graduating biologists headed straight for New Orleans to discuss her research with the 20,000 people

continued from p. 61

attending the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, and another was off to Alaska to study the effects of global warming on the permafrost. Our house expert on Mongolia used his fellowship from the Kratz Center for Creative Writing to return to Ulan Bator, its capital, where he had previously studied, to explore local folklore for his short stories. Two departing seniors will be teaching English in France for at least a year, and another will be building a website for an orphan-support organization in Rwanda. One of our international relations majors, from California, is joining the Maryland State Police.

The Class of 2011 was only the second to enter the college under our signature study-abroad requirement, and its 354 members participated in 403 distinct programs in 52 different countries. Sixty of them studied abroad at least twice. And what a rich variety of experiences they had: They taught in South Africa, worked at Mother Theresa's mission in India, interned for the United Nations in North Korea, and explored the coral reefs off Honduras. They transcended boundaries (as we say) in Australia, Bolivia, Greece, the Czech Republic, Morocco, Germany, Russia, Slovenia, Ghana, China... the list goes on. They worked with members of the British Parliament or danced in Brazil. Thirty-two Goucher faculty members led them on three-week intensive courses abroad. Wherever they went, the students had experiences, made contacts, and built relationships that will enhance their multiple careers and enrich their lives forever.

And now we get ready to welcome a new bumper crop of first-year and transfer students, no doubt every bit as impressive as those to whom we've just said good-bye. Thus passes time—and the seasons—at Goucher College.



Sanford J. Ungar | President



Eli Cohen '11, senior class representative, addressed the crowd under the big-top tent at Commencement.





## Coming in the next issue

Independent filmmaker Cintia Cabib '83 discusses her 2011 documentary, *A Community of Gardeners*.



### A PEEK INSIDE

- **Perpetual Motion:** Bart Houseman has led chemistry classes for 50 years and is more enthusiastic about teaching than ever.
- **Action:** The filming of the HBO movie *Game Change* brought some unlikely figures to campus this summer.
- **Viewpoint:** Commencement 2011 had a new look, but, as President Sanford J. Ungar notes, the graduates were as remarkable as ever.

