

WINTER 2014

Goucher
Quarterly

SPECIAL EDITION:
President José Antonio Bowen

**GOUCHER
CONNECTS**



10 multifaceted visionary

Scholar. Educator. Innovator. Musician. Performer. Author. Leader. These words are some of the colors that contribute to the rich, complex portrait of Goucher's new president.

20 go forth and publish

With an 18-year-old prodigy, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, Pushcart Prize-nominated poets, and several *New York Times* bestsellers among its graduates, Goucher has become a haven for promising writers.

54 listening tour

New President José Antonio Bowen is embarking on a Listening Tour of 11 U.S. cities to meet Goucher alumnae/i and hear their thoughts about the college's future.

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Ke'Aun Charles '15

A senior from New York City, Ke'Aun is studying English at Goucher. He has been an intern for the *Quarterly* since April 2014.

Angie Cochrun

Angie Cochrun is the communications specialist in the Office of Communications at Goucher College. Before her time with the college, she worked as a newspaper reporter, pre-school soccer coach, AmeriCorps volunteer coordinator, and winery worker, among other things.

James Dator

James Dator is assistant professor of history and serves as advisor in the Africana Studies Program. His research focuses on culture, race, and slavery in the Caribbean and North America. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in 2011.

Michael Graff '14

From Long Island, New York, Graff majored in English and writes entertainment news articles and TV show reviews for AllThatsEpic.com.

Elisa Koehler

Elisa Koehler has been teaching at Goucher since 1998 and is an associate professor and chair of the Music Department. Also a professional trumpeter and conductor, she is the author of *Fanfares and Finesse: A Performer's Guide to Trumpet History and Literature* (Indiana University Press, 2014).

Vanessa Mallory Kotz

Vanessa Mallory Kotz was the managing editor of the *Quarterly* from November 2013 to July 2014. She is now the marketing and communications manager at the Writer's Center in Bethesda.

Kristen Pinheiro M.Ed. '14

Kristen Pinheiro has been at Goucher College since 2005 and is the senior director of communications. Previously, Kristen spent eight years editing magazines and special supplements for a Maryland daily newspaper. She earned a bachelor of arts in English at Washington College and a master of education at Goucher.

Julie Steinbacher '10

Julie Steinbacher is an M.F.A. candidate in fiction at North Carolina State University, where she also works as a tutor and freelance editor. She is a graduate of the Clarion West Writers Workshop. At Goucher, she double-majored in English and Spanish and worked as the assistant editor of the *Quarterly*.

on the front cover:

Goucher President José Antonio Bowen. Photo by Eric Stocklin.

editor

Kristen K. Pinheiro

editing/copyediting

Office of Communications

design

B. Creative Group Inc.

Goucher College president

José Antonio Bowen

vice president for development and alumnae/i affairs

Margaret-Ann Radford-Wedemeyer

president, AAGC

Steven M. Klepper '97

postmaster

Send address changes to:

Advancement Services

Dorsey Center 103

Goucher College

1021 Dulaney Valley Road

Baltimore, MD 21204-2794

inquiries

Goucher Quarterly:

quarterly@goucher.edu

or fax 410.337.6185

Alumnae/i Affairs:

1.800.272.2279 or 410.337.6180

College Switchboard:

1.800.GOUCHER

Admissions: 410.337.6100

as of September 2013

total students: 1,449 undergraduates,

662 graduate students

total undergraduate faculty: 202

alumnae and alumni: 21,946

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.

NEW BEGINNINGS

I am pleased to announce that beginning with this issue, *Alumnae/i Affairs* is now partnering with the Office of Communications to continue producing a great magazine.

“**B**ustling” is the word that comes to mind when I think about this *Quarterly* issue. Jammed with exciting news, it features an extended profile of Goucher’s 11th president (see p. 10) and the Presidential Listening Tour, a series of events at which José Antonio Bowen will meet alumnae/i—and vice versa. Scheduled throughout the fall and into the spring, the tour is being held in 11 cities and represents a great opportunity for alumnae/i to introduce themselves to and share their thoughts with the new president (see p. 54). If you live near or plan to visit one of these cities, I hope you’ll come.

Faculty and staff members have contributed articles to create a wide-ranging portrait of the many facets of President Bowen. Kristen K. Pinheiro, senior director of communications, wrote the cover story and a profile of Dr. Bowen as a leading scholar, and Dr. Elisa Koehler, associate professor and chair of Goucher’s Music Department, wrote about the president as an accomplished musician. Angie Cochrun, communications specialist, sat down with Kimberly Bowen, Dr. Bowen’s wife (see p. 18). And we would’ve been remiss if we didn’t introduce you to the presidential pets (see p. 19)!

Also in this issue, feature writer **Julie Steinbacher ’10** interviewed five successful Goucher authors—alumnae/i of both the graduate and undergraduate programs (see p. 20) about how their childhoods and college experiences have influenced their writing and where they find inspiration. One author, **Sheri Booker M.F.A. ’07**, drew upon the nine years she spent working at a Baltimore funeral home to write a darkly funny memoir. A second artist, **Peter Ramos ’92**, describes how childhood memories of black-and-white television images have inspired much of his poetry. Still another writer, **Laura Tims ’14**, signed a two-book deal last year while still a college senior. Her first young adult novel is scheduled to be published in 2015.

I have news about the *Quarterly*, as well. The magazine, which for years has been written, edited, and published by the Office of Alumnae/i Affairs, is moving—but, I’m happy to say, not very far away. I am pleased to announce that beginning with this issue, *Alumnae/i Affairs* is now partnering with the Office of Communications to continue producing a great magazine. The *Quarterly* still will be chock full of all things Goucher—updates from around campus, alumnae/i news, profiles spotlighting alumnae/i successes and adventures—but from now on, it will be produced within the Office of Communications. I’m looking forward to this new collaboration and, as always, if you have questions or thoughts, please feel free to email or call me here in the Alumnae & Alumni House.

I hope many of you will be able to attend one of the Presidential Listening Tour events, and if you are unable to come, I hope I will see you at Alumnae/i Weekend, which will be held April 24-26, 2015.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this issue—happy reading!

Best regards,

Holly Selby | Executive Director of Alumnae/i Engagement
holly.selby@goucher.edu | 410.337.6184

Civil Rights: Past, Principles, Progress

Goucher launches a themed semester to explore the significance of civil rights yesterday and today

by James Dator, Assistant Professor of History

Nearly 150 years ago, poet, activist, and black Baltimorean Frances E.W. Harper took the platform in Union Square, New York, to discuss voting rights and segregation of public transportation. She began her speech with a rather private story about how her husband had died suddenly, heavily in debt, leaving her alone to provide for her four children and manage their small farm. Within months, creditors seized the tools she needed to feed her family. They even took her bed after a neighbor falsely accused her of being a “non-resident.”

Society cannot trample on the weakest and feeblest of its members without receiving the curse of its own soul.

“Had I died instead of my husband, how different would have been the result,” Harper said. “No administrator would have gone into his house, broken up his home, and sold his bed, and taken away his means of support.”

The only memento she had left was a looking glass. Harper said, “Justice is not fulfilled so long as woman is unequal before the law.”

Yet, as Harper knew well, the issue was far more complicated. Only months before, on a return trip from Washington, DC, to Baltimore, she had been forced to ride in the smoking car because of her race. “Have women nothing to do with this?” she asked her audience. “Are there not wrongs to be righted?”

Harper delivered her speech to the National Women’s Rights Convention in May 1866—just one month after the U.S. House of Representatives voted to override President Andrew Johnson’s veto and enshrine, for the first time in the nation’s history, equal protection to citizens before the law with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1866.

Goucher students are taught Harper’s speech because it complicates the popular notion that the civil rights movement was part of some longer arc of American progress rather than a phase in an undulating wave of historical struggle.

For many, the term “civil rights” conjures up simple images of Martin Luther King, Jr. delivering his “I Have a Dream” speech and segregated lunch counters. Yet the movement was about far more than “integration”—indeed, the very name of the event launching King into the American psyche was the “March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.”

By contrast, Harper’s speech from a century earlier presses students to reconsider the temporal boundaries of the struggle over civil rights in the United States. It also challenges them to think about how matters of race, gender, sexuality, and class have long informed how Americans have sought to control and redefine the meaning of citizenship and equality before the law.

Harper was a free-born black woman who fled north to escape the grasp of the Fugitive Slave Act and who had fought to abolish the wealthiest and most powerful slave-based economy in the world. She understood the entwining issues of personal liberty all too well. “We are all bound up together in one great bundle of humanity,” she said, “and society cannot trample on the weakest and feeblest of its members without receiving the curse of its own soul.”

In the Spring 2015, to honor the memory of activists such as Harper and anniversaries related to the 20th-century civil rights movement, the entire Goucher community will be exploring the multifaceted, ongoing struggle over the meaning of “civil rights.”



Featured events during Goucher's semester-long exploration of civil rights issues of yesterday and today:

2/14 / Colin Powell retired four-star general of the United States Army and former secretary of state

2/26 / Freeman A. Hrabrowski III, president of UMBC and prominent educator, advocate, and mathematician

4/14 / Ta-Nehisi Coates, national correspondent at *The Atlantic* and author of the memoir *The Beautiful Struggle*

4/20 / Michelle Alexander, associate professor of law at Ohio State University and author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

Please check Goucher's website for more information and to confirm the dates and locations of these events, which are subject to change.

Faculty from anthropology and sociology, history, political science, religion, psychology, peace studies, women's studies, and Africana studies will be teaching courses to explore the significance of civil rights yesterday and today. Members of Student Affairs will be working collaboratively with students to develop opportunities to explore the topic through conversation and debate, and a public exhibition is being designed to bring the history of civil rights at Goucher and in Greater Baltimore alive in the Athenaeum.

Indeed, Goucher's own connection to this long struggle is a story worth exploring—from its origins as one of the most prominent women's colleges below the Mason-Dixon Line to the controversial role of students in anti-segregation campaigns across the city in the 1960s. Projects are in the works to have students interact with alumnae/i and local civil rights veterans, and, thanks to generous support, Goucher will be hosting a series of high-profile speakers to campus to foster a deeper connection between the college and the Greater Baltimore area.

Alumnae/i are invited to campus to participate in this ongoing community-wide discussion about this important and enduring theme.

Today, as we all work together to prepare Goucher students to be engaged citizens of the world, what better time to ask—as Frances E.W. Harper would have wanted us to—how far, really, have we come? Where do we go from here? §

(Top) Goucher students gather in downtown Baltimore for a political rally. (Bottom) Goucher students holding a banner before leaving campus for a 1967 civil rights demonstration in Washington, DC.

The Download


In which we ask interesting people what interests them





Mel Lewis '02, assistant professor of women, gender, and sexuality studies, teaches courses that examine gender and sexuality as they intersect with race in the United States. She is on sabbatical this fall at the University of California, Berkeley, and is excited to work on her forthcoming


book, *Queer Feminist Corporeal Pedagogies: Race, Sexuality, and the Body as Text*. The Baltimore resident earned a doctorate in women's studies and a master's degree in bodies, genders, and sexualities at the University of Maryland. She holds a dual bachelor's in sociology and women's studies from Goucher. Lewis lives in downtown Baltimore, in the hustle and bustle of the Inner Harbor. Her pets live across the street at the National Aquarium.

 **READING:** I've just finished the Janet Mock memoir, *Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More* (Atria Books, 2014). It's about her fantastic journey through gender transition. I also read Rebecca Walker's *Black Cool: One Thousand Streams of Blackness* (Soft Skull Press, 2012). In it, many artists and activists look at the concept of "black cool." It's varied and applicable to different things, like swagger. And it's been cultivated over time by borrowing from performers or family members. I'm also excited to read photojournalist Brian Skerry's gorgeous book *Ocean Soul* (National Geographic, 2011).

 **WATCHING:** I don't have a TV, but I love my Netflix. I just binge-watched *Big Cat Diary*. I love anything about animals and the ocean, like *The Blue Planet*.

 **LISTENING:** NPR's *Science Friday*, WYPR's *Midday with Dan Rodricks*. I put Pandora on the John Coltrane station. I have a record player and listen to vinyl—Motown, Lionel Richie, jazz. I love to go to thrift stores and pick up old albums.

 **FOLLOWING:** I follow professors and colleagues on Facebook, and I watch *Outkasted Conversations*, a series of videocasts of black feminists that is produced by Regina Bradley from Kennesaw State University. They talk about their books, their work. It's fun to see what other people are doing.

 **SPARE TIME:** I'm a volunteer at the National Aquarium. I feed and clean up after the animals. My knife work needs improvement, cutting up the food, but the fish eat it anyway! I had to go through several tests and lots of training, but it was worth it. I love working there so much. They are constructing a hands-on exhibit where you can touch the rays and moon jellies. It's for kids, but I think there will be just as many adults in line. I also like to go to the beach, though after working at the aquarium, I now know more about what's in the sand and the sea. I see things differently. §

— Julie Steinbacher '10



Connecting Out, Looking In

by Angie Cochrun

“I’ll never use a plastic bag again,” said first-year student Rachel Brannock, her nose wrinkled in distaste at the trash in her gloved hand.

The Baltimore native was one of 440 first-year students who—along with about 120 upperclassman mentors, staff, faculty, and the president—participated in Goucher Connects, a new, wide-reaching Orientation service event held at the start of the fall semester. The experience took Gophers to work with local groups on environmental projects at six sites around Baltimore City—Baltimore Recreation and Parks, Baltimore Tree Trust, Blue Water Baltimore, Civic Works, and Parks & People Foundation.

Though the goal of the program was to get students to connect with one another, as well as with faculty and staff, Director of Community-Based Learning Cass Freedland said organizers also hoped students would feel connected to the Baltimore area and see themselves as involved, effective citizens. “We wanted them to learn how service is in the DNA of Goucher and how they can be a part of it,” she said. §





Game Changer: Wi-Fi for Everyone

by Angie Cochrun

Chris Nobriga '15 was used to doing important schoolwork early in the day. The political science major wasn't particularly a morning person; he was just avoiding the frequent afternoon slowdown of the campus's Internet.

But now he and other students can afford to sleep in every once in a while, thanks to campus Wi-Fi upgrades that are taking Goucher into the future at the speed of, well, really fast Internet.

"The new Wi-Fi is definitely quicker," Nobriga said. And as a community assistant in Welsh Hall, one of the first residential halls to obtain the new Wi-Fi. "There was plenty of tech support if people had trouble connecting . . . It seems they have really thought about the best ways they can support students when installing the new Wi-Fi."

Student ease was the main reason behind the campus-wide upgrades that have brought high-speed mobile wireless access to all computing devices everywhere on campus. This includes two networks—GoucherWi-Fi for computers and handheld devices, and GoucherMultimedia for gaming and online TV viewing devices.

"This is a game changer," said President José Antonio Bowen, who made fast, readily accessible technology infrastructure for the entire community a top priority in his first few months on campus. He said the improvements are impacting everyone, with students gaining easier access to digital learning resources, professors having better access for student communication, and staffers' increasing productivity with the fast connection. "It sounds silly, but it is really is something to celebrate," Bowen says.

The improvements are impacting everyone, with students gaining easier access to digital learning resources, professors having better access for student communication, and staffers' increasing productivity with the fast connection.

Vice President for Technology and Planning Bill Leimbach said Goucher hired a company that began with upgrades this summer. Teams walked through campus buildings to record information about floor plans, building construction, lighting, electrical systems, and HVAC systems. Using the survey, a design was completed for each building denoting where access points should be located to provide the best coverage.

All of the residence halls have been upgraded, followed by the Alumnae/i House, the Athenaeum, Hoffberger, Meyerhoff, Van Meter, Julia Rogers, and the Psych Annex. Other campus locations—the Sports and Recreation Center, Dorsey College Center, Facilities Management Services, Haebler Memorial Chapel, the heating and cooling plants, the President's House, stables, and the track—wrapped up the upgrade.

The outdoor network also received an upgrade. Now a student walking down the stretch of Van Meter Highway from Stimson to Julia Rogers is able to Skype with a friend studying abroad, not breaking the campus wireless connection once. **S**

Jane P. Cleaver '66

Sharing Her Gifts



“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’”

Those words, written by the late humorist and newspaper columnist Erma Bombeck, have always resonated with **Jane P. Cleaver '66**. Cleaver spent 38 years in the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, working to improve others’ lives.

As the chief of parklands for 20 of those years, she was in charge of acquiring land for parks in the city’s five boroughs and creating playgrounds and nature preserves that included trails and other recreational features. Much of her time was spent exploring the city, searching for potential parkland—and meeting the people who would use it. “You have no idea what a new park means to people until you see it for yourself,” Cleaver says.

In 2007, Cleaver retired from the parks department after winning several public service awards, including the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Award for excellence in workplace effectiveness and flexibility. “It was a wonderful job. I thought I should have paid the city to do it. It allowed me to live my beliefs. We are all given gifts that we need to share with others.”

She spent the next five years taking care of her ailing father, but after his death, she wanted to do something new. At the start of her retirement, Cleaver enjoyed all that New York has to offer—museums, plays, lectures, concerts. She took classes in jewelry making and architectural history. “New York is wonderful for people who have the available time,” she said.

“It was a wonderful job. I thought I should have paid the city to do it. It allowed me to live my beliefs. We are all given gifts that we need to share with others.”

But Cleaver’s energy and desire to help others were stronger than the impulse to play tourist, and she put all her energy into teaching.

Cleaver says, “I was lucky enough to get a fine education.” She majored in history at Goucher and jokes, “I survived taking history courses under [the late] Rhoda Dorsey.” And she wants to ensure other students have access to the same challenging education. Cleaver has made donations every year to Goucher since she graduated and has included the college in her will.

In 2000, she had earned a Master of Divinity degree from New York Theological Seminary. For her second career, Cleaver joined the seminary’s Bible Department as an adjunct faculty member, and she teaches the Bible within the context of what was happening in the region where and when it was written. “I love the challenge of teaching,” she says. “I’m a historian at heart.”

— *Vanessa Mallory Kotz*

Rhoda M. Dorsey (1927–2014)

Leadership Embodied



Known as a “force of nature” for her no-nonsense ways, Dr. Rhoda M. Dorsey embodied leadership. She was Goucher’s first female president and its longest-serving executive, diplomatically guiding the college’s move to enroll male students—a much-maligned notion in 1986 (and still today, for some).



Dorsey Scholarship Program

The Dorsey Scholars Program honors the memory and legacy of Dr. Rhoda M. Dorsey as a significant and respected national leader in civic engagement and higher education.

The new **Dr. Rhoda M. Dorsey Leadership Scholarship** recognizes extraordinary students who have also distinguished themselves through superior non-academic engagement and experiences, such as special talents and extracurricular achievement. Awarded to outstanding student leaders, this renewable scholarship is available in addition to any merit scholarship received.

This merit-based, four-year scholarship program offers selected Goucher students:

- Distinctive opportunities to pursue leadership activities on and off campus,
- Personal interaction with speakers in seminars and related lectures, and
- An educational experience built on the principle that becoming a strong leader is a developmental process.

Interested students must submit a separate application, available at www.goucher.edu/scholarships, along with their regular application for admission by December 1. Selected applicants will be invited to campus on Scholars' Day, March 1, 2015, for a faculty interview. Scholarship recipients will be expected to become leaders on campus and will be invited to and recognized at special campus events.

Funds from the Rhoda M. Dorsey Scholarship and the Hedwig and Thomas Dorsey Scholarship will be used for students eligible for the Dorsey Scholars Program, but there are also new giving opportunities available to help support this program.

For more information about how you can honor Dr. Dorsey's legacy and help fund the education of a future student leader at Goucher, please contact Adam Siegel, director of development, at 410.337.6082 or adam.siegel@goucher.edu.

“As I learned over time, especially working with the AAGC and Friends of the Goucher Library, Dr. Dorsey remained committed to the school she loved.” – Steve Klepper '97

Dr. Dorsey came to Goucher as a young, enthusiastic assistant professor of history in 1954. “Rhoda [arrived] with a keen mind and a marvelous gift for teaching,” **Milbrey Turner Zelle '60** remembered. “She taught by asking leading questions and by dissecting the student’s response. ... With Goucher’s small classes, there was no escaping her probing questions.”

Dr. Dorsey became academic dean of the college in 1968 and was named acting president in 1973. She took the job permanently on April 15, 1974.

“I was pleased and proud to watch her advance in leadership and accomplish so much for Goucher,” said **Shelley McCullough Gotterer '71**.

About halfway through her presidency, Dr. Dorsey spearheaded Goucher’s move to co-education saying, “We have to open our enrollment or the college will die.” She reflected on the decision in an interview in the *Towson Times* as “the best thing we ever did. We haven’t lost a concern for women, we have widened into a sensitive concern for men and women and how their needs are to be met.”

Not everyone agreed with the decision, and there were protests on campus. But things settled down, and the addition of men to the student body was ultimately seen as a way to energize the campus.

Dorsey spent 20 unflagging years as Goucher’s president. During that time she also volunteered her leadership skills for numerous businesses and charities—often serving as the only woman on these organizations’ boards of directors.

She was president of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, one of six regional organizations that accredit U.S. educational institutions. She also served on the boards of directors of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co., the First National Bank of Maryland, and the C&P Telephone Company of Maryland. She was vice president of the Maryland Independent College and University Association, chair of the Governor’s Commission on Service, and a member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

But her first commitment was always Goucher. “I treasure my relationship with the alumni,” Dr. Dorsey said in a 1990 *Quarterly* interview. “It has been one of the great continuing sources of strength and support for me.”

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“As a freshman in 1993, I arrived at Goucher just as Dr. Dorsey announced her retirement,” said **Steve Klepper '97**, president of the Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College. “But, as I learned over time, especially working with the AAGC and Friends of the Goucher Library, Dr. Dorsey remained committed to the school she loved.”

In her later years, Dr. Dorsey lived in Broadmead, a retirement community in Hunt Valley where she died at age 86 on May 10, 2014.

Dr. Dorsey’s legacy lives on in her numerous generous donations to Goucher, a gift from her estate, and three scholarships. She established the Hedwig and Thomas Dorsey Scholarship Fund to honor her parents and provide financial aid to students. The Rhoda M. Dorsey Scholarship was established in 1994 on the occasion of Dr. Dorsey’s retirement. Upon her death, Goucher created the Dr. Rhoda M. Dorsey Leadership Scholarship as a tribute to this extraordinary woman, leader, and friend of the college.

— *Vanessa Mallory Kotz*

Sherry Bebitch Jeffe '64

Excellence in Public Service



Sherry Bebitch Jeffe '64 developed an early interest in politics after meeting John F. Kennedy at a friend’s house in 1958. “He was young and focused and had electricity. He made us feel like we could make a difference,” she said.

As a political analyst, journalist, and scholar, Bebitch Jeffe has made a difference by stimulating public discourse over the last several decades. She is the political analyst for NBC4 in Los Angeles and a senior fellow at the University of Southern California’s Sol Price School of Public Policy.

Bebitch Jeffe recently was honored by the Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College for her dedication to the ideal of an informed citizenry.

Bebitch Jeffe recently was honored by the Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College with the Award for Excellence in Public Service for her dedication to the ideal of an informed citizenry, to the critical work of training the next generation of leaders, and to numerous worthy causes, including her *alma mater*.

She received the award at her 50th Reunion at Goucher this year. “My classmates are extraordinary people,” she said. She says she made sure to bring her husband to Reunion because “he had to understand why I am who I am.”

She credits her Goucher education for contributing to her outspoken nature. “I think if I had gone to a co-ed college, my mouth wouldn’t be as big as it is,” she said.

After graduating from Goucher with a degree in political science, she earned a master’s degree in political science in 1966 from Rutgers University, where she was a fellow at the Eagleton Institute of Politics. In 1980, she earned a doctorate in government from Claremont Graduate University, where she also taught political science. Between degrees, Bebitch Jeffe dove headfirst into California politics, where she took successive positions on the staffs of state legislators and in election campaigns

“Politics is a matter of luck and timing—so is my career,” she said. In 1990, Bebitch Jeffe took a job as a political commentator for the gubernatorial campaign on KCAL Channel 9 in Los Angeles, beginning a long, productive career in journalism and political analysis. She also has served as an American politics analyst for BBC Scotland’s *Today* and for other BBC programs.

Her extensive knowledge of California and national politics eventually earned her invitations to comment for news outlets worldwide, including CNN, NPR, PBS, ABC, Al Jazeera, Russian State Television, and the Tokyo Broadcasting System. She has been a contributing editor to *The Los Angeles Times*, and her writing has appeared in *USA Today*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, and many other newspapers.

In 2003, NBC’s *Today Show* relied on Bebitch Jeffe’s expertise to guide Americans through the legal wrangling of the nation’s first gubernatorial recall since 1921. Her keen insight and thoughtful analysis also earned her an Emmy nomination in 2006 for the news feature “Decision 2005: A Voter’s Guide” on NBC4 in Los Angeles. **S**

— *Vanessa Mallory Kotz*

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dear Goucher Alumnae and Alumni,



Greetings. Needless to say, the last few months have been ones of great energy and change!

Soon after his arrival in July, Goucher's new president, José Antonio Bowen, was a familiar sight on campus, whether meeting with faculty; talking to students; filming a video (check them out here <http://www.goucher.edu/about/office-of-the-president/videos>); playing a pick-up soccer game; or meandering down Van Meter Highway with his wife, Kimberly Bowen, and their dogs.

At the AAGC's annual retreat in August, things got off to a swift start: President Bowen attended part of our meeting and spoke about the "3Rs," or the essential elements of a successful college education: relationships, resilience, and reflection.

Recent research, he said, shows that students who form deep personal connections during their college years, develop "grit," or perseverance, and are self-aware, allowing them to experience more success in college—and beyond. (To read more about the 3Rs, visit <http://www.goucher.edu/academics/the-goucher-3rs>.)

In turn, we discussed our efforts to help establish regional networks in several key cities, including Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. We hope these networks will provide a convenient way for alumnae/i throughout the country to stay in touch with fellow alums who live nearby.

Our goal is to identify one or two alumnae/i in each city who will act as contacts for area alums, help publicize local events via emails or social media, and help connect area alums who may wish to organize a gathering in their city. If you live in one of these key cities, or are visiting one, you'll be able to find the contact person at www.goucher.edu/regionalnetworks.

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll read about the Presidential Listening Tour, now being taken by President Bowen to 11 cities throughout the country so he can meet Goucher's alumnae/i and listen to their thoughts and ideas. The launch of the listening tour was held November 5 in Baltimore, and, by the time you read this, many of you will have had the chance to meet the president in cities from New York to Washington, DC.

These events are fantastic opportunities for us to get acquainted with the new president—and for him to meet us, the alumnae/i of Goucher College. (To see if the Listening Tour is coming near you, visit www.goucher.edu/listeningtour.)

And don't forget: Even if you can't attend a listening tour event, you'll be able to meet the new president at Alumnae/i Weekend—April 24-26.

See you then!

Sincerely,
Steve Klepper '97

writer

MUSICIAN

INNOVATOR

scholar

thinker

PHILOSOPHER

SCIENTIST

family man

tech

guru

EDUC

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PRESIDENT

MULTIFACETED

VISIONARY

President **JOSÉ ANTONIO BOWEN** Boldly Innovates for Goucher's Future

“I PROBABLY SHOULD’VE GONE TO THAT DUKE ELLINGTON CONCERT when I had the opportunity,” says José Antonio Bowen.

Although Bowen has gotten to see a lot of great musicians perform—sometimes even from onstage as an accompanist—he always tells students about the time he did not go see the jazz legend play because he was studying for a test.

“That really was a bad decision. When you’re young, you have to take advantage of those opportunities when they present themselves,” Bowen says.

On paper and in person, it doesn’t appear as if Bowen has missed many opportunities. He seems to have done it all: He holds four degrees from Stanford University. He has been an educator for more than 20 years and is recognized as being a pioneer in active learning and using technology in the classroom. He has written more than 100 scholarly articles, and his *Teaching Naked* was named the best book on liberal education for 2014. For more than 35 years he has been a jazz performer, and he wrote a symphony that was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Music in 1985.

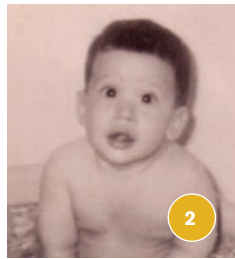
And he played with Elvis—it was the puffy, white-jumpsuit Elvis, but it’s still incredibly cool.

Goucher College’s new president is not only an impressive person, he’s also affable and approachable. He wears his Goucher nametag everywhere on campus, even though everyone knows exactly who he is. Bowen’s unassuming nature is perhaps a reflection of his upbringing.

By Kristen K. Pinheiro



1. Dr. Bowen traveled to Mali and put together a band to play local festivals. 2. Bath time for baby José Antonio Bowen.



His parents met in 1946 in Mexico City. Wayne Bowen, “a gringo,” went to Mexico on the G.I. Bill after World War II to learn Spanish. He was walking around the capital with his brother when he saw Celina, a Cuban born in Havana, relaxing on a balcony with a friend. After only flirting with her from the street, Wayne proposed to Celina in a letter after she went back to Cuba.

She flew back to Mexico, and they eloped. They eventually had two sons, Juan Carlos and José Antonio, and ended up moving around and living in a few places, including Madrid. One of Bowen’s earliest memories was thinking he was locked inside the Museo Nacional del Prado when he was four years old. He eventually found his parents, but he still has a very vivid memory of going down a staircase and finding an exit to look for them. Last summer when he was back at the museum, he says he actually tried to find the door with no luck.

When Bowen was age six, the family settled in Fresno, California, where he would spend most of his school years. He recalls, “I started school without really any English skills, which my disturbed mother, of course. As a new immigrant, my mom insisted, ‘You have to speak English all the time.’ So now it’s my native language, but before it wasn’t.”

Bowen is the product of California’s public school system. He admits he was a distracted student who was more interested in playing music than buckling down on homework. He was busy playing gigs, honing his skills on the piano and keyboard but also playing the cello, woodwinds, bass, and drums. In fact, he says he was out performing until 3 a.m. the night before his SATs, to the detriment of his scores.

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spirit.”

—Karen Drennan, Assistant Dean,
SMU’s Meadow School of the Arts



“I’m the perfect example of someone who, if you were just looking at my scores, you’d ask ‘What’s he doing?’” Bowen says.

Still, Bowen graduated from high school with a 4.0 GPA, top of his class. But when he went to talk with his overworked high school guidance counselor, he was handed the same two forms everybody got: California State University, Fresno and Fresno City College, the local community college.

Bowen says his mom didn’t speak much English, but she did understand the word “valedictorian” and knew there had to be better options for her son. “So my mother marched into the school and confronted the counselor, who had hundreds of kids to counsel,” he says. “She took an application from the counselor’s desk, which turned out to be for Stanford, and filled out my name and handed it to me and said, ‘You have to fill this out.’”

He did, and he got in. But he still wasn’t necessarily convinced college was for him, so he sought out some unusual guidance.

Before accepting Stanford’s offer of admission, Bowen went to Las Vegas to perform with Liberace. “I had won this crazy contest, so I had to go to compete in a competition and play in this Liberace show at the Hilton in Vegas,” he says.



3. Celina Bowen with (L to R) Mark Davidian and Mike Kitamura, violinists who played with Dr. Bowen, far right, in a string trio. 4. Dr. Bowen participating in Goucher Connects, a new Orientation project. 5. Celina Bowen with her sons José Antonio, left, and Juan Carlos, right.



Bowen asked Liberace if he should go to college. “I told him I wanted to go to college, and he looked at me and said, ‘You want to go to college? College is good, but it’s not going to help your music career.’” Bowen recounts. “I told him, ‘I know, but I feel like I won’t be educated. I really feel like I want to know more about the rest of the world.’”

Liberace said he was disappointed because he wanted Bowen to stay on and perform with him on the *Merv Griffin Show* in a couple months, but he added, “I guess you should go to college.”

“It was not a ringing endorsement for me to go to Stanford, but he gave his blessing in a way,” Bowen says.

Bowen’s early experiences at college did little to allay any worries he had about going the college route. He says he was in an intro Western history class on his first day, and the professor said that for the second day they were going to read St. Augustine, Aristotle, and Aquinas.

“I turned to the woman next to me and asked, ‘Oh my God. Who are they?’” he remembers. “I hadn’t heard of any of them.” The woman responded, “I read all of those in high school. That’s easy. I don’t need to reread that.” Bowen says he was so embarrassed and scared. “I was thinking, ‘Wow, she’s read these, and I haven’t even heard of them. This was my experience for the first year-and-a-half; I felt totally out of my league.’”

Bowen did find his way in college, but the lack of focus that characterized his high school career was still present. He pursued nine majors: chemistry, physics, human biology, philosophy, ancient history, classics, Japanese/Asian history, music, and anthropology. Despite all of these changes, Bowen only got one C, and he graduated with a bachelor of science in chemistry in four years.

He decided to stick around Stanford. He was directing the university’s jazz band, so he was able to take courses for free as a half-time student. That’s how he earned two Master of Arts degrees, one in humanities, the other in music composition, and then he did a doctorate in musicology and humanities, also at Stanford. All told, he was at the university 14 years.

During that time he also was playing music. “The first few years I spent time being a real student, and then I got back on the road,” he says.

Bowen played a lot with Stan Getz, the jazz saxophonist known as “The Sound.” He also got to perform with Dizzy Gillespie a couple of times. He partnered with legendary jazz pianist Dave Brubeck in the late 1980s, which blossomed into a 20-year friendship. He met singer Bobby McFerrin, and they did a concert together in Georgetown. He had Chinese food with the Grateful Dead’s Jerry Garcia, who had commissioned him to write a piece to perform with the San Francisco Symphony.

“I got to meet a lot of people, especially in the ’70s,” Bowen says. “I got to have crazy opportunities.”

After earning his Ph.D. in 1994, he wholly committed himself to academia. His daughter, Naomi, had been born two years earlier at Stanford’s hospital. Bowen moved to England so he could become the founding director of the Centre for the History and Analysis of Recorded Music at the University of Southampton.

“We really didn’t want to leave, but we did after five years,” he says. They returned to the United States in 1999 so Bowen could serve as the first endowed Caestecker Chair of Music at Georgetown University, where he created and

1. Bowen and collie Chloe sport their Goucher pride.
2. Casual couple shot of Dr. José Antonio and Kimberly Bowen.
3. Daughter Naomi Bowen at her bat mitzvah in Ohio in 2005.
4. Dr. Bowen wears his Goucher nametag everywhere on campus.



directed a program (now department) in performing arts. He next spent two years as the dean of fine arts at Miami University before landing a job in Dallas as the dean of Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts and Algur H. Meadows Chair.

During his eight years at SMU, Bowen oversaw 10 academic divisions, a large museum, 120 full-time faculty members, and 1,000 students. Among his accomplishments there, he added a doctoral program in art history and master's programs in advertising and international arts management and nearly tripled the diversity of the faculty. He created the first arts entrepreneurship minor in the United States and helped clinch a No. 1 ranking for the university's School of Music in *USA Today* in 2014.

When asked, though, Bowen says, "The very proudest thing I accomplished at SMU is that people were sad to see me go, that I didn't overstay my welcome. ... We were still innovating, still having fun. People liked coming to work."

"Working for José Bowen was a transformative experience and a true privilege," said Karen Drennan, assistant dean for marketing and communications at SMU's Meadows School of the Arts. "He empowered his staff to be bold and try new endeavors without the crippling fear of failure. If something didn't work, we'd just learn from it and move on. He extended trust and grace and was always ahead of the curve in almost every regard. Goucher College is extremely fortunate to be hitched to his rising star, both as an institution and as a body of individuals that will benefit from his generous spirit."

Bowen's wife, Kimberly, shares a love of the arts, and their first date was to the opera.

"I knew right away that I had found someone who had all the qualities I wanted," Bowen says. "Kimberly was sweet and nice. She was curious. She was smart. She was genuinely interested in the arts and not just in a way to show off or to be pretentious. She's totally unpretentious. She's the most genuine person I know."

Bowen also says his wife likes dogs and pets an "awful lot." Right before moving to Goucher, Kimberly had found a rescue donkey in Maryland. Bowen says he had to tell her: "We were not going to arrive on campus with a donkey—a 30-year-old donkey at that."

They did arrive with dogs Chloe and Molly and Latte, a 19-year-old SPCA rescue cat, and the whole family has been living on campus in the President's House. (Daughter Naomi is now 22 and lives in Virginia, working in social media for a fashion company.)

Bowen says Goucher is a "wonderful, welcoming place," and he has been thrilled to get to know the students, staff, faculty, and alumnae/i. He says, "I love our student body. Students here are really themselves. ... I love that they are open."

He says he has found staff and faculty to be "deeply dedicated" and thinks there's "an intensity here about our students that is missing other places." Bowen wants to harness that dedication and intensity to drive innovation at Goucher.

"President Bowen has hit the ground running," says **La Jerne Terry Cornish '83**, associate provost for undergraduate studies. "When he interviewed for the job, he told the campus community he would always be strategic, transparent, and humane. Though it is still early in his presidency, he has been true to his word thus far, and he



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FROM NOW [...]

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know Goucher

COAST TO COAST. GOUCHER

WILL BE KNOWN AS

a place of innovation.”

—José Antonio Bowen

has encouraged all of us on campus to come to him with ideas about how to make Goucher even better. We look forward to the continued evolution of the institution with him at the helm.”

“What you see isn’t just a ‘job’ for José; it is truly who he is, and it’s not something he just turns off,” says Kimberly Bowen. “Teamwork and collaboration are very important to him, and he wants everyone to succeed for the greater good. He’s very hands-on and will ask people what they think and want because he really does want to know.”

Bowen often defines his job as being the “chief curator of risk.” He says, “I want to attract people who want to work in a creative, fun place, where they are taking some risks and doing things no one else has done. I want an organization where people are used to innovating new ideas.”

Bowen says he hopes alumnae/i recognize “there is going to be a lot of change.” There has to be change, he emphasizes, because students who are searching for colleges now are looking for different things. The amount of competition has increased, and the number of students has decreased. What employers want has changed. What



parents are willing to pay has changed. “So, even if we want Goucher to stay the same, the world around us has changed very, very drastically,” he says. “Goucher has to continue to reinvent itself.”

He asks alumnae/i to be partners in thinking about how Goucher can stay true to its values while reimagining how the college delivers a liberal arts education.

“There is a national debate about the value of the liberal arts. I think José is a new voice in that conversation,” says Margaret-Ann Radford-Wedemeyer, vice president for development and alumnae/i affairs. “He has a lot to say about the value, and ultimately the survival, of liberal arts colleges. He has some bold new ideas about how to position Goucher College for the 21st century. I think José represents the next phase of Goucher’s future.”

Five years from now, Bowen says, “Everybody’s going to know Goucher coast to coast. Goucher will be known as a place of innovation. I am quite confident that we will have more applications and higher yield, that we will have more demand for what we do.”

He adds, “I think we are going to do that by recapturing the spirit of innovation. Quality is essential, but it’s not sufficient. Every college in the country claims excellence. We have to make sure we really deliver it. Goucher really does deliver that excellence.” S



JOSÉ ANTONIO BOWEN: the scholar

By Kristen K. Pinheiro

Dr. José Antonio Bowen. Goucher's 11th president. Scholar. Educator. Innovator. Composer. Musicologist. Performer. Author. Leader. These words are some of the colors that contribute to the rich, complex portrait of Goucher's president.

Bowen earned his B.A. in chemistry at Stanford University, where he also earned an M.A. in humanities, an M.A. in music composition, and a Ph.D. in musicology and humanities. All told, he was in school for 14 years. His impressively varied academic experiences have given him a tremendous appreciation for education "because it has opened up all kinds of doors for me throughout my life," Bowen says.

After completing his doctorate, Bowen taught at the University of Southampton, where he also created the Centre for the History and Analysis of Recorded Music. He subsequently was the Thomas E. Caestecker Chair of Music at Georgetown University, where he was the founder and co-director of the Program for the Performing Arts.

His leadership experience continued with positions as the dean of the School of Fine Arts at Miami University and the dean of the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University, from which he arrived at Goucher this past July.

Although Bowen was not personally or professionally associated with a liberal arts institution prior to coming to Goucher, in so many ways he epitomizes the ideals and objectives of the liberal arts in action. He can quickly move from detailed discussions of Goucher's budget to big ideas about the college's future.

As a new president, Bowen wisely has decided to spend his first year actively listening to what key Goucher constituents have to say about the college's strengths, identity, and prospects; however, in the first months of his tenure, he has positioned himself as a vocal proponent and leading scholar in college equity and active learning.

Bowen often cites reports that demonstrate many low-income and minority students nationwide do not consider applying to colleges or universities, despite being well qualified. Some of these high-potential students "under-match" and choose to attend community colleges rather than applying to selective schools such as Goucher. Bowen has a goal of making a college education accessible to more students.

"Talent, intelligence, and potential are spread evenly through all classes and races and at all income levels," he says. "We must find better ways to recognize potential and create pathways and funding models so the highest-achieving students from all income levels can attend our best institutions. We can and must do better."

Bowen believes the lack of mission and diversity in higher education is a drag on the innovation, growth, and the economic and ethical health of our society.

"My goal, as Goucher's new president, is to emphasize that this is a college that cares about its students and has an obligation to prepare them for a successful future," he says. "We need to make a selective liberal arts education available to more talented and worthy students."

Bowen also is a strong advocate for active learning instead of passive absorption of information. The author of the award-winning book *Teaching Naked*, he has lectured across the country and given a TED talk about the need to use digital technologies outside of the classroom to maximize the naked," or face-to-face, interactions between students and faculty in the classroom.

Colleges have always valued critical thinking, but Bowen points out that technology and the overabundance of information on the Internet has altered our relationship with knowledge and our educational mission. "This amplifies the need to find, describe, sort, analyze, evaluate, qualify, and synthesize that knowledge," Bowen says. "When we encounter new information, we need to integrate it into our current conceptual framework."

Bowen says, "Contrary to popular notions, being 'smart' is not about how much you know, but about how easily you can absorb new information, rethink your assumptions, and change your mind. The real value of a college degree, in both moral and economic terms, is that we prepare the mind for the unknown." **S**

1. Dr. Bowen at Fall Convocation. 2. Dr. Bowen with a Jampact, a jazz jam band of Southern Methodist University music faculty. 3. Dr. Bowen surprised Goucher's Board of Trustees with a concert.



JOSÉ ANTONIO BOWEN: the musician

By Dr. Elisa Koehler, Associate Professor and Chair of Music

José Antonio Bowen is a genuine musical Renaissance man. While jazz piano is his primary idiom as a performer, he is also a versatile composer, conductor, scholar, musicologist, and teacher of jazz and classical styles. Bowen says the breadth of his musical experiences has given him “many different kinds of listening experiences. Music often sounds the same to the audience, but it’s a different experience depending on where you are sitting with the orchestra.”

Growing up in California, Bowen’s musical talent attracted attention when a composition he wrote for a toy organ won first prize in a local competition and was performed by the Fresno Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra’s conductor, Guy Taylor, subsequently convinced Bowen’s parents to buy their son a piano to further his musical training. Bowen went on to study classical piano with soloist and chamber musician Alan Rea and later studied conducting with Taylor, while still a teenager.

Although Bowen earned an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Stanford University in 1984, music was always an integral part of his studies. While a student, he became the leader of the jazz ensemble at Stanford in 1982 and went on to earn master’s degrees in both the humanities (1986) and composition (1989), as well as a doctorate in humanities and musicology (1994) from Stanford.

Bowen honed and grew his love of jazz by listening to recordings and, later, through studio and commercial work as a jazz pianist. “Jazz is constantly changing, constantly looking for new things, which is partly what attracts those of us who play the music,” Bowen said in a 2011 interview



with a Texas NPR affiliate. “We can bring other charts, other tunes, other rhythms. Jazz is voracious in its capacity to absorb other music.”

Bowen has performed and recorded with his own jazz quartet and the Little Latin Big Band, as well as with artists such as Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, Bobby McFerrin, Dave Brubeck, Liberace, Bobby Shew, Bill Watrous, Hubert Laws, and many others. His most recent recording with the José Bowen Quartet, *Uncrowded Night*, is available on iTunes.

His musical career has earned numerous accolades, including 15 awards for his compositions from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and a Pulitzer Prize nomination for his Symphony No. 1 in 1985. A *Washington Post* review called the symphony “wonderfully fresh and dramatically compelling ... a fascinating story ... [in] four richly imaginative movements.”

In addition to numerous jazz compositions, chamber music pieces, a film score, and choral works, Bowen’s music for Jewish services has also garnered wide acclaim, especially his *Jazz Shabbat Service*, which has been performed 80 times around the world. Dr. Bowen will be performing this piece at Temple Sinai in Washington, DC, on February 20. All are welcome.

Music continues to play a major part in Bowen’s life at Goucher, where he has made room for an electric piano in his office. He also plays regular jam sessions with interested students, faculty, and staff. “I’m a performer, and I’ve been a performer for a long time, so I’m comfortable on stage,” he says. “But I actually like accompanying, which many people don’t always understand about me. I’m really best at making other people sound better.” S



goucher's 'FIRST LADY'

KIMBERLY BOWEN Defines Her New Role on Campus

by Angie Cochrun

Kimberly Bowen is a native Texan, with family roots reaching back to 1845 before the territory was even a state. But, dig a little deeper, and the move to Goucher actually gets her back even closer to her forbears' origins. "Before Texas, my family was from Unionville, Maryland," she said.

Now that Kimberly, wife of new president José Antonio Bowen, is at Goucher, she is fully committed to being an active participant in campus life. She says she is eager to make her own mark in her new role. What exactly that will look like, however, is still undefined.

"As I just told a girlfriend, there's no book for this," she said. "I'm excited for it all, though, and think that ultimately my primary job is to serve Goucher and to support José in his presidency and everything that entails."

Back in Dallas, Kimberly worked hard to establish herself professionally, and she dedicated countless hours to arts and other nonprofit organizations to make her community stronger and more vibrant.

After graduating from North Lake College in Irving, Texas, with a business degree, Kimberly entered the male-dominated industrial and aerospace adhesives and sealants industry.

"I consider myself tenacious and competitive, and I thought 'Oh, you shouldn't have told me I can never do it,'" she laughed. "I decided I could not only do it, but I

could also shatter that image of what someone in the business could be."

She worked for 23 years as a sales representative and account executive for a distributor of the 3M Company, a global chemical and manufacturing corporation. She retired in 2012 and attributed her longevity to working for a good company, her love of a challenge, and her ability to diversify and adapt with industry fluctuations.

In addition to her corporate career, for years Kimberly also designed gold and silver semi-precious jewelry that was featured and sold by several boutiques and galleries. She also donated the proceeds to benefit worthy causes.

Kimberly has volunteered her talent and countless hours to organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America, the Dallas Arboretum, and several women's and children's shelters. She also worked extensively on behalf of the SPCA of Texas and volunteered or networked for numerous animal rescue organizations, finding homes for adoptable animals.

A history buff and art lover, Kimberly worked as a docent with Historic Mesquite Inc. (HMI), educating others while promoting and preserving the past of Mesquite, Texas, where her family's homestead is now a historic site and park. In recognition of her extensive volunteer service, she was designated a preservation partner of HMI and, in 2012, was named Volunteer of the Year by Mesquite Mayor John Monaco.



3



PETS of goucher

In Dallas, Kimberly and José shared a love for performance, visual arts, dance, music, and even underground theater. Fittingly, their first date was to the opera.

“I had been a season ticket holder for years and thought I had the best seats in the house,” she said. “He asked me, and I thought ‘OK, sure, I’m going to that anyway.’” She admits she was curious to see what kind of tickets he could deliver. “His seats were three rows ahead of mine,” she admitted.

When recollecting their first date and early courtship, José said, “It didn’t take me very long to realize I had a catch. It took her longer than it took me.”

But she caught on to her good fortune, too, and they are now embarking together on their life here at Goucher (along with dogs Molly and Chloe and cat Latte, who live with them on campus).

Though many college presidents live off campus, Kimberly said they felt it was vital to immerse themselves in the on-campus community. “I think that’s really important. I think you miss a lot when you get in your car at 5 or 6 [o’clock],” she said. “We decided we want to do this 100 percent. I say ‘we’ because I believe while he’s the president of the college, it’s very much a ‘we’ job, especially living on campus.”

She says she feels connected to the college in ways that extend beyond the hospitality they’ve been shown since their arrival in July. Specifically, she says the skills that helped her excel in her career are the same ones that a college like Goucher helps develop. “The flexibility that’s required today, it’s not even an option, it’s critical,” she says. **S**

by Angie Cochrun

It’s been a while since the President’s House at Goucher has had four-legged residents, but now there’s no shortage. Dogs Chloe and Molly, along with cat Latte, moved in this summer with President José Antonio Bowen and his wife, Kimberly.

Latte, a 19-year-old cat adopted as a kitten from the Dallas SPCA in 1995, reigns over the dogs: enthusiastic Bichon Frisé Molly, 14, who loathes water and the traditional haircut for her breed, and tri-colored collie Chloe, 6, a sweet rescue who is excited by walks and people, especially students.

The three animals have settled comfortably into their new home and have been enjoying strolls around campus and visiting offices, athletic competitions, and social gatherings of all sorts.

For more adorable photos, you can follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/pages/Pets-of-Goucher or on Instagram at [PetsofGoucher](https://Instagram.com/PetsofGoucher). And the next time you’re on campus, they are always open to petters, walkers, and all-around attention-givers. **S**

1. Kimberly Bowen, Goucher College’s ‘first lady.’ 2. Dr. José Antonio and Kimberly Bowen kicked off the new academic year at Opening Celebration. 3. Goucher’s presidential power couple: Dr. José Antonio and Kimberly Bowen.

GO FORT

A young man with dark hair and green eyes is looking over a newspaper. The newspaper is held in front of his face, and the text 'GO FORT' is written in large, white, outlined letters across the top of the image. The newspaper itself has a grey cover with the words 'AND PUBLIS' in large, orange, outlined letters. Below that, the title 'Goucher's Writers Make It B' is written in white, and the author's name 'by Julie Steinbacher' is in a smaller font on a black background.

AND PUBLIS

Goucher's Writers Make It B

by Julie Steinbacher



When Laura Tims '14 came to Goucher at age 18, she knew she wanted to be a writer. But she didn't have an exact idea how to make that happen, and, she admits, she also had "no backup plan." By the time she graduated, she had a two-book deal with HarperCollins; her first novel will be published next year.

Whiting Writers Award-winner **John McManus '99**, on the other hand, came to Goucher as a pre-med student, but ultimately found writing to be his calling. He's in South Africa researching his second novel.

Sheri Booker M.F.A. '07 was drawn to Goucher's creative nonfiction graduate program, where she spent two years editing a memoir that last year won the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Image Award for outstanding literary work by a debut author.

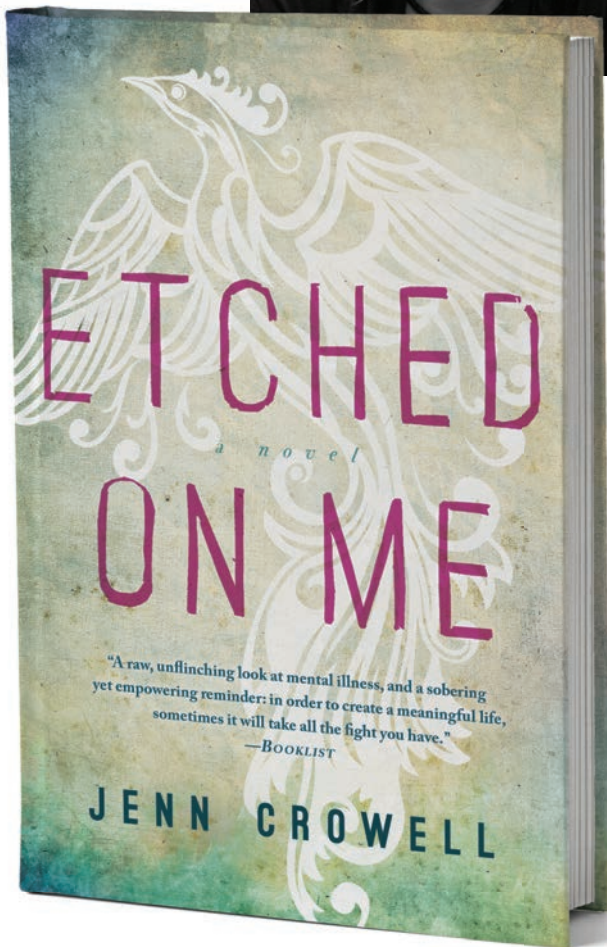
With an 18-year-old prodigy, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, Pushcart Prize-nominated poets, and several *New York Times* bestsellers among its graduates, Goucher has become a haven for promising writers.

The college's undergraduate creative writing program, headed by fiction writer Madison Smartt Bell and poet Elizabeth Spires, includes workshops for beginning and advanced writers, classes in screenwriting and creative nonfiction, and seminars with visiting writers. In 1999, the Kratz Center for Creative Writing was founded with a \$1 million gift from Eleanor Kratz Denoon '36. It since has become the bedrock of the undergraduate writing program and has expanded to include a major visiting author event in the fall and a spring writer-in-residence series. Now the center hosts undergraduate master classes, symposia, and a student-led writing group called Word for Word, and it offers summer writing fellowships that provide up to \$3,000 for writing-related travel, research, internships, or professional development.

And Goucher's Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Nonfiction, created in 1997, has a limited-residency format that brings in faculty members from around the country who have excelled both as writers and teachers of creative nonfiction. Coming from successful careers as published book authors and as editors and writers for such publications as *The New Yorker* and *Atlantic Monthly*, they are adept at working with a wide range of student interests—narrative, memoir, personal essay, and literary journalism. In less than two decades, the program's graduates have produced more than 70 books.

What follow are interviews with a few graduates of the two programs.





“I feel like it is a gift and a privilege to speak in someone else’s voice and do justice to it. We were fighting odd, parallel battles in which our mental health histories were used against us.”

DUSTING OFF HER WINGS

Jenn Crowell '99

A batik phoenix, traced in swirling white, decorates the cover of Jenn Crowell’s latest book, *Etched On Me*. The novel, which came out in winter 2014 from Washington Square Press, is Crowell’s first in 12 years. Appropriately, the author feels as if she’s brushing dust from her wings, rising again to a literary spotlight that she was thrust into years ago—but this time the phoenix has earned its feathers.

Crowell drafted her first novel when she was 17, the summer before she came to Goucher. The Jacobus, Pennsylvania, native mentioned offhand to Madison Smartt Bell, co-director of the undergraduate writing program, that she had written a novel. Bell asked to see it.

“I was shocked when he came back to me and said: ‘This is publishable work. Do you mind if I send it to my agent with a recommendation letter?’” says Crowell.

So began her surreal journey to publication. Bell’s agent liked the book, a domestic drama set in England (which Crowell had never visited) that details the struggles of a widow in her 30s as she works through grief and raises her son. *Necessary Madness* (Putnam, 1997) secured Crowell a six-figure, two-book deal with Putnam Penguin, and the precocious English and women’s studies major found herself being photographed by *The New York Times* at her graduation.

Articles about the author and her novel appeared in *The New York Times*, *The London Times*, *The Baltimore Sun*, and *Style* and *People* magazines. Her youth was trumpeted wherever the book was reviewed. Crowell and a friend were even sent by British Airways’ *High Life* magazine on an all-expenses-paid trip to England.

Being in the spotlight boosted Crowell’s career, but it also had its drawbacks.

“The pressure was really on in terms of being hyped,” says Crowell. “I don’t think that does young people any favors. The expectations are so high, you get in a situation where there’s nowhere to go but down.”

Crowell did some graduate work in women’s studies at Towson University and traveled to Iceland to research her second book, *Letting the Body Lead* (Putnam Penguin), which came out quietly in 2002. She wrote a screenplay for *Necessary Madness* that was selected for the Independent Feature Project Market, and she attended the Berlin Film Festival in 2004. But the project was never optioned.

What followed was a tumultuous period in which the writer got divorced and had a severe mental health breakdown. Upon her recovery, she moved to the West Coast, got remarried, and had a daughter, Maya.

"I started writing again in 2007 when my daughter was a year old and had to write thousands and thousands of pages of complete trash to get back into it," Crowell says. That's when she decided that, despite being a published author, she wanted to get her Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing. She chose a low-residency program at Antioch University Los Angeles. When friends asked why a published author would go back to school for writing, Crowell responded, "I'm here to learn. I'm here to grow as an artist. Every book that you're writing has a different challenge in it; it's not like you get published, and you've reached this 'mountain of mastery.'"

Etched On Me was inspired by the true story of Fran Lyon, a pregnant woman who was threatened by British social services with the removal of her child due to her mental health history. Crowell found herself shying away from fully delving into the protagonist's head.

Her advisor, Leonard Chang, urged her to dig deeper, saying, "I'm going to level with you because you're a professional: You are dodging the heart of this story."

In the end, Crowell says, writing as the character 21-year-old Lesley Holloway, whose infant daughter is taken from her by social services, seemed like channeling a kindred spirit. "I feel like it is a gift and a privilege to speak in someone else's voice and do justice to it," Crowell says. Referring to her own experiences with the mental health industry, she adds that when writing the novel, she felt "a sense of righteous indignation. We were fighting odd, parallel battles in which our mental health histories were used against us."

These days, Crowell lives in Forest Grove, Oregon, with her husband, musician Michael Luezane; their daughter, now age 8; and two dachshunds. She works as a freelance writer, teaches an online class in Antioch's M.F.A. program, and gives talks on parenting and mental health issues. Crowell wants to "combine activism and fiction, my two loves."



SUBURBAN GOTHIC POEMS

Peter Ramos '92

Peter Ramos' childhood in the suburbs of Ellicott City and Catonsville, Maryland, has provided him with a reservoir of rich visual memories of his parents, his childhood, classic American suburbia, and loneliness.

"The architecture and layout of that area was and still is very much in the post-war, mid-century, *Learning from Las Vegas*-style: motels, used-car lots, strip malls, fast food chains. As a teenager, I was drawn to the urban spaces of Baltimore and New York, but in my 20s, I began to fall in love with the decadent, post-war suburbs, what I would call 'suburban gothic.'"

Ramos quotes renowned poet Rainer Maria Rilke, who wrote that poets spend their adult lives trying to make sense of the images that haunt them from their early childhoods. "So astronauts, the Kennedys, the war in Vietnam, black-and-white movies, and shows from the 1950s and '60s—these were the images on television that I saw when I was very young—and I continue to obsess over them," Ramos says.

He says the poetry he creates conjures these memories and evokes the isolated figures and "sharp, cold, modern lines" of an Edward Hopper painting.

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At Goucher, Ramos took courses in literature, philosophy, and fiction in addition to poetry. Elizabeth Spires, Michelle Tokarczyk, and Bob Bradley were among his instructors; Spires also introduced him to poet and critic Allen Grossman, who then worked at the Johns Hopkins University. "He kindly met with me and discussed my poetry during his office hours. He was and is a master and a mensch," says Ramos.

Ramos went on to earn a Master in Fine Arts degree in poetry from George Mason University and a doctorate in English at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York. He now teaches 19th- and 20th-century American literature and poetry as an associate professor at Buffalo State College in Buffalo, New York. He has published a poetry collection, *Please Do Not Feed the Ghost* (BlazeVox Books, 2008) and two chapbooks (small literary collections), *Watching Late-Night Hitchcock & Other Poems* (Handwritten Press, 2004) and *Short Waves* (White Eagle Coffee Store Press, 2003). A third chapbook, *Television Snow*, is forthcoming this year. He has been nominated three times for the Pushcart Prize.

"I want to reposition the idea of 'American-ness' so that it includes, and is in many ways based on, the idea of people from other countries coming here."

Ramos also publishes critical articles focusing on writers with Latin American heritage or those who grew up speaking many languages. In his own childhood home, multiple languages were spoken. His mother, **Jane Ramos '84**, spent many years in France as a child. Ramos' father, born in Venezuela with Lebanese ancestry, spoke French, Spanish, and Arabic growing up. Although the poet didn't learn Spanish from his father, he and his brother picked it up from their Venezuelan cousins and in school.

He calls being bilingual, or having an immigrant background "an essential American experience." He adds that first-generation writers such as Jack Kerouac, William Carlos Williams, Allen Ginsberg, and Sylvia Plath "see language itself as a fluid and plastic material."

Ramos also is working on *Remarkable Bridge: Poetic Encounters in the Americas*, literary criticism that examines the conversation between U.S. and Latin American modernist canons. In it, he examines the translations of 14 U.S. and Latin American poets, from Walt Whitman to Pablo Neruda to Langston Hughes.

"As a professor of American literature and as a critic, I want to reposition the idea of 'American-ness' so that it includes, and is in many ways based on, the idea of people from other countries coming here."

DAYS WITH THE DECEASED

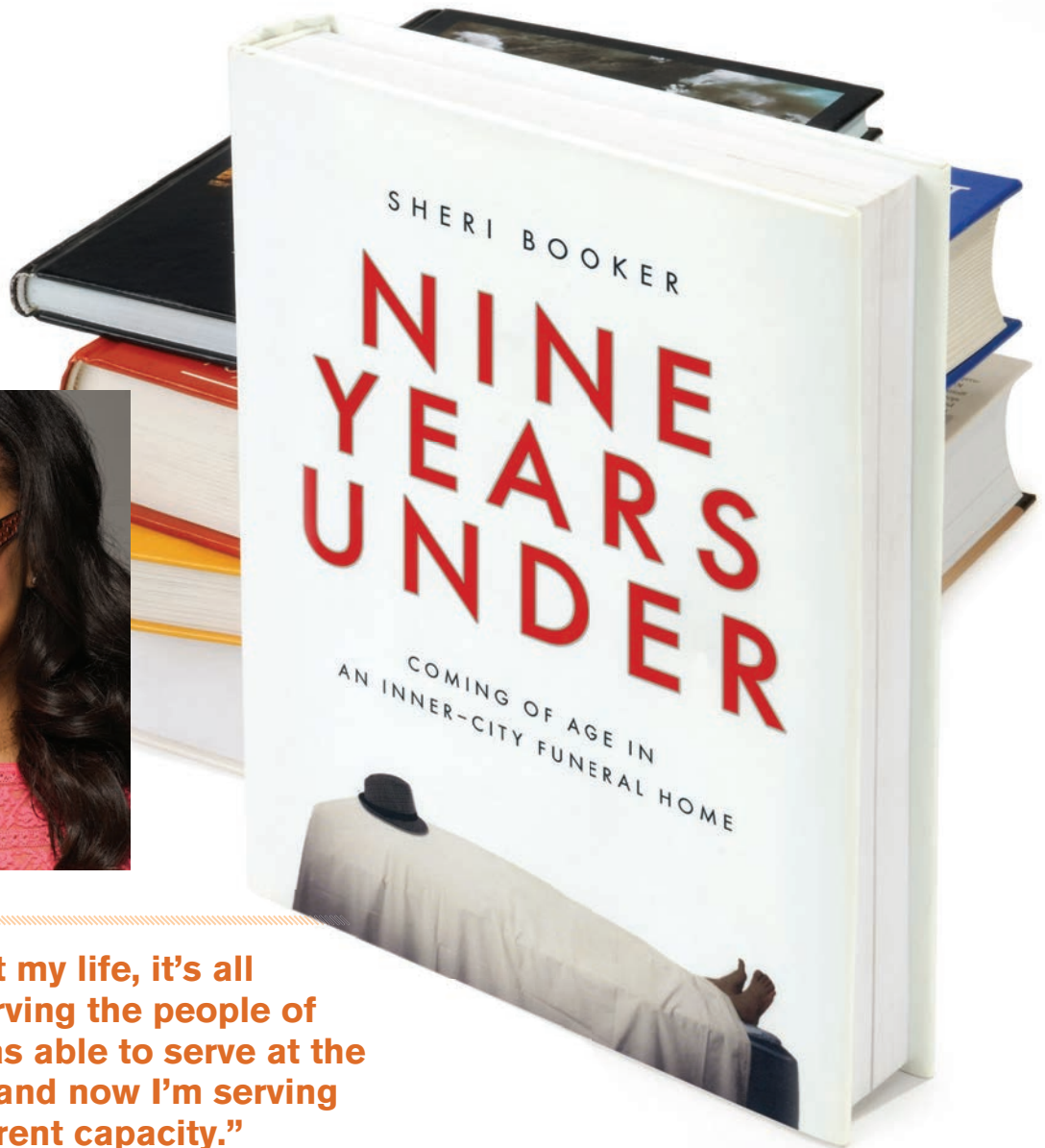
Sheri Booker M.F.A. '07

"After Aunt Mary died, the ground beneath me shifted. I expected the world to pause for my grief—and it didn't, not even for a moment of silence," writes Sheri Booker in her memoir, *Nine Years Under* (Gotham Books, 2013). "Living in the house where Aunt Mary had died made me feel like a killer. I wanted to pour bleach on everything or set Aunt Mary's belongings on fire. ... I didn't want to erase her memory; I just wanted to rid myself of every single reminder of that moment."

With these words, Sheri Booker describes how she felt as a 15-year-old girl when a beloved aunt died. Much as she wanted to escape from death, Booker made an unusual decision that transformed her life: She applied for and accepted a job at the Albert P. Wylie Funeral Home in West Baltimore. Years later, in darkly humorous anecdotes, Booker tells all, from being hired to answer phones to picking up bodies of the deceased from homes and morgues. By the end of her nine years there, Booker was practically running the funeral home. She was also wise in the ways of grief—and coping with loss.

By the time Booker left Wylie Funeral Home, she had graduated from the then College of Notre Dame, worked as a journalist, and was completing a master's degree in creative nonfiction at Goucher.

In 2007, footloose after completing her degree, she visited **Maggie Messitt M.F.A. '07**, a fellow alumna who was running the Amazwi School of Media Arts,



“When I look at my life, it’s all been about serving the people of Baltimore. I was able to serve at the funeral home, and now I’m serving them in a different capacity.”

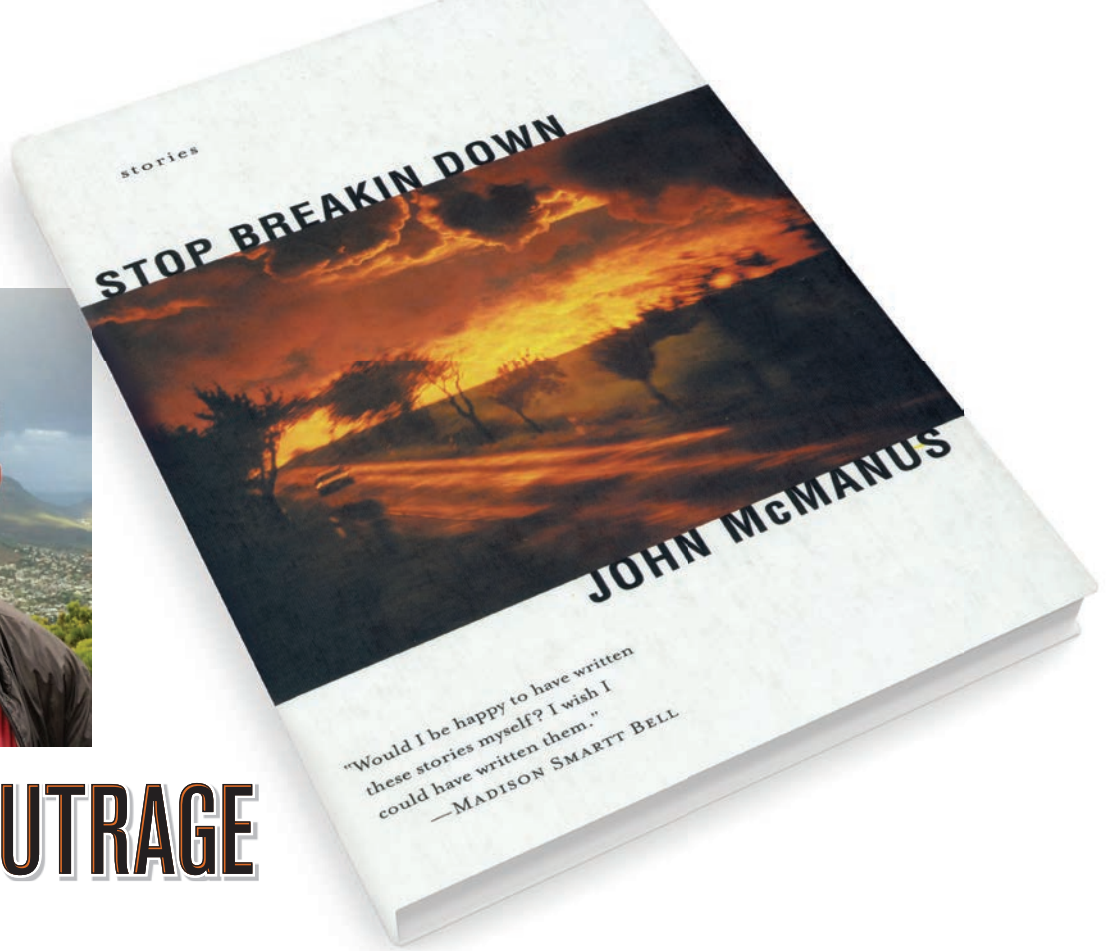
a journalism school for women in Limpopo, South Africa. Booker stayed for seven months, teaching women with high school educations to write articles and find employment. “It was important to me because women don’t have much of a voice” in journalism there, she says.

After returning to Baltimore, Booker and her sister, **Chanta Booker M.Ed. '04**, an assistant principal for Baltimore County Public Schools, established Prodigy Youth Services Inc. The nonprofit provides workshops, mentoring, leadership training, and other services to at-risk Baltimore City youth. “I find myself ending up in these places where I’m hoping to empower young women and girls. It’s my niche, my purpose,” says Booker.

The author, who since 2008 has been teaching at local community colleges, at Stevenson University, and at the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women, also writes poetry and performs spoken word. In 2003, she published

One Woman, One Hustle: Short Stories and Poetry Written on Inspiration, Identity and Love (Book Her Publishing), and in 2011, she produced an interactive, digital collection, *I Am the Poem* (Vook). Last year, her memoir, *Nine Years Under*, won an NAACP Image Award, given to outstanding people of color in film, television, music, and literature.

“When I look at my life, it’s all been about serving the people of Baltimore. I was able to serve at the funeral home, and now I’m serving them in a different capacity,” she says and adds that her days with the deceased might not be entirely over. “If I’m not rich by 30, my backup plan is to open my own funeral home.”



USEFUL OUTRAGE

John McManus '99

John McManus jokes he was pre-med at Goucher “for about five minutes,” but then he met Professor of English Madison Smartt Bell, a fellow Tennessean who shared his taste in Southern literature. Some of the stories he wrote in workshops with Bell eventually were included in his first collection, *Stop Breakin Down* (Picador, 2001). Following the book’s publication, McManus became the youngest winner of the \$50,000 Whiting Writers Award, 10 of which are given annually to emerging writers.

Now, he is the author of two published short story collections and a novel, and he recently completed a third collection of short stories, *Fox Tooth Heart*, which will be published by Sarabande Books in 2015.

He has been working as an assistant professor of English at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, but took the 2013-14 academic year to teach creative writing at the University of Cape Town as a Fulbright Scholar and to research and write a novel-in-progress.

“I want my protagonist to epitomize reductive, kneejerk thinking in Western reports about gay life in America.”

Hank Hardesty, the protagonist of this upcoming novel, is a gay American journalist asked to cover the enactment of the Uganda Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2014, a.k.a. the “Kill the Gays” bill. Afraid he’ll be harmed or killed, the fictional journalist remains in his hotel room and fabricates a story that goes viral and wins a magazine award for reporting. Ultimately, the character discovers the lies he created are harming the gay refugee community.

“I’m gay, and I’m obsessed with politics, and so the struggle for gay rights in every country interests me,” says McManus.

During his leave of absence from Old Dominion, McManus worked and traveled in Africa to inform his latest work. He volunteered with the Legal Resources Centre, a human rights organization headquartered in Johannesburg. He interviewed refugees and turned their experiences into narratives demonstrating “ongoing persecution or threat of violence” to qualify their petitions for asylum.

McManus then wrote much of his novel after he spent four weeks at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in Woodside, California, during the summer of 2013.

As he explained in a presentation at the Creative Capital Artist Retreat in 2013: “I want my protagonist to epitomize reductive, kneejerk thinking in Western reports about gay life in Africa. He’s anxious and lazy, and he tells himself he’ll stoke the useful outrage by exaggerating the brutality of anti-gay regimes—as if that’s a subject that needs embellishment. The truth is he is too ignorant to write well about such a complex story.”



NO BACKUP PLAN

Laura Tims '14

“If you’re going to get an agent to represent your book, it has to have a strong hook. It has to have something about it that makes it unique and that makes it stand out.”

“I decided that I wanted to be a writer when I was pretty young. I never really had any backup plan,” says Laura Tims, a former English major who now has a two-book contract with HarperCollins.

Her first novel, *Please Don’t Tell*, is scheduled to be published next fall. Tims describes the young adult (YA) contemporary novel as being about “a girl who kills the boy who hurts her sister. But someone sees it happen and blackmails her.”

Tims, who grew up in Freeport, Maine, was driven by something akin to fear to write the book while still a college student. After discarding a novel that she had worked on since high school, calling it an “unfixable hot mess,” she pushed herself to adopt a new approach. One day in the summer before her junior year at Goucher, Tims went to a coffee shop and didn’t leave until she had a fresh idea.

That fall, she juggled classwork and writing (with the consent of some very “tolerant” professors) to produce a first draft in October. She revised the book that November and sent out publisher query letters. She told herself, “If I don’t sell a book at some point in the near future, I’m going to have nothing to do when I graduate. I’m probably going to freak out, and it will be terrible.”

She ended up with six offers and had about 20 agents speed-reading the manuscript over the holidays. By the following January, Tims had an agent, and in May 2013, she sold her first book. “When it actually happened, it was less of a surprise and more of a relief,” she says.

Tims devoured fantasy books as a child. At age 10, she had a piece of fanfiction published on the main page of Neopets, a virtual pets website. “I think fanfiction is how a lot of teenagers nowadays get into writing,” she says. “It’s an easy step to get into it because you can start with characters you already love.” She admits that she wrote 900 pages based on the popular Pokémon television series.

The Internet has certainly helped Tims in her success. Not only did writing fanfiction boost her confidence, but she also received guidance from fellow writers. Her online critique partners and a summer internship at the Fine Print Literary Management Agency in New York City (funded by a Kratz Summer Fellowship) showed Tims the ropes for publisher query letters and gave her ideas about where to send them.

At the agency, she learned specifically about publishing trends and how to pitch a novel. “If you’re going to get an agent to represent your book, it has to have a strong hook. It has to have something about it that makes it unique and that makes it stand out.”

Tims learned by experience—her first, “failed” novel, she says, was none of these things. “It was that book that you spend a really long time writing, and then you sort of realize it’s not very good.”

She surprised herself with *Please Don’t Tell*: “I always thought I was going to be a fantasy writer because that’s what I liked to read the most. But the book that I ended up selling was a contemporary novel, and it turns out I’m a lot better at writing contemporary novels.”

She’s already got a couple of new projects in the works, a YA thriller and a YA contemporary novel, as well as a proposal for a book for middle-grade readers. Tims keeps busy with a blog, *Literature & Laura*, where she reviews books and offers writing advice. And, of course, she’s always reading.

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

Jeanie Murphy

When she's not running half-marathons and publishing essays on Latin American literature, Jeanie Murphy finds the time to work in Goucher's Department of Hispanic Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. She also directs the department's study abroad program and chairs the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. Here, she talks about her love of Latin American literature, her upcoming book, and her passion for the stage.

What made you interested in Hispanic culture and women's studies?

I chose to study Spanish in high school because my older sister was also studying Spanish, and I knew she'd be able to help me if it got too tough. But I quickly fell in love with the language and the culture of the Spanish-speaking world; that's what drew me in. When I had the opportunity to study abroad in college and later live abroad, I knew Spanish would always be a part of my life.

I started to get into women's studies during graduate school. I was working on my doctorate in Latin American literature, and a lot of the reading material was written by female authors. It dealt with the idea of creating a woman's voice through literature, a voice that looked at different issues from a feminist perspective. That idea spoke to me; it spoke to my experience.

You were recently on a panel at the Northeast Modern Language Association's conference in Harrisburg, PA. What happened there?

The name of the panel was "*¿Adónde (nos) lleva el río?*," or "Where Does the River Lead (Us)?" It was about the image of rivers in Latin American literature and how these images can influence reader interpretations. Some of the other panelists and I decided to work on putting together in an anthology the essays we had presented. Of course, there's a lot of work that needs to be done, especially since we plan to include the work of other scholars as well. We have recently written up our "call for papers" for the anthology and we'll be working on this project much more in the coming months.

Are there any authors you particularly admire?

Yes, a Mexican writer named Rosario Castellanos. She is one of the most important voices for women in Latin America in general and Mexico specifically. She primarily was writing in the 1950s, a time when women were still supposed to be quiet and stay at home and not be interested in public issues. She questioned all of that. She has this wonderful sarcasm and irony to her writing. She was a prolific writer; she wrote a number of novels, many essays, magazine and newspaper articles, and one very, very fun play.

Are you involved in the literary arts? Do you write any stories or plays?

I don't, no. I love theater, and I've taught a couple of classes here on Latin American theater. At the end of the semester, the students perform one of the plays we've read. Although, when I was a student in college and graduate school, I did a lot of theater myself. It's one of my loves—not that I have a lot of talent for it. I'm a ham; I like to be onstage. So I like that aspect in terms of artistic expression.

— Ke'Aun Charles



Michael Graff '14

cancer Couldn't Stop Me



Nobody expects to have cancer. I didn't. And certainly never at age 21. But that's the diagnosis I suddenly began facing on January 5, 2013, when my parents rushed me to the emergency room.

I had just come back from an incredible semester abroad at the University of East Anglia in England, the first semester of my senior year. I was having too much fun to pay attention to my soaking night sweats or my weight loss.

Abroad, I could hide my symptoms, but there was no discouraging my mother's watchful and caring eye. I was still having night sweats at home, and she began researching. One day she asked if any part of my body was swollen. It was such a specific question. I showed her my right shoulder, and her reaction was immediate.

In the ER, the doctor told us as gently as he could, while I sat on my hospital bed with my mom and dad in chairs across from me. I only felt stunned; I wasn't panicked or afraid. But I realized my 2013 wasn't going to play out the way I had expected, and I was crushed when it sunk in I couldn't finish my senior year at Goucher.

I knew I couldn't postpone treating my lymphoma, especially not while my shoulder had been swollen for months already. All the same, I knew I would miss everything about Goucher and completing my undergraduate experience there. I'd miss Breakfast for Dinner nights at Heubeck. I'd miss classes with my favorite English professors. I'd miss the Goucher Fencing Club. I'd miss playing Humans vs. Zombies.

At least with those things I knew I would be able to return to them eventually once I finished treatment. But my 2013 classmates would all be donning their caps and gowns, walking and receiving their diplomas without me.

That frustration, that urge to return to where I belong and to complete the education that I enjoyed was a big part of what kept me going through those six hard months.

I wondered: How did this happen to me? I was supposed to be finishing my degree and writing my own fiction and worrying about how to make a living as a writer! Not stuck on a patient trolley with a chemotherapy IV, eating oatmeal and yogurt for weeks, and scaring myself as entire wads of hair fell from my head.

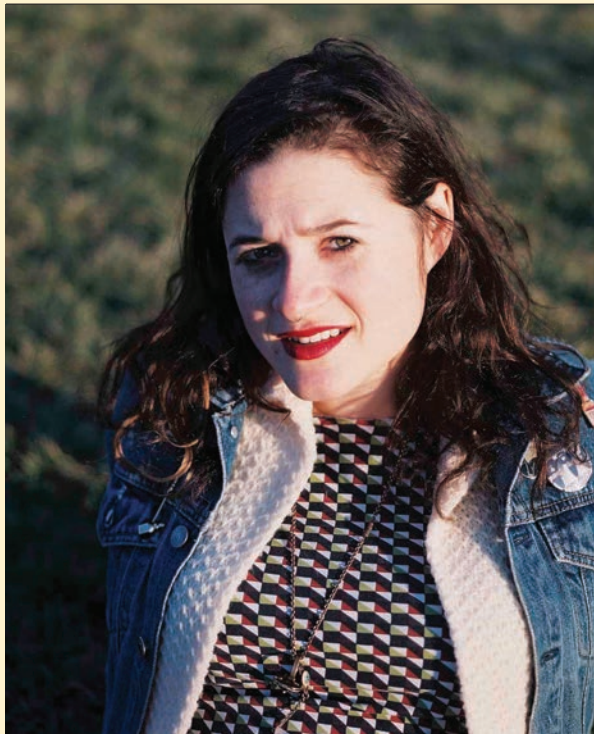
That frustration, that urge to return to where I belong and to complete the education that I enjoyed was a big part of what kept me going through those six hard months. I was not going to let lymphoma stop me from being myself. The love and support from my friends at Goucher particularly helped me through the early treatments.

After six months and 12 sessions of chemotherapy, my treatment was finished. I was officially declared in remission on July 29, 2013. I returned to Goucher that fall for one last semester, and on May 23, 2014, I was ready to walk for my diploma.

When Susan Eisenhower, a widely respected expert on foreign policy and granddaughter of our 34th president, spoke at Commencement about her family's "no excuse" attitude for tackling challenges and responsibilities, I realized I had a similar attitude toward fighting cancer. I had no excuse not to live my life as best I could, beat this disease, and get back to where I belonged. That's just what I did.

Morissa Rothman-Pierce '13

nostalgia for Sale



Morissa Rothman-Pierce '13 uses the word provenance when describing the vintage and handmade merchandise she carries in her Fells Point store, Bottle of Bread, which opened a little more than a year ago. Rothman-Pierce believes provenance—a word that refers to an object's history of ownership and location—crosses seamlessly into conversations about vintage clothing. The provenance of clothing authenticates a piece, tells how it was worn, and explains why it looks and feels the way it does.

Rothman-Pierce says she has always been interested in the timeless charm she finds in vintage pieces. When she was just 16, she founded Bottle of Bread (named after a Bob Dylan lyric) on Etsy, a popular website for buying and selling handmade and vintage goods.

Soon after, she came to Goucher, where she majored in studio art. She also worked for the college's Special Collections & Archives, where she cultivated an enthusiasm for the historical significance of books and grew her interest in vintage clothing across cultures and time periods.

After graduation, Rothman-Pierce's Goucher peers began starting nonprofits, dance collectives, selling art, etc. "Goucher instilled a full-throttle attitude in me, and I was surrounded by people who also were doing things," she says.

So when a space next door to her then-employer went up for rent just five months after she graduated, Rothman-Pierce made a spur-of-the-moment decision to translate her online store into a brick-and-mortar enterprise. Today, Bottle of Bread houses her tightly curated collection of art, handmade jewelry, housewares, and most notably, vintage and locally designed clothing.

Rothman-Pierce has always been interested in the timeless charm she finds in vintage pieces.

"Creating the environment people are shopping in or looking at art in is important to me," she says. Rothman-Pierce credits Allyn Massey, a Goucher professor of art and art history, for teaching her the art of creating a space. Rothman-Pierce keeps her shop orderly while maintaining that grandma's-attic sensibility that shoppers love so much about vintage stores.

She pulls a vintage dirndl, a garment based on 19th-century maidservants' uniforms from Germany and Austria, off one rack. Red roses are hand-embroidered upon a black linen bodice with a short, pleated skirt. The fabric is soft, worn. "The full hip and tiny waist are meant to sexualize the female figure," explains Rothman-Pierce, musing on the life of the woman who originally owned the dress.

While the majority of her merchandise is vintage, it isn't costume-like or garish. Rothman-Pierce seeks "a modern appeal" when selecting pieces for the store. She hopes her shoppers can find "something they could wear to work, or to a party, but not bright gold or getting in the way." The styles on her racks are dated, but nearly all have enjoyed new popularity on the pages of fashion magazines.

A jungle of leather handbags hang on the back wall; a nearby table is blanketed in handmade everything, from earrings and bangle bracelets to herbal perfumes. Vintage bottles, sunglasses, racks of clothing, and handmade stationary are on display. Art by local Baltimore and Goucher artists hangs on the walls, individual pieces orbiting a theme of nostalgia in subject matter or color palette.

It's apparent Rothman-Pierce feels an overwhelming yearning for time periods in which she never actually lived. "It all folds up inside of itself because I love history!" she says.

—Marie Claire Bryant '15

Francoise Snyder '40

flexibility and Balance



A petite, white-haired woman moves lithely through the corridors of Goucher's Todd Dance Studio wearing stretchy black pants and black flip-flops. Looking around, **Francoise Snyder '40** says, "I love coming here, to the Dance Department, with all the young people and the music. It's kept my balance on tap, kept me flexible."

Snyder keeps her mind active and her body fit by meeting with her book club, taking community college classes in literature, and practicing Pilates at Goucher, something she has done twice a week for more than 10 years. "My friends say to me, 'No wonder you can still play golf; no wonder you can do this and that,'" Snyder says.

Snyder keeps her mind active and her body fit by meeting with her book club, taking community college classes in literature, and practicing Pilates at Goucher, something she has done twice a week for more than 10 years.

Snyder arrived at Goucher from Baltimore, where she has lived for 94 of her 95 years. Right after graduating from Goucher with an economics and sociology double major, Snyder landed a job at Planned Parenthood. Until the 1960s, the organization was the sole distributor of birth control in the form of diaphragms in the United States. Her task was to interview women clientele who were obtaining birth control without seeking their husbands' approval.

"They were afraid, but desperate," says Snyder, recalling the hundreds of women she interviewed. "The women who were coming in were anxious to have protection, and their husbands were dead set against it."

Snyder explained that husbands did not necessarily want their wives to have more children, but that their historic outrage over birth control was almost entirely a power struggle. Men wanted to be counted upon to make the serious decisions within the marriage.

Snyder's fellow workers and volunteers were very enthusiastic and energetic about the necessity of birth control. "There was a tremendous amount of morale at the office back then," she says.

Long since retired, Snyder still lives in Baltimore, where she grew up, earned her degree, worked, and raised two daughters with her husband. And Goucher continues to be an important hub for the physical and intellectual well-being of this active and inspiring alumna.

—Marie Claire Bryant '15

in Memoriam



Ruth Munhall
Manning Lambie

1925–2014

'47

Ruth Munhall Manning Lambie died May 13, 2014, at age 89 in her home in Bagatelle, Barbados. She grew up in Germantown, Pennsylvania, where her father, A.C. Manning, was headmaster of the School for the Deaf. In 1907, her mother, **Ruth Munhall**, graduated from Goucher. In 1947, she, too, graduated from Goucher, Phi Beta Kappa, inheriting a Goucher foundation for life.

After the end of an unsuccessful marriage, Ruth and her two children, Leander Munhall Hamilton and Sarah Beth Hamilton, moved to Washington, DC. There, Ruth became the executive director at CARE, a humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. Her responsibilities included interacting with Congress on the "Food for Peace" program, coordinating international development, and fundraising in the southeastern United States and in the Caribbean.

While in Washington, she met the love of her life, James M. Lambie, Jr., a naval officer and aide to President Eisenhower. They married in 1968 in New York, where Ruth joined the International Social Services American Branch as its director of development. The Lambies traveled, exploring cultures and art from Turkey to Krakow to Sierra Leon, Peru, and Haiti.

In 1973, Ruth and her husband retired to Barbados. Her hobbies included raising champion Airdale Terriers, bridge, and sport fishing, where she could out-catch and out-cook any challenger. Ruth served as president of the American Women's Club of Barbados, was a founding member of the Barbados Gallery of Art, and was a supporter of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society. She and her daughter opened The Gourmet Shop in 1991, selling Ruth's renowned mango chutney and cheeselets, subsequently winning two Barbados tourism awards and a Small Business Association award for excellence.

After attending Parson's School of Design for training, the Lambies began a cottage industry making stained glass hurricane lampshades. This culminated in numerous requests throughout Barbados for windows in homes, as well as at the St. James Parish Church, All Saints Church, and the Nidhe Israel Synagogue. In 2007, a Barbados stamp was issued of her stained glass rose window of the Star of David to honor the completion of renovations of the 1654 synagogue, the oldest in the Western hemisphere.

Ruth's husband was buried at sea in 1999; she was buried in the same welcoming Bajan Sea. She is survived by her two children and son-in-law.



Jeffrey Taylor
Raggio

1985–2014

'07

Jeffrey Taylor Raggio's life was rich, but far too short. He was born on March 6, 1985, and died on May 3, 2014, in a tragic four-wheeler accident on his family's property in Canton, Texas.

He was a 2003 graduate of Highland Park High School in Dallas, where he played varsity soccer and participated in the Academic Decathlon. He graduated from Goucher in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Raggio was a member of a family of prominent Dallas attorneys, including Louise Hilma Ballerstedt Raggio, a trailblazing lawyer who was instrumental in winning equal legal rights for Texas women. He was naturally inclined and impelled to attend law school. He graduated from Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law in 2011.

He joined the law firm Raggio & Raggio in 2011 to carry on the legacy begun in 1956 by his grandmother and his grandfather, Grier. He served as a paralegal, as a law clerk, and eventually as an associate, proudly working alongside his father and uncles.

Raggio also volunteered his time and talents to benefit LegalLine, a public service program of the Dallas Bar Association. He offered free legal advice to the public twice a month and served as the organization's co-vice chair in 2013 and co-chair in 2014. He had a true passion for this program and a steadfast commitment to its success. He was also an active member of the Dallas Bar's Admission and Membership, Legal Ethics, and Community Involvement committees.

Raggio had a kind heart and a quick wit, was a prolific reader with an encyclopedic memory, and was a fabulous cook who loved to entertain friends and family.

On July 26, some of Raggio's closest friends arranged to hold an informal memorial gathering on Goucher's campus. About 20 alumnae/i and others gathered for about an hour to share their thoughts and memories about Raggio.

"Jeff was the kind of friend that forced you to be a better person," said **Vaughn Frisby '08**, one of Raggio's close friends. "Even though I am still a recent graduate, I look back at those times with Jeff and the rest of our ragtag group of friends and realize how much we all grew up during those Goucher years and beyond. Jeff was central to that."

Raggio is survived by his parents, Ken and Patty Raggio; brother Capt. Michael Raggio, USAF; girlfriend, Emily Sterry; and aunts, uncles, cousins, numerous friends, and professional colleagues.



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Join President José Antonio and Kimberly Bowen and Goucher Professor of English Juliette Wells for the Jane Austen Tour to Hampshire, Oxford, and London

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- In Oxford, take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Bodleian Library where you will view Austen manuscripts, *The Watsons* and *Volume The First*.
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- Join University of Oxford Professor Kathryn Sutherland for a private conversation about Austen's works.
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hitting the Road to Hear Your Thoughts



by José Antonio Bowen

Now that I have settled in at Goucher, I am, and will continue to be, very deeply in listening mode—on campus and during all the stops on my nationwide presidential listening tour (please see the sidebar for tour dates and locations). As I have written and spoken about often, I am a big proponent of providing reading materials in advance so all participants can be prepared for lively discussion when we meet face-to-face.

Like any teacher, most of my job is looking for useful ways to frame discussions and ask the right questions. With this in mind, I wanted to include some thoughts here in the *Quarterly* that will shape our discussions and help me learn from you, our esteemed alumnae/i, about how to make Goucher even better.

The Liberal Arts Landscape

The value of a college education is changing. While there is more and more content freely available on the Internet, the importance of discernment, analysis, discovery, skepticism, and critical thinking is only increasing. Future graduates will need to be even more prepared for a life of continued learning. That is the primary job—and traditional strength—of a liberal arts education: We prepare the mind for the unknown.

Goucher has a history of being a transformative place. But how can we focus and integrate everything we do to create a unique environment for transformation and lifelong learning?

Rankings

While we may protest, rankings are proliferating and cannot be ignored. While we continue to move up in some important rankings and top lists that align with our core strengths, we are not poised to become a *U.S. News* darling (at least for a while). So we need a strategy to convince parents and students we are doing something very different but equally important.

If there are places where rankings and our internal strategies overlap (reputation among high school counselors, alumnae/i giving, retention, or employed graduates), perhaps there are opportunities for improvement. We also need to focus on how we can be distinctive and not just make unverifiable claims that we are “just as good” as other colleges and universities.

3Rs

This fall Goucher introduced first-year students to our new three “Rs”: relationships, resilience, and reflection. These qualities (and not grades) turn out to be the most predictive factors in retention and academic success, but also happiness in later life. How might we increase resilience (also known as grit or persistence)? Again, with knowledge more abundant and easily available, learning how to learn and understanding personal motivations and drive has become

much more important. While all of this reflects new research and a changing world, these are also the most traditional outcomes of a liberal arts education.

Academic Strategy

Understanding how students see us and what they want from us will help us craft our communications strategy. I believe deeply that we offer an education that students need, but sometimes they don’t understand what we do. Admissions was a very different exercise before the financial crisis, public skepticism of higher education, the Common Application, and demographic changes. To convince parents and students they should pay for what we think is valuable, we need to acknowledge and understand what *they* think is valuable.

So while we will be doing marketing research this year, there needs to be an internal dialogue about where we want to focus. This, in many ways, will be the most important part of our discussions. I have heard a lot already about what distinguishes Goucher, but also that Goucher needs to better define who we are and what we do. I need to hear more.

We will simultaneously be working internally on big ideas and ways to bring various programs together. We need a more complex articulation of our unique value proposition: “What can Goucher do for you better than anyone else?” and “Why should students come to Goucher?” The marketing people call this positioning. Our long-term future depends on having something unique that people want.

Goucher's Unique Features

Thinking about how to position Goucher brings up many important questions we have to ask ourselves, as stewards of the college with vested interest in its continued success. What are some unique features we might enhance both to become a better college and to attract smart, talented students? Here are some points I want to hear your thoughts on during this listening tour:

Unique Majors and Programs / To the public, colleges are all largely the same: You can get “the same” English or biology degrees anywhere. But Goucher has a special distinction with our book studies minor and our peace studies major, for example. How might we leverage our small size to create more distinctive interdisciplinary degrees?

Culture / Goucher has a very supportive culture. Students say it is not a competitive place, and individuals here are nurtured. Is there a way to make that curricular? Everyone creates his/her own major? Everyone completes a senior project? Is there something new we could do to enhance this distinctive feature and communicate its value to students?

Jobs and Professional Skills / Goucher has a long history of combining the liberal arts with practical experience. Rhoda Dorsey was way ahead of her time in requiring students to study “the computer.” The faculty are eagerly exploring the idea of 4+1 programs, where students spend four years in the liberal arts learning to think, but then the fifth year in a low-residency graduate program combined with an internship. Should we enhance the career center? Leverage alumnae/i more? Enhance summer research?

Balancing the Liberal Arts Degrees / I find it odd that in the liberal arts we still largely allow students to self-segregate into “hard sciences” and “fuzzy humanities.” Suppose we added both more science/math and more writing into our curriculum? Could we integrate some combination of these across the curriculum?

Rethinking Majors / Might we de-emphasize majors or integrate the breadth of liberal education into the majors more fully? Employers are increasingly concerned with skills and less concerned with majors. Is there an opportunity to reinvent the liberal arts in a way that stays true to our core, but

also makes it more appealing in the current economic climate? Suppose students declared a mission instead of a major?

Geography / We've been trying to sell ourselves as being in Baltimore/Washington, but the students see us as being in Towson. Might we invest more in our own local community, where there are plenty of social issues we could apply to classroom learning?

Study Abroad / Goucher is No. 1 in study abroad. We have built a reputation in international study, and—for now—it distinguishes us. How might we better produce global citizens? Could we globalize our curriculum? Could we combine our global reputation with something else (community outreach, the arts, science, the environment, creative thinking, etc.) and come up with a broader, unique, and even more appealing brand?

Further Topics for Discussion

Here are some other, more radical, ideas I want to hear your thoughts on during the listening tour:

Structures / Are there ways we might restructure to integrate learning better? Could we reorganize some of our disciplines into larger units (leaving all the majors) but creating more possibilities for new interdisciplinary majors and projects? We could invent 10 new majors, but perhaps we need, instead, to think more about a new structure that will allow us to stay nimble and create 10 new majors every year if necessary.

Progressions / At the moment, U.S. colleges are an anomaly: Curricula in most foreign universities assume a need for progression. First- and second-year students are rarely mixed, and while content is still important, the emphasis is on the progression of thinking skills. U.S. colleges tend to be more focused on choice, especially of content, and routinely mix students of different intellectual levels. Suppose we worried more about integrating thinking skills across four years and less about the specific content? If the general education part of a liberal curriculum is developmental, then shouldn't it also be progressive?

Grades / Do grades support students' learning? Might a different integrative system better support learning, transformation, and student development? Without grades, we would have more time to focus on better assessments of learning. Is there an opportunity here to do something important as well as distinctive at Goucher?

Educational Frameworks / No data suggest semesters, credit hours, or grades increase learning. Do we need any of them? We know some people take longer to learn a concept, yet we keep time constant and learning variable in college degrees. Suppose learning was constant, and time was variable? Could we offer a three-year degree? Eliminate majors? With the record pace of knowledge creation and the continual need to learn now the most important life skill, suppose we offered students five years of education to use throughout their career whenever they needed them? As with the Goucher Video Application, we saw unique is good. What other things can we do that will be unique to Goucher?

As you can see, I ask a lot of questions. I can't wait to get on the road to hear what alumnae/i think about these ideas, and I certainly am very excited to hear what ideas you have about how to help Goucher—already a really remarkable place—and make it even better. I know you are proud to be a graduate of Goucher, and I am thrilled and honored to be part of this community and am optimistic about its future. §

Please check www.goucher.edu/listeningtour for updates and more information about President José Antonio Bowen's listening tour.

listening Tour Dates:

Baltimore 11/05/14	Washington, DC 11/12/14
Chicago 11/18/14	Philadelphia 12/03/14
New York City 12/04/14	Boston 12/05/14
Miami 01/13/15	San Francisco 02/08/15
Los Angeles 02/11/15	Dallas 04/01/15
Austin 04/02/15	

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by Julie Steinbacher '10

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- Multifaceted Visionary:
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