

Goucher Quarterly

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BONUS ISSUE
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Making Politics Personal

'Imagine Baltimore' Course Tests Theory Against Reality

By Chris Landers

Katrina Kniss '17 learned a lot from her visit to the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) last fall, but she learned even more after she was kicked out of its meeting.

Kniss and her classmate **Andrea Sosa '16** were at one of the BDC's meetings for a new class being offered at Goucher, *Imagine Baltimore*. The class combines political readings with a half-dozen visits to Baltimore events—meetings of city governmental bodies, community associations, and committees. Over the course of the semester, which took place before riots and protests shone a stark spotlight on the city's dysfunction, students got a lesson in how Baltimore government works, and in some cases, how it doesn't.

Kniss and Sosa weren't barred from the meeting because of anything they did. The BDC is a quasi-public agency and regularly closes its meetings to the public when talk turns to money.

Fortunately, the students ended up getting an impromptu lesson outside the conference room from veteran Baltimore journalist Mark Reutter.

Reutter was covering the meeting for the online news outlet *Baltimore Brew*, and he was happy to have some company at the early-morning gathering. Kniss and Sosa both said they learned more about the BDC from him than they could from sitting



through any of its meetings.

Reutter said later he thought it was a great idea to send students out to see what goes on in Baltimore City politics. "There's nothing like observing it yourself," he says, "actually being in the meeting room and seeing what's going on, rather than in a textbook situation, especially in the fair city of Baltimore."

That's pretty much what Nina Kasniunas and Eric Singer, Goucher professors of political science, were hoping when they put together the course. With

readings in political theory and visits to municipal meetings, the course is designed to challenge students' perceptions of the way Baltimore works. They come in with preconceived ideas about the city—whether from textbooks or HBO's *The Wire*—and hopefully they leave with a more realistic view of Baltimore, and cities in general.

"Most Goucher students come from suburban environments or small-town environments; we don't have a lot of city

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DEAR GOUCHER COLLEGE ALUMNAE/I:

Welcome to our new e-newsletter! Many, many alums tell us they want to receive more news about the great things happening at Goucher College. We have heard you and will be communicating with you more frequently and in a wider variety of formats. This publication is your first signal that we have some great new things planned for alumnae/i communications in the months and years ahead.

In this electronic newsletter you will find coverage of Alumnae/i Weekend, the presidential inauguration, and the Distinguished Alumnae and Alumni Awards Gala; an engrossing feature story about how Goucher students are learning firsthand about urban politics; a profile of an impressive graduate; and the latest news from campus.

In September, you will receive a print newsletter in your mailbox. From here on out, you will be receiving a mix of print and electronic newsletters between issues of the alumnae/i magazine to keep you better connected to and informed about your *alma mater*.

We have also begun to rethink and refresh the look of the *Quarterly*. We are truly excited to expand our communications efforts with alumnae/i and to present to you a beautiful new format for the magazine in December.

We really need your input, as we move forward. Now that you will be receiving communications much more frequently than four times a year, we believe it makes sense to rethink the name the *Quarterly*. If you have ideas for a new name for the suite of alumnae/i communications you'll be receiving, please contact Kristen Pinheiro at kristen.pinheiro@goucher.edu. The editorial board of the *Quarterly* is looking forward to receiving your valuable input and will carefully review all of the recommendations.

With these new publications we want to make sure you are getting more frequent updates and stories from the college you love.

All the best,

José Antonio Bowen
President

Holly Selby
Executive Director
of Alumnae/i
Engagement



Photo by Rob Ferrell

Professors Eric Singer and Nina Kasniunas are combining theory and first-person experiences to explore the rich, but complicated history of Baltimore politics.

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“We thought this was a natural opportunity for us to invite students to learn and discover for themselves, not just what Baltimore is about, but some of their conceptions or preconceptions of what urban America is like.”

“We had one of our first meetings to sort of pull it all together last week,” Kasniunas says. “One of the things that came up was that students could not believe how much they learned just by going to six [politically oriented] events. They now have this whole different understanding of the issues in Baltimore.”

To tailor the impact of the class, students chose to focus on an area of specific interest. Kniss, a native of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, chose food sustainability because she was surprised by the extent of Baltimore’s food deserts, low-income neighborhoods with limited access to grocery stores.

“It’s kind of a foreign concept to me because I grew up surrounded by cornfields, with farmers’ stands on every corner and having a garden,” she says. “It’s been a huge part of my life.”

Her classmate Sosa, originally from Tampico, Mexico, is majoring in international relations and took the class out of her burgeoning interest in how international politics are affected by local policymaking.

“Before taking the class, I had done research about Baltimore, so I had created

impressions about how it functioned,” she says. “It was really interesting to see how much more complex the system is than the way we usually view it.”

Among the Grassroots

Kasniunas says the course grew out of research she and Singer have been conducting about the neighborhood associations of Baltimore. Many times, she says, they would leave a meeting wishing their students had been there to witness it and to meet the people they encountered.

She describes going to a meeting of the Matthew A. Henson Neighborhood Association, named for the nearby elementary school: “One of my greatest experiences was walking into Matthew Henson and hearing the introductions and thinking, ‘I know these people.’ I knew the names from their roles in the civil rights movement, and here they are in their neighborhood association meeting.”

If the course ends up interesting some students in local politics, that would please the Brew’s Reutter, who has seen interest in local government ebb since he started covering Baltimore for *The Evening Sun* in the ’70s.

“The irony is that not only is there less and less interest in politics, which is a damn shame, but there’s less and less interest in local politics,” he says. National stories dominate the news, but “without a doubt, citizens can make the biggest impact, and students can make the biggest impact locally The City

Council and the BDC make a difference, and it's good to go there and take a look at it and know a little bit about the process, not just rely on the media coverage."

That lack of interest is something Kasniunas says is happening in the political science field as a whole, and it's something she hopes to address with the course.

"We've seen a shift in terms of how younger generations engage in their democracies," she says. "They are much less inclined to participate in voting and the traditional system, and more inclined to want to be a service provider, or work with organizations that directly deal with problems. So we were getting students who were politically engaged, just not in the traditional ways."

Student Katrina Kniss might fall into that category. As a peace studies major who had never taken a political science class before Imagine Baltimore, she found the theory tough going. But Kniss is definitely engaged. In addition to her work with the campus agricultural co-op, she volunteers with Community Mediation Program, a nonprofit that provides dispute resolution services in Baltimore.

She says the biggest impact of the class "is being able to put my observations into broader context and understanding the history and the story behind things, instead of just my observations in isolation."

Bursting the Bubble

Kniss had done some exploring on her own prior to the class, but she would love to see more of her peers break out of what many students call the "Goucher bubble."

"I think a class like this is really important at Goucher," she says. "We have this amazing opportunity with this amazing city right here, but a lot of people don't venture out. Having a class like this, where it gives you a structure and you have these set things to do, I think that helps a lot."

As some of these students' experiences point out: Baltimore politics can be a different kind of bubble.

"One thing they're realizing," Kasniunas says, "is whether you're an office holder, a member of the board, or a citizen, it's a very small group of people who attends all these meetings." She says students repeatedly ran into people like Reutter. "Even after just six meetings they started to recognize everyone."

Another surprise for students was the disconnection between the officials and the

issues they covered.

When students were attending the Baltimore Development Corporation meeting—before they were asked to leave—members were discussing a report that had just come out about how Baltimore is attracting more young people to move into the city. Yet, the BDC participants didn't really seem to understand the reasons behind this demographic change.

This lack of understanding really struck the students.

Kasniunas says, "Here's the economic development group. This big report just came out, and they did not know why this economic shift was happening in Baltimore. They didn't understand it. And a question came up about bike lanes in the city, and one board member turned to another and asked, 'Do we have bike lanes in the city?'"

Sosa, who focused her attention on economic development in the city, was also taken aback by what she found out about Baltimore—and its political machinations—during the course of the class. Initially, she says, she and other students thought more broadly about what economic development meant, mainly in terms of job creation.

"But when we went to these meetings, a lot of the organizations had a very narrow perspective of economic development, which was new development projects, developers presenting their projects, and approving contracts. We were expecting more about programs and initiatives, but we didn't see any of that," she says.

Kniss was similarly surprised in her study of the area's food sustainability. "I expected the city to have a more centralized plan," she said afterward. Still, she found some programs that interested her. At a city council meeting, she heard testimony from a coalition of Baltimore urban farmers that provides training materials to farms just starting out, and from mobile farmers' markets that deliver food to community centers and other distribution points in the city.

She says the class made understanding Baltimore and urban politics more accessible and participation more viable. "I'm really thankful for this class in that way," Kniss says. "If I were to move to another city, I've gained the skills from this class to see what you need to do to get to know the inner workings of a place and understand it better."

INCOMING AAGC LEADERSHIP

The Alumnae and Alumni of Goucher College (AAGC) promotes continued affinity for Goucher College, fosters alumnae/i engagement, and gives graduates a strong voice in college affairs through the Board of Directors and Alumnae/i Trustees. Below is the 2015-16 slate of incoming board officers and members, whose terms will begin July 1. You can also check out biographies of the new leaders at goucher.edu/alum.

President

Todd Eric Hawkins MAAA '10

Vice President

Kara M. Bundy '02

Alumna/us Trustee

Jesse J. Holland MFA '12

Board of Directors

Uneeda Brewer '70

Jay Gilman '09

Jocelyn Reader '02

Carol Hirschfeld Roth '70

Nominating Committee

Brianna Bowling '92

Morris Johnson '11

A Week at Chautauqua

July 19-26

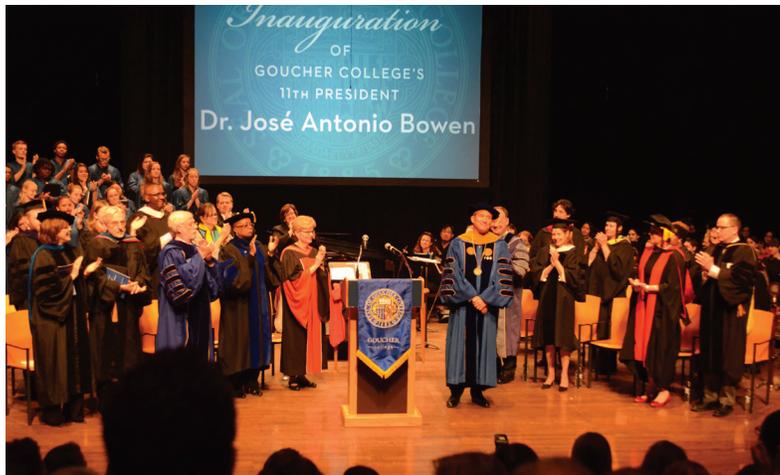
From July 19 to 26, the Chautauqua Institution will present lectures on the theme of "Irrationality." Duke professor Dan Ariely and his social-science contemporaries will explore the complex, often irrational world of human decision-making in a week that includes analysis of simultaneous research on Chautauquans. Why do we act in ways that defy our interests? How do we justify our own dishonesty? How do we consistently contradict our stated intentions?

THIS TRIP INCLUDES transportation, accommodations at the Hotel Athenaeum, meals, lectures, programs, recreational activities, and gratuities.

For cost and more information, contact trip leaders Ethel Weber Berney '46 (410.616.9192), Hya Levine Heine '48 (410.464.0003), or Betty Hanna Kansler M.Ed. '62 (410.821.9243).

Highlights From the Inauguration and Alumnae/i Weekend

Festivities Honor Goucher's Legacy and Bright Prospects



Photos: Jim Burger

Top left: Goucher welcomes President Bowen. Top right: Trustee Chair Norma Lynn Fox '76 congratulates President Bowen

A lumnae/i Weekend, held April 24-26, was grander than usual this year. Alums came home for the festivities, as usual, but this year they also were able to attend the inauguration of Goucher's 11th president, Dr. José Antonio Bowen, and the first Distinguished Alumnae and Alumni Awards Gala.

The inauguration on Friday kicked off the weekend, with visiting civic leaders and academic delegates from colleges and universities around the country joining alumnae/i, trustees, faculty, staff, and students to celebrate the beginning of the next chapter in Goucher's long, proud history. Tradition and change were the themes of the day—holding onto the college's past while looking toward the future (or, to put it another way, "Prove all things, hold fast to what is good.")

Georgetown University President John J. "Jack" Degioia took the podium at the inauguration to talk about the importance of what he called the "distinctive tradition of the residential American liberal arts

college" and praised Dr. Bowen, naming him "among the most daring, fearless, and imaginative leaders we will ever meet." Jane McAuliffe, president emerita of Bryn Mawr College, recalled Dr. Bowen as a "whirlwind" bursting into her office with big ideas (that needed to be implemented immediately) when she started work as a dean at Georgetown University. "You are lucky to have him," she told the crowd, "and he is lucky to be joining this exemplary institution."

The inauguration ceremonies for college presidents are rife with their own traditions—from the symbolism of the faculty members' colored robes and hoods, to the order of procession (delegates from other universities march in order of the institutions' founding dates), to the ceremonial mace carried by college marshal and Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science Jill Zimmerman (the tradition dates to medieval monks, who were not allowed to carry swords).

A new school song, "We Are Goucher," was written, or rather assembled, for the occasion by **Katherine Cottle '95**, from words to Goucher songs dating back to 1895, and set to music by Daniel McDavitt, director of the college's choral activities. The installation ceremony culminated in Board of Trustees Chair **Dr. Norma Lynn Fox '76** presiding over the changing of Dr. Bowen's robes from Stanford University's red and

black to Goucher's blue and gold, along with the presentation of the college charter and a medallion bearing the college seal.

Dr. Bowen took the podium to deliver a speech acknowledging the contributions of each of the past presidents, three of whom—Judy Jolley Mohraz, Robert S. Welch, and Sanford J. Ungar—joined him on stage.

"In an age of increasingly narrow vocational training," Dr. Bowen told the audience, "I am proposing that we, at Goucher College, double down on the liberal arts, that we respond to technology and honor our past by again reinventing the liberal arts in a way that will maintain this college's relevance far into the future."

He continued: "The future of the liberal arts will come from re-valuing our past and from imagining and implementing ever-new ideas. I am honored to join the tradition of radical innovation started by William Hopkins and John Goucher, and sustained by presidents Noble, Guth, Van Meter, Robertson, Stimson, Froelicher, Perry, Dorsey, Kraushaar, Welch, Mohraz, and Ungar."

An Evening of Awards

That evening, Goucher honored **Kim Raley Graybill '95**, **Percy Moore '95**, and former Equestrian Director Patte Zumbrun as the sixth class of inductees into the Athletics Hall of Fame, which recognizes, honors, and perpetuates the memory of those



individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the college's athletics and intercollegiate athletics programs.

Later that evening, Goucher also presented the Inaugural Gala and the Distinguished Alumnae and Alumni Awards, which will become an annual event. The gala, held in a transformed Decker Sports & Recreation Center, drew more than 500 attendees and raised \$175,000—much of which will go toward scholarship funds.

Five Goucher grads were honored at the awards ceremony—civic activist **Suzanne Fineman Cohen '56**, historian **Dr. Jean Harvey Baker '61**, molecular biologist **Dr. Lydia Villa-Komaroff '70**, entrepreneur **Bradford Shellhammer '98**, and congressional legislative director **Jamila Thompson '01**—for distinction in their fields. For more information on the distinguished alumnae/i, please see this video.

Cohen, in her acceptance speech, joined the other honorees in citing Goucher as a formative experience. Her “love affair with Goucher,” she said, “has continued unabated for 63 years.”

“Of all the reasons I am grateful to Goucher,” she continued, “probably the most significant is being encouraged to think critically and to be unafraid to challenge the accepted verities. To me, that

is the essence of a liberal arts education, and one in which Goucher excels.”

Graduates Who Change the World

On Saturday, outgoing President of the AAGC **Steven M. Klepper '97** led the annual meeting of the Alumnae and Alumni of Goucher College. During the meeting, the AAGC's Award for Excellence in Public Service was given to attorney **Elizabeth Statuta Baker '70**, a longtime advocate for victims of domestic violence.

Baker recounted that her activism began at Goucher: When she arrived at the college, women (and it was still all women) were required to wear skirts to class and to dinner—a rule that lasted until the first snowstorm, when, by common agreement, the students went to class in pants. “A couple of weeks later, the professors asked if the rules had changed,” Baker recalled. “We said ‘Yes, we changed the rules.’ And then we set out to change the world.”

Elsewhere on campus during Reunion, alums gathered for academic panels with Goucher faculty and guests, including a discussion led by Dr. Bowen on his book *Teaching Naked*. Other graduates celebrated 25 years of peace studies at Goucher, participated in the alumnae/i athletic games (or just tailgated), painted pottery, sampled beer, played Goucher trivia, and toured the campus to see all the changes that have

been made over the course of 60-plus years.

The weekend was also an opportunity for graduates and current students to interact and talk about Goucher's past and future. During the parade of classes, for example, **Sarah Shepard '18** swapped stories with members of the class of 1975. “It was so fascinating to hear about how they had a curfew when they were here. They told me how they would sneak back into their rooms,” Shepard said. “It was so funny. ... It's not the same experience, but it's the same process of exploration and discovery of who you are that everyone shares here.”

— Chris Landers

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR APRIL 15-17, 2016!

Attention 1's and 6's—it's time to plan your Goucher Reunion next spring! Interested in helping organize your Class Reunion activities? Have questions regarding Alumnae/i Weekend? Email J.P. Javier-Wong, director of alumnae/i affairs, or call him at 410-337-6077.

Alums and honorees mingle at Alumnae/i Weekend events



Photos: Rob Ferrell and Jim Burger

Breaking Ground for Big Changes

Goucher Begins First Phase of New Residence and Dining Halls



Representatives of Goucher's Board of Trustees, alumnae/i, faculty, staff, and student body (plus the gopher) came out to break ground on the first-year village.

On Friday, May 8, Goucher College broke ground on a new residence hall that will begin a complete re-envisioning of how students live and learn on campus. Nearly 200 Goucher students, faculty, staff, alumnae/i, trustees, and other community members gathered on the lawn of Froelicher Hall to celebrate the initiative—as well as the philanthropic support that is spurring it.

The first phase of this exciting renovation and construction project has been jumpstarted by a \$20 million investment from Goucher's Board of Trustees, but countless alumnae/i, faculty, staff, students, parents, and other friends of the college have also contributed generously to show their support for Goucher's bright future.

At the groundbreaking, it was announced that longtime college supporter and trustee **Margo Messler Winslow '69** will be leading the campaign to raise funds for this far-reaching construction and renovation project.

Winslow said she is delighted by “the invitation to join you to realize the dream of better housing and dining” and is thrilled to be helping realize this bold new vision of life on Goucher's campus. “I believe this

revitalization will bring students to Goucher who will benefit from the value of a liberal arts education,” she added.

“We have seen tremendous support for the direction in which Goucher College is heading, not only from our trustees, but from every constituency of this community,” says Margaret-Ann Radford-Wedemeyer. “The enthusiasm driving this housing and dining project shows the kind of steadfast backing this college engenders.”

A Living-Learning Community

The inaugural phase of the residential renovation project will be the construction of a first-year village at the center of campus. Located where Froelicher Hall stands now—close to the Decker Sports & Recreation Center and the heart of campus—the first-year village will include 475 beds in a residence hall designed to enable students to live and learn more successfully. Once this residence hall is completed—anticipated for next fall—Froelicher will be closed, and students will occupy the brand-new housing.

During the second phase of the project, a large community dining hall will be created at the Pearlstone Student Center. The new, centrally located dining

center will offer a meal-time experience aimed at enhancing a sense of community on campus; it also will offer a range of choices: à la carte, all-you-can-eat, kosher, vegetarian, and vegan options.

The third phase of the renovation project will include razing Stimson Hall, a 53-year-old combination living and dining facility, and replacing it with an upper-division village featuring 425 new suites and apartments, where older students can choose to live with friends or in a single room. Located closer to the edge of campus, these units will offer residents access to amenities and community assistants, in a flexible environment aimed at preparing them for post-graduation independence.

“It's an exciting time at Goucher,” says President José Antonio Bowen. “We still need to develop our plan further and raise additional funds for this project, but we believe building living-learning communities is an integral part of our mission to redefine the liberal arts for the 21st century.”

For more information and photos of this project, visit www.goucher.edu/communitymatters.

— Kristen K. Pinheiro

Kimberlee Van Newkirk Shaffir '83

In the early afternoon of November 22, 1963, then-2-year-old **Kimberlee Van Newkirk Shaffir '83** was playing on her living room floor in Baltimore. Her mother was ironing her work uniform; her grandmother was watching her “stories,” when something happened on the television.

“They both got really upset and just started crying,” she recalls. “I remember asking them why. My grandmother said, ‘The president’s been shot.’”

The day that forms Shaffir’s first memory will never be forgotten by millions of Americans. And while Shaffir didn’t understand what it meant at the time, she would revisit that day 50 years later as a producer and editor for the CBS program *Face the Nation*.

Anniversary stories can be a challenge—the JFK assassination is surely one of the most written-about and picked-over events of the 20th century—but the *Face the Nation* team managed to put together a show that not only offered new material and perspectives, they did it well enough to take home an Emmy.

It turns out Shaffir has been defying expectations since she was a Goucher student.

She started at CBS shortly after graduating. A communications major, Shaffir took a tip from an adjunct professor and applied at WMAR-TV to fill in as a summer relief technician after her senior



Kim Shaffir won an Emmy Award for her work on *Face the Nation* with host Bob Shieffer.

year. She didn’t expect to have a chance at the job; in fact, she didn’t have much interest in TV news. Shaffir was on track to work in public relations, but she had taken some technical classes and figured it would be good job interview practice. She got the job, and after a few weeks, she realized she loved it.

“I didn’t know I could get paid and have fun at the same time,” she says. “I just got bitten by the TV news bug.”

WMAR was the Orioles’ network, and most of the regular technicians were at games during baseball season. That gave Shaffir a chance to take on different roles—working at the camera, the soundboard, and editing table, and assembling news segments.

“I’m so glad those pieces don’t exist anymore,” she says, laughing. “They’re probably terrible. I was such a newbie.”

It’s also possible she’s being modest. When her summer job ended, WMAR didn’t have any openings but told her to keep in touch. A few weeks later she got a call from the station encouraging her to apply at a new CBS show based in Washington, DC. Once again, she sent in her résumé, not expecting to hear back, and once again, she got the job.

Nightwatch was an overnight show,

CBS’s response to the cable news networks. The workday started at 8 p.m., taping interviews with host Charlie Rose. After a midnight lunch break, the broadcast started at 2 a.m. and continued until 6 a.m., interrupting the taped interviews with live news on the half hour. The schedule was tough. “I don’t think I could do that now,” she says. “It’s something you can only do when you’re 22.”

The show signed off in 1992, but Shaffir’s run at CBS is entering its 32nd year. In addition to her duties as a producer and editor at *Face the Nation*, she spends part of her week editing the *CBS Evening News* with Scott Pelly.

Before taking on her current role at *Face the Nation*, she covered the White House for the network, earning a 2010 Award of Excellence from the White House News Photographers’ Association. Last year, she and the rest of CBS news took home a DuPont Award of Excellence from Columbia University for their coverage of the school shootings in Newtown, Connecticut.

Shaffir has fond memories of the college that set her on this path. She continues to be involved with Goucher, both indirectly, through her daughter **Kira Shaffir '15**, and directly, as a member of the Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College (AAGC) Nominating Committee, which recommends new members for the AAGC Board of Directors.

“I didn’t know myself very well at the age of 17, but I knew myself well enough to know that I would be lost at a school like University of Maryland, a school that was that big,” she says. “There was something about Goucher. When I walked on the campus, I immediately felt at home.”

– Chris Landers

HONORING EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVANTS

Do you know an alumna/us who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and leadership in public service, whether in private or professional life? Would you like to recognize this person’s dedication? We can help: Nominations for the 2016 AAGC Award for Excellence in Public Service are now being accepted. The deadline is September 15, 2015. Please email Chelsea Montero or call her at 410-337-6159. Click here for more information.

Goucher Challenge: Accepted and Exceeded

\$1.4 Million Raised During One-day Event

The tent was up; the music was pumping; snowcones were served. Social media was buzzing; alums near and far were checking Goucher's website compulsively. And when all was said and done, the Goucher community came together and raised a LOT of money to support scholarships and the college at large through the Goucher Challenge.

Friday, May 1, was the single most successful fundraising day in Goucher's 130-year history, with the one-day event raising more than \$1.41 million for the college. It all started when an anonymous alum challenged 250 members of the Goucher community to make a donation of any size, with a matching gift of \$250,000. (You can view videos that led up to and spurred the Goucher Challenge.)

The response of the community was so overwhelming, the number of participants giving gifts rose to 500, 750, and 1,000 while the pledged matching funds also grew to \$1 million. Then another anonymous donor upped the ante, promising another \$250,000 match if 1,500 donors (100 of them new donors) participated.

Multiple staff and faculty ran with the spirit of the day and gave their own challenges, often targeting first-time givers.



Photos: Amy Eddy

Students, staff, and faculty helped make the Goucher Challenge a success.

"Today's the first time I've given money to Goucher," said Viki Zavales Eggert, an assistant professor of Hispanic languages, literatures, and cultures. "Why? Because I have so much fun working here!"

Eventually more than 2,000 alums, faculty, staff, students, parents, and even grandparents supported the college and gave generously.

Fundraising participation rates are important because they play into college rankings as a way to measure the quality

of an institution. With an increase in alumnae/i giving, Goucher's rankings will improve, but more important, there are now more funds going to support future generations of gophers.

"Together, we do big things and will continue to do so," said President José Antonio Bowen.

Gifts are counted through the end of the fiscal year—June 30—so there's still time to make a gift if you haven't already!

— Angie Cochran

Joining the Ranks as Goucher Grads

On Friday, May 22, Goucher held its 124th Commencement and sent hundreds of undergraduates out into the world to achieve their professional and personal goals.

Members of the Class of 2015 have big plans, including working as teachers in schools in Maryland, Texas, DC, Hawaii, and New York; as a software engineer at the defense contractor Raytheon; as an operations analyst at Morgan Stanley; and as a company dancer for Baltimore Ballet.

One alumnus will be training for the 2016 Olympic Trials in swimming. Another will be serving as a medical service corps officer in the New Jersey Army National Guard. An alumna will move on to work full time at the nonprofit she founded,

which provides mothers with choices and resources through educational scholarships.

Our recent alumnae/i also will be attending such graduate schools as Columbia, NYU, American University, Johns Hopkins, Trinity College in Dublin, the Sorbonne, Temple University, and Goucher.

Wherever they go, and whatever they do, we wish them well and know they will make us proud as they join the illustrious ranks of Goucher College alumnae/i.

Dr. José Antonio Bowen presided over the ceremony, his first as Goucher's president. In his remarks, he asked students "to find meaning in what you have learned and in what you can now contribute to the world." He added, "If you fail to make your unique contribution, that

shortcoming can never be rectified. The world will lose something precious. ...

Find your unique contribution."

You can view a video and read a transcript of his speech.

Congressman and civil rights activist John R. Lewis (D-Ga.) delivered the keynote address and received an honorary degree during the ceremony. U.S. Rep. Lewis has dedicated his life to securing universal human rights, and his remarks encouraged our graduates to "get into good trouble" and fight for the causes they support.

— Kristen K. Pinheiro

