

FALL 2008

Goucher  
**Quarterly**

**GRASS Act**



# I8

## blade runners

Students investigate an invasive species of marsh grass during their summer science projects.

# 26

## incoming

Meet a few members of the Class of 2012

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# Goucher Quarterly

Vol. LXXXIX No.4 Fall 2008

## on the front cover

Lindsey Hendricks '09 collects snails as part of her research into Chesapeake Bay marsh grasses (see p. 18).

Photo by Bryan Burris

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## as of September 2007

total students: 1,472 undergraduates,

890 graduate students

undergraduate faculty: 149 FTE

alumnae & alumni: 15,144

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

Goucher College is a private liberal arts and sciences college founded in 1885. For up-to-date information about the college, visit [www.goucher.edu](http://www.goucher.edu).



photo by Holly Selby



photo by Harriet Neverdon



photo by Bruce Weller

## Amanda Williams '10

Amanda Williams '10 is an English major with a concentration in secondary education. On campus, she is a Connections peer facilitator and a member of Sacred Ground, a Christian spiritual dance group. Her favorite weekend pastime is exploring Baltimore, usually with a camera. Although Williams has worked in the Alumnae/i Affairs Office since 2006, this is her first semester as an editorial assistant to the *Quarterly*.

## Morris Johnson '11

Although Morris Johnson '11 has yet to declare a major, communications and sociology are likely candidates. He has been involved in a number of organizations since arriving on campus, including serving this year as a member of Goucher's drug and alcohol policy review committee. Johnson likes to say that he is a hobbyist, not a "real" photographer, but the portraits he took of first-year students (see p. 26) suggest otherwise.

## Kory Dodd

Kory Dodd joined the Goucher Communications Office last year. Before that, the 2003 graduate of the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism worked as a daily newspaper reporter. In this issue, Dodd, who is earning a master's degree in environmental sciences and policy at Johns Hopkins University, writes about Goucher students' research on Chesapeake Bay marsh grasses.

# contributors

## GOT THOUGHTS?

Please tell us what's on your mind—

whether you are thinking about the *Quarterly* or Goucher College in general. Come on, send us your ideas, hopes, praise, or criticism. **We'd love to hear from you.**



by mail

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# getting real

Every now and then you'll hear mention of something called the "Goucher Bubble." It is a reference, perhaps, to the green serenity of the campus and the occasional sense, conjured by the peaceful surroundings here, that "real" life is far away.

But talk with just about any Goucher student, faculty member, or alumna/us, and you'll quickly realize how engaged with real life most are. This fall, in particular, brought constant reminders of the range of opportunities offered by Goucher to understand, explore, protect, or transform the world.

For weeks, any who entered Pearlstone were greeted by a "Get Out the Vote" table run by poli-sci students, and on more than one evening, those who decided to visit the Gopher Hole found the place transformed from mere coffee house to a hub of political discussion (see p. 3). And throughout the semester, if you wanted to take part in a conversation with President Sanford J. Ungar and a political expert (say, former Maryland Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.), you could. You just had to arrive early enough at the event to get a seat.

A conversation with **Lindsay Johnson '05**, who now is the college's community partnerships coordinator, inevitably leads to a description of the after-school programs she oversees that are aimed at Baltimore City School students (see p. 53) and are funded by Goucher, courtesy of a U.S. Department of Justice grant.

Even the six first-year students who are briefly portrayed in this issue (see p. 26) and who arrived on campus only months ago, seem engaged in all the new academic and social opportunities presented by campus life—and poised to dive into more global pursuits wherever their interests lead them.

And just ask **Lindsey Hendricks '09** or **Hannah Mossop '09**, who spent part of the summer doing research on marsh grass and snails (see p. 18) that will add to the body of work aimed at preserving the Chesapeake Bay, how real the mud felt as they stood (wearing knee-high boots) immersed in the muck.

Pretty real, I'd bet.

# Weaving a web of drama

Drums sounded and color-drenched costumes swirled in October when the Theatre Department presented *The Story Ananse Told*, a Ghanaian folktale about a trickster spider.

Elolo Gharbin, guest artist from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, directed the student cast in this interactive blend of music, language and pageantry. Marian Mensah, another guest artist from the University of Cape Coast, designed the costumes.



Hilary Davis '10 plays Ananse, the trickster spider.



At curtain call, the drummers take a bow.



Photos by Nicole Cho '12





## Politics not as usual

As the presidential campaign revved up this fall, so did on-campus excitement about and discussion of all things political. Here are a few of the politically themed events held at Goucher in the last few months:

- Even the allure of typical Friday night festivities did not deter students from flocking to the Gopher Hole on Sept. 26 to watch Democrat Barak Obama and Republican John McCain square off in the first presidential debate of the 2008 elections. After the second debate, held on Oct. 7, **President Sanford J. Ungar** was on hand to lead an informal discussion. By the third, the throng nearly filled the student-run coffee house. And we don't think the free pizza had anything to do with it.
- An on-campus, get-out-the-vote campaign, spearheaded by **Nicholas Brown**, assistant professor of political science and the director of the Sarah T. Hughes Field Politics Center, resulted in more than 300 students registering to vote or applying for absentee ballots. Brown also co-teaches the "Campaigns and Elections" class with Maryland Delegate **John Olszewski Jr. '04**.
- About 150 students, faculty members, and alumnae/i gathered to hear different perspectives on the election offered by a panel of foreign journalists. Panelists at the Oct. 13 event included Geoff Elliott from the *Australian*, Kimberly Halkett from Al Jazeera English, Chidanand Rajghatta from the *Times of India*, and Hiroki Sugita from the *Kyodo News*.
- Pundit and social commentator Arianna Huffington presented the Fall 2008 President's Forum, "Countdown: McCain and Obama 12 Days Before the Election," on Oct. 23. The free event drew a capacity crowd of almost 1,000 political buffs to Kraushaar Auditorium.
- Is it true that all politics is local? Perhaps so, according to former Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. On Oct. 30, the Republican politician discussed with President Ungar the local import of the presidential election in a conversation titled, "As Maryland Goes, So Goes the Nation."



# Kudos



Grantmakers in the Arts, a membership organization for philanthropists in the arts, has named **Janet Brown**, an adjunct faculty member in the Master of Arts in Arts Administration program, as its new executive director.

The Seattle, WA-based organization, which has 2,000 members, is the national association for corporate and private foundations, public agencies, and community foundations that fund the arts.

Brown, who is currently the chair of the Performing and Visual Arts Department at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD, takes on her new role in December. She plans to continue as an adjunct faculty member at Goucher.

A paper co-authored by retired Psychology Professor Carol Bergfeld Mills, **Shari R. Metzger '07**, **Catherine A. Foster '07**, **Melaina N. Valentine-Gresko '06**, and **Stephanie Ricketts '07**, will be published in the journal *Perception*. Called "Development of Color-Grapheme Synesthesia and Its Effect on Mathematical Operations," the paper explores one aspect of a rare neurological phenomenon known as synesthesia, which occurs when a stimulus in one sense, such as sight or taste, triggers involuntary sensations in another sense.

**Ben U'ren**, a lecturer in the English Department, and Assistant Professor **Kathy Flann**, were among the authors selected to read from their work at the Baltimore Book Festival, held in September.

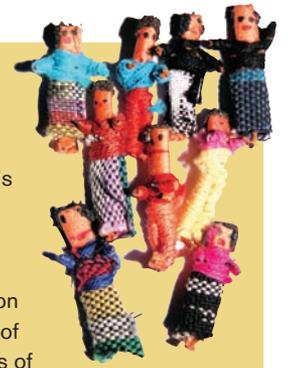
Four Goucher students, **Luke Albao '10**, **Ben Mason '10**, **Greg Baer '09**, and **Claire Sauvage-Mar '11** also were selected to read. "It was an honor to represent Goucher at the book festival. It's a college with a strong tradition of creative writing, and I'm thrilled to be a part of that," Flann says.



Goucher Director of Student Financial Aid **Sharon Hassan** has been selected to serve as the chair-elect of the College Board's Middle States Regional Council, effective in February 2009. The College Board is a nonprofit organization that aims

to connect all students to college opportunities. §

# Celebrating Hispanic Culture



Food, film, worry dolls, and dance all were part of Goucher's month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The festivities, which began Sept. 15, included a presentation of the video installation "Poetry of Everyday Time: Peripheral Views of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico" by Assistant Professor of Art **Laura Burns**. There also was a viewing of *Volver*, the 2006 Spanish film directed by Pedro Almodóvar; a panel discussion about the needs of the local Latino community; a make-your-own Guatemalan worry-doll workshop led by Spanish Instructor **Maite Gomis-Quinto** and **Candace Doane**, assistant director of community living.

And on Oct. 11, fun was had by all who came to the Fiesta Latina, which included a presentation of and instruction in tropical Latin music.

Organized by the Office of Community Living, the Language House, the Office of the Provost, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and the Office of Service Learning, the celebration marked contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States. §



## hard-hat zone

Athenaeum construction update

**This building is changing before our very eyes! Milestones reached by Dec. 1 include:**

- Building shell done, with 90% of exterior skin (stone, glass, wood, and copper) complete
- Mechanical, electrical, and sprinkler rough-in complete, with installation of finished systems in progress
- Interior wall studs complete, with drywall about 50% complete
- Interior finishes begun
- Grading around the building 95% complete



Graduates of the Master of Arts in Arts Administration Program



President Sanford J. Ungar awards Alisa Adjaye a master of arts degree in education.



Steven Rookwood M.Ed. '08 celebrates with his family.

Photos by: Bill McAllen



(L to R): Bettie-Ann Candelora MAAA '08; Margo Blake-Tyler MAAA '08; and William Blake MAAA '08 do a celebratory dance.



Keynote speaker Deborah Marrow and President Sanford J. Ungar



## Graduate Commencement

Success lies in a willingness to seize new opportunities “rather than succumbing to the temptation to stay in a familiar zone,” said Deborah Marrow, director of the Getty Foundation and the keynote speaker for Goucher’s graduate programs commencement ceremony.

Marrow, who also is a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania, spoke at the Aug. 3 ceremony before 119 graduates of the Robert S. Welch Center for Graduate and Professional Studies. Those graduating received master’s degrees in teaching, education, historic preservation, arts administration, and creative nonfiction.

As director of the Getty Foundation, Marrow, who began her career at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, oversees the philanthropic division of the J. Paul Getty Trust, a Los Angeles-based organization that works to promote and enhance the understanding of the visual arts.

A recipient of an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Goucher, Marrow urged the graduates to ground their work in solid research and to work to communicate well with both their colleagues and greater society. “[T]he fields of arts and education must do a better job of telling our stories, of communicating the value of our work to various audiences,” she said. §



green  
spot



Photo by Sean Fogarty

Janie Korn '10 plans to explore the Baltimore area in a Zipcar.



### Mugging for the Earth

Have you noticed? Goucher College has given students, faculty, and staff members tall, lean plastic (that's recycled plastic!) mugs to help cut down on waste from the campus dining halls.

## A Zippy Solution

By Amanda Williams '10

No car? No worries. Wheel-less members of the Goucher community now are able to drive one of two new Honda Civic hybrids to interviews, on errands, or even on weekend trips.

Part of Zipcar, a car-sharing network aimed at providing cost-efficient, environmentally friendly transportation, the hybrids are available to members of the Goucher community who register for the program. Students and staff may register individually, or departments may create an account for departmental trips.

"It's really convenient," says **Janie Korn '10**, who drove a Zipcar with a few friends to Essex, MD, one afternoon. Before Zipcars came to Goucher, the Spanish major relied upon expensive taxis and undependable shuttles for transportation.

"I'm really glad we have [Zipcars] available," she says. "Since I live near Baltimore, I feel like it's my obligation to interact with the community and to explore the city. The Zipcar's availability will, I hope, allow Goucher students to see that much more lies beyond the Towson territory."

Launched in 2000, the Zipcar network is based upon a similar program founded in Berlin, Germany. Here's how it works: If you are over 18 years old and own a valid license, you're eligible to register. You may then go online to reserve a car by the hour or the day (for up to three days). Fees, which include gas, insurance, and roadside service, are \$7 per hour or \$60 per day. Once registered, Zipcar members can take advantage of the program at locations across the country. §

For more information visit [www.zipcar.com](http://www.zipcar.com).

# giving to Goucher

## A Sunny Occasion

The weather was sunny and the moment grand as 150 alumnae/i, administrators, faculty members, parents, and students gathered to celebrate and express their gratitude for an unprecedented \$6.2 million bequest, the largest gift that Goucher has received from an individual family.

The occasion, held during Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 5, was the dedication of the “T” residence building as the Katharine and Jane Welsh Hall.

“The newly dedicated Katharine and Jane Welsh Hall will be a reminder of this wonderfully generous gift, which will go a long way toward helping Goucher improve campus facilities and achieve other ambitious goals outlined in our strategic plan and capital campaign,” said **President Sanford J. Ungar**.

The bequest to the college was made by the late Goucher alumna **Katharine E. Welsh '30**. The donor's sister, **Jane Welsh Russell '42**, and her daughter, Katharine A. Russell, have presented the college with this gift of unrestricted funds as part of the *Transcending Boundaries: The Campaign for Goucher College*.

The event included a greeting from **Patricia K. Batza '91**, co-chair of the national capital campaign, and remarks by Katharine A. Russell, who spoke on behalf of her family. §



**TRANSCENDING  
BOUNDARIES**

The Campaign for Goucher College

GIVING TO GOUCHER



The newly dedicated Katharine and Jane Welsh Hall

Photo by Jeff Tryon



Photos by Royce DuBiner '10

TOP: (L to R, standing): Michael J. Batza, co-chair of the national capital campaign; David Knauff; Katharine A. Russell (L to R, sitting): Patricia K. Batza '91, co-chair of the national capital campaign; and sisters Anne Welsh Knauff and Jane Welsh Russell '42

BOTTOM: President Sanford Ungar watches as Jane Welsh Russell '42 tries on a Welsh Hall T-shirt.

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Miriam Katowitz '73

**M**iriam Katowitz '73 wants to help Goucher students who aspire to start a dance company, operate a school, run a business, oversee a department—or manage any other enterprise, nonprofit or otherwise.

In the course of a highly successful career as an accountant and manager in both corporate and nonprofit worlds, Katowitz has become keenly aware that not everyone has her aptitude for numbers. She also knows that those who wish to become managers must understand basic accounting concepts.

"If you are a social worker or a teacher or an artist, and you panic when you see numbers, you aren't going to be able to manage anything very well," she says.

Katowitz, who is chief operating officer for the Educational Alliance, a nonprofit organization based in lower Manhattan, and her husband, Arthur Radin, a partner in a CPA firm who also is an accountant, recently gave the college a gift of \$1.5 million to endow a faculty position. "I thought that accounting and management certainly were not something I studied when I was in college, and I might be able to help [Goucher] in that way," she says. "People are often frightened of numbers, and they don't have to be."

Founded in 1889, the Educational Alliance was one of the first settlement houses on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Its initial mission was to provide education, social service, arts, and recreation programs to Eastern European Jews who immigrated to New York City. Now, the nonprofit Jewish organization operates more than 40 programs at 32 sites in lower Manhattan, and provides services to people from diverse ethnic communi-

ties and socio-economic backgrounds.

In her role there, Katowitz is charged with keeping "support functions running efficiently and in a timely fashion." Her knowledge of accounting systems, planning, budgeting, and banking, along with information technology and human resources has helped her manage these areas. She also is overseeing the renovation and expansion of the organization's 118-year-old, flagship building.

At Goucher, however, Katowitz had no plans to become either a chief operating officer or a chief financial officer. She majored in political science, while taking numerous courses in economics and history. In her sophomore year, she took up modern dance because "you had to take modern dance to graduate." After that, she says, "I ended up taking a dance class each semester." She also spent a semester in Copenhagen and a summer semester in Israel.

But when she finished her coursework in January 1973 (a semester early), a recession was in full swing, and political science jobs were scarce. She entered Columbia University that May and, 18 months later, emerged with a master's degree in business administration with a major in accounting.

Although she didn't concentrate in accounting as an undergraduate, the liberal arts education she received at Goucher prepared her "to face a new idea—figure out how to interpret, analyze and apply it. And that is certainly what I have done throughout my career," she says. "But people are often surprised when an accountant likes opera or ballet."

From 1974 to 1980, Katowitz worked as an auditor at Deloitte & Touche, where she met her husband, who now is a

partner at the public accounting firm, Radin, Glass & Co. "We had an under-cover marriage for three months until he left to join another firm," she says. The couple has three adult children, two from Radin's first marriage.

Katowitz, who has served on Goucher's Board of Trustees since 2007, went on to be a managing director for Republic National Bank (now HSBC). In 2000, she left the corporate world to join the renowned nonprofit organization, 92nd Street Y, as CFO and director of operations and strategic planning. The switch to the nonprofit sector, she says, was a conscious effort to combine vocation with avocation. "I wanted to find a job that I would enjoy doing that also helps the community. 'Doing good,' as the expression goes."

These days, Katowitz typically begins her day with a subway ride from her home in Brooklyn to lower Manhattan to attend early morning meetings or Pilates classes before heading to her office. There, the work is fulfilling and fun, she says. "It combines what I like: finance, strategy, finding solutions to problems, and working with my colleagues." S



Photo by Bill McAllen



(L to R): Florence "Becki" Beck Kurdle '61, Goucher President Emerita Rhoda M. Dorsey, Marilyn Southard Warshawsky '68, and Nita Langgle Schultz '77 at the Goucher Society reception

(L to R): Lee Gerstein '07 and Vaughn Frisby '08



# Goucher Society— an inside look



It was a beautiful evening for a "sneak preview" of the Athenaeum, slated for completion in the fall of 2009.

**A** crisp autumn evening, good friends, and tours of the Athenaeum, Goucher's work-in-progress, were the ingredients of a fine time at the Goucher Society reception on Oct. 22.

After nibbling hors d'oeuvres at the Alumnae & Alumni House, about 60 Goucher Society members and guests formed small groups that then were guided through the college's newest building, which is slated for completion in fall 2009. Tour leaders included **President Sanford J. Ungar** and College Librarian **Nancy Magnuson**. §

# Good news

**Goucher College raised \$5,060,006 in the period from July 1 to September 30, 2008**

as part of its capital campaign, *Transcending Boundaries: The Campaign for Goucher College*. The figure represents a 30 percent increase over the amount raised in the same time period last year.

In addition, from July 1 through October 15, 2008, \$294,962 was raised for the Annual Fund.

**"We're on track to meet and exceed last year's success,"** said Janet Wiley, executive vice president for development and alumnae/i affairs. **"Many of our alumnae/i have been generous, and we'd like to thank them."**

As of September 30, the college had raised \$73,425,588 as part of its capital campaign, according to the development division. The goal for the campaign is \$80 million.

In the coming months, the participation of all members of the Goucher community will be a key factor in the college's continued success, Wiley said. **"We'd like to encourage all alumnae/i, parents, and friends to participate in our campaign: Everyone's contribution matters greatly."**

Not only does each contribution to the capital campaign enhance Goucher's future success, she added, but participation rates are considered by businesses and community foundations when they decide where to place their philanthropic energies. Participation rates also are a factor in how colleges are rated by *U.S. News & World Report*. §

# BRAGGING Rights

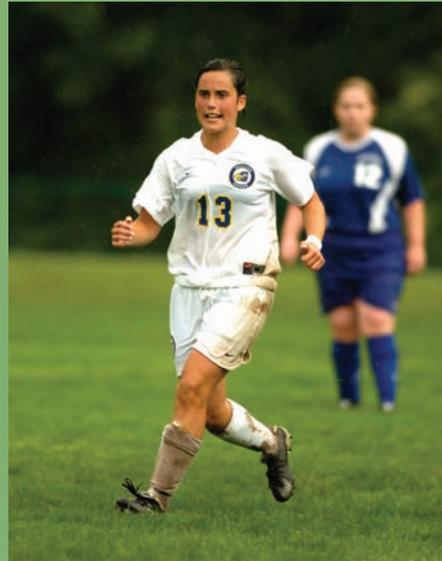
by Greg Driscoll

## A Beautiful Beginning

The Goucher women's soccer team this fall had its best start since 1995 as it won four of its first six games. During that time, the Gophers scored 24 goals—only three fewer than they scored in all of last season.

The Gophers were led by forward captain **Sisley Pumilia '11** and goalkeeper **Kellen Matthews '11**. In the first six games, Pumilia scored 11 goals, with at least one goal in five of the six games. She also led the team with four assists, giving her 26 points in six games. While Pumilia was scoring the goals, Matthews was keeping the ball out of the net. In six games, Matthews allowed only six goals and was credited with four shutouts.

The Gophers hope to keep the momentum alive and finish with their first winning season since 2003.



Sisley Pumilia '11 scored 11 goals in the team's first six games.

## Shining Performance

The highlight of the first half of the men's soccer season was the 1-1 tie against 17th-ranked Salisbury. Goalkeeper **Justin Holbrook '10** was the star of the game, holding Salisbury to a lone goal while making eight saves, including three in overtime. His performance earned him the title of defensive player of the week in the Landmark Conference. In the first seven games of the season, Holbrook allowed only 11 goals in 752 minutes and was 4-3-1.



Goalkeeper Justin Holbrook '10 held Salisbury to one goal while making eight saves.

## Playing in the Sun

The women's basketball team will be heading to Orlando, FL, this winter to participate in the ECAC College Basketball Holiday Festival. On Jan. 3, the Gophers will play Johns Hopkins University, and on Jan. 4, they'll battle Gwynedd-Mercy College.

The men's basketball team also will be taking a trip this winter: In December, its members are scheduled to play in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in the 2008 Island Time Basketball Classic. The team will be taking on the University of Wisconsin-Stout as well as the University of the Virgin Islands.



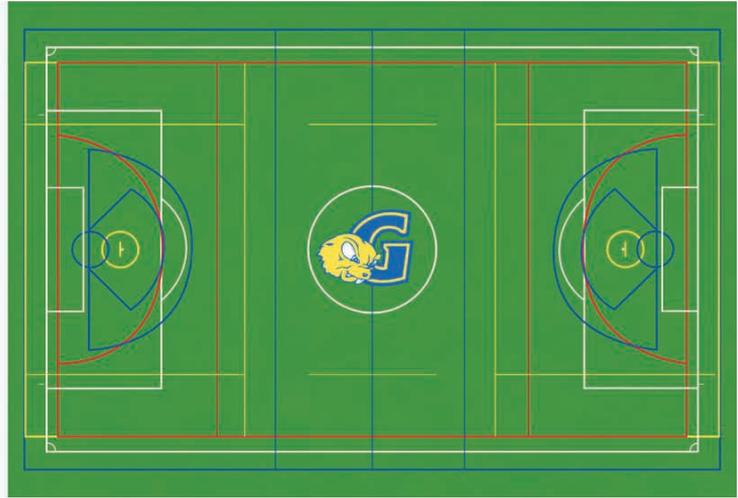
The women's basketball team heads to Florida this winter to play in the ECAC College Basketball Holiday Festival.

# gopheReport

## Turf's Up by Greg Driscoll



- Infill system readily absorbs impact and decreases risk of injury.
- Drainage capacity and lights allow for use in inclement weather, day or night, expanding available playing and training time.
- Surface provides superior stability and traction, optimizing athletic performance.
- Highly durable turf greatly reduces field maintenance costs and lessens wear and tear on natural grass practice fields.
- Location on campus enhances hosting opportunities and eliminates the need for teams to travel to off-campus training sites.



As the 2008 soccer season comes to an end, the installation of a new turf field begins. Funded by a portion of the \$3.7 million bequest made to Goucher College earlier this year by Virginia and Alonzo Decker, the new turf field, which will include lighting and permanent seating, will constitute a complete upgrade to the college's Beldon Field.

The Deckers were longtime supporters of Goucher. Virginia Decker, who died last April, attended continuing-education courses at the college. Her husband, Alonzo Decker, who died in 2002, was the executive officer of the Black & Decker Manufacturing Company. He was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from Goucher in 1985 and was honorary chair of Goucher's Legacy Campaign from 1994 to 1998.

The new field will be outfitted with lights so that Goucher's teams will have the option of playing night games, which administrators hope will entice more sports fans to events.

The growth in the college's outdoor programs has placed unprecedented demands on the field spaces available to students, making it necessary to add a turf field, according to **Geoff Miller**, director of physical education and athletics.

"The beauty of a turf field is that it gives us the ability to practice and play in any weather," Miller says. "And because of its size, we can have more than one team practicing on the new turf field at the same time. Particularly because we are adding lighting, we can also expand the intramural program, which benefits the entire Goucher community."

Both men's and women's soccer teams will continue to play games on the newly upgraded Beldon Field. The field hockey team, which currently calls Gopher Stadium its home field, will play most of its intercollegiate contests there. And both lacrosse programs will have the option of moving games to the turf when weather makes the stadium's grass field unplayable. §

## DID YOU KNOW?



Photo by Stan Rudick

A portion of the Virginia and Alonzo Decker bequest also has allowed Goucher to expand its cardio-fitness spaces and weight room in the Sports and Recreation Center.

A classroom on the main floor already has been transformed into a new cardio-fitness center. The space now has 21 new fitness machines, including Life Fitness treadmills, Life Fitness recumbent bikes, and Life Fitness summit trainers. Each machine also has a single cardio-vision television.

Next up for transformation: The weight room.

# impromptu

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

By Sarah Ross

As the first chair of Goucher's Physics Department, Professor Ali Bakhshai has overseen its expansion from a one-man show to a department that boasts four tenure-track professors. He shares with us his thoughts on eco-friendly research practices, teaching in Spain, and the mind of Albert Einstein.

## What has changed since your arrival to Goucher in 1986?

When I joined Goucher, there was basically no physics department, so I became the department's only chair. It was sort of my own child – I developed it from its early stages, so I'm very attached to it. I love seeing it grow and become prestigious. **Semyon Ginzburg** was the department's first addition, and in 1996, we added **Sasha Dukan**. We all have different expertise and share the philosophy of education, which makes us a dynamic department.

## You are reportedly responsible for the clanging noises that resonate through Hoffberger Science Building. Is that true?

Anyone using the elevator in Hoffberger will hear knocking sounds from my lab. My research involves the use of mechanical energy to synthesize new materials. High-energetic shakers rattle a container of assorted-sized stainless steel balls. These balls continuously bombard a powder inside the chamber, and the mechanical energy imparted to the powder reduces the powder's particle size and damages its structure, creating active sites, which then fuse together and form the product.

## What are you making?

My last project was to make pure silicon from silicon oxide, commonly known as sand. It usually requires 1900 degrees Celsius and is an elaborate and costly procedure. With mechanical alloying, I finally made pure silicon with just 525 degrees Celsius – a tremendous reduction! Because the silicon is made from pure particles, once the product forms there's no solution to discard, so it's more environmentally sustainable.

## In 2005, you taught the first "Astronomy and Spanish in Granada" three-week course abroad. How was that experience?

Southern Spain was really fun for the students and me. I'm Persian but familiar with Arabic culture, and **Cristina Saenz-de-Tejada**, associate professor of Spanish and my co-professor there, really appreciated my point of view and incorporated Granada's Arabic culture and history into the trip. We were lucky to be in Granada during the religious ceremony Corpus Christi. There were dancers in beautiful costumes and elaborate floats covering the streets. A fantastic ceremony!

## If you could spend an hour with any historical figure who would it be?

It amazes me that we're still finding evidence to prove Albert Einstein's theories – what brainpower! I always tell students, "If you think well, you will go further." The scientific method of thinking is a good approach no matter what you do – physicist, plumber, investment banker – anyone with good analytical skills is going to be successful. That's why Einstein was able to accomplish so much.



photo by Stan Rudick

# alumnae|iUpdate

● ● ●  
SAVE  
the dates  
for Alumnae/i  
Weekend:

2009  
April 23-26

2010  
April 22-25

## Dear Goucher Alumnae and Alumni,

It may interest you to know that nearly half of the 20 members now serving on the AAGC Board of Directors live outside the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. Indeed, our directors reside in cities from Towson, MD, to Somerville, MA, and Miami Beach, FL, to Claremont, CA.

We are proud of the geographic diversity represented by our volunteer leaders. And we'd like to build on that diversity by encouraging alumnae/i from every corner of the country (and beyond) to remain engaged or become re-engaged with the Goucher community.

As a group, our board members typically have communicated in face-to-face meetings, by teleconference, and via e-mail, but earlier this year we were introduced to a new technology that offers another way of conducting Goucher business. Called Blackboard Academic Suite, this software has been used by Goucher students and faculty members since 2001 to create virtual classrooms on campus and in distance-learning programs. The web-based software enables people based in disparate locations to have real-time group discussions, access communal documents, share ideas, and conduct presentations. Can you see why we are excited about the opportunities offered to the AAGC by Blackboard?

Last February, the meeting of the AAGC board was fully attended as each of us (armed with a headset) logged onto the Internet to attend a lunch-hour meeting from our homes or offices. Blackboard allowed us to view the agenda and consult reports from our laptops and desk-top computers. The entire meeting was digitally recorded, including our conversations, and has been archived. We also were pleased to discover that the software application allows participants to cast motions and tally votes. So, while nothing ever will take the place of face-to-face meetings, Blackboard clearly offers thousands of alumnae/i—who may live miles from their alma mater—the opportunity to re-engage with Goucher as volunteer leaders.

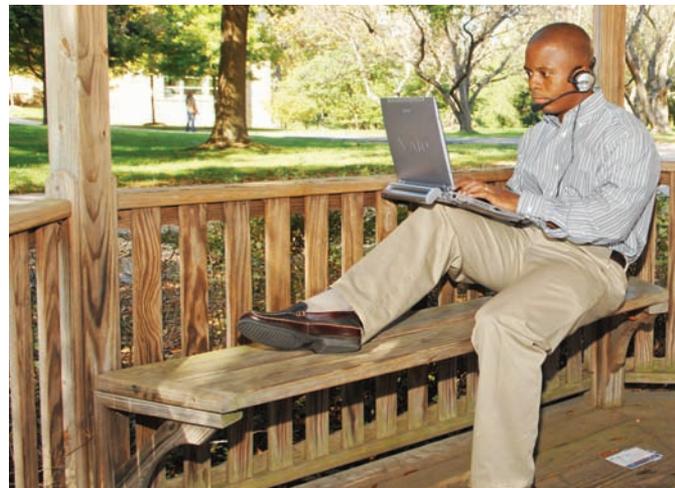
Next spring, the AAGC will be preparing for another technological launch: Goucher's new online community. Supported by Harris Connect, one of the leading providers of online communities in higher education, this technology will make it easier for all of us to keep in touch and remain engaged with Goucher.

The new online community will offer, among many things, a password-protected e-mail directory, which will be available to alumnae/i who have joined the community; online event registration; and broadcast e-mail capabilities for the staff. To the many alumnae/i who currently use [myspace.com](http://myspace.com) and/or [facebook.com](http://facebook.com) to contact Goucher friends: We are happy to be responding to your requests for easier online connections. And we look forward to bumping into you in Goucher's new online community.

In short, no matter where you live, work, attend graduate school, or vacation, you soon will be just a click or two away from Goucher College. Although I travel more than 200,000 miles each year in a professional capacity, I've enjoyed wonderful post-graduate associations with Goucher. And I am convinced that through our online community, we can begin to forge equally enjoyable and productive connections with all 15,000 alumnae/i around the world.

Warm regards,

Robert Lee Bull Jr. '93  
*President, AAGC*  
[robert.bull@goucher.edu](mailto:robert.bull@goucher.edu)



## Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College 2008–09 Board of Directors

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Cooksville, MD

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### EX OFFICIO (nonvoting)

Janet Wiley  
Vice President for Development  
and Alumnae/i Affairs

Margaret-Ann Radford-Wedemeyer  
Assistant Vice President for Develop-  
ment and Alumnae/i Affairs

# mark your calendars

Mar 1  
ON CAMPUS

### High Note

Opera sensation Nathan Gunn will appear at Kraushaar Auditorium for the 49th Henry and Ruth Blaustein Rosenberg Lecture-Performance.

Apr 23-26  
ON CAMPUS

### Alumnae/i Weekend

Special activities for classes ending in 4 and 9, but all are welcome!

For a complete schedule of events, visit [www.goucher.edu/alumnae](http://www.goucher.edu/alumnae) or call toll-free, 1.800.272.2279. For information about the Nathan Gunn appearance, call the box office at 410.337.6333. For information about other events, call Carla Rakowski at 410.337.6180 or e-mail [carla.rakowski@goucher.edu](mailto:carla.rakowski@goucher.edu).

● OUT OF TOWN ● ON CAMPUS ● IN BALTIMORE



## Let's Get Clubby

Goucher alumnae/i now have the opportunity to become members of the Williams Club. A private alumni club located in New York City, the establishment offers those who join access to affordable hotel rooms, meeting spaces, private dining, invitations to exclusive events, and the opportunity to visit the more than 100 additional clubs that belong to its national and international reciprocal network.

Both resident and non-resident memberships are available. A special rate is being offered to younger alumnae/i who are within five years of graduation.

See [www.williamsclub.org](http://www.williamsclub.org) for additional information and an application.



## Does your spouse bleed blue-jay blue?

If you are a Gopher, but your loved one is a Blue Jay, we'd like to know.

We're planning a "reunion" for Goucher alumnae/i who married Johns Hopkins University graduates. We think there are plenty of you out there, and we'd like to include you at the festivities, so please send your name, class year, and contact information along with your spouse's name and class year at Hopkins to [Nicole.revello@goucher.edu](mailto:Nicole.revello@goucher.edu). And if you'd like to help organize this event, please tell us that, too.



Package starts at \$2,240

## A Week at Chautauqua

Art, recreation, education—surely something for everyone

### THIS TRIP INCLUDES:

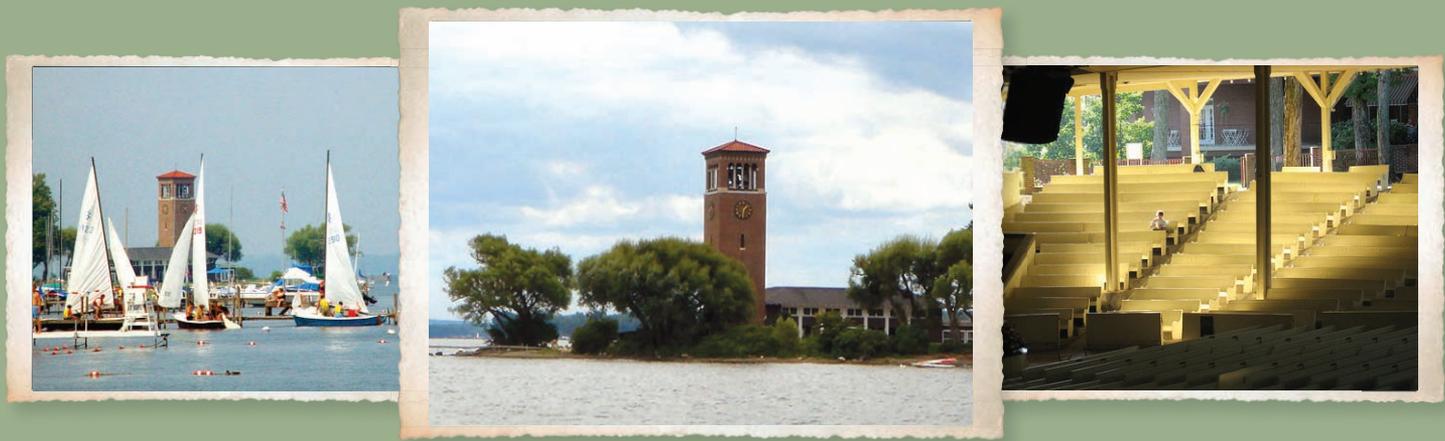
transportation, accommodations at the Hotel Athenaeum, meals, gratuities, lectures and programs, and many recreational activities.

Saturday, July 18 – Saturday, July 25, 2009

Founded upon the belief that everyone has the right to “know all that he can know,” the 134-year-old Chautauqua Institution offers visitors the chance to attend lectures, book signings, art shows, and performances. Workshops, study groups, and morning lectures will focus on the theme, “The Ethics of Capitalism.” There also will be opportunities to enjoy ballet, opera, musical performances, or art shows in the evenings as well as to walk, play golf, or swim. The Hotel Athenaeum, where you will be staying, is a National Historic Landmark that features a splendid view of Lake Chautauqua.

**Cost:** \$2,240 for a double and \$2,510 for a single room. A \$500 deposit secures your place, and the balance is due April 1, 2009.

For more information, contact a trip leader:  
Ethel Berney (410.363.1332) or Dorothy Krug (410.771.9899)



### MORE EXCITING TRIPS THIS SEASON:

Old Town Alexandria – **January 17, 2009** • Philadelphia Museum of Art – **March 25, 2009** • *The Millionairess* at the Olney Theatre Center – **June 20, 2009** • *Night Must Fall* at the Olney Theatre Center – **October 3, 2009** • **For more information** on any upcoming Alumnae/i Tours event, or to be added to the mailing list, please call 443-921-3599 or e-mail [alumni@goucher.edu](mailto:alumni@goucher.edu).

# seen on the scene

## toasting the new semester

Fall was just around the corner when alumnae/i, friends, and family members gathered Aug. 28 at President Sanford J. Ungar's house to toast each other and celebrate the new semester.



Far left: Lisa Taylor '12; her grandmother, Virginia Levin '44; and her mother, Ellen Levin Taylor '74 chat with President Sandy Ungar.

Julian Sanders, Minnie Waters Shorter '73, Gina Haynes-Sanders '83, and Maxine Bigby Cunningham '70 smile for the camera.



TOP: This Send-Off, held Aug. 3 at the New York City home of Lynn Toby Fisher '71 (left) may have been the beginning of many beautiful friendships.

ABOVE: Goucher students, new and old, gathered in Washington, DC, for a Send-Off party given by Mindy Farber P'10, mother of Warren Adams '10. (L to R) Rachel Bond '12, Rebecca Rother '12, Cameron Howard '12, Michael Jefferson '12, Hannah Kroll '11, Warren Adams '10, and Maya Ward '12

## welcome, welcome

Goucher alumnae/i and parents opened their homes last summer to the newest members of the Goucher community as part of the Send-Off program. Now in its second year, the initiative aims to introduce incoming first-year students—before they arrive on campus—to alumnae/i and current students. Altogether 10 Send-Off parties were held across the country in cities including Baltimore; Philadelphia, PA; Boston, MA; and Portola Valley, CA.



Parents and first-year students met and mingled at a Send-Off party held Aug. 3 at the home of Ana Zamora '94 in New Providence, NJ.



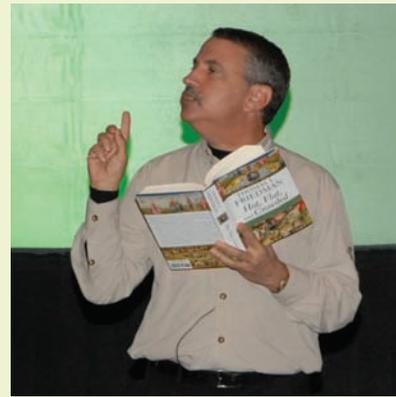
# homecoming scene

october 3 – 5

Goucher's second Homecoming Weekend, held from Oct. 3-5 in conjunction with Family Weekend, drew several hundred alumnae/i, faculty, students and their family members. Activities included Fall into Service, a morning of community service; an opportunity to sit in on a variety of classes; and the Umoja Talent show, presented by the African Alliance and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

## go-pher crabs

The temptation to play with their food was irresistible to many guests at the Maryland Crab Feast held Oct. 3 during Homecoming Weekend.



## talking green

*New York Times* columnist Thomas L. Friedman drew a capacity crowd to Kraushaar Auditorium when he discussed his book, *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—And How It Can Renew America*.



## under the trees

About 150 guests attended a reception held Saturday evening at President Sanford Ungar's house.

## a rac-y event

Whether they ran or walked, alumnae/i, faculty, staff, students, and family members had a blast Oct. 5 at the Renie Race.





# blade runners

Goucher students take on  
invasive marsh grass

By Kory Dodd

Photos by Bryan Burris



The air was hot and muggy as Hannah Mossop '09 leaned over a galvanized-mesh cage and gently parted the broad leaves of *Phragmites australis*, a waist-high, non-indigenous salt marsh grass that is running rampant in the Chesapeake Bay area. She examined each leaf carefully, searching for small scratches filled with brown crust. When she found a scratch, she measured it before plucking the leaf from the plant and placing it in a long, clear Tupperware container.

Nearby, Cynthia Kicklighter, an assistant professor in Goucher's Biology Department, checked on another cluster of *Phragmites*, while a second student, Lindsey Hendricks '09, picked periwinkle snails off the smooth, blade-like leaves of a native marsh grass called *Spartina alterniflora*.

As the professor and students worked, the silence was broken only by the gentle lapping of the waves and the soporific buzzes and hums made by insects hidden in the grass.

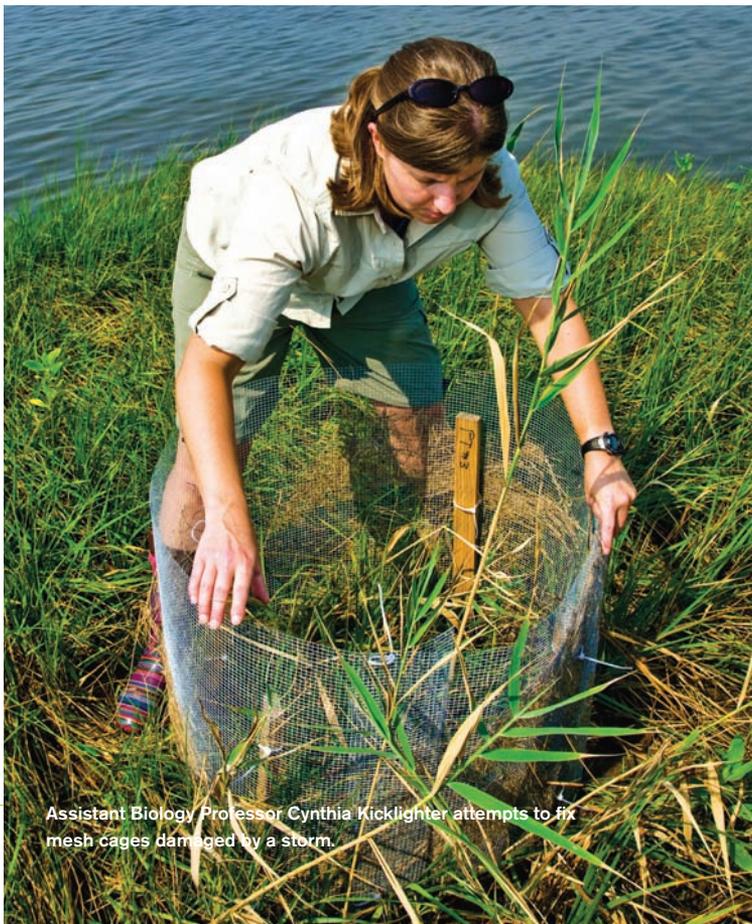
The students' research, which is being overseen by Kicklighter, dovetails with a larger battle being waged by local environmentalists to prevent the steady decline of *Spartina* in the Chesapeake Bay region. The native marsh grass is being pushed out by *Phragmites*, which was introduced to the United States from somewhere in Eurasia about 200 years ago. Its tolerance to salt water and highly adapted defenses has led it to flourish in the bay.

Hendricks, who is in the final phases of her project, hopes to show that the invasive *Phragmites* marsh grass is producing a chemical that repels local snails—thus preventing them from eating it. Mossop is investigating what may be a second *Phragmites* defense mechanism: another chemical that might prevent snails from using the plant's leaves to “farm” part of their diet—a fungus that would ordinarily weaken the plant.

The students' efforts are among the two dozen or so science research projects conducted each summer by Goucher undergraduates. The college doesn't require science majors to complete a summer research project, but students are encouraged to tackle one, particularly if they're planning to apply to graduate or medical schools. Students who wish to receive honors in their major, however, must conduct at least two semesters of research on independent projects. But earning academic honors isn't a summer science project's only appeal. “It's really nice to be doing science that puts you out in the real world,” Hendricks says.

### Real-World Science, One-On-One Collaboration

For Kicklighter, the summer projects offer an opportunity to oversee her students' research, as well as a chance to enhance her own. The biologist is interested in the strategies that prey species use to keep from being eaten by predators, as well as how organisms integrate multiple defense mechanisms. As a graduate student at Georgia Institute of Technology, she investigated how worms and hare snails use chemical defenses to deter predators.



Assistant Biology Professor Cynthia Kicklighter attempts to fix mesh cages damaged by a storm.



(L to R) Hannah Mossop '09 and Lindsey Hendricks '09 collect snails for research.

A Midwesterner who came to Goucher in 2006, Kicklighter was a relative newcomer to the Chesapeake Bay area when Hendricks asked the professor to supervise her research. They began working together to pinpoint a research subject that involved Hendricks's interest in marine ecology and was integral to the well-being of the region.

"I chose a project looking at salt marsh grasses because I knew some of the research had been done, and I knew it would be easy to find in the Chesapeake Bay," Kicklighter says. "We could look at chemical defenses, and that was in line with my research."

Abundant and vital to the bay's ecosystem, salt marsh grasses, with their tangled foliage and rhizome system, form nurseries for juvenile blue crabs, fish, and other species. The grasses also filter pollutants and sediments from runoff and buffer coastlines from waves during storms.

To lay the groundwork for Hendricks's independent project, Kicklighter modeled proper research techniques and discussed at length the importance of honing and testing well-grounded hypotheses. She then told Hendricks to plunge into previously completed research on salt marsh grasses before formulating her own ideas. "It's a better research experience," Kicklighter says. "[Students] can be more independent and more involved with developing a hypothesis and designing an experiment."

Kicklighter's approach imbued Hendricks with confidence. "It was cool because before I actually started, I had a really good grasp of the context of what I was doing," she says.

Hendricks initially was drawn to the native grass, *Spartina*. Earlier studies had shown that in some locations, *Spartina* used a chemical defense to reduce the amount of plant eaten by snails. But none of the studies had specified which chemical was the deterrent; the challenge of identifying that chemical appealed to Hendricks.

During the spring and summer of 2007, the professor and her student identified sites that were likely habitats for *Spartina* and the snails that consume it. On most days throughout the hot months, they loaded coolers and plastic specimen pouches, rubber boots, sunscreen, maps, bagged lunches, and a hand-held global positioning



The students' efforts are among the two dozen or so science research projects conducted each summer by Goucher undergraduates.



## SUPPORTING the Sciences

**Judy Lewent '70**, a distinguished business executive in the pharmaceutical industry, recently presented Goucher with a gift of \$500,000 that will establish an endowed fund aimed at supporting the summer sciences program.

Beginning next year, the Judy Lewent '70 Fund for Summer Research in the Sciences will provide financial support to the program, which gives Goucher students the opportunity to conduct research in close collaboration with the college's faculty members.

Until she retired in 2007, Lewent directed worldwide financial, corporate development, licensing matters, and strategic planning at Merck, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world. She also was chairman of Merck Capital Ventures and was a member of Merck's executive committee, a senior management group that evaluates and makes strategic decisions for the company.

She also serves on the boards of Motorola, Dell, and Thermo Fisher Scientific; is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; a life member of the MIT Corporation; and a trustee of the Rockefeller Family Trust.

system into Kicklighter's yellow Volkswagen Beetle. Then, to tunes provided by the local alternative rock station, they hit the road in search of *Spartina*.

They had a lot of fun, but the initial results were disappointing. No matter where they went, all they could find was *Spartina*'s invasive competitor, *Phragmites*. Before long, they realized that the local snails' taste for *Spartina* was aiding the invasive species' takeover of the area. Hendricks decided to study the more successful *Phragmites* instead.

"It became clear that [*Spartina*] wasn't as relevant a study organism in the Chesapeake Bay as *Phragmites* was," Hendricks says. "Given that *Phragmites* has essentially replaced *Spartina*, you have to look at *Phragmites* to characterize how it's changing the community structure."

She spent the 2007-08 academic year proving that the snails were being deterred by a chemical—rather than by a structural element of the plant. To do this, she ground up and freeze-dried *Phragmites* leaves and mixed them with a gelatin to make a sort of Jello that is easy for the snails to eat. She then placed the mixture on strips of window screen and served it to the snails, along with identical screens covered in a gelatin made of *Ulva*, a local seaweed they also favor. The snails consistently ignored the *Phragmites* Jello.

This fall Hendricks has moved indoors to the lab, where she is working to isolate the chemical that repelled the snails. The work involves separating the plant's tissue from its chemicals and dividing the chemicals into smaller and smaller groups by feeding them to the snails in her jellied seaweed mixture. If the snails eat the chemical mixture, then it isn't the one for which she's looking. She will continue this process until she finds the specific chemical that is unappetizing to the snails.

When she has narrowed it to one chemical, Hendricks will turn to Assistant Chemistry Professor George Greco for help in identifying it. "It's actually a really great opportunity for me because I learned the



basics of chemical identification in organic chemistry,” Hendricks says. “It gives me a real opportunity to try some of this stuff out.”

### The Challenges and Rewards of Field Work

Mossop, for her part, is investigating another chemical defense mechanism used by the same snails that love to eat the native *Spartina*. In addition to devouring the plant, they use its leaves as sites on which to grow a fungus that they also eat. The snails make tiny scratches on the leaves and then deposit fungus-laden feces into them. The feces acts as a fertilizer for the fungus, which grows until the snails return to eat it. Meanwhile, the growth of the fungus weakens the grass.

But the snails do not grow fungus on the leaves of the invasive *Phragmites*, and Mossop aims to discover why. Her hypothesis is that the invasive plant secretes a chemical that prevents the fungus from growing.

To prove her hypothesis, with Hendricks and Kicklighter’s help, she built galvanized-mesh cages around half-meter-square plots of *Spartina* and *Phragmites* and removed the snails to observe how *Spartina* fared on its own. Mossop placed fungus in tiny scrapes on the leaves of the *Phragmites* to see if the fungus would grow there.

On this particular summer day, the professor and the two student-scientists were checking the results of the experiment, collecting snails and *Phragmites* leaves at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center’s wildlife preserve, which spans about 500 acres along the bay in Grasonville, MD. Both students plan to donate the results of their research to the center, and they also have been contributing articles about their experiments to the center’s newsletter.

They had canoed to a small, grass-covered peninsula, plunged into the water, and mucked their way to the bank in search of the snails that typically are found on the leaves of *Spartina*, which hugs the water’s edge. What they discovered was troubling.

A recent storm had flooded the site, causing some of the cages to fall over and allowing snails to creep into others. As their boots sank so far into the mud that water spilled into them, the three women surveyed the damage. High winds had toppled a few cages, and Kicklighter struggled to resurrect them, using a canoe paddle as a hammer to beat a wooden marker back into the ground.

Mossop took the setback philosophically. “Sometimes it doesn’t work out the first time, and you have to go back and alter the procedure. I see it as a challenge,” she says. “It’s not like you just get a set of instructions, and you follow it through and it’s done. You have to figure out new ways to do things.”

“The Chesapeake Bay has many environmental problems, and people are really needed to look into the issues and do research and learn more about it.”

Mossop was able to salvage a few *Phragmites* leaves with very little fungus growing on them; nonetheless, because of the storm damage and some other problems in preparing the samples, she will probably have to repeat the experiment later. Still, she thinks the endeavor has been worth her effort.

“The Chesapeake Bay has many environmental problems, and people are really needed to look into the issues and do research and learn more about it,” Mossop says. “I would love to be a part of helping the bay’s ecosystems to come back from all of these problems.”

### More Work to Be Done

Both Hendricks and Mossop plan to finish their projects before graduating in May.

Although *Spartina* is not officially considered threatened or endangered in the United States, its presence has been steadily decreasing in the Chesapeake Bay region. Environmental restoration organizations have focused their efforts on replanting *Spartina* in areas in which it has disappeared. While it is unclear what the impact will be if *Spartina* disappears, *Phragmites* is known to dry out marsh habitats because its extensive rhizome (underground stem) system collects sediments, eventually forming land.

More research needs to be done on this issue, Kicklighter says, but one study has shown that the types of insects found in marsh areas dominated by *Spartina* are different from those found in areas dominated by *Phragmites*. If the abundance and variety of insects found in the marshes surrounding the Chesapeake Bay changes, so also may the kinds of fish or birds—and so on throughout the food chain. §



Here's a look at some of the other scientific projects conducted by Goucher students last summer:

## Joint Effort

Biology majors **Elizabeth Knight '09** and **Rebecca Siegel '09** teamed up with **Professor Janet Shambaugh** to investigate how the gene CtBP-2 expresses itself in the development of joint tissue in mice.

The two seniors worked with embryonic mice that had the CtBP-2 gene genetically altered to show a blue color wherever it is expressed. The hope is to "gain an understanding of joint development and how all the different players interact in the process that leads to a joint," Siegel explains. "After this process is understood, there is a possibility that it can aid in the understanding and development of cures for different diseases that involve joints."

## Hot stuff

In theoretical physics it's often impractical to test hypotheses through physical experimentation, so mathematical models are indispensable for physicists like **Professor Sasha Dukan**. She and **Russell Flaum '09** spent the summer writing complex computer programs designed to explain microscopic behavior of high-temperature superconductors.

Calling superconductors the "technology of the future," Dukan says that their use could save energy and lower our bills.

## Cool Stuff

**Professor Marin Pichler** and students **Daniel Barker '08** and **Michael Garman '11** stayed busy in the atomic physics laboratory, using lasers to cool and trap atoms to study how they are structured as well as how they interact with one another and form ultra-cold molecules.

They also built much of the electronic equipment now being used in the laboratory, such as laser systems, laser drivers, and circuits. The educational goal, Pichler explains, is for the students to gain a full understanding of how each instrument works and to hone their "analytic, trouble-shooting, and experimental skills."

## Star Search

**Sean Lonsdale '10** and **Adrien Thormann '10** worked with **Professor Ben Sugerman** to perform "stellar paleontology" using supernovae—powerful explosions that occur when stars die—to explore how the stars lived before their explosions. Using two-dimensional Hubble Space Telescope images of "light echoes," they built three-dimensional images of the material around the supernovae. In January, the team will present its findings at the 213th meeting of the American Astronomical Society, to be held in Long Beach, CA.

Likely  
Major?

Society's Most  
Pressing Concerns

Proudest  
Moments and  
Achievements

Most Important  
Items from Home

Hobbies

Hometown

# INCOMING

Why  
Goucher?

## Introducing the Class of 2012

EVERY FALL they arrive, in all sizes and shapes, from an assortment of backgrounds and communities, and carrying unique memories and beliefs.

Each is armed with fresh ideas and perspectives. WHO ARE THEY?

They are the members of Goucher's first-year class. Here, we'd like to present SNAPSHOTS of a few of the members of the Class of 2012:

photography by ● Morris Johnson '11

# Omari Jeremiah

**Home:** Bronx, NY

**Why I chose Goucher:** I liked the creative writing program and the fact that Goucher is a small school.

**Likely major:** English and sociology. I don't think I'll pick one or the other.

**Hobbies:** Writing. Sports of any kind—football, kick-boxing, grappling, and boxing.

**Proudest moment/achievement:** I've written a series of books called *Paperboy*. There are six in the series; four are out. They're about a boy who became a superhero in school and uses paper to save the world. They're aimed at inspiring middle-school kids to write. Last summer, I started my own publishing house.

**Society's most pressing concern:** The way corporations fundamentally are run so that people are valued less than the products they produce.

**Most important item brought from home:** My laptop.



# Rafael Nasser

**Home:** São Paulo, Brazil

**Why I chose Goucher:** My uncle studied here. I came here on a couple of visits, and I loved the teachers and the really big, green campus. It is the perfect school for me.

**Likely major:** Business. I'm taking a management course, and so far, so good.

**Hobbies:** Playing on the tennis team. I've played backgammon for seven years and have won some tournaments. I like poker and have played in some tournaments.

**Proudest moment/achievement:** My happiest moment was getting into Goucher. My mother called me when I was showing my cousins how to bake cookies, and I was so happy I couldn't bake anymore.

**Society's most pressing concern:** The stock market.

**Most important items brought from home:** My tennis rackets and my culture.



## — Joelle Hughley —

**Home:** Detroit, MI

**Why I came to Goucher:** My mom read about it in *Colleges That Change Lives* [by Loren Pope], so I checked it out and came to visit and chose it.

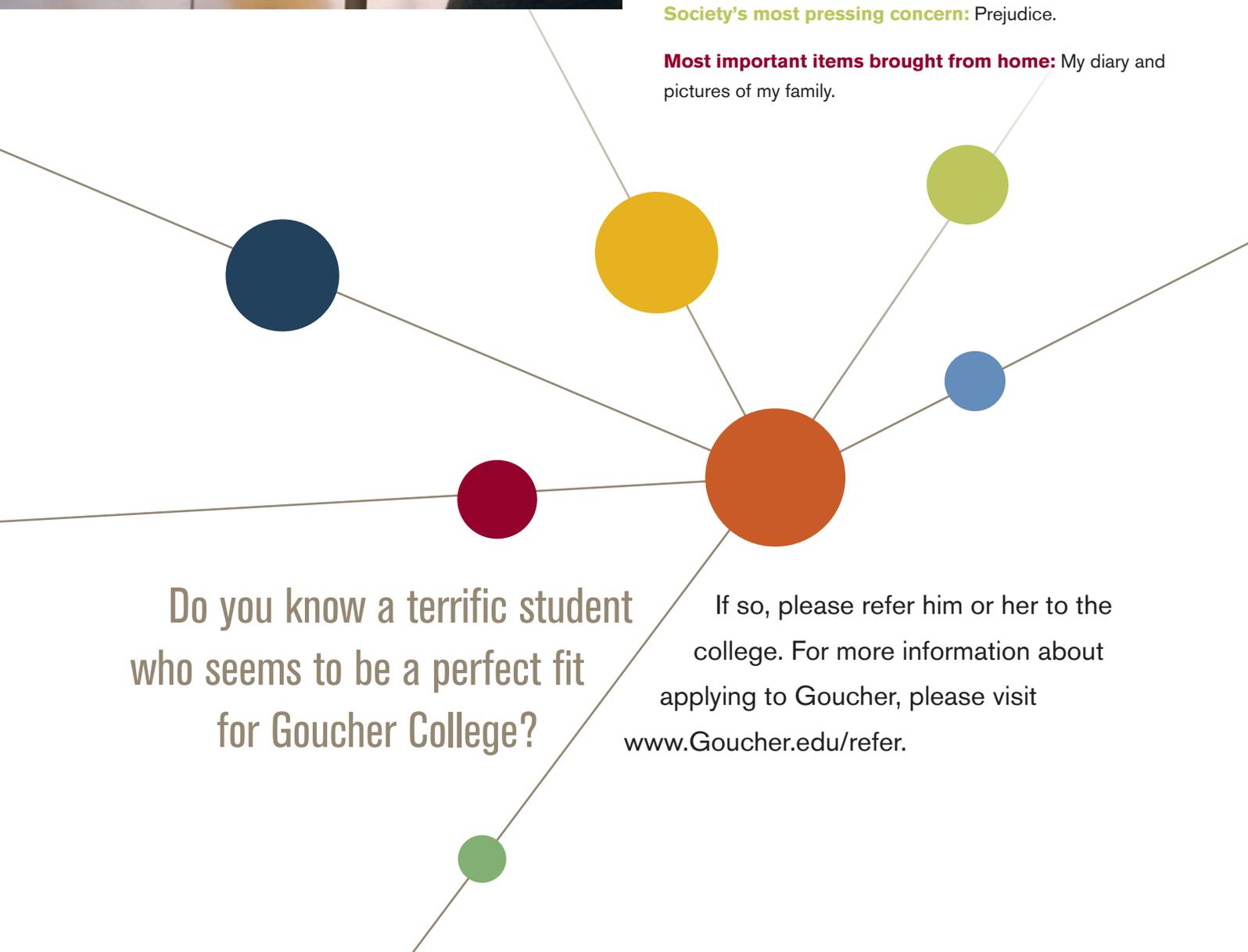
**Likely major:** Probably dance and business.

**Hobbies:** Reading and singing. I used to be in the choir. I spent some time last summer working at the butterfly garden at the Detroit Zoo.

**Proudest moment/greatest achievement:** My proudest moment was being in the *Nutcracker* in the third grade. I was a mouse and a page.

**Society's most pressing concern:** Prejudice.

**Most important items brought from home:** My diary and pictures of my family.



Do you know a terrific student  
who seems to be a perfect fit  
for Goucher College?

If so, please refer him or her to the  
college. For more information about  
applying to Goucher, please visit  
[www.Goucher.edu/refer](http://www.Goucher.edu/refer).

# Rachel Zalles



**Home:** Right outside San Francisco, CA

**Why I came to Goucher:** I was looking for a small college, and this one had good dance and good political science departments.

**Likely major:** Political science, at least I am thinking about it.

**Hobbies:** I love Broadway theater and singing. It drives my roommates crazy. I also worked a little last summer for the Obama campaign.

**Proudest moment/greatest achievement:** I ran my high school's first film festival at the de Young Museum in San Francisco.

**Society's most pressing concern:** We really need to focus on the environment. We need to conserve.

**Most important item brought from home:** My locket. My parents gave it to me for my graduation, and it really means a lot to me.



# Andrew Rainey



**Home:** Nashville, TN

**Why I came to Goucher:** I read about it in *Colleges That Change Lives*.

**Likely major:** Something in humanities. It's hard to say.

**Hobbies:** Playing and listening to music. I play jazz guitar and tablas [drums]. I enjoy the theoretical part of Western music as much as listening to it. It is kind of like problem-solving.

**Proudest moment/greatest achievement:** I suppose I'm proud of the self-motivated things I've gotten involved with: volunteer programs and the like (hiking, camping, road trips, etc.) that weren't required for anything. It's nice to know that I'm doing something completely based on my own will, regardless of what it is.

**Society's most pressing concern:** How people communicate. We do a pretty bad job of it.

**Most important item brought from home:** Actually, the last couple of years I've been trying not to get attached to stuff.



## Stephanie Fernald

**Home:** Marietta, GA

**Why I came to Goucher:** Originally I looked at the dance program, and once on campus, I got a fantastic feeling. I don't know what I want to do yet, but it felt like the kind of place where I could find out.

**Likely major:** Communications. I just really like interacting with people. I am also taking dance classes; I don't know if I'll minor in dance.

**Hobbies:** Dance and painting. And I was in the peer leadership program in high school. I hope to pursue something like it here.

**Proudest moment/greatest achievement:** As a junior I had a serious bump in my personal life, and it rocked my world. It was a tough climb in my junior year rebuilding my academics, and I was able to do it and graduate with all my friends and my twin brother.

**Society's most pressing concern:** How the United States re-establishes its role as a global power and how it chooses to shape its changing identity.

**Most important item brought from home:** I'm a very visual person, and I take magazine images and compile them on my wall like an installation, and I am making one here.

— statistics provided by the Office of Admissions

## Class of 2012 by the Numbers

Size of applicant pool: 4,072 (a record number)

Size of first-year class: 360

Number who applied as early-action candidates: 144

Number of states represented: 34

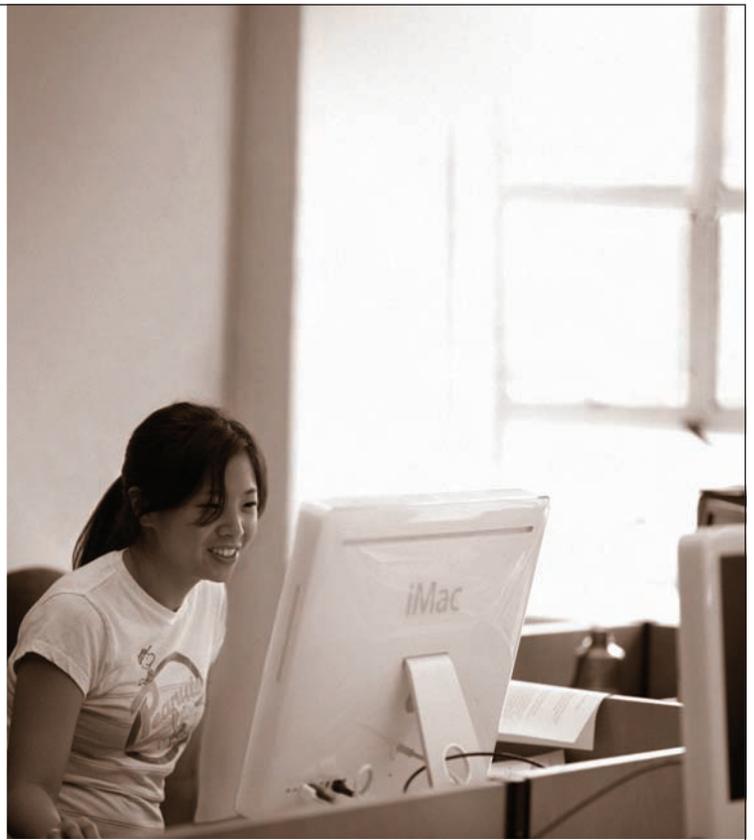
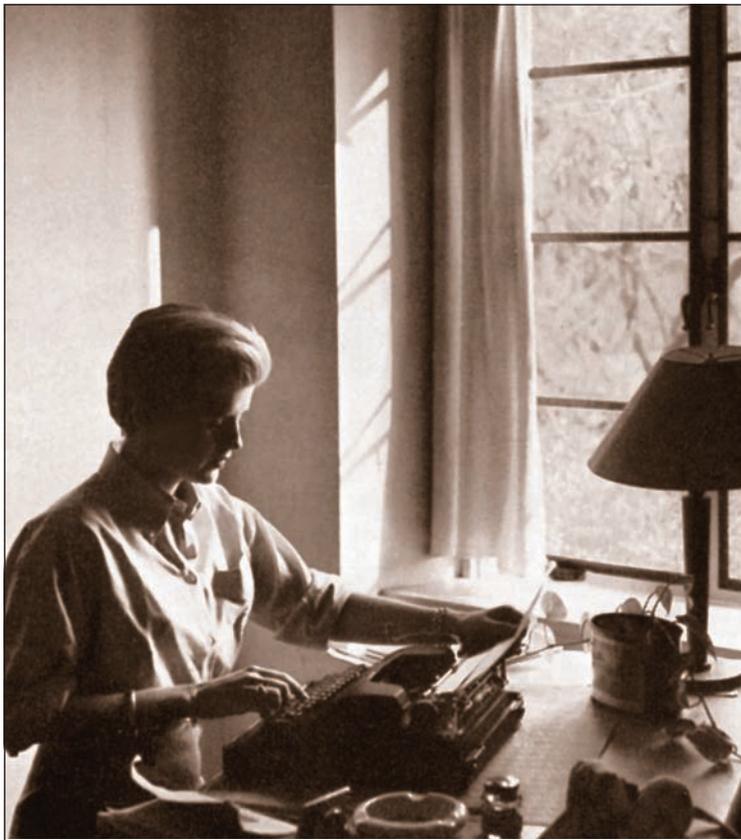
Number of countries represented: 8

Percent of class involved in community service in high school: 72

Percent involved in fine and performing arts: 68

Percent involved in athletics: 49

Percent receiving financial aid from Goucher: 67



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# A Law that No Longer Commands Respect

by Sanford J. Ungar

Last summer, after a good deal of reflection and rumination, I signed a statement circulating among college and university presidents around the country. Named the Amethyst Initiative, and drafted by John McCardell, the highly regarded former president of Middlebury College, it took the simple position that the 21-year-old drinking age, in effect nationally since 1984, is not working and that it is time for a national dialogue on the issue. I was one of about 100 leaders in higher education who initially put their names to the document; at least 30 more have joined us since, and three have been intimidated into taking their names off.

The Amethyst Initiative (the word “amethyst” is derived from the Greek for “not intoxicated”) reflects a straightforward truth: that very few young people in America today obey the law and abstain from drinking alcohol until their 21st birthday. On the contrary, many, if not most, drink during high school—beginning at, say, age 15 or 16—and there is growing evidence that the onset of drinking has now actually moved down into the middle school years. This not only does potential physical and emotional harm to the young drinkers, but also undermines democratic ideals. What phenomenon is more likely to encourage cynicism than to pass laws that are not, and cannot reasonably be, enforced?

It did not have to be college presidents who called attention to this dramatic issue. The task could just as easily have fallen to military officers, high school principals and coaches, police officers, or a multitude of public- and private-sector employers and managers.

Retired Lt. Gen. Joe Ballard, the former head of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a new member of the Goucher Board of Trustees, for example, notes that underage drinking is rampant among young recruits in the armed forces. “We ask them to kill, if necessary, to defend their country, but are we really going to say they can’t drink a beer? That’s ridiculous,” says Ballard, whose experience includes Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

But it was college presidents who spoke out this time, because of a number of issues that are painfully obvious to us:

- Drinking has steadily become a more severe problem on college campuses, in part because students overestimate our

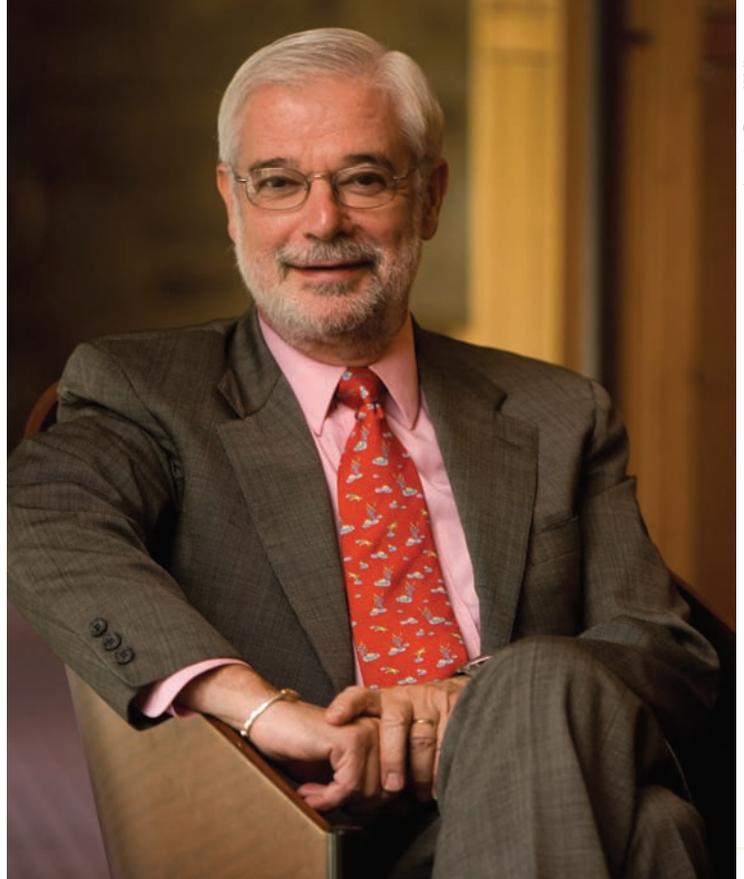


photo by Bruce Weller

ability to enforce the law restricting alcohol use to those over 21. The furtiveness and urgency with which they drink, often at the start of an evening and in order to avoid detection, have exposed them to greater risk than ever. Many go off-campus to drink, putting themselves in real danger.

- An unrealistic and unenforceable drinking age has led to a whole range of other illegal activity, including the entrepreneurial fake-ID business that has sprung up on almost every campus.
- The “scientific research” on the issue is all over the lot. Some studies show a reduction in highway fatalities after 1984, but others indicate just the opposite in recent years.
- The change in 1984 was not preceded by thoughtful conversation, but was the result of legislative blackmail. A congressional appropriations bill passed at the time required a 10-percent cut in federal highway funds to any state that did not comply immediately.

The reaction to the Amethyst Initiative has been profoundly disappointing for anyone who believes it should still be possible to have rational discourse in the United States around public issues of importance. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)—an organization that, begun in a spirit of profound grief, has turned into a powerful lobby—responded by launching a torrent of identical e-mail messages attacking the signers. At last count, I had received about 700 of them. No dialogue accomplished there.

MADD and others, including a few newspaper editorial

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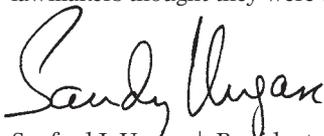
pages, criticized us for advocating a blanket return to the 18-year-old drinking age. We had, of course, done nothing of the kind. As I have said on C-SPAN and in other interviews, I believe that a far more subtle conversation and consideration of options is required; I have no preconceived notion of what the result should be.

“Just enforce the law,” say some critics. Would that it were so simple. Even a tripling or quadrupling of our campus Public Safety staff could not force an end to certain habits and abuses that students bring with them to college. (It is useful to remember that it proved impossible for federal officials to suppress the consumption of alcohol by American adults during this country’s 13-year experiment with Prohibition.)

I do have a few ideas about how we might, over the long term, make a dent in the horrific epidemic of teenage drinking in the United States. With proper and realistic leadership at the national level, for example, we could stop glorifying alcohol consumption in the public mind—in comedy routines, cartoons, music videos, television shows, and other persistent expressions of popular culture. We could also try to enlist parents not only to discourage their underage children from drinking to excess, but also to help introduce them, at an appropriate time and at home, to the responsible and moderate practice of social drinking—rather than treating alcohol as the forbidden fruit.

I suffer from no unrealistic sentimentality about practices in other countries, where there is plenty of binge-drinking and resultant public-nuisance behavior, but I do know that many of them have much stricter drunk-driving laws than ours. Has anyone besides me noticed the frequency with which American public officials—the same people who seek to regulate others’ behavior—are arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol? Perhaps that would change if the first offense resulted in a mandatory one-year suspension of a driver’s license; the second, in a five-year suspension; and the third, in a permanent loss of the right to drive a motor vehicle.

If the safety of students—and all people under 21—is truly our most urgent concern, then we will have to take an honest and straightforward look at a law that no longer commands respect. We will have to deal with the real world, rather than the one that lawmakers thought they were creating in 1984.

  
Sanford J. Ungar | President

For more information about the Amethyst Initiative, please visit [www.amethystinitiative.org/statement/](http://www.amethystinitiative.org/statement/)



photo by Bruce Weller





## Coming in the next issue

A conversation with Laura Burns, photographer and assistant professor in the Art Department

### A PEEK INSIDE



#### ■ Introducing the Class of 2012

Snapshots of a few of Goucher's first-year students



#### ■ Politics: Not As Usual

Election year brings politicians and pundits to campus.



#### ■ Graduate Commencement

A keynote speech by Deborah Marrow, director of the Getty Foundation



#### ■ Jumping Right In

When there's need, Lindsay Johnson '05 has never been one to hang back.

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