

SUMMER 2007

Goucher
Quarterly

AAGC's
leading MAN



18 lucky '07: Goucher's 116th Commencement

This year, the umbrellas blocked the sun for a change.

24 high on their horses

The equestrian program's recent ride to national prominence builds on a rich history.

30 leading man

A conversation with Robert Lee Bull Jr. '93, history-making president of the Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College



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

photo by Jim Burger

on the front cover

AAGC President Robert Lee Bull Jr. '93
(See p. 30.)
photo by Bruce Weller

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as of September 2006

total students: 1,451 undergraduates,

861 graduate students

undergraduate faculty: 141 FTE

alumnae & alumni: 18,868



photo courtesy of Ginny Carruthers

Ginny Kirby-Smith Carruthers '60, Ph.D.

An avid horsewoman who rode with the legendary Miss von B. as a student, Ginny Kirby-Smith Carruthers writes about Goucher's highly successful equestrian program in "High on Their Horses" (p. 24). After graduating from the college with a major in history, Carruthers earned a master's degree and a doctorate in English from Duke University. The Tennessee native returned to Goucher in 1973 to teach and live in Probst House with her family. She recently completed her 30th year at the University of Baltimore, where she is an associate professor and directed the master's program in publications design and the undergraduate English program. Although her quarter horse, Casey, was recently retired after nearly nine years in Goucher's riding program, Carruthers can still be found at the college's stables on a regular basis.



photo courtesy of Auni Husted

Auni Husted '10

Seattle native Auni Husted serves as features editor of the *Quindecim* student newspaper, a role that indulges her interest in Goucher folklore and history. While researching "More Than They Expected" (p. 4), she interviewed two alumnae who participated in a student-led intergenerational theatre workshop. An anticipated anthropology/sociology major, Husted is involved in numerous campus-based groups, including Suicide Awareness & Prevention, CAUSE, Orientation Committee, and Student Ambassadors. She spent the summer in Boston, as an AmeriCorps intern at the Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation. Husted will fully embrace the college's study-abroad requirement implemented with her class by studying social policy in South Africa in January 2008 and cultural studies in Copenhagen during her junior year.

contributors



photo by Ann Kolakowski

Michelle Ruddle '04

This issue marks the final appearance of Michelle Ruddle as assistant editor. After serving as editorial assistant during her senior year, Ruddle returned to Goucher in 2006 as assistant director of alumnae/i communications and programs. Among her *Quarterly*-related duties, she regularly contributed alumnae/i profiles and GopheReport articles. "It's a challenge to tell someone's life story in 500 words or less," says the Baltimore resident, "but the conversations I've had have been enlightening and fascinating." A self-confessed pop-culture junkie and rabid fan of *The Simpsons*, Ruddle left Goucher in June to work as a copywriter for Patuxent Publishing.

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



photo by Bruce Weller

on the *Road*

In mid-July, following the lead of most Americans, a group of Alumnae/i House staff hit the road. Executive Director of Alumnae/i Affairs **Margaret-Ann Radford-Wedemeyer**, Director of Reunions and Special Events **Cori Rich Tyner '82**, Assistant Director of the Annual Fund **Amy Levak**, and I headed not for the beach or a mountain resort but to four top liberal arts colleges—Colgate, Hamilton, Vassar, and Williams. On each campus, our counterparts generously shared their time and best practices. On each campus, we heard the same message: No matter what form your program ultimately takes, alumni affairs is all about making connections.

Without a doubt, developing relationships with Goucher alumnae, alumni, students, parents, faculty, and other staff has been one of the most enjoyable aspects of my job as *Goucher Quarterly* editor for the past three-and-a-half years. It's been hard for me to imagine doing anything else here at the college.

Until, that is, a new position in my office was created, for a director of regional programs and young alumnae/i outreach. The focus of this role will be to develop an effective regional infrastructure to connect alumnae/i to one another, current students, faculty, and a vibrant campus life—with a special focus on alums five to 15 years out of college. It is, in essence, a job all about connections.

After three days of intensive interviewing, I was offered—and have accepted—the position. Now, here's the good news for you, dear reader: There will be no loss of continuity in publication, because I will not shift into that new position until my replacement is hired.

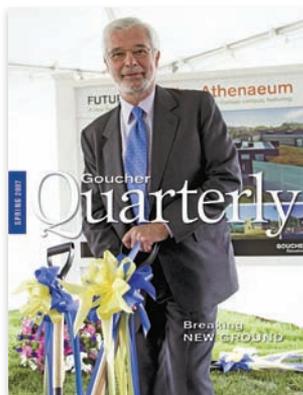
Until that time, I look forward to serving you in this role.

Ann E. Kolakowski | *Editor*

akolakow@goucher.edu



P.S. Speaking of best practices, I'm pleased to report that the “greening” of the campus now extends to the *Quarterly* as well. Beginning with this issue, the magazine is printed on Chorus Art Silk, an environmentally friendly paper stock. Made from 50-percent recycled content (including 25-percent post-consumer waste), the paper is acid- and elemental-chlorine free. In addition, the stock is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, meaning that it was produced in a way that promotes environmentally and socially responsible management of the world's forests. Best of all, doing the right thing ecologically speaking doesn't cost more.



feedback

Speaking Out

Readers share their experiences as activists at Goucher—and beyond.

I was fortunate enough to be one of the first students to take part in the peace studies program, which I believe brought me to the work I do today. One of my classes was taught by the Berrigans (iconic anti-war protestors of the Vietnam era). For our final project, our class of about 15 students chose to support the Apache Nation in southern Arizona against the Vatican, University of Arizona, and NASA—which were trying to build telescopes on a mountain sacred to the Apache people. We, as a class, felt that we could make a difference. Organizing with other local activists, we held a peaceful protest outside the Vatican Embassy in Washington, DC. We spent hours on the sidewalk with our homemade signs, posters, banners, and a native drummer. This act was one of many I participated in while attending Goucher.

My time at Goucher made me want to do more with my life. I gave up the comforts I was afforded and relocated to northern New Mexico. I have worked on the Navajo Nation for 11 years.

 *Tiffany Brody Blackbull '93, Crownpoint, NM*

The Class of 1969 was very active. We were Goucher students when Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy were killed. We campaigned for various candidates, including Republican Spiro T. Agnew, who—long before he disgraced himself in public life and left the vice presidency—was the “liberal” choice for governor. And we worked to change things at Goucher, so that we no longer had such rigid curfew rules or dress codes for meals. Most of the class walked out of the Honors Convocation in May 1969 and held our own ceremony in the chapel instead as a protest about the comprehensive exams.

I have been very active in politics and “just causes,” such as health care for all and reproductive rights. In April 2004, my husband and I went to Washington, DC, with Margery Leveen Sher '69 to be part of the historic pro-choice March for Women's Lives.

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

Now it is Iraq instead of Vietnam. The rights we gained for women have been partially eroded as abortion, emergency contraception, and even basic contraception have become increasingly less available. The now very conservative Supreme Court is already turning back the clock on many of the rights gained for women and minorities. Many of those in my generation fear that the battles we fought for ourselves and our children must now be fought all over again.

 *Lea Silverman Jaffee '69, Bloomington, IN*

When Vietnam arrived, I was against the sending of 25 advisers, much less going to war. But I had young children and a military husband, so my activism was at home—but daily! The children set the oven clock to five minutes each evening for heated debate with my husband.

Seven years ago, I marched for campaign finance reform with “Granny D,” during her cross-country walk. I spent three months with her, covering several states and lots of miles. It was an incredible experience.

I marched twice against the current war in Iraq—once in Washington, DC, before the war (big crowds) and once in my hometown (its sole march).

At the age of 77, I can say it's never too late to be, or become, an activist.

 *Jean (Archi) Bartsch Higgs '51, Haddonfield, NJ*

Editor's Note: Several readers questioned the lack of dates in the article about the Inaugural Jewell Robinson Dinner, which appeared in the Spring 2007 issue. The omission was indeed intentional. Wishing to avoid the age discrimination that often limits theatrical roles for women, Ms. Robinson, who works as a professional actor in addition to serving as public program director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery, has asked that Goucher not reference her years of attendance at the college.

Going Greener

In early July, President **Sandy Ungar** signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, joining the leaders of about 300 colleges nationwide that have pledged to sharply reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

Participating institutions must complete an inventory of all their greenhouse gas emissions within a year of signing the commitment. Within two years, the colleges must develop comprehensive institutional plans, interim goals, deadlines, and tracking systems for achieving "climate neutrality"—reducing or offsetting all greenhouse gas production sufficiently to create a neutral effect on global warming. The Presidents' Climate Commitment is the first effort by any major sector of society to set climate neutrality—not just a reduction in emissions—as its target.

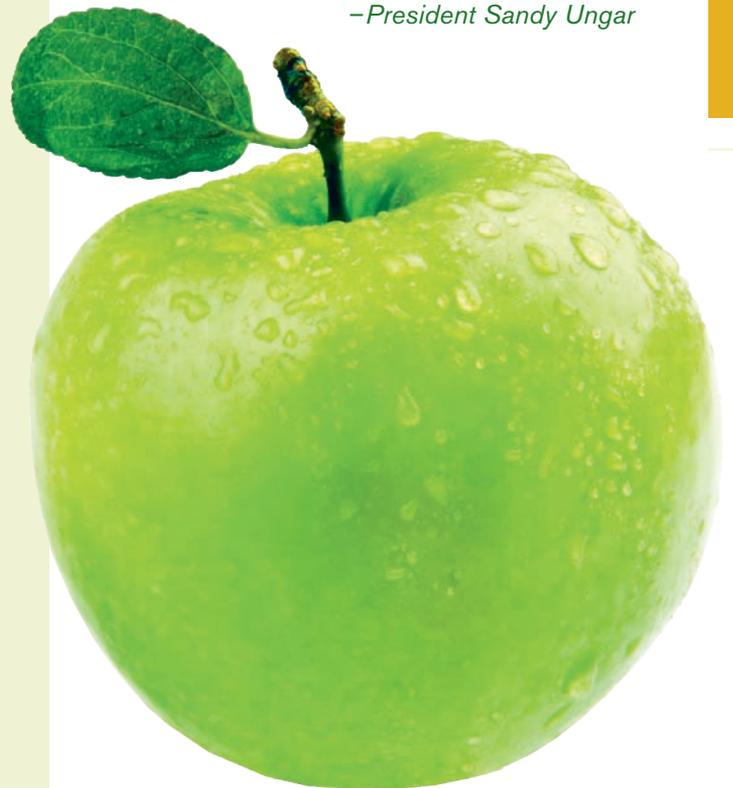
"Signing this commitment is a natural step for Goucher," said Ungar. "An important goal of Goucher's Strategic Plan is to promote environmental sustainability through our academic and co-curricular programs. It is imperative that we do our part to help slow the pace of global warming."

The college's curriculum requires each student to explore the ecological or policy dimensions of environmental sustainability, starting with the class entering this fall. Additionally, the Athenaeum will be certified according to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green-Building Rating System, the nationally accepted benchmark for environmentally sustainable architecture.

"I have to credit our extraordinary students with being the real leaders in making our campus environmentally aware and proactive," said Ungar. "They have helped the college embrace environmental responsibility by developing programs on alternative energy sources and energy conservation, redesigning the college's recycling program, creating an agricultural co-op, and encouraging 'green living' among our student body." §

"An important goal of Goucher's Strategic Plan is to promote environmental sustainability through our academic and co-curricular programs. It is imperative that we do our part to help slow the pace of global warming."

—President Sandy Ungar



The *Quarterly* has made the move to recycled paper stock! Read more on p. 1.

more than they expected

students and alumnae discover common ground through theatre workshop

By Auni Husted '10



L to R: Alexandra Ahlfield '09, Michael Guttsell '10, Sara Simpkins '09, Eryn London '08

“Walking back to campus each week, we’d talk about what had happened. People would always bring up how similar life is and how, in 60 years, we are going to end up at Edenwald. A group of Goucher kids are going to come over and we’ll tell them, ‘We’re the ones who started this.’” —Eryn London '08

Last spring, while most of their classmates were relaxing from their studies, 13 Goucher students devoted an hour and a half each Friday afternoon to compare and celebrate life experiences with a handful of senior citizens (including two Goucher alumnae) living in the nearby Edenwald retirement community. As participants in an intergenerational theatre workshop, the students and seniors discovered that although decades may separate them, their lives share a lot of similarities.

On May 6, they shared their observations with a capacity crowd in Edenwald’s auditorium when they presented “What did you expect? A performance for both young and old, presented by both young and old.”

The workshop took root nearly a year ago, when **Eryn London '08**, a theatre major and a psychology minor, enrolled in an independent study in intergenerational theatre that led her to Edenwald. Conveniently enough, her Qualitative Research class required an off-campus learning element, and London found willing subjects for her interviews at Edenwald as well. Spring semester offered her another independent study, this time in drama therapy, and a chance for service learning through her Relational Psychology class. Although she was able to earn a few credits toward her major by creating the workshop, London—who plans to pursue a graduate degree in creative arts therapy in preparation for a career in drama therapy—says her primary motivation was her interest in the subject matter.

She recruited students from a

variety of academic areas—sociology, English, history, education, psychology, and theatre, among them—to spend time each Friday afternoon with Edenwald residents, playing theatre and improvisation games and sharing stories. After Goucher’s spring break in March, each member of the workshop wrote monologues or scenes on the issues they had discussed.

Both the students and the Edenwald residents came up with such requisite topics as independence and moving, but a few additions surprised the students. “Drinking—oh my gosh! We didn’t expect that,” London recalls with a laugh. “Someone brought up drinking and parties, then one of the women mentioned happy hour—and also how they hold drinking parties in each other’s rooms.” Besides clandestine alcohol consumption, Goucher and Edenwald share a few other social patterns. “The dating scene is very similar,” London says, noting that the gender ratio at both institutions is dominated by females. “A good catch is sometimes difficult to find.”

The unexpected similarities caught the students off guard, but intrigued them as well. “Walking back to campus each week, we’d talk about what had happened,” London says. “People would always bring up how similar life is and how, in 60 years, we are going to end up at Edenwald. A group of Goucher kids will come over and we’ll tell them, ‘We’re the ones who started this.’ The most important thing I learned was how similar our lives really are, and that makes connecting just that much easier.”



John Goucher Bernet '08 and Helen Briner Engel '51

“It was fun taking part in this, making fun of ourselves,” says Edenwald resident **Ellie Megraw '45**, whose poem opened the show. A commuter during her Goucher days, Megraw found it slightly difficult to compare her Goucher experience with that of the students, but did make note of the shift toward less formality.

Helen Briner Engel '51 attributes the success of the workshop and performance to the participants' dedication. “We were there every

Friday afternoon from February on, which was very time-consuming for the students as well as us,” she says. “It’s supposed to be a retirement home, but I’ll tell you, you can keep busy from dawn until dusk without any problem at all!”

For Engel, the best part of the workshop lay in the behind-the-scenes interactions with the students. “It brought me back to my days at Goucher. It made me feel young again, and I got such pleasure out of working with young people.”

John Goucher Bernet '08, the great-great-grandson of the college’s founders, decided to participate to fulfill a service-learning component for a psychology class. Initially a reluctant performer, Bernet discovered that “it is a lot more fun to just have fun with it. I became more comfortable getting to know and understand older people.”

Bernet believes that the connection with alumnae, although not London’s original intention, was one of the strongest features of

the workshop. “I think it has the added benefit of making students now more aware of the history of the school and of making alumni more aware of and in contact with the current status of their alma mater,” he says. “That’s really valuable.”

Alexandra Ahlfield '09 was drawn to the program for many reasons. “Last year, my grandmother died, and it was hard for me. I wanted to build that type of connection again,” she says. Like London, she was surprised with the topics of discussion. “One of the misconceptions is that you need to censor yourself around older people. You don’t want to say certain things or talk about sex around them. But they made jokes about it!”

The experience led to new perspectives on aging. “You really are the same person your whole life,” says Ahlfield. “It’s a growing experience to be able to connect with an entirely different generation.” §

“You really are the same person your whole life. It’s a growing experience to be able to connect with an entirely different generation.” – Alexandra Ahlfield '09



Left: Eryn London '08 and Ellie Megraw '45; middle: Cory Luquet '09, Isobel Kaufman, Ashli Garbett '07; right: Elsie Tyrala, Jay Gilman '09

second Kente ceremony weaves meaningful tradition

On May 24, an emotion-filled ceremony marked the unique heritages, experiences, and achievements of graduating seniors of African descent when Goucher held its second Donning of the Kente Cloth. Each student—often through smiles and tears—publicly acknowledged the family members, friends, or mentors who played a special role in his or her Goucher education. In turn, counterparts donned each graduate with a special stole of Kente cloth, the brightly patterned cloth woven by the Ashanti people of Ghana. The event mirrored similar

ceremonies on college campuses throughout the U.S.

Keynote speaker **Maxine Bigby Cunningham '70** presented her remarks in the tradition of a griot, a West African storyteller who perpetuates the oral tradition and history of a village or family. During one vignette, she described how the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. served as the catalyst for the founding of the Black Students Association, Goucher's first organization for students of color. "There were only eight black students on campus at that time," she recalled. "Set apart by color, we instantly had connectedness.

"Connectedness," she reminded the graduates, "is a part of who we are and what we become." §



Keynote speaker Maxine Bigby Cunningham '70 urged the graduates, "Hold onto your roots as you spread your wings."



Fredrica Newman-Blount with Kimberley Gordy '06, who helped organize the first ceremony



Proving that persistence indeed pays off, Nadeen Fallin (right), a Goucher II student, graduated 34 years after taking her first class at the college.



Omar DuPree with his mother



Dallea Caldwell and her mother, Charisse Caldwell



Randi Inniss with her mother, Augusta Inniss



Erica Green flanked by her parents, Nicholas and Roberta Girardi



Pierre Jones with his grandmother, Carrie Alston

Goucher's Kente stole features three symbols:



the key, for success



the Ashanti stool, for royalty



the diamond, for wealth and riches



Anita Wheeler with her mother, Tina Wheeler, and her grandmother, Joyce Wheeler



Brittney Williams with Frontiers Lecturer Candace Parker

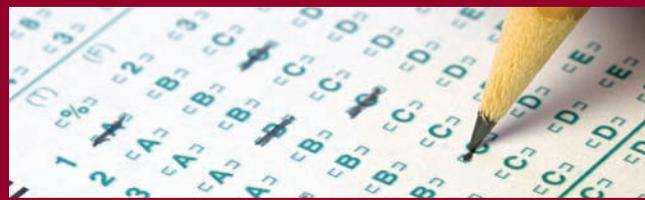
campus kudos

The close-knit feel, quiet setting, and family-friendliness helped **Goucher College** earn a place on *Baltimore* magazine's list of the area's best places to work. The cover story of the magazine's July issue featured 26 top-notch workplaces in Greater Baltimore that were chosen through an exhaustive survey of employers from all over the region. Goucher was cited for the tuition benefits that are made available to employees, their spouses, and dependent children. Also lauded were the college's pastoral, yet convenient location; its supportive, family-like feel; and its retirement benefits.

Wil Haygood, visiting faculty member in Goucher's M.F.A. in creative nonfiction program, won a first-place award in the 2007 feature competition held by the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors. Haygood was recognized for an article he wrote about Frank Sinatra's son that appeared in *The Washington Post*.

Lindsey Hendricks '08 was named one of 317 recipients of a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship in May. The undergraduate award is given to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. The scholarship will help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board, up to \$7,500 per year. Hendricks, a biology major and International Scholars Program participant, is researching predator-prey interactions in Chesapeake Bay organisms under the guidance of **Cynthia Kicklighter**, assistant professor of biology.

Bill Leimbach has been appointed vice president for technology and planning for Goucher College. The new title formalizes his role not only in the management of information technology, but also in efforts to plan more extensively for the college's future. Leimbach, chief technology officer at Goucher since April 2004, already serves as co-chair of the college's Middle States reaccreditation effort and led the selection and recent implementation of a new campus-wide computing system. He also has worked closely with President **Sandy Ungar** and Vice President for Administration and Finance **Tom Phizacklea** on the development of the five-year financial plan. Leimbach will coordinate preparations for the move into the Athenaeum upon its planned completion in the summer of 2009.



pop quiz

Effective with admission for Fall 2008, SAT/ACT scores are:

- A. Required for all applicants to Goucher College
- B. Not considered during evaluation of an applicant
- C. Optional

Answer:

C. Goucher no longer requires prospective students to submit SAT/ACT scores during the application process. Scores will continue to be required for students seeking merit scholarships, and for all admitted students prior to enrollment (for research purposes). According to FairTest: The National Center for Fair & Open Testing, Goucher's decision brings to 30 the number of highly ranked liberal arts colleges that have become a test-optional institution.



hard-hat zone

Athenaeum construction update

Construction for the Athenaeum began in earnest in early June. Here's where things stood (or didn't) by early September:

- Site utility work complete
- Bulk excavation well underway; dirt used to expand practice field
- Concrete foundation work started
- Campus walkways complete
- New Alumnae/i House parking lot and walkways created

Get a glimpse of the latest progress in real time! Check out the Athenaeum construction webcam: webcam.goucher.edu



photo by Bob McPeak

Judy Twigg Reinhardt:

like mother, like daughter

At some point in their lives, many women catch themselves “turning into” their mothers—which they don’t necessarily consider to be a good thing. Judy Twigg Reinhardt, however, has a reason to feel otherwise. When she established the **Sarah Lark Twigg ’30** Endowed Scholarship Fund earlier this year with an outright gift of stock, she was pleased to be following in her mother’s philanthropic footsteps.

To celebrate her 50th college reunion nearly 30 years ago, Twigg established the Lark Memorial Scholarship at Goucher in honor of her parents. Although the Larks did not attend college, they so highly prized education they made sure that Sarah and all five of her siblings (including **Emeline Lark Troutman ’28**) did so.

“When my dad died in 1989, my mother, my sister, and I established a scholarship in his name at Lehigh, his alma mater,” says Reinhardt. “I thought this would be an equally nice thing to do for her.”

Like the Lark Scholarship, the Twigg Scholarship is need-based. It will be awarded for the first time in 2008-09, with preference given to a student studying math (Twigg’s major at Goucher) or economics (Reinhardt’s major at Brown University).

“I think she’d be pleased,” Reinhardt says of her mother, who died in June 2006. “Education was very important to her, and she would like knowing that she is helping other people with theirs.”

After graduating from Goucher, Sarah Lark taught junior high school algebra for four years in Lancaster, PA, before marrying her childhood sweetheart, Edward Twigg (who defeated a rival suitor in the second grade to claim the honor).

As it did for most women during the 1930s, marriage brought an end to her teaching career. Her husband supported the family by working as a civil engineer in southwestern



Sarah Lark Twigg '30



Judy Twigg Reinhardt

“Someone once asked her after she stopped working, ‘Don’t you feel like your education went to waste?’” says Reinhardt. “But my mother often said that when you educate a woman, you educate a family.”

– Judy Twigg Reinhardt

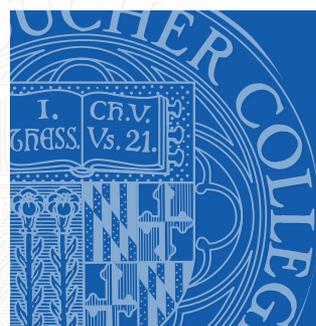
Pennsylvania, southern Ohio, and West Virginia before returning to their hometown, Shamokin, PA, where Sarah raised three children and volunteered for organizations such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, PTA, YWCA, Eastern Star, and the local women’s club (serving as treasurer when it founded the first public library in Shamokin).

“Someone once asked her after she stopped working, ‘Don’t you feel like your education went to waste?’” says Reinhardt. “But my mother often said that when you educate a woman, you educate a family.”

Having made education the focus of her professional life, Reinhardt recently completed her 15th year as assistant executive director for business and education at the National Association for Music Education in Reston, VA, which works to promote music in public schools.

“It makes me feel good to know that this will help some young people attain a degree,” says Reinhardt of the scholarship. “Hopefully they will look back on it someday and want to help others themselves.

“I just think the more you know, the better you can handle life, help others, and work to improve the world,” she observes. “I don’t think we should ever stop learning.” §



goucher society gathering

Many thanks to **Kimara Ahnert '91** and her sister, **Amy Rudeski '04**, who hosted a reception at Ahnert’s Madison Avenue makeup and skin care studio on May 15. Representing the Classes of '67 to '06, nearly 30 generous Goucher alumnae/i and friends gathered to celebrate donors to the John Franklin and Mary Fisher Goucher Society and to hear an update on the college from President **Sandy Ungar**.

giving to Goucher

SoCal connection

Donors to the college and other members of the Goucher community gathered for a Southern California reception with President **Sandy Ungar** on June 24. Among the nearly 50 guests were several members of the incoming first-year class. Many thanks to Trustee **Joan Hood Jones '77** and her husband, G. Bradford Jones, for hosting the event at their lovely Manhattan Beach home. §



L to R: Kimberly Makay Stevens '93, Steve Zimmer '92, Cheryl Fitzgerald '89



Judith Jacobson Hirshberg '54 (left) and Lynn Kocevar Gaines '59



Michelle Yellin '11 and her parents, Barbara and Jack Yellin



President Ungar with Trustee (and event host) Joan Hood Jones '77



the grass is greener—
and safer, too

Following the lead of professional teams and many of the college's competitors, Goucher is raising \$1 million to install Sportexe synthetic turf on Beldon Field, replacing nearly 86,000 square feet of natural grass that now serves Goucher's soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey squads.

The resulting surface will be safer for the athletes and more useful for the school, according to **Geoff Miller**, director of physical education and athletics. Polyethylene fibers and a rubber infill make the turf both softer and more shock-absorbent than grass, reducing the risk of injury for players.

In addition, Miller says, the turf field's improved drainage will allow teams to practice or play in inclement weather without damaging the surface—or themselves—at any time during the year. The surface of the field can even be plowed. Not least of all, the product's 10-year lifecycle greatly reduces maintenance costs and saves water.

"With two soccer teams, two lacrosse teams, and a field hockey team, this field would impact 130 of our more than 230 student-athletes," Miller says, adding that the surface would also provide the ideal location for campus-wide activities such as intramurals and community events. "The beauty of this is the flexibility of programming it offers."

Installing the field, which will require three months, will also include energy-efficient (and neighbor-friendly) lights that will extend practice and playing time.

To date, nearly \$300,000 has been donated or pledged in support of the project. For more information, contact Geoff Miller (geoffrey.miller@goucher.edu or 410-337-6385). §

the numbers are in!

The Annual Fund enjoyed another strong year, raising **\$1,879,410** in 2006-07. Special thanks to our alumnae/i donors, who contributed **\$1,524,583** to that total (with Reunion gifts accounting for \$384,345).



It's never too early to make your gift to Goucher: Visit www.goucher.edu/gift to make a donation to the 2007-08 Annual Fund using your major credit card.

volunteer spotlight new trustees

The Goucher College Board of Trustees welcomed five new members in May:



Susanne Davis Emory '56, who represents the AAGC as alumna trustee, graduated from Goucher with a degree in anthropology and sociology. Her previous volunteer roles for the college include class fund agent, class president, member of the Reunion Committee, and Legacy Campaign Committee member. A resident of Glen Arm, MD, she also contributes time to the American Cancer Society and the Maryland Association of Dyslexic Adults and Youth.



Lynn Toby Fisher '71 graduated from Goucher with a B.A. in religion. She is a partner in the corporate/finance department of Kaye Scholer LLP in New York City, where she also lives. Fisher earned a J.D. from the University of Cincinnati and has extensive experience in the areas of mergers, acquisitions, and dispositions of public and private companies. Her mother and two sisters also graduated from Goucher.



Miriam E. Katowitz '73 graduated from Goucher with a B.A. in political science. She went on to earn an M.B.A. from Columbia University and is the chief operating officer for the Education Alliance in Brooklyn, NY. Katowitz, a member of the Goucher College Committee of Visitors since 1999, has also served the college as class fund agent and vice chair of the Legacy Campaign Committee.



Attorney **Ruth Ann Shapiro Lenrow '74** is vice president of the Travelers Group Inc. in Baltimore. She received her B.A. in English and has remained active at her alma mater. Lenrow is a member of the boards of Hillel of Greater Baltimore, the Downtown Partnership, and the Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore.



Recent Graduate Trustee **Daniel I. Phillips '07** lives in New York City, where he works as a paralegal and Federal Bar Association liaison at the law firm Gell & Gell. While at Goucher, he majored in international relations and sociology and minored in peace studies. Among his numerous campus activities, Phillips served as co-president of the college's sociology and anthropology club, chair and vice-chair of the Student Action Committee of the Student Government Association, member of the Judicial Board, and captain of the men's cross country team.

gopheReport

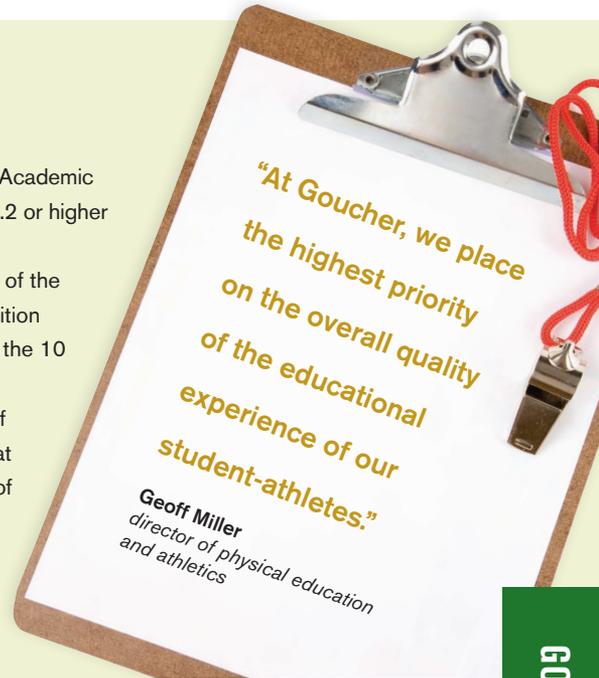
Goucher Leaves CAC on Top

Goucher College has once again led the Capital Athletic Conference's 2006-07 All-Academic Team in the percentage of student-athletes who earned a grade point average of 3.2 or higher for the entire academic year.

Of the 202 student-athletes from Goucher who were in good standing in one or more of the sports sponsored by the CAC, 112 of them—or 55.5 percent—earned All-Academic recognition from the conference. The 2006-07 All-Academic Team included 942 student-athletes from the 10 member institutions; 40.97 percent of students conference-wide were named to the team.

"We've led in this category three of the past four years," says **Geoff Miller**, director of physical education and athletics at Goucher. "I certainly believe this conveys the fact that, at Goucher, we place the highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience of our student-athletes."

Goucher, which became a member of the CAC in 1991-92, will leave the sports league this fall to begin its first season in the new Landmark Conference. "It's a good feeling to leave the CAC as the recognized leader in academic values," says Miller. §



Beyond the Rule Book

To help educate the Goucher community about what is expected of student-athletes, the college recently released *An Introduction to the Department of Physical Education and Athletics: A Summary of Philosophy and Statements for Faculty, Staff, Alumnae/i, and the Board of Trustees*. A few highlights follow.

What is the vision of the department?

Physical education is an integral part of a liberal arts experience at Goucher College, and the individual and team pursuit of excellence in athletic competition offers a unique educational experience. The confrontation of individual physical limits helps student-athletes develop a genuine and lasting sense of progress and accomplishment.

To what academic standards are student-athletes held?

Student-athletes are students first and foremost, and maximizing academic success should be their first priority. The academic progress of our student-athletes is monitored by the director of athletics and the academic support coordinator, in consultation with the associate academic dean and the faculty athletics representative. ...To be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics, a student must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours during the semester of competition.

What behavioral expectations do student-athletes face?

Student-athletes at Goucher are held to higher behavioral standards than their peers on campus. As a visible and large

student group, their behaviors are closely scrutinized by other students, faculty, and staff. It is considered a privilege, and not a right, to be a member of an intercollegiate athletic team at Goucher College. Membership on an athletic team means accepting responsibility to represent Goucher College in the most positive manner possible at all times.

What other expectations are there?

Participants in our intercollegiate athletic program are to receive the same treatment as other students. They have no unique advantages in admission, academic advising, course selection, grading, living accommodations, or financial aid. ...Students are expected to exhibit a high degree of sportsmanship and to be courteous and respectful of others.

What should the greater community know about recruiting Goucher athletes?

As a member of the NCAA (Division III), the Athletics Department must adhere to many rules during the recruiting process. Coaches aren't the only ones who must abide by these rules. Anyone who is part of the Goucher community, including members of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, alumnae/i, and donors, must be informed of these rules and be careful not to violate them. A few of these rules are summarized as follows:

Do not provide any financial support or gifts to the recruit. Do not provide the recruit with transportation to or from Goucher College. Do not have an in-person conversation with recruits at any site other than Goucher's campus until they have completed their junior year of high school. Do not provide recruits with meals or any form of entertainment. §



BRAGGING Rights

men's lacrosse

For only the second time in its 16-year history, Goucher's men's lacrosse program produced a Scholar All-American—**Dan Flamholz '07**. One of only 40 collegiate players throughout the nation who was recognized by the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association's Scholar All-America Program, Flamholz was a four-year letter-winner and the team's leading scorer in 2007, with 29 goals and 16 assists.

women's lacrosse

Four Gophers were named to the 2007 All-Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Women's Lacrosse Team. **Emily Blatter '08**, **Kate Knitter '08**, and **Janna Kaufman '07** were named to the first team, while **Freddie Newman-Blount '07** represented Goucher on the second team.

tennis

Andrew Ortiz '10, whose 10-4 record in first singles led to an overall record of 11-7, was selected to represent Goucher on the 2007 All-CAC Men's Tennis Team. **Tanya Cooley '09**, who played exclusively at the No. 2 spot in Goucher's singles lineup in 2006-07, was named to the 2007 All-CAC Women's Tennis Team.

track and field

Goucher finished in fifth place in team scoring at the 2007 CAC Championships in April. **Zach Martin '10** placed fourth and set a new school record in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 10:26.49. **Harrison Tucker '07** placed fifth in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 00:59.82. In May, Goucher captured first place in three individual events and one relay at the Goucher Invitational. Martin broke the Gopher Stadium record with his winning time of 34:54.64 in the 10,000-meter run, and **Jeffery Whitaker '10**, **Travis Boland '08**, **Tucker**, and **Brent Stanford '10** set a new school record in the 4 x 100-meter relay by completing the event in 00:44.35. The official 2007 All-CAC Women's Track and Field Team included two Goucher student-athletes. **Rachel Boss '07** was a first-team selection, and **Sheba Newman-Blount '09** was named to the second team.

equestrian

Goucher's riding program finished in 14th place and ahead of three other teams in the Collegiate Cup in its first appearance at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's National Championship Horse Show in May. **Sarah Pandolfini '08** placed fifth in novice equitation on the flat, and **Jonathan Cohen '10** finished in sixth place in open equitation on the flat. (For more on Goucher's equestrian program, see p. 24.)



A New Look for Goucher Athletics

While Goucher's athletes took a well-deserved break, the program's website went through a full workout, which resulted in a new, easier-to-navigate format. Visit www.goucher.edu/athletics to learn more.

The Renie Race is coming!

The 15th Annual Renie Amoss '93 Memorial Road Race/Walk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007, during Family Weekend. For registration information, contact Sally Baum, sally.baum@goucher.edu or 410-337-6389.



alumnae|iUpdate

Dear Goucher Alumnae and Alumni,

What a summer of transition! Most notably, the past few months found the center of Goucher's campus filled with trucks, barricades, and mountains of dirt, as construction of the Athenaeum began in earnest. (If you haven't had a chance to see if firsthand, follow along online at webcam.goucher.edu.) In two short years, Goucher will open the doors to this 100,000-square-foot "crowning jewel," housing a new state-of-the-art library, art gallery, café, and additional spaces for performance, exercise, and offices for community service and multicultural affairs.

Transition also characterized the May meeting of the AAGC Board of Directors. In addition to thanking outgoing directors and President **Patty Lyman Friend '75** for their service, representatives of the three priority-area task forces reported progress and next steps. **International Travel**, which researched alumni travel programs at other liberal arts colleges, reaffirmed the importance of faculty involvement and suggested that we consider joint excursions with neighboring institutions. **Board Responsibilities** began evaluating how AAGC Board members can leverage their roles to better engage a broader constituency of alumnae/i. And, most exciting, **GAIN and Career Development** started an action plan to resurrect the Goucher Access Information Network through an interactive database that we hope will expand to a more fully featured online community.

Dozens of the newest future members of our fold found their own transitions from high school to Goucher made easier when, in early August, they attended Sendoffs in four East Coast cities. Orchestrated by our new executive director of alumnae/i affairs, **Margaret-Ann Radford-Wedemeyer**, the receptions provided an opportunity for incoming first-year students and their families to learn from current students and young alumnae/i what to expect during the next few months. Many thanks to **Mindy Farber**, parent of **Warren Adams '10** (Washington, DC); Trustees **SaraKay Sherman Smullens '62** (Philadelphia) and **Lynn Toby Fisher '71** (New York City); and **Rachel Kaltenbach Baumgartner '71** (Boston) for opening their homes for these events.

As the college and our alumnae/i association gear up for what is sure to be one of the most exciting years in Goucher's history, I take special pride in serving as your president—although I must have been dreaming when I agreed to let the *Goucher Quarterly* put my face on the cover of this issue—and look forward to working with all of you.

Warm regards,

Robert Lee Bull Jr. '93 | *President, AAGC*

robert.bull@goucher.edu



photo by Bruce Weller

Save the Dates for Alumnae/i Weekend 2008: May 1-4

“As the college and our alumnae/i association gear up for what is sure to be one of the most exciting years in Goucher's history, I take special pride in serving as your president.”

Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College 2007-08 Board of Directors

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SEEN on the SCENE



photos by Michelle Ruddle

Senior Celebration

Alumnae/i House, On Campus • May 11, 2007

Members of the Class of 2007 were feted with a special happy hour on Friday, May 11. More than 100 members of the class enjoyed the event, which was hosted by the staff of the Alumnae/i Affairs Office and the AAGC.



Clockwise, L to R: Aijaz Ahmad '94, Josh Marx '06, Jenn Rodriguez '06, Rachel Dubin '98, Alex Wood '06, Ian Dillner '96, and Michelle Ruddle '04

Hot spots; cool times

Young alums kick off summer with East Coast happy hours

Nothing says summer like good friends and hot spots! Goucher's youngest alumnae/i enjoyed both during events in New York City, Boston, and Washington, DC. A healthy showing of Gophers packed the Opal Bar in NYC on June 21, while more intimate gatherings on June 23 sparked good conversation at the Summer Shack in Boston's Back Bay and Garrett's Restaurant and Railroad Tavern in the heart of Georgetown.



For more information on any trips, or to be added to the mailing list, please call 443.921.3599 or send an e-mail to alumni@goucher.edu.



The Goucher College Alumnae/i Tours Committee is seeking graduates from the 1990s and 2000s to plan and lead outings for other young alumnae/i.

alumnae/i tours

HELP WANTED!

Don't miss these upcoming trips!

- A day on Capitol Hill at Sen. Ben Cardin's office – Sept. 19
- Violinist Midori and the Philadelphia Orchestra – Oct. 5
- The National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, VA – Oct. 13
- Fall Foliage Train Ride – Oct. 25
- *Don Giovanni* at the Washington National Opera – Nov. 4
- Renoir's landscapes at the Philadelphia Museum of Art – Nov. 7
- Weekend at the Waldorf – Nov. 16-18
- The Suzanne Farrell Ballet – Nov. 24
- Christmas at Longwood – Dec. 6

Whether you plan a single baseball game or a series of service projects, we need your help!

To learn more, call 443.921.3599 or send an e-mail to alumni@goucher.edu.

Duties include

- generating ideas
- researching costs, including admission, transportation (if necessary), and meals/refreshments
- planning the event and encouraging attendance
- working with Alumnae/i Affairs staff to secure reservations and registrations
- attending the event as trip organizer
- reporting results to the Alumnae/i Tours Committee



Recent young alumnae/i gathering at Boston Beer Works

mark your calendars

OCT. 15
ON CAMPUS

**Reading by
Edward P. Jones**

Goucher's Kratz Center for Creative Writing presents the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Known World*.

OCT. 16
ON CAMPUS

Host Program Dinner*

Students and alumnae/i participants in the Host Program gather for pizza and conversation.

OCT. 19 & 20
ON CAMPUS

Homecoming*

See below about this exciting new tie-in with Family Weekend!

DEC. 1
ON CAMPUS

Reunion Workshop #2*

Help your "3" and "8" classmates plan the festivities for next May's Alumnae/i Weekend.

MAY 1-4
ON CAMPUS

Alumnae/i Weekend*

Special activities for classes ending in 3 and 8, but all are welcome!

For a complete schedule of events, visit www.goucher.edu/alumnae or call toll-free 1.800.272.2279. For information about events marked with an asterisk (*), contact Cori Rich Tyner '82, director of reunions and special events (ctyner@goucher.edu or 410.337.6077); for all other events, contact the Alumnae/i Affairs Office (1.800.272.2279 or alumni@goucher.edu).



OUT OF TOWN



ON CAMPUS



IN BALTIMORE

Go-pher Crabs?

Homecoming 2007

Friday, Oct. 19 – Sunday, Oct. 21

(in conjunction with Goucher College Family Weekend)

Maryland Crab Feast

(a Goucher tradition, back by popular demand!)

Fall Athletic Contests

Alumnae/i Happy Hour

15th Annual Renie Race

Student Talent Show

Watch for more information online (www.goucher.edu/alumni) and, if you live in the Baltimore area, in the mail!



impromptu

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

As Goucher's **director of financial aid**, Baltimore native **Sharon Hassan** has been helping to make a Goucher education more affordable for nearly eight years.

What other jobs have you had?

My first job after graduating from NC State (Go, Wolfpack!) with a degree in business management and economics was in marketing at the *Baltimore News American*. After the newspaper closed, I started my career in financial aid at the University of Maryland, College Park. At the time I had no idea what financial aid was, but I was attracted to the medical benefits offered with the position. Fourteen years later, I made the move to Goucher as director.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Challenges change depending on the time of year. On a micro level, the biggest challenge is managing multiple priorities and expectations. On a macro level, I try to simplify a complex, regulation-laden process for our families.

How has the financial aid process changed since you arrived at Goucher in 1999?

The profession changes constantly. Applications are now done online, and most processes are electronic. Federal aid has not kept pace with inflation, yet costs across all sectors have risen. On one hand, you have families who are able to finance their child's education but choose not to do so. On the other hand, you have populations who would benefit from attending college, but no one has reached them to show them that college is an option.

What other career might you have pursued?

In college my goal was to be the CEO of a Fortune 500 corporation. Secretly, I wanted to be a dancer.

How do you spend your free time?

I do a lot of community outreach—especially at my church (my nonpaying second job). I also enjoy friends and family, movies, dining out, and various ethnic festivals in the summer.

Who is someone you admire?

My mom, who recently passed away, is my hero. She lived life on her own terms and died the same way. I watched her quietly battle a terminal illness, never once complaining and always remaining positive. She was a quiet leader who impacted the lives of many, as witnessed by the overwhelming number of people who came to pay their respects. I honored her while she was alive and represent her legacy of love, compassion, and making a difference.

What advice would you give students who are entering college this fall?

I give the same advice to everyone: Pursue your passion, and the money will follow. Life is too short to be unhappy.



More than 80 percent of Goucher students receive some form of need- or merit-based assistance. Learn more at www.goucher.edu/financialaid.





Lucky

Goucher's **116th** Commencement

Numerology isn't a subject that normally commands much attention on college campuses, but it was hard to deny the coincidence between the picture-perfect weather for Goucher's **116th** Commencement on May **25** and the number with the luckiest reputation.

Photos by Jim Burger



Commence



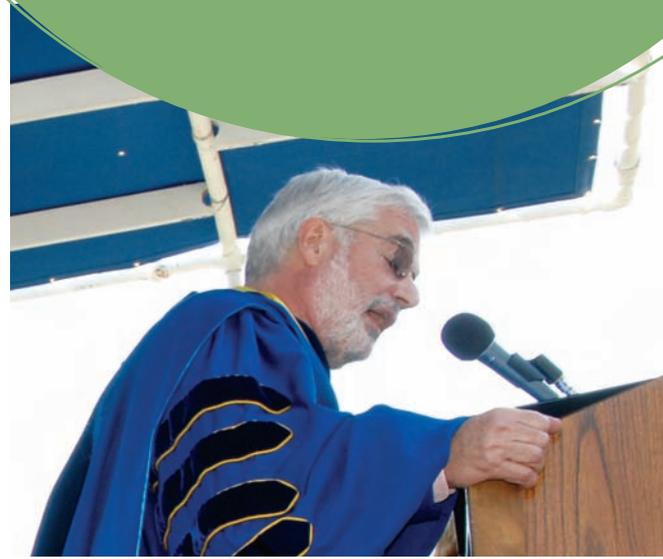
In addition to the **277** bachelor of arts degrees awarded, the college bestowed honorary doctorates to cartoonist Garry Trudeau, entrepreneur Sandy Lerner, and U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings. Lisa Gulian represented her classmates as senior speaker.





“Every year, as I prepare these remarks, I indulge myself in hope and say how pleased and fortunate we are to be able to be outdoors for this grand occasion,” said President Sandy Ungar in his introductory comments. “This year, for the first time in **five** years, it happens to be true. A good omen, and a fine way to send off our friends in the remarkable Class of **2007**.”

ment '07





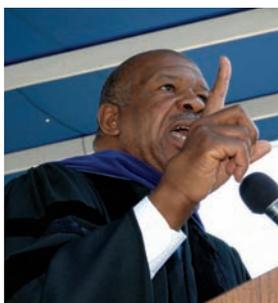
Keynote speaker for the event was Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Garry Trudeau—whose “Doonesbury” comic strip appears in almost **1,400** newspapers worldwide. Trudeau, who has kept a relatively low public profile for more than **three** decades, encouraged the graduates to develop “the habit of purposeful seeing” by paying attention to “what’s in plain sight, what’s off to the side, and seeing through the eyes of another.”





“Your education here was about taking a look—and another, and another. When you stop looking ... you become a stenographer.”

– Garry Trudeau, *keynote speaker*




Visit www.goucher.edu/commencement for more coverage of Commencement, including transcripts and audio of remarks by several of the speakers.

A photograph of a rider on a brown horse, likely at an equestrian event. The rider is wearing a dark blue jacket and black riding boots. The horse is standing in front of a white fence. A yellow and white striped pole is visible in the foreground. The background shows trees and a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**The equestrian
program's recent ride
to national prominence
builds on a rich history.**



high on their Horses

by Ginny Kirby-Smith Carruthers '60, Ph.D.

This is our once-a-year day, once-a-year day.

We're so proud of Goucher's stables.

Here comes Healthy in the lead,

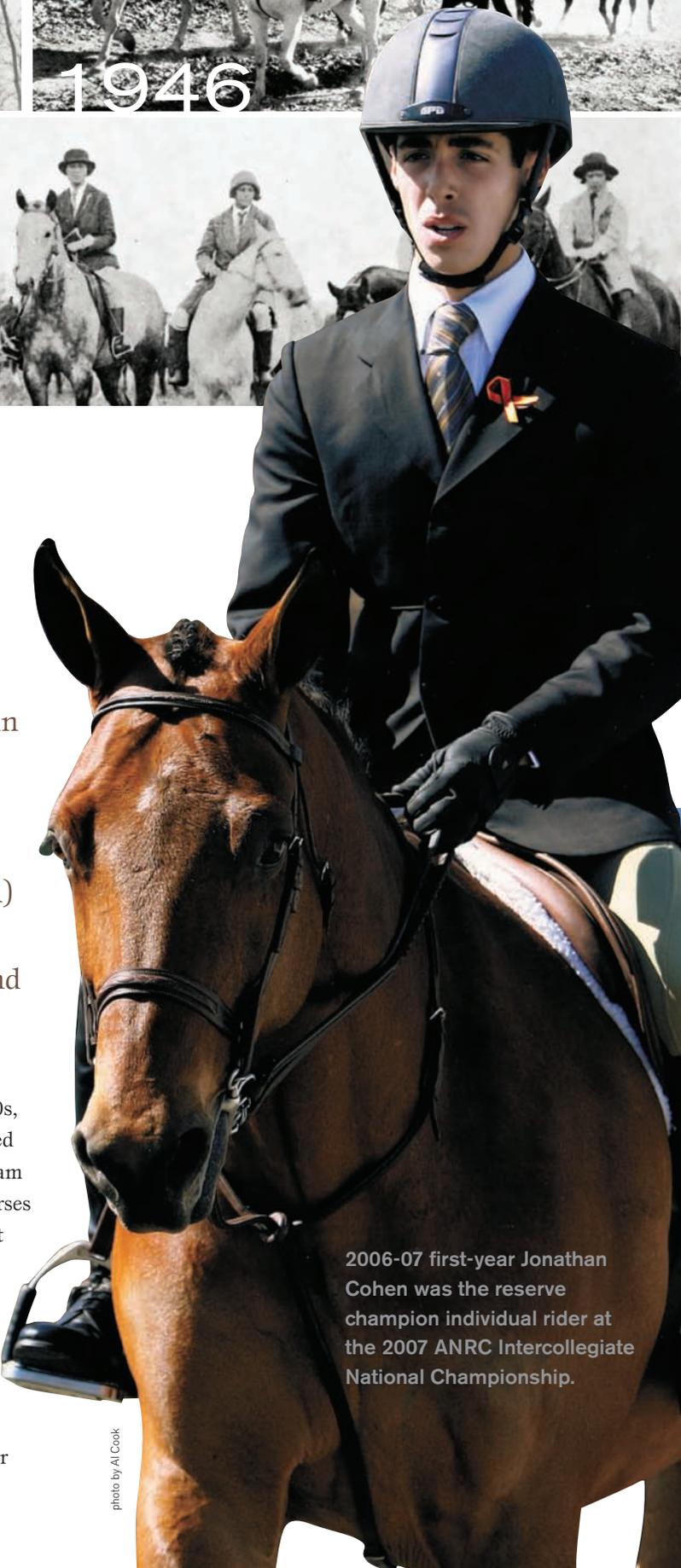
Hash Knife's running third,

Followed by such other steeds

As Corky, Dipstick, High and Mighty . . .

In the late 1950s, these lyrics—set to a tune borrowed from *The Pajama Game*—celebrated the imaginary accomplishments of the first horses in residence at the college. (The occasion was Sing Song, the traditional spring choral competition among the classes.)

Co-Captain Brittany Martin '08 was the IHSA Zone IV Region I reserve high-point rider for 2007.



Now, a half-century later, the very real accomplishments of Goucher's riders are reason for celebration. Stellar performances by the 27 members of the 2006-07 equestrian team—under the leadership of Director Patte Zumbrun, Assistant Director Rae Holbrook, and Co-Captains Julie Fink '09, Brittany Martin '08, and Sarah Pandolfini '08—earned the student riders a trip to the National Collegiate Cup Championship of the 300-member Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) in May. There, they placed 14th in overall competition, and two riders—Julie Fink '09 and Meredith Hurd '07—competed as individuals.

Although the program dates back to the 1920s, equestrian was formally recognized as a varsity sport at Goucher in the mid-1980s, with the college assuming responsibility for all expenses associated with entry fees and travel. As early as 1984, Goucher fielded a team in the IHSA, in which colleges that host competitions provide horses and tack for each show—an important factor in keeping the sport financially accessible to riders from all economic backgrounds.

In addition, Goucher students have participated each year since 1983 at the intercollegiate equitation championship event sponsored by the American National Riding Commission (ANRC), which Goucher has hosted four times since 1994. In 2007, Goucher's team of four horses and riders placed third out of a field of eight, and one member of the team, first-year

2006-07 first-year Jonathan Cohen was the reserve champion individual rider at the 2007 ANRC Intercollegiate National Championship.

Jonathan Cohen, finished second as an individual rider. ANRC shows differ from IHSA ones in that competitors, who are all riding at a high level, bring their own (or their college's) horses and contend in three phases—dressage sportif, cross country, and stadium jumping—rather than in classes such as beginner walk-trot, walk-trot-canter, and novice or open equitation over fences.

The two-conference approach works, even if it requires some adjustments by the students. “Joining the program was a huge change for me,” says Martin, who has ridden since the age of 5 and competed successfully at A-level horse shows before arriving at Goucher. “My prior training experience had focused mainly on riding geared to each particular horse, but at Goucher I needed to learn basic body control that would be effective on a wide variety of horses. I feel I am a much stronger and well-rounded rider than I have ever been.”

“Brittany doesn’t just focus on improving her own riding skills, which are already excellent,” says Zumbrun of Martin, who finished 2006-07 as the region’s reserve high-point rider. “As team captain, she always encourages other riders to challenge themselves.”

Although successful competition in intercollegiate events is a primary focus of Goucher’s riding program, the college provides ample opportunities for noncompetitive riders to enjoy the equestrian experience while developing their abilities. Between 50 and 60 students are enrolled each year in classes at varying levels. There is always a waiting

list for the approximately 12 spaces available for beginning riders (including one of the male members of the 2006-07 team, Jonah Bookman ’07, who picked up the sport after arriving at Goucher).

Both recreational and competitive riding have a long history that predates the college’s move to the pastoral Towson campus. As early as the Roaring Twenties, Goucher women were donning jodhpurs or britches for a seven-mile trek to what was then the country—and earning gym credit for the experience.

The June 1924 issue of the *Bulletin of Goucher College*, for example, noted: “Horseback riding goes on all year in preparation for an interclass competitive horse show and gymkhana. The riding is done out at Towson mostly along the roads of our own campus.” (The 421 acres in Towson had been purchased three years earlier.) By 1936, 82 students were involved in the riding program—an impressive number given the fact that all had to be transported from the city campus several miles northward to a private stable.

Martha Arnold Nichols, who would later serve for more than three decades as Goucher’s much-loved dean of students, organized the original Riding Club the following year. Membership was initially restricted to 20 riders, who were selected by means of tryouts. During the spring and the fall, the club sponsored breakfast and supper rides and participated in the May Day festivities on the Towson campus. By the end of the decade, advanced riders were competing with Wilson and Hood colleges in intercollegiate “Play Days.”

Proposed Pavilion Would Bridge the Gap

Over the past 20 years, the college has made several facility upgrades that have boosted the equestrian program, including the construction of a second barn in 1985, an indoor ring in 1993, and improved competition-ring fencing in 2005. These improvements were essential to keep pace with the program’s needs. The proposed new Equestrian Clinic and Team Pavilion would go beyond keeping pace, offering significant enhancements to Goucher’s riding facilities that would make them rival those of many of its top competitors—Sweet Briar, Hollins, Mount Holyoke, Skidmore, and Mary Washington among them.

With an estimated cost of \$500,000, the proposed pavilion would be located between the current indoor and outdoor rings, with a causeway connecting the two facilities. An elevated spectator gallery would

feature permanent seating both indoors and outdoors. A more formal glass-enclosed room with a capacity of approximately 100, overlooking the indoor ring and equipped with a state-of-the-art sound system, could be used for a variety of purposes, including team meetings and classes. During competitions and clinics, it would serve as an area for judges, coaches, and clinicians to observe riders and provide feedback.

“The new Equestrian Clinic and Team Pavilion will be a superior athletic facility that will make a significant difference in attracting high-caliber riders to Goucher,” notes Patte Zumbrun, Goucher’s equestrian program director. “Such a facility would further enhance our reputation as a leader in the collegiate horse community.”

— G.C.

One-time gifts and multiyear pledges in support of the project are welcomed. To learn more, please contact Janet Wiley, executive director of development, at janet.wiley@goucher.edu or 1.800.272.2279.

At the beginning of the 1940s, the Riding Club was particularly active. It scheduled cross-country rides in the fall and weekly meetings during the winter in the McDonough Riding Hall, where riders learned, among other things, to fall from a horse properly.

Despite its popularity, riding experienced a setback with the onset of World War II, when gasoline shortages and other transportation troubles put the Riding Show on temporary hiatus and curtailed other Riding Club activities. In the meantime, the horses got regular workouts on the numerous bridle paths interlaced through the countryside surrounding the newly finished Mary Fisher Hall. Exception was made for the May Day Gymkhana, which featured skilled student riders and Eline von Borries (Miss von B.), head of physical education and adviser to the club. (Miss von B.'s remarkable off-the-track thoroughbred, Healthy 'n' Wise, was introduced to the Goucher riding scene in 1945.)

“Goucher’s equestrians are unquestionably one of the most successful teams on campus.”

The 1949 *Donnybrook Fair* observed that, as Riding Club adviser, Miss von B. kept the members “at a gallop” from early fall through late spring. On Wednesday mornings, club members rode as a group, exploring paths around the nearby Loch Raven Reservoir. In order to earn the “exclusive privilege” of membership, a rider was required to “pass a stringent test and demonstrate that she can handle a horse under all situations.”

In the fall of 1956, a generous gift from a former trustee, Ethel Kurth Haebler (who later built the President’s House and whose daughters built the chapel) funded construction of an on-campus stable. Six horses from a summer camp in Vermont (High and Mighty, Up Front, Hash Knife, Rebel, Corky, and Dipstick), together with Miss Von B.’s Healthy ‘n’ Wise, were its initial occupants. Winner of an architectural award, the structure was notable for its shutters, which had

been painted in bright primary colors. All of the horses were the charges of Fred Jackson, who took great pride in presenting each student rider with a meticulously groomed steed, clad in impeccable tack.

Membership in the Riding Club remained selective until 1958, when the organization decided to welcome all students who had taken riding for at least one term. The club established an executive committee of the most skilled riders, to assist the instructor and to sponsor movies, trips, and other activities.

To expand the riding facilities beyond the post-and-rail ring built on a former softball field above the stable (the site of the current covered arena and outdoor ring), the Riding Club took on the job of clearing trails and building an outside jump course.

The program has benefited from remarkable continuity in leadership, with only four directors since the “new” stable opened more than 50 years ago. Miss von B., who led the program until the mid-1960s, was succeeded by Lois Harder, who took the reins for five years. The next director, Janet McBrien, served for 17 years, followed by Zumbrun, who marks her 20th year in the role this year [see sidebar].

Under these directors, remarkable development has taken place. The number of horses originally stabled at Goucher has almost quintupled. In addition to the indoor arena, improvements include a barn specifically for boarders and expanded paddocks for turnout, with planning for further expansion underway.

Most important of all, the reputation of the program has grown steadily, drawing accomplished student riders from as far away as Illinois, North Carolina, Texas, New York, Florida, and Maine. “Goucher’s equestrians are unquestionably one of the most successful teams on campus,” observes Geoff Miller, Goucher’s athletic director. “They are a dedicated and hard-working group of student-athletes who, under the direction of Zumbrun and her staff, can be counted upon to represent the college in a classy and highly competitive fashion. Their record speaks for itself.” §

Co-Captain Sarah Pandolfini '08 was awarded fifth place in novice flat at IHSA Nationals.



And the winner is...

At the end of every Goucher IHSA show, two participants are recognized for a leading or supporting role, not with an Oscar or a Tony, but with a Taxi—named in honor of the venerable Appaloosa whose presence has graced the Goucher stable since 1988.



A vintage Volkswagen Beetle and a low-slung dog: the telltale signs of Patte Zumbrun's presence at the Goucher stable. Although the original car—a '61 model that students lovingly decorated for her 50th birthday—has been replaced by a restored '67 convertible, and lab/basset Zoe has been succeeded by purebred basset Chaney, Zumbrun herself has barely aged since arriving at the college more than 30 years ago.

A Maryland native, Zumbrun began riding locally when she was 7, and then, from the age of 10, spent summers on a cousin's horse farm in Danville, VA. The cousin, Virginia Wiseman, who ran both a riding school and a summer riding camp, introduced her to fox hunting, hunter showing, and eventing.

When Wiseman was chosen to direct the riding program at Averett College in Danville, Zumbrun's decision to enroll there as an undergraduate was an easy one. During her senior year, Averett joined the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA), and Zumbrun became a member of the college's first team. She transplanted her love of college riding to Goucher's campus shortly thereafter, rising from barn manager to director of the program—a role she has held since 1987.

Whether a student's interest is recreational or competitive, Zumbrun's goal has been to instill the principles of good horsemanship. Her supervision of the schooling of the college's 30-some horses is tailored to provide appropriate mounts for riders at all skill levels. "Success is measured by teamwork," she says of the critical relationship between rider and mount. "The horses are always there to remind us of what we don't know."

Zumbrun has a long history of developing critical relationships with Goucher students, too—and not just in the riding ring. In fact, she regards the college as her family's "second home." Shortly after they were married, she and her husband, Keith, moved into the small house beyond the stable that was originally built for Fred Jackson, the college's first groom.

With the birth of their first child, son Josh, they moved to Robinson House, the first Goucher residence hall to house male students. They spent the following decade as "Goucher neighbors," adults in residence whose primary responsibilities were entertaining and enjoying the company of students. Daughter Kendall joined the family during this time.

"I've seen a lot of changes over my years at Goucher, including the transition to coeducation," says Zumbrun. "Integrating men into the riding program was no problem. We just had to make sure that we had saddles large enough to accommodate them!"

Due to career and family responsibilities, Zumbrun, who holds the most advanced rider rating from the American National Riding Commission (ANRC), has no time to own a horse of her own and little time to compete. Thankfully the team's history-making trip to the IHSA nationals in May and her recent selections as regional president of the IHSA and chair of the ANRC have offered her plentiful opportunities to ride high in the saddle.

"It is a privilege to get to work with the students and share their enthusiasm for riding," she says. "They teach me as much as I teach them—and I never get tired of learning."

— G.C.



"The horses are always there to remind us of what we don't know."

photo by Bruce Weller

Leading



Man

Spotlight on AAGC President Robert Lee Bull Jr. '93

By Ann E. Kolakowski | Photos by Bruce Weller



Growing up in East Baltimore, Robert Bull thought that if his life ever had statistical significance, it would reflect the area's high rates of crime—most of his peers are now either dead or in jail. On July 1, however, the former theatre major varied from that norm when he joined Goucher's recorded history as the first alumnus and first African American to serve as president of the Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College. Recently, Bull spoke with *Goucher Quarterly* Editor Ann Kolakowski about his Goucher experience, what Mister Rogers didn't teach him (but mentors did), and the significance of his presidency.



We were all different, and Goucher was diverse in a way that you could only tell by

What was your path to Goucher?

I first heard about Goucher through my middle school English teacher, Lajerne Terry Cornish, Class of '83. I was in the sixth or seventh grade at Chinguapin Middle in Baltimore City, and Lajerne was green—fresh out of college. I was one of her more challenging students, and she was one of my more challenging teachers—she gave me a lot of pushback. We stayed in touch, and I later found out that she was a graduate of Goucher College. When it was time to begin my college search, Goucher was one of the first campuses I visited. It was a match made in heaven. I knew that if I could be as smart as Lajerne Cornish [laughs], I would take that path.

Coming from East Baltimore, as you were, it must have been a bit of culture shock.

Just a little bit. My parents really wanted me to go to one of the HBCUs [historically black colleges and universities]. They thought that would be the best path to train me as an African-American man. I gotta tell you, though, I wasn't just looking for a good fit; I was looking for money. When I applied to HBCUs, I was among the many African Americans applying, and I wasn't getting enough money. It zeroed down to two institutions—Towson and Goucher. I could live at home and go to Towson for something like \$2,000 a year, while Goucher was around \$16,000 a year. So my mom said, "I guess you're going to Towson; it sounds good!" Then I sat down with Faye Perry in the [Goucher] Financial Aid Office, and she worked out a package for me whereby I was going to be paying—and I'm even embarrassed to say—a fee for the first semester that

was in the hundreds of dollars. When I took that back to my mom and said, "I've got Goucher for a couple hundred dollars a semester, and I've got Towson for \$1,000 a semester," that was a no-brainer.

Were you a resident student?

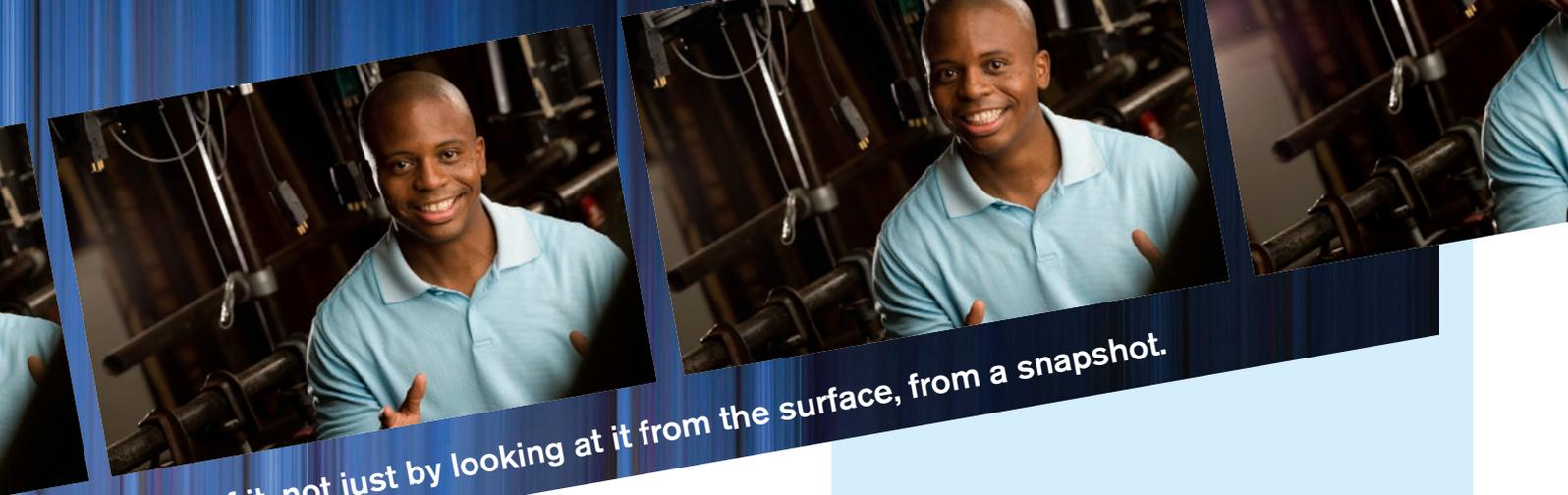
I was, although I lived only 15 minutes away. I knew how important it was to have that experience.

Do you remember how many men were on campus at the time, and how many African Americans?

If I had to guess, there were 30-some guys on campus during my freshman year. There were two or three floors of men in separate houses. I lived in Winslow, in Stimson Hall. It was indeed the best four years of my life, my dorm experience. Not only the independence, but the infusion of folks from all over the country—the friends I made from all walks of life. We were all different, and Goucher was diverse in a way that you could only tell by being a part of it, not just by looking at it from the surface, from a snapshot. You can't see the diversity in that respect. As far as African Americans, I'm not sure about the total number, but there were definitely less and a half-dozen black guys my freshmen year.

How involved were you in campus life?

Not as much as I would have liked to have been and not as much as the college thinks I was. Here's why: I had to work 30 or so hours a week in order to come here. Even though my tuition was very low, I still had to live on my own. I had a car and all of the expenses of keeping up with fellow students with much more money than I had!



being a part of it, not just by looking at it from the surface, from a snapshot.

Did you work on campus?

No, at the Towson [public] library, just down the street. I worked there for eight years, all through high school and college. I went to school during the day, worked from 5 to 9 every night and on weekends, and then, being a theatre major, there were always rehearsals and such. I did not get to enjoy many of the programming pieces of Goucher.

Or some of the leadership opportunities.

Yeah. But I was very much recognized as a leader in my house and a leader on the social end. A lot of that had to do with organizing “non-Goucher programs and student activities” [laughs].

You included a quotation by Derek Walcott on your senior page in the *Donnybrook Fair* that reads in part: “A man’s life slowly changes, and he does not understand the change.” What do you now understand about your life and how it’s changed in 15 years—or do you not understand the change?

I don’t understand the change. I don’t look back very often. I just race forward, realizing that things are different. This institution changes you completely. When I got to the end of four years at Goucher I was in a place where I could take on the world with a much different understanding than what I could have when I first entered the college.

Your Commencement speaker was Mister Rogers. I can’t think of a more wonderful person to set you off in life. Do you remember what he told your class?

Are you ready for this story? I didn’t actually take part in graduation exercises. I did not walk across the stage. By the time I became a senior, my mother—who had been spending 10 years as a student—was trying to graduate from the University of Baltimore. My sister was trying to graduate from

1-Minute Bio: Robert Lee Bull Jr. '93

Hometown: Baltimore, MD

Major: Theatre, with an arts administration emphasis

Favorite spot on campus: “The entrance. When I put on my blinker and see ‘Goucher College,’ it makes me think back to all the college has done for me. I make that turn with a sense of pride—I kid you not.”

9 to 5 (plus or minus): Senior vice president and principal, The Compass Group (a national fundraising consulting firm)

Annual frequent flyer miles: “Probably close to 200,000. Enough to fly my entire family in first class to Ghana, to visit my wife’s family. We go every other year.”

Other volunteer roles: “Goucher is my only philanthropy.”

At home: Wife, Phyllis, an oncology pharmacist at Northwest Hospital; Noah, 3½; and Bella, 1½

Now playing on his iPod: “I don’t have an iPod. I have never bought a CD in my life.”

Recommended reading: *A Hand to Guide Me*, by Denzel Washington. “It’s a collection of personal essays by the famous and not-so-famous about the mentors who made a difference in their lives. Like Denzel, I owe much of my success to mentors. I always want to be around folks who are teaching me.”

Best means of AAGC contact:
robert.bull@goucher.edu: “I’d love to hear from you!”



I feel like I have paid my dues—this wasn't something that happened accidentally. And I hope that when this article comes out and it arrives in the homes of alums, that they will be very supportive of where Goucher is and what it is today.

high school after giving birth to her first child. All three of us were coming to the same end—trying to get to graduation. It was a pretty stressful year, financially. Even though I had a lot of scholarship money at Goucher when I started, the amount of the scholarships froze while tuition continued to grow. By the time I got to my senior year, I owed around \$4,000 to the college. That year, they made the decision that if you had not paid your balance in full, you could not walk across the stage. In previous years, as I had come to understand, they would allow you to participate, but you were given an empty diploma folder.

It must have seemed like an insurmountable amount of money.

An incredible amount of money for me. I understood that I could not take part in this activity because I had a balance due. I was very quiet about it, but when everyone started getting fitted for gowns and taking part in the other activities, I just couldn't hide it anymore. I did share it with Michelle Clay, who is one of my best and oldest friends, and she started telling everyone. That day, during graduation, she and some other students wore signs on their backs reading, "Rob Bull should be here." So it's always been a very touchy subject—and I can't tell you anything that Fred Rogers said.

Still, I left Goucher being very satisfied with my education. I eventually paid off the debt and got my diploma, but for the first five years out I said I "completed my degree" at Goucher in 1993. It was hard for me to say I graduated. And then I got over it. But I do remember attending graduation ceremonies for the first time as a trustee, almost 10 years afterwards. I was choked up a little bit—sitting in the front row, participating in the procession, and seeing the whole ceremony and how it's done. It is something that no one should miss. In hindsight, I should have let my pride go and done every political thing that I possibly could have to be a part of it.

Do you think that it might surprise some of your classmates and other contemporaries on campus that you are now president of the AAGC?

No. I started working—or volunteering, I should say—for Goucher right after graduation. A few months into my first job in fundraising, which was at Washington College, I attended a "first-comers in development" workshop, where I ran into Tamara [Bigler] Sciullo, Class of '91. We knew each other because we had taken arts administration courses together. At the time, she was working in Goucher's annual giving office, so she was always looking for volunteers. Once she found out that I was heading down a path in development and fundraising ...

You were a marked man.

Yeah, yeah. So I was attached to Goucher from the very beginning. I feel like I have paid my dues—this wasn't something that happened accidentally. And I hope that when this article comes out and it arrives in the homes of alums, that they will be very supportive of where Goucher is and what it is today.

Are you speaking specifically in terms of your presidency?

Yes.

How did you make the conscious decision to become a fundraising professional?

Two things contributed to that. Out of need, I started working at age 14 at the Towson Public Library. By 16, I was supervising a staff of 50 people. By 18, Lynn Wheeler, who was at the time associate director of the entire library system, took me under her wing and started showcasing me throughout the entire system to train staff at all the Baltimore County libraries—there were 26 at the time—on how to transform the way they used their part-time employees. Lynn taught me a lot about relating to people, managing and motivating, writing, moving things forward—it was an exceptional experience and education when I was in my teens. To this day she remains one of my mentors.

Then, at the Baltimore School for the Arts, I met Donald Hicken, the theatre department head whom I still see. When

we went to Centerstage for field trips, he used to take the Playbill and show us how the administrative staff was growing every year. He always made a point to say, “If your generation doesn’t go out and save theatre and the arts, it will die. You have to recognize that theatre and arts organizations cannot survive off of the box office alone. They need the infrastructure and support in order to make everything happen.” He didn’t want us to graduate from the School for the Arts and think that all was going to be hunky-dory if you could just be an actor on stage. So, by the time I got to Goucher with my love for theatre, I realized that I could be so much more effective and move things forward—not on the stage, but behind the scenes. But I didn’t quite know the behind-the-scenes stuff; I wasn’t quite there yet.

So I found arts administration, and arts administration kind of found me. It seemed like a perfect fit, and it was. And that was my introduction to a career committed to nonprofit organizations.

You mentioned Lajerne Cornish—who else from the Goucher community means the most to you and why?

I mentioned Michelle Clay, too. Michelle looked like me and came from my world—we went to middle school, high school, and college together. She was only one, but that was important to me. It was like family. It helped me through.

Michael Curry created the bridge for me between theatre as I knew it at the Baltimore School for the Arts and theatre in the professional world. He made it very comfortable for me—I was the first male theatre major graduate. He was just a phenomenal, phenomenal professor. But probably the person that impacted my Goucher career the most is Jean Wilhelm, who founded the arts administration program. I’ve described her as an old owl, because she was the wisest woman you could ever meet and tough as nails. She taught us like professionals, not like students. I remember finally getting A’s in her class and how tough that was. She did not play favorites—you had to work for every single thing that you got from her.

I remember one course where she made us “apply” for a job. We had to look through various publications and pick a job at an arts organization at the executive-director level. Then we had to give her the job description and write a proposal letter to apply for it. She believed that you can’t just send your resumé somewhere with your little cover letter and say, “Please hire me.” You have to go and do research on the organization, its community, its city and state. And then the biggest thing she taught

us was “WIIFM”—What’s In It For Me? You have to look at it from your point of view, and from their point of view. She taught us to create a letter of proposal and say, “I’m interested in your organization, here’s what I like about it, here’s what I bring to it, and if I were to be chosen as your next executive director, here is my vision for where I think I can take your organization.” What an experience. It took a semester to learn all that and to do it well. I use it to this very day.

Give me a little WIIFM on the job of president of the AAGC.

I remember the day I got the telephone call from Linda Himmelberger, past president and at the time liaison to the AAGC Nominating Committee. She told me that the committee had voted unanimously to submit my name to be vice president and put me on the track to be president. And I said, “No way. There is no way Goucher College is ready for this—first male, first African American. There is no way.”

And we got to talking, and she said a number of things that made me begin to think about vision. If I am going to go somewhere, I need to think about vision. She kept saying, “Robert, it’s time. And if this institution is going to have an alumnus as president of the AAGC, we can’t think of anyone else we want to do it first.” So after filling my head up with all those good thoughts, I said that I could only do it if I had the support of the college—and I have had tremendous support on this track.

I used my years as vice president to take an account of where the college is, where it is going, what its needs are, and of Sandy Ungar’s vision and where he is taking the college. I think that this institution will diversify itself more during this college president’s tenure—under Sandy’s vision—than possibly during any other time in its history.

The move to coeducation certainly was a major shift.

Sure, very much so. But also diversity on how it relates to exploring new worlds—I still appreciate my semester studying at the Sorbonne in Paris—intertwining the curriculum with an international focus. Acceptance of male leaders on campus without it being a big deal. The pendulum has swung back, and that’s a comfortable place to be.

At the time Linda asked you, you were serving as an elected trustee—you weren’t ever a recent-graduate trustee or an alumnus trustee representing the AAGC, as some might think.

Correct. I just finished my fifth year—the second year of my second term. There was a subset of folks who thought, when

I was being put on this track, that I was taking a step back. I have to tell you, it really bugged me. And made me want to do this *that much more*.

Because they didn't see the AAGC as being on par with the Board of Trustees?

Absolutely, without question. I want the AAGC, as the largest organization affiliated with Goucher College, to have as much visibility and as much respect as any organization on this campus and to be as impactful as the Board of Trustees. And I think that there is no more strategic time to do that than right now.

How has being a trustee informed your relationship with the college?

I thought that being a trustee was going to be really easy. But when you sit in that room and issues are put on the table and you have to think about what is in the best interest of this institution, what is in the best interest of current students and future students, and your vote is going toward something that is going to change or heavily impact this college, the decisions can be tough. I can relate to that “coed decision.”

Speaking of things that are tough, as you look ahead to the next two years—your term as president—what do you see as the biggest challenges facing you and the AAGC as a whole?

In one word, it would probably be *engagement*. I think that over the years, and I'm not quite sure how it has happened, there are fewer alums who are truly invested in Goucher. We can probably prove that in numbers and percentages, but you can also just feel it. But when you look at the numbers and you look at our history, you know that we have tremendous capacity for reaching what I'm going to consider full engagement. Here's how I define engagement: I define it as not only keeping in touch with your fellow alums, but doing it in a way that [the college] can keep track of and market through AAGC vehicles and channels so that it encourages and infuses other

alumni activity. I define engagement as really being honored to and wanting to help prospective students—being able to connect with them and give them the support they need before they ever set foot in their first class. I see it as part of annual giving—our percentage of participation has dropped tremendously over the past decade. So there is something that's lost there that needs to return.

Does being the first male and the first African American to hold the position play into how you approach your role as AAGC president?

I don't think about it—and I do think about it. I don't think about it because there is a job to do. Even in my professional career, I am often not the picture that my clients would ever envision for the professional providing service to them. So I don't think about it, because I know that after a couple of minutes it won't make any difference at all and I can pretty much prove that I can do the job. The president of the AAGC is a volunteer position, but it's a job. I have agreed to do it. The flip side of that is I do think about being the first—first male, first African American.

I can think back to elementary school and middle school, when we would study African-American history—most of it in February. I used to look at so many African Americans in history and see so many firsts. I remember thinking, “Wow; they've taken all the good stuff. There isn't going to be anything left when I get older.” It dawned on me in taking this position that we are still making history in ways that are just as impactful as our predecessors. It's kind of weird; I never thought I'd be the first at anything. It wasn't my intention at all.

If anything, I hope I can use this “new face for the AAGC,” if you will, to give the AAGC the respect and visibility that it deserves. If I am going to get attention right now because of who I am, great—bring it on. Because attention is what we need. Attention is the only way that we are going

If anything, I hope I can use this “new face for the AAGC,” if you will, to give the AAGC the respect and visibility that it deserves. If I am going to get attention right now because of who I am, great—bring it on. Because attention is what we need.



to bring some focus to what we are capable of doing, and make some marked accomplishments over the next couple of years.

So, in two years, how will you know if you've been successful?

Success will be defined as larger attendance at alumni programming, more in-depth stories regarding alums and how they are engaged in this college—I'm looking right at the *Goucher Quarterly*. A marked difference in the energy and the enthusiasm around the AAGC. I think having Margaret-Ann [Radford-Wedemeyer] on board as our new executive director, with her experience working with students, will definitely help. I want to see higher participation in the Annual Fund. I want alums to understand the role and place for the Strategic Plan and to get behind it—not just financially—but that it's good for the institution as a whole, and come back to the college to see some of what it has produced.

When I talk with alums who have been out 30, 40, or even 60 years, many of them mention how much the college has changed. Well, the college is nowhere near what it used to be even 15 years ago, when I graduated. When I talk to the students today, however, the same values are still here. The same rigorous education, the relationships with the professors—it's all still here. The only thing that is changing is the calendar—the date, the time, the year.

I'm always disturbed at the number of alums who don't make Goucher a part of their lives. Sometimes their relationship with Goucher doesn't go beyond direct mail—the magazine, the newsletters, the solicitations—

so there is sometimes an underlying negative feeling about Goucher and a loss with these alums. I feel really sorry for folks who don't engage themselves in other ways, because it's much more gratifying to get involved.

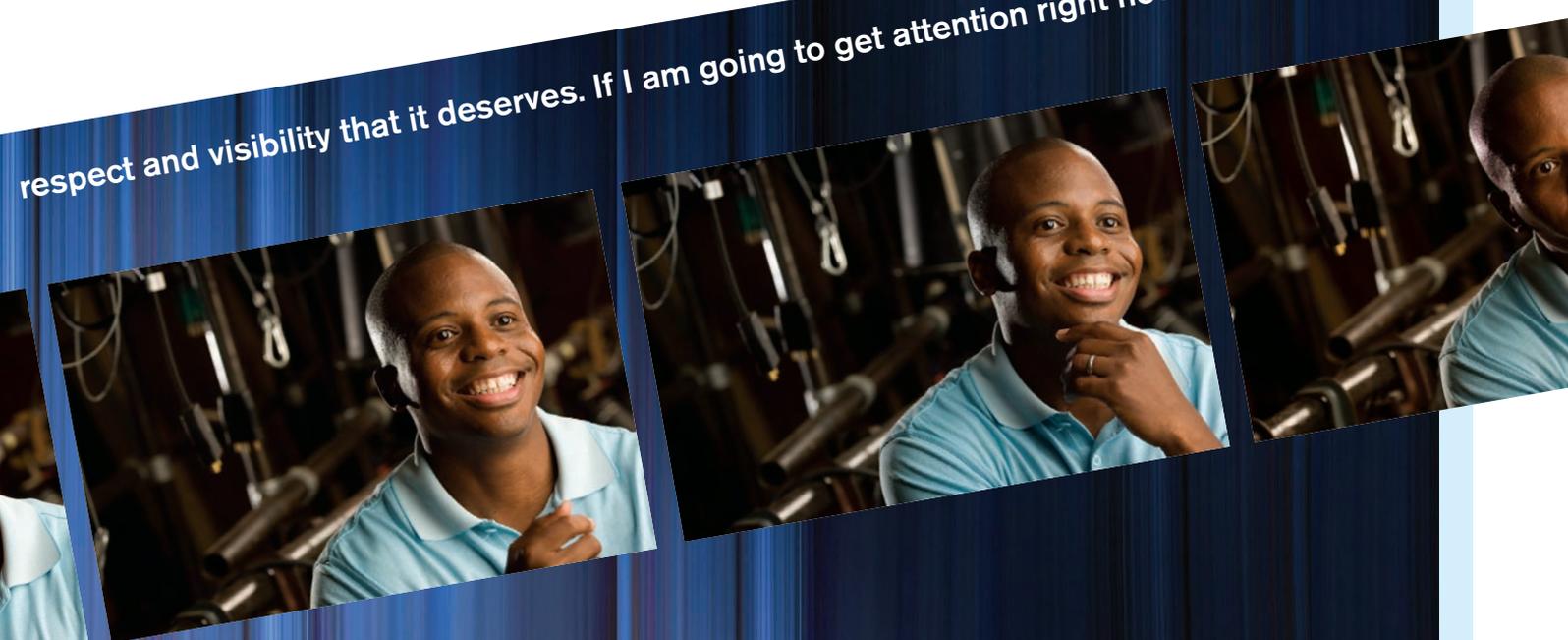
Maybe when you are chair of the Nominating Committee, the person you ask to come on board won't immediately say no.

When I make that call, I want to say, "Here's where the college has been the past two years, here's where it is headed, and here's why you are going to be perfect for it at this time." I don't want that to be an accident or discovered later on.

I don't want to let Goucher down. Goucher means the world to me. My wife, Phyllis, calls it my second wife, as it competes with my time for my family. I want to feel good about these two years and to be honored to hand the AAGC over to Kathy Healy as the next president, because she's going to take it to an even higher level. That's what I will consider true accomplishment.

I guess if I had a message to the alums, I want to tell them that I am happy to be the face of the AAGC. We need to reach you. It might be through our revitalized career network. We might need to reach you through students. We might need to reach you through financial support. We might need to reach you because of an experience you've had that you can share with a student who is having that same kind of experience. But we do want to see you. We look forward to that, and we ask that you have open doors when we come. §

respect and visibility that it deserves. If I am going to get attention right now





The Tire Swing



nce upon a time (Feb. 13, 1986, according to some), Goucher's first male undergraduate student devised a clever way to win his girlfriend's hand in marriage. Knowing that her parents had denied her one as a child, he hung—by cover of darkness—a tire swing on a tall black walnut tree outside Meyerhoff Arts Center. With a romantic Valentine flourish, he proposed by the swing the following day. She accepted, and they married, had many children, and lived happily ever after.

Until recently, if you took a Goucher admissions tour, you might have heard this story—which, like many good tales, contains a few grains of truth.

The tire swing was indeed hung in honor of a young lady, **Kim Tapper '98**, but the gesture was made not for love, but in friendship, to celebrate her 18th birthday on Oct. 10, 1994. The project's masterminds, **Shaiel Yitzchak '97** and **Mercedes Cubillan '96**, found their English text more inspiring than the class they were attending. "We came upon a poem about a swing, I think by A. A. Milne from *When We Were Very Young*," Yitzchak wrote from Jerusalem in August. "And outside the window, there was that branch—which was basically begging someone to toss a rope over it and attach a tire to the end."

The pair skipped class, purchased 25 meters of marine-grade rope, plucked the tire that Yitzchak had been saving for just such an occasion from the trunk of his car, and headed to the tree. A crowd gathered shortly thereafter.

After several unsuccessful attempts to throw it over the branch, the rope was tied to a brick and launched by slingshot. Yitzchak—now a commando in the Israeli airforce—clambered to the top, tethered himself to a higher branch, shimmied out, and secured the rope.

"I had shared with him that I had always wanted a swing like that, so I could feel like I was flying," said Tapper, who was blindfolded and led to the tree. "Shaiel lifted me onto the swing and ripped off the blindfold—and there it was. It was a great birthday present."

"For the next few days in class," Yitzchak recalled, "all my professors asked me to stay a moment and acknowledge whether the rumors were true—that I was, in fact, the one responsible. They thought I was just being modest when I told them it was a collaborative effort."

Then-President **Judy Jolley Mohraz** had no problem with this addition to campus. After a few safety checks, she decreed it should stay. "To have a tire swing on a college campus ... just embodied something about Goucher, that sense of community," she reflected recently. "I couldn't imagine cutting down something so symbolic of Goucher students."

Apparently, neither can anyone else. A bit higher off the ground but its rope still sturdy, the tire swing remains a treasured fixture on Goucher's campus. §

Colleen Wiley Koskinen '97 and **Jason Koskinen '97**, part of the crew that erected the tire swing, revisited it with their two young children during their 10th Goucher Reunion in April. "We were two weeks into our relationship, and Jason broke things off long enough to take a bike ride," recalled Colleen in a Goucher Stories oral history recorded during Alumnae/i Weekend 2007. "By the time he came back to campus, Shaiel was putting up the swing, and we decided to help him. When it was done, Jason turned to me and said, 'Do you want to go to the Gopher Hole and get a snack?' And that was it—we were back together. This tire swing has a lot of significance for our relationship."

Inset photos courtesy of Colleen and Jason Koskinen



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Barbara Lee Pilert '72

For years, I've been keeping a list of things to do before I die. It was only recently that I realized it was all places to go: Borneo to see the orangutans; Komodo Island to see the komodo dragons. And the list isn't getting any shorter!

I want that educational experience from the world. A good education gives you the tools to go out into the world and educate yourself. That's what Goucher gave me—and that's what I want for students today.

As a student, Barbara Pilert financed her first trip to the Mediterranean as a chambermaid in Corsica. Since then, she has been all over the world, but has always brought what she's learned back home. Seeing firsthand the vulnerability of both the earth's biodiversity and its poor has spurred her local involvement as a docent at the Baltimore Zoo and as a volunteer for Episcopal Social Ministries.

For more information or to make your gift to Goucher College, visit www.goucher.edu/gift or call **410.337.6083** or **1.800.619.7564**.

Breaking Ranks

by Sanford J. Ungar

At just about the time that most people read this column, Americans will have been hit with the annual avalanche of “college rankings.” There will be *The Princeton Review*, which has, as far as I can tell, nothing to do with the university of the same name and which includes such a large number of colleges in its catalogue of “the best” as to render the honor we share suspect. Then, there’s *The Washington Monthly*, which purports to rate each place on the basis of its commitment to advancing public service, scientific and humanistic research, and social mobility. Goucher is dead in the water there, because we do not offer an ROTC program—a critical, if puzzling, component of their calculations.

The Atlantic may or may not weigh in again this year. You can count, however, on CollegeProwler’s “Off the Record” guides, *PC Magazine*’s “Top 20 Wired Colleges,” the Young America’s Foundation’s “Top Ten Conservative Colleges,” and multiple lists both in print and online of the alleged best places for Asian Americans, African Americans, and Latinos, to name a few.

But nothing is guaranteed to get people in jobs like mine foaming at the mouth more quickly than a mere mention of the annual “Best Colleges” issue from *U.S. News and World Report*.

And foam we do. The magazine’s suspiciously precise annual rankings of colleges and universities across the country are, to put it mildly, arbitrary, reckless, and manipulable. Indeed, the *U.S. News* assessment process is itself objectionable—most notably for its “reputational survey,” sent every year to college presidents, chief academic officers, and admissions directors, in which we are asked to assign a one-to-five score to every “comparable” institution in the country. The results of that survey, when compiled, account for 25 percent of the overall quotient that determines each school’s ranking. Not surprisingly, those that rank highest tend to be the best-known and the wealthiest; some actually deserve the notice they get, and others, in my humble opinion, do not.

The editors of *U.S. News*, who, in terms of copies sold, appear to benefit substantially from the seasonal bout of criticism, insist that they are just performing a public service—helping out families who desperately need information in order to



photo by Bruce Weller

deal with the bewildering marketplace of higher education. No one I know disputes their right to rate colleges as if they were commodities comparable to cars, refrigerators, or HDTV sets. The issues that concern me are the fairness and the usefulness of the rankings—and the extent to which they influence people to make bad decisions for their children.

What most people realize these days (and here I think many students are ahead of their parents) is that there is not just one perfect place for every child to go to college. Indeed, there may be half a dozen or more. The challenge is to identify that group and then make rather subtle comparisons of such factors as geographic region, size of student body, availability and flexibility of majors, prospects for direct contact with faculty members, extracurricular opportunities, the likelihood of exposure to people different from oneself, the values of a campus and its sense of community, and the intangible question of “fit.”

Students should be asking themselves, “Can I see myself here?” for example, or “Does it seem like this college will prepare me well for the next steps in my life?” Those answers are far more important than the one to the question that often lurks in the background: “Will the money my parents spend on tuition buy them bragging rights?”

I happen to believe that—now more than ever, in an era when many people will have multiple careers—a good old-fashioned liberal arts education, with opportunities to sample a variety of disciplines, is the best possible

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preparation. Add the requirements to be able to write and compute well, to master a foreign language, to consider issues of diversity and environmental sustainability, and to study abroad at least once—not to mention the high likelihood that our students will learn to think and speak on their feet—and I think Goucher has quite a good product to sell.

So how to keep the focus on the constructive, and avoid hypocrisy? (We might have been justifiably accused of that unattractive quality a few years ago, when we turned up in *Newsweek* as one of the “Twelve Hot Schools” of the year, and the “Most Happy” one at that. We trumpeted that designation from the rooftops.)

For starters, we can encourage more constructive and responsible comparisons. That’s why we are so pleased to be included in *Colleges That Change Lives*, a compendium of 40 somewhat less-celebrated institutions put together by Loren Pope, former education editor of *The New York Times*. There we are listed alphabetically, not in rank order on the basis of some absurdly quantitative beauty contest. Among the qualities Mr. Pope is looking for are whether a college empowers students intellectually, whether learning is collaborative rather than competitive, and whether “there is a sense of community and connection that goes well beyond four years of attendance.”

CTCL, as we call it, has sold more than 100,000 copies, and the organization it has spawned holds events around the country that draw many prospective Goucher students. We are happy to participate equally in those events with the other 39 schools.

We have also joined scores of other prominent and prestigious liberal arts colleges across the country in mounting a public protest against the spuriousness of the *U.S. News* rankings, declaring that we will no longer complete the magazine’s “reputational survey.” (Unlike some other colleges, however, we will continue to submit objective data about ourselves to the magazine—lest it come up with its own “estimates.”)

Additionally, we are cooperating with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and with the Education Conservancy on the development of new, hopefully unbiased instruments for comparison of institutions across the spectrum.

We do not wish, of course, to cut off prospective students and their families from reliable sources of information about the colleges among which they must choose. On the contrary, we want them to be as well-informed as possible, and to evaluate us on our merits and our values.

We simply believe that when it comes to finding the criteria on which such issues may be judged, perhaps we educators might be a little better suited to the task than the editors of the various news magazines, websites, and blogs.



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