

# Goucher

NEWSLETTER



PHOTO BY NOAH SCIALOM

## Whiskey in the Jar

BY ANGIE COCHRUN

**E**li Breitburg-Smith '08 majored in anthropology at Goucher College; Max Lents '08 studied philosophy. Their majors now are the distillers' arts, as becomes clear on a recent afternoon, when the two methodically check the equipment in a brick warehouse in Baltimore's Remington neighborhood. Short sugar chains, active enzymes, and yeast fermentation are their focus.

Their Baltimore Whiskey Company began production in November, but the business they founded with partner Ian Newton has been in the works for nearly three years.

The path from anthropology to small business ownership wasn't random, says Breitburg-Smith, who originally considered a physics major. These days he appreciates how Goucher's liberal arts curriculum gave him the chance to dabble in "art stuff" as well as science. "I certainly blended those together in school, and now that comes into play," he says. "Every day we're doing some sort of creative work combined with practical use of science."

Lents says his undergraduate experience prepared him for launching and running a company. "The philosophy department was super challenging, very rigorous, and demanding," he says. "Philosophy lends itself to business. It's one

of the more popular majors for business school. It teaches you how to think critically and aggressively and solve problems. It's related, even if the subject matter isn't."

At Goucher, Lents was the Philosophy Club treasurer, and Breitburg-Smith was president of the Break Dancing Club. (He still can't talk about it without laughing.) But now it's most easy to find the two at the distillery. "It's double full time," Lents says. "We were here until Tuesday on Monday."

Their pre-business relationship began at a spring break group rental house at Alligator Point in Florida near the Gulf of Mexico. They were then briefly housemates in Baltimore and also dabbled in home brewing (in Breitburg-Smith's case, professional brewing) before starting the venture that is the second distillery in Baltimore City. The first to be founded was a father-daughter corn whiskey operation, Louthan Distilling; Under Amour mogul Kevin Plank's Sagamore Spirit distillery was the third.

They were "very publicly" looking for a building, when the landlord approached them about Remington's Broom Factory, a space shared with the Mill Valley General Store in the shadow of

## DEAR GOUCHER COLLEGE ALUMNAE/I:

One of the things I like to tell prospective students is that Goucher College will prepare them for the jobs of the future. Vocational training won't help with those jobs. What they'll require, employers tell me, is the ability to be resilient, to take chances, and to solve complex problems with people who think differently than they do. Those are exactly the skills we try to impart to our students, and there are no better examples offered than by our alumnae/i.

Take a look at **Faye Yvette McQueen '83**—not only is she making her way in the extremely difficult and competitive acting profession, she's taking time to mentor and teach her skills to others. And please lift a glass to our alums starting their own whiskey company in the heart of Baltimore. These things take guts and determination, and we wish them all the best.

Construction on the new residence hall on campus continues, and we are on track for opening this August. Thank you for your continued support of this exciting and transformative addition to the campus.

We're all looking forward to Alumnae/i Weekend in a few weeks. Jennifer Pawlo-Johnstone, executive director of alumnae/i engagement, and **Lynn Satterfield '83**, director of alumnae/i affairs, have been working hard to make it a memorable one, so I hope you'll stop by and see some old friends and make some new ones. I think you'll find the place is in good hands.

I have to conclude by telling you that Goucher lost a valued friend this year in Bob Welch, former professor and acting president, who passed away in February. His hard work and dedication to Goucher will be sorely missed, and we know he was a big part of the college for many of you. We hope you'll send your reminiscences of Bob to the magazine at [Goucher.Magazine@goucher.edu](mailto:Goucher.Magazine@goucher.edu) for a tribute in the next issue.

All the best,



José Antonio Bowen  
President

a Geico billboard and the Jones Falls Expressway, Lents says. The warehouse met the city's manufacturing zoning requirements while also being in a largely residential area—a perfectly accessible spot for “your friendly, neighborhood distillery.”

Equipment and décor were acquired from craftsmen around the country, including fermenters from Alabama, a copper still from Washington, and a mash tun from Maine; and local sources, including a series of paintings by Baltimore artist Kristie Winther and a tasting bar obtained via Craigslist. The distillery is filled with the sounds of swishing, clicking, and, every once in a while, the conversation of an assembly line of friends, bottling four jars at a time, tasting allowed.

The Baltimore Whiskey Company's current offerings, including 1904 Ginger Apple Liqueur, Baltimore Shot Tower Gin, and Charles Street Apple Brandy, sprang from “divine inspiration,” Lents says. “We haven't done anything yet that hasn't been a passion project for someone in the company.”

But their ultimate goal is to create a rye whiskey that will do the Maryland tradition of rye whiskey proud. “We are all whiskey enthusiasts,” Lents says. “We really wanted to make good whiskey, and we wanted to do it here. That's really why we got into it.” Rye whiskey is a regional liquor with a rich heritage and burgeoning popularity. “For a long time it was more popular than bourbon,” says Breitburg-Smith. Rye also takes longer to make; their first batch is already distilled and aging—on track to be bottled in 2018.

The founders have high hopes for their fledgling company. “We want to be as big as we can,” says Lents. A native of Houston, he had not planned to stay in Baltimore, but, unsure of where to go after college, he moved into Baltimore's Station North and fell in love with the arts scene.

Breitburg-Smith was one of five co-founders (four of the five being Goucher graduates) of the Baltimore Rock Opera Society (BROS) in 2007. Now part of Baltimore's cultural landscape, BROS regularly produces original live rock operas. At one point, Breitburg-Smith had moved to Nevada for brewing experience. “Now I own a house here,” says the Hampden resident.

The two men say that Goucher still has a large hold on their lives. “The biggest thing is connections in the community,” Breitburg-Smith says. “Connections with those who invest in the community. It's paid off and helped us to get to where we are and do the things we're doing.”

Free tastings are offered at The Baltimore Whiskey Company, 2800 Sisson St, Baltimore, MD 21211, on Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. More information can be found at [thebaltimorewhiskeycompany.com](http://thebaltimorewhiskeycompany.com).



## Raising the Roof

Goucher students, trustees, faculty, and staff gathered in February to celebrate the “topping out” of the new residence hall taking shape in the middle of campus. A topping-out ceremony commemorates the placement of the last beam atop a new structure. The first-year residence hall is on track to open late this summer.



PHOTOS BY ROB FERRELL

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGHER ED

President José Antonio Bowen will host a reception and open forum discussion in early July of the challenges and initiatives to re-envision Goucher College’s liberal arts mission in Aspen, Colorado.

Members of the Goucher community are welcome to join the president for this first-time ever gathering in Aspen. And, of course, the Rocky Mountains offer a memorable attraction at this time of year: the splendor of wild flowers abloom in mountainside nooks and crannies and in alpine meadows.

Be sure to check on the web ([www.goucher.edu/magazine](http://www.goucher.edu/magazine)) for more details, including the date and location of this Goucher gathering. Information will also be available through periodic email updates beginning later this month.

In the meantime, contact Jennifer Pawlo-Johnstone, at 410-337-6181 or [Jennifer.PawloJohnstone@goucher.edu](mailto:Jennifer.PawloJohnstone@goucher.edu).



# What Goes On In Your Mind?

## GOUCHER STUDENTS TAKE A LOOK

BY CHRIS LANDERS



**G**oucher's Psychology Department, already home to one of the most popular majors on campus, will be adding a new resource for students this fall—a state-of-the-art neuroscience lab.

Neuroscience, the study of the physiological processes in the brain (think electrodes on the scalp) is a discipline that cuts across departments. Researcher Gillian Starkey, who will be joining the college to run the new lab, specializes in educational and developmental neuroscience—the study of how we learn.

“At Goucher,” Starkey says, “I will be gradually building up an electrophysiology lab. Electrophysiology (better known as EEG) is a method in which a cap full of electrodes is placed on the head to measure the electrical activity of neurons firing in the brain as a participant performs a task.”

Psychology Chair Jen McCabe says the first experiments in the new lab will be focused on how children develop math skills.

“We’re going to be looking at children, and how their math and number abilities develop,” she says,

“and really see what’s happening in the brain—what does that look like in a behavioral way; what are they doing with the numbers; and then what do the brain pathways, and the brain activation look like.”

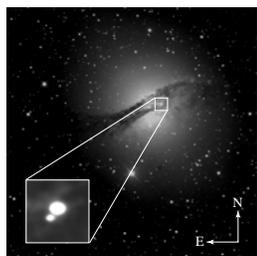
Starkey previously worked as a lecturer at San Jose State University and at Stanford, where she was a post-doctoral fellow. She received her doctorate from Vanderbilt University.

“I went to a small liberal arts college (Bryn Mawr) that has a lot in common with Goucher,” Starkey says, “and the thing I loved most about it was the opportunity to interact with people who had diverse backgrounds, interests, and goals, but all shared a common drive to make a meaningful impact through their work.”

“This will really help us make the connections [between specialties],” McCabe says, citing biology and education connections with Starkey’s work. “We’re really excited about the interdisciplinary nature of what she does. We think students in different disciplines will be interested in taking her classes and getting involved.”

# Goucher In Space

BY CHRIS LANDERS



**C**ompetition is heated among astronomers who wish to book time on NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope, but Goucher Chair of Physics and Astronomy Ben Sugerman is quickly becoming a regular with the orbital research tool. In addition to working with students on Hubble data in 2014, Sugerman and a colleague from Hofstra University in New York recently secured “director’s discretionary time” to study an exploding star in a nearby galaxy.

In NASA lingo, director’s discretionary time refers to the 10 percent of Hubble time reserved for particularly time-sensitive observations that come up throughout the year. There are more than 1,000 applications each year from scientists all over the world, of which the agency accepts around 200.

The event Sugerman will be studying, Supernova 2016adj, is one of the closest supernovae since the invention of the telescope. It was

discovered February 8, and Sugerman and Stephen Lawrence at Hofstra worked evenings and weekends to put together a proposal for the Space Telescope Science Institute. Two weeks later, the institute notified them that they would get four orbits of the telescope to image the supernova between March and June, along with a grant to cover the costs of analyzing the data.

The Hubble, launched in 1990, was the first of NASA’s four Great Observatory satellites. The last to be launched was the Spitzer Space Telescope in 2003, to which Sugerman and Lawrence have also received access.

Several Goucher students under Sugerman’s direction recently presented their space telescope-based findings at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Florida, and their work was featured on the astronomy website space.com.

# New Faces in the Alumnae/i House

BY CHRIS LANDERS

**L**ynn Satterfield '83's first contact with Goucher College was inauspicious. She received an unsolicited brochure for the college at her home in North Carolina. It was headed for the trash when her father saw it.

"My dad said 'What's that?'" she recalls. "Oh, some girls' school out of state, I think it's called Goo-Shay."

Luckily, the new director of alumnae/i affairs says, her father knew more (including the pronunciation). He'd seen the school win on the "College Bowl" quiz show and been impressed. On his insistence, they drove up to Baltimore.

It was a successful visit—Satterfield applied and attended. "We all came from different places, and we were all new, which was great," she says now. "It's nice to try something new and different, and it was the best thing I did."

She came back a few years after graduating and worked for a time in the Admissions Office. (She conducted the first interview with a male student applying to the newly coed Goucher.)

Since leaving Goucher, Satterfield has worked in development and alumni relations at a number of area schools, running events at the Roland Park Country School and St. Timothy's School in Stevenson, Maryland. Most recently she was the admissions and development coordinator at Chesapeake Montessori School in Annapolis.

Now she's back, and she's been learning the ropes as she attends to the thousand details that make up Alumnae/i Weekend.

Satterfield has a history with the college, but Executive Director of Alumnae/i Engagement Jennifer Pawlo-Johnstone is a new presence on Goucher's campus, albeit one with a lot of experience in the field of alumni relations. She came to the area in 1996 to work at Towson University, and more recently has been working at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, or Poly, as it's known locally.



PHOTO BY ROB FERRELL

As Baltimoreans know, the answer to "What school did you attend?" usually refers to high schools, and Poly—once the male counterpart to all-girl Western High School—is a big deal in the city.

"I learned that really early on when I was doing admissions work at Towson," she says. "It was shocking to me how much affinity there was to high schools here. If I didn't know, I would have thought [Poly] was a private school."

Poly's alums, like Goucher's, are fiercely loyal to their *alma mater*, and Pawlo-Johnstone says she's been made to feel welcome in Goucher's tight-knit community.

"With any alumni work that I've done," she says, "there's always that thread of remembering that the reason these graduates are here—10 years, 20 years after they graduate—is that the school gave them something significant in their life. They want to stay connected and pass that down, to make sure the next generation of students has that experience. It speaks volumes about their experience, it speaks volumes about the school."

And Satterfield's experience here? After chatting in her office about her time at Goucher, she pulls out a picture of her first-year dorm room, the walls decorated with a custom paint job she did with her first roommate. They got in a bit of trouble for that, but also bonded for the first time. She keeps the picture on her phone.

^  
Jennifer  
Pawlo-  
Johnstone  
(left) and  
Lynn  
Satterfield '83

**"[Alums] want to stay connected and ... make sure the next generation of students has that experience."**  
—Jennifer Pawlo-Johnstone



# Storied Collections

**EXHIBITION SHOWCASES WORKS DRAWN FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF ALUMNAE/I, FRIENDS, AND COLLEGE**

BY HOLLY SELBY

PHOTO:  
FISH ON THE ROCK #4, 2006  
BY HIROSHI YAMANO  
COURTESY OF  
JULIA GELFAND

Something about the small sculpture caught and held **Julia Gelfand '75's** attention. In it, a school of fish is etched into opaque glass set upon roughly hewn stone, and the fine lines detailing the tails and fins make the fish seem to swirl by.

“The piece, which is by a Japanese artist, is an example of cutting and drawing in the glass, and it has amazing lines,” says Gelfand, a longtime art collector. “It also has elements that are both sophisticated and primitive.”

Called “Fish on the Rock #4, 2006,” the sculpture by Hiroshi Yamano, is one of two artworks that Gelfand is lending to the college as part of an exhibition titled *Goucher Collects: Living with Art*. The show, on view at the Silber Art Gallery from April 14 - May 21, will feature more than 60 works drawn from collections belonging to nearly 30 alumnae/i, parents, and friends, as well as the college. It comprises prints, paintings, sculptures, and even an example of 16th century Spanish wallpaper, and includes works by Louise Nevelson, Ellsworth Kelly, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, as well as contemporary artists.

Organized by Sonja Sugerman, curator of Goucher’s Art and Artifact Collection, the exhibit explores what makes a collector collect. “There are many different types of collections, and there are many ways of collecting,” Sugerman says. “Every collection tells an amazing story, and that’s what we are hoping to capture in this exhibition.”

Indeed, there are as many stories to share as artworks. Gelfand and her husband, David Lang, have been collecting large and small pieces of ceramics and glass art from around the world for about 20 years.

“We usually are well aware of the artist and his or her work, so then, when we find the perfect



piece for us, we acquire it, as we want to continue to admire and savor it. It just gives us an infusion of creativity. Collecting is in our DNA, and we treasure our relationships with artists and gallery personnel,” the California resident says.

But at least part of the Yamano sculpture’s appeal was its subject matter: “I am an angler, and the fish theme resonated with me,” Gelfand adds.

For **A. Will Brown '10**, who has loaned four contemporary works to the college, the desire to collect began at an early age. Growing up in a family of artists, Brown always was surrounded by art. “As a kid, I was sort of collecting things in the same way that I am now: picking works very specifically for aesthetic or thematic groupings,” says the curatorial assistant at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum.

Brown began building his personal collection two years ago—after graduating with a master’s degree in curatorial practice from the California College of the Arts in San Francisco. “As someone who works in the arts and with artists pretty closely, collecting is first and foremost about supporting artists who I believe in, who are doing worthwhile and interesting things,” he says. “Things that I can look at every day and feel excited about.”

In conjunction with Alumnae/i Weekend, a viewing of *Goucher Collects: Living with Art* will be held Saturday, April 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Silber Art Gallery. For information, call 410-337-6477.

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# Faye Yvette McQueen '83

*Whether hanging Sheetrock or falling out of windows, she's up for anything*

BY HOLLY SELBY

PHOTO BY ERIC STOCKLIN

**A**s a dancer, **Faye Yvette McQueen '83** is known for her passion, ability to command a stage, and the boldness of her leaps. The same can be said of her approach to life.

As a young professional in Atlanta, McQueen founded a nonprofit dance school in an empty warehouse with the goal of teaching dance to underprivileged youths. When the cost of renovations threatened the project, she moved into the space herself and learned to hang Sheetrock.

More recently, when playing an extra on a *Law & Order* episode, McQueen was asked if she could perform *Krav Maga*.

She said, "of course," then headed home to google the phrase.

She watched a YouTube video, returned to the set the next morning, and put on a grand show performing the martial art form developed for the Israel Defense Force and derived from judo, wrestling, and street fighting. The director noticed; McQueen was given a bigger part and appeared in several scenes alongside lead actor Mariska Hargitay.

McQueen's "can-do" philosophy, professional successes, and generosity were celebrated in February when she was presented the 2016 **Marguerite Barland '60** Merit Award by the Alumnae & Alumni of Goucher College (AAGC). The award citation noted that McQueen has "used her love of movement, choreography, teaching, and performing to inspire not just students and audiences, but whole communities, as well."

By age 12, she had founded a studio called "Dancer's Delight," through which she offered dance lessons to neighborhood children then directed them in shows at the nursing homes where her mother worked. "I caught the bug early on. I always wanted to teach, and I always

wanted to perform," McQueen says. "Something I learned first as a little girl and then at Goucher was 'seize the opportunity.' And I learned to have the confidence to never say 'no.' Never say 'no' and never give up."

Growing up in Jamaica, NY, McQueen was shy and a bit awkward. Her parents, hoping to bolster her confidence, signed her up for dance lessons at a local Y. Soon, McQueen was pirouetting and jeté-ing all over the house. "When I danced, people smiled at me," she says. "I thought: 'I want to do this.'"

As a teenager, McQueen taught dance and performed as an actor and dancer in high school productions or as a volunteer instructor at a drug prevention center for youths. She also studied at The Ailey School and the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance. At Goucher, she majored in dance education and minored in Spanish and threw herself into the spectrum of performing arts available on campus. After graduating, she studied for another year at The Ailey School while performing professionally in the New York area, including in off-Broadway musicals and with the companies Liberation Ensemble and the Inspiration Dance Ensemble.

While she was in graduate school at Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts, she was recruited to teach dance at the W.E. Griener Middle School Exploratory Arts Academy. "I was the one they recruited because I had studied dance education at Goucher," she says.

In 1988, McQueen founded the nonprofit school The Dancer's Warehouse Inc. Under McQueen's leadership, the school grew to serve about 800 students and included a four-tiered dance company, an African dance group, and in-school artist residencies in Georgia and Alabama.



In 2009, faced with dwindling funding, McQueen took a leap: She closed her school and moved back to New York to pursue acting.

In addition to appearing in martial arts fight scenes, McQueen has performed as a stunt double for notables such as Lorraine Toussaint of *Orange is the New Black* and in several episodes of *Law & Order*. Her stunt work has included falling out of a two-story window, portraying a convict who gets "shanked" by a fellow felon, and spinning a car 360 degrees. "I'm a dancer," she says. "I can do the moves, and I never say 'I can't.'"

She also has portrayed characters in the TV hits *Limitless* and *Veep*, as well as the movie *The Bourne Legacy*. In the next few months, she is scheduled to portray a taciturn crime scene investigator in a web series and to appear in a cinematic thriller titled *Killer Response*, starring Tom Sizemore and slated to open in 2017.

The performer, who has occasionally been heard to say, as though a mantra, "Faye will make a way," is also in the early planning stages to found a third dance school. The nonprofit, which will be located in the New York area, will be dedicated to teaching dance to as many children as possible.

## IN MEMORIAM



## Robert Welch

1944-2016

**Bob Welch, former acting president, dean and associate dean of academic affairs, senior lecturer in philosophy, and dear friend of Goucher College,** passed away February 28, after a two-year battle with cancer.

“The Goucher community has lost one of its treasures,” said Goucher President José Bowen. “Bob loved Goucher deeply, and our community loved him just as much.”

Welch devoted his life to serving students in pursuit of truth. He met his wife, Patricia “Pat” Farrell, during his undergraduate days at Brown University, and afterwards taught middle-school and high-school English for many years. He decided to return to school to earn a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and served in numerous positions there. He relocated to Baltimore in 1985 to serve as dean of Homewood schools administration at the Johns Hopkins University.

He arrived at Goucher in 1989 to serve as associate dean and then dean of academic affairs. Among his many accomplishments, he was instrumental in expanding the college’s program of continuing education, and the Robert S. Welch Center of Graduate and Professional Studies was named in his honor. Together with other faculty members, he created the individualized interdisciplinary major and pioneered the Interdisciplinary Studies Program.

He was appointed acting president for the 2000-2001 school year, and then returned to the classroom, where he taught philosophy until his retirement in August 2014.

As former President Sanford J. Ungar said: “Bob Welch led Goucher through an important transitional period with grace and skill. He was able to do that because he knew the college and its people so well and believed in its mission and its future.”

Welch was a true servant to Goucher who always held the good of the students, the faculty, and the college foremost in his mind. A leader who led from behind, he created room for discussion and deliberation with those with whom he worked. He offered multiple solutions when approaching a situation, and allowed his colleagues to choose the best path for them. Anxious to get back into the classroom—to students—after his tenure as acting president, he taught until the day he was diagnosed. Even afterward, he hosted beer tastings faithfully every year for Alumnae/i Weekend.

Former Goucher President Judy Mohraz worked very closely with Welch as well: “Bob embodied the strengths of Goucher. He was smart, creative, committed, and most of all humane.”

Welch is survived by his wife, Pat; their son, Ryan, and Ryan’s fiancée, Lydiya Petrova; and a sister, Katherine Welch.

### PLEASE SEND YOUR REMINISCENCES

of Bob Welch to  
Goucher.Magazine@  
goucher.edu. We will  
publish as many of  
them as we can.

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