Walk the corridors of Aurora University and you will hear many different voices. Some are young and others are old. Some are barely audible, but others resound with enthusiasm and exuberance. Listen closely and you will discover a harmony of perspectives, experiences and traditions, blended together around a shared motif. All believe in the power of learning to transform lives, communities, even nations, for the better. In this 2010 President’s Report, we explore recurring themes from the university songbook. We turn, not only to the facts and figures that define the achievements of the past decade, but to the words of members of our community. The melody is one of change and continuity, a hymn to the twin virtues of scholarship and character and the goal of educating body, mind and spirit.

“The biggest change I’ve observed is the level of excitement and the life the campus now has, in comparison to when I began teaching here in 2000. This year’s freshman class is more than three times as large as the freshman class we had when I started. I feel a real sense of AU as a community as I walk across the campus and have conversations with students and colleagues.”

Daniel Hipp
Associate Professor of English

“AU is a place that many consider a family. The faculty care about students, their work ethic, goals, ambitions and, most importantly, their education. The inclusiveness of the campus allows everyone the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds, cultures and communities.”

Theodore Matthews
Class of 2012

“I am constantly amazed at the level of commitment to students exhibited by the AU faculty. Everyone is totally concentrated on the students, how we can help them improve their learning, how we can get them more engaged, how we help them ‘connect the dots.’ I am always inspired to keep my focus on students, because I am surrounded by wonderful, caring educators.”

Barbara Lockwood
Associate Professor of Nursing
Today, traditional students abound on campus. The past 10 years have seen the freshman class increase from 186 to more than 500. Not only has the undergraduate headcount grown, but the quality of the classes has continued to improve. The average ACT composite score of the entering class has risen from 20.6 in 2001 to 22.1 in 2010.

Along with the growth have come many new enhancements for student learning. Academic offerings have expanded, there are more faculty members, and facilities have improved.

The number of full-time faculty has increased from 79 in 1999 to 120 in 2010. Through their deliberations, a number of new majors and minors have been added to the curriculum, including actuarial science, art, creative writing, religion, Spanish, special education and theatre.

Recognizing the need to provide students with a global perspective, the university launched May Term in 2003. May Term courses include travel abroad, providing students with a means of immersing themselves in another culture. Faculty members have led groups to Belgium, England, France, Greece, Italy, Mexico and Spain, to name a few.

Also new academic opportunities include the Honors Program, which is designed to enhance students’ college experiences with additional challenges. The program culminates in a major project that integrates the university’s core values. Similarly, the Dunham Scholars program prepares business students for leadership and service by incorporating up to 10 hours per week of service to community-based, not-for-profit organizations.

The greater number of traditional students taking advantage of our successful academic programs has driven the need for new facilities. An addition to Jenks Hall opened in 2003. Soon, a new residence hall will be constructed, increasing on-campus capacity to more than 700 students. The Institute for Collaboration, with state-of-the-art classrooms and a 500-seat auditorium, opened in 2006. The health and human services addition to Alumni Hall, which will house the Schools of Nursing and Social Work, opens in January 2011.

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"We know our students personally, we know their names, and we know what they face both in their academic and nonacademic lives. We are their teachers, mentors, advisors and role models. We do not simply transmit information to them, but we shape them into productive and responsible members of society who understand that our core values are worth carrying into their future lives."

Barbara Strassberg
Professor of Sociology
Aurora University is distinctive, at least in part, because of the blended legacy of Aurora College and George Williams College. The traditions of these earlier institutions have been woven together over the past decade, and the missions and values that guided them are creating the tapestry that is Aurora University today.

Academic excellence was a core value of our early leaders. During the past 10 years, Aurora University has nurtured academic excellence. The 10-year reaccreditation from the Higher Learning Commission in 2003 marked an important chapter in the life of the university. The School of Social Work recently received reaccreditation from the Council on Social Work Education to 2016. The nursing program was reaccredited for 10 years by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in 2010. The excellent reputation of the School of Nursing can be attributed in part to the nursing students’ National Council Licensure Examination pass rate. For the past six years, the AU pass rate has averaged 97.7%, surpassing the national average of 87% for the same time period.

The gold standard for certification of university education programs is the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. In 2008, AU’s education programs received NCATE accreditation for five years, which encompasses candidates in 16 academic programs in the College of Education, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Professional Studies, and George Williams College. The accreditation reflects the university’s commitment to collaborative work, academic rigor and professional accountability.

In addition to the academic milestones achieved as one institution, philanthropy has soared to new heights. Graduates of Aurora College and GWC left a legacy of stewardship to Aurora University. During the past several years, the total philanthropic support for the institution has risen from $13 million between 1994 and 2000 to $53 million between 2001 and 2009. Through the generosity of donors, the Annual Fund has risen from $420,260 in 2000 to more than $1 million in 2009. This support makes it possible for the university to continue preparing students for success and helping them make their communities better.

As we move into the next decade, programs and fundraising strategies may evolve; however, the mission and values of AU’s founding institutions will continue to guide us in finding new ways to transform students for the better through learning. Our commitment to careful fiscal management and reasonable tuition pricing also remains.

"Developing the historic missions and culture of two institutions under one umbrella is a remarkable opportunity. The merger of Aurora University and George Williams College has flourished."

Norris Lineweaver
GWC B.S. ’67, AU D.H.L. ’08

"One constant strength is the commitment to enhance the cultural and intellectual life of the campus and the community at large."

Larry and Sue Larkin
Longtime friends of George Williams College and Lake Geneva residents

"When GWC closed ... there were other universities that would have been happy to absorb the social work program and students under their wing, but Aurora University pledged to recognize and nurture the program’s identity and mission from GWC. They have done exactly that, in ways that also strengthened the overall mission of Aurora University."

Sandra Alcorn
Former Dean
GWC School of Social Work

CHART

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT
Funds Raised by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount (millions)</th>
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<tbody>
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"Our commitment to careful fiscal management and reasonable tuition pricing also remains."

As we move into the next decade, programs and fundraising strategies may evolve; however, the mission and values of AU’s founding institutions will continue to guide us in finding new ways to transform students for the better through learning. Our commitment to careful fiscal management and reasonable tuition pricing also remains.
Opus 119, the new Crimi Auditorium pipe organ crafted by Letourneau Pipe Organs of Québec, is a perfect symbol for the revival of the fine arts at AU. Those who heard the harmonious strains of the organ at the dedication in October 2010 recognized that the magnificent 1,230-pipe instrument is only the latest, most exquisite reminder of the values of Aurora University to be reclaimed and passed on to future generations.

The organ, however, is only part of the story. At the GWC campus, Music by the Lake has restored the work of the George Williams College Summer Music Association tradition that brought concerts to the lakefront in the 1950s and 1960s. Roasting exceptional vocalists, ensembles and instrumentalists, Music by the Lake draws residents from around the lake and other nearby and not-so-neaby communities to enjoy world-class music in an outstanding natural setting. The opening of The Ferro Pavilion in 2008, with superb acoustics and expanded seating capacity, has only increased the public’s enjoyment.

On the Aurora campus, Celebrating Arts and Ideas began its 2010 season with rave reviews for David Gergen’s analysis of the current political scene. Since the season was launched in 2006, packed audiences have enjoyed dozens of concerts and lectures, enhancing the cultural life of the campus and community. These artistic and cultural programs are free, thanks to the contributions of generous donors, making them accessible to all.

Aurora University students have curricular options in the fine arts not available 10 years ago. The majors in art and theatre are attracting students who in turn enrich the life of the campus. Art students can select from a number of artistic media while gaining background in art history. The student art show every spring deepens our appreciation of their contributions. At the same time, the theatre major gives students a strong background in performance and production, along with knowledge of the theatre from ancient to modern times. The three theatre productions each year, representing a variety of genres, add to the cultural life on campus.

Music offerings have multiplied with a new minor. Classical guitar, jazz, organ, piano, strings, voice and woodwinds dot the curriculum. The Aurora University Choirs grace the stage at important university events and present spectacular holiday and spring concerts for the campus community and public to enjoy. As Opus 119 resonates in Crimi Auditorium, it truly reminds us of our legacy in the arts. May it likewise inspire future generations.

“The restoration of Music by the Lake, featuring world-renowned performers, provides the community with exposure to fine cultural events at their best.”

—Tom Scott

Trustee

“With Arts and Ideas, we set out to serve the community. By making the program free of charge, we embrace the notion that cost should never be a barrier to learning. I’m proud that we can bring distinguished performers and speakers to Aurora University, and in doing so, enrich the life of the community.”

—Sarah Russe

Vice President for Community Relations

“Students enjoy world class musical performances, speakers and artists through the Arts and Ideas series. Music by the Lake festival and Schingoethe Center and Gallery. They present their own works through art shows, concerts and plays, which in turn, further engages the community. The magnificent pipe organ also allows the choirs to explore literature previously out of our reach.”

—Mark Plummer

Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Director of the University Chorale
The university’s most important strength is its willingness to address values in all classes. The Aurora University graduate has been exposed to the most important human values and they commit themselves to them as they take their education into the real world.

Donald Cassidy  
Local resident and parent of AU student

The Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action gave all of us, as religion majors and minors, the chance to interact with individuals of various cultural and religious backgrounds, setting the stage for genuine interfaith and intercultural dialogue to take place. My time as an intern for the CFA gave me several opportunities to represent my university, culture and faith group among individuals having the collective goal of better understanding the diverse world in which we live.

Tim Galvan  
AU B.A. ’10

Discovering Aurora University has been like finding treasure buried in a field. This is a community with a rich history of equipping students to transform the world around them. I’m coming on board at a time of renewed commitment to that vision, as our students are looking for fresh ways to make connections between faith and learning. I’ve learned a great deal from my students here already, and I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to help empower them in putting their faith into action.

David Fink  
Assistant Professor of Religion and University Chaplain

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Tim Galvan  
AU B.A. ’10

An element of the spiritual characterized our founding institutions. Founded in the Christian tradition, Aurora College and George Williams College fostered bringing together faith and action. Graduates were prepared to serve others and improve their communities in numerous careers. AC graduates entered the ministry, human services, health care and education, while GWC alumni worked in the Y and Boys and Girls Clubs, health care, and social work.

During the past decade, that spiritual tradition has seen a revival at Aurora University, reflected in programs such as the Servant Leadership Initiative. The program emphasizes how those chosen as leaders in the future will be those who have proved themselves first as servants. Soon a minor in servant leadership will be offered as the university seeks to prepare students to put service ahead of material rewards. As an institution, the after-school program for middle school children and numerous student-led volunteer activities offer but one example of the university’s commitment to this principle.

Further building on the AC and GWC traditions is the introduction of several new programs related to serving the greater good, including the Master of Science in Nursing, Master of Special Education and Doctor of Social Work. In the near future, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice program will also be offered.

In 2006, the religion major was restored, promoting the study of Christianity, as well as other faiths, in order to facilitate interfaith dialogue. This fall, a campus ministry center opened in the new home of the Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action. The center hosts discussion forums that allow students to delve into the beliefs that shape their lives. A series titled “What I Believe” features faculty and staff who share their convictions with interested students. A book club, workshops on major global issues, outside speakers and Bible studies are also offered to the AU community through the Wackerlin Center. Having a location that fosters conversation and exploration of faith and values is an exciting aspect of the university’s commitment to community outreach and encouragement of individual spiritual growth.
As you may remember, my first position in higher education was as a history professor in a small liberal arts college in Wisconsin. Though I no longer teach on a regular basis, I continue to read widely in the field. For me, reading history is fun. I realize, however, that others read history for different reasons. Perhaps they are fulfilling a course requirement. Maybe they concur with the truism that “those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it” or believe that history is cyclical.

“From my perspective, the Aurora University community is stronger today because we understand and affirm our history and its legacy.”

Such stories are a powerful source of inspiration. In fact, the more I learn about our shared past, the more optimistic I am about our future. From my vantage point, I see several themes that run through our collective story. Aurora College and George Williams College were founded to serve a greater good. Early leaders of both institutions were inspired by higher beliefs and guided by timeless values. Ultimately, both colleges were sustained by the dedication and resilience of their faculties and staffs and renewed by the achievements of their graduates.

Much of our work over the past decade has been focused on reclaiming our identity and fulfilling our mission with a new generation of undergraduate and graduate students. From my perspective, the Aurora University community is stronger today because we understand and affirm our history and its legacy. The pages of this 2010 President’s Report document the progress that we have made together. I hope that you experienced a thrill of pride while skimming this retrospective; for — quite literally — we couldn’t have done it without you.
## Statement of Financial Position

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<td>Cash and Short-Term Investments</td>
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<td>Receivables, Net</td>
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<td>Long-Term Investments, at Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
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<td>$130,528,173</td>
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First-year students Jack Barry and Jack Meachum take a break from lacrosse practice on Vago Field. In 2010, men’s lacrosse became the university’s 19th sport, nearly double the number of sports programs in place at the beginning of the decade.