

THE PLAY'S THE THING

From the moment he got a small role in Timberlake Wertenbaker's play, *The Love of the Nightingale*, Kyle Brenton was hooked. "I had a part that was one step above a spear carrier," he laughs, "but I *knew* from that moment."

That small part raised the curtain on a whole new world for the then A&S freshman. The following fall, he declared a double major in theatre and English.

Brenton came to Vanderbilt from Evansville, Indiana, without any preconceived ideas about his future. He had chosen the school for the overall strength of its liberal arts program. But it was watching a production of *The Music Cure* by George Bernard Shaw his first week on campus that stirred him to audition for a part in the Vanderbilt University Theatre's (VUT) first major production of the year.

Terryl Hallquist, associate professor of theatre, codirects the theatre program with her husband, Associate Professor Jon Hallquist. Brenton is one of about 30 students majoring in theatre; fourteen others have chosen it as a minor.

In addition to course work, the department offers four major productions and other one-act plays each year, which can involve up to 100 students from all areas of Vanderbilt, not only theatre majors.

"The directors and designers in the department choose the plays for the season," Terryl Hallquist says. "They usually select two classic plays and two contemporary works. During the past season, a musical was produced instead of a second classical piece."

Brenton says the smallness of Vanderbilt's program is also its chief strength. "The advantage is that you get to do everything...from building sets to acting and directing. At a bigger program like Northwestern, you have to declare your special interest right away and stay with it. Here at Vanderbilt, you can try a wide range of theatrical experiences."

Artists-in-residence

A highlight of the program is the Fred Coe Artist-in-Residence program, which brings outstanding actors and technicians to the campus. Started in the 1980s by Academy Award-winning director and Vanderbilt trustee Delbert Mann, BA'41, the program honors his close friend and mentor, Coe, a Peabody alum. A pioneer in the golden age of television, Coe directed and produced outstanding live theatre for the small screen during the 1950s.

Actor Karl Malden served as the first artist-in-residence at Vanderbilt, fol-

lowed by such distinguished actors as Fiona Shaw and Olympia Dukakis.

For Brenton, Dukakis was a favorite. "We were saturated with three days of outstanding instruction," he recalls. "She taught about the Greek acting style, and we were able to pick her brain. She was fantastic."

A May 2000 graduate, Brenton will study at Harvard next year. His focus will be dramaturgy, a relatively new specialty in U.S. theatre. A bit like an artistic coordinator, the dramaturg must

be well versed in all aspects of theatre from playwriting and acting to lighting and set design. Brenton is particularly excited that the two-year program includes three months study at the National Theatre of Moscow.

Ninety years of theatre

According to Cecil Jones, professor of theatre emeritus, there has been a theatre group at Vanderbilt perhaps as far back as 1910. The first director was hired in 1946, and from 1948 until the early '70s, the department operated from a pre-fab theatre on Garland Avenue.

The VUT has been housed in Neely Auditorium since the building was renovated in 1975. Called an ultra-black-box flexible space, the design, by the distinguished German architect Peter Blake, is



DAVID GREENSHAW

based on an idea for an ideal off-Broadway theatre.

"It is an exciting space," says Terryl Hallquist, "because it can be adapted to any configuration, depending on the best relationship between actors and audience for a particular play."

"For students who are trying to learn how to do theatre," says Jones, "it offers a range of educational opportunities that you don't ordinarily find on campuses with only a single theatre space."

Curtain going up

For Kyle Brenton, Vanderbilt's theatre program has been more than a course of study—it's like a family. "The best way to know someone is to be in a play with them," he says, adding, "The people I've met here will be my friends for life."

Once he's earned his Master of Fine Arts degree, Brenton hopes to get a job behind the footlights somewhere, perhaps as a dramaturg with a repertory company. His dream is to end up working with a professional regional theatre.

For Kyle Brenton, the curtain is about to go up on the next act. And he is eager to get started.

Judith DeMoss Campbell

Gee Named Vanderbilt's seventh chancellor

E Gordon Gee, 56, former president of Brown University, will be Vanderbilt's seventh chancellor, effective August 1. Following his unanimous election at a special February 7 meeting of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust, Gee met informally with members of the University community, including students.

"Over the past few months, I have heard time and again that Vanderbilt is a 'special place,' and I have come to believe it," Gee said. "There is no other university in the country that already does so many things so well, yet has almost limitless possibilities and a solid foundation on which to build for the future. Vanderbilt is blessed with rich traditions and even richer opportunities for learning, for discovery, and for service."

Addressing his remarks to Vanderbilt alumni, Gee said, "I will respect the traditions of this

University. But I will also harness and nurture new ideas and new traditions, and I will take joy in carrying the message of Vanderbilt to you, our alumni, and to the world at large, because it is a wonderful message."

Ettore F. Infante, dean of the College of Arts and Science, expressed his pleasure at Gee's election. "I am delighted with the appointment of Gordon Gee as the new chancellor. He has already become a notable presence on the campus, meeting students and faculty with energy and interest. All of us look forward to his leadership and to working intimately with him."

Gee first served as a chief executive officer at the age of 37, when he was elected president of West Virginia University. He became president of the University of Colorado in 1985, and in 1990 moved to Ohio State University. In 1997 he became president of Brown University.



Vanderbilt's Chancellor-elect E. Gordon Gee

Mentoring enriches English faculty teaching

Two Shakespearean scholars—Leah Marcus, Edwin Mims Professor of English, and Dennis Kezar, assistant professor—have combined forces in a mentoring relationship they say benefits both.

"We both do historical work in the same field, Shakespeare and the 17th century," Marcus says. "I'm more research oriented; I like to do archival work. Dennis is interested in the ethics of literature, in how literature has the capacity to harm."

"It's a good partnership. We really like each other's work, and we bounce ideas off one another [which enriches] our teaching."

"I am especially fortunate to have Leah Marcus as a senior colleague," Kezar says. "My first few semesters included the usual anxieties about the classroom, and she proved a valuable resource in countless conversations about what to teach and how. She has also very generously read and reread quite a lot of writing that I have inflicted on her, commenting very helpfully on how to improve it."

As the senior member of the team (she's been teaching 27 years), Marcus serves as an advocate and advisor for Kezar. "I am someone he can come to about the tenure process and other professional matters," she says. Marcus, who came to Vanderbilt in 1998 from the University of Texas, has been mentoring junior colleagues informally for many years.

Marcus and Kezar are the most recent pair to enter a men-

toring relationship in the English department, which has encouraged such informal relationships for several years. Others include Cecelia Tichi, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English, who has been a mentor to Teresa Goddu, associate professor of English; Paul Elledge, professor of English and associate dean, who mentors Associate Professor Mark Schoenfeld; and Professor Mark Jarman and Assistant Professor Kate Daniels, both poets.



Leah Marcus, left, Edwin Mims Professor of English, and Dennis Kezar, assistant professor of English, are the most recent pair to enter a mentoring relationship in the English department. Both professors say the relationship enriches their teaching.



For more information about the College of Arts and Science, visit our Web page at

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You can also access the main alumni Web page at www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni

and the on-line version of the A&S Cornerstone at

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A&S CORNERSTONE

is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Office of Alumni Publications. You may contact the editor by e-mail at Cornerstone@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at Box 7703 Station B, Nashville, Tennessee 37235.

Joanne Lamphere Beckham, BA'62, Editor

Skip Anderson; Judith DeMoss Campbell, BA'63; Beth Fox; Elizabeth Latt; Amy Pate

Contributors
Tim Campbell, David Crenshaw, Richard Crichton, Peyton Hoge, Vanderbilt Register, Vanderbilt University Publications and Design Photography

Donna Pritchett, Art Director
Keith Wood, Designer

Anthony J. Spence, E'80
Director of Alumni Publications
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ON THE COVER
Scenes from VUT productions, clockwise from top: Gina Scherr, BA'99, and junior Chris Hines in *Angels in America*; Kyle Brenton, far right, and Matt Conaty, BA'99, in *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*; and Chandra Thomas in *The Love of the Nightingale*. Both Brenton and Thomas graduated in May 2000.

Writers of the New South speak out

The "Millennial Gathering of the Writers of the New South" was a great success, according to Kate Daniels, assistant professor of English and coordinator of the event, and other Vanderbilt faculty who took part in it. About 44 established writers, 17 emerging writers, and numerous alumni, faculty, staff, and students attended the three-day event. Here are some of the things they said:

"The poet is condemned to be truthful to one's vision... No topic is taboo."

Yusef Komunyakaa

The house of southern literature is being remodeled."

Lee Smith



Roy Blount Jr., BA'63

"One of the highest purposes of art and of life is to connect us with other human beings, to help us understand our differences with empathy and embrace what we have in common, our shared yearnings and fears and joys. And it's impossible to do that with someone you've already summarily dismissed as trivial or worthless."

Elizabeth Dewberry, BS'83

"How difficult it is to get beyond thinking about race in black and white."

Forrest Hamer

"When people talk about southerners, especially in the north, they talk about white southerners...but what creates southern literature as a special kind of literature is the mixture of black and white language."

Roy Blount Jr., BA'63



Writers Elizabeth Dewberry, BS'83, left, and Ann Patchett with John Grammer, BA'79, and Mina Geioia

"A student of mine who attended said it was a dream come true: everywhere he looked, there were famous writers, and he could talk to them. They were very accessible, and it demystified them for him; they came down from the mountain."

Tony Earley,
Assistant Professor of English

"Robert Penn Warren still towers over others like a mighty oak."

John Lowe, BA'67



Reinventing the wheel

Twelve students, a teaching assistant, and Professor John P. Wikswow squeeze into a small Stevenson Center classroom. Wikswow, the A.B. Learned Professor of Living State Physics, begins class as a student makes her way to the hopelessly crowded table and claims enough space to place her plastic box containing Legos.

A functional battery-operated car made from the colorful plastic building blocks, a willingness to engage in classroom discussions, and the ability to tear down and rebuild an internal combustion engine are all freshman Lindsay Salet and her peers need to make it through Wikswow's "Practical Physics" class.

"This class is relatively unconventional," Wikswow says.

That's an understatement.

Practical Physics might be unique among A&S courses; it is very much hands-on. Before the course is over, students will take apart a lawnmower engine, pull the wheels off the instructor's Jeep to study the differential, and race model cars powered solely by a household mouse-trap.

The course textbook, *The Way Things Work*, is available more readily from general-purpose bookstores than academic bookstores.

"It's a physics textbook disguised as a coffee-table book," Wikswow says.

The students submit "one-minute papers" after each class. These half-page slips of paper query the students about what they learned and what questions they may have following the lesson. Wikswow builds much of the next class around helping them answer those questions for themselves.

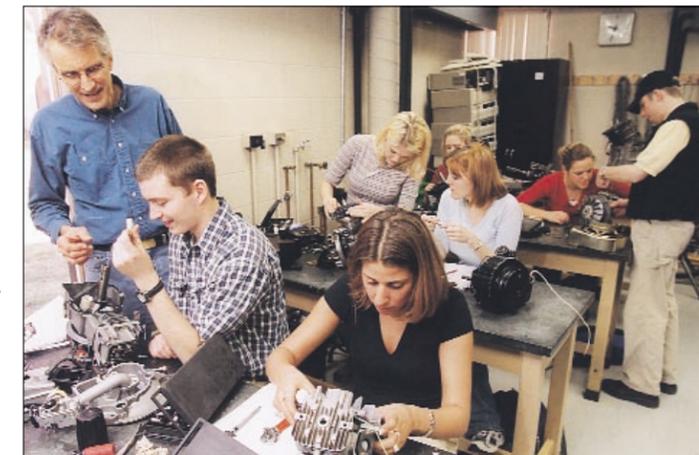
In addition to oral presentations, written exams, and building working models—the final Lego project was the successful construction of a three-speed transmission with a reverse gear—the students are graded on a series of one-page papers.

Wikswow, who has taught the course in this fashion nine times before, says the students gain a better understanding of

physics from this approach than from a more traditional physics class.

"They can learn more about rotational motion, torque, and inertia by building a Lego car than from any lecture I could possibly give," he says.

For their part, most students echo senior Chris Protos, an economics and political science major, when he says, "This is the coolest course I've ever taken."



Students of Professor John Wikswow, left, have fun while they learn in his "Practical Physics" class.

Dean Infante says good-bye

On June 30, Ettore F. “Jim” Infante will resign as dean of the College of Arts and Science for health reasons. While he has been in office only three years, he has overseen several initiatives to strengthen and advance the college. In his honor, an anonymous donor has endowed a scholarship to be awarded annually beginning in fall 2001. Recently, the editor of the *A&S Cornerstone* interviewed him about his accomplishments and hopes for the future of the college.

A&S Cornerstone: What do you think your legacy will be? What are some major contributions of which you are the most proud?

Dean Infante: One of the things of which I’m the most proud is having been associated with such a good place, with such good faculty, and such good students. And hopefully I’ve served them and the central purpose of the college, which is to learn and to teach, to the best of my ability. I deeply regret that this has been a much shorter period than I certainly ever thought it would be.

I think we have made some progress, and I’m hoping that the last period of time that I’m here will bring to fruition the planned changes in the undergraduate curriculum. I’m pleased about appointments that we have made to the faculty. I’m pleased with the plans for the new biology building that is under construction now [please see related article on page 7].

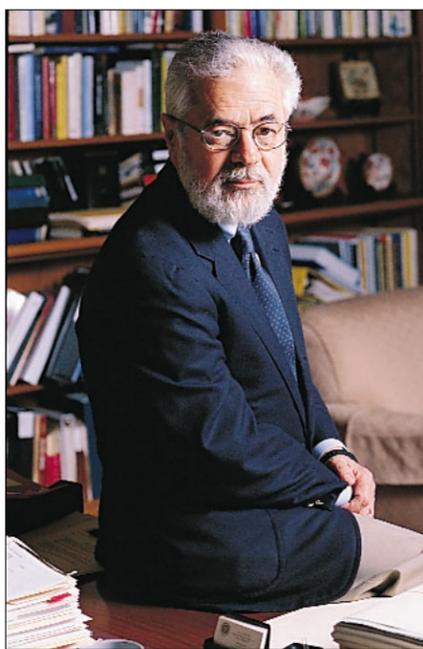
I’m especially pleased to have had the opportunity to contribute to sustaining a wonderful, wonderful enterprise and a unique one. Vanderbilt is one of the few scholarly universities with a very high commitment to undergraduate students. I would like to think that I have contributed to sustaining that spirit, the very particular nature of this place with its sense of civility, which is leveraged on a commitment to excellence. Excellence and civility very seldom go hand in hand. Few places exhibit this level of civility, but at the same time have the commitment to be the best they can be. Places that really go after excellence—especially excellence in research—can be rather cut-throat, rather ugly. This place is not.

A&S Cornerstone: You mentioned changes in the undergraduate curriculum. Is it going to happen before you leave?

Dean Infante: The proposals are before the Faculty Council. Some people say it will take another year or year and a half to come to final agreement. I would very much like to see an appropriate closure before I leave. This is a process by which the faculty is thoughtfully trying to reconfigure and update the curriculum for our undergraduate students. We are doing this—as Duke has done successfully—to sustain and advance Vanderbilt’s tradition of providing a first-rate undergraduate education.

A&S Cornerstone: You mentioned you are proud of appointments made to the faculty. Who are some that stand out for you?

Dean Infante: People like Leah Marcus—what a wonderful appointment in the English department, a wonderful scholar, a wonderful colleague, and a fantastic teacher



Ettore F. Infante

(please see related article on page 2); Dennis Dickerson in history—a very senior faculty member, a great teacher; Ned Porter in chemistry. I’ve mentioned the chaired professors, but some of the younger faculty, the very young people, are just as bright as they can be. I think in the next year, we are going to have a young Chinese mathematician, Guoliang Yu, who is going to have a major impact. Last year we had an appointment, again in mathematics, Centennial Professor Alexander Ol’Shanskii, who is going to be a real intellectual leader. We appointed four young people in psychology last year—two associate professors and two young assistant professors—who are outstanding teachers and at the cutting edge of scholarly activities. I am pleased with every single appointment we have made.

A&S Cornerstone: In what way is the college different today than when you took office?

Dean Infante: I would like to think that the college is very much the same in some ways. Some of the things that I found most appealing in coming here were the values and the nature of Vanderbilt and of the college. It seems to me that our task is, as the world changes, to try to find different and better ways of sustaining enduring values. This happens with each new generation of scholars and new generations of students.

What I would like to think, and I hope, and I pray is that I’ve made a contribution to sustaining the unusual quality of this place, the unusual commitment to real values such as teaching, learning, and civility in preparing young men and women for fruitful and demanding lives

“What I would like to think, and I hope, and I pray is that I’ve made a contribution to sustaining the unusual quality of this place, the unusual commitment to real values such as teaching, learning, and civility in preparing young men and women for fruitful and demanding lives...”

and in providing the means and environment that nurture scholarly and research advances. I would like to think that we prepare our young men and women to handle themselves very well. One of the things we’re very, very good at here—because of the tradition, because of the environment—we keep on raising the bar higher and higher, and we thoughtfully coach our students and tell them, “You can jump over it. Yes, you can jump it.” And they do it. We are here to urge them, to mentor them, to teach them how to do it. After all, our purpose is to stretch our students—be they graduate or undergraduate—intellectually, and morally, and also physically. They discover they can

become all that they can be. And we also have been doing the same thing with the faculty in our scholarly and research activities.

A&S Cornerstone: What were your biggest challenges as dean?

Dean Infante: It’s always a challenge to balance the budget and to invest our financial resources wisely, not only for the present, but also for the future. Deans always have to make choices. There are so many good things that the college does, so many opportunities, and so many possibilities, but there are never either the resources or the number of people or the number of students to take advantage of all these wonderful things. So choices must be made, and to make them wisely is a demanding and difficult challenge.

A&S Cornerstone: Do you think the next dean will have the same kind of challenges? Are there others that you see down the road?

Dean Infante: This is an ambitious place. Because we’re ambitious, we have to run very, very hard; so do our competitors. Moreover, we want to advance in relation to the competition. The deans of every college at Vanderbilt will have to try, together with their faculty colleagues, to identify those areas and initiatives to be undertaken that will permit the college and Vanderbilt as a whole to rise to the next level of visibility, so that Vanderbilt will be among the foremost colleges and universities in the United States. At the same time, we must ensure that Vanderbilt retains its own unique character.

One of the challenges of any dean at a place like Vanderbilt is to make sure there is the right leverage between undergraduate education and scholarship, not opposition, and that each supports and amplifies the other.

A&S Cornerstone: What do you mean by leverage?

Dean Infante: People like to talk about balance between teaching and research. I don’t believe in balance; I believe in leverage. That means that one builds on the other. I think of research and undergraduate education at Vanderbilt as propelling each other to higher levels. We have the kind of

lege of Arts and Science a “university college.”

A&S Cornerstone: What three words would you use to describe the College of Arts and Science?

Dean Infante: Civility, challenge, expectations. We have an expectation of ourselves as a faculty, of our students, and of our staff, that we can and will do things better. We have the expectation that we’re going to be the kind of place in which you feel an enormous amount of pride and also love—the kind of place where all of us, faculty and students, learn, grow intellectually, challenge our limits, and advance ourselves and our goals.

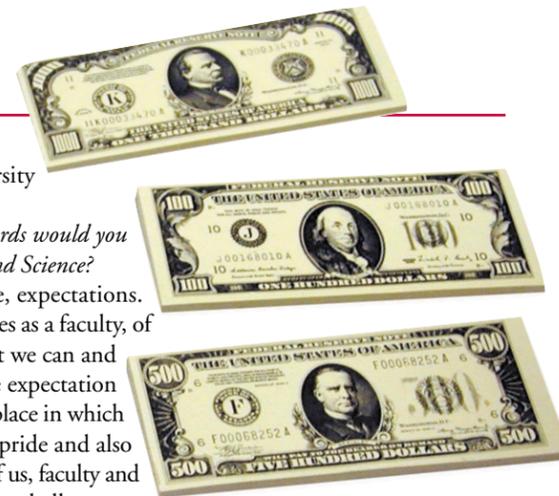
A&S Cornerstone: Could you give me an example of what you mean by civility?

Dean Infante: Last year, a search committee wanted me to appoint a certain faculty member, which I declined to do. Components of the student body and of the faculty made it quite clear to me how they felt. But look at the manner in which they did it. Nobody came and took over my office. No one shouted. But they clearly expressed in a thoughtful manner that they felt that they had not been heard by me. In an equally civil way, I tried to explain to them the reasons behind my decision. At many other universities, there would have been shouting matches, yelling. Here we had a civil dialogue.

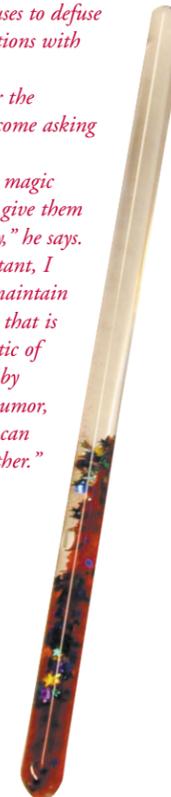
A&S Cornerstone: What are your plans for the future?

Dean Infante: My wife, Trudi, and I haven’t made any plans, except this summer we’re going to go to her family’s little summer cabin up in the Catskill Mountains in New York. That’s as far as we have planned.

We’ve always been in a hurry all these years. My guess is that somehow I will be forced not to be in a hurry. It will be a new experience. I’ve been an administrator now for 20 years. One lives vicariously through the successes of the students and the faculty. It is very appealing to be able to go back and again do personal, idiosyncratic work, which is studying and learning. There are a lot of things that



Ettore F. “Jim” Infante is retiring as dean of the College of Arts and Science on June 30. His office contains the items on this page and a statue of Don Quixote (on page 4), which he uses to defuse tense situations with humor. “Whenever the chairmen come asking for money, I wave the magic wand and give them play money,” he says. “It’s important, I think, to maintain the civility that is characteristic of the college by injecting humor, so that we can laugh together.”



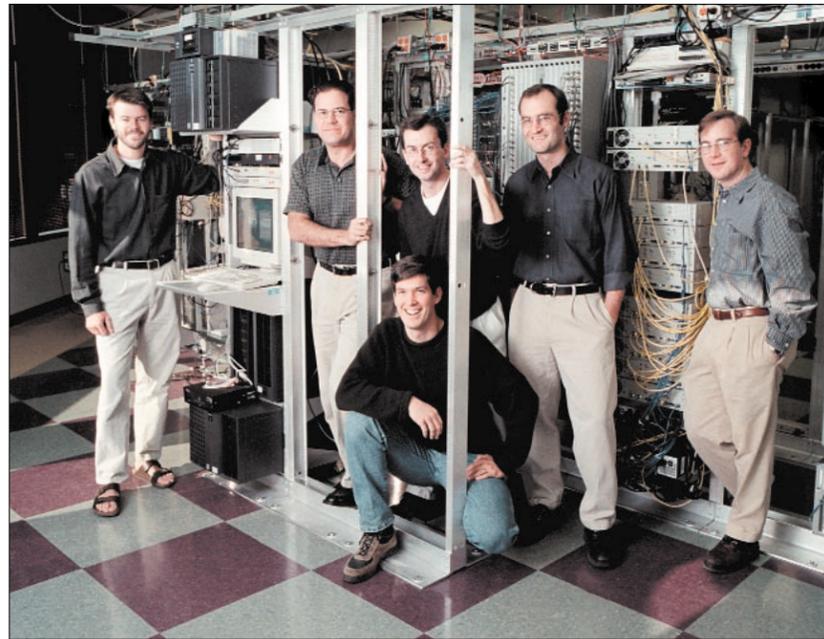
Correction
Because of a typographical error in the winter 2000 issue of the *A&S Cornerstone*, it was reported incorrectly that Dean Infante has been dean of the College of Arts and Science since 1977. In actuality, he has been dean for almost three years, since August 1997.

From college friends to e-commerce partners

Leading an Internet company from start-up to corporate merger takes more than intelligence and good ideas, says Thomas Conner, a 1988 graduate of the College of Arts and Science. Most of all, it takes relationships built on trust.

For Conner and the management team at Telalink, an Internet Service Provider (ISP), those trusting business relationships were forged during their undergraduate years at Vanderbilt.

When Telalink merged successfully with PSINet, a global Internet "super carrier," last November, Telalink's five principals were all Vanderbilt alumni from the '80s and '90s. In addition, Frank Woods, BA'63, LLB'66, brokered the deal.



These Vanderbilt alumni recently saw their Internet start-up company, Telalink, merge with PSINet, a global Internet "super carrier." Left to right are Bill Butler, BE'91; Scott Sears, BS'92; Thomas Connor, BA'88; Tim Moses, BS'92, kneeling; Tim Duggan, BA'91, and Bob Collie, A'98.

Lewis Branscomb first Branscomb Visiting Professor

This past year, Lewis Branscomb—a Vanderbilt trustee and the son of former Chancellor Harvie Branscomb—shared his knowledge and insights on science and public policy with members of the Vanderbilt community as the first holder of a visiting professorship named for his late father. The Harvie Branscomb Distinguished Visiting Professorship was endowed by Vanderbilt trustee David K. Wilson.

As part of his duties, Lewis Branscomb, second from left, taught an undergraduate College Scholars honors seminar with Jonathan Gilligan, left, research assistant professor in physics and astronomy. A&S students Peter McHenry, second from right, and Jill Johnson participated in the seminar.

A physicist by training, Lewis Branscomb is Aetna Professor (emeritus) of Public Policy and Corporate Management at Harvard University, former vice president and chief scientist at IBM, and past chairman of the National Science Board.



DAVID GREENHAW

"We're college friends who became business partners," says Conner, who is now general manager of Telalink, a PSINet company.

Bill Butler, BE'91, and Tim Moses, BS'92, launched Telalink in 1993. It was the first local ISP in Nashville.

Butler convinced Conner to leave his banking job in 1995 and join the company as chief financial officer. The pair met as students with Vanderbilt Video Productions and had remained friends.

Bob Collie, A'98, was a Vanderbilt freshman when he hacked into the Telalink system and offered to help out as an intern. It wasn't long before Collie became chief technical officer and designed Telalink's network and server infrastructure.

Scott Sears, BS'92, and Tim Duggan, BA'91, were members of a rock band whose Web site was hosted by Telalink. They developed an expertise in the Internet and joined the company in 1996.

In addition, dozens of Vanderbilt students participated in Telalink's informal internship program and now hold positions with leading Internet firms nationwide.

Most of the original Telalink team has stayed together: Conner, Duggan, Moses, and Sears have taken leadership positions with the new company. Butler left the group to form a free e-mail company, Nashville.Net. Collie is now senior network architect for Education Networks of America, which provides Internet connections for K-12 teachers and students.

And Vanderbilt remains an important part of their lives. "We rarely miss a Commodore basketball or football game," says Conner. "Some things never change."

RESEARCH BRIEFS

Face it: Practice makes perfect • The same part of the brain that is crucial in recognizing faces is used by bird-watchers to tell a sparrow from a starling and by people who can instantly recognize the latest model car, researchers from Vanderbilt and Yale have found.

The study by Isabel Gauthier, assistant professor of psychology, and her colleagues could help explain why such experts can pick out their chosen subject with just a glance.

Using functional magnetic resonance imaging, the researchers found that a small region located on the bottom of the brain, called the fusiform face area, activates when birdwatchers view human faces and birds and auto experts look at human faces and automobiles. "The study suggest that the part of the brain specialized for face recognition is not genetically endowed but rather the result of our vast experience in recognizing faces," says Gauthier.

Sounds of laughter • While conducting research on the sound properties of laughter, Jo-Anne Bachorowski, assistant professor of psychology, has found that humans have an acoustically rich repertoire of sounds—with some laughs actually sounding more like bird chirps or chimpanzee pants than human laugh sounds.

Bachorowski and her colleagues have found that men laugh differently with friends than with strangers, and women laugh differently with males than with females. Their findings suggest that laughter is not simply an expression of a positive internal state, but has a measurable impact on listeners' emotional states.

Negative campaign ads work

• "The 2000 presidential race has yielded one clear lesson that the leading contenders seem to have absorbed. Negative campaigning does not keep voters away from the polls," said John Geer, professor of political science, in a *USA Today* op-ed piece in March. Despite negative ads between Republicans John McCain and George W. Bush in the weeks before Super Tuesday, "there [were] record-shattering turnouts in most states' GOP primaries this year," Geer said.

In a study of 10 presidential elections from 1960 to 1992, Geer found that negative advertising had a slight positive effect on voter turnout. "Attacks can turn some voters off to politics, but...[they] also can make people more engaged in the political debate and, hence, more likely to turn out on Election Day."

Professor Birkby retiring after 37 years



Robert Birkby

Come July 1, Robert Birkby will add the word emeritus to his title, professor of political science. The word connotes "honor," which fits Professor Birkby well according to his admirers among former students and faculty.

During his 37 years at Vanderbilt, Birkby has become famous for remembering the names of his students, where they sat in his classes, and even the fact that they were on time or regularly came late to class.

"I made a real effort to learn their names," he says, adding that he'd consult the *Commodore* yearbook or, in the case of freshmen, the *Newcomer*.

He notes that today's students seem "better-prepared" than their parents' generation, and that women students "are more willing to speak up in class rather than deferring to the men."

Birkby has won many awards for teaching and service to the University over the years. He has served as chair of the political science department and associate dean of the College of Arts and Science.

But he is most proud of his years of service on the A&S Faculty Council and his work during the mid-eighties on a committee to strengthen the Honor Council.

Even though he's retiring, Birkby will not be a stranger to campus, as he plans to teach two courses next year.

One thing will change, however: He'll no longer be a full-time member of the "Standing Committee for the Betterment of the University," a tongue-in-cheek title for an informal group of faculty and administrators who meet every morning at 7 a.m. over coffee at Rand.

Professor Outlaw to lead African American studies program

Lucius Turner Outlaw Jr., the T. Wistar Brown Professor of Philosophy at Haverford College, has been named director of the African American studies program at Vanderbilt, effective at the beginning of the fall 2000 semester. He has also been named a professor of philosophy.



Lucius Outlaw

"Professor Outlaw has made distinctive contributions to American, African, African American, and continental philosophy," says Ettore Infante, dean of the College of Arts and Science. "Vanderbilt will benefit from his scholarly and educational contributions in these fields, and by his administrative and intellectual leadership of our African American studies program."

Appointments

Dennis G. Hall, a highly regarded scholar in the field of optics, has been named associate provost for research effective July 1. The position was created in 1999 to coordinate and enhance scholarly research throughout the University. He will also hold a faculty position as professor of physics.

As director of the Institute of Optics at the University of Rochester, Hall headed the premier U.S. program of higher education in optics and was responsible for a number of significant discoveries, including a method and system to enhance fluorescence.

Kudos



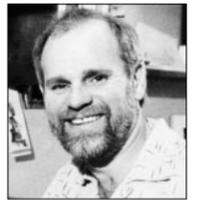
Joseph H. Hamilton, left, Landon C. Garland Distinguished Professor of Physics, has been selected as Oak Ridge National Laboratory's first Visiting Distinguished Laboratory Fellow. The program recognizes scientists from universities, industry, and other institutions for extraordinary contributions to Oak Ridge National Laboratory through sustained leadership in scientific and programmatic activities.

Erwin C. Hargrove, right, professor of political science, has had his book *The President as Leader: Appealing to the Better Angels of our Nature* named by *Choice* magazine as a 1999 outstanding academic title. The University Press of Kansas published the book.



Timothy P. McNamara, professor and chair of psychology, has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. According to the AAAS, fellows are selected based on their efforts toward advancing science or fostering applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished. McNamara was singled out for his fundamental contributions to the understanding of human memory, specifically spatial memory.

Former professor, alumnus die at sea



Gary Polis

A boating accident in March in Mexico's Sea of Cortez took the life of Gary Polis, 53, a world-renowned arachnid expert and ecologist. Polis was a member of the Vanderbilt faculty from 1979 until 1998, when he became chairman of the Environmental Science and Policy Department at the University of California at Davis.

Several students and colleagues of Polis were also killed in the accident, which occurred during a spring break study trip. Among them was Michael David Rose, a post-graduate researcher at UC-Davis, who graduated from Vanderbilt in 1994 with a BS degree in biology.

Friends and colleagues described Polis as a committed teacher, a loyal father of two, and a gifted scientist. The author of numerous books, his research has also appeared in top-tier scientific journals such as *Nature* and *Ecology*, as well as on television and in magazines.

New biological sciences building under construction

Construction has begun on the new \$95-million Biological Sciences/Medical Research Building III. A joint venture between the College of Arts and Science and the Medical Center, it is scheduled for completion in 2002.

The building will be located between the Stevenson Science Center, Medical Center North, and the School of Nursing. It will contain a 119-seat, state-of-the-art, multi-media auditorium, which will be an outstanding teaching facility for undergraduate courses and research seminars.

According to James

Staros, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, the new structure will facilitate synergy between biomedical research and basic research in the biological sciences.



A & S DAY TRIPPERS

More than 175 alumni, parents, and other friends returned to campus in February to savor the college first-hand as part of Arts & Science Day. Participants joined students in their regular classes and attended special educational events planned just for them on film, the brain, and the Brazilian rain forest. They also heard about the admissions process from Bill Shain, dean of undergraduate admissions; listened to a panel of undergraduates talk about their A&S experience; and enjoyed a medley of Broadway songs and dances by the Original Cast.

“It was a delightful occasion,” says Paul Manners, BA’42, of Atlanta. “I was very pleased to have a part in it. It’s always inspiring to see the students and hear them talk about some of the same things that we spoke of long ago.”

Manners attended A&S Day with his son, Neal Manners, BA’71, and granddaughter, Meredith Marie Manners, who will be a freshman in the fall.



Members of the Original Cast entertained guests at a dinner celebrating Arts and Science Day. (Lower Left) Jerome Christensen, professor of English, used film clips to illustrate how Hollywood studios influence the content of the movies they produce.



PHOTOS BY PEYTON HOGE



(Top) Bill Lortz, A’60, left, and his wife Lainey, visit with Elizabeth Morgan Spiegel, BA’58, MAT’59.



(Left) Frederick R. Lummis II, BA’76, and his wife, Claudia Owen Lummis, BA’76, of Houston, are co-chairs of the College Cabinet.



Students receiving scholarships were special guests at the A&S dinner. Eleanor Bloch Small, BA’41, above, chats with rising junior David Lisenby, recipient of the Eugene H. Vaughan Jr. Scholarship.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
 A&S Cornerstone
 College of Arts and Science
 2201 West End Avenue
 Nashville, TN 37235

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