

CORNERSTONE



THE HUMANITIES

Teaching us to be human—and humane

For Robert Penn Warren—poet laureate, novelist, critic, essayist and teacher—the roles of writer and citizen were interrelated. The author of *Democracy and Poetry*, Warren believed that citizens were responsible for having historical knowledge. He argued that poetry, lit-

erature and history were important means of gaining such knowledge, says Professor of English Michael Kreyling.

Warren and his contemporaries were engaged in a struggle to show that literary and other humanistic studies were as legitimate as scientific ones.

Decades later, the humanities continue to fight for justification and legitimacy. Disciplines such as history, classical studies, comparative literature, art and art history, English and philosophy are increasingly important at a time when world events

(please turn to page 6)

Art History Moves into the Future

For Professor Vivien Green Fryd, 2001 was a banner year. That was the year her teaching of art history moved into the 21st century. It has, in fact, moved all the way to cyberspace, and she couldn't be more pleased.

Last fall for the first time, through a special pilot project of digitizing art slides, students in Fryd's American art history class could review images from the comfort of their dorm rooms, or even from the Starbucks coffee shop on 21st Avenue—by special arrangement with the University, of course.

During her 16-plus years of teaching art history at Vanderbilt, Fryd has done it the traditional way—showing carousels full of 35mm slides. Because no single textbook contains prints of all the slides she uses, however, it has been difficult for students to study those works of art outside of class. There were two locations only—the basement of the fine arts building, where several viewing cases are available, or the Heard Library where students can gather around carrels outfitted with projectors and small viewing screens.

That began to change when Matt Petty BA'02, a computer-savvy student in one of Fryd's classes, offered to make digitized images from her slides so that he and the other students could more easily access them outside of class from his Web site.

Seeing the potential, Fryd queried Dean George Sweeney about hiring someone to scan slides for her other classes. As associate dean of the College of Arts and Science and keeper of the school's exchequer, Sweeney recognized the value of applying the approach to the entire department.

"It was a direction that we were going to be heading eventually," he says, explaining that he gathered a variety of resource personnel to discuss the possibilities.

The group began meeting in February 2001, and a pilot project was ultimately set in place to digitize the 400 or so slides for each of Fryd's three American art history classes. Says Fryd, "We realized early on that [to digitize the entire slide collection] was going to take a lot of time and cost a lot of money."

To fund the pilot project, Dean Sweeney turned to unrestricted funds provided by the College Cabinet. These enabled the hiring of additional assistance in the slide library and enhancement of computer and projection equipment in a renovated Furman 114.



"The Death of Major Pierson" by John Singleton

"The success of the pilot project has encouraged the expansion of the digital endeavor," Sweeney says. "Slides are now being digitized for other art history courses, and planning is underway to outfit additional rooms with enhanced projection facilities."

A&S senior Flora Chan thinks the digitized images are great. "If Professor Fryd wants to show you a detail, she'll just click on the image and it will enlarge on its own. And she can zoom in on the particular part she wants to talk about." But the thing Chan likes best is the easy access. "I don't live on campus, but I can still access [the images] through Prometheus and the Vanderbilt Web site." Only students in the class can gain access to the images, however, through a special password.

—Judith DeMoss Campbell

Carroll appointed assistant dean

Dean Richard McCarty has named Katherine Carroll assistant dean in the College of Arts and Science. In announcing her appointment, McCarty said Carroll "will promote the College of Arts and Science to our alumni and friends," with special emphasis on the College Cabinet, the leadership donor society for A&S. Carroll received her undergraduate degree from Indiana University and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Virginia.



Katherine Carroll

Chemistry receives funding for graduate assistance program

Vanderbilt's chemistry department recently received funding for a third, three-year period from the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program. The GAANN program will provide the A&S department \$173,142 annually to support six graduate students.

Vanderbilt was one of 13 chemistry departments nationwide to receive funding out of a total of 32 proposals. "The fact that Vanderbilt's Chemistry Department has received funding three times in a row means that it has put together a very strong program," said Brandy Silverman, who helps administer the competitive program for the U.S. Department of Education.

The fellowships are used to recruit top students, particularly women chemists and members of other underrepresented populations, and to assist deserving students already at Vanderbilt.

The GAANN fellows work as teaching assistants and stage a series of hands-on experiments for science classes at local middle schools through the Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science.



In the past six years, the GAANN fellowship program has supported a total of 33 chemistry graduate students at Vanderbilt, and it will aid another 18 over the next three years.

Words of Advice

For years, only freshmen in the College of Arts and Science had to meet with faculty advisers to plan their course of studies. But soon all students will have to discuss their class schedules with faculty advisers throughout their undergraduate careers.

"Next fall we will require sophomores to plan their spring 2003 schedules with their advisers," says Francille Bergquist, A&S associate dean. "We are phasing it in this way, because they are already accustomed to meeting with their advisers as freshmen. By the spring of 2004, we hope to include all undergraduates in the mandatory advising program."

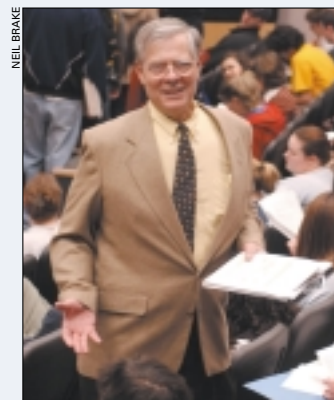
"Once a student declares a major and chooses an adviser in their department, they do not ever have to meet with that person [under the current system]," says mathematics Professor Richard Larsen. "And I think that's a shortcoming on our part. We have students who have problems fulfilling their distribution requirements. Sometimes, the mistakes they're making would be spotted by the adviser and could be corrected before they end up wasting a semester."

While economics major Sejal Patel, a rising junior, has taken full advantage of her advisers' counsel, she believes

To the Editor:

As an alumnus and member of the Vanderbilt Reunion Office staff, I would like to share an experience I had last fall auditing a course taught by Professor George Graham in the political science department.

Within a few class meetings, Professor Graham showed me what it meant to be a real student, and reminded me of how special it is to be among such fine professors and students throughout the University.



Professor George Graham team taught a course about Sept. 11 last spring.

Our reading of Plato's *Republic* provided the lesson on why learning is more than just reading and sitting in class. In the *Republic*, Socrates spends significant time giving his "students" an opportunity to show him that their views are valid before offering views of his own. With this seemingly simple approach, Socrates manages to draw his readers in with the hope that a true definition of justice is near. And yet with each additional page that I read of the *Republic*, I found myself increasingly ill at ease, but couldn't say why.

It soon became clear that Socrates had done the same thing to me as he had with the participants in the *Republic*. Some of my ideas had been shown to be incomplete, including those that my family, friends or I had long held in high regard.

As a result, I was uncomfortable, for to whom could I turn?

Finding myself confronted with this dilemma, I felt fortunate to have had a teacher like Professor Graham. He knew how to lead difficult discussions, when to point to relevant evidence, and how to encourage students to search for more complete answers. He understood not only what it meant to be a teacher, but also what it meant to be a student.

I am grateful to have met Professor Graham. I hope all Vanderbilt alumni have had similar experiences, and are glad for the time they spent as hard-working Vanderbilt students.

—Matt Wilson BS'96, MEd'00

expanding the current system might be too restrictive.

"I feel that juniors and seniors have enough resources and knowledge available so that it should not be required," she says. "On the other hand, freshman and sophomores need an adviser to help them out."

Patel says that her freshman adviser, Assistant Professor Charles Mullin, helped her craft a rough four-year outline for her economics major. Her current adviser, Professor Malcolm Getz, not only is working with Patel on her current academic load, but also is helping her apply to graduate business schools. Getz is also director of undergraduate education for the economics department.

Bergquist said the new program is a response to student requests for more involvement with the faculty. "We want to ensure that all students are served this way."



Professor Malcolm Getz, left, helps his advisee, Sejal Patel, with her class schedule, and also helps her plan her applications to graduate business schools.

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

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AnS/cas.htm>

You also can access the main alumni Web page at

www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni

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

www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/publications/cornerstone.html

CONTENTS

The Humanities, pages 1, 6-7
A&S News, pages 2-3
Student News, pages 4-5
A&S Weekend, pages 6-7
Warren Chair, page 7
Alumni News, pages 8-9
Research and Faculty News, pages 10-11
ExtraVUGanza, back page

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Life in the real West Wing

A group of Vanderbilt undergraduates had the good fortune to be taught this spring by an alumnus who has operated in the very highest halls of political power.

Roy Neel, BA'72, shared with the students some of the knowledge he gained during more than 20 years in the Washington, D.C., political arena. A former chief of staff for Senator and Vice President Al Gore, Neel became deputy chief of staff for President Bill Clinton in 1993.

“Early in 1993, the White House was in a state of chaos and President Clinton and (Chief of Staff) Mac McLarty were looking around for people who had experience in Washington managing organizations,” says Neel, who co-taught a seminar on “Presidential Transitions” in the spring. “The President asked me if I would come over and take that job and got Al’s okay for me to do it. It was hard to say ‘no,’ although there were times later when I wished I had. But both jobs were a wonderful experience.”

Neel left the White House in 1994, far before “Monicagate,” to serve as president/CEO of the U.S. Telephone Association, a lobbying group in Washington, D.C. He returned to the political fray in 2000 to campaign for Gore and to head his transition team.

Neel didn’t sugarcoat his lessons to the students and was remarkably bipartisan. Here is a sample of his observations:

“If you’re a new president, the Congress is the biggest thorn in your side because, ever since the beginning of the republic, about every major figure in Congress thinks they ought to be president, or at least they want to be,” he says. “They wake up every morning and say, ‘I could be a better president than that guy.’ That is why a lot of them run for president.”

Vanderbilt Chancellor Gordon Gee recruited Neel to return to his alma mater, and delegated Vice Chancellor Michael Schoenfeld to determine where Neel might best contribute. It was decided that Neel would co-teach the course with Professor John Geer, a noted Vanderbilt political scientist and presidential scholar.

“After stepping out of politics following this last election, I was itching to put to good use all the information I’ve learned and the political work I’ve done,” Neel says. “I’m finding it’s much more work than I thought it would be, but very much a labor of love.”

Neel, a former Vanderbilt student basketball manager and author of the book, *Dynamite! 75 Years of Vanderbilt Basketball*, comes from a family steeped in Vanderbilt tradition. His grandfather, father, an aunt and brother all graduated from the University. His stepson, Chris Dally, is a rising junior who enrolled in Neel’s class.

Neel incorporated a unique technique in his class on presidential transitions. Each week a different nationally-known political figure or journalist called into the seminar to address the class and take questions from the students. He prevailed upon a number of old friends to contribute in this way, including David Gergen, David Halberstam, presidential scholar Richard Neustadt, and former President Bill Clinton.

“My ancestors would be proud I’m doing this, but I’m sure that some of my former Vanderbilt professors would be shocked,” Neel says with a laugh.

“I’m very impressed with this group of students. They’ve been hitting me with questions—many of them very sophisticated and thoughtful.”

—Lew Harris



Guest speaker Tom Mann, center, makes a point in a class on “Presidential Transitions” taught by Professor John Geer, left, and political pro Roy Neel, BA’72, right.

A&S Cornerstone receives CASE III grand award

For the second year in a row, the *A&S Cornerstone* received a “grand award” in a recent communications contest among colleges and universities in the Southeast, sponsored by District III of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The publication, which goes to about 40,000 alumni, faculty, parents and other friends of the College of Arts and Science, received the top award in the external newsletters category.

Several other Institutional Planning and Advancement media initiatives and alumni publications also won awards, including the *Acorn Chronicle*, a newsletter for the Jean and Alexander Heard Library; the *Blair Quarter Note*; the Divinity School’s *Spire*; *The Power of One*, a development piece for the University’s undergraduate schools; and Web pages for Alumni and Development (www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni) and Children’s Hospital (www.helpvch.org).



A&S SPORTS

Commodore women’s soccer player Lindaliz Arauz, BA’02, a psychology major from Temple Trace, Fla., was selected to participate in the prestigious Umbro Select All-Star game last February. In its seventh year, the event featured two all-star games that showcased the top 36 seniors in both men’s and women’s collegiate soccer from around the country prior to the MLS and WUSA draft. Arauz was a first team All-SEC selection in 2001 after being a second-team honoree the previous two seasons.

Men’s soccer player Chris Yingling was named to the second team of the All-Missouri Valley Conference soccer team last November. A junior majoring in biology, he hails from Lancaster, Penn.

Vanderbilt junior golfer, Brandt Snedeker, an economics major from Nashville, shot a three-round, 4-under-par total of 212 (74-69-69), for a share of the second place finish at the Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championship in Ponte Vedra, Fla., in February. Sophomore Ken Lewis, a communications major from South Dennis, Mass., shot 223 (76-74-73) also to earn a top 25 finish for the Commodores.

Vanderbilt received the 2001 American Football Coaches Association’s Academic Award, presented annually by the Touchdown Club of Memphis. VU shared the award with Notre Dame. Both schools recorded a 100 percent graduation rate for members of the football team when all members of the freshman class of 1995-96 earned a degree. It’s Vanderbilt’s second win, having shared the award in 1996 with Boston College and Duke. “Vanderbilt takes great pride in offering student-athletes the dual opportunity of competing in a great football conference as well as some of the best classrooms in the nation,” said former head football coach Woody Widenhofer.

Winners on and off the court

Jillian “Jilly” Danker is a winner both on and off the basketball court. Not only did she help Vanderbilt win the women’s SEC basketball tournament and advance to the NCAA Elite Eight, the A&S senior was also a winner in the classroom.

Danker was named to the SEC academic honor roll for the second consecutive year, along with her A&S teammate Jackie Munch, a neuroscience major. Also named to the honor roll were her Peabody teammates, Zuzi Klimesova, Katie Smith, and Candice Storey. Vanderbilt claims five of the 40 players on the honor roll.

The University also leads the SEC in its graduation rate for all student athletes, and the women’s basketball team has been especially successful, placing 40 student-athletes on the SEC Academic Honor Roll 79 times. The team boasts four NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship winners and five Verizon/CoSIDA Academic All-Americans.

Doin’ what comes naturally

Danker came by basketball naturally. A senior guard/forward with the Commodores, she hails from Massachusetts, birthplace of basketball. Her older sister, Sheila, starred at the University of New Hampshire and played professionally in Europe.

Pro and Con

A&S freshman Erin Steinbruchel decided on a whim to compete with the Vanderbilt debate team at its first tournament in September, even though she had no prior experience.

“Going into that first match,” she admits, “I had no idea what to expect. By the end of the tournament, I not only had made wonderful friends with my fellow debaters, but I also had learned a great deal about the

art form itself. In that experience alone, I realized that not all activities, especially debate, are easy to start, but that it is definitely worth the try.”

Open to persons with little or no previous debate experience as well as to seasoned debaters, the 30-member Vanderbilt debate squad performed well in recent competitions. The number one team in



Adam Thomason, BA’02, helped the award-winning Vanderbilt debate team earn several of these trophies.

the SEC, they won 12 awards at the regional tournament, including first place in two divisions. They also placed among the top 20 teams at the CEDA (Cross Examination Debate Association) national tournament in Baltimore, where A&S sophomore Melissa Stanley and Engineering junior Kim Olvey made it to the novice division “Elite Eight.”

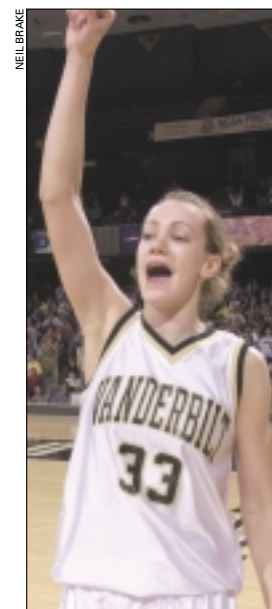
In high school, Danker played the post position where she won two state titles and scored 2,179 career points. But at 6-1, the post position was hardly an option amongst the towering centers of the SEC.

“In high school I shot maybe five threes my whole career,” she says. “Basically, I was a post player, somebody that cleaned up the glass, driver, that kind of thing. I had to transition to guard or else I wasn’t ever going to play.”

“The first thing you have to learn is how to play the game facing the basket,” said former Vanderbilt women’s basketball coach Jim Foster. “Her initial instincts were to put the ball on the floor. She needed to be shot-oriented first, then find the opportunity to put the ball on the floor. She had to learn to become a better shooter. It’s a long, hard battle.” Foster left Vanderbilt this spring to become head coach of the women’s basketball team at Ohio State University.

During the course of her metamorphosis, Danker persevered through knee and leg injuries. She led the SEC last season in three-point percentage (47.8) and scored 19 points in Vanderbilt’s win over Tennessee in Knoxville.

A communication studies major who graduated in May, Danker will play for the Indiana Fever in the WNBA, along with her teammate Klimesova. —Tony Lane



Jillian Danker celebrates Commodores’ victory.

According to M.L. Sandoz, director of debate and senior lecturer in the communication studies department at Vanderbilt, “through debate students gain in-depth knowledge about current events and the nature of the world in which we live. The areas of research cover virtually all disciplines, including philosophy, political science, bioengineering, sociology and psychology.”

Sandoz was recently elected vice president of CEDA, and will serve as president during the 2003-2004 academic year. CEDA is one of the largest intercollegiate debate associations in the country.

In an effort to share their expertise with others, the team has reached out to children and television viewers within the Nashville community. Students, coaches, and assistants visit several middle schools in the Nashville area weekly to teach children the value of learning debate skills.

“Few middle school students have the opportunity to learn debate,” says Sandoz. “This new program allows Vanderbilt students to teach middle school children research, critical thinking, and communication skills.”

Sandoz hopes the program will expand to a majority of Nashville-area middle schools in a few years. In the meantime, her debaters hosted their first annual middle school debate tournament in April.

The debate team also sponsors “VUpoint,” a weekly television program that airs on VTV, the campus television station. They also hosted an intercollegiate tournament in March.

“Although our squad philosophy emphasizes education and personal growth and development instead of focusing only on win/loss records, I have found that winning records follow in this approach naturally,” Sandoz says. “Still, win or lose, it is the education, growth and development of the students that is most important.”

—Rebecca Folmar

Humanities (continued from page 1)

and technological change demand a greater understanding of the human condition.

"The humanities," says Mona Frederick, executive director of Vanderbilt's Robert Penn Warren Center, "are the study of what makes us human." In today's world of cloning, genetics and artificial intelligence, Frederick says, the humanities are the arena where "we confront the fundamental issues of human history, human nature, and our future as a global community."

Professor Kreyling concurs. "A good humanities education will give you empirical, factual knowledge as well as the temperament, expression, and thinking skills to enter the human conversation in your time and place," says Kreyling, who is also director of graduate studies in English.

Associate Professor Beth Conklin, a medical and cultural anthropologist, adds that the humanities—particularly the study of other cultures—can help us meet the intellectual and imaginative challenges of technological and cultural change.

"Understanding the different ways people have solved problems gives students a greater appreciation for the richness of possibility in human life and also of the possibilities for change," Conklin says.

"Such knowledge can prove useful in dealing

with the rapid changes we face today. Sometimes stepping outside our own culture helps us see more clearly what unites us all as human beings."

Answering how and why

Technology attempts to answer "how?" but the humanities also ask "why?" Such questions are leading scholars nationwide to break through the bounds of their individual disciplines and join with colleagues in other fields to search for answers.

The College of Arts Science encourages such interdisciplinary research, dialogue and teaching, says Richard McCarty, A&S dean. It sponsors interdisciplinary courses and degree programs and a growing number of cross-disciplinary centers. Among these, the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities promotes interdisciplinary work through fellowships, seminars, conferences and courses.

The Warren Center, says Frederick, provides a form of continuing education for humanities faculty. It is also a place for students and the wider community to learn from these faculty members.

"Last fall, Larry Griffin in sociology, William James Booth in political science, and Michael Kreyling jointly taught a graduate seminar on 'Memory, Identity, and Political Action,'" Fred-

erick recalls. "Some students in that class went on to plan an international, interdisciplinary graduate colloquium held at Vanderbilt this past April."

Another Warren Center program on the Holocaust and other genocides led to a curriculum guide for high school teachers, which was recently published by Vanderbilt Press.

Vanderbilt's future achievements in the humanities will come from the energy and originality generated in such collaborations, says McCarty. Professor of English Jay Clayton, who was Warren's student at Yale, remembers his teacher as a model for such scholarship.

"Robert Penn Warren was himself an incarnation of interdisciplinary interests," Clayton says. "At once a poet and novelist, new critic and theorist of American democracy, learned historian and mentor to younger writers—he both represents Vanderbilt's past and calls us to a future that crosses new boundaries."

Jerome Christensen, professor and chair of the English department, says that the profes-

sional wisdom of Warren and his contemporaries lay in their desire "to discover the idea that was shared by all faculty, the common language that they spoke, and the beliefs they could profess."

Strengthening the humanities

McCarty is mindful of Vanderbilt's legacy of excellence in the humanities. He also recognizes the challenges of boosting the University's national prominence in the humanities. That task is complicated by the fact that external support for research and teaching in the humanities is dramatically less than that available to the sciences. Government agencies like the National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH] and the National Endowment for the Arts [NEA] support the humanities. So do a few private organizations like the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which endowed a chair and three assistant professorships in the humanities at Vanderbilt in the mid-1970s. But overall, funding sources remain limited.

The College of Arts and Science has taken

the following steps to strengthen the humanities at Vanderbilt:

In April, McCarty announced the endowment of the Robert Penn Warren Chair in the Humanities (please see article at right).

Next fall, Jonathan Lamb, a professor of English at Princeton, will join Vanderbilt's English department as the Mellon Professor in Humanities.

The Provost's Office has established the Research Scholar Grants Program to encourage imaginative humanistic research and cross-disciplinary scholarship.

This past spring, A&S established a program to support summer research by graduate students in the humanities, a group of developing scholars especially hampered by a lack of funds.

Finally, Bill Ivey, head of the NEA under President Bill Clinton, recently joined the faculty as the Harvie Branscomb Distinguished University Visiting Scholar. He is now working to establish a center that will examine the complex relationship between the arts and public policy.

These are important steps, says McCarty, but more must be done to advance the humanities at Vanderbilt. In this uncertain time, the study of what makes us human, is, indeed, important for our future and our world.

Anonymous donors establish Robert Penn Warren Chair

Vanderbilt has the good fortune to have donors who love and support the humanities. Such donors, who wish to remain anonymous, recently endowed the Robert Penn Warren Chair in the Humanities. Here is what they said about their gift:

"Our goal in endowing this chair is to ensure that the study and teaching of the humanities flourish at Vanderbilt. The several academic disciplines that comprise the humanities are singly, and together, the foundation for a serious liberal arts university education, which in turn can be the foundation for a life-long rigorous pursuit and love of learning.

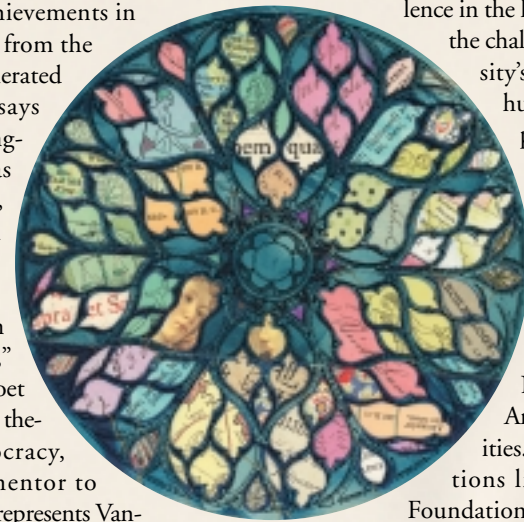
"Robert Penn Warren and Cleanth Brooks, in the preface to the 1960 edition of *Understanding Poetry*, put the import and utility of one of the humanities disciplines precisely: 'Poetry gives us knowledge. It is a knowledge of ourselves in relation to the world of experience, and to that world considered, not statistically, but in terms of human purposes and values...'

"We believe the identification of the chair with Mr. Warren will honor his contribution to our national literature and dialogue and also honor and enhance the college, its students and the entire Vanderbilt community."

Richard McCarty, A&S dean, announced the chair's endowment at the A&S Weekend dinner (please see photos at left). He praised the donors for giving the College of Arts and Science a gift with enduring benefits. The new chair, he noted, comes at crucial moment for the college, which is moving forward with plans to strengthen the humanities.

"The Warren Chair is a magnificent gift, one that recalls this University's place in history while issuing a challenge for the future," McCarty said. "It will be critically important to our effort to boost Vanderbilt's national prominence in the humanities—a task to which we have dedicated ourselves."

Although the initial recipient of the Warren Chair will be from English, the college plans to appoint someone whose interests spill over into other humanities disciplines. Future chair holders will be tenured faculty members from history, classical studies, comparative literature, art and art history, English, or philosophy.



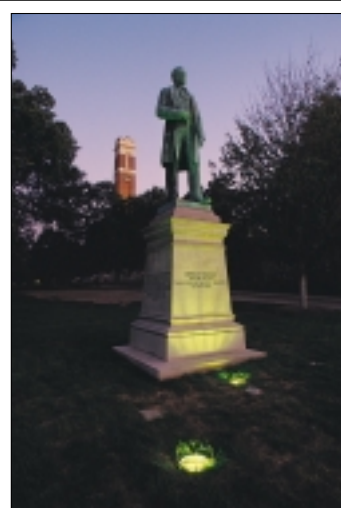
School Days

Each year, the College of Arts and Science puts its best foot forward and invites a cross section of alumni, parents, members of the College Cabinet, and other friends of A&S to spend a weekend on campus. Participants attend regular classes, poetry readings, plays, art exhibits, and social events. They also enjoy special presentations by some of the college's most interesting faculty members. Here are photos from this year's A&S Weekend, which took place April 5-6.

PHOTOS BY PEYTON HOGE



Enjoying A&S Weekend, left to right: **A** Hunter and Tom Bailey, left, dance to the music of Pat Patrick's band; **B** Bill and Linda Welborn; **C** Kelly Conn and Thomas Conner; **D** A&S Dean Richard McCarty, right, introduced Bobby Johnson, Vanderbilt's new head football coach; **E** Granberry and Mary Lee Jackson with Martin and Anne Marie McNamara; **F** Scholarship students, clockwise from top left; Benjamin Powell, the Harold Stirling Vanderbilt (HSV) scholar; Julie Bales, the Fleming Hayes scholarship; Andrea Person, HSV scholarship; and Anna Curry, the Riley Scholarship; **G** Brenda Butler, left, enjoyed the academic program with Phil and Becky Lepanto; **H** Betty Blythe Wilson with classmate Mary Beth Body; **I** Joanne Fleming Hayes, chair of the College Cabinet; **J** members of the Class of '69 at the Saturday morning panel discussions; **K** Joseph Blotner signs a copy of his biography of Robert Penn Warren; **L** Vanderbilt poets Mark Jarman, left, and Kate Daniels, with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Charles Wright; **M** Susan Derryberry, left, Harry Dodd and Caroline Fisher; **N** Rowena Olegario, assistant professor of history, participated in a discussion of ethics and the economy; **O** Jack Whiteaker with Rob and Claire Kennedy.



GREETINGS FROM VANDERBILT

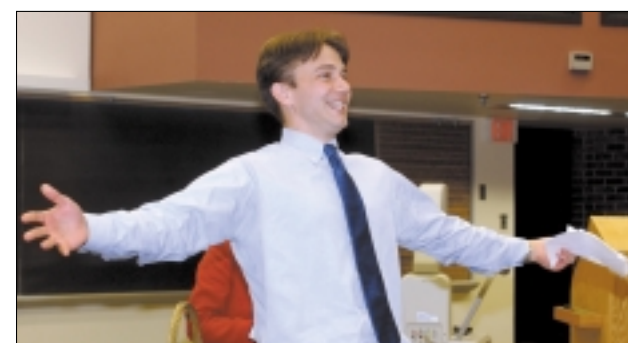


Visitors to the Vanderbilt Alumni Web site can now send free Vand-e-gram electronic postcards to family and friends. The new service allows you to choose a card from 20 campus images, and personalize it. Go to www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni and click on the Vand-e-gram icon to send your first Vandy e-postcard.

Scholarship helps student's dream become reality

Nobody needs to tell former VU medical student Shane Rowan the value of a Vanderbilt education. Eight years ago, Rowan, BA'94, received a College Cabinet Honor Scholarship which enabled him to come to Vanderbilt for his undergraduate education. In May, he received his MD degree from Vanderbilt Medical School and, on July 1, will begin his residency at the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver.

"[The scholarship] made my undergraduate career possible. There's no way at all I could have attended Vanderbilt without having it," says the new physician. "I loved my undergraduate education. I'd love to go back and do it again. I love the atmosphere at Vanderbilt. It gave me a great group of peers to hang out with in college, people who were interesting to be with. One of them is my roommate now."



DANA JOHNSON

Shane Rowan, BA'94, MD'02, celebrates the news that he will go to Denver for his residency. Rowan says the College Cabinet Scholarship made his undergraduate education possible.

While an undergraduate, Rowan not only managed his studies sufficiently to land him in medical school, he also became involved with the Student Government Association, volunteered at the Medical Center, tutored for an adult-literacy program, acted in Vanderbilt Theatre productions and became dorm president of McTyeire Hall.

The scholarship also helped Rowan, a double major in German and political science, go to Europe. "Actually, that was another great part about the scholarship," he says. "There was a stipend built in to spend the summer in London, which I did. I enjoyed traveling abroad so much and was a German major, so I went to Regensburg, Germany, for a spring semester."

The scholarship, which is awarded each year to a deserving A&S student, was established in 1983 by members of the College Cabinet. Another former recipient, Daniel Glen Davis, BA'94, went on to do graduate studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

—Shelton Clark

My most memorable professor

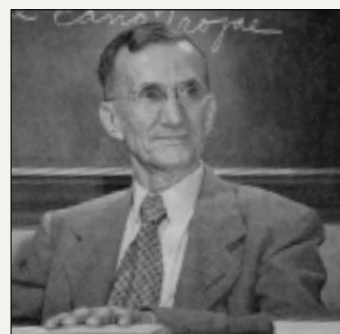
During my senior year as an English major at Vanderbilt, I studied Homeric Greek with Clyde Pharr, professor of classics. Although he was a nationally prominent scholar, Professor Pharr was friendly and enthusiastic as a teacher. He learned that I loved poetry, and that I had written a number of poems for publication. So as we began studying *The Iliad*, he urged me: "Fred, don't be content with making a merely literal translation of this great Greek epic. Try to capture the poetic feeling in Homer and express that in English." Professor Pharr communicated to me—and, I believe, to many others who studied with him—a deep love of language, both ancient Greek and modern English.

A second quality which makes Prof. Pharr glow in my memory was his excitement about sharing the findings of scholars with a wider audience. During the year I studied Greek with him, I also served as his typist for a major project: The translation into English of the entire Theodosian Code (named for the Roman Emperor Theodosius, who lived from 346 to 395 A.D.).

Professor Pharr's graduate Latin students translated books of the Code into English. Then, I cut stencils and mimeographed the manuscripts and mailed them—together with a cover letter from Professor Pharr—to the advisory board. This board included the heads of classics departments at a number of universities, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia and Stanford. The professors made recommendations for improvement, many of which Professor Pharr incorporated into the final version of the translation.

A year ago, I went to the [Jean and Alexander Heard] Library and examined the final bound copy of the Theodosian Code and remembered Professor Clyde Pharr, who combined topflight scholarship and enthusiasm for teaching students. He made a lifelong impact on me, for which I am grateful.

—Fred Cloud, BA'44, MDiv'47, DMin'90



Professor Clyde Pharr

Killing those who kill

Richard Burr, BA'71, is one of America's foremost opponents of the death penalty.



Richard Burr

A Houston attorney who has worked on more than 100 death penalty appeals, Burr was co-counsel for Timothy McVeigh, who was tried and executed for bombing the A.P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Through these cases, Burr has seen first-hand what he calls the "cycles of violence" at work in America.

An undergraduate philosophy major at Vanderbilt in the late 1960s and early '70s, Burr cites Centennial Professor of Philosophy John Lachs and Professor Emeritus Charles Scott as influential guides on his journey. Burr became involved in anti-Vietnam protests and civil rights sit-ins during his years at Vanderbilt. After graduation, he went on to earn his J.D. degree from the University of Kentucky at Lexington.

The father of two, Burr directed the Capital Punishment Project of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund for seven years and was one of three counsels employed by the Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel Project.

An ardent pacifist, he sees his current work as a continuation of what he began in Nashville: "I have come to view death penalty defense work as a very important kind of peace-making work with prosecutors, with

judges, with juries and with victims' families. I try to help others see somebody who does something terrible as a multi-dimensional human being just like everybody else so that we can better understand how they came to such a place in life."

To the oft-repeated maxim: "If anybody deserved to die, Timothy McVeigh did," Burr replies simply: "Nobody deserves to die."

Working with the most famous capital case in recent years was life-changing for Burr in several ways. The first was in his practice, and he now "encourages defense lawyers to develop relationships with the victims' families to help overcome the innate fear that we all have in approaching angry people who may well hate us. Such feelings are waves on the surface of the ocean; we, as defense lawyers, often can help them find their way through the morass of anger, grief and loss in a unique way—through accountability, information, and swift fairness."

Burr's personal life has changed as well: "To enter into the midst of such enormous human suffering, which is what lies at the heart of death penalty cases, requires a deepening of one's own spiritual side."

Killing those who kill, he says, only worsens everyone's pain and does little to work toward the reconciliation that he seeks.

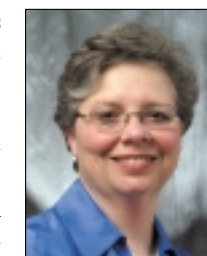
—Gayle Rogers, BA'01



Administrative changes announced

Several administrative changes affecting alumni and students were announced recently.

Carolyn Schmidt, BA'71, MS'78, announced her retirement as executive director of Alumni Relations, effective June 30, to help care for a grandson and other family members. Schmidt spent the past 14 years handling a host of services and programs for the University's



Carolyn Schmidt



Nicholas Zeppos

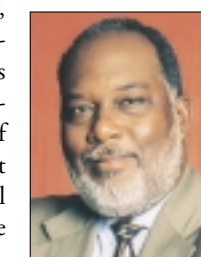
108,000 alumni. During her tenure, the Alumni Association Board expanded to include representatives of all the University's schools and the 10 largest alumni clubs.

Chancellor Gordon Gee has named Nicholas Zeppos, professor of law and vice chancellor for institutional planning and advancement, to the newly created position of

provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Zeppos succeeds Thomas G. Burish, who served as provost for the past 10 years. Burish, who was also a professor of psychology, has left Vanderbilt to become president of Washington and Lee University in Virginia.

David Williams II, the University's general counsel, secretary, and vice chancellor for student life, has been named vice chancellor for student life and university affairs, also a new position.

Both Zeppos and Williams will retain many of their former duties, while assuming new ones. As the chief academic and advancement officer, Zeppos will oversee Vanderbilt's academic activities and planning, as well as the forthcoming capital campaign. Williams, also a professor of law, will lead the division of student life, as well as the University's legal affairs office and the office of the Board of Trust.



David Williams II

DID YOU KNOW?

About 400 full-time A&S faculty members teach 37 academic subjects to undergraduate students.

Thinking big about the infinitely small

Sokrates Pantelides, the son of a Greek-Cypriot shoemaker, has the word, ΣΚΕΨΟΥ, prominently displayed on his desk.

"It is the Greek word for 'think,'" says Pantelides, the William A. and Nancy F. McMinn Professor of Physics at Vanderbilt.

"Thomas Watson Sr., who founded IBM, had the word 'think' as his motto and it was plastered everywhere around IBM. When I was working there, long after Mr. Watson had died, the stock room had the word 'think' in different languages. I got this back then."

These days Pantelides is thinking big about something infinitely small. So small, in fact, that "gazillions" of them could fit in the period at the end of this sentence, he says. It is the world of nanotechnology, the wave of miniaturization that many believe will revolutionize electronics, optics and mechanics.

"Nano is really sweeping the country now that there is a realization among professional societies, funding agencies, and the government that tremendous opportunities lie ahead if we make a concerted effort to solve issues of direct manipulation of matter on the nano scale," Pantelides says.

One application of nanoscience to medicine is the use of semiconductor nanocrystals coated with organic molecules that are inserted into the human body to provide information via their unique luminescence. Sandra Rosenthal, assistant professor of chemistry, works with researchers at the Medical School to explore those possibilities.

"We have opportunities to do things with nano crystals

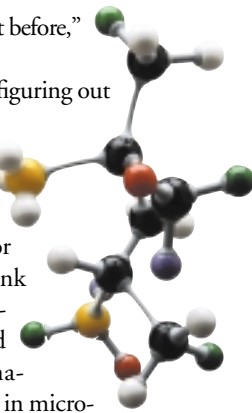
that you couldn't even think about before," Pantelides says.

Some of his work consists of figuring out how individual molecules can be used as electronic devices. He can foresee a day when computers and other electronic devices may use individual molecules for switches, allowing them to shrink to the size of salt grains. Such molecular electronics (sometimes called moletronics) may be an alternative to the silicon currently used in micro-electronic devices. In other work, Pantelides and his associates study the behavior of nanoparticles as catalysts.

Pantelides is helped in his work by a \$1.2 million super-computer donated by IBM that has allowed him to simulate more effectively the electrical properties of molecular circuits that other scientists are developing.

He also spends one day a week as a distinguished guest scientist at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, collaborating on research with Oak Ridge scientist Steve Pennycook. They combine Pantelides' theoretical calculations with "pictures" of atoms obtained by Pennycook's transmission electron microscope. The microscope projects a beam of electrons through samples of materials, thereby providing an image of the material's atomic makeup.

—Lew Harris



Neuroscientist receives Searle Fellowship

Ken Catania studies the brains of some of the strangest-looking mammals alive: the star-nosed mole and the naked mole rat.

"I used to be a little defensive about studying such weird-looking animals," the assistant professor of biological sciences acknowledged. "But then I realized that what makes these animals so strange is their extreme specialization and, for that very reason, we can learn a great deal from studying them."

This research strategy appears to be paying off. Catania has been awarded one of only 15 fellowships given annually by the Searle Foundation, a highly competitive honor that will provide him with \$240,000 to use on his research for the next three years. His work has appeared in the *Proceedings* of the National Academy of Science and in *Nature Neuroscience*.

It was Catania's interest in the sense of touch that led him initially to the community of moles. In their underground world there is little light, so vision is not very important.

Also, sounds are attenuated and hearing is not that valuable either. That leaves the senses of touch and smell preeminent. His first research subject was the star-nosed mole—an animal that looks like an ordinary mole except for a star of fleshy appendages ringing its nose.

It was not until Catania studied this structure in detail as part of his doctoral thesis at the University of California, San Diego, that the star's true function came to light. Working with noted neuroscientist Glenn Northcutt, he showed that these appendages serve as an extraordinary touch organ that allows the hamster-sized mole literally to feel its way around its subterranean environment.

Catania came to Vanderbilt in 1997 as a post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Distinguished Professor of Psychology Jon Kaas. He and Kaas determined that more than 100,000 nerve fibers run from the mole's star nose to its brain, more than six times the number that connect the human hand and brain.

—David F. Salisbury



Gideon Searle, BA'75, right, presents Ken Catania with a plaque announcing Catania's selection as a Searle Scholar.

RESEARCH BRIEFS

Compassionate Cannibalism • Modern society has considered cannibalism to be an aggressive, barbaric act. But Beth Conklin, associate professor of anthropology, offers another viewpoint gained through her work with the Wari', indigenous people of the Amazon rainforest. In her book *Compassionate Cannibalism in an Amazonian Society*, Conklin contends that the Wari' tradition of funerary cannibalism was seen as a way to grieve the dead respectfully. The Brazilian government forced the Wari' to abandon the practice soon after the tribe's first contact with the outside world in the 1960s. "Wari' recognize the intensity of bereavement, whereas [our] tendency these days is to resist even the thought of death," Conklin says. "In modern society, there is no longer a standard way of dealing with death, and I think something has been lost." Conklin recently received the Ellen Gregg Ingalls Award for excellence in classroom teaching.

New light shed on language, thought • Individuals who have been blind from birth use different parts of their brain when they read Braille than do those who lost their sight later in life—a difference that sheds new light on the relationship between thought and language. Psychology Professor Ford F. Ebner and Research Assistant Professor Peter Melzer used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to study the brain activity of five individuals who were blind from birth and five who lost their sight later in life. As the subjects read words in Braille, activation of a region in the posterior temporal lobe that is used to track sound patterns was more strongly correlated with reading in those born blind than in those with some visual experience. The study also supports the theory that some mental imagery exists independently of the five senses.

For more information on exciting research at Vanderbilt, please visit Exploration, the University's online research journal, at <http://exploration.vanderbilt.edu/home.htm>

Kudos



Michael Aurbach

Michael Aurbach, professor of art and art history, was elected president of the College Art Association (CAA) in February. He formerly served as vice president of the CAA, which includes more than 13,000 individual members and 2,000 universities and other organizations. Founded in 1911, the CAA promotes excellence in scholarship and the teaching of art.

Marvin M. Chun, associate professor of psychology, has been selected as a recipient of the 2002 American Psychological Association (APA) Distinguished Scientific Award for early career contribution to psychology in the area of cognition and human learning. "This award is a huge honor," says Richard McCarty, A&S dean. "Most of the nation's leading psychologists also received this award early in their careers." Chun's research interests are in visual attention, visual memory, perceptual learning and object recognition. A native of Korea, Chun earned his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to joining the Vanderbilt faculty in 1999, he was assistant professor at Yale University.



Marvin M. Chun



Isabel Gauthier

Isabel Gauthier, assistant professor of psychology, has received the Young Investigator Award from the Cognitive Neuroscience Society. Gauthier is also a member of the Vanderbilt Vision Research Center and a fellow of Vanderbilt's John F. Kennedy Center for research in human development.

Patte honored by peers, former students

Daniel Patte, professor of New Testament in the A&S department of Religious Studies and professor of New Testament and Early Christianity in the Divinity School, was honored at the Society of Biblical Literature national meeting in November 2001. His colleagues and former students organized a session on his life's work and presented him with an advance copy of *Reading Communities Reading Scripture: Essays in Honor of Daniel Patte*, which is being published by Trinity Press this year. In the book, 27 religion scholars from around the world celebrate Patte as a "scholar, editor and teacher who has helped shape the character and set the direction of contemporary American biblical studies."

New Tenured Faculty Appointments

The College of Arts and Science appointed the following tenured faculty members this past year. They include one married couple, Yanqin Fan and Quan Wen.



Yanqin Fan

Yanqin Fan, professor of economics, and **Quan Wen**, associate professor of economics, and came to Vanderbilt from the University of Windsor in Canada. Both earned bachelor's degrees from Jilin University in China, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Western Ontario. Fan's scholarly interests include nonparametric statistics and econometrics. Wen's field of expertise includes game theory and microeconomic theory.



Quan Wen

Gregory W. Huffman, professor of economics, came to Vanderbilt from Southern Methodist University. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Saskatchewan in Canada and his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Huffman's research interests include business cycle theory, finance and monetary theory.

Benjamin Radcliff, associate professor of political science, earned his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois. His field of expertise is American politics with special emphasis on American and comparative political behavior. Prior to coming to Vanderbilt, Professor Radcliff was an associate professor at the University of Notre Dame.

In Memoriam

Three A&S faculty members died this past spring.

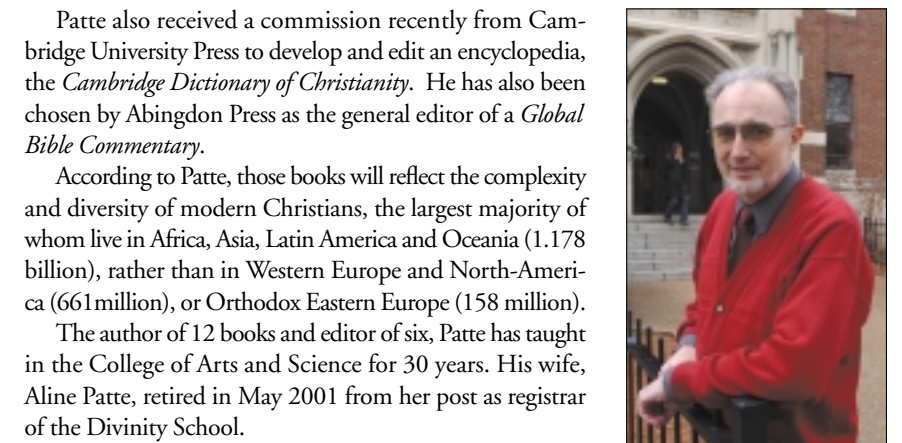
Hugh Davis Graham, the Holland N. McTyeire Professor of History and professor of political science, died on March 26 in Santa Barbara, California, after a long bout with cancer. He was 65. A highly regarded scholar of civil rights policy, Graham joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 1991, the same year he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in history. Graham is survived by his wife, Janet Gorman Graham; a son, Holter Ford Graham, and two brothers.

Emerson L. Brown Jr., professor of English, emeritus, died March 19 of prostate cancer in Nashville. He was 67. A respected Medievalist, Brown regaled students for 23 years, before his retirement in 1998, with dramatic presentations of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and Dante's *Commedia*. He also played clarinet with Dixieland jazz bands in New York and Nashville. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Mitchell Brown.

Rudolph C. Blitz, professor of economics, emeritus, died March 18. He was 83. A memorial gathering of friends and family took place March 23 at the University Club.



Hugh Graham



extraVUganza

Homecoming*Friends Reunion*Alumni

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



Next fall, a new Vanderbilt tradition will begin when Reunion 2002 and Homecoming join forces for extraVUganza, Oct. 25-26. Reunions will take place for undergraduate and professional school classes ending in '2 or '7, while all alumni can join in the fun-filled Homecoming activities.

For more details, visit the extraVUganza 2002 Web site <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/homecoming.htm>.



HOMEcoming 2001 PHOTOS BY PEYTON HOGE

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