

# arts AND SCIENCE

The magazine of Vanderbilt University's College of Arts and Science

FALL 2009





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DANIEL DUBOIS

**LIKE GREAT PARENTS, GREAT PROFESSORS SEEK INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE FOR THEIR STUDENTS.**

In Vanderbilt's College of Arts and Science, we teach the crafts of writing and speaking, of critical thinking, of skepticism and analysis. We are fortunate in our 4,170 undergraduates: They are diverse, curious and their level of academic preparation is first-rate. When we as professors do our jobs well, we gradually make ourselves obsolete to our students. We aspire to equip them with the cognitive tools to do for themselves what we have provided first. As educators, we share this common ideal, whether we teach philosophy, economics, African American and diaspora studies, neuroscience or one of dozens of other academic specialties in Arts and Science.

The core of undergraduate education in Arts and Science is the program nicknamed AXLE: Achieving Excellence in Liberal Education. AXLE opens the entire Arts and Science curriculum to first-year and sophomore students to expose them to a dazzling breadth of knowledge before they specialize by declaring a major. The goal, of course, is for students to import AXLE's breadth to the depth of a major field of study, and thus, to emerge as lifelong learners at home anywhere in the world of educated men and women.

Within the AXLE program, students take a first-year writing seminar and a sequence of additional writing or oral communication courses. They experience the liberal arts through courses in humanities and the creative arts; international cultures; U.S. history and culture; mathematics and natural sciences; social and behavioral sciences; and one perspectives class, which addresses the impact of diverse ethics and values on contemporary issues.

These are broad parameters, designed deliberately to allow each student to chart his or her own path within our Arts and Science curriculum.

Great advising is essential to the success of such a program, and this fall, Arts and Science unveiled an innovative approach to premajor advising. The College of Arts and Science Premajor Advising Resources Center (CASPAR) has opened for business. The vision of CASPAR is simple: "Through informed and responsive academic advising, we help Vanderbilt students realize their potential as inquisitive citizens of an ever-changing world." CASPAR Director Patricia Armstrong leads a staff of six talented recent Arts and Science doctoral graduates. Service with CASPAR provides professional development opportunities for these new Ph.D.s.

Professor Armstrong and the CASPAR advisers meet our youngest students where they are, literally: offices are in the Commons Center, in the heart of the first-year living and learning community. With day and evening office hours, tutoring services, individual mentorship, and programs that help address the challenges facing large groups of students, CASPAR is flexible enough to remain sensitive to students' needs as they develop.

The goal, of course, is self-reliance: to help students toward awareness of their unique interests and aptitudes, to help them to learn how to plan and realize a personalized curriculum, to help them understand how to make the most of their paths through this great university. If we do our jobs well—if we make ourselves obsolete—these tools will equip our students for all challenges that lie ahead.

Carolyn Dever  
Dean

## Promoted for Excellence



DANIEL DUBOIS

The start of the academic year saw a group of Arts and Science faculty honored with promotions and new titles. Receiving promotions from assistant professor were Laura Carpenter, associate professor of sociology; Nathalie Debrauwere-Miller, associate professor of French; Katherine Friedman, associate professor of biological sciences; Mark Hosford, associate professor of art; Christina Karageorgou-Bastea, associate professor of Spanish; and Lorraine López, associate professor of English.

Tony Earley, formerly Samuel Milton Fleming Associate Professor of English, became the Samuel Milton Fleming Professor of English.

Three faculty members were named to full professor. Isabel Gauthier, formerly associate professor of psychology, is now professor of psychology. Associate Provost for Global Strategy Joel Harrington, formerly associate professor of history, is now professor of history. Marc Hetherington was promoted from associate professor of political science to professor of political science.

In addition, three outstanding faculty were named to the position of University Professor in recognition of their accomplishments, contributions and scholarly distinctions.

Professor of Chemistry Lawrence Marnett is now University Professor, Mary Geddes Stahlman Professor of Cancer Research, professor of biochemistry, professor of pharmacology and director of the Vanderbilt Institute of Chemical Biology. Lilianna Solnica-Krezel is University Professor, professor of biological sciences, Martha Rivers Ingram Professor of Developmental Genetics and professor of cell and developmental biology. Former dean of the Vanderbilt Law School Edward L. Rubin has been named University Professor and professor of political science. This is in addition to his primary appointment to the law school as professor of law.

The College of Arts and Science has also welcomed new faculty from as far away as China and as near as Vanderbilt itself. For a full list of new faculty, please visit <http://snipurl.com/ASnewfaculty>.

## Connecting Vanderbilt's Online Community

Vanderbilt recently launched VUconnect, a new online community for all alumni and students. VUconnect replaces the previous online service, Dore2Dore, and provides new and enhanced features. Alumni can use VUconnect to provide news, find old friends and classmates, network, share career advice and leads, locate VU chapters and sign up for Vanderbilt events.

College of Arts and Science alumni are encouraged to go to [www.vuconnect.com](http://www.vuconnect.com) and follow the step-by-step instructions to register. Previously registered Dore2Dore users need to re-register with VUconnect (although biographical information from Dore2Dore will automatically transfer). Those with an [@alumni.vanderbilt.edu](mailto:@alumni.vanderbilt.edu) e-mail address will continue to have e-mail forwarding service.

VUconnect is only open to Vanderbilt alumni and students, as part of Vanderbilt's commitment to the privacy of its alumni.

For help or questions, e-mail [vuconnect@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vuconnect@vanderbilt.edu) or call (615) 322-5578 weekdays 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Central time.

A Vanderbilt network of alumni, students and friends worldwide.  
**VUCONNECT**

## C. Neal Tate, Chair of Political Science, Dies

C. Neal Tate, professor and chair of the Department of Political Science, died unexpectedly September 13, 2009, as he recovered from surgery. Tate was 65.

“Neal Tate was a valued friend, an accomplished scholar and a leader of his department, the university and the discipline of political science,” says Carolyn Dever, dean of the College of Arts and Science and professor of English. “We will reap the benefits of his great work for many years to come.”

Tate, who also held an appointment at Vanderbilt Law School, was widely admired not only as a scholar but also for his administrative and interpersonal skills. Recruited to the College of Arts and Science from University of North Texas in 2003, Tate is credited with providing strong leadership in the rebuilding of the political science department. Under his direction, the department’s national reputation soared as it added esteemed faculty to its ranks.

Bruce Oppenheimer, professor of

political science and acting department chair, calls Tate a first-rate person and friend who demonstrated great leadership. “Neal contributed a huge investment of his time and effort the past six years to guide our department,” he says, adding that the number of political science faculty increased by two-thirds under his watch.

As a political scholar, Tate specialized in comparative and American judicial politics. Other areas of academic interest were Third World politics and the military in politics. A distinguished editor and author, at the time of his death, Tate was working on a book project titled *Political Repression, Human Rights and the Rule of Law: The Global Picture, 1976–2005*.

In May, Tate was awarded the Alexander Heard Distinguished Service Professor Award, given annually to a Vanderbilt faculty member for distinctive contributions to the understanding of problems of contemporary society.



JOHN RUSSELL

## Vanderbilt Mourns Passing of Former Chancellor Heard



Alexander Heard, who served as Vanderbilt’s fifth chancellor, and guided the university from 1963 to 1982, died July 24 after a long illness. The chancellor emeritus was 92.

Under Heard’s leadership, Vanderbilt grew and prospered, as did the College of Arts and Science.

“During his tenure, Arts and Science increased enrollment, added more honors’ work, gained its first endowed chairs and grew in national status,” says Carolyn Dever, dean of the College of Arts and Science. “He presided over the largest faculty development effort in our history. Equally important, he helped establish a culture of collegiality

among faculty, students, alumni, staff and administration that exists to this day.”

Personable and intelligent, Heard was known for his accessibility and responsiveness to students, sometimes supporting them in controversial issues that put him at odds with his advisors or members of the Board of Trust.

A giant in his field, Heard was the recipient of 27 honorary degrees from various colleges and universities over the years. He also served as an advisor to three U.S. presidents.

Donations in his honor may be made to the Alexander Heard Memorial Fund at Vanderbilt.

## Alumni Saks and Yunus Receive Rare, Prestigious Honors

Two College of Arts and Science alumni recently made international headlines when each received prestigious and notable awards.

In August, Muhammad Yunus, PhD’71, was awarded the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama. America’s highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom is awarded to individuals who make an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

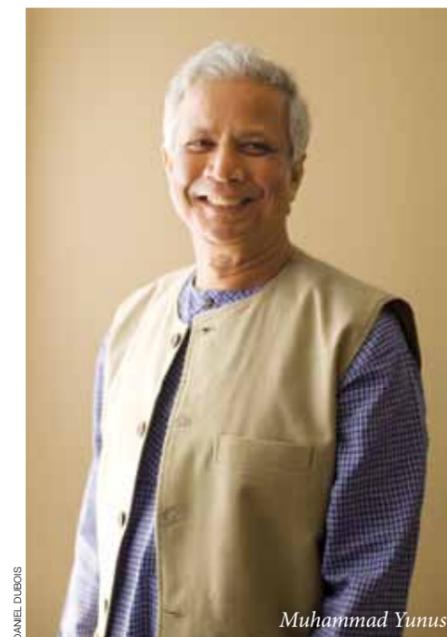
Yunus is a global leader in anti-poverty efforts who pioneered the use of micro-loans to provide credit to poor individuals. He founded the Grameen Bank in his native Bangladesh to grant small, low-interest loans to the poor. The successful model has spread throughout the world. In 2006, Yunus received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Elyn Saks, BA’77, is the recipient of a \$500,000 MacArthur Fellowship from

the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Known for her scholarship in mental health law and advocacy, as well as for her personal battle with schizophrenia, Saks is a University of Southern California law professor and associate dean. She is also an adjunct professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego. Her widely acclaimed memoir, *The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey through Madness*, disclosed her lifelong struggle with schizophrenia and acute psychosis.

A philosophy major in the College of Arts and Science, Saks was a Founder’s Medalist at Vanderbilt and a Marshall Scholar at Oxford University before earning a law degree from Yale.

The MacArthur Foundation annually awards the no-strings-attached fellowships, informally known as “genius grants,” to encourage recipients in their creativity, originality and potential.



DANIEL DUBOIS

Muhammad Yunus



DANIEL DUBOIS

Elyn Saks

## NSF Recognizes Two Arts and Science Faculty With CAREER Awards



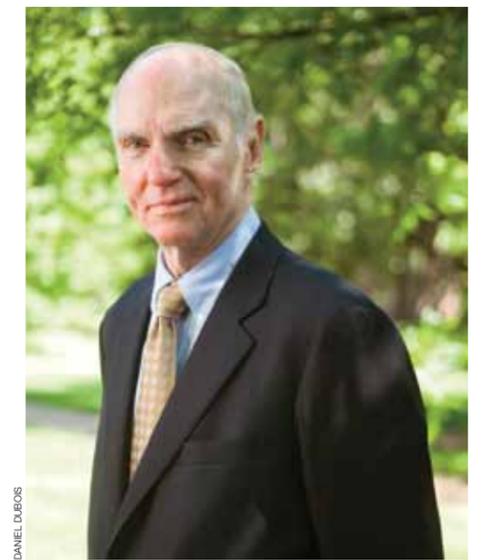
The National Science Foundation has awarded its most prestigious honor for young teacher-scholars, the Faculty Early Career Development Program award, to Kelly Holley-Bockelmann, assistant professor of astronomy, and Antonis Rokas, assistant professor of biological sciences. Known as CAREER awards, the grants fund outstanding young faculty in research and education outreach.

Holley-Bockelmann will use her \$1,075,873 five-year grant to further explore supermassive black holes, including developing and testing a comprehensive theory for their evolution. The grant will also assist her work in addressing the underrepresentation of women and minorities in astrophysics.

Rokas’ \$688,129, five-year grant will support his research into yeast genomes and how they may expand understanding of the evolutionary relationships among living organisms. The project will also train high school teachers and students regarding phylogenetics (the study of evolutionary relationships) and include development of an undergraduate course.



DANIEL DEBOIS



DANIEL DEBOIS

# OPPORTUNITY VANDERBILT

Two of Vanderbilt's volunteer leaders

discuss the expanded financial aid initiative.

Orrin Ingram and Rodes Hart believe in Vanderbilt and the College of Arts and Science. As alumni, trustees, philanthropists and visionaries, they reflect on the opportunities—and challenges—of eliminating need-based loans and increasing scholarship endowment.

Rodes Hart, who graduated from the College of Arts and Science in 1954 and now serves as chair of Vanderbilt's \$1.75 billion *Shape the Future* campaign, joined the Vanderbilt Board of Trust in 1979, becoming trustee, emeritus, in 2007.

Orrin Ingram received his bachelor's degree from the College of Arts and Science in 1982. A member of the Board of Trust since 2002, he chairs its Medical Center Affairs Committee and serves as vice chair of the *Shape the Future* campaign. He also chairs the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center Board of Overseers and the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Board.

These leaders answered questions about Vanderbilt's commitment to replace need-based undergraduate loans with scholarships and grants—and the \$100 million philanthropic effort, Opportunity Vanderbilt, that will sustain this historic expansion of financial aid.

**Why is Vanderbilt's expanded financial aid initiative, with its emphasis on scholarships rather than loans, so important?**

**HART:** It's the right thing to do. Scholarships replace the burden of student loans, and those loan obligations can adversely impact students' career choices or their plans for advanced or professional education. We want to ensure that financial need is not a deterrent for highly qualified students who want to attend Vanderbilt.

**INGRAM:** When a class is made up of individuals of all economic, geographic and cultural backgrounds and experiences, that blend enriches the learning environment for the whole class—and every student.

Opportunity Vanderbilt is seeking \$100 million in new gifts to support this financial aid initiative. Why not postpone this, given the current economy?

**INGRAM:** By waiting we could be denying someone who is qualified a chance to attend our university. Though we are certainly mindful of the current economic climate, Vanderbilt's strategic decisions and philanthropic priorities focus on what's important to sustain the university's mission over the long term. And increasing Vanderbilt's scholarship endowment is crucial to that mission.

**What has been the College of Arts and Science's progress toward its Opportunity Vanderbilt goal?**

**HART:** As the largest school within the university, Arts and Science has set a goal of \$32.5 million for new gifts to scholarship endowment for its undergraduates. To date, close to \$16 million in gifts and pledges have been made by alumni, parents and friends.

**Why not incur student loans in order to receive an education of the caliber Vanderbilt offers?**

**HART:** The young people Vanderbilt educates will be the leaders who will guide our country and positively influence societies throughout the world. But debt will influence their choices.

Vanderbilt has been addressing the challenge of student debt for many years, and since 2000, students' loan burdens have been reduced by 17 percent. Scholarship giving to our *Shape the Future* campaign has had a vital role in those debt-reduction efforts, and Vanderbilt's expanded financial aid announcement builds directly on the university's long-term focus on this issue of student debt.

Approximately 61 percent of students in the College of Arts and Science receive some sort of financial aid. And it's important to keep in mind that even as we eliminate loans in our financial

aid packages, all families still have an expected financial contribution, and some families will meet that contribution through loans—so this expanded financial aid initiative does not make Vanderbilt cost-free.

**How do you think the educational needs of your children and grandchildren are/will be different from those of your generation?**

**INGRAM:** Thank goodness I'm not in college right now. When I was in school, I was being prepared to compete with other companies inside the United States. My children are going to have to compete with businesses both within the U.S. and globally.

**HART:** When I was in school, we used a slide rule. The tools of today are completely different. To maximize education today and tomorrow, students need a broad educational experience to cope with the fast pace of change and expansion of knowledge.

**What makes Vanderbilt an important institution in today's world?**

**HART:** There's no doubt that Vanderbilt is equipping its students for leadership roles in an increasingly complex world. And within Vanderbilt, the College of Arts and Science, with its diversity of disciplines, faculty and opportunities, clearly prepares students for an integrated global society.

**INGRAM:** Vanderbilt recognizes that big, important, game-changing breakthroughs and discoveries typically come at the interdisciplinary crossroads. Arts and Science students can combine their passions for history and economics, study medicine, health and society or work at the interface of the physical/biological sciences. This interdisciplinary approach makes the world a better place by having bright students learn and collaborate with great faculty, across all the arts and sciences.

Some might wonder if Vanderbilt and the College of Arts and Science really need their support or whether a small gift can make any kind of difference at a big university with a sizable endowment. What do you tell alumni and others when you encounter that?

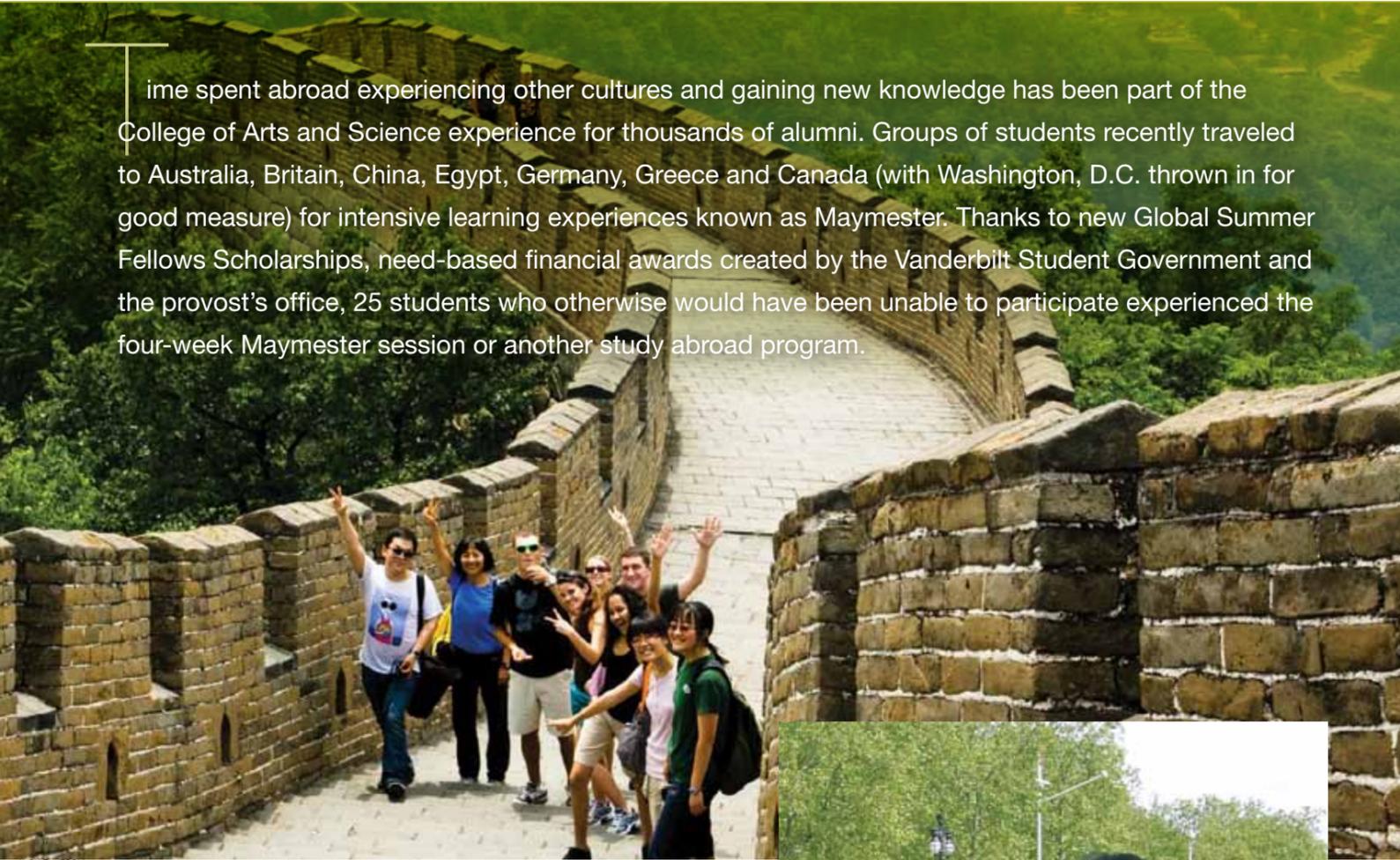
**INGRAM:** You'd be surprised at what a difference a little can make in somebody's life. A lot of "littles" can add up to be a lot. Our endowment per student isn't as large as many other schools'—so every penny counts. Vanderbilt receives more than 85,000 gifts each year from alumni, parents and friends who give in amounts from \$10 to \$10,000.

**HART:** Every gift is important and every gift makes a difference. Of course we need large contributions to reach the Opportunity Vanderbilt goal of \$100 million and our overall *Shape the Future* goal of \$1.75 billion—but we need gifts at every level. When Arts and Science alumni support the school, they're supporting young men and women who will be tomorrow's leaders in a broad spectrum of industries and arenas. These students deserve the best we, as alumni, can offer, and they will take their liberal arts education, and apply it to the enormous challenges of the future.

"Vanderbilt recognizes that big, important, game-changing breakthroughs and discoveries typically come at the interdisciplinary crossroads."

— Orrin Ingram

Time spent abroad experiencing other cultures and gaining new knowledge has been part of the College of Arts and Science experience for thousands of alumni. Groups of students recently traveled to Australia, Britain, China, Egypt, Germany, Greece and Canada (with Washington, D.C. thrown in for good measure) for intensive learning experiences known as Maymester. Thanks to new Global Summer Fellows Scholarships, need-based financial awards created by the Vanderbilt Student Government and the provost's office, 25 students who otherwise would have been unable to participate experienced the four-week Maymester session or another study abroad program.



Above: **Exploring China** participants at the Great Wall. In what students say was one of the most powerful experiences of the class, they also visited Tiananmen Square on the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests. Below: **Berlin 2009** participants made a visit to St. Nikolai Church, Leipzig, Germany, center of peaceful protests against the communist regime of East Germany in 1989.

ANDY ENKEBOLL



Above: Students took time out of their **Artistic Escape to London** course to see the city's iconic sights.

ALESSANDRA LEBRUPITTE



ANDREA CLABOUGH



ALLEGRA NOOVANI

Above: Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. (left) met with **Politics and Leadership** students in Washington, D.C., led by Mark Dalhouse (center), director of Vanderbilt's Office of Active Citizenship and Service. Below: Students in the **Uncovering Greek Religion** session gather before the Temple of Poseidon during a once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity.



BRONWEN WICKKISER

Right: **Conservation Biology** participants experienced Australia from rainforest to barrier reef to the world-renowned sandstone formation, Uluru/ Ayers Rock.



RACHEL DYER

Above: Riding camels to the pyramids of Giza was only one unforgettable adventure for students in the **Egypt Culture and Society** class.



AMANDA BENSON

## Penny Peirce

You can call it kismet, karma or serendipity, but whatever approach you prefer, there is little doubt that Penelope “Penny” Peirce is exactly where she’s supposed to be—at the helm of Technology Support Services for the College of Arts and Science.

As director of Technology Support Services, Peirce, MDiv’73, JD’79, supervises all classroom technology, production services, computer support and ongoing projects for the school. Her first job at Vanderbilt was working as secretary to the legendary Dr. Mildred Stahlman (BA’43, MD’46, HO’48) in the Department of Pediatrics. Today Peirce works with teams of staff and students to determine what equipment is needed for new and renovated classrooms, provide computer equipment and services, and respond to all of the audiovisual needs of the school.

### How long have you been at Vanderbilt and what road led you here?

I have been at Vanderbilt more than 30 years. I stopped counting at 30 because it makes me feel too old. I did get a Vanderbilt law degree while working here, but I decided not to practice after realizing that I wanted the knowledge and not the lifestyle.

I came to Vanderbilt to go to divinity school. I wanted to concern myself with “ultimate concerns.” I soon discovered that I was probably an atheist and that my ultimate concerns were how to pay the rent and buy food. It was an interesting time to be in divinity school. The country was in the middle of the Vietnam War, and men my age were being drafted. Divinity students were given deferments, so most of the people in divinity school at the time were political activists of some kind.

### How did you wind up working for the College of Arts and Science?

Vanderbilt Divinity School gave me a chance to do an internship with what was then the television and film division of the Methodist Church. I had already developed an interest in media and in making films from doing still photography and loving music. Around the time I was graduating from the

divinity school, I found out the College of Arts and Science wanted to start a media center, and I persuaded them that I was the one who could do it.

I started the Learning Resource Center in one room in Garland Hall with no staff. After purchasing some basic equipment, which at that time was 16 mm projectors, overhead transparency projectors and reel-to-reel video and audio recorders, I hired a few student workers. When faculty needed something, we pushed it on carts to the classroom. We quickly expanded into a few more rooms in Garland. We were promised more space for many, many years and finally, when the Buttrick renovation was scheduled, we were given the space we needed and the opportunity to design it. Recently I have been given the opportunity to combine audiovisual services and computer services, and create the new division, Technology Support Services.

### How has the technology changed since those early days?

Classes started out making films and documentary projects on Super 8 film and reel videotape, and now we are using HD cameras and recording on hard discs. Students today who complain about how long it takes to edit a project have no idea what it was like “back in the day.”

Today, the majority of the classrooms in the college are completely equipped with video projectors, computers, DVD players and VCRs. We also have a large amount of equipment available for students and faculty to check out, and we maintain 12 editing stations equipped with Final Cut Pro editing software as well as two sound recording rooms.

### How is working with today’s students?

I like having student workers so I can talk with them about what they think and how they spend their time. Recently I was very critical of Facebook, quoting research to them that indicated the more time you spend on Facebook, the worse your

“I did get a Vanderbilt law degree while working here, but I decided not to practice after realizing that I wanted the knowledge and not the lifestyle.”

– Penny Peirce

grades were. They told me about a study that said Facebook users were better workers and informed me that everyone at Vanderbilt was on Facebook.

I set up a Facebook page and played with it for a while. I’m still not a fan. I would rather spend my time in other ways.

### In what other ways do you spend your time?

I love to write. I write almost every day and hope that someday I will have time to finish a few things. Living life seems to get in the way of writing about it. I love my iPod. Actually, I have two iPods. I have made mixed tapes since cassette tape was invented. The iPod rocked my world, made everything about music much easier. I also love my bicycle, and I try to ride several times a week. I am also a recreational kayaker and recreational golfer.

During my internship with United Methodist Communications, I met several Chicago Theological Seminary students who had come to Nashville to begin an intentional living community, and so I became part of a hippie communal group. The group still gets together at least once a year, and I have vacationed in Michigan with three of those people every summer for the past 30 years.

I love the Hubble telescope. We can now see back to the beginning of our universe and we are fairly certain there is a black hole at the center of every galaxy. I think it is a great achievement. I love to read. The last physical book I read was Kevin Wilson’s short stories, *Tunneling to the Center of the Earth*. I am reading Michael Cunningham’s *Specimen Days* with the Kindle application on my iPhone, and I just finished listening to *Spin* (a book about the death of the Earth) on my iPod. For the last few years, I have been very interested in finding really positive science fiction because I am concerned that, as Douglas Adams said, we become our dreams.



JOHN RUSSELL

# A Middle Eastern Calling

Leor Halevi exercises his imagination and love of history in the study of Islam.

by MARDY FONES

Leor Halevi is writing. The associate professor of history is tucked away in his office, once a hallway on the first floor of Benson Hall. The tidy, narrow space is lined floor to ceiling with books in Arabic, Hebrew, Latin and other languages. Neat piles of notes and tagged volumes surround the computer illuminated by a tall window that draws in the late afternoon sun.

As a scholar and teacher, Halevi focuses on the history of Islam. He has published on the role of medieval Islamic death rituals and is at work on his second book, which focuses on Muslim trade with the West in the modern period.

"You could say I cast my net broadly," he says with a slow smile. His background is also broad, an intense and diverse blend of cultural and linguistic elements. Born in Montreal to Israeli parents of Moroccan and Hungarian descent, Halevi grew up in Puebla, Mexico, where his father was a college professor and his mother taught Hebrew part time.

"When I was in 10th grade, I spent time on a kibbutz in Israel," he says. "The American kids there were already motivated about college. That's when I realized I wanted to go to an American university, too."

Make that three American universities: Princeton, Yale and Harvard. As an undergraduate, he envisioned himself following in the footsteps of his father, a physicist. While taking a history class, he found a calling—Middle Eastern history—and stumbled onto a unique opportunity to study it. "At that time, no one wanted to major in Islamic studies; it was one of the smallest departments at Princeton," he says. "I did the math and saw I could get a student-to-faculty ratio of one to seven."

That pragmatic decision, strengthened by the fluency in Hebrew he brought from home and a family keen on Middle Eastern politics,

led to his life's work. Halevi found rich, uncharted ground to work in medieval Islam, which led to penning the acclaimed *Muhammad's Grave: Death Rites and the Making of Islamic Society*, published by Columbia University Press in 2007.

## Imagination and History

"Part of what I try to do as a historian is bring texts to life. For me personally, it's fulfilling to approach history imaginatively, to picture another world," Halevi says. "History allows us to envision people and times that are different from our own. I like the discipline it gives me in exercising my imagination. That disciplined approach is the difference between a work of history and historical fiction."

Halevi's work stretches beyond uncovering the details of the past to writing that humanizes the actions, people and forces that forge historical events. "I'm not a Muslim and I haven't died yet," Halevi jokes, "but I spent several years thinking about how Muslims experienced death a millennium ago. My work forced me to step outside myself and exercise my historical imagination, to bring the practices, and debates, and sentiments that I researched to life."

*Muhammad's Grave* has garnered considerable attention. The book won the 2008 Ralph Waldo Emerson award given by the Phi Beta Kappa academic society to nonfiction books that have made the most significant contributions to the humanities. The American Academy of Religion honored it with the 2008 Award of Excellence in the Study of Religion, and in 2007, it received the top book prize in Middle Eastern studies, the Albert Hourani Prize awarded by the Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America.

While adamantly insisting that his work does not serve as a broad survey or general guidebook into the intricacies of Middle Eastern culture and politics, Halevi admits he sometimes acts as a reference librarian for those wanting to know more about Islam. Always willing to guide others in pursuit of knowledge, he's happy to suggest titles to read about the Middle East.



JOHN RUSSELL

## An Easy Place to Live

Halevi started his academic teaching career at Texas A&M in 2002, so he's comfortable in the South, describing Middle Tennessee as gracious and welcoming to him and his family. "We like the weather and the people. They're friendly here and they make eye contact when they say hello," he says. "This is an easy place to live."

The family lives near the university, and Halevi and his wife, Lauren Clay, assistant professor of history, ride their bicycles to campus. Walks to a nearby coffeehouse or Mexican popsicle shop are frequent family sojourns. Their elder son attends a public Spanish immersion grade school; the younger is in preschool. "At home, I talk to the boys in Hebrew and they answer in English," he laughs. Halevi is fluent in Hebrew, Spanish and English, and proficient in Arabic, Latin and French. Clay is fluent in French and English, and proficient in Spanish. The couple are raising their boys to be multilingual, too.

"I spent several years thinking about how Muslims experienced death a millennium ago. My work forced me to step outside myself..."

When not hiking on nearby trails with his kids or partaking of Nashville's cultural offerings, Halevi writes, does research and perfects his squash game. "I consider my work great fun. I enjoy reading and learning new things," he says. He has a taste for modernist fiction and he confesses to enjoying detective novels, too. His reading list is eclectic. He just read—for fun—John Kenneth Galbraith's 1958 treatise on modern consumption, *The Affluent Society*.

Halevi spent 2008–2009, his first year at the College of Arts and Science, on sabbatical to work on a new book about Muslim fatwas (legal opinions based in part on the teachings of the Quran). Entitled *Forbidden Goods: The Consumption of Western Things and the Search for Modern Islam*, it explores fatwas on new technology and objects that have to do with religious imagination, modernity and materialism, he says. Halevi received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to research and write this second book.

## Quirky Introduction

In August, he returned to the classroom to teach undergraduate classes, including the History of Islam. Forgoing the traditional survey course approach, the class delves deeply into four significant points in the evolution of Islam, such as the formation of the Quran and early-20th century Muslim modernism.

"Cramming the political history of a major dynasty into one semester is boring and useless, so I've divided the course into chronological snapshots," Halevi says. "My objective is to give students a quirky introduction to Islam that will serve to stimulate more study and open doors that will allow them to take more classes on the topic."

Using his in-progress book as a springboard, his second class, Religion, Culture and Commerce, takes an economic and anthropological view across cultures and countries. "The focus here is not to be exclusively Islam. Far from it. In class, we'll explore the ways that various religions responded to capitalism," he says. "It's a look across disciplines at what consumer goods mean through the lens of religion and what economic exchange means through the lens of culture."

# Behavior and the Brain

*Psychology department strengths lead to national recognition and discovery.*

Forget what you've seen on *The Sopranos*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Frasier* or cop shows. Despite the almost universal depiction of psychology in the media, the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Science focuses on the bigger picture: how brain processes affect human behavior.



Department Chair Andrew Tomarken

“The work done by our faculty and students has had wide-ranging impact on our understanding of the relation between the brain and thoughts, feelings, and behaviors,” says Department Chair Andrew Tomarken, associate professor of psychology. “I am not exaggerating when I say that I am sometimes in awe of my colleagues’ ability to ask important questions about brain-behavior linkages and to devise creative and rigorous experiments to answer such questions.”

More than two decades ago, he says, the psychology department decided to focus on three main areas of expertise: clinical science, cognition and cognitive neuroscience, and neuroscience. Today its faculty members are nationally recognized for their groundbreaking research. The department’s graduate program ranks among the top programs in the country in these three specialty areas. The undergraduate program, which boasts 287 students majoring in the field, benefits from having top experts teaching its courses.

Emphasizing these three areas doesn’t limit the department, Tomarken explains. Its 30 faculty members have interests and expertise in multiple and sometimes interconnecting areas of those three concentrations. Other connections flourish in the

graduate program in psychological sciences, which spans the Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Science and the Department of Psychology and Human Development in Peabody College. Because the two departments have complementary specialties, students and faculty are exposed to a wide range of educational and research opportunities.

## Disgust to Depression and Everything In Between

In the past two years, College of Arts and Science psychology faculty have published major findings in a number of areas. These range from studies of brain activity that underlie perceptual expertise (Isabel Gauthier) and motion perception (Randolph Blake) to clinical studies of the relative benefits of different treatments for depression (Steve Hollon), the role of disgust in anxiety disorders (Bunmi Olatunji), and brain processes that underlie the cognitive and emotional problems experienced by individuals who suffer from schizophrenia (Sohee Park).

Many faculty and students have a high level of expertise in neuroimaging techniques such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). For example, Associate Professor of Psychology Frank Tong has shown that fMRI can be used to decode very subtle differences in perceptual experience. In another recent collaboration, René Marois, associate professor of psychology, and Owen Jones, professor of law and of biological sciences, used fMRI to understand how the brain thinks about crime and punishment. Jeffrey D. Schall, the E. Bronson Ingram Professor of Neuroscience, joined the pair for additional studies assessing whether criminals have a distinct pattern of brain dysfunction that may predispose them to lives of crime.

Schall says the level of collaborative research spanning Vanderbilt’s different schools and colleges is unique. He notes that the university’s interdisciplinary Center for Integrative Health, Kennedy Center and Vanderbilt Vision Research Center are critical elements for sparking this level of cross-departmental research. “There are very low barriers to accomplishing interdisciplinary work,” Schall says. “We can credit the administration for creating discovery



Cross-campus collaborators Owen Jones and René Marois

grants and other mechanisms that allow us to explore fresh ideas with new people. The degree of collegiality here creates an environment where it’s much smoother.”

But even within the department itself, collaboration is unique in that it often joins researchers from within the three disciplines who may also bring different research expertise. Tomarken points to work being conducted by Schall, Tom Palmeri and Gordon Logan as a prime example.

Schall is well-known for his work in the neural basis for response inhibition, while Associate Professor Palmeri is a recognized expert in the mathematical modeling of behavior. Logan, Centennial Professor of Psychology, has long studied cognitive control (the mental processes that control thoughts and behavior) and more than 20 years ago, developed a highly influential theoretical model known as the race model (as in stop and go, like in a race). Widely accepted, the race model is used to explain cognitive problems in people with obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia and Parkinson’s disease.

Recently a team comprised of Logan, Schall, Palmeri and Research Associate Leanne Boucher explored how the theoretical model Logan developed is implemented by the brain. Together, their work provided a new dimension to long-held beliefs in psychology and new methods for exploring the brain’s influence on activities.

## Collegial In and Out of the Classroom

Though the psychology department boasts some of the eminent researchers in the field, it doesn’t mean they are ensconced away in labs, Tomarken notes. “Our big names teach undergrads and do so with a high degree of commitment,” he says.

Graduate students, too, interact with the big names, with an expectation that they will work in labs and coauthor research with some of the luminaries. “Our program is based on getting students to learn how to do the things very early on that they’ll have to do to function as independent scientists,” Tomarken says. “We expect them to be continuously involved in research. They give talks. They publish.”



Tom Palmeri, Leanne Boucher, Jeffrey Schall and Gordon Logan

That, says Jenn Richler, a graduate student working in the clinical area, first drew her to the university. “But I was ultimately convinced to come here by the warm reception I received during recruitment weekend. That highlighted not only the great research going on, but the overall attitude in the department. Not all departments have a mix of people as friendly and eager to work collaboratively.”

Peiyan Wong, a doctoral candidate working in the neuroscience areas, agreed. “It’s not so much of a sink-or-swim thing. It’s guided swimming. I like the fact that psychology is a pretty open department. You get interactions not just at your own lab, but with other students as well. You get to learn about different fields of research. It gives you a different perspective.”

That feeling carries into the faculty realm, says David Zald, associate professor and director of the undergraduate studies program. “The one thing I still find really distinguishes this department is the extent to which the faculty are accessible to the students. Students who want to join labs can do that with a level of ease, and there’s an expectation of that possibility,” he says. “Having a good professor teach a course is always beneficial. But many of those same courses you could take at another university, and a lot of the material covered would be similar. Here there’s the potential for learning outside the classroom, and we just do a really good job of getting students to have those opportunities.”

The Department of Psychology in the College of Arts and Science emphasizes research on adult psychological functioning. Clinical psychology studies human personality, emotion, abnormal behavior and therapeutic treatments. Cognition and cognitive neuroscience examine fundamental problems in perception, attention, memory, thinking and problem solving. Neuroscience studies the structure and function of the brain and how nerve cells process information, mediate decisions and control motor actions.

## Are You Sure Thomas Edison Did It This Way?

had a brilliant research project, one that I was sure would make an impact on people's lives and the environment.

The project was part of the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program (VUSR), a research opportunity that affords students the opportunity to partner with a faculty mentor in a field of study. Political Science Associate Professor Brooke Ackerly, with whom I worked on an independent study in fall 2008, recommended that I apply, and she served as my project mentor.

Through VUSR, I was able to combine my political science and human and organizational development interests in researching the feasibility of a nonprofit organization that might direct carbon offsets toward the improvement of energy efficiency in low-income housing in Nashville.

Carbon offsets have been in the news a lot this year. Simply put, carbon offsets are ways to compensate for carbon emissions. Let's say a company emits a certain amount of carbon. To counteract the effects of those emissions, the company can pay an organization to decrease emissions in another way, thereby negating the effects of the company's emissions. This is a method of meeting emissions restrictions in areas where cap-and-trade programs are in effect. The United States currently has no federal cap-and-trade program, so the offset market here is primarily voluntary, suggesting that people and corporations are interested in purchasing carbon offsets for philanthropic reasons, not just financial.

The nonprofit organization would serve as a marketplace where individuals could purchase carbon offsets. Then the proceeds from these offsets would be used to weatherize low-income homes, thereby decreasing energy bills for low-income individuals, increasing their real income and lowering the carbon footprint of the city of Nashville.

Professor Michael Vandenberg of the Vanderbilt Law School and Professor Ackerly developed this idea for encouraging emissions reductions. I thought it was brilliant—everyone wins. Poorer people,

who spend more income proportionately on energy than do wealthier people, save money and Nashville emits less carbon dioxide.

Then as I began researching the feasibility of the program, reviewing literature about offsets and meeting with people in the field, I hit a wall.

The cost to offset one ton of carbon emissions is between \$5 and \$30. The average carbon dioxide emissions of a U.S. household per year are about 19 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. So even if the average household decided to offset all of its emissions, at \$10 per offset, the revenues generated would be only about \$190 each. To renovate one low-income household to be energy efficient and save 19 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> itself would cost substantially more than \$190.

I couldn't reconcile the discrepancy in revenues generated per ton of carbon and the cost these methods would entail. As a researcher, I was quite discouraged, not only by the dismal findings, but also about my work for the rest of the summer.

I was very lucky to have a mentor like Professor Ackerly. She helped me see that that research is not a linear activity. It takes a lot of trial and error. It takes a lot of persistence. When you hit a wall, you try to dig your way under that wall. If you can't find a way around that wall, go in a different direction. That's the nature of research. That's the way progress is made.

And that's what I did. With Professor Ackerly's support and encouragement, I adapted my research project to take a new direction, one that corresponded with environmental legislation moving through Congress this summer (the Waxman-Markey Bill). I started compiling media reports on climate news to examine how different media outlets portray it.

After I compile all my data, I will run it through a program called Atlas.ti. The program carries out quantitative analysis of qualitative data like news documents so that I can find trends in how the media responds to White House environmental press releases, how different outlets vary in their reporting and how environmental challenges are conveyed in different outlets.



JOHN RUSSELL

Klimkowski with mentor Brooke Ackerly, associate professor of political science

You can read all the material you want—but if you're not thinking about how all of the pieces of the puzzle fit together, you're nowhere.

Already through my statistical analysis, I was able to confirm and discount some hypotheses I developed from my reading. I had thought that the higher the median income of a congressional district, the more likely that district would vote against the bill. There was, however, no correlation. Yet by examining different variables, I found that there was a very statistically significant correlation between the amount of emissions in a given state and the vote of its representative on the recent Waxman-Markey Bill. Basically, for every thousand metric tons of carbon dioxide emitted in a state, the odds of voting in favor of the bill went down 0.1 percent.

I also found that something as simple as quiet, focused thinking was incredibly crucial, particularly when carrying out study in social science. If you've ever taken the History of World War II with Professor Michael Bess, Chancellor's Professor of History, then you've heard the story of Leó Szilárd, the famous physicist who developed the idea of a nuclear chain reaction. He often worked out great problems while thinking in the bathtub. He just sat there and thought.

I realized at some point that I wasn't spending enough time in my bathtub (figuratively speaking). You can read all the material you want—but if you're not thinking about how all of the pieces of the puzzle fit together, you're nowhere.

I have already learned so much through VUSR. Not just on the subject of my research, but also about how research is carried out. I am fortunate to work with Professor Ackerly, a pre-eminent political scientist who also invests her time and energy in my personal development as an academic researcher. She genuinely cares about my progress. VUSR provides the opportunity for students to develop such relationships with professors—and that experience is just as valuable as the actual research. I've also discovered that professors are always looking for help with their work, no matter their discipline. VUSR is not the only way to get involved in research at Vanderbilt. Getting plugged into the work is as simple as asking.

Moreover, my summer research has also helped me appreciate Vanderbilt more. The work I am doing involves different disciplines such as statistics or communications. Other professors and students collaborated with me—like Professor of Education John Braxton from Peabody, who helped me figure out the correct statistical tests for my work. Another undergraduate researcher, Zach Stearns, helped me understand statistical output correctly. The Vanderbilt Community Creed lists scholarship as its first value. I experienced this partnership of learning firsthand through the people with whom I worked.

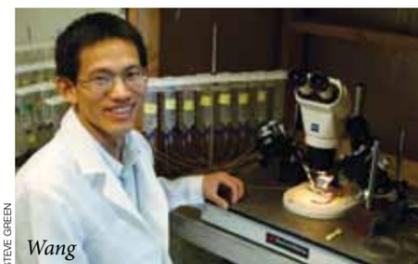
It's been said that Thomas Edison tried thousands of times before successfully developing the light bulb. He didn't consider those attempts failures: He saw each as a hypothesis tested and eliminated, pointing the way to the solution. Edison, you see, was a researcher. I am one, too.

*Miron Klimkowski is a senior political science and human and organizational development major from Memphis, Tenn. He hopes to work in the nonprofit sector after graduation.*

BRIEFS

### Making Mosquitoes Buzz Off

**NEXT TIME YOU'RE BOTHERED BY MOSQUITOES, TRY GIVING THEM THE COLD SHOULDER—LITERALLY.** Senior Research Associate Guirong Wang will test his theory that mosquitoes are attracted by humans' warmblooded heat with the help of a \$100,000 Grand Challenges Exploration grant awarded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Wang is working to find molecules that interfere with the mosquito's heat-detection capability. If successful, the research may be in line for further funding from the Gates Foundation. Wang is part of Professor of Biological Sciences Laurence Zwiebel's team investigating the mosquito's sense of smell with support from a major grant from the foundation. The project's ultimate goal is eradicating malaria.



STEVE GREEN  
Wang

### (Ful)Bright Ideas

**IMAGES OF BRAZIL CONJURE UP THE SAMBA AND CARNIVAL.**

Marshall Eakin, professor of history, will use his recently won Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship to study the formation of Brazilian national identity in the 20th century. "I am looking at Brazilian national identity to see how it is that the peoples of Brazil come to identify with a common set of (continued opposite)

### Don't Handle With Care

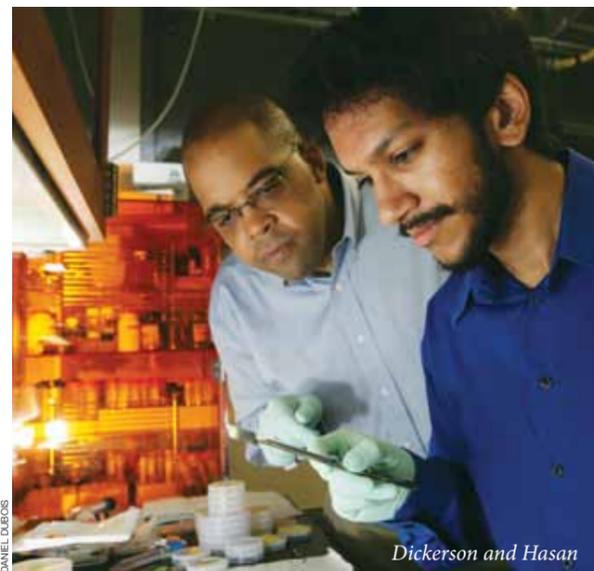
**IN A WORLD WHERE SOME ITEMS—SUVS, HOUSES, THE SIZE OF THE NATIONAL DEBT—SEEM TO BE GROWING AT AN ALARMING PACE,** Arts and Science physicists have their eyes trained on particles so tiny they make atoms look elephantine.

Nanotechnology is the study of these tiny particles—specifically those that measure 100 nanometers. (Before you ask, a nanometer is one billionth of a meter.) Uses for nanotechnology range from innovations in medicine to energy production and electronics.

Assistant Professor of Physics James "Jay" Dickerson heads a team of researchers developing a durable nanoparticle film. Nanoparticle films could be used in semiconductor fabrication, drug delivery systems, and even flexible television and computer displays. The problem is that the film is quite delicate and has been known to disintegrate at the slightest touch.

To combat the delicate nature of the film, scientists use polymers to strengthen them, but this complicates the process and makes the film more expensive.

Now Dickerson and his colleagues have created freestanding nanoparticle film without the additional polymers. The key is the inclusion of a sacrificial layer that is used to initially bind the particles, but is then



DANIEL DEBOS

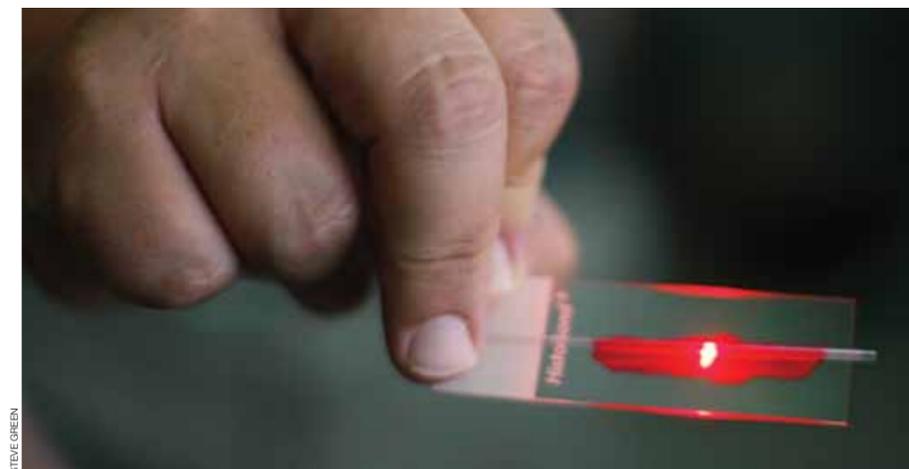
Dickerson and Hasan

dissolved. Their findings were published recently in a paper in the journal *Chemical Communications*.

"Our films are so resilient that we can pick them up with a pair of tweezers and move them around on a surface without tearing," Dickerson says. "This makes it particularly easy to put them into micro-electronic devices, such as computer chips."

One application for the nanoparticle film might be flexible television screens. These ultrathin, ultraflexible screens could be folded and bent repeatedly without cracking or breaking. You could literally carry a television around in your pocket, take it out to watch your favorite show and then fold it up and put it away. Flexible computer screens are in the works as well. Beyond the cool factor is that electronics made with this technology will use less energy.

The paper was coauthored by graduate student Saad A. Hasan and Dustin W. Kavich, PhD'08.



STEVE GREEN

### Nothing to Sneeze At

**IT STARTS WITH A TICKLE IN YOUR NOSE.** Maybe a little discomfort at the back of the throat. You try to imagine it's not there. You hold it in as long as you can and then...ACHOO!

Yep, you have a cold.

But what kind of cold? The symptoms for colds—or respiratory infections—caused by bacteria are nearly identical to those caused by viruses. That leads to the over-prescription of antibiotics, which don't work for viral infections. In turn, that leads to more antibiotic-resistant strains. Problem is, it's hard for doctors to tell which respiratory infection is which.

Until now.

Two Vanderbilt scientists, David Wright, associate professor of chemistry, and Rick Haselton, professor of biomedical engineering, teamed up to develop a respiratory virus detector that can sniff out an infection in its earliest stages. Not only that, the test only takes a few minutes to return and can be performed right in your doctor's office.

The two wrote about their findings in *The Analyst*, a journal published by the

Royal Society of Chemistry. They report that their method, which uses DNA hairpins attached to gold filaments, can detect the virus that is one of the leading causes of respiratory infections in infants and young children at much lower levels than current tests. Also, tests being used today require that patient samples be sent to outside laboratories. During busy seasons, results can take a day or more to return. Because respiratory viruses multiply so rapidly, the diagnosis may be too late for antiviral drugs to work.

"Our system could easily be packaged in a disposable device about the size of a ballpoint pen," Wright says. To perform the test, you simply pull off a cap that exposes a length of gold wire, dip the wire into the sample, pull the wire through the device and put the exposed wire into a fluorescence scanner. If it lights up, the virus is present.

While the research is promising, it won't be at your doctor's office any time soon. The researchers are still investigating sample preparation kits and ways to reduce false positives.

BRIEFS

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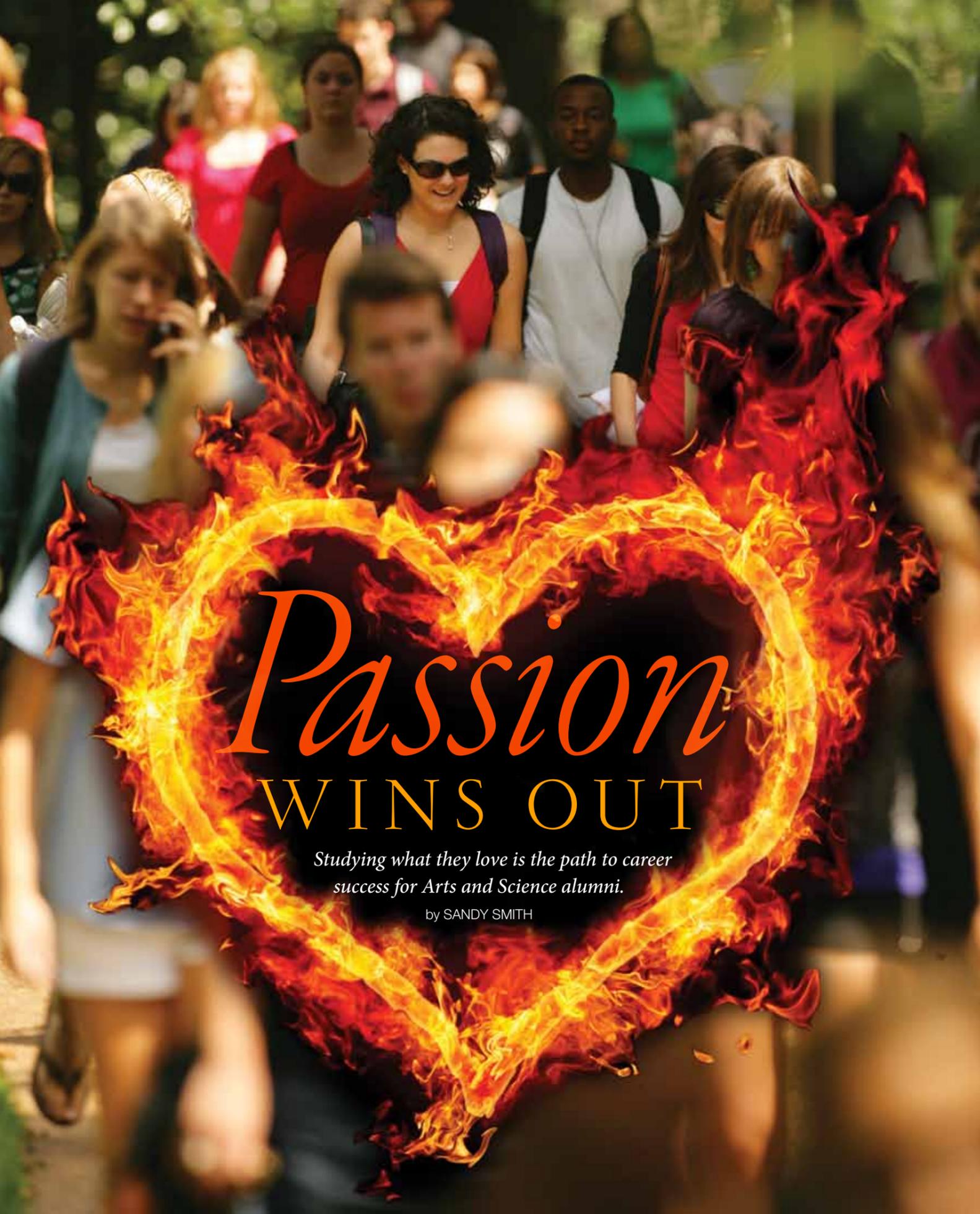
symbols that are now widely perceived to be essential to Brazilian identity—soccer for example," he says. Eakin will be in Brazil until August 2010 (with visits back to Nashville) as he researches and writes *Becoming Brazilians: The Making of a Nation and a People, 1930–1992*.

Edward H. Friedman, Chancellor's Professor of Spanish and director of the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, has also been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship, his in the area of American literature and cultural studies. He'll research Spanish literature while teaching classes at the University of Madrid on U.S. culture. Friedman says he is especially looking forward to the challenge of reversing his usual practice of teaching Spanish literature to speakers of English.

### Corporate Music Gets Bad Rap

**ONLY STARVING ARTISTS AND SONGWRITERS CAN PRODUCE GREAT MUSIC, RIGHT?**

Not so, say Jennifer Lena, assistant professor of sociology, and Richard "Pete" Peterson, professor of sociology, emeritus. *The American Sociological Review* published their findings regarding the development of 20th century music genres in the United States. Their study of more than 60 types of music found that two-thirds originated in an avant-garde genre (a few individuals seeking to make music that is different) and the rest originated as part of a scene (a supportive community) or industry-based genre (created by corporations). Lena and Peterson say the discovery that some new music originated in industry genres was a surprise because conventional wisdom is that record companies cannot produce innovative music.



# Passion WINS OUT

*Studying what they love is the path to career success for Arts and Science alumni.*

by SANDY SMITH

Passion has launched thousands of books, paintings, movies and songs. But a number of College of Arts and Science alumni are proof that passion ignites successful careers as well.

“Passion brings laser focus to things,” says Cindy Funk, director of Vanderbilt’s Career Center. “When you’re at a university like Vanderbilt with a strong College of Arts and Science, it provides the opportunity to explore things you’re passionate about. Those things can very well lead nicely to a career, though most people don’t think of it that way.”

Some people know from day one what they love and how that will parlay into a career. Others find the way by realizing an interest in a topic and thirsting to learn more. Regardless of how they arrived, though, the path to career fulfillment comes by following their passions.

## Interests Point The Way

For Vanderbilt Associate Professor Vanessa Beasley, BA’88, the pursuit of what she loved eventually forced her into the right profession, a career she only found through coursework. “I really wanted to be somewhere where there was an excellent liberal arts education. That’s what I was encouraged to do by my mentors in high school. I wanted to read the classics and be exposed to many different ways of thinking,” she says of her choice to enroll in the College of Arts and Science.

So she read the classics and also took an introductory course in communication studies. Influenced by the times—Ronald Reagan was president and there was much discussion about his use of visual imagery to accentuate his speeches—Beasley combined her interest in politics and communication with the school’s interdisciplinary studies major in communication studies. As she neared graduation, she realized she didn’t want to put her passions aside for a job. “I could not imagine getting to that point and never thinking about those things again,” Beasley says. She pursued a master’s degree and then a doctorate, though her career path was not clear.

“When I was writing my dissertation, I wasn’t completely sure I would go into academia. I wrote a sentence and thought, ‘Nobody else knows this,’” she says. “That was when I realized, ‘I do have to be a professor.’”

After teaching in other universities and publishing two books on presidential rhetoric, Beasley returned to her alma mater in 2007 as an associate professor in communication studies. The teacher-scholar reminds students of the serendipity of success that came by studying what she loved. “That’s part of my goal, to encourage them to take this opportunity that they may not have again in their lives, to just think about something for the sake of thinking of it,” she says.



*Beasley in class, with her students*

DANIEL DUBOIS / GETTY IMAGES

### Intense Focus, Broad Background

Unlike Beasley, Buster Olney, BA'88, came to Vanderbilt knowing exactly what he wanted to be: a sports writer. Rather than attending a journalism school, he selected the College of Arts and Science. "I thought the broader education was more valuable. What you might have gotten at J-school, you'll learn through experience anyway," he says.

Olney majored in history because of its intense focus on writing as part of the coursework and because he had always loved the topic. What he found after graduation, though, was that his knowledge of history enhanced his sports-writing career. He wrote for a variety of newspapers before joining *The New York Times*, where he was twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize award for writing. He moved to *ESPN: The Magazine* as senior writer in 2003 and is also an analyst for *ESPN's Baseball Tonight*.

"Just think about not being limited to knowledge about sports," Olney says of his liberal arts education. He says that his understanding of U.S./Cuban relations and the law around defection was invaluable when the Yankees signed Orlando Hernandez—a Cuban defector—in 1998. "The classes I took helped me more broadly than it would have been if I'd been completely focused on sports writing," he says.



JOHN KASCHAU/ESPN

Olney

### Literature to Politics to Finance

Jennifer Scully-Lerner, BA'92, majored in English in the College of Arts and Science because literature interested her and would provide a good foundation for politics and law school. "I didn't know if I was going to practice law, but I knew that I was going to go to law school and somehow intertwine that with my passion for politics,"



JOHN RUSSELL

Scully-Lerner

"...mentors really encouraged me to pursue a career in business. They basically said 'you don't need to have a business background.'"

—Jennifer Scully-Lerner, BA'92

says Scully-Lerner, today a vice president in private wealth management at Goldman Sachs, the global investment banking and securities firm. Law school never happened. Upon graduating from the College of Arts and Science, she worked on the 1992 presidential campaign and then took a job in the Clinton-Gore administration. "One of the first things I did was work with the White House Office of Business Liaison. That was the first touch point with the business world," she says. That draw to business expanded when she was mentored by people with finance backgrounds, including Robert Rubin, secretary of the Treasury 1995–1999, and Jim Harmon, former president of the Export-Import Bank.

"These mentors really encouraged me to pursue a career in business. They basically said 'you don't need to have a business background,'" Scully-Lerner says. "They thought a business degree was more flexible for me than a law degree."

"I truly had never taken econ or statistics or accounting, nothing, but I was well-read, and I knew how to write, so those skills worked to impress people," she says. "So I took the GMATs and started business school cold. I didn't know

the vocabulary, I did not know the difference between a stock and a bond, I knew nothing about any of it." After receiving her MBA from Columbia Business School, she joined Goldman Sachs, where she runs a team that manages over a billion and a half dollars in assets for families and foundations. She also reports to the firm's management team in her role as co-head of Goldman Sachs' Women's Network, which deals with issues and programs for women at the firm.

"It was my undergraduate degree that opened up all these doors for me, and then mentors that said 'work at this, pursue this,'" Scully-Lerner says. "I always am communicating and writing for people, and doing reports. In my case, knowing how to communicate and express myself was the key to it all."

### Liberal Arts Prepared for Business



Sikes

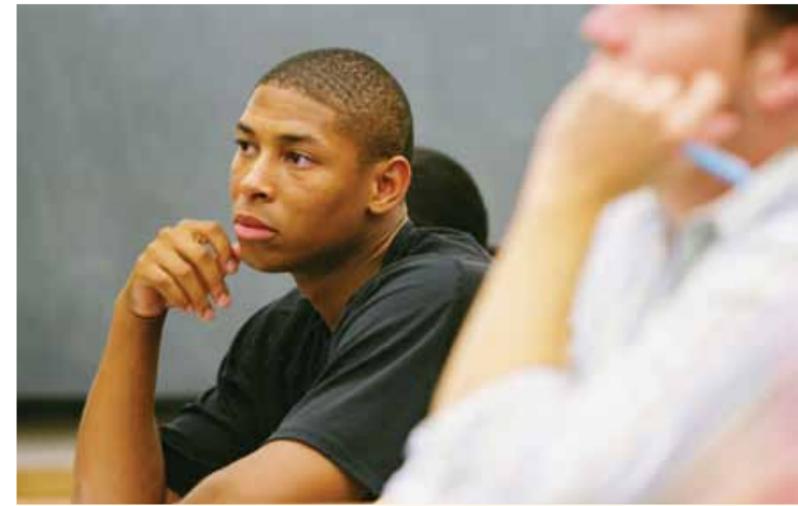
Stuart Sikes, BA'86, says he spent nearly 20 years of his career attempting to satisfy a longing to be more creative. After graduating with a degree in economics, Sikes worked with technology companies in designing technical service, software and hardware solutions. Today Sikes heads up the Dallas-based market research firm Parks Associates. "The primary way that I like to create is through writing. By accident, I've landed in a position that requires me to write," the company president says.

In college, love of writing was enhanced by courses in English and history that came naturally, while math and science were a struggle. If he had it to do over again, Sikes says he might pursue a degree in philosophy, believing that also would have prepared him well for a business career.

"The skills learned at Vanderbilt that served me best are critical thinking and communicating," Sikes says. "I will advise my children to find something they're passionate about and pursue that with great fervor."

"I will advise my children to find something they're passionate about and pursue that with great fervor."

—Stuart Sikes, BA'86



JOHN RUSSELL

## Alumni Provide Examples and Opportunities for Students

CURRENT STUDENTS LEARN A LOT WHEN ALUMNI SHARE ABOUT THE PATHS THEY TOOK FROM THEIR DEGREES TO THEIR CAREERS, Vanderbilt Career Center Director Cindy Funk believes. Consequently she's redesigned the Career Center to better leverage the network between alumni and current students.

The center has created the Vanderbilt Intern and Professional (VIP) Network, which Funk envisions eventually will be a board for jobs that alumni hear about—whether they are the person hiring or not—for which a Vanderbilt student might be qualified.

The Career Center, which has reorganized operations to focus on coaching students by career clusters regardless of their majors, also recently began video conferences between alumni and a small group of students. "This is where they create that network," Funk says. "We try to piggyback where the faculty will refer them here, and we'll put students in a room where there's an intimate connection that can happen." Funk also hopes to make better use of those networking opportunities when alumni come on campus to speak to classes.

A more aggressive program internship, Vandy on Madison Avenue, was the brainchild of Dan Lovinger, a 1987 economics graduate and senior vice president of advertising sales for MTV Networks. Lovinger worked with Funk to develop the new program, which placed a dozen Vanderbilt students in internships in the media, advertising and marketing industries in New York in the summer of 2009.

In NYC, those industries had gotten "homogenous in terms of how we recruit and where we recruit from," Lovinger says. "Knowing what I know about the caliber of the Vanderbilt student, the way I feel they can handle themselves in business and social situations, I thought we needed to establish a better pipeline to Vanderbilt. The only way I knew how to do it was in a hands-on way."

—Sandy Smith



### Creativity and Risk-taking Win Every Time

Marcia Kemp Sterling's bachelor's degree in French was the epitome of pursuing what one loves, as she did not intend to parlay it into any form of career. She intended to make her profession that of a wife and mother. When life did not work out as expected, Sterling, BA'65, earned a law degree at Stanford University. Her undergraduate study of a topic she loved, she believes, helped open the doors to a top law school and offered her valuable insight when she became a partner in Silicon Valley's largest law firm.

"There are many law students that we hired at the firm with good grades from good schools, who, for the first two years as associates, did great jobs and were tremendously dutiful," she says. "By the time they started to get towards partnership, though, many didn't have the qualities of creativity or willingness to take risks or the strength to succeed."

Dan Lovinger, BA'87, certainly took risks, beginning with abandoning his planned major of English for economics. It was during a semester abroad program in London that the pieces of the puzzle began to fit together. "It exposed me to the world of international business," he says. "To me, there was something there I knew I wanted to pursue."

He later returned to England to attend the London School of Economics and realized that one of the United States' biggest exports was entertainment. Lovinger thought he might become an analyst specializing in entertainment, but found

a job at Turner Networks in sales. That was the right fit. As the cable industry grew, so did Lovinger's responsibilities and achievements. He currently is senior vice president of advertising sales for MTV Networks, one of the largest divisions of the multimedia conglomerate.

"When I'm in a situation that seems new, whether it's through my liberal arts education, or my diverse business background, I feel like I've seen it before," Lovinger says. "When people ask for career advice—and academic advice translates—I say, 'You may not know specifically why you're going from point A to point B, why you're taking psychology with economics and speech and debate. When you start connecting the dots, you form a cool picture. If you try and take it too literally, you'll miss a lot of opportunity.'"

### Finding a Niche Within Diversity

Like Lovinger, Mary Costa, BA'05, found her niche within the diversity of the College of Arts and Science. She thought she'd be premed, but it was a poor fit and her grades reflected it. She declared a major in economics, but enjoyed theater history classes. A summer internship at a boutique arts and culture advertising firm helped her develop an interdisciplinary studies major, combining economics and theater history in preparation for a career in arts administration.

"After developing my interdisciplinary major, I continued to become more involved in what I loved both in and out of the classroom. I saw the practical side of being able to use professionally what I was learning, and my GPA continued to climb," Costa says. "I also had the wonderful opportunity of holding leadership roles within Vanderbilt's Great Performances series, which allowed me to immediately apply my studies for tangible results."

Finding an area of study that she loved—creating her own path by combining the two—led quickly to a climb up the career ladder. She is currently assistant director of marketing at New York's prestigious Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

"What's made me successful is I love what I do," Costa says. "I don't come to work looking for the next vacation or the next day off. Find something that you love. It will make your life better."

The mix of written material that Arts and Science people read is always intriguing. Here's what some of them have been reading for study and pleasure.

*Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer* by Tracy Kidder  
*Science Journal* articles  
—Deepa Subbi Joshi, junior, medicine, health and society

*Relics of Eden: The Powerful Evidence of Evolution in Human DNA* by Daniel J. Fairbanks  
*Evolution: What the Fossils Say and Why It Matters* by Donald R. Prothero  
*The Concept of the Gene in Development and Evolution* by Peter Beurton, et. al., eds.,  
*Autonomy in Jewish Philosophy* by Kenneth Seeskin  
*De Usu Partium* by Galen, translated by Margaret Tallmadge May  
*The Seven Books of Paulus Aegineta*, translated by Francis Adams  
*The Song of Songs* (and its Arabic & Hebrew commentaries)  
*TLS (Times Literary Supplement, London)*  
*Review of Metaphysics*  
*History of Philosophy Quarterly*, etc.  
—Lenn E. Goodman, Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities and professor of philosophy

*Uncommon: Finding Your Path to Significance* by Tony Dungy  
*The Blind Side* by Michael Lewis  
*Meat Market* by Bruce Feldman  
*Sports Illustrated*  
—Daniel Powers, senior, neuroscience

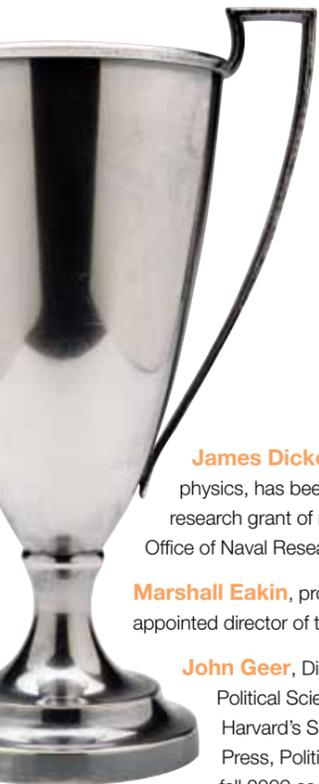
*The Wings of the Dove* by Henry James  
*Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs* by Chuck Klosterman  
Buster Olney's baseball blog on ESPN  
NYMag.com's Daily Intel blog  
—Kat Miller, senior, economics

*The Next 100 Years: A Forecast for the 21st Century* by George Friedman  
*Democracy Incorporated* by Sheldon S. Wolin  
*The Long Emergency* by James Howard  
Kunstler (a re-read)  
kunstler.com  
peaksurfer.blogspot.com  
energybulletin.net  
—Pam Jones, editorial assistant, mathematics

*USA Today*  
*The Bourne Supremacy* by Robert Ludlum  
*The Testament* by John Grisham  
—Patrick Benoist, senior, economics



Junior interdisciplinary studies major **Tommy Obenchain** recently finished reading several books, among them *South: The Endurance Experience* by Ernest Shackleton. His other reading material: *Business Stripped Bare* by Richard Branson  
*RuinAir* by Paul Kilduff  
*Understand My Muslim People* by Abraham Sarker  
*The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller

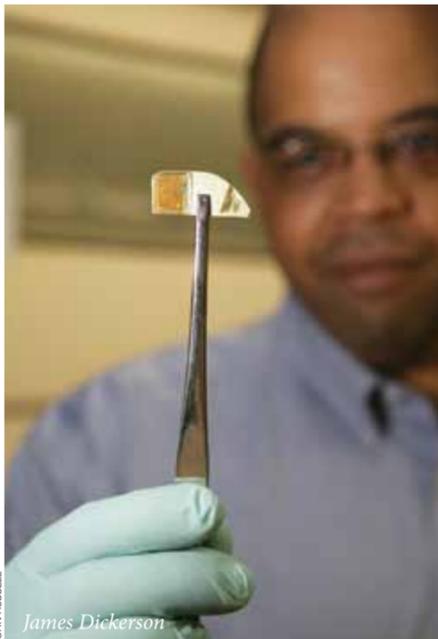


**James Dickerson**, assistant professor of physics, has been awarded a new, three-year research grant of more than \$360,000 from the Office of Naval Research.

**Marshall Eakin**, professor of history, has been appointed director of the Ingram Scholars Program.

**John Geer**, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, has been invited by Harvard's Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy to spend fall 2009 as a fellow of the center.

**Bill Ivey**, director of the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and Public Policy, was honored with the Music for Life award given by NAMM, the trade association of the international music products industry. The award is the highest honor that NAMM bestows and recognizes extraordinary contributions to the mission of creating more active music makers.



JOHN RUSSELL

James Dickerson

Professor of Political Science **David Lewis'** *The Politics of Presidential Appointments* has won the 2009 Richard E. Neustadt Award, given by the American Political Science Association for the best book on the U.S. presidency published during the previous year.

*Scrivere la pittura: La "funzione Longhi" nella letteratura italiana* by **Andrea Mirabile**, professor of Italian, has been published by Angelo Longo Editore.

**Jesse Peterson**, assistant professor of mathematics, has won a \$50,000 research fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation aimed at encouraging promising young scholars. He is one of 118 researchers in physics, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, neuroscience and economics chosen at the early stages of their careers because of their "exceptional promise to contribute to the advancement of knowledge."

**Carol Swain**, professor of political science and law, has been reappointed to the Tennessee Advisory Committee of the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

**Robert B. Talisse**, associate professor of philosophy, will be a visiting scholar at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York for 2009-2010.

**Cecelia Tichi**, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English, is this year's Hubbell Medal winner. This lifetime achievement award is given by the American Literature Section of the Modern Language Association for significantly advancing the study of American literature.



DANIEL DUBOIS

Four College of Arts and Science faculty members were honored with university-wide awards for teaching excellence and service. **Tiffany Tung**, assistant professor of anthropology, received the Madison Sarratt Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. **John Geer**, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, was awarded the Ellen Gregg Ingalls Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching. The Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished University Professor Award to honor faculty whose contributions span multiple academic disciplines was given to **Dana**

**Nelson**, the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English. The Alexander Heard Distinguished Service Professor Award was given to **C. Neal Tate**, professor and chair of political science and professor of law (see story on Tate on page 4).

At the fall faculty assembly, **David A. Weintraub**, professor of astronomy, received the university's Thomas Jefferson Award for distinguished service through contributions as a faculty member in the councils and government of the university. Individual

Chancellor's Awards for Research were presented to **Yanqin Fan**, professor of economics and mathematics, and **James G. Patton**, professor of biological sciences. The research team of **Gordon D. Logan**, Centennial Professor of Psychology, **Thomas J. Palmeri**, associate professor of psychology, and **Jeffrey D. Schall**, E. Bronson Ingram Professor of Neuroscience, was also honored with the Chancellor's Award for Research.

A Vanderbilt network of alumni, students and friends worldwide.

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Sign up to be a Career Advisor when you register for VUconnect!

## OpportunityVanderbilt

### A scholarship gift is the gift of opportunity...

It was scholarship support that gave Katrice Peterson the opportunity to attend Vanderbilt's College of Arts and Science. With a major in classical studies, a full class schedule, campus leadership roles and community service, she made the most of her Vanderbilt experience. Just graduated, she's now in law school, on the way to endless new possibilities.

"My scholarship reminded me every day at Vanderbilt that there were alumni who believed in what I could accomplish and were willing to take a chance on me reaching my goals," she says. "You don't forget that kind of generosity."

With a scholarship gift, you give other exceptional young women and men the opportunity to learn, discover and achieve at Vanderbilt.

*Opportunity Vanderbilt supports the university's commitment to replace need-based undergraduate student loans with grants and scholarships, with a goal of \$100 million in gifts for scholarship endowment.*

Photo by Vanderbilt Creative Services



Katrice Peterson, BA'09  
Sue Sugg Piant Scholarship

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Make a gift to Vanderbilt online—[www.vanderbilt.edu/givenow](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/givenow). Questions—Jonathan Petty, [jonathan.petty@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jonathan.petty@vanderbilt.edu), (615) 322-8119.

# THE NBA'S · International Playmaker

by TIM GHIANNI



Heidi Ueberroth, BA'87, is in a hurry but generous with her time as she catches her breath in the New York City offices of the National Basketball Association.

She has things to do. "You're catching me before a big trip to China," she says. "It's an incredible NBA market."

Hopping a plane to the world's largest country is hardly unusual for the English major whose business savvy and drive have propelled her to president of global marketing partnerships and international business operations for the NBA.

China is both her top market and top success story. "The first statistic is there are 300 million people who play basketball in China. When you think of that number, and that it's larger than the entire U.S. population, you understand," she says.

Ueberroth herself is a top success story. A native Californian, she earned a bachelor's degree in English from the College of Arts and Science. She says she chose Vanderbilt, in part, because her parents encouraged their kids to be "outside the laundry drop."

In other words, they teased that they didn't want her close enough to bring her laundry home each week to Encino, Calif. "They feel that living away from home can be part of the benefit of a college education. It's a view I share," Ueberroth says. In addition to attending a university the caliber of Vanderbilt as far as education, it was important for her to experience another part of the country. "I had never been to Nashville or visited much of the South. I really enjoyed living there," she says. "I am also incredibly proud of my nephew, Nick Booth, a junior in the College of Arts and Science, who also grew up in California and saw the university as his top pick."

## International Impact

That excitement at being in new places continues to fuel her. Living in New York—as well as in airplanes and hotels circling the globe—she remains far removed from the family laundry drop.

At the NBA, Ueberroth has worked to develop a worldwide network that explores NBA growth and marketing opportunities.

"We have 13 offices outside the U.S.," she says. That includes four offices in China, where 150 employees help in the mission of spreading the gospel of the game. Her job also involves developing relationships with global business partners like Coca-Cola and Adidas to grow the game's international popularity.

Ueberroth and her staff now are fashioning a campaign to tap into India's mammoth population.

The game's portability and simplicity are big selling points. "A hoop and a ball and you can play on your own," Ueberroth says. "You can play with two people. It's also played by boys and girls, which is something unique to different countries. And it helps to emphasize fitness and teamwork."

"Basketball is a global game. It's also been an Olympic sport since 1936. There's a long history of international competitions."

While Ueberroth works hand in hand with local federations, national teams and youth programs worldwide, China will always be special.

"China is the No. 1 market outside the United States. It is a good place to look at all the basketball events and business opportunities," the NBA executive says.

Ueberroth's six trips to China each year will likely diminish to three or four since some responsibilities now fall on the organization's new entity, NBA China. That doesn't mean she'll stay home. It just means more time to explore NBA opportunities in Europe, Africa, India, Mexico, Japan and the rest of the world.

## Passion for Sports, Travel and Business

This lifestyle was nurtured in Encino, where her dad, Peter Ueberroth—1984 Olympic executive, baseball commissioner and operator of a worldwide travel firm—helped her learn about sports, travel and business.

"I was very fortunate that I was able to travel a lot when I was young," she says. "I always knew I was just fascinated by and loved learning about other cultures. I thought that for me, travel would be a perfect part of my career."

After graduation in 1987, she went to Paris to work for Ohlmeyer Communications, which led her to ESPN and other sports entertainment work. While at ESPN, she heard the NBA was looking for someone to sell international TV rights.

It intrigued her. "I knew that basketball was played in a lot of countries," she says. "I thought about all of the possibilities and could see the growth on television and sports channels."

After getting that job in 1994, she quickly realized the NBA had the right programming for international consumption. "Basketball is a global game. It's also been an Olympic sport since 1936," she notes. "There's a long history of international competitions."

It was simply a matter of the media catching up to the popularity, she says, and marketing the NBA as the ultimate league, drawing the best players from around the world.

And it does. Ueberroth says that 76 international players from



32 different countries played in the league in the 2008–09 season. Eight international players were in the finals pitting the Los Angeles Lakers against the Orlando Magic—a series shown in 215 countries and in 42 different languages.

Thinking back to her college days, Ueberroth says choosing liberal arts over business worked out well. "It deepened the curiosity for different cultures. A liberal arts education can emphasize that," she reflects. "Being an English major is very helpful in business in that it provides a strong foundation in communications and writing skills."

Ueberroth recently cemented her ties to the College of Arts and Science by joining the school's advisory board of visitors. She's also funding a need-based scholarship for Arts and Science students. "I learned a lot during my time at Vanderbilt that I have found helpful in the professional world," she says.

## Basketball and Beijing

Still, when she walked in her cap-and-gown ceremony on Curry Field, she probably never dreamed that in 2008 she would be a torchbearer on the opening day of the Beijing Olympic Games.

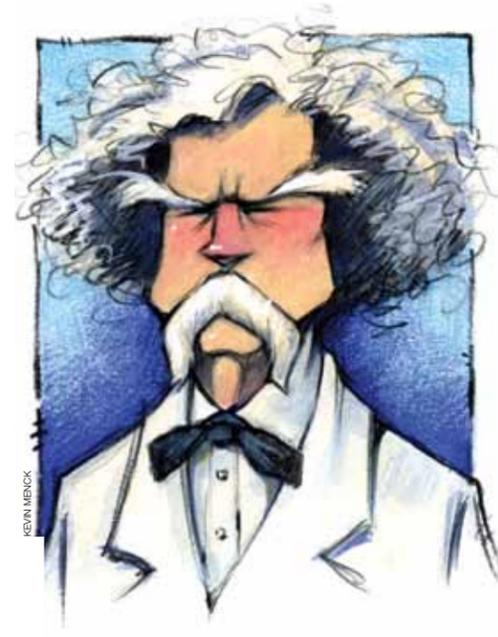
Serving as a torchbearer was a tribute to her popularity and that of her sport in China. "I joined the NBA in September of 1994. Within a year or so, I made my first trip to China. I was amazed then just how widely spread the game is. And the growth since then has been just phenomenal.

"The game has been played in China for over 100 years. Apparently the missionaries brought the game there," she explains. "It is played in very rural locations and works well in dense, urban cities."

While excited that a new partnership is constructing a string of NBA-style arenas throughout the land, she's equally pleased that the Chinese government is seeding the game's future by building half-courts in 800,000 villages.

"It always starts with the game," she says. "Grow the game. Increase participation. Partner with the right organizations and countries. It's a great game, and the players are so dynamic."

Her voice is warm as she says, "I do love where this career has taken me." Soon, it's taking her, not surprisingly, again to China.



KEVIN MERRICK

## Learning from the Ends... and the Means

Take two scholars, one specializing in U.S. literature, the other in British. Normally the classes they teach are as far apart as, well, as the width of the Atlantic Ocean. How can they challenge a group of graduate students—and themselves—into seeing the parallels in two subsets of literature, and indeed, the parallels to modern life?

Cecelia Tichi, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English, and Lynn Enterline, professor of English, talk about team teaching the graduate seminar, *Ends of Empire*, and lessons learned from 1,000 years of fiction ranging from Virgil's *Aeneid* to Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* to Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* and other works.

**Ends of Empire**—that's a formidable title for a class. What was the thinking behind it?

**ENTERLINE:** I work in the early modern period of British literature, and Cecelia brings the contemporary American perspective. We came up with the framework for the course based on the cultural legacies linking these two distinct bodies of work.

**TICHI:** At the same time, the word “ends” in the course title indicates a phase of history that has come to an end, even as the goals, intentions and desires of a people continue. Empire was a topic that allowed us to bring together both the European and American traditions in one seminar.

**ENTERLINE:** Essentially “Ends of Empire” implies there is no finite point at which one regime ends and another begins. It brings to bear the ideas that lie behind imperial expansion, goals that can be mapped and pursued. The texts we read often pose the question: “What’s the impetus behind a particular power?”

“Does the study of the literature of the U.S. and early Britain have anything to tell us about our world today?”

— Cecelia Tichi

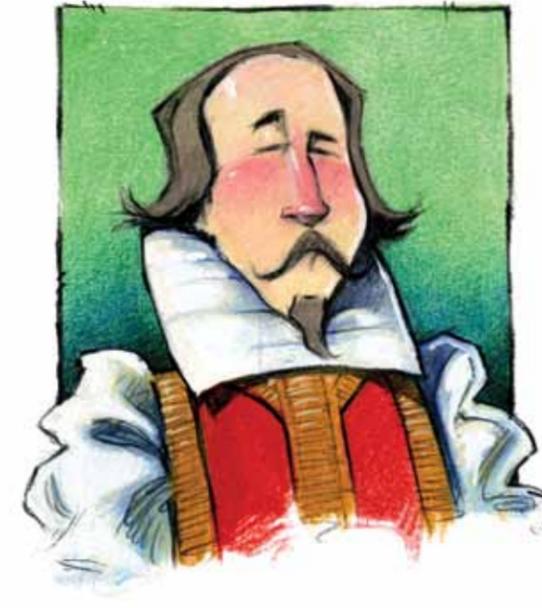
**TICHI:** Our job as professors and critics is to ask the question—does the study of the literature of the U.S. and early Britain have anything to tell us about our world today? A review of literature over time can bring an understanding of the forces that lead to the ends of empire.

**ENTERLINE:** The class also brought the unique opportunity to compare texts across traditions. Most university English departments divide the study of British and U.S. literature. We wanted to have a conversation between ourselves and graduate students to see experimentally what we might attain by bridging that divide.

So what did this across-the-pond look teach you? What did it teach the graduate students?

**ENTERLINE:** When you work with a peer from another field, you shift your frame of reference. Reading outside my field provoked new questions for me. Our ultimate goal is to make new contributions to a field. To do that, you have to push past what’s already known, past comfort zones.

**TICHI:** For me, it was like going back to school. I learned what I don’t know, which is a whole canon. Team teaching provides the opportunity to work across lines of canon, across historical moments.



“You have to push past what’s already known, past comfort zones.”

— Lynn Enterline

It’s one thing to attend a lecture by a colleague talking about what she’s working on. It’s another to spend a semester in the presence of a colleague and graduate students and engage in an interchange, in different yet complementary turns.

**ENTERLINE:** For the graduate students, this type of give and take helps them over a difficult hump in their intellectual development. In your first years as a student, you are an apprentice. For our students, it was the chance to hear two people from different historical and methodological perspectives. It reminds them that their work isn’t to replicate a single model. It’s to ask different questions in the hope of making new contributions to knowledge.

What sorts of parallels were uncovered and how are they relevant and revealing?

**TICHI:** In *Connecticut Yankee*, Twain made a great deal of the medieval knights, which leads to the question: what sorts of knighthoods existed during the period in which he was writing? This was an era of labor union development, one of which was called the Knights of Labor. It was also the time in which Ku Klux Klan, which followed some chivalric traditions, had its beginnings.

How manliness reveals itself was another topic in the course. Theodore Roosevelt’s hunting narratives are representative. The animals he hunted represent the “other,” the indigenous, those that deserve to be removed so that manly leadership and domination can take its place. In that sense, the four faces of Mt. Rushmore [represent] the culmination of the domination of a continent.

**ENTERLINE:** In the European perspective on masculinity, 16th-century British grammar schools claimed to be in the business of producing English gentlemen, which meant that only boys were schooled in Latin. Ideas about Roman rule and power were imported along the way, at a foundational level of socialization.

**TICHI:** Once transposed to U.S. in the colonial period, this British perspective led to a particular demarcation of civil and religious authority.

**ENTERLINE:** We looked into the schools’ way of transmitting empire via the everyday life of manliness. In early modern Britain the mark of a gentleman, derived from Rome, was rhetorical facility.

Are there more contemporary lessons?

**TICHI:** In Cullen Murphy’s *Are We Rome? The Fall of An Empire and the Fate of America*, there’s a description of a Roman emperor traveling with his entourage of soldiers, carts, scribes, servants and women. It’s an absolute matchup with the U.S. president traveling in Air Force One—armored cars, helicopters, cooks, flunkies and so on. Both demand tributes and create bases in far-flung empires.

**ENTERLINE:** Then we read Virgil and his concern about what Rome was to do with her war veterans. It’s a conversation similar to the one we hear now about today’s military veterans. And in Book 2 of the *Aeneid*, the god Jupiter predicts Aeneas’ descendants will go on to found an “empire without end.” The promise of peace as an end point of imperial ambition is still around, a claim that one group is not killing people so much as bringing peace through occupation and domination. If you look at this with a critical eye, one starts to wonder about that promise.

# Inside the Trauma Ward

## OF THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL MARKETS

Craig S. Phillips, BA'76

Managing Director, Global Head of Financial Markets  
Advisory Group, BlackRock Inc.



SPOUSE  
Liz Phillips

CHILDREN  
Emma, Olivia and Anna;  
stepchildren Alexis and Grant

PLACE OF RESIDENCE  
New Canaan, Connecticut

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT  
Paris

FAVORITE MOVIE  
*Lawrence of Arabia*

Lots of organizations are having trouble making sense of what their credit portfolios are worth and if they are financially solid. That's when they call someone like us. We have been very busy.

**I FEEL LIKE I WORK IN THE TRAUMA UNIT.** Not in a hospital as you might imagine, but at the heart of the global financial crisis. And for some weird reason I really enjoy it.

At Vanderbilt I shifted from premed to economics as I concluded that passing out at the sight of blood might not be good in a medical career. Now I tie tourniquets to stem the hemorrhaging of capital in the credit markets.

I am a managing director at BlackRock Inc., one of the world's largest publicly traded investment management firms, responsible for overseeing more than \$1.3 trillion of assets. My division is in BlackRock Solutions, where I have responsibility for the financial markets advisory business started in 2008 when I joined the firm. As the name implies, we provide solutions and services to clients with complex financial risk situations. We assess and value their investment portfolios, assist them in developing strategies to deal with financial challenges, and can even provide asset disposition services.

Right now, lots of organizations are having trouble making sense of what their credit portfolios are worth and if they are financially solid. That's when they call someone like us. We have been very busy.

My career has spanned more than 30 years at major investment banks. I moved to New York City a week after graduation from the College of Arts and Science in 1976. My first job was focused on what was very new at the time—packaging mortgages for sale as bonds. Mortgage-backed securities boomed and created a new market called “securitization.” I was an early entrant to that market and due to my longevity, could be considered a founding father. Securitization grew to package almost every type of credit risk imaginable.

What went wrong? Securitization and its cousin, credit derivatives, were the means by which overly aggressive credit dominated the financial landscape. Think of securitization as a conduit, a means of spreading credit exposure. The easy credit and permissive standards prevailing after 2005 became a big chocolate malt that everyone enjoyed through one big straw. Once tainted, all were infected. I mean everybody. Everywhere.



When Bear Stearns, then the fifth-largest U.S. investment bank, was failing last year, we were called in to advise the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (the Fed) during the crucial Thursday-through-Sunday-night period in mid-March. After Bear merged with JP Morgan Chase, BlackRock took over management of \$30 billion of toxic mortgage and other exposures on behalf of the Fed.

By summer 2008, the U.S. government was concerned about Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and we were hired to assess whether they had adequate capital. They didn't. Those two behemoths of the global capital markets were put into conservatorship. That was when the crisis metastasized. If they failed, wouldn't every financial institution be at risk? If the government had not stepped in, what would have happened?

We got an answer on September 15, 2008, when Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy. On that fateful weekend, I was in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, visiting with clients. When word of Lehman's failure spread on Sunday night, I flew back to New York after being on the ground less than 24 hours. Concern over counterparty exposure erupted globally and without prejudice. No financial institution was deemed sound.

Monday night, I joined my team at the corporate headquarters of AIG in lower Manhattan. For weeks, we had been analyzing their complex financial situation. An effort to privately recapitalize the company failed that evening. Senior AIG management adjourned with representatives of the N.Y. State Insurance Commissioner to the Fed's offices. By morning AIG had \$85 billion in credit from the Fed, and its life as a public, independent company was no more. In December the Fed and AIG had BlackRock assume management of nearly \$100 billion face value of cash and derivative instruments held by AIG, removing them from the company's balance sheet in an effort to “derisk” the company and stabilize its ratings.

Hard to believe, but BlackRock has analyzed and valued over \$4 trillion of assets since the summer of 2007. Our work has spread from the U.S. to other countries, including the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Switzerland, Sweden and Belgium. We have been

entrusted with management and disposition responsibility on more than \$170 billion (face value) of exposures since we started—an accomplishment of which our whole team is quite proud.

My liberal arts degree has served me well throughout my career, and particularly during this crisis. Problem solving, communication and the ability to navigate cultural differences all are key life skills enhanced by my general education at the College of Arts and Science.

What have I learned? I have seen a lot of scared people and how they behave. All told, panic brings out the best and worst in people, although I have seen more good than bad with people trying to do the right thing. I have been particularly impressed by the tireless and dedicated commitment of financial regulators around the world to step in when needed and do whatever it takes.

Markets and the economy are driven by the psychology of its participants—I learned that at Vanderbilt. We have seen giddiness over market highs, accompanied by wild speculative behavior, replaced by extreme caution and a very low interest in risk taking. Markets and the economy are driven by momentum, and right now, the momentum is universally negative. That will take some time to reverse.

In an effort to stabilize the economy, government funding has effectively replaced the private capital markets. The nexus of financial power and control has shifted to the political realm, away from Wall Street and other money centers around the world. The implications of this shift will be far-reaching into the next generation and possibly beyond.

I am confident that there will be growth, opportunities and new products for that next generation. Just as my first job at Lehman Brothers was in an emerging market, my children and the next generation of Vanderbilt students will work in new fields with new challenges and opportunities. I don't know what the future will hold for them, but I do know that the College of Arts and Science is preparing them for it. Whether the students study economics, political science, Spanish, math or interdisciplinary studies, they will have the tools, the curiosity and the ability to cope with—no, to manage—the world's latest financial crisis and whatever crisis comes up.

# The Power of the Many, Year After Year

*The operation and future of the College of Arts and Science relies on alumni such as these.*

## A FUNNY THING BECAME CLEAR WHEN WE CONTACTED A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF ARTS AND SCIENCE ALUMNI ABOUT THEIR REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLEGE.

Not one of them thought their steady, modest gifts were worth talking about.

We disagree.

We know the power of many small gifts coming from the pockets and hearts of many generous donors to the College of Arts and Science. We know that regular, consistent donations help fund scholarships, pay salaries, renovate classrooms, support research and keep the lights on. Each year, thousands of alumni make it possible for today's students to receive the kind of education that those alumni did. And today's students will, in turn, support the students that come after them.

They do so for a variety of reasons. Gratitude. Affection. Conviction. Loyalty. We call these donors—and the thousands of others like them—heroes. Benefactors. Friends.

"Last year, thousands of alumni, parents and friends gave to the college. Many of these gifts came from people who have regularly given over the years," says Carolyn Dever, dean of the College of Arts and Science. "As I travel the country and meet with alumni, I hear such great stories about how alumni feel about the college and why they believe in it. These people are so vital to our mission.

"Annual giving allows us to continue investing with robust creativity in our educational mission," she says. "From funding student trips to hiring outstanding faculty and enhancing our financial aid offerings, these annual gifts make a real difference. All support—in any area, in any amount—counts toward Arts and Science's success."

## Love Ranks First

So why do alumni who give regularly do so? The top reason is love of Vanderbilt and their time on campus, but also high is the importance of supporting education.

For Mary Louise Tidwell, BA'45, MA'46, both reasons are valid. "I loved my time at Vanderbilt," she says. "Oh, the professors I had!" She put her English degrees to use as a society reporter for *The Tennessean* and penning a biography of her father, *Tennessean* founder Luke Lea. Her longtime work as a community volunteer showed Tidwell that other foundations and organizations see strong alumni giving as an ongoing vote of support for the College of Arts and Science. "I only give a pittance, but I know that it's important that I give. So I do," she says.

"Vanderbilt holds a special place in our hearts and it established the foundation for what we've accomplished."

— Adam Birenbaum, BA'00

In fact, the percentage of alumni donating to an institution is one of the factors that influence the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of universities, notes Dever. "The magazine considers alumni satisfaction as important in the health and value of a university. They look at the percentage of alumni who donate as an indicator of that satisfaction," the dean says.

Love of family and the university are the reasons that Diane Moore Williams, BA'52, gives. "I'm so proud of my degree, and I

loved Vanderbilt," she says. "I give because it became a habit that was started by my father, who attended Vanderbilt from 1916 to 1918. He loved Vanderbilt, and he supported Vanderbilt. I'm trying to be like him, and it's a habit that I'm really proud of."

The avid Commodores fan also supports higher education. "The country would be in a heck of a bad shape without higher education," she says. "I want to be a part of Vanderbilt's present and future."

## Support for Education

The university changed the lives of Adam Birenbaum, BA'00, and Dr. Gretchen Sander, BA'00. The two, now married with a baby daughter, met a week into their freshman year and have been together ever since. "Vanderbilt holds a special place in our hearts," says Birenbaum, now a lawyer. "And it established the foundation for what we've accomplished." Sander says grants she received made it possible for her to attend the College of Arts and Science. "I give because it's important for me to give other students the chance that I had," she says. Sander is now a pediatrician and works in an underserved community in St. Louis. That work, her husband says, has been her lifelong dream.

Others give in support of higher education as a whole and of the College of Arts and Science in particular. Lewis Schmidt, BS'81, says Vanderbilt was more than an academic experience for him. "It was the whole nine yards," he recalls. Along with earning degrees in history and special education, he worked on *The Vanderbilt Hustler* and the concerts committee, played in the band and was active in theater throughout his university career. "I think it's important to support what Vanderbilt gave me," the high school special education teacher says. "And I support education because it helps produce teachers, who make the real difference in the world."

Geoff McClelland, BA'62, grew up in the Midwest and came to



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Nashville for something different. He remembers his time here as a learning and growing experience during the Civil Rights era. "I feel blessed that institutions like the ones I went to are still here," the retired advertising executive says. "My gifts are a very small way to pay back for great teachers, great institutions and the expectation that they will continue."

Morris "Morry" Edwards, BA'72, attended Vanderbilt because of its excellent reputation regarding the Fugitive and Agrarian groups. "Education is so important to a democracy because a democracy is predicated on its electorate being knowledgeable," the psychologist says. Of his consistent, steady giving, he says, "I don't think that I give so much that it makes a real difference. But it's what I can do, so I do it. I hope the numbers add up."

The numbers do add up. They matter. They're the power of the



STEVE GREEN



JOHN RUSSELL

# The College Cabinet 2008–2009

Every year, we take the opportunity formally to say thank you to the alumni, parents and friends who support the College of Arts and Science in providing students with an exceptional educational experience.

The following pages list the College Cabinet, which recognizes those donors who contributed \$1,000 or more during our last fiscal year, July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

In the 2008–2009 fiscal year, the generosity of College Cabinet members totaled nearly \$8.3 million. Gifts from College Cabinet members make up nearly three-fourths of all unrestricted giving to the College of Arts and Science. This year, unrestricted giving to the College of Arts and Science helped:

- hire 27 new faculty who are leaders in their fields of study and outstanding teachers in the classroom and laboratory. These new faculty members are key in sustaining the breadth and depth of the Arts and Science curriculum.
- enhance financial aid to attract and support the best and brightest students from around the country and around the world. As you know, student financial need grows in this challenging economy.
- support classes in fieldwork. For example, this year, the Petrology and Structural Geology classes did research in the Appalachian Mountains, and students in a new course, Geology of National Parks, studied in the Grand Canyon.

- finance activities of the Vanderbilt Debate Team. One of the premier programs in the country, our debate team won national awards from all the major intercollegiate debate organizations and numerous top speaker awards.

These are only a few of the challenges and needs met by the generosity of College Cabinet members this year, and all of us in Arts and Science are most grateful for their support.

If you are not a member of the College Cabinet, I'd like to invite you to consider joining with an annual gift of \$1,000. If you are a recent graduate within 10 years of commencement, you can join the College Cabinet with an annual gift of only \$500.

The contributions of College Cabinet members are vital to the success and strength of the College of Arts and Science. We are sincerely grateful to you, and all our donors, for your dedication and support.

Carolyn Dever  
Dean

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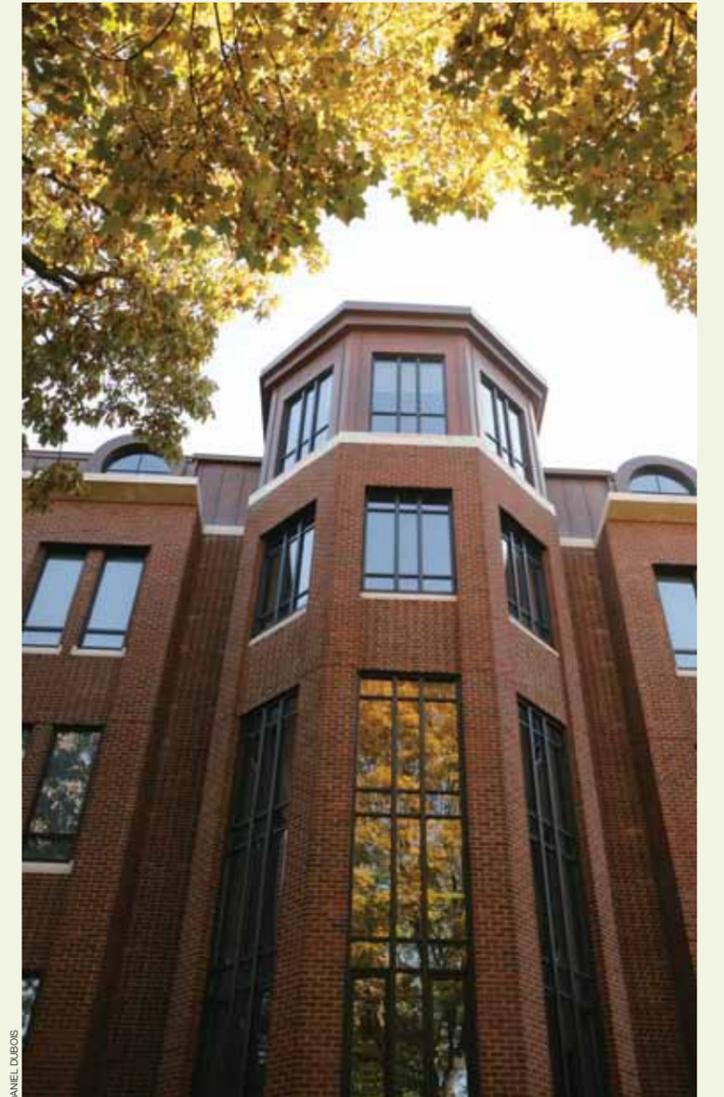
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DANIEL DEBOIS



TRACKING DOWN  
**David Cliffler,**

associate professor of chemistry, can be a challenge. In addition to teaching, the expert in electrochemistry and analytical chemistry oversees research in six labs in four buildings within the Stevenson Center. This lab on the fifth floor of Building 5 serves as home base for the Cliffler Research Group, his team of post-doctoral associates, graduate students and undergraduates. The group works with specialized instrumentation and processes unfamiliar to most, but its research may one day impact diabetes, vaccines and cancer.

- 1 Graduate student Jennifer McKenzie uses a multianalyte micro-physiometer to study the effects of bacterial toxins on cells. The Cliffler group developed multianalyte micro-physiometry, which allows researchers to explore the dynamics of metabolism in living cells occupying microfluidic chambers.
- 2 This incubator holds cell cultures for physiometry experiments to reduce dependence on animal toxicology studies in cancer drug testing. That work recently received a grant from the Alternatives Research & Development Foundation.
- 3 A carbon dioxide tank feeds the temporary storage of cell cultures. Cliffler's main cell culture and biological toxin research lab is in a Stevenson Center Building 2 laboratory.
- 4 Postdoctoral associate Jeremy Wilburn looks through an optical microscope to evaluate ultramicroelectrodes before they undergo scanning electrochemical microscopy (SECM) in the group's laboratory on the ninth floor of Stevenson Center Building 7. SECM can determine the electrochemical activity of new materials and living cells with very high spatial resolution.
- 5 Peter Ciesielski, a graduate student in the Interdisciplinary Materials Science program, uses a potentiostat to determine the performance of a solar cell that uses plant proteins to convert light into electrical energy. The research is part of a National Science Foundation-supported project.
- 6 The bulletin board serves as a reservation system for the Cliffler group. With 20 team members, it's necessary to schedule and reserve critical instruments days in advance. The periwinkle-colored syringe pumps are for microfluidic devices designed with help from the Vanderbilt Institute for Integrative Biosystems Research and Education. Cliffler, who joined the College of Arts and Science in 2000, is also a fellow at the institute.
- 7 Cliffler also serves as director of the Biomolecular Nanostructures Facility for the Vanderbilt Institute of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (VINSE). The interdisciplinary facility brings together science and engineering faculty interested in bionanotechnology. In a lab on the sixth floor of Stevenson 7, Cliffler and his team work on the advanced synthesis of gold nanoparticles that mimic biological protein recognition. The project, supported by the National Institute of Health, may lead to the development of nanoparticle-based vaccines.

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Where Are You? Answer: Inside the Department of Biological Sciences' greenhouses on the top floor of the Stevenson Center.



**FINISHING TOUCHES:** Worker Isaac Gaither of N&S Waterproofing finishes a caulking project in front of the former exterior wall of the historic Cohen Memorial building on the Peabody campus. A new lobby and accessible entrance onto 21st Avenue were created on what was formerly the building's posterior. The elegant building is the new home of the history of art and classical studies departments and classrooms, as well as the Fine Arts Gallery. Note the beautiful carved cornice visible through the skylights.

PHOTO BY STEVE GREEN