

# Vanderbilt International

VOL. 2, NUMBER 2, SPRING/SUMMER 2010

A publication of the Vanderbilt International Office



**inside**

- Keegan Scholars Travel the World
- The New American Experience
- VU Athletes Get International Experience

Welcome to the spring issue of *Vanderbilt International*. It has now been several months since the whole world watched as an earthquake devastated the country of Haiti. Like many organizations across the globe, Vanderbilt University offered what initial assistance we could, and then waited while listening to reports from the field.

As the first news of the disaster trickled in, Vanderbilt students were already in planning mode; sponsoring numerous events to raise money for groups such as the American Red Cross and Partners in Health. According to student leader TC Clausell ('13), the fundraising effort captured the spirit of the student movement on campus. "The Haitian people are in need," she said, "and we have the ability to respond."

The effects of the earthquake left many wanting to do something and eager to help. Organizations such as Manna and Soles 4 Souls quickly rose to the occasion, sponsoring fundraising events and donations. Vanderbilt groups including the Center for Integrative Health, Institute for Global Health, and the Department of Theatre also donated their time and energies to the people of Haiti. The Graduate Department of Economics, along with support from Sarratt Art Studios, the Office of Active Citizenship and Service, and the Westenburg Gallery, raised money by selling photographs of Haiti, taken by Amanda Meade of the Ecole d'Espoir, an orphanage that was destroyed in the earthquake.

One of the most thought-provoking events was the Dores for Haiti evening—a series of faculty panel presentations—that provided the Vanderbilt community with a historical, contextual, and personal perspective of the situation in Haiti. The event was an opportunity to reflect on the richness of the Haitian history and culture and to better educate the community about the country and its legacy. Visiting Professor (and native Haitian), Jemima Pierre, also reminded the audience of the difference between "serving out of passion, not pity."

Our ability to play a responsible role in the global community—through service as well as education and research—is one of the great things about universities. Not only do we have the ability to play a role in the world, we have a responsibility to do so. As Chancellor Zeppos explained after the quake, "It is important—and imperative—that we as a great university explore what we can do to help over a sustained period in addition to addressing the immediate crisis."

While the destruction in Haiti has focused our attention particularly on service, our university continues to have a steady stream of collaboration across borders at all levels of the institution.

In this issue we learn about Vanderbilt students who are forging relationships across the world, assisting local communities with projects such as an installation of a water pump in Peru, and helping to design the first comprehensive emergency ambulance service in Nepal. We hear about the travels of Vanderbilt's athletic teams, and we meet Irina Kruglova, a Russian student chosen to study at Vanderbilt as part of her Muskie scholarship, an elite group of students chosen from the former Soviet Union to study in the U.S.

Vanderbilt faculty are making invaluable strides in international research. We read about Fernando Polack, M.D., the Cesar Milstein Associate Professor of Pediatrics, whose vaccine research in Argentina will help protect children worldwide from deadly diseases. Meanwhile, Peabody faculty member Kevin Leander is working on a project with Utrecht University to better understand how new media forms are changing the way migrant youth define their identity.

Through our people, our programs, and our outreach, we can see that the world is accessible and is meant to be explored. We hope that *Vanderbilt International* continues to provide a platform to showcase the work of faculty, staff, and students who are learning from, and making a difference in the world.



A delegation from Vanderbilt, including Drs. Calum Avison, Alan Brash, Stephan Heckers, Bruce McCandliss, Jeff Schall and Mark Wallace visited Utrecht University, Netherlands, to discuss research collaborations in the areas of cardiovascular research, cognitive development, neuroimaging, psychiatry, and vision.

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# Vanderbilt International

A publication of the Vanderbilt International Office  
**Vol. 2, No. 2, Spring/Summer 2010**  
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COVER: Photo taken by David Amsalam ('10).  
The Boudhanath Stupa (or Bodnath Stupa) is the  
largest stupa in Nepal and the holiest Tibetan  
Buddhist temple outside Tibet.

**Vanderbilt International** is published by the  
Vanderbilt International Office at Vanderbilt University.  
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Editorial offices are located at 201 Alumni Hall,  
2201 West End Ave., Nashville, TN 37240.

Opinions expressed in *Vanderbilt International* are  
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# A WORLD *Within*

Photos COURTESY OF J. L. RIFE



As sunlight breaks over the mountains and casts an orange glow on the gentle waves of the Aegean Sea, a long line of students ascends a steep hill rising from an ancient bay. They have come from across the globe to explore Kenchreai, a coastal site in southern Greece and one of the busiest harbors in southeastern Europe during the Roman Empire. Although it is still early in the morning, the team must start digging before the Mediterranean sun reaches too high into the sky. They arrive at an open meadow that conceals an ancient world of chamber tombs, opulent houses, and pagan temples below meters of rocky soil. The students leave their packs and canteens in the shade and brandish shovels, picks, and wheelbarrows, ready for another day in the trenches.

Last summer, a team of 40 students from Vanderbilt and other universities travelled to Kenchreai, near the ancient city of Corinth and roughly one hour south of Athens. Leading them was Associate Professor of Classical Studies and Anthropology Joseph Rife, who specializes in the society, culture, and religion of the eastern Roman provinces from roughly the first to seventh centuries A.D.

Rife, who has worked across the Mediterranean region for 20 years, began investigating Kenchreai in 2002. His project is the first systematic study at the site since the 1960s, when the University of Chicago uncovered the remains of the great harbor. Over the past eight years, formerly as a professor at Macalester College (St. Paul, Minnesota) and now as a member of the Vanderbilt faculty, Rife has conducted a broad program of interdisciplinary research and education. He works under the auspices of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens and in collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Culture. An exclusive license allows Rife to return to Kenchreai each summer with an international team of specialists, technicians, and students. This is Vanderbilt's first excavation in the Mediterranean basin, and it is currently one of the largest in all of Greece.

Rife is examining the nature of booming port-towns in the eastern Mediterranean during the Roman Empire. In particular, his research sheds light on the ancient community's social and cultural diversity, its evolving landscape, and its role as a crossroads where people exchanged not only cargo but also news, styles, and even religions.



While scholars know a great deal about the major ancient trading centers, such as Alexandria in Egypt and Ephesus in Turkey, they know relatively little about the smaller ports that filled the Roman world at the beginning of the first millennium. Rife is focusing on a peripheral neighborhood at Kenchreai that encompasses a wealthy residential quarter but also a suburban cemetery, highways, and quarries.

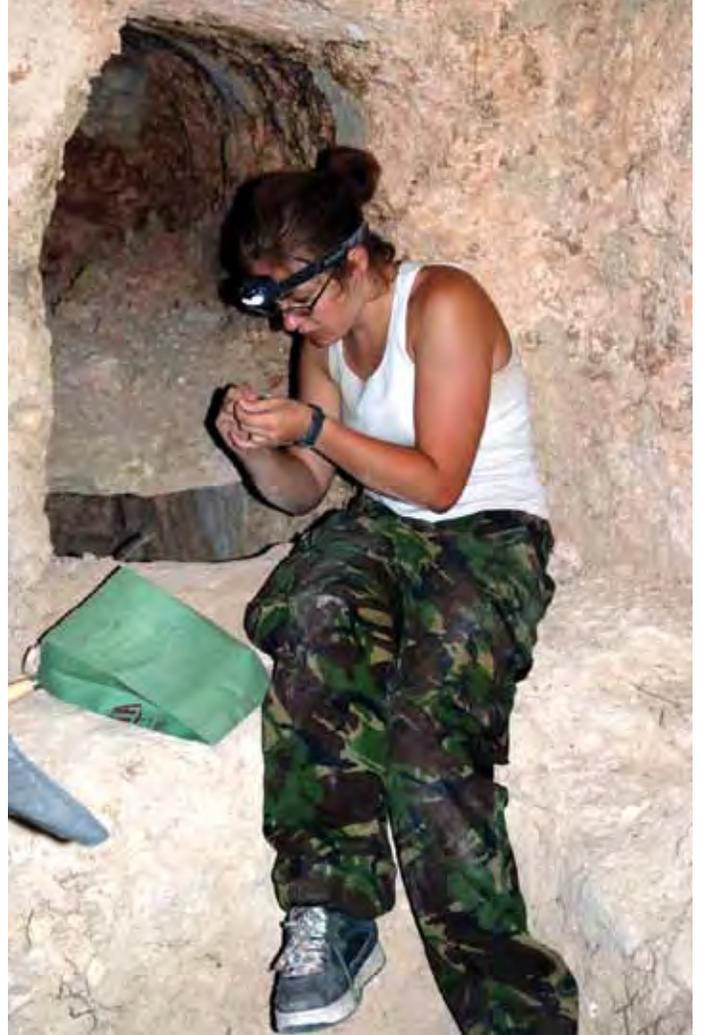
“Such a holistic approach to understanding the entire community is innovative for the field of classical archaeology, which has traditionally concentrated on monumental architecture and the public life of the ruling class,” says Rife. It is the houses and tombs of the Kenchreans, the remains of their daily life and their funerary rituals, he believes, that can reveal how they identified themselves and interacted as members of a prosperous, cosmopolitan community. He also hopes to better understand the decline of late antiquity, as Mediterranean communities transformed through the twilight of the Roman state and the dark years of the early Middle Ages.

Apart from written sources, the physical remains of Kenchreai survive in an astounding state of preservation, mainly because no large medieval or modern settlement ever developed at the site. Among the major discoveries so far are enormous concrete jetties, warehouses, a cache of stained-glass panels, frescoes depicting gardens and sea creatures, gold jewelry, myriad ceramic vessels of all shapes and sizes, early churches, seaside villas, and a very large population of skeletons. Beyond its archaeological abundance, Kenchreai is touched by natural splendor, with a stunning eastward vista of the Saronic Gulf framed by forested ridges and dotted with rocky islets.

The Kenchreai excavations offer students the chance to expand their horizons far beyond the classroom in Nashville. Vanderbilt undergraduates who enroll for Maymester summer credit form the core of the junior staff. “It is the quintessential ‘hands-on learning’ program,” explains Trent Palmberg (’11), a student who participated in the excavations. “As a classical studies major, I found myself excavating the history that I only read about in the classroom.”

Students are quite literally the backbone of the excavation and are taught basic field techniques, from recognizing depositional

A chamber tomb with wall painting at Kenchreai, dated middle to late first century A.D.



Examining bones during the excavation of a chamber tomb at Kenchreai.

sequences—what archaeologists call “stratigraphy”—to recording architecture and identifying artifacts. The learning takes place in the trenches, right as new discoveries are emerging from the earth. Students also investigate the ancient settlement alongside renowned experts whom Rife has invited to collaborate at Kenchreai. They have cleaned and drawn Roman wall-painting and mosaic pavements with specialists from Paris and Vienna; they have reconstructed the ancient topography and coastline with geomorphologists and geophysicists from the United States and Greece; they have deciphered inscriptions on gemstones and lead tablets with a leading scholar in the field of ancient magic; and they have sorted and identified thousands of human and animal bones with anthropologists from the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History and Yale’s Peabody Museum.

Rife oversees the Kenchreai program with Mireille Lee, assistant professor of history of art, and an expert in archaic and classical Greek art. The excavation is supported by a consortium of leading colleges and universities, among them Reed, Vassar, Rhodes, Amherst, and Harvard. Integrating students from various institutions promotes a diverse synergy that enriches the experience for all participants. While many who take the summer course are studying classics, art history, or anthropology, the program has included majors in, English, history, education, and environmental studies. As Rife explains, “We should appreciate antiquity from many perspectives.”

Students continue learning about Kenchreai well after morning excavations conclude. During afternoons and on weekends, Rife and Lee lead students to sites and museums in the region, where they deliver oral reports, hear lectures, and explore at will. The itinerary, which is designed to complement research at Kenchreai, brings students to other ancient ports, to museums with important finds of the Roman era, and to major ancient sanctuaries and churches. The most popular trip takes students to the Sanctuary of Zeus at Nemea, where they participate in a barefoot race in the Hellenistic stadium and then taste the famous Nemea wine made from (purportedly) ancient varieties of grapes.

For Emily Rose Grant ('12), reenacting this ancient sports event is the memory that will stay with her. "We all ran the 100-yard dash in bare feet just like they did back then. It was invigorating to envision the athletes who actually ran there and imagine the atmosphere that the spectators must have created," she says. "We learned that after their events, the athletes' sweat, oil, and dirt that formed on their bodies would be scraped off and put into bottles that were then sold to the general public. The people really worshipped the athletes to the fullest. That fact really blew my mind."

For both faculty and students alike, the first season of the Kenchreai excavations under the sponsorship of Vanderbilt was a tremendous success. The most important discovery was a huge octagonal building of excellent construction, with blue marble sheathing the walls and geometric mosaics paving the floors. The building was surrounded by several finely built graves containing multiple interments and rich offerings. The Octagon and its burial ground, which date from the fifth to sixth centuries A.D., is the first of its form known in southern Greece.

Aside from the visible discoveries made at Kenchreai, participating students came away with an even greater curiosity and commitment to their studies in the U.S. "Participating in the Kenchreai excavations gave me the opportunity to bridge the gap between studying the ancient world through textbooks and translations, and discovering it firsthand in Greece," says Palmberg,



The Kenchreai team, led by Vanderbilt Associate Professor of Classical Studies and Anthropology, Joseph Rife.

"This is the highlight of my undergraduate career, fueling my passion for studying the classical world."

As Rife looks to the future, his project is shifting into a phase of analysis, conservation, and publication after three years of massive data collection through expansive digging. Fieldwork will continue on site, but on a more limited scale than previously. His educational mission remains intact, and this year he will still take students to assist in the secondary phases of this long-term excavation.

Although the popular myth of archaeology celebrates the thrilling discovery of glorious works of art, in reality archaeology is a slow, painstaking process that involves long hours of piecing together small, mundane objects and collating reams of information. Understanding the ebb and flow of a complex research program over several seasons is one of the important lessons for students to learn at Kenchreai. Plans for future excavation are underway. Rife hopes to return to the impressive cemetery of chamber tombs, and he needs to uncover the rest of the enigmatic Octagon. It will take years to explore the vital port of ancient Kenchreai in all its complexity... and Vanderbilt will be along for the adventure.

For more information, including how to become involved in the Kenchreai Excavations as a participant or supporter, contact Professor Rife at [joseph.rife@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:joseph.rife@vanderbilt.edu).

Representation of a Greek harbor in glass mosaic from Kenchreai, dated late fourth century A.D.





David Amsalem providing emergency medical service at Patan Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal.

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE

by PATRICK NITCH

In his sophomore year, David Amsalem ('10), joined nine other Vanderbilt students to volunteer for six weeks in an HIV/AIDS clinic in Kampala, Uganda. The Kampala Project, run through the Office of Active Citizenship and Service (OACS), was the catalyst for Amsalem to travel to Tibet and Nepal, and eventually lead to his quest to design Nepal's first coordinated emergency ambulance response system.

"The opportunity to form relationships with members of the local community and to witness the far-reaching impact of a single volunteer made me yearn for more," says Amsalem, now in his senior year. Set on taking his volunteer experiences to the next level, Amsalem earned his EMT certification and took a leave of absence for a semester to volunteer in Eastern Tibet.

After three months of odd jobs—teaching English and putting his EMT certification to use by training tour guides in first aid—Amsalem traveled to Kathmandu, Nepal, to continue his volunteer mission. "Originally my focus was on Tibet," says Amsalem. "I was fascinated by Tibet and fell in love with the people, but there is something about life in Nepal. It is really the perfect blend of Himalayan culture and Indian culture."

After his arrival, Amsalem made contact with a medical doctor at Patan Hospital, who was interested in his training as an EMT. "It was kind of like the perfect storm," describes Amsalem. "A lot of things came together at the right time. The hospital had been thinking about starting an ambulance service, and they thought that because I worked on an ambulance, I was the most qualified person to start a whole system."

In Kathmandu, there are about 45 ambulances in operation—half of which are owned by hospitals and used for transporting patients from one hospital to another. The other half are owned by non-governmental organizations and community organizations, only several of which are used for emergencies. In crisis situations there is no way to rush a patient to the hospital. Thus, over half of emergency room patients arrive by taxi. "They have good hospitals but no one can get there," says Amsalem.

Over the next several months, Amsalem collaborated with hospital staff, met with local medical directors, and gathered data from all major hospitals to determine the demand for an ambulance service.

He also spent this past summer in Nepal polishing up the budget proposal and business plan, meeting with medical supply companies, ambulance manufacturers, and establishing a board of directors and an international advisory board.

The result of all this work was the creation of the Nepal Ambulance Service (NAS), a nonprofit initiative dedicated to establishing an emergency medical response system to provide high-quality medical care for sick and injured people.

"All the preparation and research is done," explains Amsalem. "I know where we are getting the medical supplies, where we are getting the ambulances, where we are getting the EMTs trained and who is training them, and where we are putting the dispatch system."

Right now, NAS is in full fundraising mode. The board of directors has identified several major banks that are able to provide tax- and interest-free bank accounts as well as to commit to sponsoring ambulances. The goal is to get all of the annual operational costs covered by Nepali sources so they do not need to rely on international funding forever.

Once everything is in place, the next step is to launch a public awareness campaign. In the United States, Amsalem explains, "it is ingrained since the moment we're born that when we have an emergency, we call 9-1-1. The Nepalese don't know that at all. For the system to be effective they will have to learn how to use the system, when to use the system, and how to act on the street when they see an ambulance."

The challenge remains, however, of getting funding to cover the \$475,000 in start-up costs of putting the system into action. With hopes of launching the ambulance service by summer 2010, Amsalem and his colleagues have registered NAS as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation in the U.S. to raise tax deductible donations. Amsalem maintains a positive outlook. "We are confident that private-sector support and financial assistance from the greater international donor community will help make NAS a reality in the near future."



If you would like to learn more about NAS,  
please visit [nepalambulance.org](http://nepalambulance.org).

# Building Immunity

## A Global Approach to Pediatric Research

by CAROLE BARTOO

When pediatric vaccine researcher Fernando Polack, M.D., joined Vanderbilt's Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and the Program in Vaccine Sciences, he was given a title reflective of his own global approach to pediatric research. As the Cesar Milstein Associate Professor of Pediatrics, he honors the name of the late Argentine scientist who won the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1984 for his work to produce monoclonal antibodies.

Like Cesar Milstein, Polack's research is helping to better protect children from illnesses, including his work on the impact of H1N1 influenza on children in Argentina during the outbreak last June.

"He is a world-class scientist and a wonderful pediatrician," said Terence Dermody, director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases. "His work contributes importantly to our global mission in infectious diseases."

Polack was recruited to Vanderbilt by James Crowe, M.D., director of the Program in Vaccine Sciences. Crowe was on the selection committee in 2006 when Polack won the Young Investigator Award from the Society for Pediatric Research. The award goes to the most promising new pediatric researcher of any field. At the time, Crowe (a past recipient) was impressed with Polack's career history.

"Dr. Polack wowed me," Crowe said. "He is one of the most promising immunologists in the world. He has already published four papers in *Nature Medicine*, which is not easy to do so early in one's career. He is a card-carrying basic scientist who can also organize clinical trials."

After he received his M.D. at the University of Buenos Aires, Polack completed residencies in both Argentina and the United States, then went on to a fellowship and faculty position at Johns Hopkins. His experience fueled his interest in finding successful



Fernando Polack, M.D. (right) works with a fellow researcher on pediatric infectious disease research.

vaccines for childhood illnesses like Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

"I became personally interested in pathogenesis and how the viruses do what they do," Polack said. "Working with the vaccine program opens the door to better informed RSV vaccines in the future."

Recent studies by Dr. Polack show that the ability of breast milk to protect infants against respiratory viruses is gender-biased in favor of girls. The research took place at hospitals in Buenos Aires, Argentina, through Polack's INFANT foundation research facility.

"We were really looking for evidence that breast milk might protect against human metapneumovirus, for which there is no vaccine. But when we saw how significant this difference between boys and girls was, we were a bit surprised," Polack said.

He said he knew of anecdotal evidence that suggested a gender difference in the protective effect of breast-feeding. There have been a few small studies reinforcing

the idea as well, but they have not garnered much attention.

Polack's study examined the effect in very low-birthweight babies. He found that once baby girls left the neonatal intensive care unit, those who had been getting breast milk since birth were rarely re-hospitalized for respiratory infections. The big surprise was that girls who were not breast fed were at the highest risk for re-hospitalization, outstripping the risk for boys. The difference between breast-fed boys and non-breast-fed boys was not statistically significant.

The most recent study, involving full-term babies, showed roughly the same thing. But beyond describing a thought-provoking difference between boys and girls, Polack says his work brings up the more important question: How does the protection of breast milk work?

"We used to think breast milk was an immune system boost, pre-made from the mother and ready to be used by the baby. But if that were the case, gender should not make

a difference. This suggests the protection is in the baby at birth,” Polack said.

Polack said he thinks there is some immune process within babies at birth with the potential to offer “non-specific” antiviral protection.

“At least for girls, breast milk may trigger this protection that is non-specific, protecting against all the viruses we looked at, and we looked at a dozen or more viruses.”

This points to the potential of discovering a natural human substance, or new immune mechanism that can provide antiviral protection without having to be exposed to a virus first (the mechanism employed in vaccine development).

“We have been testing vaccines for more than 40 years with the idea that we need a single vaccine for each organism. But today we have no single vaccine for infants under six months of age,” Polack said. “Vaccines are very important, but this is evidence that we may have an alternate method we never imagined.”

In another recent study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Polack examined the impact of H1N1 influenza on children in Argentina and found a ten-fold increased risk of serious illness or death for children with H1N1 infections. Due to Argentina’s location in the southern hemisphere, Polack was able to collect detailed surveillance data during the peak of the H1N1 outbreak in Buenos Aires last June. His cohort included six hospitals that combine to serve 1.2 million children.

“One thing that was striking was the tremendous impact on hospital logistics. Routine surgeries were cancelled; mass infection control practices were put in place; wards doubled—particularly in ICU—with everyone working over capacity. It was pretty rough,” Polack said.

Kathryn Edwards, M.D., Sarah H. Sell Chair in Pediatrics and director of the Vanderbilt Vaccine Research Program (VVRP), is one of the authors of the article. Edwards says it showcases opportunities that can come from observing opposing seasonal

illness peaks, from the northern to the southern hemispheres. The hope is that scientists can respond more quickly to a developing pandemic. “Flu is a global disease, and we need to work together to understand and deal with each flu virus,” Edwards said.

The first author of the article is Argentinean pediatrician Romina Libster, M.D., who worked in Nashville as a research specialist with the VVRP. Libster said Polack realized what was happening when reports began to come from Mexico that a new flu virus was causing serious illness.

“We had been noticing many more ill children in our clinic in March and April as well, but H1N1 had not yet been identified. Dr. Polack called us to his house and said ‘This is it.’ We needed to learn everything we could from this virus right away,” Libster recalled.

Working with Vanderbilt, Polack, Libster, and colleagues from all over Buenos Aires began collecting epidemiological and clinical data about confirmed cases. By the end of June, cases peaked and the Argentinean government had taken widespread precautions, shutting down schools and closing public gathering places.



Polack received the “Distinguished Citizen in the Field of Sciences,” an honorary title from the city legislature of Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Researchers with the INFANT foundation.

The article presents evidence which clarifies a number of the characteristics of the impact of the H1N1 virus on children. Co-infection with other organisms, such as Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), or bacterial pneumonia, was uncommon. The H1N1 virus alone was responsible for severe illness, not a secondary, or concomitant infection.

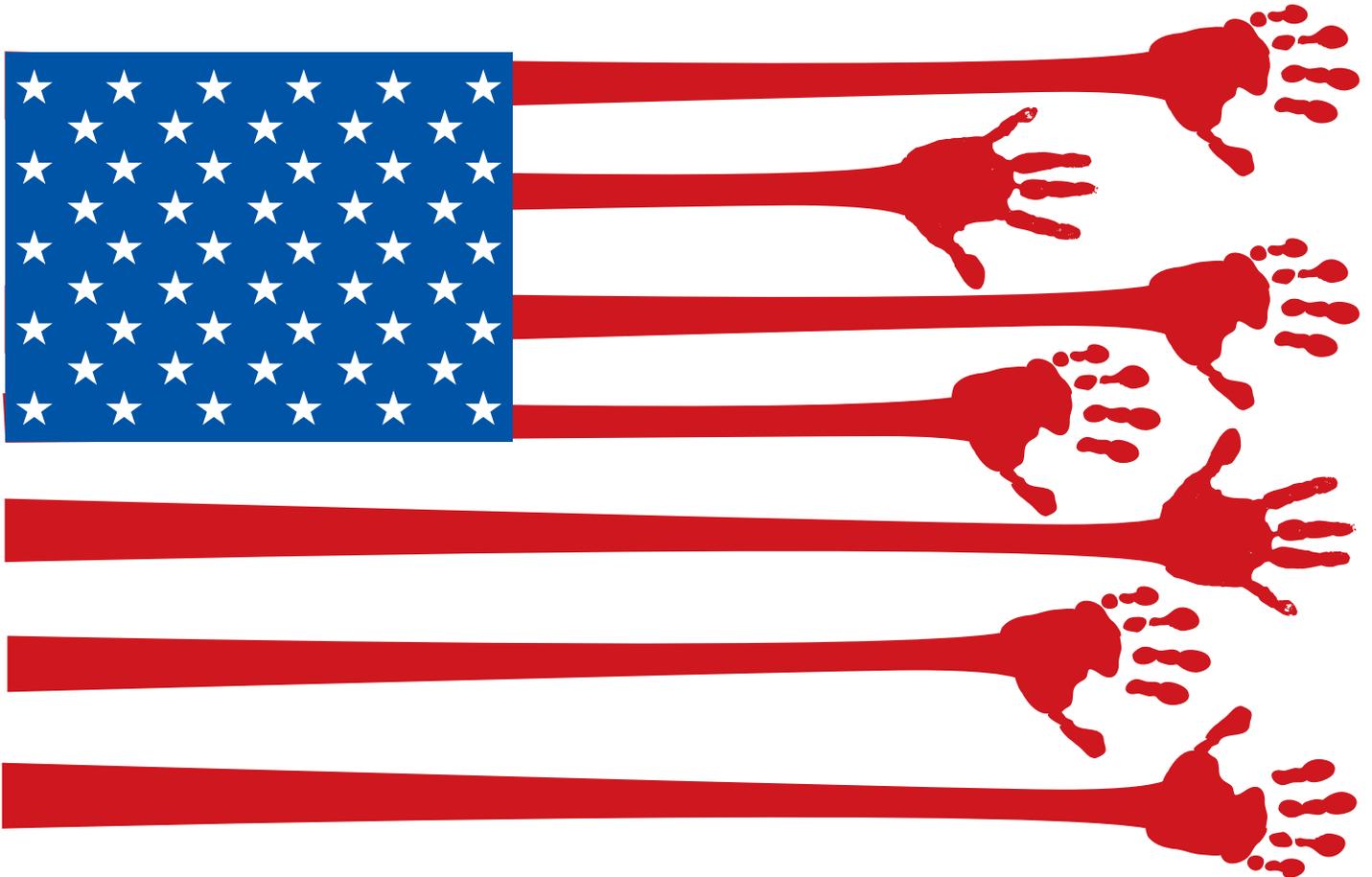
Researchers found clear evidence of increased risk to children with chronic lung diseases such as asthma or bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) and neurologic diseases. These findings have been subsequently confirmed in the United States.

“There is a continuing need to protect children with underlying conditions. They need immunization, but also if they have high fever, they need rapid (antiviral) therapy,” Polack said.

Dr. Polack has received awards from both Argentina and the U.S. for his work, including being named “Personalidad Distinguida de las Ciencias de Buenos Aires,” an honorary title that means “Distinguished Citizen in the Field of Sciences,” for his research efforts to protect babies from potentially dangerous viral infections. The city legislature in Buenos Aires selected Polack for the recognition, and the official ceremony was hosted by Mayor Mauricio Macri at the city hall. In addition, the Society for Pediatric Research recently awarded Dr. Polack the 2010 E. Mead Johnson Award. Each year the national award, given since 1939, honors two individuals for their clinical and laboratory research achievements in pediatrics. The award will be presented to Polack during the Pediatric Academic Societies’ Annual Meeting in May in Vancouver.

To learn more about the INFANT foundation, visit [www.infant.org.ar](http://www.infant.org.ar)

# The New American EXPERIENCE



**T**he fight to overhaul the nation's immigration laws will take center stage again this year as congress debates legislation that would create a legal path to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants. It is particularly timely then, that a group at Vanderbilt's Robert Penn Warren Center has chosen this year to focus on the issue of immigration and its impact on the American experience.

Eight members of the Vanderbilt faculty and one visiting faculty member were invited to participate in a program to better understand the culture and politics of immigration. Through seminars, research, and discussion groups, the group has been exploring immigration and its influence on identities, cultures, nationhood, and urban politics. This comparative and historical approach to understanding immigration is the focus of this year's Warren Center Faculty Fellows Program, the annual theme-based program of the Robert Penn Warren Center.

The Warren Center, which promotes interdisciplinary research and study in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, provides a unique opportunity for faculty across disciplines to work cooperatively on an issue of common interest. The fellows meet weekly and maintain offices at the center for the duration of the academic year. Participants are allotted research funds as well as program funds for speakers and conferences.

"Immigration and the American Experience," is based primarily on the U.S. experience, from the Early American period to the present, and draws on historical, literary, artistic, and social scientific works as well as the histories and cultures of other countries. Co-directors Daniel B. Cornfield, professor of sociology and political science, and Gary Gerstle, the James G. Stahlman Professor of American History, discussed the program earlier this year.

For the original interview, see the Letters publication of the Warren Center at [www.vanderbilt.edu/rpw\\_center](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/rpw_center).

**Q: How did the project come about? What were your goals?**

**CORNFIELD:** It came about because we are friends and colleagues and we share a common interest in the topic, and although Gary is a historian and I am a sociologist, we have a tremendous amount of overlap in our substantive interests. Also, this seminar coincides with the recent growth of a critical mass of Vanderbilt faculty in several disciplines who have an interest in immigration, and we are very fortunate to have many of them in our seminar. But if I may just back up a century or so to talk about the timing of the issue of immigration—immigration as an issue tends to come in waves because immigration, at least to the United States, has come in waves, and we are presently in a big wave. The last big wave, when much scholarship, literature, poetry, and political conflict emerged, occurred in the period of 1880–1924. Many of the debates that we are witnessing now in the United States, and elsewhere, regarding immigration, and immigration as a so-called national “wedge” issue, were partly defined in that previous era. To me as a sociologist, immigration as a historical, cyclical process poses enduring questions about community identity, about individual identity, about the nature of group relations in society, and about the mission and definition of the entire nation and its place in the world.

**GERSTLE:** One of my favorite passages from a work on immigration history is from Oscar Handlin’s classic, *The Uprooted* (1951). At the beginning of the book he states, “once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the immigrants were American history.” That last line has long stuck with me. This country has always been a country of immigrants. To study immigration is not just to study those who came to the United States from elsewhere and made homes here. It is to study the very processes through which the United States constituted itself and reconstituted itself as a nation. As Dan suggested, we are in the midst of a major wave of immigration and, I would add, a major reconstitution of how we think about ourselves as a nation. Immigration density in America is approaching the all-time peak achieved early in the twentieth century (about fifteen percent of the total population). It seems, then, so important to understand this moment both on its own terms and in relation to earlier waves and reconstitutions. It seems important to assess how immigrants are experiencing this moment and how that experience is similar to, or different from, the experience of immigrants in earlier generations.

**CORNFIELD:** The sociological and historical understanding of migration has been linked in part to labor issues. Many labor

sociologists and labor historians would have had some connection to immigration because those two issues, theoretically and in practice, were tightly linked. In the process of developing an institutional approach to understanding social mobility and the pursuit of the American dream, sociologists began to query, especially in the 1980s and 1990s, a little bit more about how institutions matter, and where they come from. So that is when sociology as a discipline became much more comparative-historical in its approach, opening up, to me, the possibility of having even more dialogue with historians on the history of immigration, labor and the American dream, the impact on identity, the capacity to build new communities, and, not least of all, the capacity to build a dynamic labor movement. In the late nineteenth century, immigrant labor intellectuals defined some of the parameters of our contemporary policy debates about inclusion and exclusion of immigrants in society and in the labor movement. That whole debate had remained dormant for a while because immigration all but stopped for about the next forty to fifty years, except for the immigration of Mexican agricultural workers. Then with immigration reforms beginning around 1965, and then later in the 1980s and 1990s, many more immigrants started coming to the United States, this time from many different parts of the world, especially the global south, and, not least of all, Mexico.

**Q: Are there any foundational immigration laws established in the early American period that have changed drastically recently? Are there other laws that were amended or changed between immigration’s first wave and the current wave?**

**GERSTLE:** There have been two foundational changes in American immigration law. The first was the elimination of racial restrictions on naturalization and immigration that occurred in the 1950s and 1960s and the consequent reaffirmation of America as a universal nation, welcoming people of every race and nationality. The second has been the abandonment of an almost completely “open borders” approach to immigration and the embrace instead of an immigration regime grounded in restriction. For much of the nineteenth century the United States pursued an open borders approach: the government placed no limits on the number of immigrants who could enter the United States in any given year, and barred almost no groups from immigrating. Quotas did not exist; the illegal alien problem did not exist. In fact, the very category of the “illegal alien” had yet to be invented. That began to change with Chinese Exclusion in 1882, a movement culminating in the Immigration Restriction Act of 1924,

**“Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the immigrants were American history.”**

—*The Uprooted* (1951), by Oscar Handlin



Daniel B. Cornfield, Professor of Sociology and Gary L. Gerstle, James Stahlman Professor of History.

which limited the number of immigrants outside the western hemisphere who could come to the United States to 150,000 per year, an 85% percent reduction in the numbers who had been arriving annually until that time. Those slots were distributed among the various nations of the world, with most slots being reserved for the “racially superior” peoples of northwest and northern Europe.

By the 1960s, this “racial quota” system had come to be despised and was scuttled in favor of a system that gave each nation the same number of slots, with preference going to those who had skills that the United States needed or family members in the United States with whom they wished to be reunited. However, the 1960s reformers gave no thought to returning to the open borders approach of the nineteenth century. They remained committed to the principle of restricting entry; and while they doubled the number of immigrants who could legally enter each year, they put enormous pressure on the available slots by bringing western hemispheric nations under the umbrella of restriction for the first time. Latin American peoples now found their entry into the United States restricted; in some countries, such as Mexico, those desiring to come to the United States from the start vastly exceeded the quota allotted to them. They came anyway, giving rise to the problem of the illegal alien.

Today the presence of an estimated ten to twelve million illegal aliens on U.S. soil reveals how much our immigration system has failed; solving the illegal alien problem presents the greatest challenge to U.S. policymakers. The problem emerged as a result of the United States embracing, almost a hundred years ago, an immigration policy grounded in the principle of restriction, meaning that the U.S. would admit only a small portion of those desiring to come to America. In restricting immigration in this way the United States departed in a fundamental way from the open borders policy it pursued for much of the nineteenth century.

### **Q:** What other laws have a direct impact on immigrant populations? What impact would the new legislation, if passed, have on immigrant populations?

**GERSTLE:** One law that profoundly affects the immigrant families in the United States has not changed since its inception. This is the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, passed by Congress in 1866 and ratified by the states in 1868. Section one of that Amendment states that “all persons born—in the United States—are citizens of the United States.” Soon after this amendment passed, this question arose: if an immigrant mother who was barred from becoming a citizen by reason of race or illegal entry to the United States gave birth to a child on U.S. soil, was this child nevertheless a citizen of the United States by the terms of the Fourteenth Amendment? In the 1890s the Supreme Court answered this question with a resounding yes. Since that time groups of immigration critics have often protested this Supreme Court decision and the language of the fourteenth Amendment on which it is based. But I think we are actually much better off having had that law on the books, because over time it has been a spur toward integration and belonging, toward making Americans out of groups whose initial arrival was greeted with suspicion and disdain.

The new immigration legislation proposed by Congressman Luis Guterrez in December 2009 is meant to accomplish three main aims: first, to secure U.S. borders so as to alleviate the problem of future flows of illegal aliens into the United States; second, to make sure that future immigration serves the needs of the U.S. economy and, specifically, does not take jobs away from American workers; and third, to create a road to legality and citizenship for the ten-to-twelve million illegal immigrants already in the United States. Each of these is a worthy goal but in the current economic and political climate only the first two have a reasonable chance of enactment. As recently as 2007, a bipartisan consensus prevailed in the Senate on the importance of creating a road to citizenship for the undocumented millions. This consensus no longer exists, a victim first of the enmity between the Republicans and Democrats and second of the economic crash of 2008. With so many native-born Americans unemployed, the generous spirit that has often characterized American attitudes toward newcomers has evaporated. President Obama owes a campaign debt to Latinos, who voted for him in 2008 by a margin of two-to-one and who have insisted that their support for the Democrats in 2012 is contingent on them finding a way to guide a legalization program through Congress. But Obama and his Congressional party cannot act on that pledge until he delivers on health care, job creation, and better bank regulation—none of which has been accomplished. Our fear is that the immigration issue will fade from political view, even as the problems generated by the presence of millions of individuals on American soil without access to the rights and opportunities that citizenship confers continue to deepen. At some point, an appreciation for the dynamic role that immigrants can play in American society and culture will make a comeback. It always has in America, a land of immigration and hope.

# SOS INTERNATIONAL

by SHELLEY MCFARLAN

The last thing that anyone wants to worry about while traveling overseas is safety. With the expanding global mission of the university comes an increase in the number of travelers going overseas on Vanderbilt-sponsored programs, research, and business trips. Student, faculty, and staff travel has extended outside the typical study abroad locations, and even traditional destinations such as London and Madrid have faced heightened levels of security risk.

How would you deal with an emergency in a country whose language you do not speak, where the nearest hospital is hours away? What if you were in a foreign country where the political situation was unstable or quickly deteriorating?

To answer questions like these, Vanderbilt has launched a new travel registration system which will allow the university to provide support in the event of a medical emergency, security risk, or natural disaster. VU has contracted with International SOS, a company that provides medical, health care, and security assistance to persons traveling on behalf of the university on sponsored and approved programs. International SOS is the world's largest medical and security assistance company, with more than 6,000 professionals in 24-hour Alarm Centers, international clinics and remote-site medical facilities across five continents.

"We have always had protocols in place to ensure the safety of our faculty, staff, and students overseas, but International SOS provides a way for the university to consolidate resources to more effectively manage situations in the event of a crisis or emergency," explains Dawn Turton, executive director of the Vanderbilt International Office.

Many of the program features educate travelers prior to their departure on necessary vaccines, visa regulations, security considerations, food and water precautions,

standards of health care, business and cultural considerations, holidays, weather, and currency information. Through a unique Web portal accessible to Vanderbilt faculty, staff, and students, users can create an online emergency record that is accessible to them overseas as well as medical professionals in case of emergency.

Services are accessible immediately, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, in the case of

an emergency. International SOS has identified health care providers across the entire globe and has emergency response centers whose services range from telephone advice and referrals to full-scale medical evacuations by private air ambulance.

University travelers register their travel through the Personal Travel Locator Web portal which emails travelers security briefings and country specific information.



The Vanderbilt International SOS portal page can be accessed at the Vanderbilt International Office website at [www.vanderbilt.edu/vio](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/vio)

Each year as commencement approaches and seniors' careers come to a close, students' focus often shifts to the next chapter of their lives: what will happen after graduation?

Graduate school for some, full time employment for others, and for a couple of outstanding students the opportunity to spend a year abroad. These deserving students travel the world on a self-designed experiential learning program funded by the Michael B. Keegan Traveling Fellowship. The fellowship provides a graduating senior the opportunity to pursue an idea or issue about which they are impassioned, and to do so in the context of daily life in a global scenario.

The Michael B. Keegan Traveling Fellowship program was established in 2004. The idea of creating a fellowship based

upon a self-designed program of travel and learning was conceived in 1960 by Amory Houghton, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Corning Glass Works. He worked in collaboration with J. Leslie Rollings, dean of admissions at the Harvard Business School, and John H. Finley, Eliot Professor of Greek Literature at Harvard College.

They believed that most of the existing fellowships favored students interested primarily in post-graduate academic pursuits. No fellowship, in their view, fully challenged a candidate's ability to propose and undertake a post-graduate learning experience largely of the student's making. Such a learning experience would be a valuable complement

to the relatively formalized character of the undergraduate program.

The Corning Fellowship program expanded in several stages to include students from Yale, Vanderbilt, Kentucky, and North Carolina, in addition to Harvard.

Competition was keen among the applicants from all five of these universities. The Corning fellows spent a year traveling around the world and no programs were alike. As a group, the fellows compiled a remarkable record of accomplishment in politics, law, business, and other fields.

Corning Glass saw its role as innovator and creator, yet not as the source of on-going support. Though funding ceased, the former fellows established the Corning Fellows Association, Inc., and elected Vanderbilt alumnus Michael Ainslie as president.

The goal of the association was to challenge the universities that had previously participated in the Corning program to establish programs of their own. They took this action because they felt that the traveling fellowship had been one of the most important experiences in their lives.

The World Trade Council of Middle Tennessee and alumni contributions funded the fellowship on an intermittent basis from 1998 through 2004. In 2003, Michael B. Keegan, the 1980 Traveling Fellow, offered to fund the 2004 award

**"I have always been one to enjoy time alone more than time with a crowd, to seek privacy over popularity, solitude over society"**

# Keegan Fellows: Ci



and to secure an endowment that would guarantee this program on an annual basis. In recognition of this commitment to the program and to Vanderbilt University, the program was renamed in Michael Keegan's honor.

Currently, there are two Traveling Fellows abroad; Kathryn Moreadith from Raleigh, North Carolina, and Rob Whiting from Fernandino Beach, Florida.

Keegan Fellow Rob Whiting and a local villager, who is preparing Cassava root. Whiting interviewed several villagers, including the chief, for research on the impact of TechnoServ's work in Mozambique's poultry industry.



In the villages of Mutuali, located in northern Mozambique, Whiting performed research for the American non-governmental organization TechnoServe on soybean farming with the help of translator Mussa Saide, pictured here.

# tizens of the World

Moreadith graduated in May 2009 with majors in East Asian studies and composition/theory. Whiting also graduated in May 2009 with majors in economics and East Asian studies. He was an Ingram Scholar, as well as founder and director of Vanderbilt Students for Students, a 501(c)(3) organization that works to provide scholarships to students from low-income families.

The fellows left last summer, embarking on two equally ambitious, yet different journeys of discovery. Moreadith set out on an itinerary involving visits to fourteen countries (Ireland, Belgium, France, Cyprus, India, China, Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Antarctica,

and England) to uncover and analyze musical identities within distinct communities. Whiting is seeking to better understand poverty, how it differs across nations, and what approaches, especially sustainable market-based solutions, are being applied to combat the poverty problem in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Tibet, Laos, Cambodia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Argentina, and Mexico.

The one requirement of the fellowship is to maintain a website including a blog detailing the fellows' experiences, adventures, and progress throughout their time abroad. This experience, while intended to be educational and inspiring, is also one of

self-reflection and thoughtfulness.

Being on their own also allows the fellows to become more engaged with the local communities they are visiting. Students gain a better understanding of the political, environmental, and social landscapes working in tandem to alleviate, and in some cases escalate, the issues they set out to examine.

For Whiting, one particularly meaningful encounter was with a man in Mozambique called "Gerson" who offered a unique perspective on poverty in Africa. Gerson works with a nonprofit organization that is trying to increase soybean production amongst rural farmers by



In the tight alleyways of Dharavi, Mumbai, where Whiting did research on housing rehabilitation.

advocating for and partnering with local farming associations.

Whiting explains, “Gerson says he hears the same excuses—things like ‘It’s Africa, man. You can’t change it.’ He argues that it’s not a problem of the war or even an endemic African problem. Rather, he sees it as a problem with attitude. Gerson said to me, ‘The war was over 16 years ago and still they use it as an excuse. I mean, come on, do something. Stop complaining and just do something.’”

In their interactions, Whiting found himself relating to Gerson’s practical approach to problems and also found that they had a lot in common in terms of their career paths. “Gerson has a lot of experience in development on the ground and in management,” Whiting explains.

“Gerson has unique insights into what is actually happening in both arenas. I also see a lot of me in him. I like how he works at the intersection of management and fieldwork, a direction I’m headed if possible. And even at the bewilderment of family and friends, who wonder ‘What are

you doing in the bush?’ He is committed to bettering his country.”

As the designer and planner of their solo experience, the Keegan Fellows are asked to explore the value of the fellowship and of life itself.

Moreadith reflects on her experience in her blog. “I have always been one to enjoy time alone more than time with a crowd, to seek privacy over popularity, solitude over society,” she says. “And while there is tremendous value in being busy and productive as directed by external structures and authorities, a significant value in this year of travel and research is that I am learning how to dictate my own business and productivity.”

“And, I am doing it with time to reflect on each experience nestled in the niches of every single day. I’m not only on a journey; I’m the pilot of this journey. So far, I’ve experienced music in silence, a revolution in a single thought, a lifetime in a week, and it’s beginning to dawn on me that these experiences, life’s realest adventures, are truly neverending.”

For both Whiting and Moreadith, one of the main values of the fellowship is the time it affords them to explore a wide range of situations and activities.



“One thing this fellowship does really well is to allow the recipient to say yes to pretty much everything (within reason),” Whiting explains. “During college I barely had time to think, but now...sharing chai with strangers while drenched in sweat after a run, games of ‘Lock and Key’ with children, and hearing out the sales pitch of a street merchant trying to sell fake Coach purses are all fair game.”

Moreadith was able to spend some time in London to soak in all the diversity around her. “I’m so glad I have time on my

(above) View of the River Thames and Hampton Palace. Keegan fellow Kathryn Moreadith will spend a significant amount of her fellowship in London, conducting an analytical review of music brought from her travels in China and Egypt. (below) Liu Jin, who works for Mei Xiang Yak Cheese, is collecting milk from Tibetan herders in Langdu village. Liu Jin’s father is one of the herders, and here he signs his name with a thumbprint.





## KEEGAN FELLOW: KATHRYN MOREADITH

side and will be here for a while to absorb all that I possibly can. There are concerts of traditional Indonesian music, Indian music, Western classical music, popular music, and that's just in the musical spheres of London! The artistic, cultural, and social diversity of this city is stunning."

As Whiting and Moreadith continue on their journeys of personal and educational self-discovery, there are many more people to meet and countries to visit but their lives will remain ever changed. Michael B. Keegan's gracious support has made this fellowship possible and thanks to it, two people have become citizens of the world and touched many lives along the way.

To read more about the two traveling fellows, please visit their blogs at: [povertyandbusiness.blogspot.com](http://povertyandbusiness.blogspot.com) (Rob Whiting) and [www.vanderbilt.edu/travelfellowship/blogs/moreadith](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/travelfellowship/blogs/moreadith) (Kathryn Moreadith).

Ingram Scholar and president of Vanderbilt Student Government, Wyatt Smith, is this year's recipient of the Keegan Traveling Fellowship. Smith plans to explore the pursuits of religious freedom, economic opportunity, educational access, and political participation in free societies across the world.

One of the greatest accomplishments for Keegan fellow Kathryn Moreadith was the premiere of "Panorama," a piece written by her for solo violin under the mentorship of world-renowned violinist Peter Sheppard Skaerved. A research fellow at the Royal Academy of Music, Skaerved also has long-standing ties with the Blair School of Music and co-founded the now bi-annual "Collaborative Composition in London" program with Professor Michael Rose.

The piece was written for a performance at the famous Wilton's Music Hall in London, and was preceded by a brief pre-concert talk by Skaerved, which according to Moreadith is the distinctive feature of concerts in the series at Wilton's.

"For newcomers," said Moreadith, "this is an invitation to become part of a world that is unconcerned with hierarchically organized frameworks, a world which extends beyond musical principles and reaches into the panoramic spectrum of art and its interwoven relationship with science, society, politics, history, and ideas."

According to Moreadith, the talks do not relate to theory or conceptual analy-

sis of the music within the program, but address larger themes present in society, politics, aesthetics, philosophy, art, and history during the time when the music was written. The audience is therefore prepared for each concert without being told what to think about the music, and the artist-audience connection is reinvigorated.

"The performance was unforgettable, and this accomplishment energized me and propelled me forward in my quest for meaningful collaborations with artists internationally," she said.



Keegan fellow, Kathryn Moreadith, in Ireland, the first stop on her international journey.

# Engineering without Borders *from Vanderbilt to Peru*

by Tracy Rosenberg

In the middle of the jungles of Peru, unreachable by roads or trains, lies the city of Iquitos. That's where a group of four Vanderbilt University engineering students headed in early January 2010 as part of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). Included in the group was the president of Vanderbilt's chapter of EWB, John Barrere ('10, mechanical engineering), vice president Jessica Canfora ('11, civil engineering), Bailie Borchers ('13, mechanical engineering), and Leslie Labruto ('11, civil engineering).

This trip was a follow-up on an assessment done in 2008 by EWB chapters from Vanderbilt and the University of Alabama, Birmingham. During that time, students surveyed four villages outside of Iquitos and found that Llanchama, a village outside of Iquitos that does not have any running water or electricity, was most in need of their help.

The goal of this second assessment trip was to reassess Llanchama and other villages in the area and to install a new water pump. When the group arrived, they met with village leaders and discussed issues surrounding water management, specifically the importance of clean water. While the group focused most of their attention on Llanchama, they performed additional water tests at other villages in the area.

The original plan was to evaluate multiple problems in Llanchama, and to install the pump as a side project. But the pump situation was not as simple as they had hoped. The group had to change their plans for the trip in a matter of days, changing it to a full implementation trip. They installed a generator that allowed the pump to bring water up from the well and into the tank where the villagers would get water.

Local residents had a vested interest in the project, helping the Vanderbilt EWB students create a new hut for the generator and dig trenches for the wires connecting the generator and the pump. Maintaining such interest in the project is something that is essential for future implementations, said the students.

Likewise, the EWB group hopes to maintain a relationship with the people of Llanchama.

"Our goal is to continue to go to this area to create new projects and stay connected with the contacts we made while we were down there," said Canfora. "We will be checking on the upkeep of the generator and pump, as well as the manual and electric pumps in other villages."

The group did more than work while they were there. The trip also included riding a boat, made of a carved-out log with a thatched roof, along part of the Amazon, during which they saw pink dolphins and stopped at a remote island, where they were invited into the homes of local villagers.

The students hope to go back to Llanchama frequently, even as early as this summer.



1) Houses on the bank of the Amazon in the outskirts of Iquitos, Peru. 2) Vanderbilt students (from left to right) Bailie Borchers, Leslie Labruto, Jessica Canfora, John Barrere. 3) Working on the well in the village of Llanchama. 4) Inspecting and testing the quality of the water from the hand-pump wells in the village of Nina Rumi. 5) Children from the village of Puerto Almendra. 6) Lake next to the village of Nina Rumi.

# A Queen's Perspective

## Robert Penn Warren Center Welcomes Graduate Student Fellow from Ireland

This year marks the first time that a student from one of Vanderbilt's overseas partner institutions has participated in the fellows program at the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities. The Warren Center's Graduate Student Fellows Program is designed to support innovation and excellence in graduate student research.

The fellowship offers a service-free year of support to Vanderbilt graduate students completing their dissertation in the humanities and the social sciences. This year, the Warren Center extended its fellowship award to Gail McConnell, from Queen's University Belfast, in Northern Ireland, as part of a three-year agreement between Queen's and the Warren Center. McDonnell studies British and Irish poetry, theology, and critical theory in Queen's Department of English.

"When the opportunity arose to apply to spend my final year at the Warren Center, it seemed too good to be true," she said. "Being part of the graduate student fellowship program provides a unique opportunity to have my work read by scholars from outside Irish studies and, indeed, from outside English literature."

As part of her affiliation with the Warren Center, McConnell takes part in the interdisciplinary scholarly community, including participation in a weekly seminar, meetings with visiting speakers, and special events. As the capstone of their fellowship experience, each fellow presents a public lecture through the Warren Center in

the spring semester. McConnell presented her lecture on April 7, 2010, examining theological aesthetics in Northern Irish poetry.

According to McConnell, the U.S. postgraduate experience offers a new perspective on her career thus far. "[Queen's] is entirely research based. I haven't taken a single class in four years," she said. "As a consequence, I've been much more isolated than I imagine I would have been at an academic institution in the U.S."

For both Vanderbilt and Queen's, the fellowship experience rep-

Seen through a wide-angle lens, my semesters of interdisciplinary activity at the Warren Center are part of broader processes of cultural exchange between these two cities.



resents a model for international collaboration. In addition to the universities' on-going academic relationship, Belfast and Nashville have been sister cities since 1995, taking turns hosting the annual Belfast/Nashville Songwriters Festival.

"Seen through a wide-angle lens, my semesters of interdisciplinary activity at the Warren Center are part of broader processes of cultural exchange between these two cities," said McConnell.

Warren Center Director Mona Frederick agrees that her participation with the fellows provides more than just a singular experience.

"The involvement of a young scholar from a university outside the U.S. in the intensive fellowship program allows our Vanderbilt graduate students to develop international connections at a very early stage in their academic careers," Frederick explained. "These will be fruitful connections for them throughout their long academic careers."

Frederick looks forward to the next two years of the project and hopes to expand the partnership.

"We are currently exploring several options for sending Vanderbilt graduate students to Queen's in order to further develop the international ties that we are forging with the Queen's and Belfast communities."



2009-2010 Robert Penn Warren Graduate Fellows.

# Wired Up

by BRIAN PECK

In the ever-expanding era of digital media, Kevin Leander, associate professor of language and literacy, is examining concurrent changes in new media and migration, along with research partners from Utrecht University.

The program, *Wired Up*, studies Moroccan migrants in the Netherlands and Mexican migrants in the U.S. Leander and his collaborators, Sandra Ponzanesi and Mariëtte de Haan, hope to shed light on how new digital media practices (social networking, instant messaging, chat, Web logs, and multimedia) impact the lives, identities, learning, and socialization of migrant youth.

Vanderbilt has a long tradition of partnerships both domestic and international, but this is Leander's first project on this scale. Leander and De Haan first worked together in 1998 when they were both members of the International Society for Cultural and Activity Research (ISCAR) and shared a common interest in socio-cultural theory. This led to several writing collaborations and ultimately prompted De Haan, who was starting work on the project, to approach Leander to fill a grant-consulting role because of his literacy and ethnographic expertise. Later he was approached to be a joint researcher on the project.

"I am thrilled to be a part of an interdisciplinary project that spans the globe," Leander says. "I never entertained the idea of taking part in a project overseas, but it sounded fascinating and something I wanted to be a part of."

*Wired Up* is funded through Utrecht University's High Potential Programme, which affords promising young researchers the opportunity to undertake a five-year, innovative research project. The project builds on the faculty's expertise, creating new linkages between studies in post-colonial

theory, intermediality, and gender studies (Ponzanesi); the cultural and transformative nature of socialization (De Haan); and digital literacy practices (Leander). There are two Ph.D. candidates also working on the project, Asli Ünlüsoy and Koen Leurs, both from Utrecht.

"We are interested in the notion that new virtual geographies can change our experience of space and time, even during the process of migration," explains Leander. "In a model that excludes new media, migrants receive information through letters, television, or radio. However, with the introduction of digital and participatory media, there are different relationships between space and time, including speed and how migrants participate in new media practices."

The research group hopes to better understand how youth communicate with each other over local and national boundaries and how media shapes their experience

of being a migrant. The team also wants to know how youth maintain connections to their home countries after migration and how they develop relationships with their host countries.

*Wired Up* consists of three main projects. The research methodology—based on large-scale online surveys, the monitoring of Internet use and electronic diaries, video-recorded interaction analysis, and ethnographic research—will enable the researchers to gain insight into the dynamics between these global digital spaces and traditional contexts of socialization.

The first project, supervised by Ponzanesi, focuses on the impact of new digital applications (the Internet, social networks such as Facebook and Twitter) on the identity construction of young Dutch migrants.

Leurs, the primary doctoral student for Ponzanesi on the project explains, "We intend to show how digital media creates

*Wired Up* collaborators, Mariëtte de Haan and Sandra Ponzanesi of Utrecht University and Vanderbilt's Kevin Leander, shown remotely through a web camera.





an alternative interactive space between the culture of origin and that of immigration, and how issues of identity, gender, and ethnicity are negotiated and articulated between online and offline worlds.”

Additionally, the project explores how migrants take an active part in, and are targeted by, the cultural industry.

“It is interesting to look at how Moroccan youth will take traditional Moroccan symbols, combine them with symbols and pop culture, remixing media for their own forms of identification,” Leander explains. “I have been struck by the particularity of those hybrids. Kids have one foot in traditional culture and another in corporatized or media culture.”

The second project highlights the effects of “mediatization” on the learning and socialization of migrant and Dutch youth.

Ünlüsoy, the primary doctoral student working with De Haan on this project, explains, “We are studying if and how learning and socialization are enacted differently in what is called ‘new ecologies of learning,’ compared to how this is done in traditional settings.”

Leander is leading the third project, which analyzes the everyday digital literacy practices of Moroccan migrant youth to better understand how these practices are used to produce identities and learning networks.

While the project is still in its early stages, the group is already intrigued by some pilot findings.

“The Moroccan youth seem to have very large numbers of online contacts and associations and contacts internationally,

They had relatively weak contacts and associations when you look at the levels of regional and national contacts,” says Leander. “I am really curious about how that will play out in the later data.”

Collaborating internationally presents its own set of challenges for these researchers.

“How [can we] translate a survey given to Dutch or Moroccan youth, to Mexican youth in Nashville?” asks Leander. “There seems to be a certain cosmopolitan culture among youth, but there are also very specific cultural issues that are not just language-centered, but manifest through really understanding the culture.”

Not to mention the simple logistical challenges that a cross-Atlantic relationship manifests, most notably communication gaps. “The seven-hour time difference has caused everyone involved in the project to adjust schedules,” he says. Mentoring of doctoral students is primarily conducted online or over the phone. Despite the challenges, everyone involved feels the project is well worth the effort.

In addition to their research findings, members of the Wired Up team are motivated by other forces.

“In the current context of Islamophobia and increasing stigmatization of migration in Europe, there is a lot of talking about migrant youth, but little talking with these kids. My ambition was to do the latter to learn more about their world,” said Leurs. “Communities in social networking sites offer youth a platform for self-expression, cross-cultural exchange, and active encounters. Online social networking sites may,

in this sense, be an example of how youth culture can work against ethnic absolutism, nationalism, and racism in our contemporary society,” he added.

Not to mention the humble attempt at changing the dusty image of university scholars and their academic work.

“By carrying out studies on the topic of digital media and youth culture at schools, the kids learned that scholars could also be interested in their everyday life concerns and experiences,” Leurs added.

With new digital media platforms seemingly introduced weekly, the relevancy of Wired Up continues to grow as more research dollars are being poured into the subject.

Leander is proud of being early in the movement to research migrancy and digital media because of the increasing interest on the subject. However, he cautioned, “There is a certain sense of urgency to continue the work in an efficient manner since other researchers are releasing results.”

Leurs, also an avid music fan, is looking forward to the possibility of visiting Vanderbilt for future research on a three-month comparative case study on digital media use of Mexican migrant youth in Nashville.

“Hopefully a team outing to the Bonnaroo Music Festival can be part of my Nashville experience,” he joked.

For more information about the Wired Up project, visit [www.uu.nl/wiredup](http://www.uu.nl/wiredup).

# Vanderbilt Athletics

by PATRICK NITCH

**W**hen Andrew Giobbi ('10) joined the Commodores baseball team, he never expected that some of his greatest lessons would be learned on a baseball field halfway around the world in Tokyo, Japan. But recently, Giobbi and the entire Vanderbilt baseball team had the unique opportunity to compete on an international level against some of the most formidable Japanese baseball organizations.

“Coach Corbin surprised us with this trip during our first baseball meeting,” said Giobbi. “There were millions of questions floating in our heads, but I think most of them were gradually answered over the next 12 weeks.”

The NCAA allows each team to travel abroad once every four years. This year, the idea of traveling overseas was brought about by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs David Williams. The plan came to fruition when alumnus Bill Kaye stepped forward with a generous financial gift to the baseball program. “Being that he is a businessman in China, he thought the idea of traveling to



The Vanderbilt Women's Lacrosse Team and the Austrian National Team

Asia would be a tremendous opportunity for our players,” said Head Coach Tim Corbin.

Corbin spoke of the benefits to the team. “Any time that you take a team away from campus for a certain amount of time, it creates an opportunity to bond and learn more about each other, especially when you do it out of the country; you feel more together and dependent upon one another. From a baseball standpoint, it was an advantage to play outside competition before the season starts.”

For many players, including Giobbi, the trip to Japan and Hong Kong was the first opportunity to travel abroad and experience an entirely different culture. For Giobbi, the lessons learned went beyond



Vanderbilt Basketball Senior Jermaine Beal.

the baseball field. “I think the main point our team learned overseas was the amount of respect the Japanese apply to their everyday lives. I think we brought back some of the moral values that were observed and can also apply them to the baseball field, as well as to the classroom.”

The Commodores learned quickly that the disparity in culture was minor compared to the difference in the way the Japanese play the game. Without a scouting report, video, or past head-to-head play, the Commodores went into their first game, against Hosei University, with open minds and a desire to learn.

“Their players did not have the arm strength of the 'Dores' Jason Esposito, the raw power of Curt Casali, the breaking ball of Chase Reid, or the sinking fastball of Jack Armstrong or Taylor Hill, but they know themselves,” reported Giobbi. “Their players



(left) The Men's Golf team at Prestwick Golf Club in South Ayrshire, Scotland (below) Ruins of St. Andrews Cathedral, Scotland.



# Goes The Distance



could work on individual skills, but opt to be fundamentally sound instead. They know what they need to do to win Japanese national championships. They understand the meaning of 'selflessness' and 'team.'"

The team finished the trip with a 1-1-2 record. After ending their first game in Japan with a tie against Hosei University (4-4), the team came out on top against Aoyama Gakuin University (1-0), but lost to Meiji University (3-2). The team rallied in the ninth inning in the final game against Waseda University to tie (3-3).

The baseball team was not the only Vanderbilt sports team that had the opportunity to polish their talent in another country for the 2009/2010 season. The women's lacrosse team traveled to the United Kingdom in 2003 and had been fundraising since their return in order to finance their recent trip

to Europe. The team spent 10 days traveling by bus through Austria, Germany, and the Czech Republic. The team went 2-0 by defeating the Czech Republic team and the Austrian National team.

For Head Coach Cathy Swezey, the greatest benefits were "exposing the team to different cultures, staying sharp during the offseason, and building team camaraderie."

The Vanderbilt men's golf team recently had their first opportunity to travel abroad when the team traveled to Scotland, the birthplace of golf. "In Scotland," explained Head Coach Tom Shaw, "golf is held in reverence; it is not as commercialized as it is here. It is in its pure form—no golf carts, no beer in coolers, and no caddies. It is played along the ground and is much more of an art."

The golf team's experience abroad was in line with their mission. "We are helping to build not only great golfers, but incredible students, ambassadors, and representatives of the university," said Shaw.

While the golf team was in Scotland, the men's basketball team was representing Vanderbilt across the world in Australia. The plan to take the team there had been in the works for about

a year when Head Coach Kevin Stallings found out the university-wide budget cuts would prevent the team from going. Stallings demonstrated his commitment to the basketball program when he decided to personally finance the trip.

Although most of the team was preparing for their first trip to Australia, Commodore center and Australian native, A.J. Ogilvy ('11), was preparing for a visit home. The team competed in Melbourne, Sydney, and Townsville, before heading to the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra—Australia's premiere sports training institute and the site of Ogilvy's preparation for college level hoops. The team finished their tour of Australia with a 3-2 record.

"The benefits of playing at the international level are huge," said Assistant Coach Tom Richardson. "The cultural experiences, team camaraderie, bonding, and trust that develops between players and coaches is invaluable."



Commodore Baseball players Mark Lamm, Katie Feyes (academic adviser), Curt Casali, Andrew Giobbi, Joe Loftus.



# InterVU

with IRINA KRUGLOVA

*Vanderbilt International* sat down with International Education Policy and Management student Irina Kruglova to ask her some questions about her Russian background and her experiences so far at Vanderbilt. Irina is a Muskie Fellow, one of an elite group of students chosen from the former Soviet Union to study in the United States. She began her studies at Vanderbilt in fall 2009.

**VI: Tell me a little bit about yourself and where you grew up.**

**Irina:** I grew up in the northwest of Russia, in the city of Arkhangelsk. It is a city of half a million people, relatively small for Russia. Now it is smaller because people are leaving, studying elsewhere, and emigrating to other countries.

**VI: Had you been to the U.S. before?**

**Irina:** I was an exchange student in the U.S. when I was 16, through the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program. I went to Marsh Valley High School in Idaho, which was a very interesting experience—interesting is not the correct word. It was very different from my Russian background. It was a small school in a very friendly neighborhood. I lived with a good family with strong values. When you are 16 and you move to a new environment, you change, and that happened to me. Like the way that family members interact, it is different here. The model of the family is different. There is pride in family values. The school was also different—here, leadership abilities are developed in school, and the ability to make a choice is developed when you are still very young. Students in middle school could choose their own courses, which we couldn't do in Russia.

**VI: What made you decide to study International Education Policy and Management?**

**Irina:** Having that experience in a student exchange, I decided to study at St. Petersburg State University School of International Relations. While I was studying at the university, I worked as an English teacher and I loved it. I wanted to combine my two backgrounds, international relations and the field that I love, which is teaching. So this program is perfect for me.



**VI: What was it like to get the Muskie Fellowship?**

**Irina:** The selection process was very difficult. I thought that I would just try. I tried, and when I found out I was selected it was life-changing news. I had to withdraw from my university. I had a scholarship there, and I am not sure if I will have it when I return. I left my job, too. It was very exciting.

**VI: How does Vanderbilt compare to your education in Russia? Is it very different?**

**Irina:** One thing that is very different is group work. Usually in Russia a person works on their own. Most of the publications, presentations, and assignments there are done by one person, while here you have panel presentations, group work, it's a constant collaboration. Also, people here study at an older age. In Russia we go straight from bachelor's to master's, a linear process. Here, most students have work experience before they go back to school.

**VI: What do you like most about Vanderbilt?**

**Irina:** I like everything! I like the academic environment. It is very encouraging. It is an environment of people who are hard-working and enthusiastic about the learning process. Also, the way of teaching. The faculty here is outstanding. Vanderbilt is a high quality school, distinguished by academic integrity. There is this pride here that I love.



**VI: So what activities are you involved in outside the classroom?**

**Irina:** I do some volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity, the Pencil Foundation, and Make a Wish. The Peabody Graduate Student Association (PGSA) gathers people together, so I do volunteer work through that. I also go hiking and devote a lot of time to meeting new people.

**VI: Do you know what you want to do with your degree? What are your career goals?**

**Irina:** In Russia, education policy just started as a subject, while it has a history here. I am looking forward to working with education policy in Russia, whether it is with an education policy institute that doesn't exist yet or the Ministry of Education.

**VI: What's something our readers might find interesting about Russia?**

**Irina:** One of the most interesting things about Russia is that a train trip from Moscow to Vladivostok takes six days. Millions of tourists come to Russia just to travel across the country. Ironically, most of the Russians who live in the European part of the country prefer going to other countries.

## THE EDMUND S. MUSKIE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



Prof. Stephen Heyneman

The Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program was established by the United States government in 1992 to encourage economic and democratic growth in Eurasia. It brings students from the former Soviet Union to the U.S. to study in graduate programs in a number of fields. Participants are chosen through a merit-based competition and their applications are reviewed by a panel of academics, regional experts, and alumni. Recently, Vanderbilt has hosted several Muskie scholars from countries such as Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, and Georgia. The scholars are enrolled in two-year, master's degree programs, after which they return to their home countries and apply their knowledge to current issues there.

When Stephen Heyneman, professor of international educational policy, began teaching at Vanderbilt, one of his first priorities was to have the Muskie Program at Peabody College's Department of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations. At the time, Muskie fellows were already part of the landscape in economics at Vanderbilt. Having worked previously in the former Soviet Union, Heyneman knew about the Muskie Program and its high-caliber students. "Muskie fellows are some of the best students—the competition for the fellowship is so tight," Heyneman said. "They are all very well trained. They are highly motivated and diligent."

This is part of the problem, Heyneman explained, when the Muskie fellows return to their home countries. "They're used to such interesting subjects, and the government jobs they generally get when they return are poorly paid. Part of our job here is to counsel them on their options for after graduation. They don't get that everywhere, but it's something Vanderbilt provides."

Helping these students find internships between the two years of their master's program and rewarding jobs after graduation is also part of Vanderbilt's responsibility to the Muskie fellows. Vanderbilt Muskie fellows have gone on to teach in universities both in their home countries and in the U.S., to serve as undersecretary of education in Georgia, and to work at the World Bank.

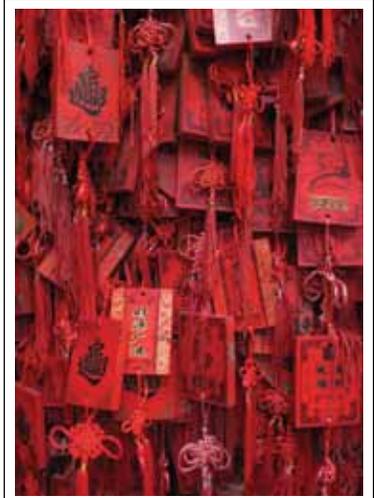
Professor Heyneman feels that there is an opportunity to bring more of these students to Vanderbilt. "I would recommend that every faculty get a Muskie fellow," he said. "All it takes is a short application. These students are the gold standard, so far as I'm concerned. In my view, the Muskie Fellowship is the best scholarship program of the U.S. government."

For more information on the Muskie Fellowship program, visit [www.irex.org/programs/muskie](http://www.irex.org/programs/muskie).

# OH, THE PLACES WE'VE SEEN!

## Global Education Office Photo Contest Winners

The Great Wall of China, deserts in Namibia and Chile, and a market in Argentina were among the winners of the annual Global Education Office Photo Contest. Twelve photos were chosen for the 2010 GEO calendar from nearly 300 entries. The winning student-photographers were asked to describe their time abroad and these written accounts are featured alongside their photos. The photo contest and calendar gives students a chance to share the beautiful scenery and personal impact of their semester or yearlong programs overseas.

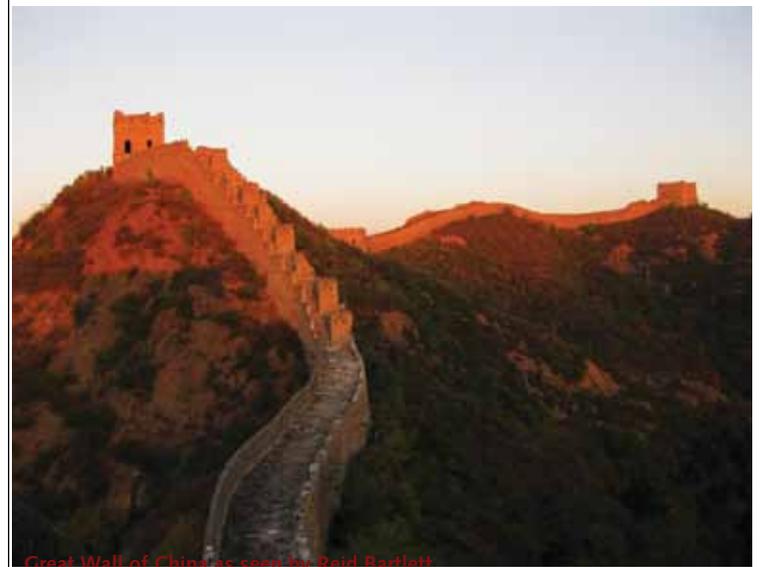


Beijing, China as seen by  
Amanda Heinbockel  
Study Abroad: Beijing, China

To learn more about study abroad, visit the Global Education Office at [www.vanderbilt.edu/geo](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/geo).



Buenos Aires, Argentina as seen by Rachel Shelton  
Study Abroad: Buenos Aires, Argentina



Great Wall of China as seen by Reid Bartlett  
Study Abroad: Beijing, China



Amsterdam, Netherlands as seen by Catherine Spaulding  
Study Abroad: Florence, Italy



Umbria, Italy as seen by Aaron Thompson  
Study Abroad: Vienna, Austria



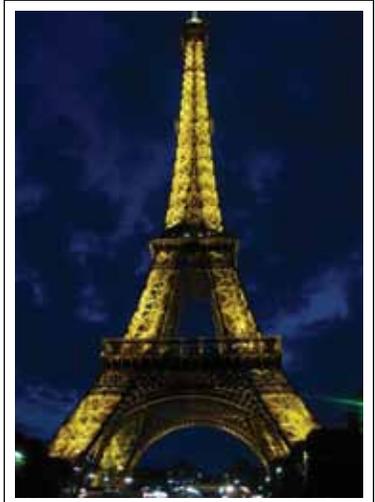
**Archaea Korinthos, Greece as seen by Elena Benitez** Study Abroad: Kencherai, Greece



**Christchurch, New Zealand as seen by Sarah McKibben** Study Abroad: Christchurch, New Zealand



**Auckland, New Zealand as seen by Vanessa Yu** Study Abroad: Auckland, New Zealand



**Paris, France as seen by Sarah Williams** Study Abroad: Dresden, Germany



**Wanaka, New Zealand as seen by Shane Stever** Study Abroad: Wellington, New Zealand



**Deadvlei, Namibia as seen by Ben Woods** Study Abroad: Capetown, South Africa



**Atacama Desert, Chile as seen by Kathleen Flanigan** Study Abroad: Valparaiso, Chile

## Author of *The Kite Runner* to Receive Nichols-Chancellor's Medal

■ Khaled Hosseini, author of bestselling books *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, will receive Vanderbilt University's prestigious Nichols-Chancellor's Medal on May 13 and will address graduating seniors and their families during Senior Day.

Senior Day precedes Vanderbilt's annual commencement ceremony for graduating seniors (held this year on May 14) and is a highlight of three days of activities honoring graduates, their families, and friends.

"Khaled Hosseini's personal story and humanitarian work provide an excellent lesson for our students to take with them as they embark on a new journey as college graduates," Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos said. "Khaled Hosseini is a worthy recipient of the Nichols-Chancellor's Medal."

The Nichols-Chancellor's Medal, which includes a cash prize, is one of the university's highest honors and is given to individuals who define the twenty-first century and exemplify the best qualities of the human spirit. It was created and endowed by Vanderbilt Law School graduate Ed Nichols and his wife, Janice, in honor of Edward Carmack and Lucile Hamby Nichols.

Born in Afghanistan, Hosseini, the oldest of five children, grew up in Kabul where his father worked for the Afghan foreign ministry and his mother was a teacher. The family later moved to Paris where Hosseini's father was assigned a diplomatic post in the Afghan embassy. While the family was in France, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan prompting Hosseini's father to obtain political asylum and move his family to the United States.

Hosseini attended Santa Clara University and later graduated from the University of California-San Diego School of Medicine. He entered medical practice as an internist in 1996.



Khaled Hosseini

His first novel, *The Kite Runner*, was released in 2003. In 2004, he put his medical career on hold and now divides his time between writing, his family, and working as a goodwill envoy for the UNHCR, the

U.N. Refugee Agency, to help raise awareness about refugees around the world. He also works to provide humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan through The Khaled Hosseini Foundation. Hosseini's

most recent novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, was released in 2007.

"Dr. Hosseini is a fantastic storyteller who, through his writing and work on behalf of refugees, will provide interesting insights for our graduates and their families against the backdrop of current events in Afghanistan," Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard McCarty said.

*The Senior Day address by Hosseini will be held at 10 a.m. in Memorial Gymnasium.*

## Grant Boosts Informatics Training Partnership in India

■ Vanderbilt has been awarded a grant to support a new informatics training partnership with two leading research institutions in India, the National AIDS Research Institute (NARI) in Pune and the National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE) in Chennai.

The five-year, \$1.1 million grant from the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health will be directed by Cynthia Gadd, Ph.D., associate professor and director of Educational Programs in the Department of Biomedical Informatics, along with Vikrant Sahasrabudhe, M.B.B.S., Dr.P.H., assistant professor of Pediatrics and director of the Vanderbilt-India Program at the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health (VIGH).

"A substantial volume of extramurally funded biomedical research is ongoing at these institutions conducted by highly trained scientists," Gadd said. "Yet gaps remain in the ability of scientists and physicians to manage and effectively use the volume of data and information being

collected in the course of these research studies and public health implementation programs. Our goal is to address these gaps through focused collaborative informatics training efforts."

Activities will include short-term, in-country workshops twice a year and intermediate-term training at Vanderbilt for two to six months. Four researchers from the partnering institutes will earn master's degrees in Biomedical Informatics, studying at Vanderbilt for two years and then returning to India for the research thesis.

"Data in research is increasing at a rapid rate, and systems to manage, collect and analyze this data, particularly with regulatory and reporting responsibilities, is an ongoing challenge," Gadd said. "Informatics can play a big role in making researchers more efficient and permit sharing and wide spread dissemination of their work."

*For more information on the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health, visit <http://www.global-health.vanderbilt.edu/>*

## Global Health Conference Examines Sustainability

■ On Friday, February 12, 2010, the Tennessee Global Health Forum brought together professionals and volunteers from global health and development organizations and projects across the state. With the theme of "Building Sustainable Programs in Global Health," this year's conference focused on issues surrounding health and long-term sustainability.

The Tennessee Global Health Forum was a day-long event hosted by Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health. It included panel discussions featuring experienced leaders in the field of global health, as well as sessions highlighting lessons learned by accomplished local and international humanitarian organizations. Workshops addressed designing sustainable global health programs, volunteer recruitment and retention, sustainable financial planning for nonprofit organizations, and low-cost health informatics systems, among other topics.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for groups and individuals involved in global

projects from all over Tennessee to come together and share ideas and best practices," said Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health Director Sten Vermund, M.D., Ph.D. "With the growing focus on global sustainability, we hope to improve the long-term sustainability of Tennessee overseas partnerships by linking like-minded potential collaborators."

The Global Health Forum featured keynote speaker Victoria Hale, Ph.D., founder and chair emeritus of the Institute for One-World Health and founder of Medicines360, both nonprofit pharmaceutical companies based in San Francisco, CA.

The day after the forum, Vanderbilt students interested in global health and development opportunities participated in the Global Health Student Colloquium.

### **Vanderbilt Leaders Attend Asia Leadership Roundtable 2010**

■ In January, Professor Ellen Goldring, Chair of the Department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations, and Xiu Cravens, Assistant Dean for International Relations, at Peabody College attended the Asia Leadership Roundtable 2010 held by the Asia Pacific Centre for Leadership and Change (APCLC) at the Hong Kong Institute of Education. The event was designed as a means of enhancing collaboration in research and development in the areas of educational leadership and change.

The Roundtable theme was "Developing an Agenda for Research on Leadership



Ellen Goldring (second from right) and Xiu Cravens (second from left) at the 2010 Asia Leadership Roundtable held at the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

and Change in the Asia Pacific," and was attended by about 50 scholars from China, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Professor Goldring gave one of the keynote speeches on "Conceptualizing and Evaluating Professional Development for School Leaders."

### **CULP Summer Interns Chosen**

■ Five Vanderbilt Reserve Office Training Corps (ROTC) cadets have been selected to participate in the Culture and Language Program (CULP) Summer Internship Program, a competitive program of the U.S. Army.

Vanderbilt students, Christopher Colletta, John Rice, and Amber Van Houten have been selected to intern in China, Peru, and Morocco, respectively. Charles Griffin and Brooke Yaiser of Belmont University (also of the Vandy ROTC unit) will be going to Tanzania and Slovakia this summer. Belmont's Jessica Sanders is on standby for the internship program.

U.S. Army Cadet Command is developing a comprehensive strategy to define, assess, and train culture and language proficiency skills, which includes increasing cadet language learning exposure and cultural awareness training through overseas culture immersion internship opportunities. The Culture and Language Division reviewed 735 applications, and after an in-depth review of the strength, quality, and completeness of applications, the Division selected 399 proposed internships. The Division matched the applicants' language abilities, soldier skills, and desired internship with the requirements in the internship program goals.

### **Blair School Welcomes SINEM Representatives from Costa Rica**

■ Four representatives of the Sistema Nacional de Educación Musical (SINEM) from the Republic of Costa Rica, participated in a three-week training workshop at the Blair School of Music in early February. SINEM is a nationwide initiative of Costa Rica's Ministry



SINEM instructors learn percussion techniques from Associate Prof. of Timpani and Percussion, William Wiggins.

of Culture and Youth and uses music education as a tool for development. Over the past year, SiNEM has assumed responsibility for running 34 community music schools throughout Costa Rica. The visit was part of an ongoing partnership involving instructors from SiNEM, the Blair School of Music and Peabody College. The visit included musical and pedagogical instruction for SiNEM instructors through seminars, practice sessions and rehearsal observations.

The trip was coordinated by Thomas Verrier, Director of Wind Studies and Associate Professor of Music, who serves as the pedagogical consultant for the Sistema Nacional Educacion Musical. He also serves as Conductor of the Vanderbilt Wind Ensembles and Artistic Director of the Vanderbilt Music Academie, in conjunction with the annual Festival International d'Art Lyrique et de Musique in Aix-en-Provence, France.

### **International Literary Experiments Conference Held at Vanderbilt**

■ The Humboldt Kolleg/International Conference in Literary Experiments was held at Vanderbilt on March 26-28, 2010. Sponsored by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and Vanderbilt University, the conference played host to international experts in the experimental practices of art and literature from 1950-2010. Paper presentations dealt with scientific and philosophical influences on neo-avant-garde movements. The conference program included discussions in experiments in prose, poetry, plays, conceptual art, and movies, and focused on urban artistic centers, philosophical concepts, theories of narration, and visual art.

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"Twelve Apostles" rock formation on the Great Ocean Road near Melbourne, Australia. The Vanderbilt men's basketball team traveled to four cities in Australia to compete. Photo by Shelley McFarlan.