VANDERBILT MAGAZINE

fall 2009

Chancellor Heard's Remarkable Legacy

"For many of us who were students, he made an impression that never went away."

also:

The New Midwives **Smart Jocks** **A Universal Humanity**

Opportunity Vanderbilt

"I believe we should leave this world better than we came into it. That's why I want to be a teacher, to be the person who changes the world for his students."

Justin Barisich
Peabody College, Class of 2011
Berger Family Scholarship

Ability, achievement and hard work define Justin Barisich.

He grew up working summers on his dad's shrimp boat, and after Hurricane Katrina destroyed his home and his high school, that work ethic spurred him to move in with his grandparents, change schools and move forward. Now he's at Vanderbilt, studying to be a high-school teacher.

It's the scholarship he receives that makes all of this possible.

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

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

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Alexander Heard, "a man of granite principle," led Vanderbilt from 1963 until 1982.

Hail and Farewell

With pinkies raised and tongues in cheek, founding members gather around Chancellor Alexander Heard (center, kneeling) on April 26, 1979, for the last rites of The Wild Bunch, a prank-loving group of students who came to signify the Heard era. "He really was a tremendous influence, especially the way he encouraged using the university as an open forum for the expression of new ideas," says Wild Bunch member Mike Bagot, BA'77. Raised pinkies served as the official recognition symbol for Wild Bunch members. Read more about Vanderbilt's fifth chancellor beginning on page 36. Photo provided by Vanderbilt University Special Collections & University Archives.

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For the Fall 2009 issue

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Opinions expressed in *Vanderbilt Magazine* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the magazine or the university administration.

Vanderbilt University is committed to the principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

Marshall Chapman

Marshall Chapman, BA'71, is a rocker, songwriter, author, and contributing editor of *Garden & Gun* magazine. Her first book, *Goodbye, Little Rock and Roller,* was a 2004 SEBA bestseller. She's recorded 11 critically acclaimed albums. In 1994 she endowed the first basketball scholarship at Vanderbilt. "It was important that it be for the women's team," she says. "Vanderbilt didn't have intercollegiate women's sports when I was there. I was pre-Title IX." She's currently working on a new CD called *Big Lonesome* while awaiting the release of her second book, *They Came to Nashville*. To subscribe to her fan e-newsletter, go to *www.tallgirl.com.*

Randy Brooks

Randy Brooks, BA'70, appeared as a teenager on the *Ted Mack Amateur Hour* and has been an amateur ever since. He's been a dinner-theater actor and traveling musician, and has entertained with USO companies in Vietnam, Thailand and Europe. These days he is a supervisor at American Airlines' headquarters. A member of Dallas trop-rock band The Bad Monkeys, Brooks has written many songs, but the one that pays the bills is a Christmas tune about a certain hapless grandmother.

Andrea Alvord

Andrea Alvord, BA'03, is a Navy SH-60B Seahawk helicopter pilot currently serving as flag aide to Commander Naval Air Force, Atlantic in Norfolk, Va. Alvord emigrated from Zimbabwe with her parents and younger sister, Nicola, BS'05, in 1988. During her tour with the "Proud Warriors" of HSL-42, Alvord made several deployments overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and counter-narcoterrorism operations.

Michael Sims

Michael Sims' nonfiction books include the internationally acclaimed and widely translated *Adam's Navel*; *Apollo's Fire*, which NPR chose as a best science book of the year; and recently a companion book for the National Geographic Channel series *In the Womb*. His writing has appeared in many periodicals, including *New Statesman*, *Orion*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and he reviews regularly for *The Washington Post*. Sims has been featured on many TV and radio programs, from CBS's *Early Show* and *Inside Edition* to BBC Radio's *Woman's Hour.*

Joanne Lamphere Beckham

Joanne Lamphere Beckham, BA'62, worked as an award-winning editor at Vanderbilt for more than 25 years. Since retiring from a full-time career in 2006, she has continued writing for various publications and has taught English as a Second Language. At Vanderbilt she earned her undergraduate degree in English, *cum laude*, and did graduate work at Peabody College and the Owen Graduate School of Management.

Additional Contributors: Carole Bartoo, John S. Beasley II, Craig Boerner, Joan Brasher, Thomas Davis, Angela Fox, Frye Gaillard, Carol Hamlett, Cornelia Heard, Joe Howell, Paul Kingsbury, Melanie Moran, Ann Marie Deer Owens, Jim Patterson, Lisa Robbins, David F. Salisbury, Bill Snyder, Cindy Thomsen, Susan Ford Wiltshire, Amy Wolf, Nicholas S. Zeppos

DoreWays

A forum for exchanging ideas

From the Editor

Six Degrees of Separation

A recent survey commissioned by the Vanderbilt Office of Alumni Relations and the Vanderbilt Alumni Association Board of Directors ranks this magazine as one of the university's most effective communication vehicles—turn to page 63 for more about the survey. Also in shameless self-promotion news, for the past two years *Vanderbilt Magazine* has been judged first overall among university magazines in the annual awards competition sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District III, which comprises nine Southeastern states.

Full disclosure: The secret sauce in our magazine is location. Nashville attracts creative talent by the tour-bus load.

Three of my favorite pieces in this issue were written by Vanderbilt alumni who are songwriters. Randy Brooks, BA'70, reveals how he came to write the twisted Christmas classic "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" on page 80. Rocker and Tall Girl Marshall Chapman, BA'71, shares an up-close look at Women's Basketball Head Coach Melanie Balcomb on page 14. And frequent contributor Frye Gaillard, BA'68, who wrote one of the essays in our tribute to Alexander Heard, is making music these days, too—recently he dropped by my office while in town for the recording of a bunch of songs he co-wrote with singer Kathryn Scheldt.

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Our Chancellor Heard tribute also includes a memoir by his daughter, Cornelia Heard, a gifted violinist who is chair of the string department at the Blair School of Music. And don't miss the spotlight on one of Vanderbilt's most famous alumnae, singer and television star Dinah Shore, BA'38, beginning on page 18.

Vanderbilt Magazine's office is in a building that's part of the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel—which means we can get breakfast/lunch/dinner, a deluxe suite, a haircut, and a mojito at the piano bar without ever stepping outside. Today on my lunch hour, when I slipped downstairs to have my roots colored, the radio in the hair salon was playing "I Wanna Make You Close Your Eyes" by Dierks Bentley, BA'97. This week it's No. 14 on *Billboard*'s country chart.

I checked my e-mail while the dye was settling in, and there in my inbox was a message from former *Vanderbilt Magazine* editor Mary Tom Bass telling me she'd just seen The Lost Trailers perform in North Carolina. "They were terrific. They've had three songs in the top 20," Mary Tom enthused. "Ryder is really good-looking and has loads of charisma on stage."

We told you about Ryder Lee, BA'00—The Lost Trailers' lead singer—and fellow Trailers Manny Medina, BA'98, and Stokes Nielson, BS'00, in our Spring 2009 issue.

I couldn't begin to count the number of graphic artists and advertising copywriters and other creative types I know who wound up in Music City USA because their significant others are singers/songwriters. Some have made it big; most haven't. Nashville's record labels may be struggling to stay in the black these days, but the creative vibe is alive and well in Music City. And your university magazine is the richer for it.

—*GayNelle Doll*

From the Reader

Deodorant: It's a Good Thing

What were you thinking? It's one thing to praise Luke Boehne for his environmental efforts [Summer 2009, "Big Ideas for a Small Planet"] and, perhaps, for his frugality—but do we need to know that he eschews deodorant? I teach two-year college students who all too often come to class reeking of body odor, weed, and whatever was on the floor they passed out onto the night before. The stench can be so overpowering that I must lecture from a remote corner of the room. One wishes Mr. Boehne well, but one also wishes that his questionable personal hygiene not be emulated by our undergraduates and that it not become his most enduring or odoriferous legacy.

Emory Reginald Abbott, PhD'92
Lithonia, Ga.

Peabody Deserved Better

I have been a recipient of your magazine for several years and read with interest items in your very, very slick publication. Of course it is extremely well done, to the point of journalistic elegance, while yet reflecting the spirit of Vanderbilt almost to a zealous mindset.

Hidden among the articles proclaiming the justified eminence of Vanderbilt accomplishments was a short item [Summer 2009, The Campus, "Top-Ranked Peabody Marks Anniversary with Chair Appointments"] about the 30th anniversary of Peabody College's merger with Vanderbilt. That article led to my reflection that 2009 also is the 50th anniversary of my Ph.D. graduation from Peabody, then and now a most distinguished educational institution.

How droll that the chasm of 21st Avenue South still separates Vanderbilt from Peabody. Only in an almost parenthetical paragraph, following eight paragraphs of news about the well-deserved appointment of six named chairs at Peabody, is it mentioned that Peabody, ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* in April as the nation's No. 1 graduate school of education, "is the *first* Vanderbilt graduate or professional

school to receive the No.1 distinction in the history of *U.S. News* rankings." Buried on page 16, no less. Vanderbilt has had no graduate schools ranked No. 1 until now, and Peabody gets that recognition?

The west side of the street seems in serious need of an attitude adjustment. But I've waited more than 50 years for that to happen, for recognition that George Peabody College is a crown jewel in its worthy and distinguished field of endeavor.

Curtis Paul Ramsey, PhD'59
Denton, Texas

Capitalism, Communism and Christianity

Peasants of Hungary, unite! Get out your pitchforks! Light up your torches! The son of Dr. Frankenstein is up at the old abandoned castle making monsters again.

After 70 years of V. Ulyanov, who allowed you all to be equally poor, you are about to experience V. Capitalism, which will allow you to be equally broke and homeless. Herr Wirth [Summer 2009, A.P.O.V., "Against All Odds"] is going to introduce to you the reverse mortgage, an innovative investment whereby you can put your home up as collateral toward what you hope will be a fairly rapid death, after which Merrill Lynch and Deutsche Bank and some mortgage company will inherit your property, not your children or grandchildren.

And what do you get for this rich exchange? English lessons, toys for the kiddies, and that postponed vacation in Dalmatia. (Didn't Hungary once own it?)

Mr. Wirth best take heed lest he unleash a new horde of Magyars armed with knitting needles, walkers and karaoke machines to ravage Europe once again.

Bernard Barufaldi, MA'68
Plymouth, Mass.

I was disturbed by some of the readers' letters that appeared in the Summer 2009 issue in response to "Invisible Nation" [Spring 2009, VJournal]. The lawyer and the doctor who wrote appeared to be more interested in continuing to ignore the health-system problem faced by the vast uninsured population in this country rather than figuring out a way to deal with it.

The lawyer wrote, "And what about us attorneys? Shouldn't the poor have access to all manner of legal services?" Yes—lawyers in every state donate time to clients who cannot pay. It is called "pro bono," and most bar associations have active drives to inspire their members to donate even more time to the poor. Working for free for someone who doesn't have the power, prestige or persuasion to otherwise boost your bottom line may result in a smaller paycheck. However, the rewards are great simply because you have made someone's world a bit better.

The lawyer also asked, "What would the world look like if the state took all our wealth and gave us back what was left after the needs of the poor were met?" As a lawyer myself, I would object to this question as assuming facts not in evidence. Dr. Sergent did not advocate taking away all our wealth and giving us back only what was left after the needs of the poor were met. Neither have proponents of health-care reform.

If the "state" took all our wealth and gave us back only what was left after the needs of the poor were met, then the world would look a lot like the early Christian church did. Christ's disciples and the Apostle Paul all advocated that members of the early church should give their worldly belongings to the church. By doing so, the needs of everyone in the church, including the poor, the widows and the orphans, could be met and everyone would have what they needed.

The doctor who wrote, after applauding himself for providing care to poor people who can't pay for it, then stated, "Uninsured adults *are* largely responsible for their predicament." As a lawyer who often represents people who have been rendered poor and unemployable because of the injuries they suffered at the hands of negligent companies, I can tell you that many people are uninsured through no fault of their own.

So long as those of us in America who call ourselves Christians continue to look for excuses not to help the poor, the only corporate body that can step forward and take care of the poor is the government.

Keep publishing articles that make us think and provide us the opportunity for civil discourse about significant problems. Solutions are found in such a way.

Kenneth B. Cole Jr., BA'81, JD'84
Huntsville, Ala.

Jewish Rush in the Bible Belt

G. Marc Hamburger's account of his days as a Jewish student during the 1960s [Summer 2009, Collective Memory, "Jewish Rush in the Bible Belt"] was of interest because I too was a Jewish student at Vandy, but in the 1950s. I appreciate Marc's reference toward the end of his article that indeed there was another Jewish fraternity on campus other than ZBT. I was a member of AEPi, which, as I understand it, remains the only fraternity at Vanderbilt that still is primarily a Jewish fraternity.

What I remember most vividly about my introduction to Vandy fraternity life at that time (1950) was the gathering of all the men going through rush in Neely Auditorium for orientation. The very first announcement by the president of the Interfraternity Council was, "Will all the men being rushed by AEPi and ZBT meet with representatives of those fraternities in the outer lobby of this auditorium?"—whereupon all the Jewish men got up and walked to the rear to meet with AEPi

and ZBT representatives. I was sitting with a number of my buddies from West End High School in Nashville and remember having to crawl over them to the aisle in order to meet with the guys from the two Jewish fraternities.

Although I had a number of fraternity brothers from the greater New York/New Jersey area, I also had brothers from Springfield, Mount Pleasant, Chattanooga and Shelbyville, Tenn., as well as from Memphis, Nashville, and other towns in the South.

Our rivalry with ZBT at times became fairly intense, but just to show my friends who were "Zebes" that there are no hard feelings after all these years, I will add that Marc failed to mention that one of my classmates from Chattanooga, Henry Diamond, BA'54, a ZBT, was elected Bachelor of Ugliness in 1954.

I treasure my days at Vandy, and I look forward to seeing at some time in the near future the Commodore basketball team in the Final Four and the baseball team in Omaha, Neb., for the College World Series.

Bob Youngerman, BA'54
Brevard, N.C.

The article "Jewish Rush in the Bible Belt" should have been titled "A Ghetto at Vandy." I entered Vanderbilt in 1954 having no idea that my parents' religion would dictate which fraternities might be available to this then-atheist kid from Little Rock. I had been rushed that summer mainly by members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon attending Vandy. My roommate, who did pledge SAE, and I went together to pick up our rush invitations. He was handed an envelope bulging with invites while I only received overtures from two groups previously unknown to me. "Oh, you must be Jewish" was the reply from the girl at the desk when I asked for an explanation. Even the lowliest of the Gentile frats couldn't or didn't want to invite me. I never again want to feel as forlorn as I did that day and in the months to follow.

So I became a member of a group identified by many on campus then, and I'm confident in the '60s also, as the "Zebe Hebes." I reluctantly blended into the group, never volunteering my fraternity affiliation with any degree of pride. There was no highlight film of my four years at Vandy. I have never been back to the campus, nor have I supported what is otherwise a great university—a great university that tolerated a system of "distinction" that "was not at all offensive to" G. Marc Hamburger et al. They never gave it a "second thought"; they boycotted The Campus Grill, which later "was open for everyone," but accepted being boycotted by the Gentile fraternities without a whimper. They had Roy Wilkins to lunch—how brave of the Jewish warriors! Did they have the chancellor over to discuss "The Challenges of the Outsider"?

I find it repugnant that this article was written with great pride.

Sandy Besser, BA'58
Santa Fe, N.M.

[Editor's Note: Vanderbilt has long since ceased tracking its Greek population in terms of ethnicity or religion. An estimated 18 percent of the Class of 2012 is Jewish, although exact numbers are difficult to come by because students may choose not to self-identify on the basis of religion or ethnicity. Look for an update on Vanderbilt's fraternities and sororities, and how they continue to play an important role in the lives of many students, in the Spring 2010 issue of *Vanderbilt Magazine.*]

G. Marc Hamburger's article, "Jewish Rush in the Bible Belt," in the Summer 2009 issue was very interesting. ZBT at Vanderbilt succeeded the Menorah Society, founded in 1915 for 16 Vanderbilt students, alumni and friends. In the fall of 1917, a group of students petitioned ZBT for a charter, which was granted May 29, 1918. The charter members were Sanford Rosenthal, Clarence Friedman, Keith Kahn, Dan May, Alfred Starr and Manuel Eskind. They went on to win the annual scholarship trophy from 1928 to 1933, and in 1932 were voted the outstanding ZBT chapter in the United States. The [Jewish Federation] Archives has a nice collection of ZBT information and photos.

Annette Levy Ratkin, BA'48, MLS'75
Archivist, Jewish Federation Archives
Nashville

Far from the Madding Crowd

I have just finished reading Paul Conkin's analysis of the Vanderbilt panty raids of the 1950s [Fall 2008, Collective Memory, "Boys Gone Wild"]. His last paragraph, referring to the 1959 event (just prior to winter exams) needs some correction. He states that this was "an unsuccessful attempt to gain entrance to one women's dorm." In the strictest sense that is incorrect, as one panty raider entered McTyeire Hall through the door at the end of the second-floor hallway.

I know this because it was I who gained entrance. My job was to run down the hall to the staircase and open the back door on the lower floor so the mobs could enter. Midway down the second-floor hall, I was accosted by hoards of coeds, each swinging a tennis racket with me as the target. I made it down the staircase but was prevented reaching the back door, again by tennis-happy coeds, so I escaped through the front door, my only way out. That was the end of the "panty raid."

The next day I got a phone call from Dean Babbitt's office. He invited me over, where I met with him and his assistant dean. My face and head displayed the cuts from the tennis rackets, which the dean knew all about. Upon admitting that I participated in the event, I was summarily suspended for a semester. Needless to say, my parents were rather upset about my activities—especially my father [Henry L. Stow], who was head of the classics department at Vanderbilt.

As for the motives that led to this "panty raid," I recall that this was simply a way to release stress prior to finals, and that there had been several taunting phone calls from the coeds encouraging this insurrection. I do not recall any other underlying motives.

Steve Stow, BA'62
Knoxville, Tenn.

[Editor's Note: Reader Stow, we are happy to report, overcame his academic setback and earned not only a B.A. in geology from Vanderbilt but also master's and doctoral degrees in geochemistry from Rice University. He is the author of more than 50 research articles dealing with geosciences, waste management and resource issues.]

Letters are always welcome
in response to contents of the magazine. We reserve the right to edit for length, style and clarity. Send signed letters to the Editor, *Vanderbilt Magazine*, PMB 407703, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240-7703, or send e-mail to *vanderbiltmagazine@vanderbilt.edu.*

The Campus

"Veterans bring leadership skills, maturity, and a broad

Recovery Act Bolsters Research

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 signed into law in February has significantly boosted scientific and medical research at Vanderbilt. As of Sept. 30, Vanderbilt researchers had received 180 grants totaling more than $74 million in first-year funding.

Of those, 165 grants were awarded by the National Institutes of Health, 14 were awarded by the National Science Foundation, and one came from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

About one-third of the grants support new projects while two-thirds provide supplemental funding for existing grants. Most are supporting medically related projects in areas ranging from pharmacology to pediatrics to neuroscience and cancer biology, but a significant number of grants are going to projects in other fields, including chemistry, physics, astronomy, biological sciences and computer science. The research being funded runs the gamut from probing the origins of volcanic super-eruptions to electrical abnormalities that may cause life-threatening cardiac rhythm disturbances.

The Recovery Act committed $787 billion in federal funds to help stimulate the national economy. From this, 2.5 percent was earmarked for support of scientific and medical research.

Marylyn Ritchie, third from left, directs the Computational Genomics Core at Vanderbilt Medical Center. Thanks to Recovery Act funding, she will be able to accelerate her research and increase her lab staff. Her goal is to develop a way to integrate genetic data with other types of knowledge and with public databases. Members of her lab shown are, from left, Stephen Turner, Eric Torstenson, Scott Dudek, Ben Grady and Emily Holzinger.

Yellow Ribbon Program Assists Veterans

Eligible veterans can attend Vanderbilt at a significantly reduced cost thanks to the university's participation in the Yellow Ribbon GI Educational Enhancement Program. Under the Yellow Ribbon Program, a part of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, colleges and universities can work with the federal government to offer reduced tuition and fees to veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To be eligible, veterans must have served three years on active duty or at least 30 continuous days before being discharged for service-related injuries since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"As we work to provide the best possible learning environment for our students, we also appreciate that veterans bring leadership skills, maturity, and a broad world perspective to the educational exchange in our classrooms," says Richard McCarty, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

More than 500 colleges and universities have reached agreements with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Under the program's guidelines, Veterans Affairs and a participating institution agree to match each other's contributions if tuition at that school exceeds the Post-9/11 GI Bill cap for the state. That figure would be the cost for the most expensive four-year public college or university for undergraduate tuition at the in-state rate.

At Vanderbilt eligible veterans who enroll either as undergraduates or graduate students (master's and doctoral level) can receive a $6,000 tuition discount from the university that will be matched by another $6,000 from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Our profound belief in the tremendous value that these students bring to campus led us to the decision not to limit the number of veterans who could use the discount," says Douglas Christiansen, associate provost for enrollment and dean of admissions. "The university will review this plan each year to be sure adequate funds are available to continue the commitment."

A $10,000 discount from both Vanderbilt and the government will be available for veterans who enroll in the Owen Graduate School of Management. All of Vanderbilt's contribution will come from institutional funds.

Find out more:
www.gibill.va.gov

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world perspective to the educational exchange. —Richard McCarty, *provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs*

Reallocation, Cost-Cutting Earn Dividends

The value of the investments portfolio of Vanderbilt University's endowment fell 16.3 percent in the fiscal year ending June 30, one of the most challenging financial periods in modern American history.

Vanderbilt has weathered the downturn relatively well when measured against many schools. Prior to a huge stock market sell-off, Vanderbilt repositioned substantial assets, according to Matthew Wright, vice chancellor for investments at Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt's losses averaged about half that of Wall Street during the same period. "This afforded Vanderbilt the opportunity to reallocate as the equity market recovered in the spring."

The 16.3 percent decline does not represent the entire endowment, which has assets in addition to its investment portfolio and also continues to receive donations. The preliminary, unaudited value of the endowment as of June 30 was $2.8 billion, down from $3.5 billion on June 30, 2008.

Cost-cutting measures were adopted as a cautionary measure during the financial crisis, with most departments reducing budgets by 5 percent or more. New construction continues to be on hold.

Vanderbilt continues with initiatives to reduce student debt by replacing loans with grant money.

U.S. News Gives Vanderbilt Highest Ranking Yet

Vanderbilt University had its best-ever overall ranking in the history of the *U.S. News & World Report* survey in rankings released in August. Vanderbilt is ranked No. 17 in the list of best national universities, tied with Emory and Rice universities. It was an improvement from a tie for the No. 18 spot last year.

Number 17

Among best national universities, tied with Emory and Rice

Vanderbilt was ranked No. 16 among national universities in the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category, marking it as a good value for its tuition. The magazine noted that 12 percent of Vanderbilt students receive Pell Grants for low-income students, ranking it among the top 25 universities for economic diversity. Vanderbilt's School of Engineering ranked No. 40, tied with four other schools, among engineering schools whose highest degree is a doctorate.

Number 16

"Great Schools, Great Prices" among national universities

in the top 25

Economic diversity

Vanderbilt has been ranked No. 18 five previous times: 2008, 2006, 2005, 2004 and 1994.

QuoteUnquote

"We spend more than other developed nations, and their statistics are far better. Clearly there is room for improvement, and there is a lot of low-hanging fruit."

— Jeff Balser, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, speaking about U.S. health care during his first State of the Medical Center address on Sept. 8.

JOE HOWELL

DNA Databank Expands to Include Children

Now that the BioVU DNA databank has been in place nearly three years for adult patients, program leaders say the time is right to broaden the sample collection group to include children.

"The database will accelerate research for adults, and I think children should have that same benefit of scientific discovery that the adult population has," says Dr. Louis Muglia, vice chair for research affairs at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

The BioVU DNA databank takes the small amount of leftover blood from regular laboratory test samples, pulls out the DNA, and stores it in a genetic library. A patient's records are de-identified, or "scrubbed" clean of identifying information, but the description of medical events is retained and linked with the DNA by an anonymous code.

When BioVU launched in 2007, there were still concerns about including young patients, who often could not speak for themselves, so patients under age 18 were excluded.

"We needed to see how it worked with adults first, to make sure we did it right. This has never been done before with children, so we needed to talk to people about it," says Dr. Daniel Masys, professor of medicine and chair of biomedical informatics. Masys helped lead the design of the BioVU program, along with Dr. Dan M. Roden, assistant vice chancellor for personalized medicine and professor of medicine and pharmacology.

MARY DONALDSON

Dr. Kyle Brothers, third from left, talks with Georgina Mancilla and Eucebio Ramirez about the BioVU DNA databank, which has been expanded to include pediatric patients like their son, Daniel Ramirez, right.

Parents of pediatric patients, like adult patients, will be given the opportunity to decline their child's participation, or opt out. Dr. Kyle Brothers, instructor in both pediatrics and at the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society, has interviewed 60 parents in clinics at Children's Hospital to find out what they think about allowing their children to be part of BioVU.

"The BioVU concept was posed as a project that wouldn't help their child, but wouldn't hurt their child either," Brothers says. "Nearly 90 percent said they did not have concerns, while 10 percent said they were not interested in their child's participation."

About 15,000 pediatric samples will be added to the databank each year. There are some 70,000 adult samples now. The goal is to have approximately 300,000 samples on file to help understand the links between illness and disease and an individual's genetic code.

Virtual Vanderbilt

Discover the Future — http://futurity.org

Concerned with the dramatic decline in the traditional media's coverage of newsworthy scientific and academic activities, Vanderbilt has joined with 34 other top research universities to create an online news channel designed to showcase achievements of their scientists and engineers, medical researchers and scholars. *Futurity* editors select stories of interest to laymen and make extensive use of graphics. Featuring about a half-dozen stories daily, the site was formally launched in September.

Fulbright Programs Bring International Teachers, Leaders to Peabody

Peabody College has launched two new international Fulbright fellowship programs to bring international educators to the U.S. for a year of study.

The Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program, launched this fall, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through the Academy for Educational Development. It sends highly accomplished primary and secondary teachers from the United States abroad and brings international teachers to the U.S. for a semester-long program. Participating countries are Argentina, Finland, India, Israel, Singapore and

South Africa. Peabody College was selected as the program's first host institution.

During their year at Peabody, teachers will enroll in graduate-level classes, conduct research, lead classes and seminars for U.S. teachers and students, design and complete a capstone project, and may team-teach or guest-lecture at local secondary schools or at the graduate level. Upon returning home they will be expected to share what they learned with teachers and students in their home schools and communities.

The second new Peabody international program is the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program. Peabody is hosting seven educational leaders from developing and emerging countries during the course of the 2009–10 academic year. The fellows, who are leaders in fields such as higher education, secondary education and program evaluation, hail this year from Colombia, Jordan, Malawi, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia and Swaziland.

Humphrey fellows will design and plan their activities and interests for the fellowship year and plan to implement in their home countries what they've learned; participate in a weekly class about the U.S. education system; audit up to two classes per semester; and participate in a variety of training and professional and cultural development activities.

"Peabody has a strong tradition and excellent reputation in delivering professional development programs for practitioners," says Xiu Cravens, assistant dean for international affairs. "With 20 experienced educators from 13 countries here with us, these two programs bring global dialogues and mutual learning to our campus."

DANIEL DUBOIS

Five alumni who have distinguished themselves through a variety of careers were inducted into the inaugural class of the Vanderbilt Student Media Hall of Fame on Oct. 16. They are (left to right) U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander, BA'62; Roy Blount Jr., BA'63, author, humorist and NPR game show panelist; Mary Elson, BA'74, managing editor, Tribune media services; Skip Bayless, BA'74, ESPN sports commentator; and Sam Feist, BA'91, vice president of Washington-based programming for CNN.

Top Picks

Presidential Award Goes to Weiss

STEVE GREEN

Sharon Weiss, assistant professor of electrical engineering, has been recognized as one of the nation's top young scientists with a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on young professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers. Weiss was one of 100 beginning researchers named for the award July 9 by President Obama.

JOHN RUSSELL

Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos and John M. Braxton, professor of education

Braxton Brings Home the Cup

John M. Braxton, professor of education in the Department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations at Peabody College, was presented the Chancellor's Cup in October. His research centers on the college student experience, the sociology of the academic profession, and academic course-level processes. The Chancellor's Cup recognizes one faculty member annually for the greatest recent contribution outside the classroom to undergraduate student-faculty relationships. Presented since 1963, the award includes $2,500 contributed by the Nashville Vanderbilt Chapter.

Molto Bene!

Ashley Esser, BA'08, has received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English as a foreign language in Italy for the 2009–10 academic year. Esser studied elementary education and art history at Vanderbilt and received a master of arts degree in literacy education from Columbia University. At Vanderbilt she volunteered at the Susan Gray School and took part in Fashion for a Cause, Alternative Spring Break and Reading Is Fundamental.

Sports

A look at Vanderbilt athletics

Dunkadelic!

Melanie Balcomb is Jersey tough and Vanderbilt smart.

By Marshall Chapman, BA'71

Melanie Balcomb can stand the heat. I discovered this firsthand the day I met her in the spring of 2002. At the time Vanderbilt was in the throes of finding a new women's basketball coach. I had been asked—along with my husband, Chris Fletcher—to be part of the search committee.

"Her name's Melanie Balcomb," we were told. "She's the coach at Xavier."

I wasn't quite sure where Xavier was. I thought it was somewhere in Missouri. (I later learned it was in Cincinnati.) Still, I was excited. Mainly because Balcomb's Xavier team had knocked Tennessee out of the NCAA tournament the year before in a shocking upset. (Shocking to some. I actually had the Musketeers advancing in my Tall Girl Women's Basketball Pool.) And they didn't just eke out a win; they thrashed the Lady Vols 80–65 right there on national television. So yes, I was excited.

During the interview process, Chris and I met privately with Coach Balcomb in a little conference room near the basketball offices at Memorial Gym. At one point one of us—it may have been me, it may have been Chris—asked a question that the other thought was, well … inappropriate. I can't remember exactly what all was said, but before anyone could say "backdoor cut," a full-blown marital spat had erupted right there in front of Coach Balcomb, whom we barely knew! I'm thinking, *That's it. No way she's gonna come here now. She probably thinks we're all a bunch of lunatics.*

Then I looked up, fully expecting to see her bolting for the door. Only she wasn't bolting. She was laughing. Laughing at and with us. And in that moment I saw something I liked. Something that said, *Marital spat? Bring it on! I can take it! No standing on ceremony with me! Hit me with your best shot!* And that was all I needed. From my standpoint the interview was over. I was sold. No need for further discussion. Because in that moment I saw what I've come to know seven and a half years later: When things get hot in the kitchen of SEC women's basketball, Melanie Balcomb not only can stand the heat, she revels in it.

CAROL HAMLETT

Marshall Chapman celebrates with players after they won the SEC Tournament championship last March in Little Rock, Ark.

Melanie Sue Balcomb was born in Princeton, N.J., on Sept. 24, 1962—the youngest of Alan and Barbara Balcomb's three children. Her father was the varsity boys coach at South Brunswick High School for 30 years. He later coached at Princeton as an assistant under Pete Carril, who is generally credited with developing the "Princeton offense," a style of play that features lots of passing and movement without the ball, including the aforementioned backdoor cut. I imagine dinner conversations at the Balcomb household revolved more around x's and o's than the usual family fare.

Looking over Balcomb's career—both as a player and a coach—one thing that stands out is the number of firsts she's achieved. At Hightstown High School she was the first female athlete to score more than 1,000 points in a career (she finished with 1,581). In high school and at Trenton State College, she set career records for scoring, assists and steals. In her first season as a head coach, she led the Ashland (Ohio) University Eagles to the first winning season in league play in that program's history. In just three seasons at Xavier, she built a program of perennial postseason contenders. Her 1998 squad was the first to play postseason (WNIT) in Xavier history. Her next three teams made the NCAA Tournament, culminating with the 2001 Elite Eight team that beat Tennessee.

During her seven years at Vanderbilt, Balcomb's teams have won three SEC tournament championships and advanced to the NCAA Tournament every year—four times reaching the Sweet 16. Last year's postseason run may have been the most impressive. After winning a school-record 10 regular-season SEC games, the 2009 squad managed to win the SEC Tournament and advance to the NCAA Sweet 16—all without the services of

JOHN RUSSELL

Balcomb: "I want my players to enjoy their time at Vanderbilt. They're kids. They should be having fun."

Sports Roundup

Australian A.J. Ogilvy returned down home with the Commodores in August.

JOHN RUSSELL

Men's Basketball: Commodores Down Under

Commodore basketball players got a personal look at the home turf of Vanderbilt center A.J. Ogilvy during a 10-day, five-game tour of Australia in August. Vanderbilt played professional teams in Melbourne, Canberra, Townsville, and Ogilvy's hometown of Sydney, finishing with a 3–2 record. Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Brad Frederick submitted blog reports during the trip. "Our entire program feels extremely grateful for the opportunity Coach Stallings has provided us," he wrote of Head Men's Basketball Coach Kevin Stallings, who funded the trip himself. To read Frederick's blog entries, go to *http://snipurl.com/vuaustralia*.

Baseball: Thanksgiving in Asia

The Vanderbilt baseball team is playing four exhibition games against Japanese universities in November while touring parts of Japan and Hong Kong. Making the whole experience possible is Bill Kaye, BA'75, '78 (Law), who last spring made a significant gift that not only funds the trip but also supports the baseball-facility renovation project. "This was an occasion to make a powerful statement that Vanderbilt is moving ahead and that the program is continuing to develop and continuing to offer expanded opportunities," Kaye says. The team plays Hosei University, Aoyama Gakuin University, Meiji University and Waseda University before returning home Nov. 29. They are spending their off days touring historic and popular areas in Japan, ending the trip in Hong Kong. "The ability to tour and play in the Orient with our kids will be a lifetime experience they won't forget," says Head Baseball Coach Tim Corbin.

Men's Tennis: Summer Wins Bode Well

Members of the tennis team competing in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Summer Circuit earned titles and runner-up finishes. Senior Vijay Paul won the singles title for the central region at Washington University in St. Louis. Junior Bryant Salcedo won the east regional title at Penn State. Sophomore Alex DiValerio and junior Andy Pulido teamed up to win the doubles championship at the Midwest regional at Notre Dame. Freshman Ryan Lipman had a strong summer showing and finished runner-up in the USTA Boys 18 National Championship.

Lacrosse: Duo Named to Academic Team

Seniors Megan Gibson and Laura Keenan have been named to the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association 2009 Academic Squad. Both started all 17 games for the Commodores last season. The student athletes are nominated by their institutions, must be at least juniors in academic standing, and must have a GPA of at least 3.5 or be in the top 10 percent of their team academically.

starting center Hannah Tuomi, who was on crutches because of a foot injury. Even with the graduation of All-SEC standouts Christina Wirth and Jennifer Risper, fans are already buzzing about the upcoming season. One thing we've learned about Coach Balcomb and her teams: Don't ever count them out.

Sports teams often take on the personality and characteristics of their coach. Balcomb is tough, but she's also a lot of fun. Her teams play tough, yet seem to enjoy themselves. That first time Chris and I met Coach Balcomb, she was adamant about her players having a life outside basketball. "We want to win," she said, "and we *will* win. But I want my players to enjoy their time at Vanderbilt. They're kids. They should be having fun."

Balcomb's teams play exciting and aggressive basketball. After Vanderbilt beat Tennessee 74–58 at Memorial last year, I was in the press room when Pat Summitt made her postgame remarks. "This is the most aggressive Vanderbilt team we have ever played," she said. "Definitely the most aggressive team we've played this season. You have to give Melanie credit."

I often attribute Balcomb's tenacity to her Jersey background. Let's face it—people from New Jersey are tough. They have that no-nonsense, street-fighter mentality. They keep coming at you. This no-holds-barred fighter attitude was never better demonstrated than in the play of last year's national Defensive Player of the Year, Jennifer Risper (a Californian with a Jersey attitude).

I'm often surprised by how well Balcomb's teams play during seasons I would have conceded as ones for rebuilding. But rebuilding is not a word in Balcomb's vocabulary. "If I talk about rebuilding, the players will think we're rebuilding," Balcomb says. "Vanderbilt is expected to be on top. The kids have to rise to that. They know that."

Balcomb's teams are fun to watch. They like to move quickly downcourt, especially on offense. "You get more high percentage shots that way," Balcomb explains. "Half-court, it's always five on five. We create numbers by running in transition. Five on four, four on three, two on one, whatever. Somebody's always going to be open." Her philosophy is supported by an amazing statistic: Vanderbilt is the only school to be ranked among the top 12 in field-goal percentage in the NCAA for each of the past seven seasons (the Balcomb era to date). In the 2003 season, they led the nation; in two others, they ranked second.

Like any good marriage the Balcomb–Vanderbilt union is one of mutual respect—a respect that has grown through the years.

"I like it here," Balcomb says. "I get to recruit to a university I would have loved to have gone to. I don't know many coaches who can say that."

She laughs and adds, "I enjoy coaching kids that are brighter than I am." V

Nine Inducted into Vanderbilt Athletics Hall of Fame

Some of Vanderbilt's finest athletes of all time were recognized this year as inductees into the Vanderbilt Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2009. The nine inductees returned to campus the weekend of Sept. 4–5, where they were feted at an induction ceremony at the Vanderbilt Marriott on Friday evening and introduced to the crowd during Saturday's 45–0 football victory over Western Carolina University.

Jim Arnold, BA'83 (football, 1979–1982), a punter, is the only Vanderbilt football player to be named All-Conference all four years. He made six All-America teams, including the Associated Press first team as a senior in 1982, averaging a then-record 45.8 yards per punt, when he led the Commodores to a No. 1 national ranking in net punting. Over his four-year span, he punted 277 times for 12,171 yards, setting SEC records in both categories. He was drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs in 1983, played in the NFL for 12 years, was named to the Pro Bowl after the 1987 and 1988 seasons with the Detroit Lions, and earned the Golden Toe Award for the NFL's most outstanding punter or placekicker in 1987.

Charles Davis, BS'82 (basketball, 1977–1981), finished his collegiate career in eighth place on the all-time Vanderbilt scoring list with 1,675 points. He led the Commodores in rebounding all four years and was named first-team All-SEC in 1979. A second-round draft pick by the Washington Bullets in the 1981 NBA draft, he played eight seasons for four teams before retiring at the end of the 1990 season. He perhaps is best known locally in Nashville for creating the Charles Davis Foundation, a basketball skills and social integration camp for children from lower-income families. His many awards include President George H.W. Bush's Thousand Points of Light Award in 1992, the Tennessee Role Model of the Year Award from the Taxpayers for a Better America in 1994, induction into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 1998, the Nashville Sports Council Spirit Award in 2000, and the NCAA Silver Anniversary Award in 2006.

Julie Ditty, BS'02 (tennis, 1998–2001), led Vanderbilt to its first NCAA team championship final in school history in 2001. Her 31 wins in 1999 represent the best single-season record in school history, and her 114 career singles victories rank second. She was an ITA All-American 1999–2001 and 1999 Tennessee Amateur Athlete of the Year. Since turning professional in 2002, she has been ranked as high as No. 89 in the world and competed in the singles draw of the four major tournaments: Wimbledon, French Open, Australian Open and U.S. Open. She was named to the U.S. Fed Cup Team in 2009.

Charles Hawkins, BA'54 (baseball, football, 1952–1954), was Vanderbilt's first All-SEC performer in baseball in 1954. He donated $2 million for the renovation of Vanderbilt's baseball facilities, and in 2004, Hawkins Field, home of Commodores baseball, was named in his honor. Among his many community activities, he has served as president of the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation. He died in 2004, the same year he was posthumously awarded the Reese L. Smith Award by the Nashville Sports Council.

Ming Hsu Robinson, BA'84, MD'88 (swimming, 1980–1984), came to Vanderbilt at a time when women's varsity athletics were in their infancy. She led the Commodores to an NCAA Division II championship and was named an NCAA All-American from 1981 to 1984. She held Vanderbilt records in three individual events and two relays and competed in four national championships. During her time at Vanderbilt, she was a member of Mortar Board and chief resident in obstetrics and gynecology from 1991 to 1992.

Herb Rich, BA'50 LLB'54 (football, 1946–1949), led the Commodores in rushing in 1948 and 1949 and was drafted by the Baltimore Colts, where he averaged 23 yards per punt return in 1950 to set an NFL record. He also was a starting free safety for the Los Angeles Rams and the New York Giants. He retired from professional football in 1956 to become a Nashville attorney and served as president of the Commodore Booster Club and Nashville Quarterback Club. Rich was a board member of the Boys and Girls Club for more than 50 years before his death in 2008.

Wendy Scholtens Wood, BA'91 (basketball, 1987–1991), holds 15 Vanderbilt women's basketball records, averaging the most points per game, most rebounds per game, and best free-throw percentage. She was named SEC Freshman of the Year in 1988 and led the conference in scoring and rebounding in 1989–1991, when she also was named All-SEC and Vanderbilt's first Kodak All-American in 1990. She was Vanderbilt's Female Athlete of the Year for three consecutive years and was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 1999. She was admitted to the Arkansas Bar in 1996 and was the first Vanderbilt woman to have her jersey retired.

Roy Skinner, MA'58 (men's basketball coach, 1959, 1962–1976). During his tenure Memorial Gym expanded from 6,200 seats to more than 15,000 and Vanderbilt recruited the SEC's first African-American player. Skinner was a four-time SEC Coach of the Year and won SEC championships in 1965 and 1974. He is the winningest men's basketball coach in school history, with a 278–135 (.637) record.

Brandt Snedeker, BA'03 (golf, 1999–2003), is Vanderbilt's most decorated golfer and was named SEC Player of the Year and first-team All-American in his senior season. He was the first Commodore golfer to qualify for an NCAA regional tournament and the first Commodore to earn All-America status. He played in the 2004 Masters Tournament as a senior and was named 2007 PGA Tour Rookie of the Year. He finished in a tie for third place in the 2008 Masters Tournament and followed up with a ninth-place finish in the U.S. Open.

Best All-Around Girl

How a small-town Tennessee girl sang her way to stardom. By G. Michael Sims

It's 1952. Across America, families crowd around their boxy TV sets, staring at the snowy black-and-white screen as Dinah Shore strolls onstage in a shimmering Hollywood gown, while a harp trills through a few introductory arpeggios. At the age of 36, the beautiful and talented brunette-turned-blonde is already a household name. She floats past a giant photo of a 1953 Chevy Bel Air and launches into song.

The sponsor spot for her TV program may not have been the highlight of her long singing career, but the lilting melody of "See the *U*-S-A—in your *Chev*-ro-let" became a background theme song for American travel throughout the 1950s.

Thanks to the time-machine present tense of film, you can still catch many glimpses of Dinah Shore, BA'38, on DVD, on YouTube and elsewhere online—and for good reason. In a survey of the top 50 stars in the history of the medium, *TV Guide* has placed her at No. 16. In immortalized moments from her long series of TV programs, you can watch Shore swinging with Pearl Bailey, holding her own with Ella Fitzgerald in a rollicking blues medley, and looking so happy she makes even Perry Como appear glum. Shore seems relaxed, comfortable, gracious. Of course, she had spent most of her life in front of a microphone or camera or both.

By the time she achieved iconic status on television, she had already conquered every other entertainment medium. When she died of cancer in Beverly Hills, Calif., in 1994, she left behind three separate stars at various places along the Hollywood Walk of Fame—for recording, for radio and for television.

AP/WIDE WORLD PHO-

The first woman to host her own prime-time TV program, Dinah Shore spent four decades on television, starting with *The Dinah Shore Show* on NBC in 1951. She won nine Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award and a Golden Globe.

The year Dinah Shore was born, a new word that would play an important role in her future was just beginning to be heard: "jazz." In 1916 the Original Dixieland Jass Band formed. The next year they changed "Jass" to "Jazz" and produced what is considered to be the first jazz recording, the lush and rousing "Livery Stable Blues."

Frances Rose Shore was born March 1, 1916, in Winchester, Tenn., near the Alabama border southeast of Nashville. Her parents, Solomon A. Shore and Anna Stein, were first-generation Russian Jewish immigrants. The adult Dinah attributed much of her hard work and eagerness to be accepted to her successful businessman father, and her love of music and sports and a desire to make a name for herself to her mother, an aspiring opera singer.

At the age of 18 months, Frances, nicknamed "Fanny," contracted polio. The primary treatment then, nearly four decades before Jonas Salk would introduce a vaccine, was rehabilitative massage and hot packs. Fanny survived the fever but wound up with a paralyzed right foot and leg. For several years her parents massaged her leg and helped her regain use of it. As Fanny improved, struggling on despite tear-inducing pain, her mother introduced her to swimming, ballet and tennis. Not only did Fanny triumph over polio, but she became a competitive athlete—and yet no one in the family would speak of the disease. Shore attributed much of her lifelong inferiority complex to the awkward whispering of relatives and family friends.

Fanny also felt like an outsider as a child of the only Jewish family in a small Protestant town. As an adult she remembered standing on her childhood porch one night and watching a Ku Klux Klan parade march by, the men masked in cowardly hoods made from sheets. Normally an even-tempered man, Solomon raged that night because, attentive dry-goods merchant that he was, he recognized his sheet-masked patrons and neighbors by their shoes and the way they walked.

When Fanny was 6 and her sister, Bessie, was 14, their father bought a share of a department store in Nashville and moved the family there. Fanny began to perform. "The unfortunate thing about me," she once

admitted, "was that I suffered from a desperate desire to be loved, but I was pretty unlovable. I was constantly singing, dancing and showing off in a desperate bid for attention and to prove I could do it." But she genuinely excelled. In 1934, when she graduated from Hume-Fogg High School, she was voted Best All-Around Girl.

Then she enrolled at Vanderbilt as a sociology major. Not only was she a member of Alpha Epsilon sorority, but she served as its president and competed on its fencing team. She joined the arts and German and French clubs, the Glee Club and the Masque Club, and she became president of the Women's Student Government Club. When she developed a crush during her sophomore year, it was naturally on the captain of the football team.

Although her mother hated popular music and her father worried that she had very little talent, Fanny began singing twice a week on a five-minute show called *Rhythm and Romance* on Nashville's WSM radio. Its theme song was the 1926 standard "Dinah," which she sang softly instead of as the usual rowdy stomp. Having always hated her nickname because it was also the nickname for a certain body part, she began calling herself Dinah. The summer before her last year at Vanderbilt, she auditioned in New York for radio stations, bands and agents. She had little success until a producer at NBC summoned her to Rockefeller Center. As the accompanist played the piano, Shore opened her mouth and produced no sound—not one note. She fled in tears.

Only after her Vanderbilt graduation in 1938 did Shore try New York again. Her father refused to advance any money, and she moved from a cheap hotel to a cheaper one. She permitted herself 35 cents per day for food. Finally, she was invited to sing for free on WNEW radio—alongside an arrogant pretty boy named Frank Sinatra. Knowing she needed the experience, she accepted. She never again performed under any name except Dinah Shore.

In auditions she was turned down by Tommy Dorsey, who didn't like her bobby socks and sloppy joe sweater, and by a pastrami-chomping Benny Goodman, who would only listen during his lunch break. In January 1939 she was hired to sing for Leo Reisman's orchestra at Brooklyn's popular Strand Theater—for a princely $75 per week. Xavier Cugat heard her and asked her to record one of his songs, paying her $20.

She signed a recording contract with RCA Victor in the summer of 1939. After she sang at the New York World's Fair, the *Daily News* described her voice as "smooth as silk." Following one performance of "Memphis Blues," its composer, the legendary W.C. Handy, walked up to Shore with tears in his eyes and thanked her. Soon she saw her name headlining on Broadway. Eddie Cantor asked her to sing regularly on his radio program. Then her 1940 recording of "Yes, My Darling Daughter" sold an astonishing half million copies—her first major hit among a string of more than 80 charting songs during her career. Her rendition of "Buttons and Bows" was the most popular song of 1948.

COURTESY OF VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Above: Composer and musician Francis Craig, BA'23, accompanies Shore on the piano during a campus performance. Craig wrote the Vanderbilt fight song, "Dynamite," as well as many dance hits, including 1947's "Near You." Right: Shore with Burt Reynolds in the 1973 TV special *Dinah Shore: In Search of the Ideal Man.* The two were romantically linked for some time.

Shore began appearing in movies, starting with 1943's *Thank Your Lucky Stars,* which also featured Errol Flynn's only recorded musical number and a mind-boggling spectacle of Bette Davis doing the jitterbug. Fourteen other film appearances would follow. Also in 1943 she began her 20-year marriage to actor George Montgomery, with whom she had a daughter; later she adopted his son from a previous marriage.

By 1950 Dinah Shore was a big enough star to be picked by Bob Hope to appear in his first NBC special. Soon NBC signed her to her own program, sponsored by Chevrolet, which appeared twice a week—only 15 minutes long, filling out the half hour after the news. *The Dinah Shore Show* ran for 12 years, eventually as an hour-long program. Shore won an armful of Emmy Awards in the '50s, for everything from Best Singer to Best Actress in a Musical or Variety Series. In the 1960s, already at an age when many female performers were being replaced by starlets, she was on top of her profession, and in the '70s she was even involved in a famous romance with hunky actor Burt Reynolds, who was 20 years her junior.

Dinah Shore became familiar to a new generation in 1970 as host of *Dinah's Place,* one of the first variety talk shows on television. It ran for four years and garnered two more Emmys. Another talk show followed—*Dinah!*—from 1974 to 1980, with yet another Emmy win. Shore ended her TV career on The Nashville Network with *Conversations with Dinah,* which ran from 1989 to 1991.

After Walter Cronkite appeared on her program in 1975, he remarked that he had never been interviewed better by a journalist and that he had never met anyone who had done more homework before an interview. Even late in her career, the woman who had been told she couldn't sing, who had survived polio to dance, whose movie career had collapsed only to be replaced by television, was still working hard to get things right. **V**

InClass

A spotlight on faculty and their work

Harmonic Convergence

Marshall Eakin blends research, writing and service learning—all while 4,952 miles from the Vanderbilt campus. By PAUL KINGSBURY, BA'80

When he was in high school, Marshall Eakin spent a summer in Guatemala. This was no fun-in-the-sun beach vacation. It changed his life.

He was there to work, assisting public health clinics by giving smallpox inoculations, DPT shots and polio vaccine to the needy. "I came of age in the 1960s, and I was very socially aware and politicized as a teenager, and I was looking around for something socially useful to do," he explains. "When I came back, I said to myself, *Whatever I do when I grow up, it's going to have something to do with Latin America.*"

He kept that promise. Today at age 56, Eakin is a professor of history at Vanderbilt and an internationally recognized expert on the history of Latin America—Brazil in particular. But he's fulfilled another promise, too, by staying engaged with social justice issues in Latin America.

Eakin's abiding concern for Latin America's less fortunate—and for raising the social awareness of Vanderbilt students—has led him to conduct special undergraduate summer courses in places like Chile and Nicaragua. These courses immerse undergraduates in local culture and history while also giving them the tools to help impoverished local communities.

Such courses are known as "service learning," a blend of classwork and real-world experience that is becoming increasingly identified with Vanderbilt University. After all, it was at Vanderbilt in 1987 that the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program originated. Now more than 100 colleges and universities nationwide participate in this program (known nationally as Break Away: the Alternative Break Connection). More than 400 Vanderbilt students take part each March in service projects benefiting communities in need.

Eakin (standing, second from left) accompanied students in June to Managua, Nicaragua, where they tutored children at a community center throughout the month as part of the Vanderbilt Initiative for Scholarship and Global Engagement (VISAGE) program.

Eakin, who served many years as faculty adviser to ASB, has been a leading advocate for such service-learning experiences at Vanderbilt. "When other faculty members ask why I do this, I say it's because it's the most powerful teaching I've ever been able to do. I could teach till I'm blue in the face about Latin America, but it's all hypothetical.

"One example: I had a family from Oaxaca come to a class that I co-taught with Bill Partridge, an anthropologist at Peabody. The family didn't speak much English, so the entire class period was done in Spanish. All the students had studied at least enough Spanish to understand what was going on. And they sat there and questioned this Mexican immigrant family: 'Why did you come here?' 'What do you do now?' 'What was it like getting here?' 'Are you going back to Mexico?'

"I could have just told the class to read a book. But those were real, live people. And those students will remember what they learned that day."

Growing up in Houston, Marshall Eakin never set out to be a service-learning guru, or even a university professor for that matter. As he puts it, he just kept following his interests in Latin America. They eventually led him to earn his master's degree at the

JOHN RUSSELL

Marshall Eakin is the new director of the Ingram Scholarship Program. "Vanderbilt puts more emphasis on teaching than any major research university in the United States, except maybe Notre Dame and Georgetown," he says.

University of Kansas and his doctorate at UCLA, both in the history of Brazil. "What drove me all along was that I wanted to understand Brazil, and I wanted to write about it."

After two years at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, Eakin came to Vanderbilt in 1983. At the time, he now says, he had no idea what a fortuitous career choice he had made. "Here was a first-rate university," he says. "It's even better in Latin American studies. And it's among the top five places for Brazilian studies in the United States. I hit the jackpot."

Just as important for Eakin was that Vanderbilt emphasized—and continues to emphasize—teaching among its faculty. In fact, Eakin maintains, "Vanderbilt puts more emphasis on teaching than any major research university in the United States, except maybe Notre Dame and Georgetown." That balance between teaching and research has remained important to him.

For much of his career, Eakin's scholarly research has focused on the post-World War II industrialization of Brazil. In addition, he has sought to engage a broad audience outside university confines, publishing well-received general histories of Brazil (*Brazil: The Once and Future Country,* 1997) and Latin America (*The History of Latin America: Collision of Cultures*, 2007). Since 2004 he has served as executive director of the Brazilian Studies Association, an international organization that promotes the study of Brazil.

Says colleague Earl Fitz, professor of Portuguese, Spanish and comparative literature at Vanderbilt, "Marshall's a major figure in the field. He's a specialist in Brazil, but also a Latin Americanist by training, so he's able to speak about Brazil while at the same time connecting Brazil with the rest of Latin America and the world. His book *The Once and Future Country* has become a real gateway for people who want to become involved with Brazil and issues pertinent to it."

For most of us, being a leading authority in our chosen field would be enough to keep us occupied, right? For Eakin, though, working with students seems to be the icing on the cake. He teaches with visible enthusiasm, and his collection of teaching awards attests to his success in reaching students. Among his distinctions at Vanderbilt are the Jeffrey W. Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (1991), the Chancellor's Cup (1994), the Madison Sarratt Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (1994), the Chair of Teaching Excellence (1998–2001), and the Joe B. Wyatt Distinguished Professorship (2004–05). In 1999 the Carnegie Foundation and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education named him Tennessee Professor of the Year.

"I'm always struck by his ability to build rapport and his engagement with the students," says Allison Pingree, director of Vanderbilt's Center for Teaching. "He's down to earth. He knows a tremendous amount, but he doesn't come across as arrogant at all. He also has a rare combination of commitment to transformation of the whole person along with insistence on high standards of academic rigor."

Now Eakin is getting an opportunity to take his interests in transformative experiences and service learning to a new level. In August he was named director of the Ingram Scholarship Program. Established in 1994 by

JOHN RUSSELL

Eakin with current Ingram Scholars Travis Westbrook (left), Imade Imasuen and Lindsey Markus

then-Board of Trust Chair Bronson Ingram, the scholarship program pays full tuition to high-achieving students who also demonstrate a commitment to community service. Forty-eight Ingram Scholars are enrolled during the current academic year.

Impressively, the program requires Ingram Scholars to participate in at least 20 hours of community service per month during the academic year, plus additional summer service projects at places in need across the U.S. and the globe. For Eakin, his new position will enable a different kind of teaching. "It will allow more mentoring and will be much more individualized," he says, "and it will also be very rewarding because I'll be working with students who are all incredibly smart, highly motivated and socially conscious."

During 2009–10, Eakin once again must balance his passions for teaching and scholarship. Before his appointment as director of the Ingram Scholarship Program, he won a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship, which is funding a year of research in Rio de Janeiro. There he is working on his next book, a study of Brazil's national identity titled *Becoming Brazilians: Making a Nation and a People*, to be published in English and Portuguese. So for this year he'll oversee the Ingram Scholarship Program long distance, via Skype, telephone, e-mail, and extended trips back to campus until he's back at Vanderbilt full time. Meanwhile, Provost Richard McCarty and the program's staff will make sure the students are provided for on a day-to-day basis.

Still, it's going to be a challenging year for him, he admits: researching and writing a book *and* taking charge of the Ingram Scholarship Program, all while 4,952 miles from Nashville. But as he discusses the balancing act his career requires, Eakin seems energized yet serene. Though he doesn't say it, it's clear that he's doing what he loves, and he's making a difference—both for communities in need and for his students.

"I'd say that service learning is where my Latin American interests and my social-justice interests converge. Working with our Ingram Scholars is a great way to bring these things together in teaching and the classroom." **V**

Find out more about the Ingram Scholarship Program: *www.vanderbilt.edu/ingram*

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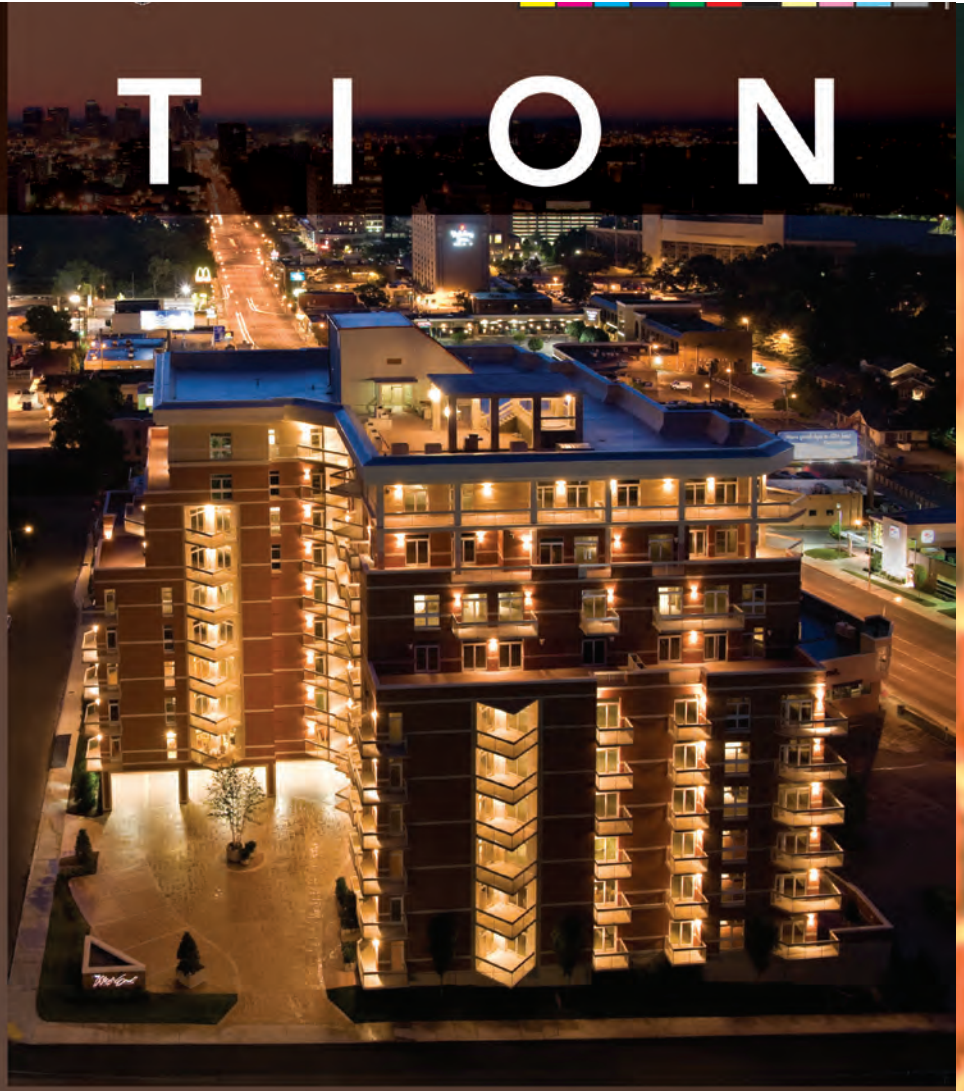

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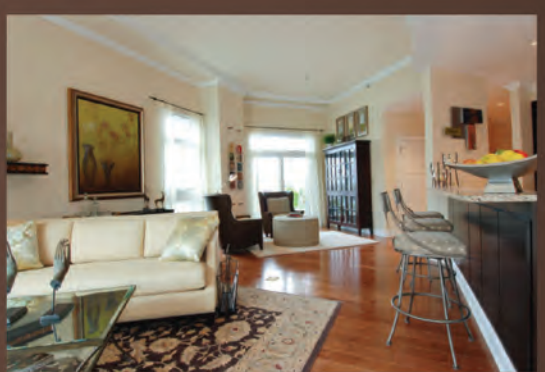

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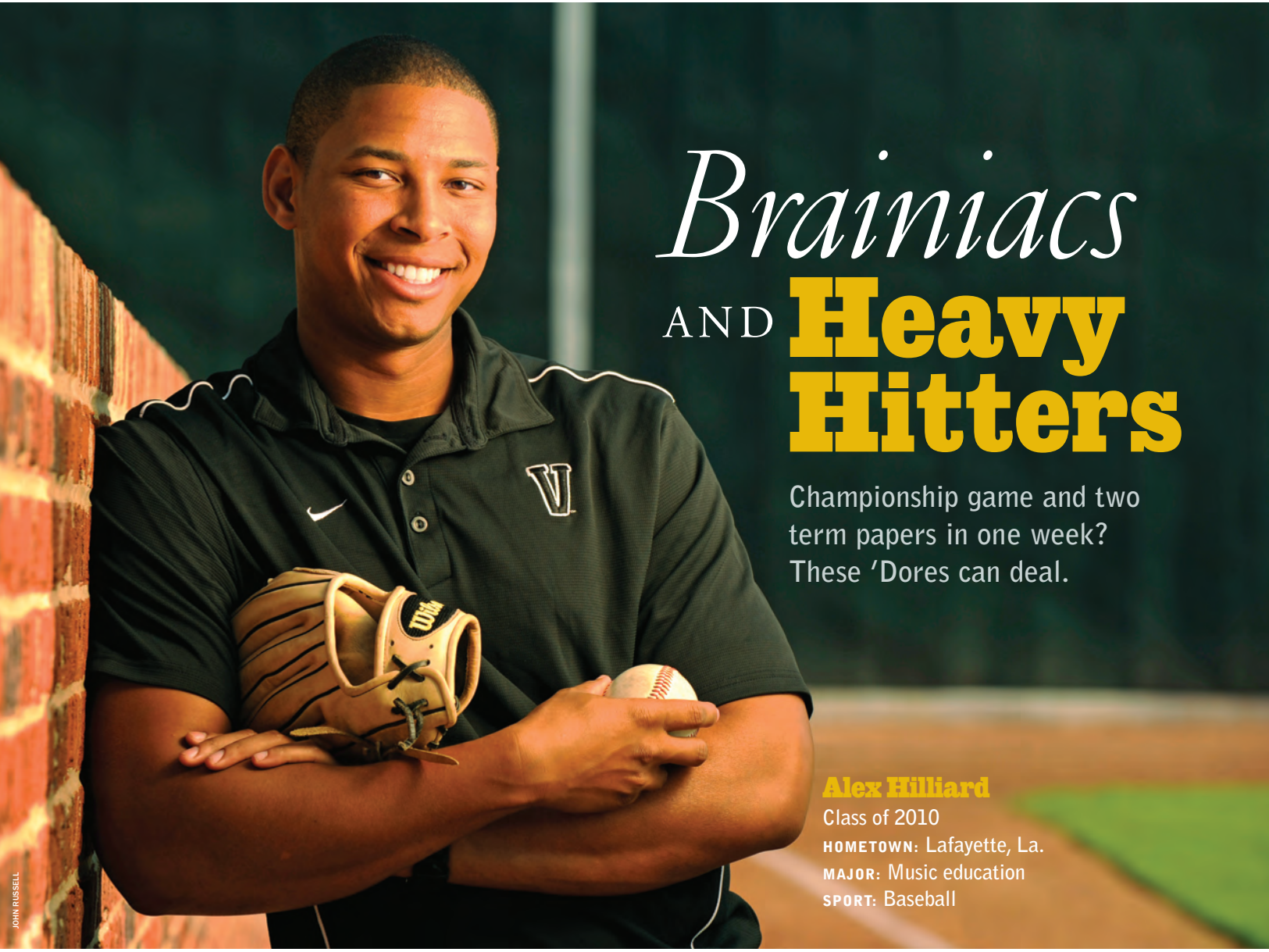


JOHN RUSSELL

Brainiacs AND Heavy Hitters

Championship game and two term papers in one week? These 'Dores can deal.

Alex Hilliard
Class of 2010
HOMETOWN: Lafayette, La.
MAJOR: Music education
SPORT: Baseball

By CINDY THOMSEN

A competitive spirit burns in every Vanderbilt student. They wouldn't be on campus without that drive to succeed at the highest levels of academia. But some students take that spirit even further. They have, in essence, two full-time jobs—student and athlete.

Vanderbilt consistently ranks first in athlete graduation rates in the Southeastern Conference, boasting a 94 percent success rate during the past six years. Last year 112 Commodore student athletes made the dean's list.

The six you'll meet here are as different as can be: a towering linebacker and a reed-thin soccer player, a Nashville native and a tennis player from Eastern Europe, a bowler and a batter.

They all cite one trait as key to their success in both academics and sports at Vanderbilt: time management. As first-year students they learned the fine art of scheduling. They study while their peers are at parties. They practice while others are asleep. They snatch 30 minutes here and an hour there to fulfill their obligations to their professors, their coaches and their teammates.

It's not the average college life—but there are no average student athletes here.

In Tune with Life

Star outfielder by day, tuba-playing musician by night—that's the life of Alex Hilliard, the first student in the history of the Blair School of Music who is also a varsity athlete. It's an arrangement that works because of the cooperation of both Blair and the baseball program, and because of Alex's dedication to both.

"To succeed in both baseball and music, you have to create a fire within yourself because the coaches and professors won't do it for you," Hilliard says. "For me to be a better musician, I have to spend hours in the practice rooms. To be a better baseball player, I have to be willing to be in the batting cages at 6 in the morning."

The cooperative arrangement between Blair and the baseball program was reached when Vanderbilt was recruiting Hilliard. In

fact, the deal was struck while Hilliard was still in high school and has held firm since, earning him SEC academic honors.

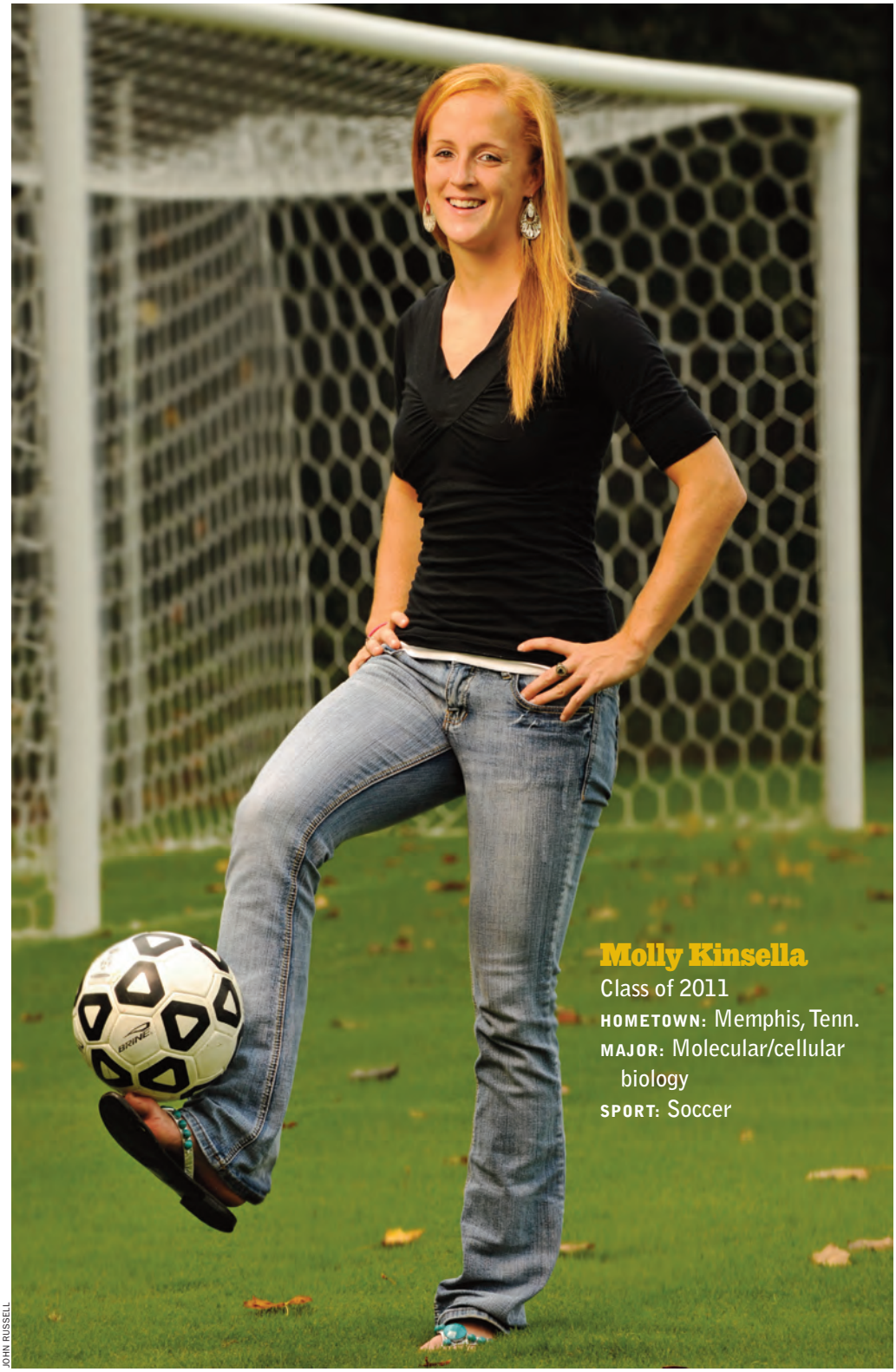
"I don't think there's another music school that would've worked with me on this kind of arrangement, or another baseball team," Hilliard says. "The coaches definitely understand the academic side of Vanderbilt."

If early mornings are for batting practice, late nights are for music. Every student at Blair is required to spend many hours outside the classroom rehearsing and learning new pieces.

"They don't allow you to perform music at a mediocre level," says Hilliard, who also plays piano, trombone, clarinet, saxophone and string bass. "If I'm unprepared, I don't play—that's true in music and in baseball."

Pro scouts have already shown an interest in Hilliard, and a career in the major leagues would be a dream come true. As for music, there's plenty of time.

"You can only be an athlete for so long, but you can play music forever."



JOHN RUSSELL

Molly Kinsella
Class of 2011
HOMETOWN: Memphis, Tenn.
MAJOR: Molecular/cellular biology
SPORT: Soccer

Make Every Second Count

According to Molly Kinsella, the best way to achieve big goals is to take small steps. For this future pharmacist, the formula works for soccer and for academics.

"You have to set attainable goals," Kinsella says. "It's not, 'We have to make it to the SEC tournament, and I have to get an A in this class,' but 'We have to beat South Carolina, and I have to do this paper.'"

Evidently her strategy is working. In her sophomore year she was named first-team All SEC and was on the SEC Academic Honor Roll. She is proud of both accomplishments, but says that making the All SEC team is particularly gratifying.

"I know that school is supposed to come first, but right now soccer is fun. I have lots of school ahead of me, but only a couple of years of soccer," she says.

At the beginning of each semester, Kinsella must discuss her schedule with her professors—and let them know that she'll be absent at certain times because of soccer.

"You cross your fingers to see how they're going to react," she says. "Some teachers think it's really cool that you're an athlete, and some have no sympathy whatsoever."

Like all Vanderbilt student athletes, Kinsella cites effective time management as the key to getting everything on her full schedule accomplished.

"You learn freshman year after staying up too late that the two-hour nap you took in the afternoon probably wasn't the best idea. Now, even if I only have a 30-minute break, I use my time productively."

A Winner in Any Language

For most people, just sitting through an engineering class would be hard enough. Now imagine you're taking the class in a foreign land from a professor speaking a foreign tongue. That's a daily experience for Alex Zotov.

"The first two years at Vanderbilt were really hard academically," he says. "It takes me a lot longer to do my homework because sometimes I have to translate words and terms I don't know. I thought I knew a lot of English—but now I realize that I really don't."

Fortunately for Zotov, his racquet does the talking when he's on the tennis court. He and his doubles partner, Adam Baker, are nationally ranked, and he has already competed in the Davis Cup. He attributes his academic and athletic success to a strong work ethic.

"Sometimes you're tired and don't want to do the things you know you have to do," says Zotov. "But you have to push through, and if you plan ahead and manage your schedule, you might even have time to hang out with your friends." Last spring his hard work earned him a place on the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

Coming to Nashville was a little easier for Zotov because he had built-in friends—his teammates. "I had 10 people here who helped me adjust," he says. "The people here are also very kind and know how to make you feel better about yourself. In Eastern Europe people can be harsh."

Like all international students, Zotov misses his family. His doubles partner, Adam, always invites him to his Nashville home for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"I only get to go home once a year for about three weeks," he says. "My parents haven't been able to come here yet, but I think they'll be here for my graduation."

Alex Zotov
Class of 2011
HOMETOWN: Minsk, Belarus
MAJOR: Engineering science
SPORT: Tennis

JOHN RUSSELL

Just Call Her National Champ

When your parents own the only bowling center in town, it's natural that you take up the sport at an early age. Josie Earnest threw her first bowling ball at age 3 and became serious about the sport when she was 12 after placing fourth in a tournament full of much older bowlers. A few years later, in 2007, Josie found herself on Vanderbilt's NCAA championship women's bowling team—quite an accomplishment for a sport that has only been at the university a few years.

"It was pretty surreal at first," says Earnest, who was named MVP of the NCAA National Tournament. "I got to throw the last shot. It really didn't hit me until we went to the White House with all the other national championship teams."

If there's one thing Earnest wants everyone to know about competitive bowlers, it's that they are true athletes.

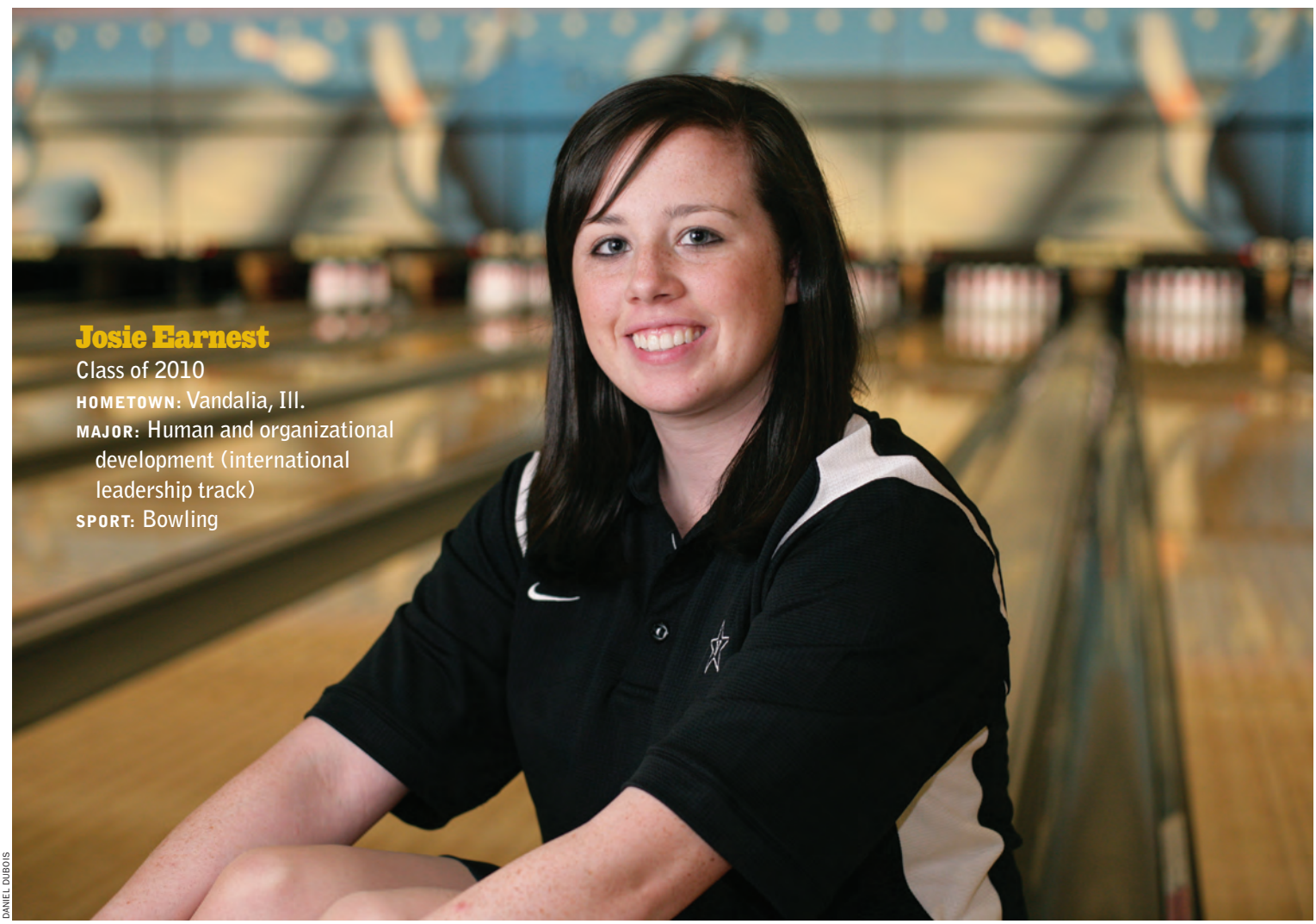
"A lot of people think bowlers are overweight and drink and smoke," she says, "but that's people who bowl once a year. We work out. We lift weights and do cardio exercises. You have to be in shape."

Earnest's experience in bowling for the U.S. national junior team has given her a taste of international travel and influenced her choice of a major in international leadership. She's bowled in El Salvador and the Dominican Republic.

"I've traveled to some neat places and seen a lot of different things," she says. "Meeting people from different cultures is interesting and drew me to this major."

Earnest was named to the SEC Honor Roll during her first two years at Vanderbilt. She admits that being an athlete at Vander-bilt means missing out on some of the activities other students enjoy.

"There's not a lot of life outside school and bowling," she says. "But those are the choices you make when you decide to be an athlete. You know going in that you're going to be dedicated to your sport and dedicated to your academics."



DANIEL DUBOIS

John Stokes
Class of 2011
HOMETOWN: Memphis, Tenn.
MAJOR: Medicine, health and society
SPORT: Football

DANIEL DUBOIS

Necessary Roughness

John Stokes really likes to hit people, and as a linebacker in the SEC, he gets that opportunity most Saturdays in the fall. He also has been conditionally accepted to Vanderbilt School of Medicine. The doctor-to-be fully understands the disconnect between his current passion and future profession.

"The cool thing about football is that it's a legal, fair, relatively safe way to channel aggression—that feeling that I just want to hit another guy really hard," Stokes says. "But there's also this sense in me of compassion. I care about people and how they feel. I want to help them."

Excelling in the very highest ranks of academia and athletics seems to come easily to John, who was named to the SEC Honor Roll his freshman and sophomore years. He also has made time for service trips to Belize and several U.S. cities.

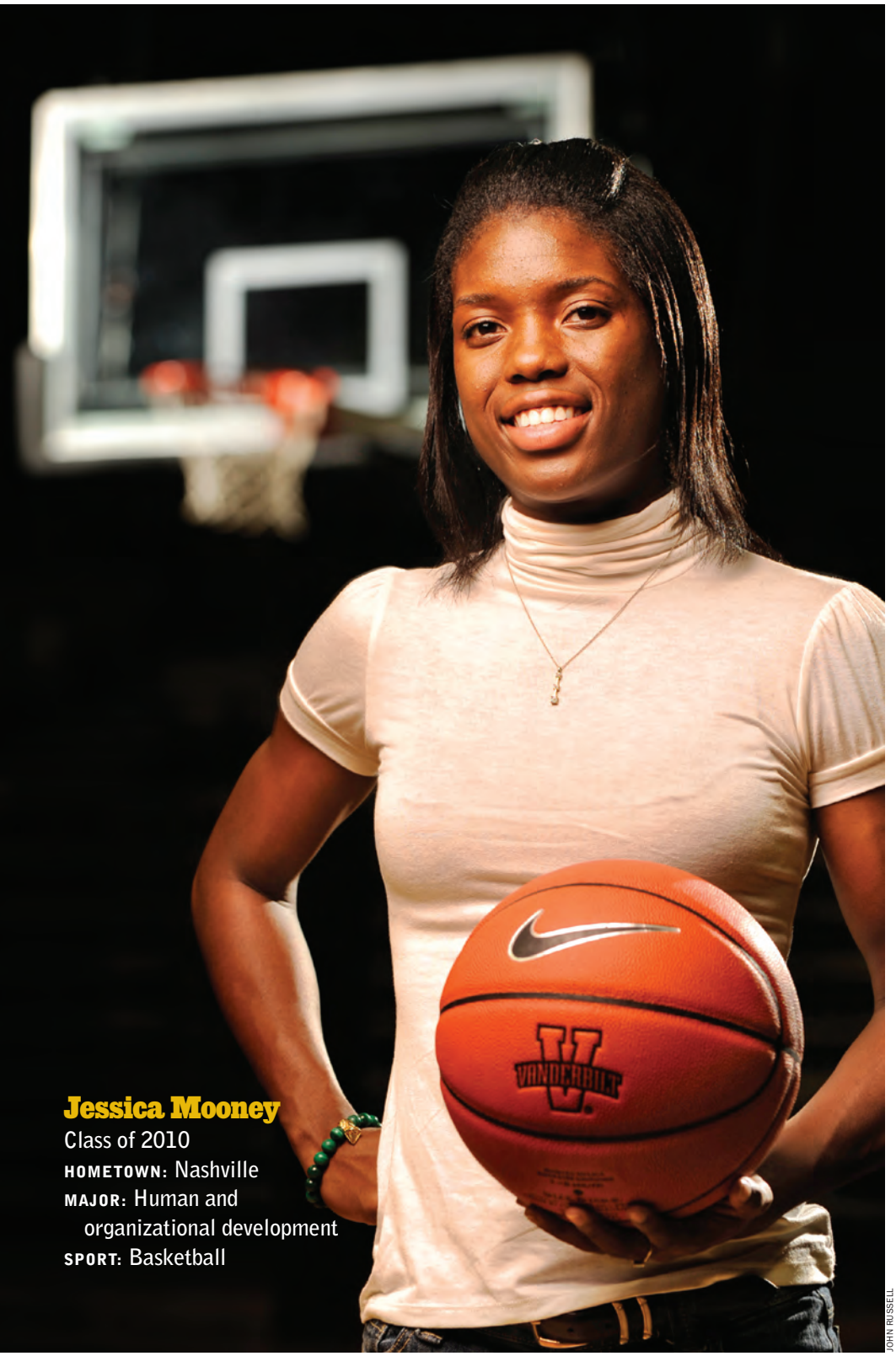
He likes the structure of a full schedule and keeping busy. "Some people are blessed with more intellectual ability and more athletic ability than others, but you have to be disciplined to do well at both. You have to plan ahead and allot the time you need to get your assignments done."

Stokes had the opportunity to play at larger schools where winning seasons are a matter of course. He chose Vanderbilt because Coach Bobby Johnson convinced him that times were changing for the Commodore program.

"I wasn't going to commit to a school that puts on a token show on Saturdays," Stokes says. "I really had to believe in my heart that Vanderbilt was going to be competitive. Winning the bowl game last year was a huge step in that direction."

Unfortunately for Stokes, a shoulder injury meant he couldn't fully enjoy the Music City Bowl victory.

"Football is painful," he says. "I was in the training room earlier getting an injured ankle worked on. I looked at the guy next to me, and he had a broken foot. Sometimes I think we're absolutely crazy to play this game … but we do it because we love it."



Jessica Mooney
Class of 2010
HOMETOWN: Nashville
MAJOR: Human and organizational development
SPORT: Basketball

JOHN RUSSELL

No Dumb Jock Stereotypes Allowed

If there's one thing Jessica Mooney can't stand, it's the stereotype that athletes at Vanderbilt aren't as intelligent as their non-sporting classmates.

"We all worked hard to get into this school," Mooney says. "We don't get any special privileges because we're student athletes. Our classes aren't any easier, and nothing is handed to us."

Mooney's feisty attitude serves her well on the basketball court.

"You just can't be intimidated," she says when asked about playing against much larger women. "You have to have confidence in yourself. Besides, I've always played against guys, and most girls don't compare to their size and strength."

Mooney comes by her talent naturally: She is a cousin of Vanderbilt basketball great Charles Davis Jr., BS'82, who played for the Washington Bullets, Milwaukee Bucks, San Antonio Spurs and Chicago Bulls.

The growing popularity of women's collegiate basketball means playing in front of some rowdy fans—most notably the Cameron Crazies at Duke—who serenaded former player Caroline Williams with "Sweet Caroline" every time she touched the ball.

"You can't let that stuff bother you. You can't focus on what they're saying," says Mooney, who in her first year at Vanderbilt was the only freshman to play in all 34 games and helped her team win the SEC championship that year.

Unlike other sports with shorter schedules, the basketball season spans fall and spring semesters. The addition of summer school means Mooney and her teammates are on campus year-round.

"Sometimes I do feel like we never get a break," she says, "especially when we see the football team lounging around in the spring."

As a senior, Mooney tries to help her younger teammates adjust to the rigors of being a Vanderbilt student athlete. "Time management is the key," she says. "Once they figure that out, they'll be great." **V**

DANIEL DUBOIS

Rebirth of the Midwife

Attracted by hands-on care and lower costs, more expectant parents turn to certified nurse-midwives.

By Joanne Lamphere Beckham, BA'62

Tisha Holloway was exhausted. She had been laboring in a North Carolina hospital for almost 26 hours to give birth to her first child, but the baby just wouldn't come.

"I tried to do everything right during my pregnancy," the 27-year-old woman says. "I ate right, exercised, kept my weight down. Just before I went into the hospital, my obstetrician said everything was fine."

But something began to go wrong. Worried about the baby's size, Holloway's obstetrician decided to induce labor before her due date. The long labor began to stress both Holloway and her baby. Eventually, baby Jeda had to be delivered by Caesarean section.

Four days later Holloway left the hospital with a healthy 7-pound baby girl, postoperative pain, and a bill of $9,000.

"I was very upset," she says. "I shouldn't have been induced. If I had waited three or four days, Jeda might have come naturally. I decided I would never have another child."

But when Jeda was 1 year old, Holloway changed her mind. This time she searched the Internet for a way to have a vaginal birth after Caesarean section (VBAC). Her search led to the Vanderbilt nurse-midwifery faculty practice and to certified nurse-midwife Linda Hughlett, MSN'04.

Hughlett reviewed Holloway's records and explained that she had an 85 percent chance of delivering her second child vaginally. She monitored Holloway throughout her pregnancy, explaining the process each step along the way and involving Holloway in planning the baby's birth. Last August, after 17 hours of labor, Holloway safely delivered another daughter, Jxia, vaginally at

Vanderbilt University Hospital.

Vanderbilt nurse-midwives do not offer home births; all of their patients deliver in Vanderbilt Hospital's labor and delivery suite. Women can labor in any position that feels comfortable. They can get out of the labor bed to walk around and even use hydrotherapy (immersion in a warm tub of water) to relieve labor pains. Their husbands and families can be with them throughout labor and delivery. They can choose to have their babies by "natural childbirth" or to receive analgesics and epidurals.

"It was amazing," says Holloway of the nurse-midwife–assisted delivery. "I felt great and went home two days later. I recommend it 100 percent."

Holloway had the kind of low-intervention birth she always wanted, supported by her husband and midwife. No surgery, no scarring, at half the cost of her first child's birth.

JOHN RUSSELL

After a difficult labor and an eventual Caesarean delivery of her daughter Jeda, Tisha Holloway turned to the nurse-midwife practice at Vanderbilt Medical Center for the successful delivery of her second daughter, Jxia.

Midwives Deliver

More than 4 million babies are born each year in the United States. Nurse-midwives assist in slightly more than 7 percent of those births. In 2005 the average hospital charge ranged from $7,000 for an uncomplicated vaginal birth to $16,000 for a complicated Caesarean section, according to a study funded by the Milbank Foundation.

Those figures have implications for the current national discussion about healthcare reform.

"If you look at the statistics on maternal and infant health in many other countries that are much poorer than we are, they have much better outcomes," says Colleen Conway-Welch, dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and a certified nurse-midwife. "I would suggest that one of the major reasons is that they make ample use of nurse-midwives."

According to the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), 85 percent of all births are considered normal and don't require medical intervention. In 2006, the most recent year for which statistics are available, certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives (both are certified by the American Midwifery Certification Board) delivered more than 300,000 babies in the United States, an increase of 33 percent since 1996.

Are nurse-midwife–assisted births safe? The ACNM says yes, and that midwife-assisted births result in lower rates of intervention. Certified nurse-midwives (CNM) follow the standard of care developed by the American College of Nurse-Midwives. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology recommends against using midwives who have not been certified by the ACNM or have not passed the American Midwifery Certification Board exam.

"The word 'midwife' means 'with woman,'" Conway-Welch says. "Nurse-midwives have a special philosophy: They are very patient. They take their cues for medication needs from the woman. The midwife role is to be supportive to the woman as she has her baby."

Every year nearly 3,000 babies are born at Vanderbilt University Hospital. Today about one-fourth are delivered by certified nurse-midwives, who have delivered about 4,500 babies since the program began in 1995. Only about 135 babies were delivered by CNMs the first year, says founding director Barbara A. Petersen, associate professor of nursing.

Last year CNMs delivered 799 babies at Vanderbilt Hospital. Of those, 4.1 percent were premature. Ten percent of the mothers were referred to obstetricians for Caesarean sections. About 30 to 35 infants were transferred to the neonatal intensive care unit. One fetal death and no maternal deaths occurred.

By contrast, 14.8 percent of all babies born in Tennessee in 2006 were premature, according to the Tennessee Chapter of the March of Dimes, and the state's overall infant mortality rate was 8.8 per 1,000 births.

Vanderbilt has two nurse-midwifery programs: one based in the School of Nursing and another in the School of Medicine.

The School of Nursing offers the only master's-level nurse-midwifery program in the state of Tennessee. Its clinical practice is the only one in Nashville where certified nurse-midwives deliver full-scope care to low-risk mothers.

Vanderbilt School of Nursing offers one of only 38 fully accredited nurse-midwifery programs in the United States, says Francie Likis, BS'93, MSN'94, associate director of graduate studies for Vanderbilt's Institute for Medicine and Public Health and editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health.*

Since 1996, 168 master's-level nurse-midwives have graduated from the VUSN program; 44 nurse-midwifery students are currently enrolled. Vanderbilt nurse-midwifery alumni practice all around the United States and internationally. They have won numerous awards, including the ACNM's prestigious Kitty Ernst Award, which has been presented to both Likis and Julia Phillippi, MSN'99, instructor in the School of Nursing.

> "Other countries much poorer than we are have much better outcomes. One of the major reasons is that they make ample use of midwives."
>
> *—Colleen Conway-Welch, dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing*

Role Reversal

Nurse-midwives at Vanderbilt play a major role not only in labor and delivery but also in educating Vanderbilt University School of Medicine residents. In the Division of Midwifery and Advanced Practice (MWAP), experienced nurse-midwives serve on the faculty, teaching obstetrics residents how to manage and deliver babies to low-risk mothers. MWAP is the first School of Medicine division completely staffed by non-physicians. It includes six certified nurse-midwives and seven women's health nurse practitioners, according to director Deborah Wage, MSN'91, CNM, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology. Wage developed the division in 2006 along with Dr. Nancy Chescheir, then chair of the ob/gyn department.

Wage and her colleagues are integrating the midwifery model of care into the School of Medicine's academic program—an approach that has proven successful at many of the top schools of medicine, including Brown, Duke and Tufts universities.

(For more about the important role that certified nurse-midwives play in the education of medical residents, go to *www.jmwh.com/home* to view the July–August 2009 issue of the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*, including a paper by Wage co-authored with Assistant Professor Angela Wilson-Liverman, CNM, and Joan Slager.)

"When we are in labor and delivery, we function as the 'gatekeeper' and have constant interaction as sort of a team leader among patients, residents, nursing staff and our M.D. colleagues," explains Wage. "It is a very busy and robust role.

"Our goal is to give the residents more hands-on experience with normal obstetrics. In cases of high-risk patients, midwives team with perinatalogists, with the nurse-midwife providing for collaboration."

"It's a win-win situation," observes Dr. Frank Boehm, MD'65, professor and vice chair of the Vanderbilt Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. "Nurse-midwifery is a wonderful addition to our department and hospital. They deliver low-risk pregnant patients and, in the event that low-risk status turns into a high-risk situation, the many resources of Vanderbilt staff and technology are there to help."

Dr. Howard Jones III, the Betty and Lonnie S. Burnett Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology, concurs. "At Vanderbilt our nurse-midwives are a very valuable group of faculty members. They have a special ability to connect with and educate patients."

> The maximum charge for an uncomplicated labor and delivery by a certified nurse-midwife is $1,200, while the average insurance reimbursement for comprehensive obstetrical care is $3,000.

Jones also points to one of the challenges posed by nurse-midwives. "At some point certain patients will need Caesareans or other interventions. It is very important for nurse-midwives to have a good relationship with obstetrician consultants. By and large we meet that challenge very well."

Wage has received a $1 million grant from the state of Tennessee to institute a new prenatal care and educational program called Centering Pregnancy. A model that provides care to patients of similar gestational ages in a group setting, Centering Pregnancy is used at the ob/gyn department's satellite clinic at Nashville's 100 Oaks shopping center. The Tennessee Chapter of the March of Dimes is also funding a similar program at the Vine Hill/Franklin Road Community Clinic in Nashville's Melrose area.

While new to Vanderbilt, Centering Pregnancy has been used at other medical centers for about 10 years. "It has a track record of improving perinatal outcomes," Wage says. "We believe residents will take this model with them when they leave Vanderbilt."

JOHN RUSSELL

Deborah Wage is director of the Division of Midwifery and Advanced Practice within the Vanderbilt School of Medicine. Her team of nurse-midwives teaches obstetrics residents how to manage and deliver babies to low-risk mothers.

Care Across the Lifespan

Vanderbilt School of Nursing's nurse-midwifery specialty prepares students to manage the obstetric and primary health-care needs of women across the lifespan, as well as care for the typical newborn. Students who opt for the dual midwife/family nurse practitioner program are qualified to care for both the

DANIEL DUBOIS

Tonia Moore-Davis, clinical practice manager for Vanderbilt School of Nursing's nurse-midwifery faculty practice, examines patient Heather Olson at the West End Women's Health Center.

"Certified nurse-midwife patients have shorter lengths of stay, fewer NICU admissions, lower C-section rates, fewer low-birth-weight infants and higher breastfeeding rates. Those all translate to less health-care expense."

— Tonia Moore-Davis, clinical practice manager of VUSN's nurse-midwifery faculty practice

woman and her family. VUSN graduates also are eligible to take the national board certification exam.

VUSN supports clinics at two sites: the West End Women's Health Center and the Vine Hill/Franklin Road Community Clinic. The university owns the West End site, where the mostly Caucasian patients have an average age of 30, are often college educated, and are generally covered by commercial health insurance.

Vine Hill/Franklin Road is a federally qualified health center owned by University Community Health Services Inc. The company contracts with VUSN nurse-midwives to provide care for their patients, many of whom are African Americans or immigrants with an average age of 26. Most are underserved and either uninsured or covered by TennCare, the state's Medicaid program.

Patients at both sites range from teenagers to women in their 40s. The nurse-midwives also provide primary gynecological care, including pap smears, breast examinations, and referrals for mammograms and bone-density tests for osteoporosis.

Professional fees are based on a sliding scale. The maximum charge for an uncomplicated labor and delivery by a certified nurse-midwife is $1,200, while the average insurance reimbursement for comprehensive obstetrical care is $3,000, says Tonia Moore-Davis, clinical practice manager of VUSN's nurse-midwifery faculty practice. Hospital fees are extra.

"Patients can also save money by choosing nonmedicated deliveries; having fewer unnecessary tests, inductions and surgeries; and shortened hospital stays," Moore-Davis says.

When a woman like Tisha Holloway chooses to see a nurse-midwife, she is followed closely, just as she would be by a physician. Her weight, blood pressure and baby's size are checked with each office visit. However, she only receives and pays for laboratory tests that are necessary for her individual situation. Repeated ultrasounds and unnecessary blood tests are rarely ordered, but women may choose genetic counseling and amniocentesis if desired.

"We believe that pregnancy and birth are typically normal, healthy events," says Mavis Schorn, associate professor of nursing and director of nurse-midwifery at the School of Nursing. "We include the woman in decisions about her pregnancy and birth. We strive to prevent complications through prenatal education about such issues as appropriate weight gain to decrease the incidence of pregnancy-related diabetes and high blood pressure."

Nurse-Midwives and Health-Care Reform

Studies show that childbirth in the United States routinely involves relatively low nurse-midwifery rates, high Caesarean-section rates, and high neonatal death rates. According to the Milbank Foundation, childbirth is the leading cause of hospitalization in the U.S., and Caesarean sections are the most common operating-room procedures. Pregnancy and delivery are the most costly hospital conditions for both Medicaid and private insurers, followed by care for newborns.

"The United States spends a substantial portion of its health-care dollars on mater-

DANIEL DUBOIS

Mavis Schorn, director of nurse-midwifery at Vanderbilt School of Nursing, says nurse-midwives continue to face longstanding barriers to their practice despite the fact they provide high-quality health care for less money.

nity care with no improvement in perinatal outcomes," wrote Francie Likis in a 2009 *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health* editorial. "In addition, some maternity-care trends in this country are associated with an increase in adverse outcomes. For example, the rate of Caesarean deliveries continues to increase annually despite evidence that this major surgery is overused and has associated health risks for both the mother and newborn."

Nurse-midwives have the potential to save money for mothers, hospitals and society by providing low-intervention, high-quality health care for less money. "Certified nurse-midwife patients have shorter lengths of stay, fewer NICU admissions, lower C-section rates, fewer low-birth-weight infants and higher breastfeeding rates," says Moore-Davis. "Those are all measures that translate to less health-care expense."

According to the ACNM, certified nurse-midwives and certified midwives assist in 11 percent of vaginal births. If midwifery is safe and cost effective, why isn't it more widespread?

"Nurse-midwives face several barriers to practice, particularly in the Southeast," says Professor Schorn. "Some insurance plans don't cover our services. Tennessee laws mandate that nurse-midwives must be under a physician's supervision to write prescriptions. In addition, hospitals are not required to grant us admitting privileges even with appropriate credentials.

"The ACNM is working with Congress to remove various barriers in order to improve women's health care and allow nurse-midwives to practice to the full extent of their education and training," she continues. "But it's very important that our alumni become involved in the current health-care debate."

The current debate is more about health-care financing than health-care reform, says VUSN Dean Conway-Welch. "Before we address health-cost reform, we must address the non-system of health care in this country. We need to have the right provider at the right time giving the right care to the right patient for the right reason at the right cost."

For women with low-risk pregnancies, that provider just might be a certified nurse-midwife.

After 25 Years as Dean, Conway-Welch Continues to Push Nursing Boundaries

One of the longest-serving nursing school deans in the country, Colleen Conway-Welch this year celebrates her 25th year as dean of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. During those years she has received many national awards. Most recently *Modern Healthcare* named her among the Top 25 Women in Healthcare for 2009. The magazine recognized her leadership in the areas of nursing education, emergency preparedness, HIV/AIDS awareness, global health, and the education of health-care professionals in the U.S. military.

"Dean Conway-Welch's leadership has had an enormous impact on nursing and on health care generally in this country," says Dr. Jeff Balser, vice chancellor for health affairs at Vanderbilt. "Her vision and wisdom have expanded the role of nursing and benefited Vanderbilt greatly in her 25 years as dean."

Conway-Welch, who is also the Nancy and Hilliard Travis Professor of Nursing, is nationally recognized for designing an innovative nursing curriculum that launched the first "bridge program," which created new opportunities for entry into master's-level education in nursing. Today that same approach is available at hundreds of schools across the United States.

Vanderbilt recruited Conway-Welch in 1984 from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, where she was director of nurse-midwifery. Her vision for VUSN included restructuring nursing education with a bridge program (now called the pre-specialty program) and starting a nurse-midwifery education and practice program. For various reasons the program did not enroll its first students until 10 years later. In 1996, VUSN's first graduate nurse-midwives began to practice at a rural hospital near Dickson, Tenn. Today they deliver about one-fourth of all babies born at Vanderbilt University Hospital.

"At Vanderbilt we have the best of both worlds," Conway-Welch says. "A woman is able to have a nurse-midwife–assisted birth in a calm environment within a high-tech medical center with immediate physician backup if needed."

In 1993 VUSN established a Ph.D. program that generates nursing science. More recently the school launched the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, which applies nursing science.

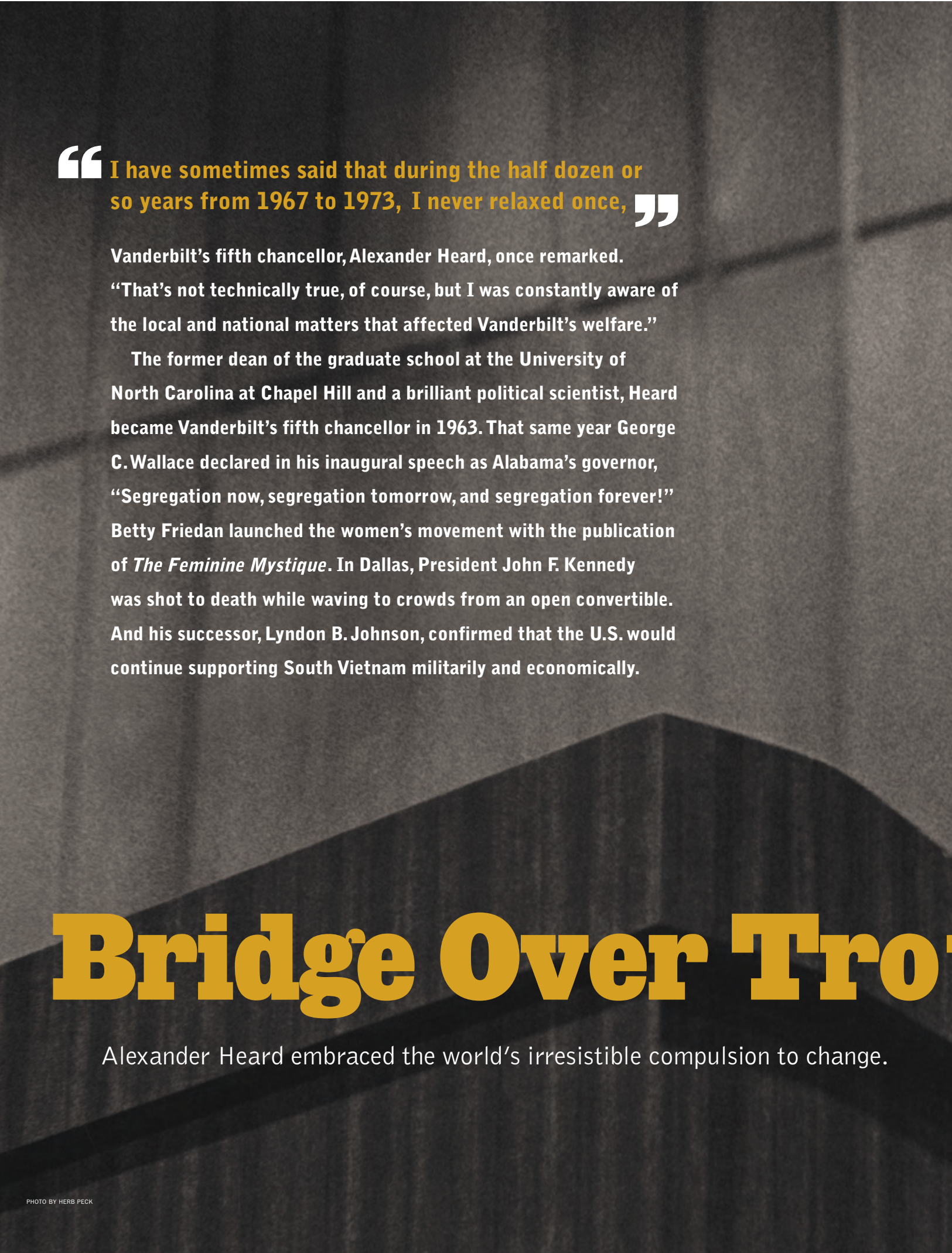
> "The word 'midwife' means 'with woman.' Nurse-midwives have a special philosophy: They are very patient. They take their cues for medication needs from the woman."
>
> *—Dean Colleen Conway-Welch*

Conway-Welch has served on many top-level health committees dealing with national health and social issues. In 2007 she was appointed to the committee that advises the director of the National Institutes of Health.

She is a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and a charter fellow of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. She also is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

In 2008, Conway-Welch received the National League for Nursing Award for Outstanding Leadership in Nursing Education.

—Joanne Lamphere Beckham



> I have sometimes said that during the half dozen or so years from 1967 to 1973, I never relaxed once,

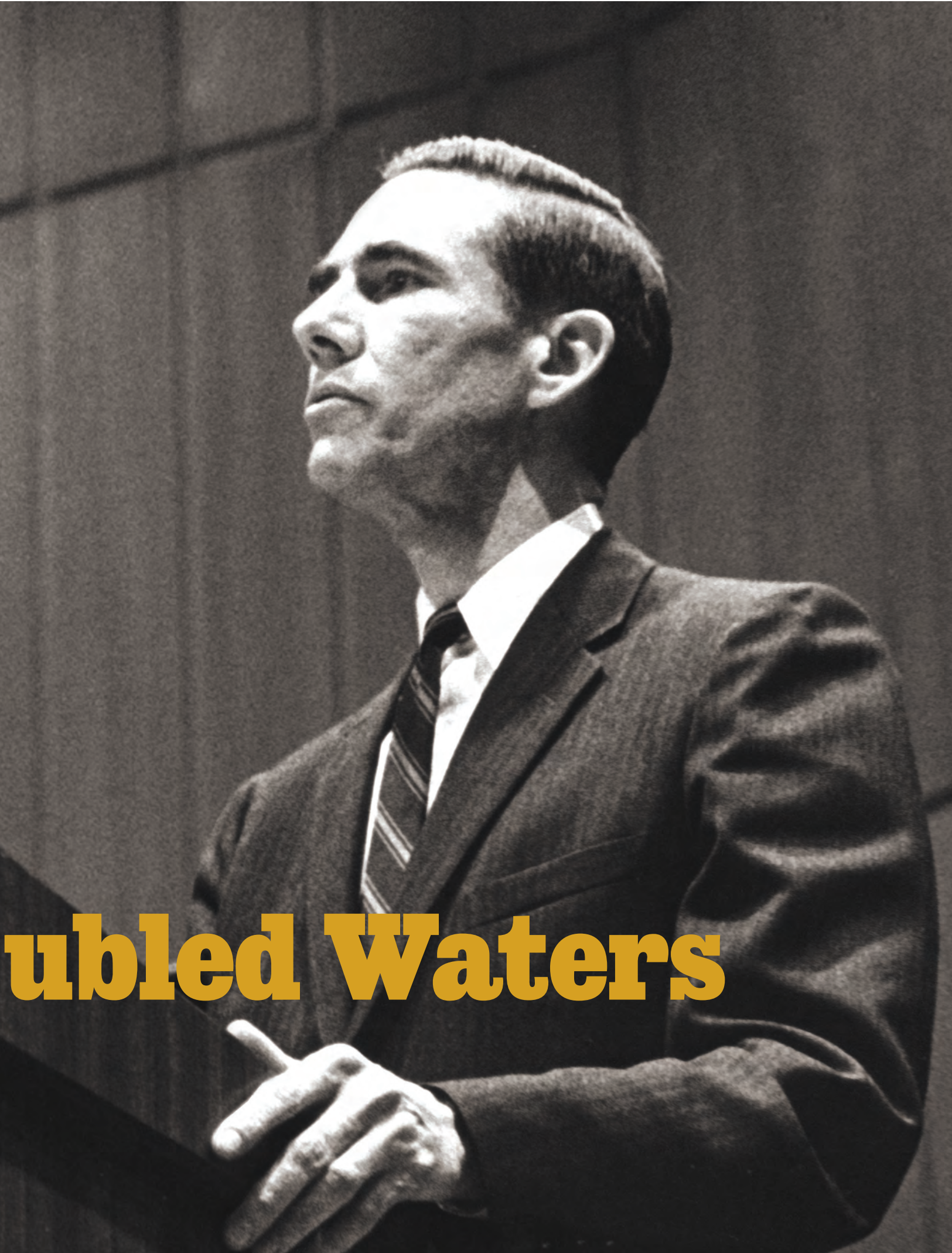
Vanderbilt's fifth chancellor, Alexander Heard, once remarked. "That's not technically true, of course, but I was constantly aware of the local and national matters that affected Vanderbilt's welfare."

The former dean of the graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a brilliant political scientist, Heard became Vanderbilt's fifth chancellor in 1963. That same year George C. Wallace declared in his inaugural speech as Alabama's governor, "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever!" Betty Friedan launched the women's movement with the publication of *The Feminine Mystique*. In Dallas, President John F. Kennedy was shot to death while waving to crowds from an open convertible. And his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, confirmed that the U.S. would continue supporting South Vietnam militarily and economically.

Bridge Over Tro

Alexander Heard embraced the world's irresistible compulsion to change.

PHOTO BY HERB PECK



ubled Waters

As vandalism and violent protests became the norm at colleges and universities during the 1960s and 1970s, Vanderbilt remained a relative citadel of peace. Fellow U.S. higher education administrators admired Heard for maintaining campus stability during a tumultuous time. Faculty members embraced him as a distinguished scholar in his own right. And students loved him because he listened to them. Early on, Heard began holding quiet regular meetings with student leaders, including campus radicals. His defense of the open forum survived challenges from both ends of the political spectrum.

"The university's obligation is not to protect students from ideas, but rather to expose them to ideas, and to help make them capable of handling and, hopefully, having ideas," he said in 1966.

Under Heard's leadership Vanderbilt added three schools, constructed three dozen new or radically enlarged buildings, conducted two highly successful fundraising campaigns, doubled enrollment, increased the annual budget tenfold, and recruited faculty who achieved new levels of quality in teaching and research.

Alexander Heard retired as Vanderbilt's chancellor in 1982. That same year a secretary in Vanderbilt's computer science department was injured by a bomb mailed to the university by the Unabomber. In Chicago seven people died after ingesting Tylenol capsules laced with potassium cyanide. And in Washington, D.C., groundbreaking ceremonies were held for a memorial to honor 58,000 Americans who gave their lives in Vietnam.

The world by then seemed more sinister and more cynical. But Heard, in his parting remarks to graduating students on Curry Field that May 14, quoted Thomas Jefferson: "[L]aws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also, and keep pace with the times."

Alexander Heard would live another 27 years after his retirement as chancellor, frequently lunching with faculty members at the University Club on campus and working from his office at Kirkland Hall well into his 80s. He was 92 when he died on July 24, survived by his wife, Jean Heard, and four children: Stephen, a Nashville attorney; Christopher, an acknowledgements coordinator for Vanderbilt's Division of Development and Alumni Relations; Frank (BA'75, MBA'80), a Florida businessman; and Cornelia Heard, the Valere Blair Potter Professor of Violin and chair of the string department at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music. Chancellor Heard's ashes were interred at Benton Chapel, near the main building of the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

For this issue *Vanderbilt Magazine* asked five people who knew Heard to share their memories.

Heard, right, hosted John F. Kennedy when the president delivered the convocation address on May 18, 1963, at Dudley Field in celebration of Vanderbilt's 90th anniversary.

“He believed that students, in large measure, should govern themselves, for how else could they make their way in the world?”

Frye Gaillard, BA’68

It happened again and again in the 1960s. Chancellor Alexander Heard would appear at a Vanderbilt basketball game—one of his favorite pastimes back in those days—and as he made his way to his courtside seat, the entire student body would stand to applaud. All across the nation these were days of student unrest, and more and more as the decade progressed, there were activist stirrings at Vanderbilt as well. But the rebellion was never directed at Heard.

On the contrary, most of us in school at that time, especially those who knew him well, regarded the chancellor with a respect that shaded almost into awe. Part of it was simply his accessibility. Once at a “meeting of the university,” events that were usually held in the spring at which students could ask anything they chose, a young woman rose to question the dress code. Was it really true, she demanded to know, that women students were forbidden to wear shorts on campus except to play tennis? And were they expected to wear raincoats on their way to the courts?

The dean of women, one of maybe 20 administrators arrayed on the stage to answer such questions, replied a little officiously that those indeed were the expectations. “Well,” said the student, growing testy herself, “how about a plastic, see-through raincoat?”

There was a moment of tension that Heard broke with a smile. “There goes the dress code,” he said, and with that the issue seemed to be settled.

The chancellor was never a stickler for rules, at least not the silly and artificial ones. He believed that students, in large measure, should govern themselves, for how else could they make their way in the world? As historian Paul Conkin would later conclude, Heard saw Vanderbilt as “a place where pleas for fuller freedom could be calmly heard.”

The most demanding test of that philosophy came in the spring of 1967, when the student-run Impact Symposium invited, among others, black power advocate Stokely Carmichael to appear on campus. Only a few years earlier, such an invitation might have been unremarkable. Carmichael had worked as a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) organizer in some of the toughest places in the South, winning the respect of local black leaders for what one of them called his “hip and fear-no-evil style.” They knew that he carried a .22 pistol, but they also knew he didn’t want to use it, preferring instead to rely on his wits.

By 1967, however, Carmichael had become, theoretically at least, an advocate of violence in pursuit of black freedom. At Vanderbilt he delivered a well-reasoned address, introducing many of us to the concept of institutionalized racism—the notion that injustice in the country went deeper than the bigotry of sick individuals. But he also spoke the same day on the African-American side of town, shouting black power slogans that were followed by a riot. Some in Nashville blamed Vanderbilt, and specifically the chancellor, for refusing to rein in the unruly students who were responsible for Carmichael’s visit to the city.


Talking with students in 1971

“Nothing that could be said in the way of apology,” declared the *Nashville Banner*, “can remove the stench of Stokely Carmichael’s visit.” At a Vanderbilt Board of Trust meeting on May 5, 1967, there were some who wanted Heard to “eat crow,” as one historian would later put it. The chancellor responded with an unflinching calm. He rejected the offers of some of his allies to push through a vote of confidence by the board, contending instead that the Carmichael visit was simply routine, requiring no action by the trustees.

It was, Heard explained, a case of the university “being a university.”

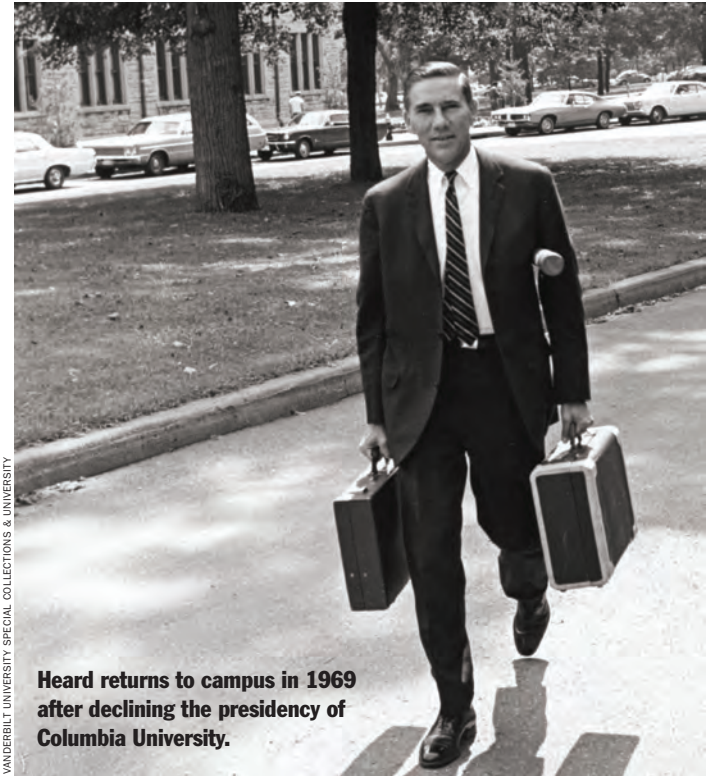
“It hardly seems necessary,” he said, “to burden you with a defense of the free exchange of ideas, or of the freedom to

hear and the freedom to read for our students, or of the educational value of these freedoms."

In the weeks that followed that persuasive talk, Heard won national acclaim for his stand—and for Vanderbilt. For many of us who were students, meanwhile, he made an impression that never went away. In all of our meetings regarding Impact, there was never a moment—and I mean, not one—where he displayed the faintest trace of cynicism or departed from the public principles he espoused.

Of all the things I learned at Vanderbilt, nothing was more important than that.

Frye Gaillard, BA'68, was chairman of Impact the year that followed Carmichael's visit. He says his experiences with Heard "put a human face on the definition of integrity."



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY

Heard returns to campus in 1969 after declining the presidency of Columbia University.

"It was not unusual to see him headed home at the end of the day with not one but two briefcases."

Susan Ford Wiltshire

I was not there, so I cannot vouch for this, but when I came to Vanderbilt in 1971, I heard it said that Alexander Heard concluded his inaugural remarks to his new faculty as follows: "And if we do this right, we'll have some fun." I still smile when I think of it.

Nor was I present during the tumultuous later '60s, but I have friends who were Vanderbilt students at the time, and they adored Chancellor Heard. He stood up when it counted most, proclaiming the highest values of a university, the unbending commitment to the open forum as requisite for an open society. They believed him because his actions matched his words.

When Chancellor Heard decided to turn down the presidency of Columbia to remain at Vanderbilt, the faculty gave a huge party to thank him. And this was only the refusal we had *heard* about. He made a home with us because he was one of us.

One day I passed by as Chancellor Heard was rushing to get into his car in front of Kirkland Hall. "Where you going, Mr. Chancellor?" someone asked. He gave the only proper response: "I'm going to be late, that's where."

Heard had an exquisite work ethic. It was not unusual to see him headed home at the end of the day with not one but two briefcases. A friend in political science said that during Heard's tenure as chancellor, he always had the highest number of scholarly publications of any member of the department—each year.

In 1976 I edited a special collection of papers on the Classical Tradition in the South, and I had found a venue for their publication as a special edition of the *Southern Humanities Review*. The journal, however, required a subvention of $1,500. I spent the better part of the next year being turned down—more than a dozen times as I recall. Finally, I wrote a memo to Chancellor Heard, describing the efforts I had made and asking him if he had any further ideas for me. A day or two later, I received a one-sentence memo on the chancellor's distinctive blue paper: "I am happy to provide $1,500 from the Chancellor's Contingency Fund. Good luck."

When Alexander Heard called himself the senior faculty member, we believed him. With Heard as chancellor we felt confident because of his competence and confidence. Even in times of serious disagreement about policy—and I was publicly involved in such a disagreement in the early 1980s—no one ever worried about retribution or had reason to suspect dissimulation. We respected one another, and we were each doing our proper jobs. No one understood that better than the canny political scientist.

Heard was never chummy, never made plays for approval. Sometimes I thought that was because he was simply too busy. Now I rather think it was because he was focused. He was centered. Most of all, he was trustworthy.

Susan Ford Wiltshire, professor of classics, emerita, joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 1971 and is the former chair of the Department of Classical Studies.

“Papa led by example and never imposed his opinions.”

Cornelia Heard

My husband has always been mercifully tolerant of my belief that my father, like Mary Poppins, was practically perfect. For me there is no bad memory, no time he was unfair, no time he was inconsistent, no time he was anything but a loving, generous, graceful, brilliant man. All my life I have felt fortunate in the extreme to have Alexander Heard as my father.

Papa, as we called him, loved life and appreciated every aspect of it. He loved his work and handled it with such ease that it didn't seem like work. He loved his family and was devoted to my mother, to whom he was married for 60 years. He led by example and never imposed his opinions. He was a role model and set a high standard, and yet he always made others feel that their accomplishments and contributions were significant.

I have childhood memories of my three brothers and me going with my father at Christmastime to knock on doors for Big Brothers of Nashville, memories of sledding down the hill with him at night and ice skating on frozen Richland Creek, of decorating our 18-foot Christmas tree while hanging from the banister in the stairwell, and of hearing a strange humming noise outside the window one night at our friend's cottage in Jamaica during a summer family vacation and realizing it was the dreaded “Jamaican Tickler” (Papa), who then burst in the house doing what ticklers do.

I still have the instructions he left the baby sitter when my parents went to Europe while we were quite young, stating our allowances: “Stephen 15 cents, Kit 10 cents, Frank 5 cents and Connie 1 cent, to be paid weekly.”

When we lived in Chapel Hill, N.C., I remember someone asking Papa how long it took him to mow the lawn, and he answered that it took one hour or, with the children's help, two. In Nashville for years as a child I would hide behind the front door each day as Papa walked up to the house in the late afternoon; I'd pull the door open just as he reached for the knob. I remember my parents' 40th wedding anniversary celebration at the home of our dear friends the Brittinghams, dancing with my father on the patio, then through the house, and out into the front driveway.

I remember a time when I was living in New York that he

The Heard family in 1962, from left: Frank, Stephen, Jean, Christopher, Connie and Alexander.

Jean and Alexander Heard at home in 1984

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY

came to town and asked if I was free for dinner. When I told him I had to drive to New Haven, Conn., for an orchestra rehearsal, he decided to ride in the car with me for the 90-minute trip and then went directly to the station to catch a train back to New York.

Papa lived by his maxims, including, "Never write anything you wouldn't want to see on the front page of *The New York Times*" and "It is not only that you must not violate ethics or break the law, but you must not have the appearance of doing so."

I remember my poor father cleaning up after our little dog, Alouette, who continually wet the carpets in the chancellor's house. I remember summers at Pawley's Island, S.C., in the Swinnie Cottage with our friends the Holstens—four adults, seven children and one bathroom. I remember the day he found out his mother had died; I saw him through the bedroom window at Pawley's, lying on the bed for hours with his hand on his forehead.

Papa was from Savannah, Ga., and considered it the center of the universe. He loved jazz big-band music and Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole.

When he was in the Navy during World War II, he read the Bible from cover to cover, and when he was a graduate student at Columbia University, he went to a different New York church every Sunday. One of the cards we received after Papa died was from John Livingston, a fellow officer from the USS *Laurens*, the attack transport they served on in the Pacific during the war. Another was from Sam Olden, with whom my father spent two years as vice consul in Quito, Ecuador.

My father was a man of compassion and understanding. When my parents' close friend Blanche Henry Weaver was ill and at the Health Center at Richland Place, my father visited her almost every day for the last year of her life.

After a Blair Patrons dinner and concert one night years ago (and a number of years after he had retired as chancellor), I was walking with my father back through the tables after it was over. A waiter approached my father and said, "Chancellor, I just wanted to let you know that my daughter will be enrolling in Vanderbilt this fall." My father thanked him warmly for sharing that news and said it was the best news he had heard in six months.

My father's integrity was a powerful example to my brothers and me. One memorable experience occurred when I was a sophomore in high school. Each student at my school was required to sign an honor pledge in the fall, stating that she would not cheat or break school rules and that she would report anyone whom she observed cheating or breaking school rules.

That fall I made the decision not to sign the pledge. I did not want to be bound to turn in my classmates, and I felt the pledge had lost meaning because there was quite a bit of cheating and students did not report infractions they observed. As a result of not signing the pledge, I was called before the student council and strongly urged by a faculty representative to sign it.

A subsequent meeting of the student council resulted in minutes that stated that all current students would be required to sign the pledge in the spring, or not be allowed to return in the fall.

I went to my parents and explained the situation and the new policy. When my father asked what I would do if I had to choose between signing a pledge I didn't believe in and being asked not to return to school, I said I supposed I would have to sign the pledge.

He surprised me by saying that if I believed in my position, I should stand by it, even if it meant not returning to the school. He set up an appointment for me with the dean of students at Vanderbilt to discuss the Vanderbilt Honor System and the pledge the university used. The dean met with me, and we discussed many aspects of the pledge and the honor system. My father supported my efforts to draft a revised pledge and encouraged me to feel that I could participate in the process of bringing about change. He taught me that principles are more important than individual situations and that they are worth defending even when consequences seem harsh.

My father used to say that children needed parents who love them and are consistent in their expectations and behavior. He provided that love and consistency to the four of us, as well as much inspiration and a joyful approach to life.

Cornelia Heard is the Valere Blair Potter Professor of Violin and chair of the string department at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music.

“He was often the ball bearing in the race between the inner collar of stability and the outer of change.”

John S. Beasley II

He was the most urbane and polished man I had ever met, and, like others, I was completely taken. On the law school faculty at the time, I saw him first a few days after his arrival on campus when he and Rob Roy Purdy, then vice chancellor, paid us a visit, and he went round the room giving each of us a handshake and a steady look into the eyes. He made a few appropriate remarks before leaving, again shaking each hand and this time calling us every one by name as though he knew precisely who we were. *Mercy,* I thought. *This man is remarkable.*

I had the good fortune to work with him as a faculty colleague, then volunteer, then closely in other capacities at Vanderbilt, for more than three decades. He had a quick rich laugh which erupted from deep inside, and his sense of humor was acute. He used the language as a skilled surgeon would use the scalpel, precisely and with elegance. But he was kind, and I never saw him use that tool, over which he had such mastery, at the expense of another. On one early occasion when I wrote for him, he was careful with his “emendations,” ever in the educating mode. (“You have used ‘comprise’ here, John, when what you mean is ‘compose.’ Not only do they not mean the same thing but, in fact, each is the obverse of the other.” Who would have thought? But after that, who could forget?)

He was a good and patient sport when we hit the trails much later in search of the oil that would power the institution. Old trip reports recount the grace with which he undertook the difficult and, occasionally, the unpleasant. There were no “air kisses” in those days, and when he had to bestow a real kiss, he did it. He knew where the university needed to go, and he seldom shrank from urging those who could help, to do so.

He was modest and fair, a fine raconteur who could listen as well as talk. And his ability to listen helped him guide Vanderbilt through the turbulent ’60s and ’70s. He was a man of granite principle who sought skillfully and tirelessly to bring others to his point of view. He was often the ball bearing in the race between the inner collar of stability and the outer of change. At times everyone knew he was dead wrong, but history has tended to suggest that, despite their view, he was right. He led by example, and it was unselfconsciously both stylish and substantive.

J. CLARK THOMAS

It may seem presumptuous of one to write about such a person. But I have seen the testimonials from alumni who were students here under his chancellorship, both those who rallied for him and those who railed against him, and they all end with expressions of love and gratitude and an appreciation of who he was and what he meant to them and to Vanderbilt. And thus I am in position to attest to his remarkable legacy, one that is etched indelibly and gracefully on the tablet of the university as it is on the hearts of thousands and thousands of students whose lives, because of him, have been enlarged and made fuller and thus more useful to the world.

Often his thank-you note to some donor would begin, “Many and true thanks … .” On Vanderbilt’s behalf, and on all of ours, beneficiaries of his life and service, it is perhaps not inappropriate to end with a salute in that fashion. Many and true thanks, Mr. Chancellor.

John S. Beasley II, BA’52, JD’54, is vice chancellor, emeritus, and counselor to the chancellor.

“He told a story in which significant universities led America to a land of perfected race relations and equal opportunity for all.”

Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos

Alex Heard brought to the problems confronting college presidents a rare combination of personality and principle. His calm and confident approach to conflict helped. His curiosity and appetite for analyzing the history, context and possible consequences of problems were important. And his steadfast belief in the university as a special institution dedicated to—here I paraphrase him—“reinforcing and developing” the qualities essential to “a self-governing society, a political democracy, and the rule of law” surely helped him get through more than one meeting with impassioned students and outraged faculty.

I think the key to his success lies in the unique marriage of these personal traits and firm beliefs. Their authenticity, both the way he reasoned and related to others and what he believed in, gave him true authority as chancellor and drew to him the willing and ardent support of his students, faculty, staff and board of trust.

One of the important lessons I learned from Chancellor Heard has to do with his success in leading Vanderbilt through a period of financial distress. We are so preoccupied at the moment with our own sense of financial peril that we forget that the 1970s were also a period experienced as the “worst economy since the Great Depression.” The economic growth America had known since World War II disintegrated into growing unemployment, interest rates topping 20 percent, stagflation, and two crippling energy crises. After Vietnam and Watergate, there was a prevailing loss of faith in political leaders.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY

Heard at a 1966 news conference announcing the launch of the university’s new $55 million campaign

Yet between 1973 and 1981, Vanderbilt and Alexander Heard launched and saw to successful conclusion the largest capital campaign in the university’s history to that date. Chancellor Heard’s remarkable ability to speak to his times and simultaneously invoke the timeless value of the university inspired all to give of themselves.

He reminded listeners of the age-old relationship between social progress and the improvement of higher education. He kept a focus on the special significance of the American South as a place deeply in need of national attention and federal support to make improvements. He told a story in which significant universities led America to a land of perfected race relations and equal opportunity for all. He drew all eyes to Vanderbilt as a place where these noble goals ought to be pursued and inspired faith in a worthy mission.

And at the same time, he managed to remind the chancellors who would follow him of what he called one of the “modern paradoxes of the university,” that, as he phrased it, “A strong and alert institution will be willing with impunity to bite the hand that would feed it, to turn aside support for ends that it cannot properly claim or make its own.”

He cautioned us from his own time of shrinking university endowments, collapsing federal support, and alumni whose businesses and personal fortunes were at risk, you “must be on guard to remember that [you] raise money in order to run the university, not run the university in order to raise money.”

In his last commencement address, Chancellor Heard referred to what he called “the world’s irresistible compulsion to change.” I am convinced it was his careful, and what has to be called *loving,* attention to the characteristics of his time which enabled him to welcome change as the inevitable path to a better future.

He understood the unique economic, social and psychological conditions that had influenced and shaped the generation of students entrusted to him. He spoke knowingly to his faculty’s inherent need for autonomy and simultaneous need to identify with the destiny of their university. He studied and responded actively to the problems of immediate concern in Vanderbilt’s surrounding community, in Nashville, in the South, in America, and in the world at large.

After 20 years of leading Vanderbilt, he said goodbye in 1982 by reminding graduates and their families that universities must change “not their primary values, but their ways of living” and by encouraging them to help lead Vanderbilt “across new thresholds to create a better university, better in its educational distinctions, better in the range and value of its public services, better in the richness of spirit and daring imagination with which it looks forward.” Nearly 30 years later I find his words both inspiring and comforting. **V**

Nicholas S. Zeppos, Vanderbilt’s eighth chancellor, delivered this eulogy at a memorial service held in Benton Chapel on July 29. His remarks have been adapted for publication.

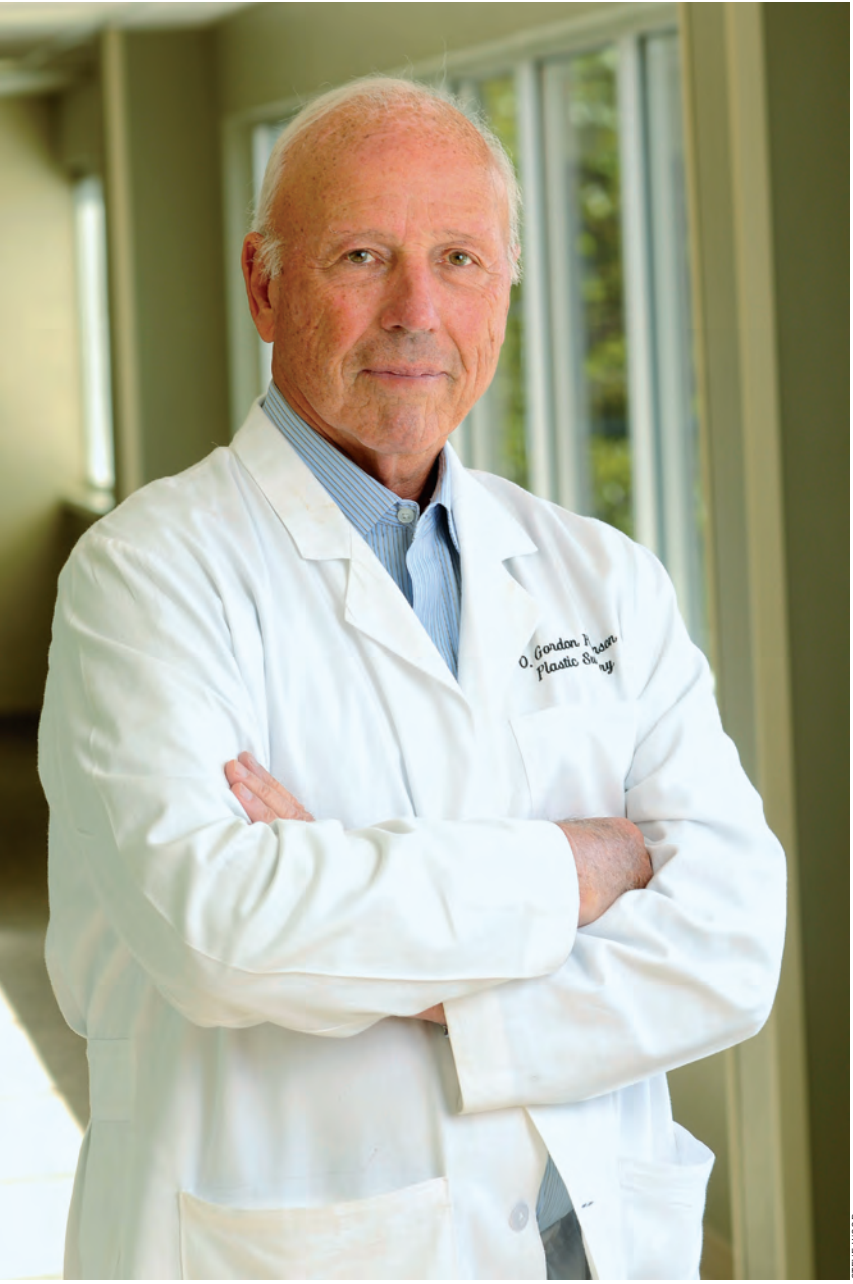
By Lisa Robbins

humanity ascending

From cancer wards to war zones, the passion of a determined few moves mountains.

It is a tenet of the self-help faith: Follow your passion,

and it will lead you down the road to professional success, personal fulfillment and financial reward. The alumni profiled in this issue turn this self-help cliché on its head. They have followed their passions, yes, but down an alternate route, applying their talents to humanitarian work that helps those in greater need. Their love for what they do motivates and energizes them through the challenges they face on the way.



STEVE WOOD

Dr. O. Gordon Robinson, BA'53

When Dr. O. Gordon Robinson, an established plastic and reconstructive surgeon in Birmingham, Ala., saw his 50th birthday on the horizon, he started a to-do list.

"One of the things I wrote down was 'plastic surgery in the Third World,'" says Robinson, who specializes in pediatric burn treatment and cleft lip and palate surgery. He signed up with the Christian Medical Society, which sent him on several trips to Coyoles, Honduras, a remote, impoverished town where the Dole Food Co. (then known as Standard Fruit) runs a 17,000-acre banana farm.

Robinson fell in love with Coyoles. No other medical aid organizations had a presence there. There was a tiny hospital—not much more than a clinic compared to what might be found in the United States—and a big need. After his two-year arrangement with the medical society ended, Robinson decided to start his own small operation, so he began looking for a site.

"I flew all around the Caribbean in my Cessna looking for a place," Robinson says. "I went to several, but I always ended up back in this little village. I think you bloom where you're planted, and that's where we got planted."

Robinson's work in Coyoles has continued to bloom for nearly 30 years. He takes a team two or three times a year for about 10 days per trip. When he started, the teams were small: Robinson; his wife, Kitty; a nurse and another doctor. Now he takes up to 12 people, including several nurses and doctors. He estimates they've performed more than 4,000 surgeries, mostly on children.

"Now we average about 80 general anesthesias a trip, and about 30 cleft palate surgeries," Robinson says. "We take care of

"We take care of cuts from machete fights, and we do a lot of hand surgery. They cook on clay stoves, and the children have no supervision and get burned."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DR. O. GORDON ROBINSON

For nearly 30 years cosmetic surgeon O. Gordon Robinson has traveled regularly to Coyoles, Honduras, leading a team of medical volunteers who perform cleft lip, cleft palate and hand surgeries, and treat burns, cuts and other injuries for the impoverished people of that town.

a lot of burns and cuts from machete fights, and we do a lot of hand surgery. They cook on charcoal clay stoves, and the children have no supervision whatsoever, and they get burned."

Robinson's team also arranges a clinic day during the trip when as many as 300 people come for general-practice care. The patients often receive supplies along with their medical treatment. "We give them toothbrushes, toothpaste. We had a little boy—he and his mother walked for about six hours to reach us. We fixed his eye and gave him shoes."

In short, when Robinson sees a need, he acts to fill it. In 1981 he set up a private foundation to solicit medical supplies, equipment and shipping services for his Coyoles work. In the early 1990s, using mostly their own money, the Robinsons built and equipped a surgical addition to the small Coyoles hospital for two operating rooms and a recovery room. When Hurricane Mitch devastated Honduras in 1998, Robinson rounded up planes, including two C-130s through one of Alabama's U.S. senators, to carry 1 million pounds of food and supplies and two airplane loads of medicine to the area.

"In Honduras we ran into a Canadian MASH unit with two helicopters and no medicine, so we hooked up with them," Robinson recalls. "And we went to two villages a day that were wiped out in the hurricane."

Now in his late 70s, Robinson thinks about retiring, but it's not going so well. He made an attempt five years ago, leaving Birmingham to live southeast of the city on a spread near Alexander City, but he's back to a four-day work week as a cosmetic surgeon. In September he took another team to Coyoles. Nevertheless, Robinson eventually plans to hand over his Coyoles operations to doctors from the University of Alabama, while staying involved on the administrative side.

In the meantime, what about the other items on his decades-old to-do list?

"You know, I can't remember the other nine," Robinson says, and he bursts out laughing.

Find out more: *www.therobinsonfoundation.com*

Jon Albert, BA'84

Jill Albert was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer when her two children were still in elementary school.

"Her biggest fear was that they would forget her," says Jon Albert, her husband. "For parents facing late-stage cancer, there's tremendous dread, tremendous guilt. You can take drugs to mask the physical pain, but you dread missing the milestones."

Jill died in November 2006, two weeks after sharing with her family the kickoff celebration for the Jack & Jill Late Stage Cancer Foundation, founded by Jon to help families like theirs create memories that would outlast cancer. Her son was 13 years old, and her daughter was 11.

"It's sad and cruel when a child must watch a parent deteriorate and die. Nothing is ever the same. It's hard to accept that you can't be a normal kid. So we focus on the children."

JENNY MANDEVILLE

BYRON E. SMALL/*ATLANTA BUSINESS CHRONI*

Above: Jill Albert shortly before her death. Right: Jon Albert with his two children, Jamie and Jake.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACK & JILL LATE STAGE CANCER FOUNDATION

The Jack & Jill Late Stage Cancer Foundation provides dream vacations — the foundation calls them WOW! Experiences® — for families with a parent who has terminal cancer. Above, the Comeau, Magras and Canady families enjoy their vacations together. "Most of the moms and dads the foundation 'treats' die within two to five months after their WOW! Experience," says foundation founder Jon Albert. "This time as a family is meaningful, tangible and indispensable. Our supporters are giving these families a cherished timeout together, while they still can. What a gift."

The Atlanta-based foundation arranges for families battling late-stage cancer to go on weeklong vacations—the foundation calls them WOW! Experiences®—designed to help them escape the day-to-day and focus on enjoying each other. Many families travel out of town for this week, but those who need to stay close to home, typically for medical reasons, receive the same pampering, with special activities, hotels, transportation and meals provided. All participating families are referred to Jack & Jill by an oncologists' network that Jon continues to expand.

The week's goal is twofold: to allow the nuclear family some protected time together, and to help the children cope with the scary reality they face.

"It's sad and cruel when a child must watch a parent deteriorate and die," Jon says. "When cancer strikes, the focus is on the patient. Nothing else is ever the same. The vacations, the weekends, the holidays aren't the same. And as much as a 9-year-old can understand, it's hard to accept that you can't be a normal kid. So we focus on the children."

This, Jon says, helps the parents, too. "When you get to late-stage cancer, you don't give up. My wife was parasailing four months before she died. You want to be there for your kids."

Jon's idea for the foundation was informed by conversations he had with others in his family's situation.

"When you're going through treatment with your wife, she's in and out of chemo, in and out of radiation. You meet other parents," Jon says. "Despite advances in research, thousands of parents in their 20s and 30s die every year from cancer."

Jon approached his idea with deliberate skepticism.

"I played devil's advocate in the oncology community, with families and doctors," Jon explains. "I said, 'I'm not going to save anyone's life. There are some people out there who don't have enough money to drive their car to chemo or to put food on the table. There are more pressing concerns.' But everybody said, 'You've got to do this.'"

Establishing the foundation allowed Jon to redirect the skills he had learned as a successful business and marketing executive toward a project deeply connected to his life and family. When he explains the foundation's operations and the hard work involved, his voice rushes with energy.

"It is exceptionally rewarding," says Jon, who left the private sector when his wife's condition became critical. "And it has given my two children an incredible amount of solace, a little bit of meaning behind what happened to Mommy."

Find out more: *www.jajf.org*

JEROME HART

Jeremy Barnicle, BA'94

Jeremy Barnicle wants your attention.

He directs communications for Mercy Corps, an aid and development organization that operates in more than 35 war-torn and impoverished countries. This work demands resources. Mercy Corps' budget tops $225 million a year, and it employs more than 3,700 people worldwide. Through his outreach, Barnicle helps bring in the money that makes its work possible.

"I spend most of my time thinking about how to connect with and mobilize Americans," Barnicle says. "What are Americans doing with their time? What moves them? How can we mobilize this into social change?"

Barnicle grew up in a family that emphasizes public service. His father worked for the government, and Barnicle spent his teen years steeped in the political culture of Washington, D.C. At Vanderbilt he explored the three interests that inspire his professional life: politics, communications and foreign affairs. He wrote for *The Vanderbilt Hustler*, majored in public policy and traveled abroad. As a volunteer with Alternative Spring Break in Guatemala, he saw severe poverty up close for the first time.

"There is a universal humanity: People want a livelihood, safety for their kids, prospects for their kids. In war zones people still laugh and get married and do all sorts of things."

Barnicle worked for a political campaign after graduation and then decided to join the Peace Corps, which sent him to Hungary to teach English.

"While I was there I worked in a refugee camp in southern Hungary for Bosnian war refugees," he says. "I had the opportunity to work with and get to know people who were fresh out of the war zone. That was incredibly powerful to me."

After the Peace Corps, Barnicle continued to pursue a career at the nexus of politics, foreign affairs and the media. He worked for a U.S. congressman, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He eventually made his way to the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs at Princeton.

In his work for Mercy Corps, Barnicle has stayed on the move. He has traveled to hot spots all over the globe—Gaza, Darfur, Burma and Afghanistan, to name a few—collecting stories to share with Americans back home.

"One thing I concluded from all these trips: There actually is a universal humanity," he says. "People are way more alike than they are different. They want a livelihood, work, safety for their kids, prospects for their kids. In war zones people still laugh and get married and do all sorts of things."

He has been floored by the generosity of people with little of their own.

"In Darfur, in '05, I was at a displaced-persons camp during Ramadan," Barnicle remembers. "I was walking around talking to people, and I went into one hut where there was a mother with her children. I asked her about Ramadan. I asked why she was fasting, and she said, with a straight face: 'So we understand what it's like to be poor.' I found that very powerful. She was poor, facing unimaginable difficulty, and she was still thinking generously.

"A small sacrifice from us can have a huge benefit for people in the developing world. In Niger, $150 would give supplemental feeding and medical care to 10 mothers and their kids for six months," Barnicle says. "I don't want to preach or scold people about not doing enough. I think if people understood the impact they could have, they'd do it. My job is to help them understand."

Find out more: *www.mercycorps.org*

Mercy Corps, based in Portland, Ore., is an aid and development organization whose mission is to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people of war-torn and impoverished nations to build secure and productive communities for themselves. Right: Jeremy Barnicle, communications director for Mercy Corps, photographs some children in Niger. Bottom left: Barnicle meets with the elders of a small town in Somalia. Bottom right: Barnicle interviews a school principal in a Darfur refugee camp. At Vanderbilt, Barnicle was editor of *The Vanderbilt Hustler*.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEREMY BARNICLE

Dr. Rebekah Naylor, MD'68

When she was a teenager, Rebekah Naylor realized the two great loves of her life: her Christian faith and medicine. She devoted herself to both, growing up to become a dedicated surgeon and missionary in Bangalore, India.

During her 30 years at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, Naylor treated thousands of patients, served as an administrator, established a nursing school that now bears her name, and helped to train the Indian doctors and administrators who would become the hospital's next generation of leadership. She combined this medical service with her missionary calling, using prayer, teaching and music to promote her faith with patients, workers, and the community beyond the hospital's walls.

> "India and its people had a profound effect on my life. There were hard times. But for me it was a privilege. I felt tremendous joy."

"I was there first and foremost as a missionary, and I was there to share my faith in Jesus Christ and to show, through medical care, the love God has for them," Naylor says. "There is no conflict between imperatives. They go hand in hand."

Bangalore Baptist treats people of all faiths and means. The vast majority of its patients are Hindu. "There were many people who didn't want to listen to a Christian message, and we didn't force anyone to listen," Naylor says. "It was up to them."

Naylor pursued her career when female doctors were still unusual.

"At Vanderbilt there were seven women in my class—seven out of 48—which was unheard of," Naylor says. Still rarer were female surgeons.

"During the summer between third and fourth year, I worked in a rural mission hospital in Thailand, and the surgeon let me help in the operating room," Naylor says. She loved it and decided to train in surgery. "The internal medicine folks and the surgeons tried to convince me otherwise. They kept telling me, 'Women don't do this.' They said you can't have a family and be a surgeon."

Naylor's persistence eventually won her support. She became the first woman to join the surgery program at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. "I was the only woman while I was there, and for five years afterward," she says.

DAVID GRESHAM

IMB PHOTO

Dr. Rebekah Naylor, often called "the Mother Teresa of Bangalore," makes the rounds with two interns and their professor at Bangalore Baptist Hospital. The hospital's school of nursing is named in her honor.

Today Naylor is on the surgery faculty at UT Southwestern, having moved back to the United States in 2002 to care for her mother. Among her other activities, she mentors students interested in international health; this year an elective course she set up will send 21 students to work at Bangalore Baptist Hospital.

Naylor's tenacity served her well in India, too, where she faced daunting professional and personal challenges.

"India itself, and certainly the people with whom I interacted, had a profound effect on my life. I don't know how to really describe that. I'm not sure I have readjusted [to life in the United States] even yet," says Naylor, who is pictured on the cover of her recently published biography in a bright pink sari. "There were hard times. A lot of people say, 'You went there and gave up all these things.' But for me it was a privilege. I felt tremendous joy."

Find out more: The biography *Rebekah Ann Naylor, M.D.: Missionary Surgeon in Changing Times*, written by Camille Lee Hornbeck and published by Hannibal Books, is available online from Amazon.com and other retailers.

IMB PHOTO

IMB PHOTO

Top: Naylor speaks with fellow physician Stanley Macaden during a return visit to Bangalore Baptist Hospital. She served 35 years as a missionary physician in India with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. Bottom: Naylor visits with church members after a service honoring her for her work in Bangalore.

Zac Hood, BA'05

It is difficult to imagine Zac Hood, the exuberant founder of Sports Servants, as a dispirited, disappointed man. Yet that was his state of mind five years ago.

Hood had dreamed of becoming a professional tennis player and had devoted years to his training. When a college injury put an end to his aspirations, he returned to his native Nashville, enrolled as a junior at Vanderbilt University, and went through the motions of being a student with his whole life ahead of him.

"I was a washed-up tennis player at that point, and bitter about it," says Hood, now 26. "My senior year I had a spring break and free time—playing tennis during my first few years of college, I had never had much free time—and through a series of conversations with friends, I got hooked up with a guy who was going to Belize. I didn't know anything about Belize."

Hood signed up for the mission trip, arranged by two campus ministries unaffiliated with Vanderbilt. The students were going to help build an addition to a school in a place called Corozal. Hood anticipated a "cookie-cutter mission trip."

The week transformed his life.

"Every afternoon we would go to do vacation Bible school, and we would play soccer with the kids in this wide-open field for an hour," Hood says. "When the kids heard our bus, they would come running out of their homes—a couple hundred kids in a couple of minutes.

"I began to realize the power of sports in my life, the way it shaped my character growing up. I saw that these opportunities weren't available to these kids. I was naïve, and experiencing culture shock, but I put down my shovel while I was digging a ditch and had this vision of starting a basic sports program, and using it to help nurture and guide these kids in a way that I'd experienced.

"I went home from that week fully alive. I'd heard that you come back [from a mission trip] with a high, and then it slowly dissolves and you're back to normal. But for me it only increased."

After graduation from Vanderbilt, Hood took a full-time job at his high-school alma mater, Montgomery Bell Academy, working in alumni relations and coaching tennis. In his free time he created Sports Servants, a nonprofit that would bring organized sports programs to children in Belize. It launched its summer soccer camp in 2006.

"I really had no idea what I was getting into, being the CEO of a nonprofit, all the different hats and responsibilities," Hood remembers. "For the first two years, it consumed all my hours outside work. It was my pulse, my heartbeat."

Friends, colleagues and mentors, such as Mac Kelton, director of the nonprofit Belize Project, were his first co-conspirators, but word spread. Hood says 60 to 70 volunteers are now on board. Many are Vanderbilt students.

"It's been quite a journey, a lot of hard work, a lot of people giving of their time," he says with gratitude.

JOHN RUSSELL

"I began to realize the power of sports in my life, the way it shaped my character. I put down my shovel and felt this vision of using sports to nurture and guide these kids."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ZAC HOOD

Since the founding of Sports Servants in 2006, 87 volunteers from 12 states and four countries have served 186 weeks in Belize. More than 700 Belizean children have attended the organization's sports camps. "Our goal," says founder Zac Hood, "is to empower people through sports in order to help build community in Northern Belize."

This year Hood cut back his MBA hours and became Sports Servants' first paid staffer, drawing a part-time salary.

"We're looking to start eight to 10 school programs this fall for about 2,000 kids, versus 200 to 400 kids during the summers," he says. In the long term Hood envisions expanding Sports Servants throughout Belize and into other countries, turning programs over to local leaders as they become sustainable.

Asked how he would advise peers interested in public service, Hood replies, "Jump in and serve something that really draws you. You have to be alive in what you're doing." V

Find out more: *www.sportsservants.org*

The Mind's

"I believe you are the sum of your experiences, so you need to experience as many

Visual Art:

Art Makes Place(s)

This fall scholars from Vanderbilt debated the ethics of healthy people taking prescription drugs to enhance creativity as part of the yearlong Art Makes Place program. With a focus on contemporary artists who are making community-oriented, temporary and performance-based art for public spaces, the Vanderbilt panelists discussed medical ethics as one aspect of a conversation supporting a public art piece by Adrienne Outlaw, MLAS'05.

Panelists for talks in September and October included Jeffrey Bishop, associate professor with the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society; Nita A. Farahany, associate professor of law and philosophy; Howard Kirshner, professor of neurology, psychiatry, and hearing and speech sciences; Michael Bess, Chancellor's Professor of History; Jeffrey Schall, E. Bronson Ingram Professor of Neuroscience and professor of psychology; John Geer, professor of medicine and pediatrics; and Michael Sims, science and nature author.

The panel discussions, which took place at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts and the Nashville Public Library, made up one phase of cross-disciplinary artist Outlaw's public art piece titled "The Enhancer Project." During the summer she met with small groups of teenagers, college students and professionals to discuss ideas behind the work. In these meetings many people admitted taking or knowing someone who had taken drugs such as Ritalin to help them focus. Other phases of the project included a conversation about drugs and creativity, an informative and participatory blog, hand-held viewfinders featuring text and symbolic cutouts distributed to the public, and an installation at the Nashville Public Library that opened in October.

STEVE GREEN

Adrienne Outlaw

Another AMP project, represented by five brightly colored stair stoops, was displayed on campus through mid-October. Titled "Community Outpost," the piece was the creation of artist Mike Calway-Fagen. As part of his project, the artist talked with students about ways in which various cultures create community. A combination of student docents and signage helped viewers understand the purpose of the work. The artwork was installed in locations around campus, including the General Library Building, Sarratt Courtyard, Magnolia Lawn and the Commons Terrace.

AMP projects are on exhibit at the Nashville Public Library Art Gallery through March 26, 2010. They culminate with a full-color critical catalog in 2010.

Find out more: *www.n-cap.org/amp.html*

STEVE GREEN

Mike Calway-Fagen's "Community Outpost," on display at The Commons, invited discussion about ways in which various cultures create community.

Film:

Duncan Jones on the *Moon*

Speaking by phone from Liberty Studios in London, 38-year-old former Vanderbilt student Duncan Jones seems unaffected by the flurry of media attention he's receiving for his directorial debut, the science-fiction film *Moon*.

Produced for $5 million (a mere pittance in the film industry), the thought-provoking thriller opened in American theaters in July to critical acclaim. It was named a best film at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival and earned "Best British Film" honors at the Edinburgh Film Festival.

The son of glam-rock legend David Bowie, Jones didn't find his current success by riding his famous father's coattails. Once a shy, awkward teenager, he stayed clear of red carpets and nightclubs, instead occupying himself with books (science fiction among them) and

Eye

***"Arisaema triphyllum,"* a 1978 wood engraving by Chattanooga, Tenn., native Barry Moser, is one of numerous prints by the bookmaker and illustrator that was recently acquired by Special Collections at the Jean and Alexander Heard Library.**

things as you can. Because of that, I think education is a gift that no one should pass up.

— *alumnus filmmaker* Duncan Jones

with making stop-motion animated films.

Wishing to avoid comparison, he chose not to pursue his father's line of work, instead earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the College of Wooster in Ohio. To the surprise of friends and family, in the fall of 1995 he entered Vanderbilt's philosophy Ph.D. program rather than return to England. He settled into campus life quickly, joining the rugby team and spending time with friends at local hangouts like San Antonio Taco Co.

"I remember when I first came to Vanderbilt and thinking how huge it all seemed," he says. "I took some fascinating courses through the philosophy department. In particular, I remember one on medical ethics that gave me some truly disturbing dilemmas to chew on. … I had an outstanding experience at Vanderbilt, but it was tough in that I was starting to see that I was being drawn toward film."

A trip to a film set to visit his father prompted a life-altering realization for Jones.

"I had this kind of epiphany, that this was what I was supposed to be doing. This hobby of filmmaking from my childhood—this was what I should pursue."

Jones left Vanderbilt in 1997 to study at The London Film School. In the years that followed, he worked as a cameraman and commercial director and took part in other aspects of the industry. *Moon*, partially funded by Trudie Styler, wife of rocker Sting, is his first feature, and critics are already predicting a successful future for the director.

Jones' interest in philosophy played a significant role in the writing and producing of *Moon*, he says. The movie focuses on a solitary astronaut (played by Sam Rockwell) serving out a three-year stint on a lunar space station, where he oversees the mining of helium-3, a vital source of energy back on Earth.

"*Moon* is an unusual film in a lot of ways, and I'm quite sure that the philosophical underpinnings of the story were informed by many of the things I was studying during my time at Vanderbilt," says Jones. "I guess that's part of the beauty of higher education—you never know when you are going to be able to draw from it."

Now the darling of the film-festival circuit with offers coming in to direct more features, Jones seems to have found his calling. But he hasn't forgotten his passion for learning and the education that helped form who he is today.

"It may have taken more than a decade to make my philosophy study pay for itself, but pay for itself it finally has," he says. "It was an exceedingly circuitous route, but … I believe you are the sum of your experiences, so you need to experience as many things as you can. Because of that, I think education is a gift that no one should pass up."

—*Joan Brasher*

COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Duncan Jones (left) and actor Sam Rockwell on the set of *Moon*.

STEVE GREEN

Designed by the New York firm of McKim, Mead and White, Cohen Memorial on the Peabody campus has always been dedicated to the arts. Nashville art collector George Etta Brinkley Cohen gave the hall to Peabody College in 1926 and occupied an apartment on the second floor until her 1930 death. The newly renovated structure now houses Vanderbilt's Department of the History of Art, the Department of Classical Studies, and the Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery. (To find out about naming opportunities at Cohen, contact Jonathan Petty, associate dean for development, at (615) 322-8119 or jonathan.petty@vanderbilt.edu.)

Music:

No Boundaries

Born with the 20th century in the American South, jazz has been called the only music entirely original to the United States.

Yet no less a figure than Duke Ellington once said, "It is becoming increasingly difficult to decide where jazz starts or where it stops, where Tin Pan Alley begins and jazz ends, or even where the borderline lies between classical music and jazz. I feel there is no boundary line."

The expansive nature of jazz, of course, is what makes it such a vibrant art form. Jazz instruction was introduced at Blair in the early 1990s and has been a growing presence ever since. There's a practical reason for that, says Billy Adair, senior lecturer of jazz studies and director of the Blair Big Band.

"To be blunt, it has to do with making a living with music. There are only X number of symphony jobs, and the competition for those is intense. But if you can also play jazz, you can at least make money on the weekends!"

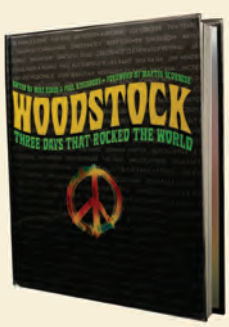
Indeed, many Blair graduates have gone on to make money in jazz on more than a weekend basis. Multi-instrumentalist Rose Rutledge, BMus'06, who played with the Blair Big Band for four years, recently headlined with her quintet at Dizzy's, the jazz club at Lincoln Center in New York City. Others, like Matt Belsante (BS'06), Sarah Williams (BMus'06), and Molly Jewell (Class of 2010), are budding jazz, R&B and alternative rock artists with solo CDs under their belts.

While the success of Blair graduates in the world of contemporary music is impressive, students on a classical career track also benefit from jazz instruction. "Jazz opens the ear so you can more freely interact with musicians in performance," explains Roger Spencer, adjunct professor of jazz ensemble

STEVE GREEN

The Nashville Jazz Orchestra, a resident performing group at the Blair School of Music, performed its "Viva el Mambo! A Night of Big Band Salsa" in Ingram Hall on Oct. 9, with guests Lalo Davila, Sylvia Garcia, and percussionists John Santos, Dann Sherrill and Marcus Finnie.

Recent Books

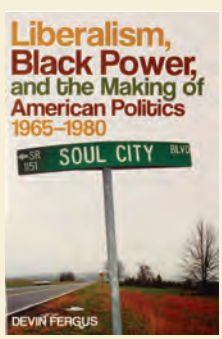


Woodstock: Three Days That Rocked the World (2009, Sterling Publishing) edited by Mike Evans and Paul Kingsbury, BA'80

Filled with photos from the event itself as well as visual exploration of the social context in which Woodstock happened, this well-researched coffee-table tome provides new information, including complete set lists by each artist, about the "three days of peace and music" that became a watershed moment in the '60s.

Liberalism, Black Power, and the Making of American Politics, 1965–1980 (2009, University of Georgia Press) by Devin Fergus, assistant professor of history

Focusing on North Carolina during the era of Johnson, Nixon, Carter and Helms, this book explores the relationship between black nationalism and liberalism, and takes a look at how liberal engagement helped to bring a radical civic ideology back from the brink of political violence and social nihilism.



The Millionaires: A Novel (2009, W.W. Norton & Co.) by Inman Majors, BA'86

In his third novel, Majors tells a story about new money, political ambition and greed played out across the backdrop of a swiftly changing Tennessee town. In his depiction of the Cole brothers, country boys who have made a windfall in the banking business, Majors leaves the reader with a palpable sense of the swiftly changing American South.

and co-founder of the Nashville Jazz Workshop. "As a working musician in the real world, you play different styles and must be able to improvise. Jazz training helps students learn how to do that."

For many years the cornerstone for jazz at Blair was Adair's wife, well-known jazz pianist Beegie Adair. This year Blair has expanded its jazz faculty to include Dennis Solee, jazz saxophone; Liz Johnson, jazz vocals; and Jody Nardone, jazz piano. "I think the jazz program is growing at Blair because it benefits all students," says Adair. "Studying jazz greatly improves sight reading, and jazz improvisation helps get the student away from the page and encourages creative thinking. After all, jazz is nothing more than telling your story in a song."

—*Angela Fox*

STEVE GREEN

In September, nine VUMC nurses starred in *Hey, Florence!*, a musical about the day-to-day lives of nurses.

STEVE GREEN

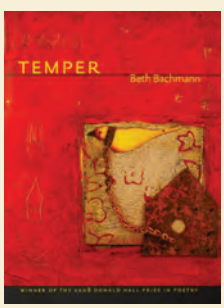
Nurses, Center Stage

Hey, Florence!, a musical reflecting the day-to-day life of nurses at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, premiered in September in Langford Auditorium. Directed by renowned Australian playwright Craig Christie, the 60-minute show starred nine active-duty VUMC nurses. Christie based the musical on stories told by Vanderbilt nurses and on his own experiences in shadowing them throughout their workday.

The production included songs like "Someone's Gotta Do It," about the difficult and messy jobs nurses take on; "Another Goodbye," about the pain of losing patients; and "I Need Chocolate," which needs no explanation.

"This is a chance for the nurses to tell their stories. It's a look at contemporary nursing, and it will touch everyone emotionally. You will laugh and cry," said Donna Glassford, director of cultural enrichment at VUMC, who was the show's producer. The production was a collaborative effort between the Office of Cultural Enrichment and the Nurse Wellness Committee.

Donna Collins, R.N., had never sung in front of another person before joining the *Hey, Florence!* cast, but gets her experience from singing very loudly in her car. "My manager told me to do it. She said she wanted me to go and represent our floor," Collins explained. "I love it because it's exactly my life story every day."



Temper (2009, University of Pittsburgh Press) by Beth Bachmann, assistant professor of English

Winner of the 2008 Donald Hall Prize in Poetry, this slim volume moves with the shifting weight of grief in its re-envisioning of elegy. Bachmann describes it as "poems [that] turn and return to heat and the absence of heat, color and the absence of color, motioning between states of restlessness and composure, mimicking the way grief circles back to the site of the trauma"—in this case, the murder of a sister.

Revolutions in Mexican Catholicism: Reform and Revelation in Oaxaca, 1887–1934 (2009, Duke University Press) by Edward Wright-Rios, assistant professor of history

Looking specifically at Oaxaca from the late 19th to early 20th century, Wright-Rios shows that pastors, peasants and laywomen enlivened and shaped popular religion there, revealing a remarkable dynamic of interaction and negotiation in which priests and parishioners remained engaged with one another in the process of making their faith meaningful during tumultuous times.

S.P.O.V.*

* *Student Point of View*

Defining Poverty, Designing Solutions

Taking the true measure of poverty begins with finding new metrics.

By Thomas Davis, Class of 2010

What is poverty? And what is the best way to treat it? While the second question seems to be the more important, a poor fundamental understanding of the first obscures poverty's underlying mechanism, often resulting in an ineffective and insensitive treatment. Unlike medicine, which often relies on discovery to treat illness before a full understanding of the disease is acquired, the cure for poverty cannot be discovered.

Instead, poverty is better approached with the perspective of an engineer — one that designs a solution based on a more complete understanding of poverty.

COURTESY OF THOMAS DAVIS

My interest in the design of novel techniques for poverty alleviation began after reading the book *Creating a World without Poverty* by Nobel laureate and Vanderbilt alumnus Muhammad Yunus, PhD'71. His definition of social business redefined my understanding of current techniques used to treat poverty and encouraged me to learn more about his advocacy of microfinance. As I learned more, I realized that many contemporaries of Yunus were concurrently promoting and developing the notion of microfinance.

Why then did Yunus win the Nobel Peace Prize? And even if he had begun the microfinance revolution himself, did he really win the Nobel Peace Prize because he started lending poor people money at lower interest rates? Or was it his ability to get poor people to pay back their loans more than 99 percent of the time despite having no collateral?

In fact, neither of these possibilities is necessarily unique to Muhammad Yunus, nor are they independently worthy of a Nobel Peace Prize. Yunus' contribution is much more profound. He *redefined* poverty.

Ask most economists what poverty is, and they will tell you it is best defined as some form of a measure of income. Ask a theologian, and you will hear about spiritual poverty. Ask a physician, and you will learn about disease. Ask Muhammad Yunus, and he will tell you poverty is isolation.

The isolation Yunus describes is not necessarily geographic isolation; it is societal isolation, or isolation from the mainstream. As Yunus explains, an individual borrows money because she or he does not have any, and yet the reality is that one cannot borrow money unless that person has already achieved a threshold of net worth. Through microfinance, however, billions of people without access to financial institutions can have the opportunity to be incorporated into the mainstream economy. The barrier of isolation is effectively removed.

An understanding of poverty as isolation extends well beyond microfinance, a concept I more fully grasped after conducting a market assessment this summer for The HealthStore Foundation and the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health. While evaluating Mozambique as a potential candidate for the expansion of The HealthStore Foundation's network of hybrid nonprofit/for-profit franchise pharmacies, I had the opportunity to get acquainted with the country director of TechnoServe. A nongovernmental organization (NGO) consulting firm, TechnoServe focuses on cultivating local entrepreneurial spirit and developing primarily the agriculture and tourism industries within Mozambique as a means of treating rural poverty.

My experience with TechnoServe revealed that the best method of poverty alleviation is often wealth creation. The notion of wealth creation is uncomfortable for some, but it is evident that if wealth creation is propagated responsibly, it can achieve unmatched sustainability. TechnoServe began restructuring Mozambique's dying $80,000 cashew industry in 2002, and by 2007, Mozambique had become the world's fourth-largest cashew producer, achieving sales of more than $20 million. TechnoServe's leadership accomplished these results by expanding the industry from purely harvesting cashews to also processing them, by aligning the techniques of processing cashews with consumer demand, by selling cashews under a collective name to increase selling power, and by training and

mentoring native Mozambican entrepreneurs to operate the cashew processing plants.

TechnoServe has achieved similarly astonishing results in the domestic poultry industry and is looking to generate regular use of the Port of Nacala through development of the mango and banana industries, which will open a much-needed supply chain into northern Mozambique—a region that has been shackled to poverty in large part because of high transportation costs.

Analyzing TechnoServe's successes reveals some important insight into the value of wealth creation. While great emphasis traditionally has been placed on macroeconomic policies such as curbing hyperinflation, debt relief and increasing investment, significant opportunities remain for microeconomic development. What good is foreign investment in a country where nearly all citizens lack an even basic understanding of business management? Without the development of management skills among the poor, the upper economic echelon—characterized exclusively by ex-pats and a few wealthy Mozambicans—isolates the underlying economic foundation by creating an interface that is impermeable to any effective knowledge transfer.

A national education system that doesn't cultivate management skills merely creates a more educated workforce for those who already know how to manage. In addition to creating a more favorable business climate at the macro level, it is essential that we see more management schools and organizations such as TechnoServe that develop indigenous entrepreneurial spirit beyond the informal sector—a phenomenon pervasive throughout the developing world.

A focus on wealth creation changes the mentality one uses to treat poverty. Instead of giving someone a dollar and consequently labeling that person as poor, investing that dollar allows that person to be just like you and me. No longer is that individual isolated as a poor person. Although poverty alleviation and wealth creation outline the same end goal, the nomenclature results in two very different approaches.

For wealth creation to be effective, it cannot create isolation, an idea best explained in a May 26 *New York Times* op-ed piece by Deepa Narayan, director of the World Bank's Moving Out of Poverty project:

"In the recession-battered West, governments are moving to insulate citizens from excessive exposure to markets. But for the poor, being cut off from markets is the problem. In fishing communities in Cambodia, fishermen get lower prices for their fish and are forbidden from fishing where large trawlers go; in the coffee-growing region of Tanzania, cheating in the weighing of coffee beans is so institutionalized that it has a name, *Masomba;* in West Bengal, traders without political connections have no hope."

Methodologies resulting from the defining of poverty as isolation have been an effective means for alleviating poverty. Nevertheless, it is essential to recognize that poverty cannot be measured in purely monetary terms. While traveling in Bangladesh with Bart Victor, the Cal Turner Professor of Moral Leadership at Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management, I asked him to describe the worst poverty he had ever seen. He explained that he would rather live in rural Bangladesh than in many inner cities of the United States because of the fear of being violently injured. In this case, it is a lack of freedom of safety that defines poverty.

More generally, it is Nobel laureate Amartya Sen's notion of "unfreedom" that not only more fully defines poverty but also dramatically reshapes the world's priorities. For example, many in the world are quick to forget about the need in countries like Brazil and Mexico because those nations have successfully grabbed hold of the economic ladder, consequently focusing more attention on the ills facing the African nations.

While Mexico may appear to have broken free from economic captivity, never before has Mexico experienced such a dramatic loss of freedom since the arrival of the conquistadors in the early 16th century. With more killings in Mexico than in Iraq in 2008, no longer can Mexican immigrants in the United States return home to their once-small, once-tranquil colonial towns.

I lived in Mexico as a child, and when I go home during the summer to visit old family friends, I see a country afraid for its safety. These days the towns are overrun with the Zetas and other drug cartels. Criminals carry machine guns openly in public, kidnap civilians, and take money from local bakeries, shoe-repair stores and other small businesses.

The next time you hear someone claim that America has the wealthiest poor people, remember that poverty and wealth are not necessarily antonyms. It all depends on how you define it. **V**

COURTESY OF THOMAS DAVIS

Thomas Davis as a boy in Mexico, pictured with family friend Esperanza and her son Tavo. While living in Mexico for 16 years, Davis' mother assisted many families like Esperanza's by hiring them to work at her company, giving them home and business loans, and helping to pay for their educations.

Thomas Davis is a senior biomedical engineering major, an Ingram Scholar, and a cross-country runner at Vanderbilt. He has been accepted into Vanderbilt University Medical School.

A.P.O.V.*

**Alumni Point of View*

See You at Kilimanjaro

Our repertoire was paltry and our lyrics not quite right—but we never tired of singing as we sailed.

By Andrea Alvord, BA'03

Dear Allison,

It's been a few weeks since we last wrote, and now we really have no need for letters. You are the ever-present friend. I am here in Slidell, La., at your old church with your family and friends, doing what I feared most after hearing the news that Thursday morning: giving a eulogy instead of the speech at your wedding.

I don't know why God chose this time to take you back, but because I believe and trust in Him, I am not asking why but rather praying that someday He might explain it to me. Maybe as our woman on the inside, you can help with that! Allison, I know you are still here even if I can't reach out and hug you.

I have been very fortunate to spend the last two weeks with your and Colter's families and our friends. We miss you so much! We've been telling lots and lots of stories about you — we have so many good memories.

Last week in San Diego, at the memorial service for you and the other four crew members killed when your Navy HH-60H Seahawk helicopter crashed into the Pacific Ocean, I told the one about our recovery after we had laser eye surgery in preparation for flight school. Although we spent most of our time sleeping in "the cave," waking each other up to put in eye drops or eat one of Laura's delicious meals — by taste, not sight — being blind with you is one of the most treasured moments of my life. Remember how we walked down to McDonald's after the surgery wearing those big black sunglasses the eye doctor gave us? You led me with your one good eye, both of us walking slowly toward the counter, and as we approached, the cashier exclaimed, "It's the Stevie Wonder twins!"

Allison, there are memories of you everywhere. We sang "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" just now, and it reminded me of our times sailing lasers on Percy Priest Lake. Although quite limited in our repertoire of songs-of-the-sea, we decided it was only appropriate that we sing Navy-related songs. We sang the one verse we knew from "Anchors Aweigh" and "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" over and over but never grew tired of singing.

COURTESY OF ANDREA ALVORD

Allison Oubre (left) and Andrea Alvord on campus in their Navy ROTC uniforms. It was their first photo taken together.

You taught me that sea shanty you knew from your days with the sailing Girl Scouts, and I still remember it. I actually sang it to my crew on a flight over the Red Sea last deployment. It was always a fun song to sing, although the lyrics told of the impending doom of the ship and crew, which seemed appropriate considering the level of our sailing skills. Now it's sad to me.

"Oh, the ocean waves may roll, may roll and the stormy winds may blow / While we poor sailors go skippin' to the top and the land lubbers lie down below, below, below / And the land lubbers lie down below."

Allison, so many songs serve as souvenirs of our friendship. I had forgotten about our love for "I'm Proud to Be an American" and how whenever we heard it playing on the radio, we would call and, without greeting, hold the phone up to the speaker. I loved getting those calls. Of course, it's not something I really think about unless I hear the song, but I broke down in tears in the Miami airport the other week on my long trip back home from deployment when I saw a text message I had saved from you that you'd sent me on Kelsey's birthday last July. You sent it at 3:37 a.m. Jacksonville time and said, "It's too late to call … but 'Proud to Be an American' is on … and it's tradition. :) ."

There's another song that didn't mean that much to our friendship, except for a dream I had a few months ago—but it set me to tears when I heard it the other day. The dream was so funny at the time, and it's the only dream I've ever had where I woke up laughing. And

COURTESY OF ANDREA ALVORD

Oubre and Alvord ham it up in flight school. The two were fast friends from the day they met.

I mean laughing—from my belly. I'm glad that I got to tell you about it even though we didn't have much time to talk. But you found it just as funny as I did and laughed with me as I recollected the dream. We were in a meadow like the one at the end of the movie *Napoleon Dynamite.* It took me a second to realize what was going on—it was your wedding rehearsal. You stood facing me, and your hair was really long and straight and parted in the middle, like a hippie, and you had a scarf tied around your forehead.

That was funny enough to me. But then it got better. Colter was singing to you. Reserved, quiet Colter was standing next to you singing the Scottish ballad "Loch Lomond." I woke up from this dream and had this song looping through my head all day. It was such a good day, and I remember it so well—how big I smiled and laughed at that imaginary scene. But now it is sad for me, too. Al, I even had the lyrics wrong, which isn't really that surprising—I'm not known for my knowledge of Scottish folk songs. In my dream Colter sang to you, "I'll take the high road and you'll take the low road, and we'll meet in the middle at Loch Lomond." I like these lyrics because I know the two of you will meet again, and perhaps now is a good time to start looking for this lake—I know how you are with directions! I looked up the actual lyrics and history of the song, and I think you will like these, too:

O you'll tak' the high road and
I'll tak' the low road
And I'll be in Scotland afore ye
But me and my true love will ne'er meet again
On the bonnie, bonnie banks o' Loch Lomond.

'Twas there that we parted in yon shady glen
On the steep, steep sides o' Ben Lomond
Where deep in purple hue,
the highland hills we view
And the moon comin' out in the gloamin'.

The wee birdies sing
and the wild flowers spring
And in sunshine the waters are sleeping
But the broken heart, it kens nae
second spring again
Tho' the world knows not how we are grieving.

Allison, I don't think she told you this, but my sister, Nicky, who thought of you as her older sister, said to me a few times over the last 10 years that she envied the friendship you and I had. She said some people go their whole lives without finding a soul mate in a friend, but you and I had that. When she asked me how I was doing after hearing this news that changed my life forever, I told her I felt like I'd lost a part of myself, that you were my twin. We always used to joke that we were the same person, but I realize now that you were a much better version of me.

Every day since hearing about your crash, my stomach has been a mess of butterflies for the better portion of each morning. It's like I'm anticipating a test later in the day. I think this feeling will pass in time, but you will still be my ever-present best friend, with me always in memories, songs and life.

We planned to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in December next year, and I know that I will need you on that climb now more than ever. You'll be there, I know it, and I'll give you a hug and high-five when we reach the "Roof of Africa."

A few days ago your mom told me about the moment you first mentioned the Kilimanjaro climb. She said you had just returned from our trip to Europe, where we'd celebrated my 21st birthday in Paris on Bastille Day and gone to Pamplona for the running of the bulls.

I guess she expected you would want to rest after such an exhausting stream of adventures. You said to her casually, "Andrea called, and she said Kilimanjaro's doable."

And that's true. Because anything is doable. You definitely taught me that.

I will miss you forever.

Love always,
Andrea ▼

This essay is adapted from a eulogy delivered by Andrea Alvord at a June 9 memorial service for her best friend, Allison Oubre, BA'03. The two met as Vanderbilt first-years during Navy ROTC indoctrination in 1999. Both went on to become Navy lieutenants. Oubre married fellow Navy Lt. Colter Menke last fall, and the pair had planned a formal June wedding in Louisiana. She died in May. During Reunion and Homecoming Weekend at Vanderbilt last month, Menke and Alvord presented a memorial to the Vanderbilt NROTC unit, and Oubre's family and friends dedicated the ground in front of Benson Hall where a memorial bench will soon be placed in her honor.

Alumni Association News

The President's Corner

Another class of future alumni has arrived, and by all standards, the Class of 2013 is a historic one. As we learned at the Summer Send-Off Parties, where we welcomed new students into the Vanderbilt community, there were nearly 20,000 applicants for the fall class. For those of you who missed them, the Summer Send-Off Parties were a huge success and are among my favorite traditions at Vanderbilt. They bring the university out into the communities and introduce new students to current students and alumni.

As I watched members of our entering class run onto the field at the opening football game against Western Carolina, my heart filled with pride and affection for this great institution. And I am not alone in those feelings. As you will read in the article about the results of our recent alumni survey, alumni love this institution and give much credit to it for their success. Your Vanderbilt Alumni Association is charged with providing opportunities in which alumni may continue to be connected and engaged. The survey says many of you already are. Our goal is to inspire even more.

However, we also discovered in the survey that only about half of alumni (53 percent) agree that Vanderbilt benefits greatly from the involvement of its alumni. I disagree, but I know we need to do more. If you're looking for more ways to get involved, the article to the right will give you some areas to consider.

In whatever way you choose to stay engaged with Vanderbilt, we thank you for it!

Billy Ray Caldwell, BA'85
President, Vanderbilt Alumni Association

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VANDERBILT Alumni Association

There's Plenty You Can Do to Stay Connected

Looking for ways to stay engaged with Vanderbilt? We've got 'em!

You've heard it before, but it bears repeating. There are many ways to get involved, including volunteering with Vanderbilt's admissions interviewing process or summer send-off programs, serving as an online career adviser, becoming involved in the activities of your local alumni chapter, or supporting Vanderbilt's athletic teams. By simply reading this magazine, in fact, you are staying connected.

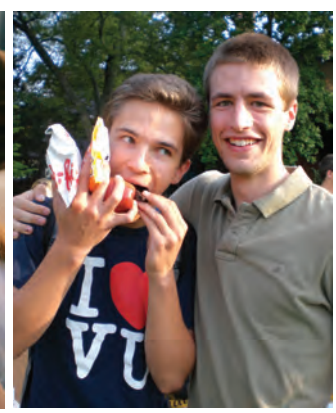
But there are other ways, too. Participate in your Reunion. If you have opportunities to hire Vanderbilt alumni, please do so. Join fellow alumni and a knowledgeable Vanderbilt professor on an exotic trip with the Vanderbilt Travel Program. Join VUconnect, our exclusive online community, and share news with your classmates about your life.

Local alumni chapters will continue to provide popular educational programs brought to you by the Office of Alumni Relations, in conjunction with the Vanderbilt faculty. And soon the Vanderbilt Alumni Association will have on its Web site a place for you to post available jobs for other Vanderbilt alumni to view.

Finally, a very important way to stay engaged is by giving back to Vanderbilt. A recent survey, which you can read about in this section, showed that alumni believe Vanderbilt was and is a special place. One of the reasons it's a special place is because alumni have supported it through their own engagement and with their gifts. Remember, your participation is important—even more important than the amount of your gift. It's one factor that helps Vanderbilt rise in the rankings, which adds even more value to your degree.

Plenty of opportunities are available for you to stay engaged with Vanderbilt, and we're here to help you find your niche. Look for more information at *www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni*.

DANIEL DUBOIS



Senioritis
The Student Alumni Board sponsored its annual Seniorfest on Sept. 10, at which Vanderbilt seniors claimed Alumni Lawn for a class-building afternoon of fun.

The Summer Send-Off Party sponsored by the Detroit Vanderbilt Chapter was held Aug. 16 and hosted by Steve Briggs, BA'81, and Sheryl Briggs.

Summer Send-Off Parties Welcome New Students

From Atlanta to Seattle and even London, members of the 2009 incoming freshman class were welcomed to Vanderbilt at 41 Summer Send-Off Parties sponsored by local chapters of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association.

A Vanderbilt tradition that dates back to 1968, Summer Send-Off Parties bring alumni, current students, and incoming students and their families together in a casual setting in their hometowns to celebrate the university's newest arrivals and send them off to Vanderbilt in style. Past, current and future Vanderbilt students are given an opportunity to connect with each other and experience the "Vanderbilt community" together firsthand.

Nearly 4,000 individuals participated in this year's receptions—including one-third of the incoming freshman class, which underscores the importance of these events.

Originally called "Summer Picnics" and then "VUcept Parties" (because student-orientation advisers called "VUceptors" helped plan them), these events have been called Summer Send-Off Parties since 1995. Generally, they are held in private homes, except in certain cities where the parties are too large. Many of the parties are hosted—and paid for—by alumni, parents of current students, and even some parents of incoming students, so the value of these individuals' volunteer spirit and the service they render to the university cannot be overemphasized.

Some alumni have been hosting these events for years. In fact, Darryl Berger, BA'69 and a former president of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association, has been hosting a party for New Orleans-area students and alumni since 1979.

To see photos from this year's Summer Send-Off Parties, go to *http://snipurl.com/vusend-off.*

New Networking and Career Coaching Program Offered

If you are changing careers, targeting a new industry, considering a new functional area, or simply trying to select the right career for yourself, you are invited to participate in a new, comprehensive career coaching program offered by the Office of Alumni Relations in conjunction with Vanderbilt Career Services.

The initial series of "Career Moves" seminars ran Oct. 31–Nov. 15 in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, Nashville, Detroit, Charlotte (N.C.), New York, Dallas, Chicago and Atlanta. Career consultants who led the workshops varied by city, but each was chosen for his or her extensive career coaching expertise. Most were previously human resources executives, and all had impressive résumés in corporate recruiting and executive coaching.

Content for Career Moves is appropriate for college-degreed, working professionals at any level or stage in career. Seminars include the latest techniques in personal branding, career coaching and recruiting, and they incorporate networking, online and social media strategies.

Be on the lookout for more dates and locations in future alumni communications. For the most up-to-date information, go to *www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/careermoves.*

Alumni Survey Provides Insights

The results of a recent online survey of nearly 10,000 Vanderbilt alumni revealed valuable information regarding alumni perceptions, involvement, and how the university can better serve and communicate with its graduates.

The Office of Alumni Relations and the Vanderbilt Alumni Association Board of Directors commissioned the survey, which was conducted in May by Wallace & Washburn Associates of Wellesley, Mass. Among those individuals who responded, 48 percent attended Vanderbilt before 1990, and 52 percent attended between 1990 and 2009. Undergraduate alumni represented 69 percent of the respondents, and alumni who pursued graduate degrees represented 31 percent.

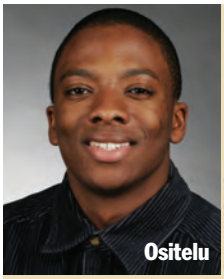
In ranking the overall value of their Vanderbilt experience, alumni reported high levels of satisfaction (see Chart 1). In fact, a researcher with Wallace & Washburn reported that many of Vanderbilt's positive ratings by alumni were among the highest the firm has ever seen.

Overall, alumni ranked e-mails from the university and *Vanderbilt Magazine* as the

CHART 1 Value of the Vanderbilt Experience

Among those who responded to the survey:

99%	Are proud to be Vanderbilt graduates
97%	Say Vanderbilt's name is respected nationally
96%	Love being a Vanderbilt alumnus
90%	Give Vanderbilt significant credit for their success
76%	Still feel "connected" to Vanderbilt
51%	Will probably give to Vanderbilt this year
32%	May include Vanderbilt in their wills


Ositelu

JENNY MANDEVILLE


Bennett


Wilson

DANIEL DUBOIS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STEVE GREEN

Meet Your Young Alumni Trustees

Each year one undergraduate member of that year's graduating class is selected to serve as a young alumni trustee—a full voting member of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust for a term of four years. In 1968, Vanderbilt became the first university to institute this tradition.

The selection process, coordinated by the Alumni Association, includes a nominating committee of current juniors and recent graduates who are selected by key university administrators, deans, faculty and staff. Members of the senior class nominate candidates, and the committee reviews the nominations and selects three finalists. The junior class, senior class, and the most recent graduating class then vote to elect that year's young alumni trustee.

At any given time, four young alumni trustees are serving on the board of trust. We are pleased to introduce those who are currently serving.

Ayo O. Ositelu, BE'09, of Indianapolis is the newest young alumni trustee. With double majors in biomedical engineering and mathematics, he is continuing his studies at the graduate level at Cornell University. Ositelu was a Chancellor's Scholar at Vanderbilt, which gave him the opportunity to study abroad in Berlin. He tutored students at Kipp Academy in Nashville and volunteered for literacy programs.

Elizabeth Bennett, BS'08, double majored in human and organizational development and economics. After graduation she worked briefly in the Office of Presidential Correspondence at the White House and currently lives in Johannesburg, South Africa, where she is the business training coordinator for a small nonprofit dedicated to poverty alleviation. At Vanderbilt she was an active volunteer for several humanitarian organizations.

Andrew M. Wilson, BA'07, majored in both neuroscience and mathematics at Vanderbilt and is now enrolled in the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Active in many honor, fraternal and service organizations while at Vanderbilt, Wilson serves as treasurer for Alternative Spring Break and says he hopes to elucidate the biological basis of Alzheimer's disease.

Alice Ji, BS'06, majored in engineering science with minors in management of technology and economics. She currently is a consultant with Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company in Washington, D.C. Involved in many service organizations while at Vanderbilt, she also devoted a great deal of time to the orientation of incoming students. As a junior she was awarded the Nora C. Chaffin Scholarship, which recognizes service to the university in student government, religious, literary and scholastic activities.

The young alumni trustees may be contacted through the Vanderbilt Alumni Association at alumni@vanderbilt.edu.

university's top two communication vehicles, while Facebook ranked last (although it ranked higher among young alumni). Keeping in touch with friends from Vanderbilt, *Vanderbilt Magazine* and campus visits ranked as the top ways in which alumni remain involved with the university (see Chart 2).

Notably, more than one in 10 graduates actively volunteers for the university—as admissions interviewers, as college fair representatives, for Reunion, for events of their various colleges and schools, for Greek organizations, for their local Vanderbilt chapters, and for student/alumni programs. The most popular Alumni Relations-sponsored programs are Reunion (69 percent), athletic events (50 percent), school/college events (31 percent), and alumni chapter events (31 percent).

In terms of popular programs and benefits that could be offered by the Alumni Association, continuing education opportunities topped the list (77 percent), followed by hotel/car discounts (44 percent), discounts on test-prep courses (34 percent), and short-term medical insurance (18 percent).

Among 16 possible reasons for alumni to give financially to Vanderbilt, those cited most often included support to hire and retain the best faculty (94 percent), support of specific departments or programs (91 percent), funding of student scholarships (88 percent), and support of athletic programs (49 percent). Nearly all respondents (95 percent) rated their overall "excellent academic experience" as an important factor in their giving decisions.

Because of the large sample of respondents involved, the survey results are considered 98 percent reliable. These findings are being evaluated for strategic planning purposes by the Vanderbilt Alumni Association and soon will be available in their entirety on the association's Web site at *www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/association*. Want to weigh in? Send comments to alumni@vanderbilt.edu.

CHART 2 Ways in Which Alumni Remain Involved with VU

Among those who responded to the survey:

- **80%** Keep in touch with Vanderbilt friends
- **80%** Read *Vanderbilt Magazine*
- **63%** Visited campus in the last three years
- **37%** Made a gift to the Vanderbilt Fund
- **23%** Attended a local Vanderbilt event
- **12%** Volunteered for Vanderbilt
- **7%** Purchased athletics season tickets



VANDERBILT **Alumni Association**

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To receive a 2010 travel brochure, please e-mail us at alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu and provide your full name and mailing address.





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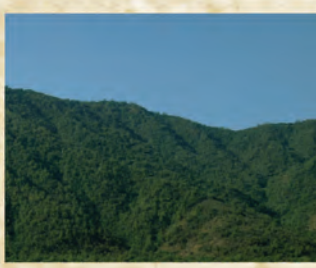









The Classes

CLINT KELLER/*THE JOURNAL GAZETTE*, FORT WAYNE, IND.

The Batman of Indiana

Bob Walton and his wife, Ann Petry Walton, MA'65, have a bat hospital in their dining room. They've had as many as 140 patients at one time—all with names.

"You can tell them apart from their personalities," says the retired electrical engineer. "Naming them makes us feel a bit more connected. Often the people who find them name them. Many are named after mothers-in-law."

The Waltons have run a bat rescue and rehabilitation operation from their Huntertown, Ind., home for eight years. Their dining-room hospital is step one in the rehab process for injured bats. Each bat has its own aquarium and is nursed back to health through a special mealworm diet. Those that become well enough are released back into the wild.

So far the Waltons have rescued 764 displaced, injured and orphaned bats, and 588 have been released. They spend more than $5,000 of their own money each year to run the program.

Bats, the only flying mammals, can live up to 34 years and contribute considerably to the environment. In fact, one small brown bat can eat 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour.

Bob is doing his part to educate the public about the importance of bats, with innumerable speaking engagements at schools, nature centers, conventions and Earth Day celebrations.

"We need to take the time to learn about their value," he says. "Don't get hung up on the myths. They wouldn't exist if they didn't provide benefits to our lives."

—Phillip B. Tucker

SHUVA RAHIM/ACCENT PHOTOGRAPHICS

Black Mats Not Allowed

When a woman leaves an abusive relationship for the protection of a domestic violence shelter, she has already made a courageous and often difficult first step. But how does she regain the power and control over her life that's been stripped away by her abuser?

Sarah Pohlmann Johnson believes yoga is a great place to start.

An attorney who currently serves as general counsel for a small liberal-arts college, Johnson has founded a nonprofit organization based in Iowa called YogaG, whose purpose is to mobilize the resources, volunteers and corporate partners necessary to offer yoga instruction exclusively in domestic violence shelters.

"These women have come to a place where they're ready to start changing their lives, to start healing," Johnson says. "Yoga is especially beneficial to people who are looking for healing, strength and renewal."

Two pilot sites—in Davenport, Iowa, and a suburb of Denver—are up and running, and at least 10 others are in the planning stages. Johnson hopes to expand nationwide as she continues to match volunteer yoga instructors with shelters who want the program. Brightly colored yoga mats, donated primarily from manufacturers, are given to all participants to symbolize a "vibrant new beginning." Black mats are not allowed.

"With YogaG," says Johnson, "my ultimate goal is for all women who come into domestic violence shelters to be offered the chance to explore yoga as part of their empowerment process—and that the offering of this service eventually will be a given."

—Phillip B. Tucker

Gene Cook, BA'94

TRISH ELSTON COOK, BA'83, MA'90

Reunited, and It Feels So Good

In little more than a decade, eBay has grown into the world's largest online marketplace, with more than 88 million users worldwide. As the company's director of buyer experience, Gene Cook has the task of ensuring that users have a good experience when searching for those things they simply must have.

"The people here are highly committed, very bright, creative and driven—and they're here because they genuinely get excited about what the company does and what it makes possible for both buyers and sellers," says Cook, who has worked with eBay in San Jose, Calif., for six years. "There's a feeling of personal satisfaction in the experience of finding and buying things that really mean something to you."

Cook knows that feeling firsthand. When he was a 12-year-old in Kentucky, his dad bought his dream car, a silver '69 Corvette Stingray with red leather interior and chrome side pipes. Father and son quickly bonded over the car and mourned the day it was sold years later, just before Cook headed off to Vanderbilt. Cook promised himself that he'd somehow find the car one day and get it back.

Nearly 20 years later, it happened: His dad's old Corvette—the very same one—popped up in an eBay auction last January. In a rush of adrenaline, Cook snatched it up, and today he's sharing his love for the car with his 4-year-old son, Dylan.

"It really is *our* car," says Cook. "Just as I shared it with my dad, a third generation is enjoying it. Now I've got some competition—Dylan says the car is his best friend."

—Phillip B. Tucker

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ness" and "Dumpster." Fueled by velvet hammers and frozen strawberry daiquiris, audiences unwisely rewarded my bad behavior, and I was encouraged to continue writing songs with punch lines.

Simultaneously watching the World Series on television and listening to Kris Kristofferson's "Why Me [Lord]" on the radio inspired "Will You Be Ready at the Plate When Jesus Throws the Ball," which, while not my best-known work, does hold the distinction of being the only song of mine available for purchase in a gift shop at the Smithsonian.

"The Fly" asked the musical question, What if the classic horror film had been a musical comedy? "The Mexican Waltz" mined the great untapped lyric potential of travelers' intestinal distress. "Little Texas Rose" was my first song to be accused of containing an element of pathos. ("She's a topless dancer at the Déjà Vu, showin' off her assets to me and you; she puts herself through school by makin' old men drool.")

"Bicentennial Man," written at the height of the nation's bicentennial mania, featured the Groucho-esque recollections of a 200-year-old man who, like a Forrest Gump on steroids, had managed to be present for practically every significant American historical milestone from Washington's crossing of the Delaware to the invention of the stewardess.

And then in the waning weeks of 1976, if memory serves, the notion of a Christmas song was born—an infant sired by Merle Haggard and carried to term by Johnnie Walker Black.

I was listening to a borrowed copy of Merle's Christmas album one afternoon when one song in particular caught my attention. I've not heard the song in years, but as I recall, "Grandma's Homemade Christmas Card" told the story of an artistic grandmother who designed beautiful holiday cards. Each year the family eagerly awaited the arrival of said card and displayed it proudly and conspicuously amongst their holiday decorations.

As the song progressed, I anticipated its conclusion. Country music at the time was awash with songs wherein a beloved relative was revered for two verses, only to be killed off in the third. I was sure that was where this one was headed. I chastised Merle, calling him trite and manipulative. I said to him, though he couldn't hear me, "Merle, if you were half the

songwriter you think you are, you would admit that Grandma was deceased in the very first line of the song—and *then* if you could come up with three verses and a chorus, you'd really have something!"

A few hours later, still dwelling on the ill-fated elder and determined to do better by her, I crawled into bed with a pen, a notepad, and a scotch and water. I asked myself what would turn out to be the million-dollar question: How might Grandma meet her demise in a manner uniquely seasonal?

My first and final answer: Grandma got run over by a reindeer. Walking home from our house Christmas Eve. What rhymes with eve? I was off to the races. I patterned my song structure after some of Merle's hits; astute listeners will hear a familiar guitar lick here, a chord turnaround there.

I used my own family for inspiration. My grandmother wore a wig. She did sometimes drink herself happy. My grandfather and his brothers drank beer, played cards, and watched football on Christmas afternoon.

I wrote the chorus and first verse before falling asleep, and then dashed off the final two verses in the shower the next day.

"Grandma" was never the most requested of my compositions among Texas audiences. But for some reason—perhaps because I regularly played the Hyatt Lake Tahoe during the holidays—the casino crowd took a liking to it. At one point a Reno/Tahoe entertainment newspaper featured my group, Young Country, on the front page with the headline "This Group Sings About Killer Reindeer at the Hyatt."

In December 1978 we had just completed such an engagement and loaded up the van to head back to Dallas for Christmas. But when we cleared the snow from the windshield and attempted to pull out of our parking place at the Hyatt, we discovered that the brakes were frozen and we weren't going anywhere.

We checked back into the hotel and seized the opportunity to catch the act that had followed us in the Sugar Pine Lounge: Elmo & Patsy, the bluegrass equivalent to Sonny & Cher.

Elmo and Patsy Shropshire and their band had developed a loyal following on the California harvest festival and northern Nevada lounge circuits. They even had a fan club. Though they were based in California's wine country, the Shropshires had appropriate bluegrass pedigrees: Elmo was a large-animal veterinarian originally from Kentucky, and Patsy was raised in Fayetteville, Tenn., before escaping to become a flight attendant. They were tireless showmen who entertained with the same jovial enthusiasm whether the crowd numbered five or 500.

Hyatt employees tipped them off to our presence in the lounge, and they graciously invited us up to share the stage. I will always be deeply indebted to the person who chose that moment to send forward a napkin on which was scrawled a request for "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer."

I performed the song, with Elmo & Patsy playing along. As the set ended, they cornered me and asked if I'd record "Grandma" on their dressing-room cassette recorder because "It's our kind of song."

I was happy enough just to think that another group wanted to perform a song of mine and perhaps occasionally mention my name onstage. But I was not expecting that a couple of months later, I'd receive a tape in the mail of a studio recording of "Grandma." The Shropshires intended to sell a single of the song from the stage during the 1979 holiday season.

Certainly, that would have been enough of a thrill—seeing my name as the writer on the label of a 45-rpm record. But then a fan took a copy of the record to longtime KSFO morning jock Gene Nelson in San Francisco. Nelson was an institution. He had emceed the Beatles' swan song concert at Candlestick Park in 1966, and had been building his Bay Area audience ever since.

He put "Grandma" on the air and unleashed an unlikely monster. Tower Records in San Francisco immediately sold out of all copies Elmo & Patsy had consigned to them. The *San Francisco Chronicle* ran an article about reaction to the song. The wire services picked up the story, and soon newspapers and television newscasts all around the country were reporting on the quirky West Coast holiday hubbub. ABC Radio fed the song down the line to its affiliates so they could run sound bites with their stories.

For the next four years, "Grandma" chugged along with independent distribution and a growing cult following. Then fate intervened again.

Through the years *Billboard* magazine has published an on-again, off-again holiday music chart. Luckily for me, in the early '80s, it was on again. On a December night in 1983, I was standing at a newsstand in front of Madison Square Garden when I read that "Grandma" had overtaken "White Christmas" for the top spot on the holiday hit list. The ensuing victory dance was surely eccentric enough to gain me honorary New Yorker status.

The *Billboard* recognition finally convinced Epic Records to give the old girl the major label treatment, opening doors to many more radio stations and record outlets. As more years went by, toy companies licensed the song to play in stuffed reindeer. "Grandma" appeared in film and television soundtracks. References to the song appeared in comic strips, game shows, greeting cards and even Trivial Pursuit. And television producers vied for the right to create an animated Christmas special based on the lyrics.

The producer who eventually prevailed was fond of telling me that if he helmed the project, I'd never have to worry about sending my kids to college. Now that both of them are there—one at Vanderbilt—I often wonder if I should send him the bills.

Through the years I've learned that a song is like a child, in that you give birth to it, nurture it, and introduce it to the world, but once it goes off on its own, you no longer always know what it's up to. That's how I feel when I learn from a royalty statement that my "child" has been to visit countries that I previously thought only existed in fiction, engaging in activities of which I was theretofore unaware.

There are many other children in my catalog—masterpieces like "Put a Bag over Your Head (and Let's Make Love)" and "I'd Rather Be Sailin' with Governor Palin (Than Fightin' All Day with You)." But there's only one "Grandma."

In the interest of truth in journalism, I must reveal that I misjudged Merle Haggard. Had I finished listening to his song before beginning my own, I'd have found that his grandma survived the third verse without a scratch. She lives on—obscure, perhaps, but unscathed.

Finally, for those still seeking songwriting advice, all I can say with certainty is this: If you're only going to have one hit—make it a Christmas song. V

Southern Journal

Reflections on the South

All I Want for Christmas Is Another 'Grandma'

Nothing says holiday cheer like a beloved relative killed off in the third verse. By RANDY BROOKS, BA'70

KEVIN MENCK

I WISH I HAD AN AUTOGRAPHED photo of Irving Berlin for every time I've been asked, "My nephew (parole officer/cosmetologist/exorcist) has written a really good song—how can he/she turn it into a hit?"

I always respond: "Do you think if I knew the answer to that question, I'd still be a one-hit wonder after 30 years?"

No carefully followed blueprint could ever replicate the serendipitous evolution of "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" from exercise in parody to platinum record to cottage industry.

I dabbled in lyric writing while still in high school. My interest in songwriting gained momentum at Vanderbilt. This activity was purely extracurricular, as was most everything else into which I channeled any serious energy during my Commodore years.

My role as music director at WRVU exposed me to pop music beyond the boundaries of the Top 40 in my native Louisville, Ky. The jukebox at the Pike house was a crash course in rhythm and blues. And four years of breathing the air in Nashville forced me to look beyond the negative connotations I had always attached to country music.

This was a period when one could attend without charge the weekly tapings of Johnny Cash's ABC show at the Ryman Auditorium, with guest artists like Bob Dylan and Neil Young. Country's old guard like Porter Wagoner and the Wilburn Brothers were still taping weekly syndicated shows. During breaks in the filming, an aspiring songwriter could pick the brains of established tunesmiths like Dolly Parton and Tom T. Hall.

An enterprising student with his ear to the ground and enough moxie could even walk in the unlocked back door of the RCA studios at midnight and stumble upon the likes of Simon and Garfunkel recording tracks for the *Bridge over Troubled Water* album.

Gaining familiarity with country music, and finding that many country album cuts were … well, awful, I began to try my hand at writing and calling on publishing houses.

My delusions of adequacy were quickly doused by Music Row publishers, whose standard line after listening to my tape—with their feet on their desk and a cigar in their mouth—was, "I don't believe I heard anything I can use."

In retrospect, these early songs were atrocious, and I've spent four decades actively forgetting them. One that lingers in memory is "Niagara Falls," wherein a young lady named Niagara suffers from a sort of speech defect—she can't say no.

My career as a writer of Porter Wagoner B-sides ended before it began. But, thankfully, I didn't give up songwriting altogether.

For reasons I can no longer remember, but certainly with no expectation of commercial success, I started writing novelty tunes. This was the heyday of *Laugh-In* and *Hee Haw,* and perhaps I was subconsciously influenced by the popular humor of the time. At any rate, in my senior-year attic apartment on Hayes Street—soon to be leveled to make way for Loews Vanderbilt Hotel—I composed the lyrics to "Nudeness Is Lewdness," a less-than-pithy take on the culture of miniskirts and see-through blouses. I sent this to a fellow fledgling songwriter friend at Southern Methodist University, and he set the words to music. (I suspect my co-writer seldom performs this song anymore now that he is a respected Methodist minister.)

I was sufficiently pleased with the outcome of this collaboration—and the subsequent appearance of my name in Library of Congress records as a copyright holder—to send my friend a second novelty effort, "The Garbage Dumpster Took My Love Away," which perhaps had been inspired by the fact that one of my freshman hallmates had been a fellow named Dempster, whose family held the patent on the Dempster-Dumpster system. Talk about your intellectual property!

After several weeks of silence from my SMU buddy, I inferred that either he was actually *studying* in college, or that my new lyrics were too embarrassing for him to acknowledge. Taking the hint, I wrote my own mediocre melody.

I managed to graduate from Vanderbilt in 1970 and, after a summer spent performing with a USO show in Vietnam, settled in Dallas. This must have been right in the midst of the Great Entertainment Drought because bands started inviting me onstage to sing "Nude-

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