

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE

CORNERSTONE



Exploring the Americas

WINTER 2005

Arts & Science adopts new curriculum

The Faculty of the College of Arts and Science has adopted a new undergraduate curriculum to replace the CPLE, which has been in place for the past 22 years.

The new curriculum, Achieving eXcellence in Liberal Education [AXLE], allows greater academic exploration, according to Associate Dean Kate Daniels.

"The CPLE has worked well for an entire generation of Vanderbilt students," Daniels says. "It has enabled us to transform Vanderbilt into one of the top research universities in the U.S. But college curriculums are like cars. At some point, if you want to keep moving down the road, you have to trade in the old for the new."

Under AXLE, students will have more freedom of choice in course selection. "That is a privilege," says Daniels, "but it's also a responsibility."

Daniels is responsible for implementing AXLE, which will begin with the freshman class entering in the fall of



Kate Daniels

2005. Current students, through the Class of 2008, will continue to fulfill CPLE requirements for graduation.

"[AXLE] represents the wishes of the faculty as well as the concerns of students and alumni," says Michael Stone, associate professor of chemistry and chair of the Curriculum Revision Work Group (CRWG).

Formed to develop the new curriculum, the CRWG compared Arts and Science's requirements with those at other top-tier universities and considered Vanderbilt's growing needs. After consulting with the faculty, students and alumni, the CRWG concluded that A&S would benefit from a new curriculum that would continue to attract the best students, take advantage of rapid technological development, and promote intellectual discovery without boundaries.

AXLE's broad-based curriculum includes a three-course freshman-year common experience, writing-intensive courses, a liberal-arts core program, and the major. The liberal arts requirement contains 13 courses from humanities and creative arts, international cultures, American history and culture, mathematics and natural sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and Perspectives, an interdisciplinary category focusing on individual and cultural diversity.

— Julie Neumann and Joanne Beckham

Expert on American frontier chairs history department



Daniel Usner

Daniel Usner, the Holland M. McTyeire Professor of History, is the new chair of the department. He has taught and written extensively about colonial America, American Indians and the significance of the frontier.

Usner received his doctorate from Duke University in 1981. He came to Vanderbilt in 2003 from Cornell University, where he taught for 22 years and helped found the American Indian Program.

While there, he received the Stephen and Margery Russell Distinguished Teaching Award. He also spent one year as a Senior Fulbright Professor at the Amerika-Institut of the University of Munich. In 2003-04, Usner was the Los Angeles Times Distinguished Fellow at The Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif.

Usner's *Indians, Settlers and Slaves in a Frontier Exchange Economy* (University of North Carolina Press, 1992) won the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture's Jamestown Prize and the American Historical Association's John H. Dunning Prize.

He has a forthcoming book titled *A Frontier History of Mississippi*, and he is working on another one about Louisiana Indians between 1800 and 1930.

Arts and Science gains new deans

The College of Arts and Science has named three new associate deans:

Edward B. Saff, professor of mathematics, is the new executive dean. He is responsible for faculty actions including recruitment, renewals, promotions and tenure, as well as faculty research initiatives.

Carolyn Dever, associate professor of English, is the new associate dean responsible for graduate education.

Kate Daniels, associate professor of English, is the new associate dean for undergraduate education. Part of her duties will be implementing the new A&S curriculum, AXLE (Achieving eXcellence in Liberal Education), which replaces the decades-old CPLE (please see related article on this page).

They replace former Executive Dean Constantine Tsinakis, professor of mathematics, and Associate Dean Jane Landers, associate professor of history, who are taking research leaves after working with the dean's office for three years.

New art history chair studies visual culture

Christopher Johns, the Norman L. and Roselea J. Goldberg Professor of Art History, vividly recalls the moment he decided to become an art historian.

"It was good teaching that got me into this," he says.

Johns became interested in art at a young age through his parents, who took him to numerous art museums. However, his inspiration for becoming an art professor began during his sophomore year in college while he was studying in Florence, Italy.

"One cold, rainy, gray winter day in the Church of the Jesu in Rome, I was sitting against the back wall of the church, tired and huddled up with my fellow students because we were freezing to death. My teacher, Fred Licht, was talking about this enormous, glorious ceiling fresco, 'Triumph of the Name of Jesus.' He was a spectacular teacher, and while he was talking, the sun came out and illuminated the fresco in a completely new way. It was a transforming experience. Here was my admired teacher talking about this unbelievable work of art, and I'm thinking, 'I want to be him.'"

After graduating summa cum laude with a B.A. degree from Florida State University, Johns earned his master's degree and doctorate from the University of Delaware. He was a member of the faculty at the University of Virginia for 18 years.

While he has taught and written extensively for nearly two decades about 18th- and early 19th-century European art, he remains fascinated by contemporary visual culture and considers it an integral part of his research.

"Visual culture — ranging from television commercials and billboards to high fashion and political cartoons — embraces a much broader spectrum of the academic disciplines than art history," he says.

Johns has recently returned from Rome, Italy, where he was Resident in Art History at the American Academy, a prestigious center that helps emerging artists and scholars. Twenty years ago as a graduate student, he received the academy's highly competitive Rome Prize. "To receive the rare distinction of both awards was the greatest honor of my professional life," he says.

The author of numerous articles and two books, Johns is currently writing another book with the working title, *The Visual Culture of Catholic Enlightenment*.

The Norman L. and Roselea J. Goldberg Chair in Art History induced Johns to come to Vanderbilt in 2003. Established through a bequest by the Goldbergs, the chair pays tribute to Dr. Goldberg's interest in English art and architecture.

A surgeon and 1930 graduate of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Dr. Goldberg also enjoyed art history and collecting, particularly paintings from the Norwich School of English art. A painting from



Christopher Johns

Goldberg's collection graces the wall of Johns' office in the Fine Arts Building.

"The fact that Dr. Goldberg was an amateur art historian made this chair particularly attractive to me," Johns says.

The opportunity to strengthen the Vanderbilt master's program in art history was also tempting.

"What impressed me about Vanderbilt," Johns says, "is the focus to make the University a national and internationally interesting place for scholarship. I wanted to be part of a place that was growing and was ambitious."

As for the future, Johns would like to see Vanderbilt acquire a new art gallery to complement the Studio Arts Center currently under construction (please see drawing elsewhere on this page).

"The current gallery [in the Old Gym] has very limited exhibit space," he notes. "The Cohen Building on Peabody campus, where studio arts is currently housed, would be an outstanding space for a gallery. In terms of architectural history, it is also

the most important building on campus. It was designed by McKim, Meade, and White, who also designed the American Academy in Rome. I'm particularly fond of that connection with an institution that was so important to my own professional development."

— Ann Marie Deer Owens and Joanne Beckham



A new \$13-million Studio Arts Center is scheduled to open next fall. Located between Branscomb Quadrangle and the University Club, and next to the Student Life Center, it will provide the Department of Art and Art History much needed classroom and studio space. It will also unite studio arts with other A&S departments by moving them from Peabody to the main campus.

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

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

You also can access the main alumni Web page at

www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni

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

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A&S CORNERSTONE®

is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Office of Advancement Communications. You may contact the editor by e-mail at Cornerstone@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at VU Station B357703, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7703. Copyright © 2005 by Vanderbilt University.

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Lights, Action, Camera

The launch of a film studies major this fall marked the beginning of a “film culture” designed to enrich life throughout campus, says the director of the program.



It's hoped that film studies will attract about 15 majors by the end of its first year, says Paul Young, an assistant professor of English who directs the program, which was shepherded into existence by Sam Girgus, professor of English.

“We're very excited about being able to invite students to think critically about films,” Young says. “This is not film criticism in the sense of salivating over the new action movie just to get the critic's name on the advertising. We want to

look at films as texts to be analyzed, like literature or poetry, so that we can determine not only what films mean, but how they make meaning in unique ways.”

Young, who came to Vanderbilt last spring from the University of Missouri-Columbia, earned a Ph.D. in English in 1998 from the University of Chicago. His dissertation, which is being expanded into a book to be published by the University of Minnesota Press, studied how Hollywood films depict other media including radio, television and the Internet.

The film studies program grew out of courses already being taught by Young, Girgus and a wide range of Vanderbilt professors drawing from theatre, communications, philosophy, history, French, German, art history and other disciplines. Will Akers, senior lecturer in communications studies, teaches most of Vanderbilt's courses in film production, an area that may be expanded as the film studies program grows.

Girgus has played an integral role in developing the program. A film produced by one of his classes, “In Loco Amicis,” was shown at the 2004 Nashville Film Festival.

Young is planning a film festival and several visiting speakers for 2005, including scholars and film industry leaders.

—Jim Patterson

Where Are They Now?

In November 2004, Richard N. “Dick” Porter, BA'54, MA'58, celebrated the 50th anniversary of his graduation from Vanderbilt. It has been an interesting journey for the professor of Slavic languages and literature, emeritus, who retired from the active teaching faculty in 1999.

After graduation, Porter spent a year studying at the Army Language School in Monterey, California, and another two years in Germany, translating Russian and interrogating East German defectors.

Later while studying for his M.A. degree, Porter returned to Germany on a Fulbright scholarship. There, he says, “I met the love of my life,” Brigitte Arenhold, BA'61, MA'64. The couple married the next year at West End Methodist Church. They have a son, Kirk, BA'87, and three grandsons.

Porter initially taught English and German at Vanderbilt. After earning a Ph.D. in Russian at Indiana University, he returned to Vanderbilt to teach Russian. As director of the Russian program, he took Maymester students to the Soviet Union four times and led alumni tours there twice. He has published three novels in Russian. In the early 1970s, Porter and his wife started the Vanderbilt-in-Germany program.

“I used to think of retirement as the ‘beginning

of the end,” he says with a chuckle. “But it's more like a graduation—a time to do other things.” Among those things are working on subjects that interest him at the Heard Library, spending time with his grandchildren and traveling with friends.



DANIEL DUBOIS

“I have wonderful memories of teaching and enjoyed it enormously,” says Dick Porter. “And I get a kick out of hearing from my students today.”

Alumni wishing to contact him can do so by emailing richard.n.porter@vanderbilt.edu

Correction:

In the summer 2004 issue of the *A&S Cornerstone*, we incorrectly identified Professor of Economics Robert Margo as the assistant editor of the *Journal of Economic History* (JEH). In fact, Margo is the editor of *Explorations in Economic History*. Associate Professor of Economics William J. Collins is the new editorial associate at the JEH. We regret the error and are happy to set the record straight.

Hip-hop and French literature

Vanderbilt's new African American studies director, T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting, is an expert in areas as diverse as race, hip-hop, French literature and film.

The 37-year-old professor of African American studies and French plans to use successful programs at Duke and Harvard universities as models to raise the national stature of Vanderbilt's program.

“There's a great deal of potential, and [Vanderbilt] is willing to support those efforts,” she says.

Prior to her career in higher education, Sharpley-Whiting was a runway and print model. That experience informs her upcoming book, *Heavy in the Game: Young Women in the Thrall of Hip-Hop Culture*.

Sharpley-Whiting earned her doctorate in French studies from Brown University in 1994. She has bachelor's

and master's degrees in French literature from the University of Rochester and Miami University, respectively.

A nationally known and highly respected scholar whose interests encompass history, philosophy, gender, race and culture, she was previously professor of French and director of African American studies at Purdue and Hamilton College, where she also directed programs in African American studies.

The St. Louis native is the author of four books and co-editor of three others. She succeeds Lucius Outlaw, professor of philosophy, who became associate provost for undergraduate education in July.



Sharpley-Whiting

MLAS program offers convenient, affordable master's degree

Perhaps one of Vanderbilt's best-kept secrets is the Master of Liberal Arts and Science program, a convenient and affordable way for adults to earn a personal enrichment master's degree.

MLAS students enjoy the same privileges as regular graduate students—including walking at Commencement—but at a fraction of the cost. Since its founding in 1992, about 62 individuals have completed their degrees.

“The MLAS degree program offers to working adults ... a chance to be a part of what we do best: teach and provide a supportive, encouraging environment for learning,” says Russell McIntire, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science and director of the program.

MLAS students pay \$1,827 per class, while regular tuition for a three-hour graduate course is \$3,654. Students may take one class from the MLAS course listing per semester at the discounted rate and must graduate in no more than six years.

Classes cover a broad range of topics. Offered this spring are “War, Film and Politics” taught by George Graham, professor of political science; “Visions of Amazonia: Paradise, Purgatory, or Hell?” with Professor of History Marshall Eakin; and “The Development of Christian Iconography in the Byzantine East and Latin West,” led by Ljubica Popovich, associate professor of art history.

Applications are being accepted now for the summer 2005 MLAS semester.

—Sarah Hargrove

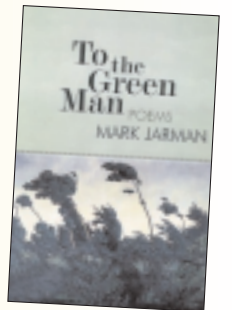
DID YOU KNOW?

Four published poets and three novelists teach creative writing in the Department of English.



To The Green Man

Last summer, Professor of English Mark Jarman's eighth book of poetry hit the bookshelves. Published by Sarabande Books in Louisville, Ky., *To the Green Man* continues Jarman's emphasis on spiritual themes. Jarman has won numerous awards for his poetry, including the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets and the *Nation* magazine. Here is a poem from his latest book:



Prayer for Our Daughters

May they never be lonely at parties
Or wait for mail from people they haven't written
Or still in middleage ask God for favors
Or forbid their children things they were never forbidden.

May hatred be like a habit they never developed
And can't see the point of, like gambling or heavy drinking.
If they forget themselves, may it be in music
Or the kind of prayer that makes a garden of thinking.

May they enter the coming century
Like swans under a bridge into enchantment
And take with them enough of this century
To assure their grandchildren it really happened.

May they find a place to love, without nostalgia
For some place else that they can never go back to.
And may they find themselves, as we have found them,
Complete at each stage of their lives, each part they add to.

May they be themselves, long after we've stopped watching.
May they return from every kind of suffering
(Except the last, which doesn't bear repeating)
And be themselves again, both blessed and blessing.

Seeding the Future

“Time is money,” goes the saying. Yet time and money are often the enemies of the graduate student, because there is not enough of either.

During the summer, for instance, many graduate students find themselves in something of an economic purgatory. Their research and scholarship can’t slow down, and yet the economic reality is that many must spend those months taking whatever work they can to make ends meet. Time and energy for research melt away just when doctoral candidates need to be ramping up their research and preparing for what awaits them after they’ve completed their studies.

Over the past two summers, Vanderbilt’s College of Arts & Science has helped to break that cycle by offering summer grants for mid-career graduate students. The highly sought grants carry a stipend of \$4,000 each for 25 graduate students.

“A university needs to recruit the best graduate students, educate them well and place them well,” says Constantine Tsinakis, professor of mathematics and former executive dean of the College of Arts and Science. “The university’s visibility is highly dependent upon whether you place students well, whether it is in academia or industry. To be visible as a graduate student, it requires that they use their summers towards the goals of research and getting published.”

Kun Yang, Ph.D. candidate in economics, especially appreciated the time afforded by his summer grant. “Economics is very time-sensitive,” says Yang, whose research dealt with the “forward premium puzzle” (a theory based on future foreign currency exchanges). “The topic one is working on may also be studied by many other scholars. Having a whole summer to concentrate on research definitely gives us a comparative advantage.”

While Yang was able to do all of his research on the Internet, Molly Morgan

needed to travel to the source for her study of Mesoamerican archaeology. Since Morgan’s work on the Pacific coast of Guatemala was not part of a larger archaeological project, she turned to the University for support. The summer grant gave Morgan her first opportunity to perform hands-on fieldwork at a site where the layers of soil form a complex stratigraphic sequence that is much more dif-

ficult to interpret than the stone construction of the Classic Maya region. She traveled to Mexico to study at the World Archaeological Foundation Laboratory. She also worked with members of Guatemala’s Ministry of Culture who have expressed interest in Morgan’s ongoing research.

Carola Daffner is writing her dissertation on the German-Jewish poet Gertrud Kolmar. The grant gave her the opportunity to travel to Germany to review original manuscripts and a number of unpublished letters and diaries. While in Marbach, where the Kolmar archival work is located, Daffner was able to work closely with the poet’s family and contemporaries, many of whom helped to preserve Kolmar’s work after she perished at Auschwitz. To Daffner’s surprise, she was able to see a photocopied version of Kolmar’s book *Die Frau und die Tiere (The Woman and the Animals)*, which had been published in 1937 but was destroyed by the Nazis.

“It was very important for me to get to read her sister’s accounts of what they went through under the persecution of the Nazi regime,” Daffner says via email from Berlin, where she is continuing her work. “I needed to understand Kolmar’s Jewish background and why she decided to stay in Nazi Germany, before trying to understand her work.”

Time Management

When he started his summer research, David Richter had a broad, expansive idea of his thesis. What he ended up with was a more refined, focused project, which concentrated on surrealism in the work of Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca. Tangible proof of Richter’s summer exists in the 28-page article he wrote, which he plans to submit to an academic journal that deals with theory, art and philosophy.

“Having the grant really helped me, because I felt a responsibility to work really hard on the project and make the most of my summer by researching and writing in a very concentrated manner,” Richter says.

“I learned an immense amount about time management, research and writing techniques, and what it takes to ‘cover all my bases’ in a research project,” he continues. “This, of course, will be invaluable experience when, as a professor, I seek to meet professional publication expectations.”

“This is a great program,” says current A&S Associate Dean Carolyn Dever, who took over as chair of the summer grants committee this year. “The experience of reading the research that these students are engaging in is tremendous. The summer grant program is a huge investment on the part of the College of Arts and Science, and it has already made returns. We’re seeding the future.”

— Shelton Clark



Morgan



COURTESY OF RANFANGICO ESTRADA-BELLU

Graduate students Molly Morgan, left, and Jeremy Bauer work on a jade cache in Guatemala.

Garcia earns doctorate eight years after paralyzing accident

David Garcia lives each day coping with limitations heavy enough to crush the spirit.

At Commencement ceremonies in May, the entire Vanderbilt community celebrated the grit of the Dominican Republic native, who received a doctorate in Spanish American Literature and Latino Studies after an automobile accident left him a quadriplegic.

“It’s been an extraordinary journey,” Garcia said. “I can’t imagine having completed such a milestone anywhere other than Vanderbilt.”

Garcia wrote his dissertation on the writer Jesús Colón by using a voice-operated computer program. He lost workdays when circumstances such as a cold altered his voice, and had to spell out each word of large amounts of the more than 300-page manuscript. He recruited family members and friends to type parts of the dissertation.

He did the work at his home in Apalachin, N.Y. The dissertation defense took place through video conferencing between Vanderbilt and Binghamton University in New York.

“Doing a Ph.D. is difficult enough, but for someone who is only able to move his neck, and maybe slightly his arm, it’s unprecedented,” said Garcia’s friend and mentor William Luis, professor of Spanish. “It’s a celebration for people with disabilities — and people who don’t have disabilities — helping us to learn to strive to accomplish as much as we can.”

Luis was asked to bring one graduate student with him from Binghamton when he began teaching at Vanderbilt in 1991. As an undergraduate at Binghamton, Garcia had taken a challenging course taught by Luis and outpaced most of the graduate students in the class.

“I noticed something special in him,” Luis said, “about his intellectual curiosity, his determination, his willingness to work.”

Garcia was on the verge of graduating from Vanderbilt and had accepted a teaching job at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., when the accident occurred on Memorial Day in 1996 while he was driving from Jackson to Dallas.

Vanderbilt officials, urged on by Luis, arranged his transfer from a Jackson hospital to Vanderbilt. The University also absorbed much of his subsequent medical bills and housing costs. He eventually made a triumphant return to the classroom as an instructor.

“The mentor-protégé relationship I’ve had with William Luis has been a key to my life,” Garcia said. “After my accident, he didn’t quit on me. That gave me strength.”

Getting back to his dissertation was something that “gave me some continuity with my former life,” Garcia said. It is titled “Between Myth, Race, and Marginality: Jesús Colón and the Afro-Latino Condition.”

“He does a marvelous analysis,” Luis said. “One of the most fascinating chapters for me is the one where he argues that Colón was a very religious man despite being a proclaimed socialist.

He reads the sketches in Colón’s *A Puerto Rican in New York and Other Sketches* as corresponding to the beads on the rosary. That’s totally original thinking on Colón.”

Garcia is quick to credit those who helped him along the way: Luis, his family, God, health care workers and the Vanderbilt community. He has ambitions to teach, do more research and publish a book on Colón.

“The first thing people see is my big wheelchair, and sometimes they don’t pay attention to what’s in my mind and heart,” he says. “But there’s more than one way of moving in the world, and I think I’ve learned about that.”

—Jim Patterson



RICKY ROBERTS

David Garcia, center, receives his doctoral hood from his mentor, Professor William Luis, left, at Commencement ceremonies last May.

Students cop top awards

Several Arts and Science students received prestigious national and international scholarships this year. They include a photojournalist who is documenting life in a notorious African slum, a junior aiming for a career in the CIA, and the first A&S student to win such scholarships in both his junior and senior year.

John B. Reed, BA’04, has won a Fulbright fellowship to study photography in Nairobi, Kenya. He will spend nine months documenting life in the Mathare Valley, a Nairobi slum. Reed expects to make photojournalism his career in the international area.

Clay Varney has won a National Security Education Program David L. Boren Scholarship to study at the American University in Cairo,

Egypt. An A&S junior, Varney anticipates a career as a CIA operations officer or counter-terrorism analyst.

After winning the Beinecke Scholarship in 2003, Benjamin Brent Ogles, BA’04, received this year’s Jacob K. Javits Scholarship for graduate study in the humanities. He is the first A&S student to win such scholarships in both his junior and senior years.

Other awards included Werner Lippert, a doctoral student in history, a DAAD Fellowship for archival dissertation research in Germany; Christy MacPherson, BS’04, and Jonathan Sawyer, BS’04, Fulbright teaching fellowships to Germany; and Jonathan Paul Weindruch, BA’98, MBA’04, a Fulbright Binational Business Grant.

In less than a decade the Internet, wireless phone networks, and satellite communication have made the world smaller, erasing age-old geographic barriers between nations. So have the removal of tariffs and other trade restrictions by international agreements such as NAFTA. At Vanderbilt, one innovative response to globalization is a unique interdisciplinary hub: The Center for the Americas (CFA).

Established in the fall of 2003, the CFA welcomed its first full-time director this past summer. Vera Kutzinski came to Vanderbilt from Yale, where she earned her Ph.D. and served 18 years as professor of English, African American studies, and American studies. During the past few months, Kutzinski, who also holds the Martha Rivers Ingram Chair in English, has had a chance to size up Vanderbilt and the fledgling Center for the Americas, and she seems exhilarated by the prospects. Noting the compact nature of the campus and its longstanding strengths in areas such as Latin American, American, and Southern studies, Kutzinski finds that “this campus is ideal for a Center for the Americas.”

The new center is intended to be a kind of intellectual greenhouse for growing interdisciplinary projects that span all of the Americas: North, Central, and South. Funded with more than \$4 million from the University’s Academic Venture Capital Fund, the CFA’s initial mission is to bring together professors from divergent academic disciplines—the humanities, the sciences, social sciences, law, business,

medicine—and fund concrete projects that are intended to have real-world impacts.

“The idea is to get people to think across regions, including the biggest divide, which has generally been North American studies versus Latin American studies, and at the same time to think across disciplines,” says Marshall Eakin, professor of history and a specialist in Brazilian studies, who was involved in the planning process for launching the CFA. Such diverse disciplines as African American studies, American and Southern studies, Canadian studies, comparative literature, immigration, and women’s studies are among the fields that will be affiliated with the center.

Matchmaker, Matchmaker

During a September interview in the spacious CFA office and conference area on the second floor of Alumni Hall, Kutzinski, with tongue in cheek, describes her immediate job on campus as “matchmaker.” But there’s some truth in it. Even before Kutzinski arrived, the CFA had stirred faculty interest. Upon arrival, she was handed a list of more than 200 Vanderbilt professors who had expressed interest in the interdisciplinary mission of the CFA. She immediately delved into the list, making calls and luncheon appointments. “I’ve spent a lot of time just talking to people over the past months—a lot of face time—and I’ve found this extremely helpful in trying to figure out what people can contribute to the center and what the center might contribute to them.

And on that basis I’m trying to match people up,” she says.

Initially, Kutzinski is bringing together faculty members and graduate students across disciplines and professional schools in experimental “incubators” to test ideas and determine which ones merit CFA funding. Eventually, as these incubators mature, first into organized and CFA-funded work groups, then into self-sustaining project groups, Kutzinski expects them to produce multidisciplinary books and papers, as well as wide-ranging conferences drawing not only academics, but also government officials, interested citizens and Vanderbilt alumni. One of the present incubators even includes several advanced undergraduates.

Already Kutzinski can point to early accomplishments, particularly those of other recently arrived faculty who have affiliated with the center, such as Robert Barsky, professor of French and comparative literature, and Mitchell Seligson, Centennial Professor of Political Science (see sidebar, next page). Seligson—who is one of the world’s leading experts on Latin American politics, according to Arts & Science Dean Richard McCarty—came to Vanderbilt this fall because of the University’s longstanding commitment to Latin American studies and because of the promise of the new center.

“The decision by the administration to set up a Center for the Americas meant that right here on this campus was the interface between the policy world and the academic world,” Seligson says.

Barsky—a native Canadian and specialist in Canadian studies as well as in refugee and migration studies—also credits the creation of the CFA for bringing him to Vanderbilt in 2003. “The Center for the Americas intersected perfectly with the types of things I was interested in pursuing and with the things I was already actively doing,” he says.

Immigration & incarceration

Among the interdisciplinary initiatives Barsky has already launched are graduate courses on migration policy (with visiting expert lecturers

and Beat Generation literature across the Americas. But his most ambitious CFA-related work involves a project to interview Tennessee prisoners incarcerated for immigration issues and the prison officials who work with them.

“As incarceration increasingly becomes a *de facto* tool for immigration policy,” explains Barsky, “prisons are being filled with people who have come here from elsewhere and who have committed no other crime than crossing the border.” Working with government officials and translators, Barsky plans to produce a major report from his research that he says will be “aimed at better understanding and diffusing cultural tensions between individuals at these prisons.”

Together Barsky and Kutzinski are also editing a new biannual journal for the center, called *AmeriQuests*, which will publish multidisciplinary work about the movement of peoples throughout the Western Hemisphere. It published its first issue online in November 2004, with print copies expected to be available on-demand. Access online (www.AmeriQuests.org) is free of charge.

Kutzinski anticipates that the center’s interdisciplinary efforts will soon affect course offerings for graduate students and in time will transform courses for undergraduates as well. To handle multiple perspectives, these new interdisciplinary courses will be team-taught.

By fall 2005, the Center for the Americas is expected to relocate into new offices that are being renovated in Buttrick Hall. There the CFA will coexist alongside other transinstitutional centers, sparking interdisciplinary hallway epiphanies. In the meantime, Kutzinski and staffers Cathy Chalmers and Doug Carswell are making their Alumni Hall office a welcoming space. They have collected 50 flags representing every nation and island province in the western hemisphere and hung them from the room’s high rafters. Though the flags are just symbols, they instantly communicate the unifying concept behind the center. “We thought it would be a good idea to make a point about who is represented at the center within the Americas,” says Kutzinski. “And it literally is everybody.”

— Paul Kingsbury



Professor Vera Kutzinski heads Vanderbilt’s new interdisciplinary Center for the Americas.

STREET-SMART DATA

Ultimately, Director Vera Kutzinski intends for the Center for the Americas to make a difference in the real world. Through a fortuitous turn of events, it already is: This fall a major, long-established research project on Latin American political views became affiliated with the center.

The Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) came to Vanderbilt with its director, Mitchell Seligson. After 18 years at the University of Pittsburgh, where he held an endowed chair and founded the LAPOP, Seligson has joined the Vanderbilt faculty as Centennial Professor of Political Science and a Fellow of the CFA.

Since the 1970s, Seligson and his colleagues have systematically polled the citizens of Latin America on their political views—specifically on democratic values and their behaviors related to democracy. Various polls have measured, among other things: the extent to which

Famines are a product of governance, of decisions that are made to distribute food inequitably.

women may be excluded from political participation, the effect of education on tolerance for the rights of minorities, and the effects of government corruption on citizens. The project has regularly published in-depth analyses of these studies in countries throughout Latin America.

The project’s findings can help build stable democracies, Seligson says. “They tell the citizens in [a particular] country: ‘This is what you look like compared to your neighbors. For example, here’s how much corruption there is in your country compared to other countries in the region.’”

Through years of polling in most of the countries of Latin America, Seligson and the LAPOP have developed huge databases of statistical information about political viewpoints across Latin America. This street-smart data has not only informed Seligson’s writings and the work of the 25 Ph.D.s that he has supervised over the years; it has also been

utilized by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in its efforts to promote Latin American democracy and, perhaps most significantly, by the governments of several Latin American countries. One measure of Seligson’s stature in the field: When he recently traveled to Ecuador, he met with President Lucio Gutiérrez and his cabinet, and also appeared on Ecuadorian national television.

Seligson came to his academic calling after a two-year stint in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica, along with his wife, Susan Berk-Seligson (now associate professor of Latin American Studies and Spanish at Vanderbilt). As a new professor at the University of Arizona, Seligson began his public opinion research on Costa Rica. During the 1990s with the help of his colleagues and government

funding, he greatly expanded the program. In recent years, USAID has provided major support for LAPOP and is now helping to fund four Latin American graduate students studying for their doctorates under Seligson at Vanderbilt.

“I have a very deep commitment to democracy,” says Seligson. “I began as a Peace Corps volunteer believing that the major issues were poverty and hunger. I no longer believe that. I believe that those issues are secondary to the democratic issues, to the governance issues. As Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen has pointed out, ‘No democracy with a free press has ever had a major famine.’”

“Famines are a product of governance, of decisions that are made to distribute food inequitably. Moreover, in countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, Argentina, and Chile, thousands of people were murdered by their own governments, and terrible things were done on both sides of their civil conflicts in the 1980s because dictators ruled. Democracies don’t murder their own populations; dictatorships do.”

Thinking, Acting Globally

A number of young Arts and Science alumni are making their mark on the international scene, to the benefit of many of the world's citizens. Here are two of their stories.

Building Bridges of Understanding

As fighting in Iraq and the hunt for al-Qaida continue, the rhetoric surrounding the Middle East has become increasingly negative, slowly burning bridges between societies and cultures around the world.

Jake Brewer, BA'04, is trying to rebuild those bridges, one relationship at a time. A psychology major from Columbia, Tenn., Brewer has traveled to the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) four times in the past three years to study Middle Eastern culture and connect personally with its people. Brewer is a member of the Global Student Organizing Committee, an organization based in Abu Dhabi, which holds international student conferences to promote global awareness and interaction.

"The actions of the people and government of the U.S. affect people everywhere," Brewer says. "As a people we simply don't realize the power that we have."

In the spring of 2001, Brewer decided to transfer to Vanderbilt from the U.S. Naval Academy. He also spent two months on a summer internship in the U.A.E., an experience that affected not only his perception of the Middle East but of globalization in general.

In 2003, Brewer developed a research project to gather information on the people of the U.A.E. and their daily experiences after Sept. 11. He did this through a series of one-on-one interviews and direct observations.

"I expected to hear nothing but anti-American sentiment," says Brewer. "[But] I heard almost no one say anything remotely like, 'I hate America.' What I heard daily, though, was 'I like America and its people, but I really don't like where it's headed right now. I am very upset about its foreign policy.'"

Last June he spoke at a conference in Istanbul about the role of universities in developing international leaders. He then traveled to Mongolia to explore service work that could provide experiential education opportunities for Vanderbilt students.

Vanderbilt's Office of Active Citizenship and Service, part of the Division of Student Life, supported Brewer's efforts throughout the summer.

On returning to the United States, Brewer accepted a position as executive director of Break Away in

Tallahassee, Fla. The organization, which grew out of Vanderbilt's Alternative Spring Break, coordinates alternative service learning activities for students at universities around the nation.

"Americans have been blessed beyond the imagination of most of the world," says Brewer. "The fact that we have that privilege is not a bad thing. What I am saying is that people all over the world need help. We are currently one of the only countries and the only people capable of doing so, and that is truly a privilege and responsibility I hope we undertake."

—Julie Neumann

Volunteer of the Year

The Global Health Council has named Najla Hussein, BA'04, Volunteer of the Year.

The award was given "in recognition of [Hussein's] unwavering commitment to improving the health and lives of citizens around the world and for her determination in establishing a leading university chapter dedicated to promoting awareness of international health issues and policy."

A sociology major from Los Altos, Calif., Hussein became associated with the GHC after attending a council-sponsored forum on AIDS held in Nashville in 2002.

She became an active Global Health Action Network coordinator for the Vanderbilt campus, focusing on women and children's health, infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS and emerging threats. Vanderbilt's Division of Student Life also supported her efforts.

Under Hussein's leadership, Vanderbilt's chapter successfully hosted an annual "Global Health Week" and sponsored several health advocacy events during the academic year.

Formerly called the National Council of International Health, the GHC is the world's largest membership alliance dedicated to saving lives by improving health throughout the world.

Hussein received her award in June at the GHC's 31st annual conference in Washington, D.C.

—Kara Furlong



Najla Hussein



Jake Brewer, right, with U.A.E. oil executive Fareed Abdula.

Dr. Stahlman 2004 Distinguished Alumna

Dr. Mildred Stahlman, BA'43, MD'46, has received Vanderbilt University's 2004 Distinguished Alumna Award.

A professor of pediatrics and pathology in the Division of Neonatology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, she is an internationally renowned expert on diseases of the newborn and widely recognized as an authority on hyaline membrane disease. In 1961, she established at Vanderbilt the first modern neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) in the United States. Over the years, hundreds of premature infants born with underdeveloped lungs have been successfully treated at Vanderbilt, and the NICU concept has spread across the globe.

A graduate of the College of Arts and Science, Dr. Stahlman spent her senior year in absentia at Vanderbilt University Medical School. After completing medical school, she spent five years in residency and completed a fellowship before returning to Vanderbilt as a faculty mem-

ber in 1951. She has served in a variety of capacities during the past 53 years and was the first woman chair of the Faculty Senate.



Dr. Mildred Stahlman started the nation's first modern neonatal intensive care unit.

ber in 1951. She has served in a variety of capacities during the past 53 years and was the first woman chair of the Faculty Senate.

"I am delighted that Dr. Stahlman has received this richly deserved award," says Richard McCarty, dean of the College of Arts and Science. "She is one of the brightest jewels among our alumni. Through her pioneering efforts, thousands of infants in danger of death have sur-

vived and thrived. She has given them and their families a priceless gift." Dr. Stahlman has received many awards throughout her career, including the Thomas Jefferson Award in 1980 for distinguished service to Vanderbilt. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) gave her their prestigious Virginia Apgar Award in Perinatal Pediatrics in 1987. In 1994, the Tennessee Chapter of the AAP named her Pediatrician of the Year.

"At that time, we had no equipment or special care for premies."

In 1989, she was named to the Swedish Academy of Sciences, the organization that selects Nobel Prize winners in physics and chemistry. She also received honorary M.D.s from the University of Gothenburg in Sweden in 1973 and from the University of Nancy in France in 1982.

Dr. Stahlman says she was encouraged to follow her heart to a career in medicine by her late father and mother, James G. Stahlman and Mildred Stahlman Rhett. Her father was a member of the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust and publisher of the Nashville Banner.

Dr. Stahlman became involved in newborn physiology and fetal cardiology in 1951 as Vanderbilt's first Fellow to study at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden, "At that time," she says, "we had no equipment or special care for premies." For several years she concentrated on animal research at Vanderbilt, developing information on how to measure newborn blood gasses and lung function, which would later be transferred to human patients.

What happened next was an incredible leap forward in medicine. In 1961 for the first time, a baby girl born with severe hyaline membrane was helped to breathe by the use of a baby-sized respirator. Her lung function and blood gases were monitored by using umbilical catheters developed in labs.

Today that first patient, Martha Stahlman Humphries Lott (her parents named her for Dr. Stahlman) is in her 40s. A biomedical engineering graduate of Duke University, she works in the NICU where she was once the first patient.

Dr. Stahlman at 82 continues her research daily in Vanderbilt's Division of Neonatology. On weekends, she retreats to her Humphreys County farm where she rides her beloved horses.

"I think I'm really a veterinarian at heart," she says with a smile.

Thousands of premature infants and their families are thankful that she chose to treat human patients instead. (Parts of this article appeared in Vanderbilt Magazine.)

Class notes online

Alumni can now read class notes, post a note, upload a photograph, or create a buddy list with Dore2Dore, Vanderbilt's free online community. Visit the site today by clicking on www.dore2dore.net



The last, great frontier

Often called the last great frontier of scientific research, the study of how our brains are organized, how they process information, and both influence and are influenced by our behavior is the focus of researchers at Vanderbilt's Center for Integrative & Cognitive Neuroscience (CICN).

"This is an exciting time scientifically," says Jeff Schall, E. Bronson Ingram Professor of Neuroscience, CICN director and professor of psychology. Schall is also an investigator at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development and director of the Vanderbilt Vision Research Center.

Here is a look at some recent research from the CICN:



David Zald

It's a gamble

An international team of researchers has discovered that dopamine levels in our brains vary the most in situations where we are unsure if we are going to be rewarded, such as when we are gambling or playing the lottery.

The research results, "Dopamine Transmission in the Human Striatum during Monetary Reward Tasks," were published online in the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

Dopamine has long been known to play an important role in how we experience rewards from a variety of natural sources, including food and sex, as well as from drugs such as cocaine and heroin. But pinning down the precise conditions that cause its release has been difficult.

"Using a combination of techniques, we were actually able to measure release of the dopamine neurotransmitter under natural conditions using monetary reward," says David Zald, assistant professor of psychology at Vanderbilt and a member of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development.

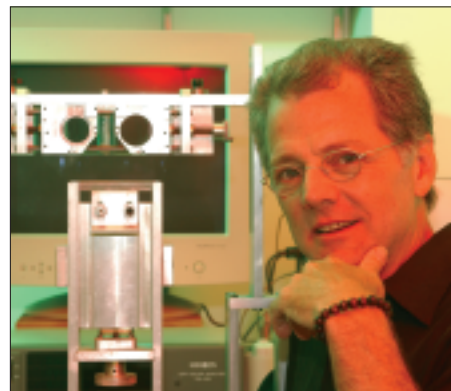
The research offers promise for exploring the chemical foundation of problems such as gambling addiction.

"The most interesting thing we found is that there were areas that showed increased dopamine release during the unpredictable condition, and there were also other areas showing decreased dopamine release," Zald says. "So other than just dopamine as reward, there is a more complicated action occurring."

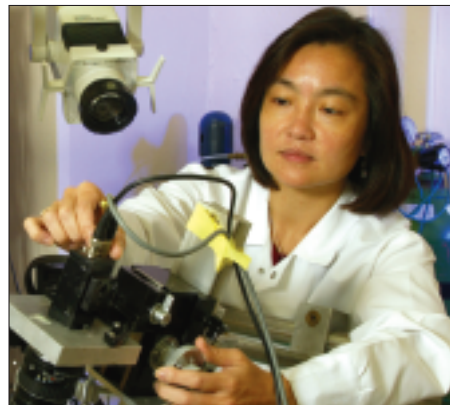
Seeing is believing

Seeing is believing, even when it's ambiguous or misleading. Centennial Professor of Psychology Randolph Blake, and former research associates Thomas W. James and Kenith V. Sobel have found that, when judging an object's motion, the brain continues to accept ambiguous visual information even when it conflicts with more reliable tactile input. Their studies, which appeared recently in two journals, *Psychological Science* and *Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience*, provide new insights into how the brain blends and balances information from different senses in its constant effort to comprehend the external environment.

The researchers found that the middle temporal visual center of the brain, which specializes in processing visual movement, also responds to motion detected by touch. However, they were surprised to discover that, when presented with ambiguous visual information and reliable tactile information, the brain did not fuse the two into a single, accurate representation of motion as the prevailing theories predicted. Instead, it keeps the two inputs separate, accepting a degree of "cognitive dissonance" when the two conflict.



Randolph Blake



Anna Wang Roe

Brain maps perceptions, not reality

When we experience an illusion, we usually have the impression that our minds are playing tricks on us. New research published in the journal *Science* indicates that our perceptions of these illusions are no hoax, but the result of how the brain is organized to process the information it receives from our senses.

Vanderbilt psychology researchers Anna Wang Roe, Li Min Chen and Robert Friedman have identified responses in the brain to a touch illusion that shed new light on how the brain processes sensory information. Their research also calls into question long-held theories about the nature of the "map" of the body in the brain.

"What is surprising is that we found the cortical map reflects our perceptions, not the physical body," Roe says. "The brain is reflecting what we are feeling, even if that's not what really happened." The team completed the research at Yale University before moving to Vanderbilt this fall.

Roe's team will continue to study how the brain processes sensory input and illusions, though she cautions against misinterpretation of that term. "Illusions are not unusual or strange—they are how we interpret the world," Roe says. "We think we know what's out there in the physical world, but it's all interpreted by our brains. Everything we sense is an illusion to a degree."

This article was taken from stories by Melanie Catania and David Salisbury. For multimedia versions, please visit Vanderbilt's online research journal, Exploration, at <http://exploration.vanderbilt.edu/home.htm>

PHOTOS BY NEIL BRAKE AND DANIEL DUBOIS

X-raying a newborn sun

A team of astronomers has caught a newborn star similar to the sun in a fiery outburst. X-ray observations of the flare-up, which are the first of their kind, are providing important new information about the early evolution of the sun and the process of planet formation.

The team, headed by Joel Kastner of the Rochester Institute of Technology and including David Weintraub, Vanderbilt associate professor of astronomy, reported their findings in July in the journal *Nature*.

In January 2004, Jay McNeil, an amateur astronomer in western Kentucky, discovered a new cloud of dust and gas in the Orion region. Previously, the object was not visible from Earth. But a new star inside the dark cloud had flared up in brightness, lighting up the surrounding nebula. Looking back at the images taken of this part of the sky revealed that a young star about the size of the sun had burst into visibility last November.

The discovery of a new star is an extremely rare event, having occurred only twice in the last century. What made this star even more

special was the fact that it appears to be extremely young—far less than a million years old—and about the same mass as the sun. Astronomers know of fewer than a dozen of these stars, which they call FU-Orionis-type.

Using the orbiting Chandra X-ray Observatory, the astronomers discovered that the star, which has been officially named the McNeil nebula, appears to possess a "protoplanetary" disk—a thin disk extending out from a star's equator that contains dust and gas left over from the star's formation and from which planets form. Kastner and Weintraub argue that the flare was touched off by a sudden avalanche of disk material falling onto the surface of the star and that this was the source of intense X-rays as well as the other forms of radiation.

If their hypothesis is correct, X-ray observations may help discriminate between young stars that possess protoplanetary disks and those that don't, Weintraub says.

For a multimedia version of this story, please go to http://exploration.vanderbilt.edu/news/news_new_star.htm

— David Salisbury



David Weintraub

Ask the Faculty

Professor of History Thomas Alan Schwartz is the author of several books, most recently *Lyndon Johnson and Europe: In the Shadow of Vietnam* (2003), an examination of alliance politics during the Vietnam war.



Thomas Alan Schwartz

Q: Lyndon Johnson's name is closely linked to the unpopular war in Vietnam. Were there positive ways in which he had an impact on U.S. history?

A: Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th president of the United States, is a distant memory to most Americans. But it is arguable that Johnson had more of an impact on American life than either his martyred predecessor, John Kennedy, who remains an American icon, or his disgraced successor, Richard Nixon.

Forty years ago this month, Johnson began his elected term as president, committed to the vision of a "Great Society," the most significant package of social legislation since Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal."

Having assumed power in the wake of the national trauma caused by Kennedy's assassination, Johnson assured the country he would continue in Kennedy's path. But he went well beyond it. Over the next four years, under Johnson's leadership, Congress would enact sweeping programs of social legislation that changed the face of America. From civil rights to voting rights to Medicare to aid to education to the National Endowment of the Arts, we still live with the domestic legacy of Lyndon Johnson.

Not every program was successful, and some proved that government was not the answer to some social problems. But one legacy of Lyndon Johnson that still challenges us today is to create an America that comes closer to the ideal of equality for all people, regardless of race, creed or color.

Vietnam was the great tragedy of Johnson's years, a conflict he inherited from his predecessors but escalated on his watch. A reluctant warrior, Johnson believed the war necessary both to prevent a communist takeover of South Vietnam and to keep an American defeat from

poisoning the political atmosphere, just as the loss of China and McCarthyism had in the early 1950s.

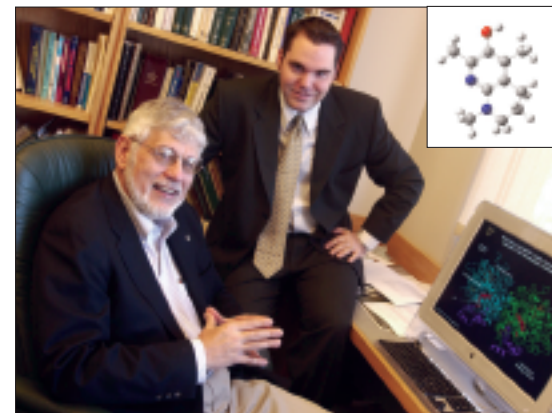
Lyndon Johnson's greatest talent did lie in fashioning domestic legislation and steering it through Congress. But he was not without skill in handling foreign policy. In one of the main theaters of the Cold War, Europe, Johnson guided the United States with a policy that balanced the solidarity of the Western alliance with the need to stabilize the Cold War and reduce the nuclear danger. His administration began a process of treating Western and Eastern Europe as a whole, embarking on a patient and sustained effort to reduce tensions while maintaining the solidarity of the West despite the French withdrawal from NATO.

Johnson sought and furthered the process of international trade and monetary cooperation with the objective of expanding global prosperity and decreasing poverty. In a complex world, Johnson understood the necessity of cooperating with allies and carrying on a dialogue with adversaries, lessons that remain as relevant today as they were 40 years ago.

Chemists develop antioxidants more effective than Vitamin E

An international team of chemists has developed a new family of antioxidants that are up to 100 times more effective than Vitamin E.

"Vitamin E is nature's antioxidant, and people have been trying to improve upon it for more than 20 years with only marginal success. We have taken a very big step in the right direction," says Ned A. Porter, the Stevenson chair of chemistry at Vanderbilt. He supervised the development, which was published in the European journal *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*. Vanderbilt has a patent pending on the new compounds.



Ned Porter, left, and Derek Pratt discuss the new antioxidant's molecular structure, shown at the top right of the photograph.

So far, the new antioxidants have been tested "in vitro" — in the test tube. But studies with biological molecules, such as cholesterol, suggest that the new compounds have properties that could make them suitable for dietary supplements. Shortly, Vanderbilt researchers expect to begin the lengthy process of determining how effective the new compounds are in living animals and whether they have any harmful side effects.

The approach that led to the new antioxidants was the idea of former Vanderbilt graduate student Derek Pratt. At the time, Pratt was an undergraduate at Carleton University in Ottawa, working with Keith Ingold at the National Research Council in Canada.

Pratt brought the idea with him when he came to Vanderbilt to work with Porter. "When Derek suggested this project, I was immediately intrigued," says Porter.

Porter teamed Pratt with Maikel Wijtman, another graduate student who was interested in synthesizing the new molecules, called pyridinols. In order to assess their effectiveness as antioxidants, the Vanderbilt chemists sent samples to Luca Valgimigli at the University of Bologna in Italy. He determined that the best pyridinols the Vanderbilt chemists had created are as much as 100 times more effective than vitamin E.

In December 2003, Pratt received his doctorate and moved to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to begin a post-doctoral fellowship. He is continuing to work with Porter's group on the new antioxidants.

RESEARCH BRIEFS

Paraplegia-spastin link

Researchers at Vanderbilt and the University of Padova in Italy have developed a new genetic model for a motor disorder that confines about 10,000 people in the United States to walkers and wheelchairs. The study of hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP) by Vanderbilt graduate student Nicholas Trotta; Kendal Broadie, Stevenson Professor of Biological Sciences, and Andrea Daga and colleagues at Padova, appeared in the journal *Current Biology* last July. The researchers discovered that too much or too little of the enzyme spastin disrupts microtubule stability in nerve cells, compromising nerve function. Drug treatments that restore microtubule stability also restore normal nerve function. Broadie is also professor of pharmacology and deputy director of the Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development.

Hard exoskeletons

Using the fruit fly, a team of biologists has discovered the structure and genetic sequence of the hormone bursicon that makes insects develop their hard outer shells and allows them to spread their wings. The research was published in July in the journal *Current Biology* by Vanderbilt biologists Hans-Willi Honegger and Elizabeth Dewey and researchers at Cornell University and the University of Washington, Seattle. Honegger expects this research to open new doors for pest control. Because bursicon acts only on molting insects, says Honegger, this research "could be especially applicable to epidemic outbreaks of pest insects like migratory locusts which molt synchronously by the thousands."

For more information about this and other exciting Vanderbilt research, please visit our online research journal at <http://exploration.vanderbilt.edu/home.htm>

Kudos

Kenneth C. Catania, assistant professor of biological sciences, has received the 2005 C.J. Herrick Award from the American Association of Anatomists. The award recognizes his work using the star-nosed mole sensory system as a model for understanding the mammalian neocortex.

Jay Clayton, William R. Kenan Professor of English and chair of the department, has received the 2003 Susanne M. Glasscock Humanities Book Prize for Interdisciplinary Scholarship for his book *Charles Dickens in Cyberspace: The Afterlife of the Nineteenth Century in Postmodern Culture*. Sponsored by the Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research at Texas A&M University, the prize is given for an outstanding contribution to the humanities that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries.

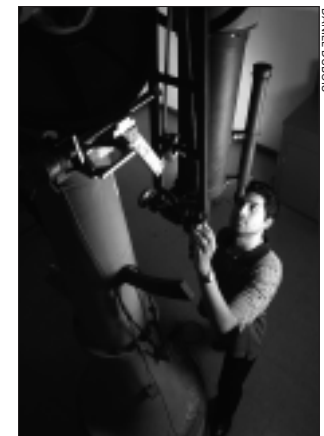
Joseph Hamilton, the Landon C. Garland Distinguished Professor of Physics, is one of two American Physical Society members elected to the governing board of the American Institute of Physics. Hamilton is also an elected member of the Council of the American Physics Society.

Keivan Stassun, assistant professor of astronomy, has won the National Science Foundation's CAREER Award, the agency's most prestigious award for new faculty. At \$800,000, it is the largest NSF CAREER award in Vanderbilt history and the largest ever awarded to an astronomer.

Robert B. Talisse, assistant professor of philosophy, appeared on the PBS program, "Think Tank with Ben Wattenberg" in September.

Julia Velkovska, assistant professor of physics, is one of only three scientists who received an Outstanding Junior Investigator award from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Physics this year.

Three A&S scientists recently became Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). They are **Walter J. Chazin**, Chancellor's Professor of Biochemistry and Physics and director of the Center for Structural Biology; **Leonard C. Feldman**, Stevenson Professor of Physics and director of the Vanderbilt Institute for Nanoscale Science and Engineering, and **Dennis G. Hall**,



Keivan Stassun

A&S mourns faculty members

Dewey W. Grantham, Holland N. McTyeire Professor of History, emeritus, died on Aug. 26, 2004, at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville. He was 83 years old and had suffered during the past year from cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

Professor Grantham was a member of the Vanderbilt faculty from 1952 until his retirement in 1991. The author of numerous books on the 20th century American South, he received many honors for his scholarship and teaching. They included the Harvie Branscomb Distinguished Professor Award in 1971. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Virginia B. Grantham, and three children.



Grantham

Luigi Monga, professor of French and Italian, died July 10, 2004, at Vanderbilt Hospital after suffering a stroke.

He was an internationally recognized pioneer in the field of early-modern travel writing and a favorite among the undergraduate and graduate students that he taught during his 28 years at Vanderbilt. He served as acting chair of the Department of French and Italian in 1995 and assistant to the dean of the College of Arts and Science and director of overseas study from 1995 to 1997.

A native of Italy, Professor Monga taught a popular course on Italian cinema for the Retirement Learning at Vanderbilt program and led Vanderbilt Alumni Travel programs to Italy on several occasions. He is survived by his wife, Mary, a daughter and two brothers.

Alumni wishing to make memorial gifts in honor of these faculty members can obtain more information at <http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/cas/waystogive>.



Monga

Campaign reaches \$1 billion mark

Vanderbilt's ongoing "Shape the Future" campaign has officially crossed the \$1 billion mark toward an overall goal of \$1.25 billion, thanks to gifts and pledges from 106,000 alumni and other friends and supporters.

As part of "Shape the Future," the College of Arts and Science has received more than \$67.5 million toward its goal of \$125 million.

"This achievement is about so much more than the dollar amount," says Campaign Chair Monroe Carell Jr., BE'59.

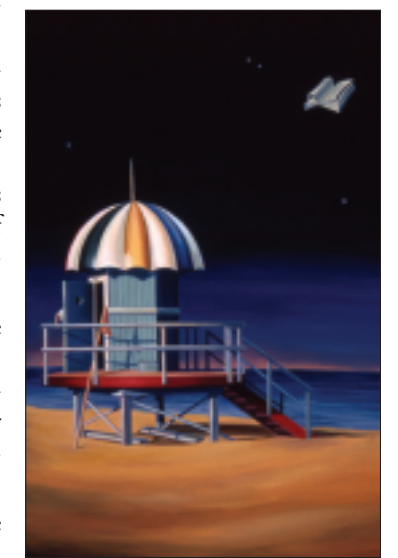
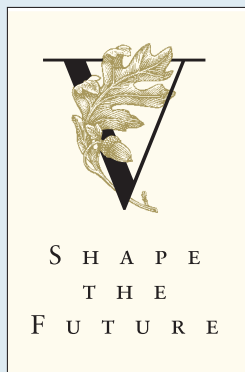
Generous giving by A&S alumni, parents and other supporters have made possible

- \$19.8 million for scholarships, representing a significant increase in the portion of Vanderbilt's endowment earmarked for student financial aid.
- \$12 million for seven endowed faculty chairs, which help A&S recruit and retain the world's finest faculty.
- \$10 million for facilities, such as the new Studio

Arts Center. Gifts and pledges to the campaign are also supporting research initiatives, transinstitutional partnerships, and the future Vanderbilt residential college system.

"These generous gifts are making a significant difference in Vanderbilt University and its College of Arts and Science," says Joe Roby, BA'61, chair of the A&S campaign committee. "The involvement and generosity of A&S alumni and other friends are helping to ensure that talented young students continue to receive a first-rate education by the best scholars and teachers in the world."

"Giving at all levels support 'Shape the Future' priorities. Whether Reunion year gifts, annual commitments, or contributions for endowed scholarships and chairs, all help to shape the future of Vanderbilt and the College of Arts and Science."



Life Guard, by Marilyn Murphy.

COMING HOME THROUGH THE YEARS

About 5,400 alumni and guests returned to campus the weekend of Nov. 5 to celebrate Reunion and Homecoming, the largest event held on campus. This year, classes ending in '4 and '9 reunited and contributed \$43.4 million in gifts and pledges to the University. Here is a look back at Homecoming celebrations across the years.



2004



1970s



1940s



1980s



1950s



1960s



1940s



1940s

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