



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE

**CORNERSTONE**



CREATIVE SPACES, page 8

SPRING 2006

## From the Dean

We had a spectacular fall on campus, a time when the College of Arts and Science took center stage in Vanderbilt's ongoing commitment to spark new ideas at the intersections of our departments, disciplines and schools.

With the dedication of two extraordinary buildings this year, Arts and Science provides new homes for some of our most exciting endeavors. Since the late 1920s, Buttrick Hall primarily housed the Department of Biology. With the completion of the new Biological Sciences Building in 2003, however, we renovated and expanded Buttrick Hall, joining the old building to a new wing with a soaring atrium. The Center for the Americas, the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and Public Policy, the Program in Jewish Studies, the Film Studies program, and 125 of our graduate students have all made themselves at home in the building. In the classrooms and halls of Buttrick today, undergraduates and graduate students join together to debate the importance of public art, faculty from diverse departments find common interests, and students and faculty regularly convene to exchange ideas. In less than a semester, in fact, the "new"



Clive Matthew Earnest presents Robin Ingram Patton with a ceramic plate in appreciation for her support of the new E. Bronson Ingram Studio Arts Center.

Buttrick Hall has become both a major intellectual hub of this University and a symbol of the innovative direction that it has taken towards the future.

Just a short walk from Buttrick Hall is the new E. Bronson Ingram Studio Arts Center. Its classic, but innovative, architecture perfectly reflects the values it will shelter and signals our renewed commitment to the creative arts. The building provides our studio arts faculty and their students — many of whom are from schools outside of Arts and Science — with classroom, studio, gallery and gathering space. Already, the Ingram Studio Arts Center lights burn late into the night as students and faculty work. And, at the building's dedication last November, the crowd included many representatives of Nashville's arts community, an indication of the excitement this new space has generated beyond the campus (please see related article on page 8).

There are always many reasons to return to Vanderbilt, but I hope your next visit to campus will include a walk through these two magnificent buildings. Both are exciting harbingers of great things to come in the College of Arts and Science.

— Richard McCarty

## Hurricanes prompt quick campus response

Response from Vanderbilt and its College of Arts and Science to devastation wrought by last fall's hurricanes was decisive and swift, both from individuals and the institution.

A number of undergraduate students from Gulf Coast colleges and universities were enrolled at no charge as "visiting students." The university established a fund to provide aid to current and displaced students and a second fund to provide financial assistance for the Medical Center's disaster relief efforts. A number of patients were transported from the affected areas and treated at the Medical Center.

The chaplain's office and Psychological and Counseling Center offered counseling to all students. About 700 Vanderbilt students come from the affected areas.

The university's Division of Student Life worked with Second Harvest Food Bank to collect donations of food and personal care items on the Vanderbilt campus for hurricane survivors.

About 100 students, along with faculty and staff, spent their fall break helping Hurricane Katrina survivors

in Louisiana and Mississippi. Campus groups organized dozens of fundraising events to support disaster relief efforts, and volunteers from the Medical Center and the School of Nursing traveled to the Gulf Coast to assist with disaster relief and reconstruction efforts.

For more information about Vanderbilt's response to the disaster, please visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/katrina](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/katrina).

— Elizabeth P. Latt



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

<http://dar.vanderbilt.edu>

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

[www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/publications/cs.html](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/publications/cs.html)

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Cover photo of the new Studio Arts Center by Neil Brake

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

## Chemist, physician create better test for RSV

In what may be one of the first medical uses of nanotechnology, an Arts and Science chemist and a Vanderbilt physician who specializes in infectious childhood diseases have joined forces to create an early detection method for the respiratory virus that causes most of the hospitalizations among children under five.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) sends about 120,000 children to the hospital in the United States each year. Although it is life threatening in only one case out of every 100, it infects virtually all children by the time they are five. Few children in the U.S. die from RSV, but it also attacks the elderly, causing some 17,000 to 18,000 deaths annually. Individuals with impaired immune systems are another highly susceptible group. Worldwide, the virus causes about one million deaths annually.

Current methods of detecting the virus can take from two to six days, postponing effective treatment. The new, high-tech method uses multi-colored, microscopic fluorescent beads, called quantum dots, which bind to molecular structures that are unique to the virus' coat and the cells that it infects. In the June issue of the journal *Nanoleters*, the Vanderbilt researchers reported that not only can a quantum dot system detect the presence of RSV particles in a matter of hours, rather than the two to five days required by current tests, but it is also more sensitive, allowing it to detect the virus earlier in the course of an infection.

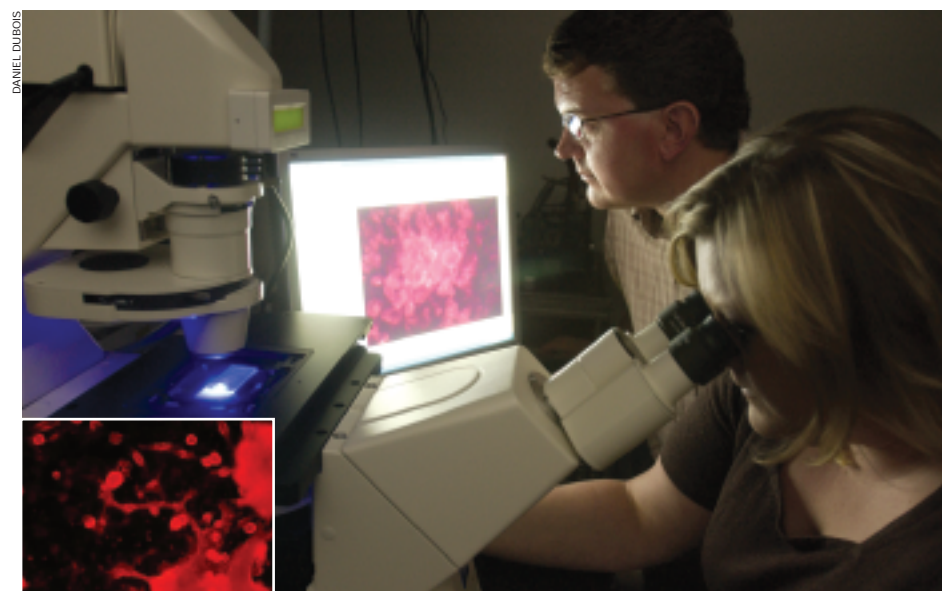
## Current tests too slow

"The problem with current detection technologies is that they take too long," says Professor of Pediatrics James E. Crowe Jr. who collaborated with Associate Professor of Chemistry David W. Wright in the development. "When a patient with a respiratory illness comes in to the doctor, emergency room or clinic, sometimes their symptoms are caused by bacteria and sometimes they are caused by viruses. There are specific medicines to treat some viral infections and there are definitely antibiotics to treat bacteria. Yet current detection tests take up to five days to tell you if a virus is present and another day or so to tell you which virus it is."

Crowe lists three potential benefits for an early detection system. It can increase the proper use of antiviral medicines, reduce the inappropriate use of antibiotics, and allow hospital personnel to isolate RSV patients.

The researchers estimate that it will take only two to three years to develop and validate the new test. The system should also be relatively inexpensive. The most costly ingredient is the quantum dots: A small bottle that contains enough of the material for about 200 tests costs \$300.

As a result, this could be one of the earliest medical applications of nanotechnology, Wright and Crowe say.



Associate Professor David Wright and graduate student Elizabeth Bentzen observe cells infected with the RSV virus and labeled by nanoscale fluorescent beads called quantum dots (inset). At left, a scanning microscope view of quantum dots shows individual atoms (image courtesy of Sandra Rosenthal and James McBride).

The researchers' next step will be to develop a quantum dot cocktail capable of simultaneously detecting the presence of at least five major respiratory viruses: Influenza A and B, parainfluenza and metapneumovirus, in addition to RSV. Quantum dots are available in a dozen different colors, and antibodies specific to the other four respiratory viruses have been identified and can be used as linker molecules. Such a test would be able to diagnose more than 90 percent of all the cases of viral respiratory infection, Wright says.

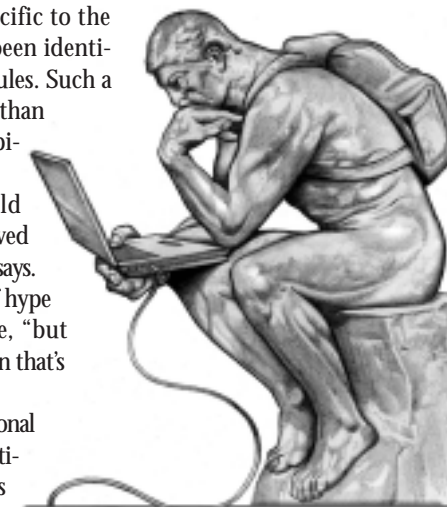
The existence of such a test could encourage the development of improved therapies for respiratory viruses, Crowe says.

"There is a tremendous amount of hype about nanotechnology," says Crowe, "but this is a real-world, practical application that's here now."

The research was funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the March of Dimes and Vanderbilt.

—David Salisbury

A multi-media version of this story is available on *Exploration*, Vanderbilt's online research magazine, at [www.exploration.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.exploration.vanderbilt.edu).



## DID YOU KNOW?

Vanderbilt ranked fifth among the "Best Places to Work in Academia," according to a survey of scientists published in *The Scientist* magazine in November 2005.

## New faculty bring diverse perspectives to campus

When the Bush campaign compared John Kerry to Cicero during the last presidential election, Dyan Elliott knew she'd been given a gift to help make history relevant for her students.

In her subsequent article, "Getting Medieval with the Presidential Debates," for the History News Network, Elliott compared the debates with a medieval-early modern carnival, noting that Bush's camp bizarrely tried to spin Kerry's debating skill as an unfair advantage.

The continuing influence of the medieval period — especially the church on gender roles — fascinates Elliott, who has joined the Vanderbilt faculty as a distinguished professor of history. She has written extensively about medieval Western Europe, with emphasis on women, spirituality and sexuality.

After receiving an undergraduate degree and a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies at York University in Toronto, Canada, Elliott earned another master's at the University of Toronto's Centre for Medieval Studies, where she also completed her doctorate.

In 1988 she began teaching at Indiana University, where she held the Ruth N. Halls Chair of History.

Elliott has written three books that attest to her interdisciplinary bent. Her most recent is *Proving Women: Female Spirituality and Inquisitional Culture in the Later Middle Ages* (Princeton, 2004).

### Washed Away

One factor in the disastrous New Orleans flood following Hurricane Katrina was the erosion of wetlands in the Mississippi Delta over many years, according to Steve Goodbred, assistant professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences and a world expert on river, delta and wetland environments.

"Marshes absorb a lot of energy which would otherwise be transferred to the water, and that reduces the severity of flooding," he says.

"River deltas serve as critical gateways between the land and oceans, serving to filter, mitigate or otherwise alter the tremendous flux of material reaching the coast," he continues. "Nearly



Steve Goodbred



Dyan Elliott

50 percent of the world's population lives along a coastline and may be threatened by sea-level rise, storm events, shoreline erosion, wetland loss and climate change. The losses of life, infrastructure and habitat make it imperative that we better understand the causes and consequences of these processes."

Goodbred received his Ph.D. in marine science from the College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science in 1999. He came to Vanderbilt from Stony Brook University in New York, where he received a prestigious National Science Foundation Career Award for his work on the sedimentology of the Ganges River delta in Bangladesh. His current research focuses in part on naturally occurring arsenic in that country's ground water, which has become a major health problem for 60-80 million people living there.

### Race, Sexuality & Hip Hop

Two new assistant professors are helping to expand the reach of African American and Diaspora Studies, according to Director Tracy Sharpley-Whiting, professor of African American Studies and of French. The word "diaspora" was recently added to reflect the program's reach.

"We don't just focus on the United States," Sharpley-Whiting says. "We study the black diaspora in the Caribbean, the Americas, Asia, Europe and also Africa. It's a very broad focus that is now represented in the title of the program."

Kathryn Gines, who comes to Vanderbilt from a post-doctoral fellowship at Emory University, has expertise in African American philosophy, continental philosophy, diaspora studies, and race and gender theory. She'll teach a freshman seminar on "Race and Sexuality in Contemporary Hip Hop" that will fit hip hop within existentialist philosophy, African traditions of oral history, and the history of economics and violence. Gines earned her doctorate in philosophy from the University of Memphis.



Anastasia Curwood

Anastasia Curwood, a Princeton University graduate, does research into African American social, cultural and intellectual history, with special interest in African American marriage during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Boston College before her arrival at Vanderbilt last fall.

"I think Anastasia and Kathryn will enrich the program in a lot of ways," Sharpley-Whiting says. "They will

broaden our focus and allow us to teach more courses and attract more students."



Kathryn Gines

### Going Once, Going Twice, Sold

To succeed in today's competitive business environment, companies need the ability to reliably measure the impact of economic and marketplace factors. Tong Li, professor of economics, is an expert on the application of statistical techniques to economic problems, particularly in key fields such as industrial organizations and health care.

An expert on microeconometrics, Li is a leader in the empirical analysis of auctions. For example, he uses data from timber sales and bids for oil tracts to test the predictions of auction theory.

Li comes to Vanderbilt from Indiana University where he had been a member of the faculty since 1999. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Science and Technology in his native China. He then came to the United States to earn his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California, San Diego, in 1993 and another Ph.D. in economics from the University of Southern California in 1997.

He is the 2003 recipient of the Arnold Zellner Award of the *Journal of Econometrics* for the best theory paper published in 2000 and 2001. In 2004, he became associate editor of that journal.

— Ann Marie Deer Owens and Joanne Beckham



Tong Li

### Sixties student body president heads Bush's economic council

As president of the Vanderbilt Student Association, Allan B. Hubbard, BA'69, encouraged his fellow students to become interested in national issues.

Taking his own advice, the chemistry major and junior class president became active in Republican politics. Today, Hubbard serves as assistant to President George W. Bush for economic policy and directs the National Economic Council.

After earning a J.D. and an M.B.A. from Harvard University, Hubbard founded E&A Industries, a specialty chemical company based in Indianapolis, Ind. He has chaired the Indiana Republican party, served as deputy chief of staff to Vice President Dan Quayle, and directed President George H.W. Bush's deregulatory Council on Competitiveness.

### Family Ties

Despite his busy life, Hubbard has found time to help his alma mater over the years. He currently serves on the Parents Leadership Committee and has been a member of the College Cabinet, the Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Class of '69 Reunion committee.

Hubbard and his wife, Kathryn Fortune Hubbard, have two daughters, Sara and Kate, and a son, Will, is

## Vanderbilt scores high in faculty diversity

According to a recent article in the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* [JBHE], Vanderbilt ranks first nationally in the rate of increase of black faculty members from 1999-2005.

"The most impressive progress was at Vanderbilt University where the black percentage of the total faculty increased from 2.2 percent in 1999 to 4.3 percent this year," said an article in the Oct. 5, 2005, issue of the JBHE.

For 2005, Vanderbilt ranked eighth nationally in the percentage of black faculty members. Only Columbia, U.N.C.-Chapel Hill, Emory, Michigan, Wake Forest, Georgetown and Northwestern scored higher. Vanderbilt also ranked 14<sup>th</sup> nationally in the percentage of tenured black faculty members (3.0 percent), higher than Northwestern, the University of Virginia, Harvard and Yale, among others.

According to Vanderbilt's own figures, minorities comprised 14.4 percent of the faculty in the non-medical schools of the University in 2004.

In the College of Arts and Science alone, 52 of the 350 full-time faculty members, or 14.1 percent, are minorities. They include 18 African Americans, 20 Asians, and 14 Hispanics.

Although Vanderbilt has made significant gains recently, the JBHE notes that "the percentage of black faculty at almost all the nation's high-ranking universities is significantly below the national average."

a sophomore in the College of Arts and Science. The family also has many other ties to Vanderbilt: Al's mother, Elizabeth Beesley Hubbard, received her B.A. degree in 1935. His late father, Dr. G. Baker Hubbard Sr., received an M.D. in 1937. His brothers, Dr. George B. Hubbard Jr., BA'64, and William B. Hubbard, JD'71, and several nephews also attended Vanderbilt.

To honor his mother, Al Hubbard recently established the Elizabeth Beesley Hubbard Scholarship, a need-based award that will enable a worthy student to attend the College of Arts and Science.

"Scholarships such as this one are critical to the advancement of Arts and Science," says Richard McCarty, dean of the College of Arts and Science. "They enable us to attract the very best students regardless of their ability to afford a Vanderbilt education. They enhance the quality of our student body and help to create a more diverse academic environment for all students. We are tremendously grateful to Al Hubbard for his generosity in establishing this scholarship."

— Joanne Beckham



Al Hubbard and his mother, Elizabeth Beesley Hubbard

## Shooting Stars

They come from 45 states and 34 foreign countries. They include 184 National Merit Scholars, 68 Eagle Scouts, 50 student body presidents, 101 publications editors-in-chief, and 499 captains of athletic teams. They are the 1,600 freshmen in the Class of 2009.

Members of the class have performed musical numbers on National Public Radio, written two top-ten songs, delivered a baby while serving as an Emergency Medical Technician, and invented pants that convert into a chair.

Among many outstanding students in the Class of 2009 are 190 who ranked first or second in their high school graduating class. Their average SAT scores are the highest in university history, 22 points above last year's record-setting class. Here is a look at a few of these extraordinary students.



STEVE GREEN

La., her involvement in the school's Key Club led to leadership roles in Key Club International and as district governor for Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. She also served as state president for the Louisiana Association of Student Councils, a position that earned her a statewide reputation as an outstanding motivational speaker. Some of Carrie's idealism is grounded in personal loss. Her older sister was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in 2003 and passed away in the spring of 2005. Her struggle has inspired Carrie to volunteer with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the American Red Cross while at Vanderbilt.

### Music Man

Jordan Dickerson developed a love for music at an early age from his father, Dez, who was the original guitarist for Prince during the 1970s. At age 10, Jordan decided to put his considerable musical talents to the test commercially and founded Squirt, a Christian band that was quickly signed by a Nashville-based record label. He spent much of the next five years touring in support of Squirt's two albums and two top-ten radio singles.

As a high-school student at Nashville's Christ Presby-



STEVE GREEN

### At Bat

Last spring, the Boston Red Sox drafted Pedro Alvarez, stand-out third baseman at New York's prestigious Horace Mann High School. But instead of playing at Fenway Park next spring, the Gatorade Player of the Year will be swatting balls at Hawkins Stadium and cramming for his freshman English final.

Pedro is the son of Pedro and Luz Maria Alvarez, who emigrated from the Dominican Republic when he was one year-old. Pedro's father, a New York taxi driver, isn't fluent

in English, but he knows the value of a good education. That's why he encouraged his son to pass up the Red Sox offer and enroll at Vanderbilt instead.

Pedro says he chose Vanderbilt because "it has a very, very good baseball program. At the same time I'll be getting one of the top educations in the nation."

While he has his sights on a baseball career someday, Pedro is hedging his bets by considering a major in economics.

"Baseball is a gamble," he says. "Education is the only thing we have for sure."

### Playing a Key Role

Service to others has played a huge role in Carrie Cushman's life, and she hopes to continue her dedication to public service during her time at Vanderbilt and beyond. As a student at Saint Scholastica Academy in Covington,



NEIL BRABE

terian Academy [CPA], Jordan became a published SESAC writer. He also played football on the 2002 Tennessee State Champion CPA team.

Jordan and his new musical group, Lenny, have recorded an EP. Meanwhile, he's working hard toward a degree in communications studies and possibly an MBA.

### Madam President

A first-generation American, Saba Alvi has developed considerable leadership skills. President of the student body at her high school in Rowlett,

Texas, a Dallas suburb, she also ran for freshman senator for Arts and Science in the Vanderbilt Student Government Association elections last fall.

Her parents, Salahuddin Alvi, a pharmacist, and Shahnaz, a homemaker, immigrated to the United States from Pakistan before Saba was born. Saba speaks both English and Urdu, the language of Pakistan.

A Chancellor's Scholar, Saba chose to attend Van-



STEVE GREEN

derbilt because "I knew it had a good reputation and high academic standards." She plans to major in public policy studies and religious studies in preparation for law school.

### Promoting Interracial Understanding

Mary Wu, of Memphis, Tenn., is the first recipient of the Rebecca and Spence Wilson Scholarship and Academic Achievement Award. The daughter of Chinese immigrants, Mary is a U.S. citizen and a graduate of

Craigmont High School where she was president of the National Honor Society and a member of the Ambassador Corps. She also worked with Bridge Builders, "an organization of high school students who come together to put an end to racial stereotyping." Mary plans to major in either psychology or philosophy before continuing her stud-



STEVE GREEN

## Truman scholar promotes environment in Africa

Last summer, Star Wallin traveled to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to work as an outreach coordinator for the Jane Goodall Institute. While there, she had the opportunity to discuss environmental concerns with the great woman herself.

Wallin's work in Africa was funded by the Ingram Scholarship, which provides full tuition and stipends for special summer projects in exchange for 20 hours of community service each month during the academic year and at least one summer.

Wallin is also a 2005 Harry S. Truman Scholar — a prestigious award which provides \$30,000 for graduate education — and a Morris K. Udall Scholar.

"Receiving both the Truman and Udall scholarships has served to strengthen my commitment to living a life of service," says Wallin, an environmental public policy and sociology major.

The Picayune, Miss., resident is the second recipient of the Truman Scholarship in her family. Her sister, Ashley Amber Wallin, majored in elementary and deaf education at Vanderbilt and received both the Ingram and the Truman scholarships in 2003. Amber taught deaf elementary students in Gulfport, Miss., prior to Hurricane Katrina.

Raised in a single-parent home by a mother who teaches public school, the girls have two brothers who received the M.B.A. from the Owen Graduate School of Management and another sister who also teaches in a public school.

"I am grateful to come from a family that has instilled in me the power of compassion for others, and I feel fortunate to attend a university that encourages students to apply their knowledge to better the world around them," Star says.

"Star represents all the qualities which the Truman Scholarship is designed to honor," says Tom Schwartz, professor of history and head of the University's Truman Scholarship selection committee. "While maintaining an exemplary academic record, she has been a leading campus activist on a host of issues, especially in encouraging environmental awareness and initiatives."

At Vanderbilt, Star has been actively involved with Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Recycling (SPEAR) and the Wilskills Outdoor Education Program. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in public policy as well as a law degree.

### VANDERBILT FRESHMEN BY THE NUMBERS

Number enrolling	1600
Women/men	51 %/ 49 %
Minorities	23 %
Public school graduates	57 %
Alumni children	122
Perfect SAT scores	12
Cheerleading captains	34
Drum majors	12
Songwriters	9
Pilots	9
Jugglers	5
Filmmakers	4
Bagpipers	2
Belly dancer	1
Mime	1
Ventriloquist	1



NEIL BRABE

These remarkable sisters, Star Wallin, BA'06, and Amber Wallin, BS'04, received both Ingram and Truman Scholarships. Star is also a Morris K. Udall Scholar.

## Creative Spaces energize campus

Looking out his office window in Buttrick Hall every day, Assistant Professor Steven Tepper has a startling view — the sight of bustling student traffic heading his way.

They enter a building that, after several decades as home to the biology department, is now a feverish crossroads of campus life and a new symbol of Vanderbilt's intellectual commitments.

"This has become a living room for Arts and Science," says Judson Newbern, associate vice chancellor for campus planning and construction, as he watches undergraduates congregate between classes in the seating area of the new Buttrick atrium.

For 50 years or so, Buttrick Hall remained basically unchanged, standing next to Rand and near the very center of campus.

In August 2005, a newly renovated Buttrick reopened after a \$22 million makeover that added a rear wing with 18 new classrooms and a high narrow atrium connecting old building and new addition. Buttrick itself, built in the 1920s, was gutted and refurbished to create carrel space for 125 graduate students and, not

least, serve as the new address for the University's growing number of transinstitutional centers and interdisciplinary degree programs. Originally 38,000 square feet, Buttrick has been transformed into a complex of more than 90,000 square feet.

"As soon as Buttrick reopened, in a matter of hours the students were camped out in the new seating areas as if they'd been doing it for years," Newbern says.

August 2005 also marked the opening of another building that is energizing the Vanderbilt campus and symbolizing the priorities of the College of Arts and Science — the new E. Bronson Ingram Studio Arts Center, a three-minute walk from Buttrick.

The three-story Studio Arts Center, built on parking space in front of the University Club, gives art students and faculty a new home after many years at the Cohen building on the Peabody campus. Students now have more room, better working conditions, more windows, more light and a dramatic rotunda — an upgraded facility that relocates art to the center of campus.

"Both Buttrick and the Studio Arts Center are at key intersections of natural pedestrian pathways, but both locations were under realized in the campus fabric — until now," Newbern says.

Despite different functions and histories, both buildings also make a statement about creativity, the importance of creating spaces where ideas can hatch, breathe and entice, administrators say.

### Creating Synergy

Buttrick is now exhibit A for Chancellor Gordon Gee's vision of a university churning with interdisciplinary spirit and collaborative endeavor. A roster of university-wide centers and interdisciplinary degree programs now resides in the renovated building: The Center for the Americas; the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and Public Policy; The Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies; the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture and the Center for European and German Studies. It also houses American and Southern Studies, African American and Diaspora Studies, East Asian Studies, Jewish Studies, Managerial Studies, Film Studies and the Learning Resource Center.

"The centers had been scattered around campus: there was very little synergy," says Arts and Science Dean Richard McCarty.



The E. Bronson Ingram Studio Arts Center

"Reconfiguring Buttrick makes a statement about how important interdisciplinary work is at Vanderbilt. This isn't a trend or fad but the future, and we want to be solidly riding that wave."

Each center draws scholars from across disciplines to tackle joint projects and conduct research. The aim is to create a fertile cross-pollination of ideas beyond departmental horizons and enrich Vanderbilt's contributions to knowledge, public policy and world affairs.

"There's something called planned serendipity," says Tepper, assistant professor of sociology and associate director of the Curb Center. "The serendipity you can't guarantee, but you can create the environment for it."

The interdisciplinary centers are creating new hallway relationships and new approaches to issues and problem-solving. The Curb Center, for instance, has launched an unprecedented study of the Nashville music scene — the dynamics and the business of artistic production — by drawing on Arts and Science expertise in philosophy and sociology, as well as the Law School and the Owen Graduate School of Management. Recently a panel discussion on evolution and intelligent design, sponsored by the Religion and Culture center, included a Bible scholar, physics professor and molecular biologist.

"These interdisciplinary programs aren't boutique-y extras things we do on the side, but are a central feature of Vanderbilt," says Mark

Justad, executive director of the Center for Religion and Culture.

"Buttrick had been dormant so long, a place you walk past. Now we're in the middle of things."

It's a comfortable landing spot for Arts and



Art student Kayla Jones works on her painting in studio space available for students in the new Studio Arts Center.

"Art represents a creative way of thinking, a way of working at problems of all sorts, using the brain in a different way,"

—Marilyn Murphy, professor and associate chair of studio art

Science Ph.D. students too, who had been a scattered remnant with no permanent central home for their study and work. At new Buttrick, there is space for 125.

"I've been here three years, and I've seen improvements — this is amazing," says Victoria Sanchez, a Ph.D. student in Spanish. "The kitchen, the computers — certainly we cannot complain."

Administrators are still praising the designers, Tuck Hinton Architects, for their Buttrick work.

"We'd known a long time that Buttrick would be available; it was a question of how it would be used and reconfigured," Dean McCarty says.

"The architects were given a few guiding principles — and they went to town. They have given us something we didn't think we could afford, a building that has great functionality and elegance too."

### Celebrating the Visual Arts

The Ingram Studio Arts Center emerged from a different history. There, private donations came forward to make a pivotal difference in the final product. One original plan, which languished for 20 years, was to renovate Peabody's Cohen building, which was built as a museum some 80 years ago.

But eventually planners were able to create a more ambitious long-term studio facility — a \$13-million, wedge-shaped building on 25th Avenue South, next to the new Student Life Center and across the street from the baseball field. It was built with University funds augmented by gifts from Robin Ingram Patton, the daughter of the late E. Bronson Ingram and Martha Rivers Ingram, chairman of the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust [BOT], and from BOT member Michael Ainslie and others. Along with the Schulman Center, Student Life Center and Branscomb Quadrangle, the Studio Arts Center provides the campus with a new gateway or entry point off 25th Ave., which is part of a campus master plan, according to McCarty.

Allard Architects designed the Ingram Studio Arts Center; affiliated in the project was Hillier Architecture of Princeton, N.J.

"What a difference philanthropy makes," McCarty says. "This building declares the visual arts will be celebrated at Vanderbilt."

Other consequences are flowing from this enhanced University profile for art. A new Department of Art will start up next year, sep-

arating from the current Department of Art and Art History. The new art department (a new major debuted in fall 2005) will be located in the Studio Arts Center. The art history department will remain in the Old Gym.

"Having all this light and space makes all the difference," says Marilyn Murphy, professor of art and associate chair of the department.

"One of the absolute delights is to work in the new painting studio in the rotunda where the light floods in. Throughout the building, there is better ventilation and better lighting. The students always put in long hours, but they're



The Ingram Studio Arts Center provides studio space for students working in ceramics, sculpture, painting and drawing, photography and computer arts.

putting in a lot more time in this building."

Placing a working art studio near the center of campus means the arts have a contribution to make to problem solving in the 21st century, Murphy suggested.

"Art represents a creative way of thinking, a way of working at problems of all sorts, using the brain in a different way," she says. "It's such an intriguing challenge to open a student's eyes to what they look at every day and see it new."

Students, meanwhile, seem thrilled with the new digs — a place where the working materials include ceramics, sculpture, painting and drawing, photography and computer arts. Senior art majors have access to a shared studio space where they can work independently on their projects.

(please turn to page 17)



A soaring atrium connects the new and older sections of a completely renovated Buttrick Hall.

Every year, support from alumni, parents and friends ensures that the College of Arts and Science continues to provide Vanderbilt students with an exceptional educational experience.

The College Cabinet recognizes our most generous supporters, donors who contribute \$1,000 or more annually during our fiscal year, July 1 through June 30. Established in 1976 by 27 charter participants, it has now grown to include almost 800 members.

In the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the generosity of College Cabinet members totaled nearly \$6 million, gifts that helped the College of Arts and Science provide financial aid and scholarship support, recruit and retain top faculty, enhance the curriculum, and renovate classrooms and laboratories.

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Richard McCarty  
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## Fighting malaria by manipulating mosquitoes' sense of smell

Imagine a small village in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2015. Few of the children exhibit the violent chills and fever or the persistent anemia and listlessness that characterize acute malaria and chronic long-term infection.

The picture was much different just 10 years earlier. If you walked into a classroom in the village's primary school, you would have seen many empty desks. While most children who contract malaria at this age recover enough to return to class, a large number of children never got to sit behind one of the desks because they died of this dread disease before reaching their first birthday.

The reason for the improvement in the village children's health is a dramatic drop in the numbers of malaria-infected mosquitoes in the area. The insects have declined because of a new mosquito control system that supplements traditional methods. The new system consists of unobtrusive traps that contain powerful attractants mixed with insecticide that lure the mosquitoes to their death. At the same time, villagers can purchase affordable and highly effective repellents from small kiosks that also sell cooking oil, sodas and bed-nets.

### Gates Foundation Funds Global Health Initiative

This vision could become reality with the success of an ambitious research project that has been selected for funding as part of the Grand Challenges to Global Health Initiative. The initiative, which was launched by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has selected 43 "ground-

Netherlands, and the Ifakara Health Research and Development Centre [IHDR] in Tanzania and the Medical Research Council [MRC] Laboratories in The Gambia, Africa, are developing "a chemical strategy to deplete or incapacitate a disease-transmitting insect population."

Malaria is considered to be the most prevalent life-threatening disease in the world, with an estimated 300 million to 660 million new cases per year. The *Anopheles gambiae* mosquito is its primary vector in Africa. Current efforts to control this disease, which combine the use of insecticides with improved access to effective diagnosis and treatment, have great potential to save lives. However, they also face enormous challenges and cannot eradicate malaria without the development of complementary technologies to control the mosquito population.

Recent advances in the genetics, biology, immunology and behavior of mosquitoes have opened up new and unexplored avenues for controlling malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases. The Vanderbilt-led research team is pursuing one of the most promising of these new avenues: Developing chemical compounds that disrupt the sense of smell that *Anopheles* females use to identify the human hosts for the blood meals that they need to reproduce.

### Building an international pipeline

The researchers are building a pipeline for identifying and testing non-toxic chemical odorants that attract, repel or simply confuse the mosquito's olfactory system.

The pipeline begins with the high-tech genetic engineering and molecular biology laboratories at Vanderbilt and Yale, which will identify chemical compounds that interact strongly with receptors in the female mosquito's antennae and appear to be related to host selection. The most promising of these mixtures will be shipped to Wageningen University where their effects on the behavior of live mosquitoes will be determined. Compounds that pass the behavioral tests will be forwarded to Ifakara, Tanzania, where they will be evaluated with laboratory-reared mosquitoes in a large biosphere that simulates the natural environment. Here the researchers will experiment with various



Professor Zwiebel, right, and R. Jason Pitts, senior research specialist/lab manager, with a bucket of mosquitoes

mixtures of synthetic attractants and repellents to identify the most effective and long-lasting combinations.

Finally, odorants that have passed all these screens will be field tested in cooperating villages near Ifakara and in The Gambia under the supervision of IHDR and MRC Laboratories' researchers. The two sites are at opposite geographic extremes in the enormous expanse of tropical Africa infested with locally diverse populations of malaria mosquitoes, so compounds that work in both locations are likely to work everywhere in between.

"By combining laboratory-based and field-based studies, we expect to establish an effective strategy for developing extremely powerful attractants and repellents for *Anopheles* mosquitoes and identifying effective methods for using them to reduce the spread of malaria," says Zwiebel, principal investigator on the project.

The mixtures developed in the project could be useful against other disease-carrying mosquitoes, such as *Aedes aegypti* that spreads dengue fever and *Culex pipiens* that carries the West Nile virus. In addition the project will demonstrate a basic approach that can be directed against a number of other insect species, including agricultural pests and those that carry other human and animal diseases.



A test tube containing the *Anopheles* mosquito, carrier of malaria

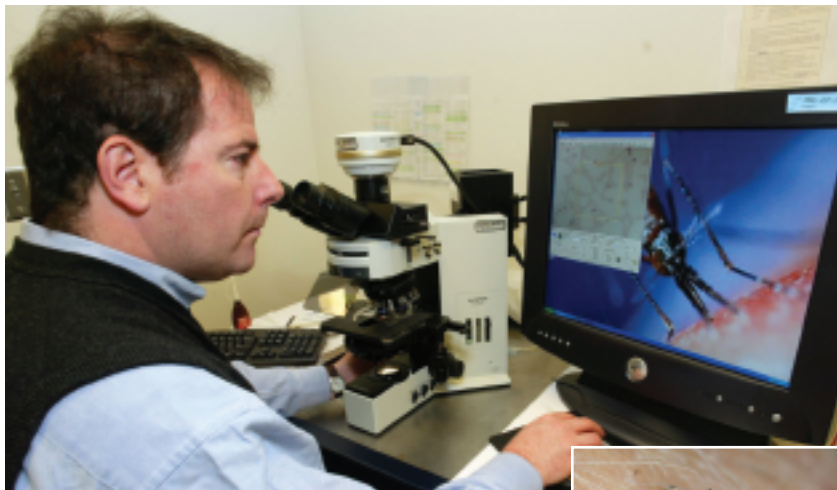
### Grand Challenges

The Grand Challenges initiative was launched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2003 with a \$200 million grant to the Foundation of the National Institutes of Health. A major international effort to achieve scientific breakthroughs against diseases that kill millions of people each year in the world's poorest countries, the initiative is funded with a \$450 million commitment from Gates Foundation, \$27.1 from the Wellcome Trust, and \$4.5 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).  
—David F. Salisbury

For an interactive version of this article, please visit Exploration, Vanderbilt's online research journal, at [www.exploration.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.exploration.vanderbilt.edu).



Professor Zwiebel has a mechanical mosquito for a paper weight.



Professor Zwiebel works with a mosquito under the microscope.

breaking" research projects to improve health in developing countries that will receive a total of \$436 million in support.

One project is led by Laurence J. "Larry" Zwiebel, associate professor of biological sciences at Vanderbilt. Zwiebel and other mosquito researchers from Vanderbilt, Yale University, the Wageningen University in the

## Creative Spaces energize campus

(continued from page 9)

"This beautiful building and its studio space has had a great impact on my study of art this year," says Kayla Jones, a senior majoring in history and studio art, with a concentration in painting. "As an artist, I can be somewhat obsessive with my projects — consumed with them for days at a time and unable to think of much else. During these periods, it's wonderful to have my own quiet space — my own private sanctuary — to come and go, paint and work through my ideas."

The very location has stirred interest among non-artists in the student body.

"Many of my friends have already wandered into the building just to check things out," Jones says.

Meanwhile, Cohen continues as a place for art endeavor, though long-term renovation plans are indefinite. Two internationally known artists, painter Judy Chicago and photographer Donald Woodman, have taken up residence there and are teaching this semester — the first Chancellor's Artists in Residence.

As for the former residents of Buttrick, the University's biology department has moved to Biological Sciences/Medical Research Building III. And the green-

house that stood behind Buttrick lives on — atop the Stevenson Center's Molecular Biology Building.

A shimmer of botanical memory remains in new Buttrick: Visitors may note the detailed hand-drawn prints of indigenous Tennessee plants displayed on walls in the atrium. These are prints of original line drawings made by Peabody College biology students in the 1940s — careful work that was used in a 1954 book, *Ferns of Tennessee*, by Peabody professor Jesse Shaver.

Fifty years later, in 2004, the printing plates for the original drawings were serendipitously discovered in cardboard boxes in a forgotten corner of Buttrick Hall during renovation. Vanderbilt officials consulted with Marilyn Murphy and Studio Arts and realized the possibilities of reproducing the prints for public display once again, eventually enlisting Nashville's Hatch Show Print shop to create the works for Buttrick.

So the serendipity of history and learning hops and skips forward, across disciplines, across time, across the changing Vanderbilt campus.

—Ray Waddle

Rogaski earns prestigious Guggenheim fellowship

The horrifying effects of germ warfare may seem far removed from the peaceful ambience of a liberal arts college. Yet, Associate Professor of History Ruth Rogaski has made it part of her award-winning research on the intersection of science and matters of state.

Her work on the role of the biological sciences in the formation of Asian empires has gained for Rogaski a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship. She is also the co-winner of the 2005 Berkshire Conference First Book Prize for *Hygienic Modernity: Meanings of Health and Disease in Treaty-Port China*. The annual prize is for a first book in any field of history written by a woman in North America.

The Guggenheim Fellowship will enable Rogaski to complete her current book project, *Cold Utopia: Nature, Science and Empire in Manchuria, 1700-2000*. By exploring how Asians studied the flora and fauna of a contested Northern frontier of China — Manchuria — Rogaski hopes to illuminate the role that nature, science and the imagination played in the formation of non-Western regimes.



Ruth Rogaski

“Having scientific knowledge about a place can bolster a nation’s claim to the territory,” she says.

In the course of her research, Rogaski has studied the atrocities of Japan’s germ warfare organization, Unit 731, which conducted experiments on thousands of human prisoners and was responsible for dozens of biological weapons attacks against China during World War II. This case, which is politically sensitive for the governments of both China and Japan, is an important episode in the global history of the ways that humans have manipulated the natural world, she says.

Rogaski is also interested in the research conducted by Chinese biologists about alleged American use of germ warfare in Manchuria during the Korean War. In 2002, she published “Nature, Annihilation and Modernity: China’s Korean War Germ Warfare Experience Revisited” in the *Journal of Asian Studies*.

“There’s a lack of evidence,” she says of Chinese allegations of American germ warfare. “The Chinese archives are still closed to scholars... [but] documents found in the old Soviet archives say it was a hoax perpetuated by Soviet agents in conjunction with North Korea and the Chinese.”

East meets West

For her new book, Rogaski is studying the “wild, icy nature” of Manchuria that made it a much bleaker environment for building empires than the tropical climates colonized by the West. Even though many writers have long characterized the West as the conqueror of nature and creator of empires, Rogaski says that Asians

actually formed many of the world’s largest empires, such as the Mongol Empire of Genghis Khan.

She is comparing Asian and European understandings about nature before and after the development of institutional modern science. “This project allows close scrutiny of the assumption that ‘East’ and ‘West’ possess distinct sensibilities about the natural environment,” Rogaski says.

She is focusing on the work of scientists and naturalists during five important times in Manchuria’s recent history, including the Manchu-Chinese-European exploration of Manchuria under the reign of Emperor Kangxi, the establishment of natural history museums by Russian naturalists during the late 1800s-early 1900s, and the excavation of fossils by Chinese paleontologists in the 20th century.

The prominent historian of modern China, who came to Vanderbilt from Princeton in 2003, began developing a keen interest in the Chinese written language and culture at age 9, when she read the book, *You Can Read Chinese*.

Currently on leave from Vanderbilt, Rogaski is using resources at Harvard and Princeton universities as well as the Library of Congress to complete her research. She also plans to travel to Northeast Asia to examine natural history museums in Khabarovsk and Vladivostok in Russia and Harbin in China. She will photograph several locales to be featured prominently in the book, for which she received a National Science Foundation fellowship in 1999.

“I envision the book and its images as a new approach to the history of science, one that integrates the beauty of the environment with the work of the scientists who explored it,” she says.

— Ann Marie Deer Owens and Joanne Beckham

Correction

It was incorrectly reported in the summer 2005 issue of the *A&S Cornerstone* that the Sarratt Visual Arts Committee celebrated 20 years of the Margaret Stonewall Wooldridge Hamblet Award last spring. The event was actually an exhibition involving a variety of different artists, several of whom were also recipients of the Hamblet Award while they were students. More information about the Hamblet Award can be found on the Art History page: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/arts/prizesandsupport>

RESEARCH BRIEFS

A Better Light Bulb

Vanderbilt chemists have discovered a way to make quantum dots spontaneously produce broad-spectrum white light by coating an LED with a thin layer of special microscopic beads called quantum dots. The hybrid LED gives off a warm white light with a slightly yellow cast, similar to that of the incandescent lamp, reports Michael Bowers, a graduate student in Professor Sandra Rosenthal’s lab who made the quantum dots and discovered their unusual property. The resulting light looks more like the “full spectrum” reading lights now on the market that produce a light spectrum closer to that of sunlight than normal fluorescent tubes or light bulbs. The researchers have applied for a patent and published their findings online in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* last October.

**Reading Minds** • An international pair of psychologists has shown that it is possible to tell what a person is looking at by monitoring the activity in his or her brain. Assistant Professor of Psychology Frank Tong and Yukiyasu Kamitani in Kyoto, Japan, applied a new statistical method to a standard brain-scanning technique called functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI). A special type of MRI technology, fMRI detects the various areas in the brain that become active during mental tasks by registering variations of blood and oxygen flow. “Depending on what they focus their mental resources on, we can read the content of their visual experience,” says Tong.

Kudos

**Jeremy Atack**, professor of economics, has received the “Clio Can” award from the Cliometrics Society for “sustained and significant contributions to the field of economic history.”

**Michael Bess**, professor of history, has received a grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Human Genome Research Institute to support his study of human identity.

**Randolph Blake**, Centennial Professor of Psychology and chair of the department, has been elected a fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists.

**Elizabeth Boyd**, senior lecturer in American and Southern Studies, has been awarded a visiting fellowship by Australian National University to take part in its 2006 research seminar on biography, memory and commemoration.

**James Dickerson**, assistant professor of physics, has been selected as a recipient of the Oak Ridge Associated Universities’ Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award in physical sciences.

**Edward Fischer**, associate professor of anthropology, whose recent book, *Cultural Logics and Global Economies*, has been designated a “Choice Outstanding Title,” was an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the University of Hannover, Germany, last fall.

**Sydney Halpern**, professor of sociology, has received the Arthur Visellear Prize for her book *Lesser Harms: The Morality of Risk in Medical Research*.



**Molly Miller**, professor of geology, received the Outstanding Educator Award from the Association of Women Geoscientists in October.

**Ned A. Porter**, the Stevenson Professor of Chemistry, chair of the department and associate director of the Vanderbilt Institute for Chemical Biology, is the 2004-05 winner of the Christopher Ingold Award from The Royal Society of Chemistry.



**Nancy Reisman**, assistant professor of English, has received the 2005 Samuel Goldberg Jewish Fiction Award for her book *The First Desire*. It has also been named a notable book by *The New York Times*.

Former Vanderbilt President, A&S Dean dies



Emmett B. Fields, the only person ever to have the title of president of Vanderbilt University, died at home in Nashville on Sept. 19, 2005. He was 81.

Fields served the university as president during the last years of Chancellor Alexander Heard’s administration, from 1977 to 1982. However, he believed that his greatest contributions to Vanderbilt were made during the 1960s, when he was dean of the College of Arts and Science. He enjoyed being remembered as “Dean Fields,” according to his wife of 58 years, Christine. “As dean of the Arts and Science faculty, he especially enjoyed the professional interaction with his colleagues on the faculty for whom he felt great esteem and affection,” she remembered.

A native of Fort Smith, Ark., Fields earned his undergraduate degree from Ouachita College in Arkadelphia, Ark., in 1948, and both his master’s degree and doctorate in history from Vanderbilt, in 1950 and 1953 respectively. He was an American history scholar.

In addition to his tenure at Vanderbilt, he taught and served as an administrator at the University of Houston, and served as president of the State University of New York at Albany, the flagship institution of the massive SUNY system.

He is survived by his wife, three children and four grandchildren.

**John M. Sloop**, professor of communication studies, received the 2005 Winans-Wichelns Memorial Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Rhetoric and Public Address for his book *Disciplining Gender* (University of Massachusetts, 2004).



**Frank Tong**, assistant professor of psychology, was recently named one of 50 top researchers in the nation by *Scientific American*.

Most Memorable Professor

While reading the [winter 2005 issue of the] *A&S Cornerstone* magazine, I was saddened to learn my former professor, Dewey Grantham, had died. I have thought of him many times through the years. I admired his soft and gentle approach towards his students. He was always open to their questions and curious minds — never rushing them to conclusions. Although I was a poor student, he was a mentor who helped me to establish a successful business career. He will be missed by many.

— Henry Harmon Riffe, BA’58

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