

# Flying Colors

*25 years, 33,000 patient transports, zero accidents*

*spring 2009*



*also:*

**A Life in Photographs**  
**Why the Classics Matter**  
**Manna from Vanderbilt**



To meet Vanderbilt MBA WorldShapers visit:

[owenworkshapers.com](http://owenworkshapers.com)



Team Player.



Global Thinker.



Self Starter.



Challenge Welcomer.



Problem Solver.



World Shaper.

## Qualities over quantity.

By design, we produce a relatively small supply of MBAs. But, each year, our graduates are in very high demand. Perhaps it's because the companies who hire them prize the qualities they consistently find in our students. As some of the world's smartest and best-known organizations will tell you, **a little Vanderbilt goes a long way.**

**Vanderbilt MBA**  
OWEN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT



The newest star in Nashville.

### ELEGANCE AT EASE.

You'll find it at every turn at Hutton Hotel. Both exclusive and welcoming. Contemporary and comforting. Rejuvenating and relaxing. A combination that's the satisfying result of inspiring art and architecture, extraordinary food, rooms generously outfitted with modern conveniences, and people who have an uncommon ability to anticipate your personal needs. At ease, you're at Hutton Hotel.

615.340.9333 FOR RESERVATIONS  
1808 WEST END AVE NASHVILLE TENNESSEE 37203



[www.HUTTONHOTEL.com](http://www.HUTTONHOTEL.com)



*A member of*  
**The Leading Hotels of the World**



# Contents

## FEATURES

34

### **Sky's the Limit**

*Matters of life and death at 3,000 feet.*

42

### **Janus Rising**

*Love the classics? Hug a Latin teacher.*

48

### **Manna Falls on La Chureca**

*A trip to Latin America changed their lives. Now they're bringing change to some of the world's darkest corners.*

54

### **The Truest Eye**

*The images Neil Brake could coax out of a camera are a sight to behold.*

*Spring 2009, Volume 90, Number 1*

## DEPARTMENTS

- 5 **DoreWays**
- 9 **VJournal**
- 12 **1,000 Words**
- 14 **The Campus**
- 20 **Sports**
- 24 **Collective Memory**
- 26 **Bright Ideas**
- 30 **In Class**
- 58 **The Mind's Eye**
- 62 **S.P.O.V.**
- 64 **A.P.O.V.**
- 68 **The Classes**
- 80 **Southern Journal**

## COVER

*Most days they're miles apart as they operate out of Vanderbilt LifeFlight's four bases in outlying communities—but for this publicity shot, three LifeFlight helicopters fly in close formation over downtown Nashville. Vanderbilt Medical Center photographer Anne Rayner shot the scene from a fourth LifeFlight helicopter.*



### **Cozy Quarters, Great Views**

Visibility: fair. Patient: critical. Flight crew: stuck in overdrive. Story on page 34.  
Photo by Anne Rayner.



**Editor**

GAYNELLE DOLL

**Art Director and Designer**

DONNA DEVORE PRITCHETT

**Editorial**

**Associate Editor and Advertising Manager**

PHILLIP B. TUCKER

**Arts & Culture Editor**

BONNIE ARANT ERTELT, BS'81

**Class Notes and Sports Editor**

NELSON BRYAN, BA'73

**Photography and Imaging**

**Assistant Director, Photography Services**

DANIEL DUBOIS

**Photographers**

STEVE GREEN, JOHN RUSSELL

**Assistant Designers**

DEBORAH BREWINGTON,  
CHRIS COLLINS, JEREMY TEAFORD,  
KEITH WOOD

**Color Correction and Retouching**

JULIE LUCKETT TURNER

**Vanderbilt Magazine Advisory Board**

ROY BLOUNT JR., BA'63  
CANEEL COTTON, BA'88  
TERRY EASTLAND, BA'71  
SAM FEIST, BA'91  
FRYE GAILLARD JR., BA'68  
JANICE MILLER GREENBERG, BS'80  
G. MARC HAMBURGER, BA'64  
MOLLY HENNEBERG, BS'95  
ANN MCDANIEL, BA'77  
WENDELL RAWLS JR., BA'70  
EDWARD SCHUMACHER MATOS, BA'68  
BETH FORTUNE  
SUSIE STALCUP

*Vanderbilt Magazine* is published three times per year by Vanderbilt University from editorial and business offices at the Loews Vanderbilt Office Complex, 2100 West End Ave., Suite 820, Nashville, TN 37203. Phone: 615/322-1003. Web version: [www.vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltmagazine](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/vanderbiltmagazine). E-mail: [vanderbiltmagazine@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vanderbiltmagazine@vanderbilt.edu). Please send address corrections to Gift Records Office, Vanderbilt University, PMB 407727, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240-7703. *Vanderbilt Magazine* is printed on recycled paper by Lane Press in Burlington, Vt.

Potential advertisers interested in purchasing space in *Vanderbilt Magazine* should contact Phillip Tucker, advertising manager, at [magazineads@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:magazineads@vanderbilt.edu) or 615/322-3989.

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

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

Copyright 2009 Vanderbilt University



**David Carlton**



DAVID CARLTON, associate professor of history at Vanderbilt, has devoted his career to studying the industrialization of the South. He is the author of *Mill and Town in South Carolina, 1880–1920*, which is still in print after a quarter century. More recently, he was co-author, with Peter A. Coclanis, of *The South, the Nation and the World: Perspectives on Southern Economic Development*. Carlton coordinates the joint major in economics and history at Vanderbilt.

**Ray Waddle**

RAY WADDLE, MA'81, lives in Connecticut, where he is editor of *Reflections*, the theological journal of Yale Divinity School. A journalist for more than 20 years, Waddle from 1984 to 2001 was religion editor of *The Tennessean*, to which he continues to contribute pieces about religion. The author of *Against the Grain: Unconventional Wisdom from Ecclesiastes*, he also contributed a chapter on religion for the book *Nashville: An American Self-Portrait*.



**Skip Anderson**



Before moving to Knoxville so his wife could study law at the University of Tennessee, SKIP ANDERSON held several editorial positions at Vanderbilt, including service as founding editor of *Commodore Nation* sports magazine, editor-in-chief of the university's faculty/staff newspaper, and editor of *The Vanderbilt Lawyer* alumni magazine. A fan of all Commodore sports, he considers Vanderbilt baseball his true love. Before the advent of Charles Hawkins Field, Anderson's late golden retriever, Aaron, was a mainstay at home games for several years.

**Judy Komisky Orr**

JUDY KOMISKY ORR, BA'82, assistant vice chancellor for creative services at Vanderbilt, majored in English and minored in fine arts. She was director of publications at the Country Music Foundation and Ingram Book Co. before returning to her alma mater in April 1997 as director of publications and design. She has worked in the publications field more than 30 years.



**Neil Brake**



NEIL BRAKE was an award-winning photographer who worked at Vanderbilt eight years. Before that, he worked at newspapers and freelanced for wire agencies, including the Associated Press and Agence France-Presse. His work was published in several books as well as national magazines and newspapers. Brake won numerous awards from the Alabama Press Association and The Associated Press, and was named Photographer of the Year in 2001 by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. A native of England, Brake became a U.S. citizen in 1976. He died last November and is survived by his wife, Becky; a daughter, Brandi; and a stepson, Bradley Steward.

**ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS:** Carole Bartoo, Joanne Lamphere Beckham, Craig Boerner, Angela Fox, Cindy Frank, Kara Furlong, Craig Havighurst, Taylor Holliday, Laurie E. Holloway, Joe Howell, John Howser, Lynne Hutchison, Paul Levy, Brent McNew, Joseph Mella, Melanie Moran, Ann Marie Deer Owens, Jim Patterson, Ellen Pearson, Anne Rayner, David Salisbury, Kathy Whitney, Amy Wolf

## From the Editor

### Person to Person

LAST FALL I HAD LUNCH WITH A FRIEND whose only child is a sophomore at another university that we refer to around here as one of our “peer” schools. “Oh, Ethan seems happy, and his grades are good,” my friend replied when I asked about her son. “But I hate that he’s not going to his classes.” At Ethan’s university, she explained, it’s possible to watch most classes online from one’s dorm room and still do well academically.

I thought about Ethan a few days later when *Vanderbilt Magazine* co-sponsored one of the annual Holocaust Lecture Series events here on campus. Vanderbilt invited the four alumni featured last spring in our cover story, “In the Face of Destruction,” to return to campus for a panel discussion.

On a Sunday evening in November, nearly 200 people showed up to listen to these octogenarians tell of parents killed at Auschwitz, of family fortunes stolen. Probably a third of the audience was Vanderbilt students. I never saw any of them yawning or Twittering or gazing longingly toward the exits.

The turnout, I am sure, was bolstered by the venue—the new Commons Center, now the “community square” of residential life at Vanderbilt. Afterward, Frank Wcislo, dean of The Commons, and his wife, Jane, hosted a reception in the Dean’s Residence. There I met three Baton Rouge, La., schoolteachers, brimming with enthusiasm. They had gotten time off from work just for this event. The parent of a Vanderbilt student had given her *Vanderbilt Magazine* copy to one of these teachers, knowing she was teaching a unit about Anne Frank. The teacher had read our Holocaust article and accessed the Holocaust Lecture Series Web site listed with our article.

It’s great that we can reach a wider audience online. You can watch many Vanderbilt lectures and other events via podcast. For me it’s often a real timesaver.

Still, I can’t help but think of Ethan. Would the evening have meant as much, watching on a computer from his dorm room, hearing Walter Ziffer tell how he was stoned by other children in his village? Or hearing Max Notowitz relate in his gentle voice how, at age 14, he hid out in a forest for 22 months after escaping a slave labor camp?

Vanderbilt, like most of higher education and the nation, faces formidable challenges during this severe economic downturn. Most construction is on hold. A general hiring freeze for staff has been implemented, and much other spending has been curtailed.

Despite the timing, I’m glad Vanderbilt has invested in The Commons and is proceeding with plans to eliminate need-based loans for undergraduates with demonstrated financial need.

The decision to embrace the concept of community is a wonderful thing, if it means walking across campus on a cold November evening and listening to the stories we have to tell each other—face to face.

—GayNelle Doll

## From the Reader

### Nocturnal Naughtiness

REGARDING VANDERBILT PANTY RAIDS, I disagree with Paul Conkin’s statement [Fall 2008 issue, *Collective Memory*, “Boys Gone Wild”] in his final paragraph: “Never again would such a raid take place at Vanderbilt. The last panty raid [occurred] in 1959 . . .”

In reality, pages 34–35 of the 1964 *Commodore* yearbook chronicle the nocturnal naughtiness that transpired when “one moonlit evening in early April, the quad dwellers of kindly Kissam decided the time was right for a romantic invasion upon the towering brick and steel of the Chaffin Hilton. The panty raiders gathered forces, and soon 500 screaming students accosted the quad from three directions. Campus FBI Head Albert Vaughn and football coach Jack Green stood watching helplessly as coeds responded with a dazzling assortment of undergarments. A few daring TVMs [typical Vanderbilt males] penetrated the inner sanctum, chased all the while by the faithful campus police. ‘We want sex.’ ‘Come and get it.’ ‘We are horny.’ ‘So are we.’ And thus went the taunts back and forth.”

I know. I was there.

G. MARC HAMBURGER, BA'64  
*Atlanta*

AS I REMEMBER, the [panty] raid of 1952 was initiated by someone (I do not recall who) playing “charge” on a bugle from the roof or top floor of the very old Kissam Hall, which resounded all over the campus. It was also that year, I believe, that a parody of the newly created *Playboy* magazine with a cover picture of an undergraduate male (fraternity brother of mine) dressed in a *Playboy* bunny outfit was distributed by students. The students loved it, but the university administration did not take any more kindly to this magazine than they did the panty raid, and immediately confiscated all copies. It was a memorable year.

DR. DAVID B. DAVIS II, BA'55  
*Camas, Wash.*

A forum for exchanging ideas



DANIEL DUBOIS



## The Agitator's Legal Team

IN THE FALL 2008 SOUTHERN JOURNAL article, "Family Inheritance," Sheryll Cashin, BE'84, reminisces that her "Daddy's lawyers had to go all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States to get an order giving the NDPA [National Democratic Party of Alabama] the right to run candidates throughout the state. When the [Greene County probate] judge disobeyed that order, the lawyers went back to the Supreme Court."

I was one of those lawyers. Her daddy, John Cashin, had assembled a remarkable legal team of Southerners, led by Charles Morgan Jr., a University of Alabama graduate. Chuck was then heading the ACLU's Southern Regional Office where I was working (a job I wouldn't have had but for my close friendship with Vanderbilt Law School classmate I.T. "Tony" Creswell Jr., LLB'64, only the third black person to attend the law school). The lawyers at the counsel table in the Supreme Court were Chuck (who did all the talking), Orzell Billingsley Jr. of Birmingham (Tal-

ladege College and Howard University) and I. One of the team of lawyers, George Dean, a University of Alabama graduate, had a black cat and a white cat, named Orzell and Reber. The Alabama Law School furnished a cadre of law students that was indispensable.

Sheryll Cashin also mentions "the farm Daddy bought for the Black Muslims." That got me to court, too—a three-judge federal court in Montgomery. Some white people near the farm got really upset; they formed a couple of organizations: RID (Restore Integrity to Development) and "Stop the Muslims." The governor, attorney general, legislature and sheriff got into the act. The flag, Christianity and anticommunism were invoked. There were legislative investigations and arrests, including that of Orzell Billingsley for representing the Muslims. A couple of young lawyers came from North Carolina to help Orzell and me sue all those officials.

We won that one, too.

REBER F. BOULT, BE'58, LLB'64  
*Albuquerque, N.M.*

## Reforming Public Education

AS I READ J. LUKE WEBB'S MEDITATION on public schools and teaching, "Where Few Dare Tread" [Fall 2008 issue, S.P.O.V.], I couldn't help thinking I had found someone who would understand the power and promise of school choice reform.

Education tax-credit programs that fund educational scholarships for low and middle income children are spreading across the country, from Rhode Island to Georgia and Arizona. This bipartisan policy allows parents to place their child in the best school for them, public or private.

Webb was clearly and painfully failed by a rigid government-run school system. He recognizes that access to private schools can open wonderful opportunities for a child. And he remains admirably dedicated to the ideals of an educated public and a system that provides access to good educational options for all children.

But like Webb, too many others have attained success "largely in spite of the public schools." Webb is sadly correct that, "for mil-

lions of families like my own, no other options exist" than a failing public school system that makes a mockery of our common goals.

I'd like to challenge Webb to be more creative and determined in pursuing his ideals of public education, for we do not have to abide by a tragically inadequate government-run school system.

We must put parents, rather than bureaucrats and politicians, fully in charge of their child's education. School choice reforms like education tax credits can deliver an educated public, which, after all, is the goal of public education.

DAVID BOAZ, BA'75  
*Arlington, Va.*

## That Was Rich

I WAS INTERESTED IN READING about the inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame class [Fall 2008 issue, Sports]. As stated, achievement in sports was not the only criterion for inclusion. I believe Herbert R. (Herb) Rich, BA'50, LLB'54, should be among the next group of inductees.

Herb was first-string varsity football, basketball and baseball during his freshman year at Vanderbilt. His exploits on the football field, hardwood and baseball diamond are legion. His emphasis was on football for the rest of his college career, and he became a two-way back for some of Vanderbilt's best teams. He went on to play professional football with the old Baltimore Colts of the All-America Conference and led the league in punt returns during his first year. Following the merger he played with the New York Giants, where he was a member of the famous umbrella defense, alongside Tom Landry of Dallas Cowboys coaching fame. Herb also played for the Los Angeles Rams.

Herb became a successful attorney in Nashville and an ardent supporter of community activities, particularly the Boys and Girls Club. Herb died last year. I cannot think of anyone who deserves induction into the next class of the Vanderbilt Hall of Fame more.

DR. JAMES B.D. MARK, BA'50, MD'53  
*Stanford, Calif.*

## Bhopal's Tragic Legacy

I AM A VANDERBILT CHEMICAL engineering graduate, and I worked 33 years for Union Carbide Corp. While I never worked in that portion of the corporation involved in the Bhopal tragedy [Fall 2008 issue, "Lessons Learned the Hard Way"], I am quite familiar with the circumstances.

The story of Union Carbide's involvement in India is much more than the Bhopal tragedy. Methyl isocyanate (MIC) is the key ingredient in the manufacture of Sevin pesticide. After Union Carbide began selling Sevin to Indian farmers, the pesticide became a major factor in helping India switch from being a net importer of food to becoming self-sufficient and then a net exporter of food.

The Indian government wanted India to become more industrialized. They put pressure on Union Carbide (as well as other foreign corporations) to manufacture more materials locally rather than importing them. During the course of 15 to 20 years, Union Carbide moved more and more operations involved in the manufacture of Sevin to India.

When was the last time you dated someone who is educated, attractive and sophisticated

We thought so.

Join the Ivy League of Dating: the network for single graduates, faculty, and students of Vanderbilt, the Ivy League, Emory, and other excellent schools.

The Right Stuff 15 Years of improving the social lives of the educated.

*The Right Stuff*

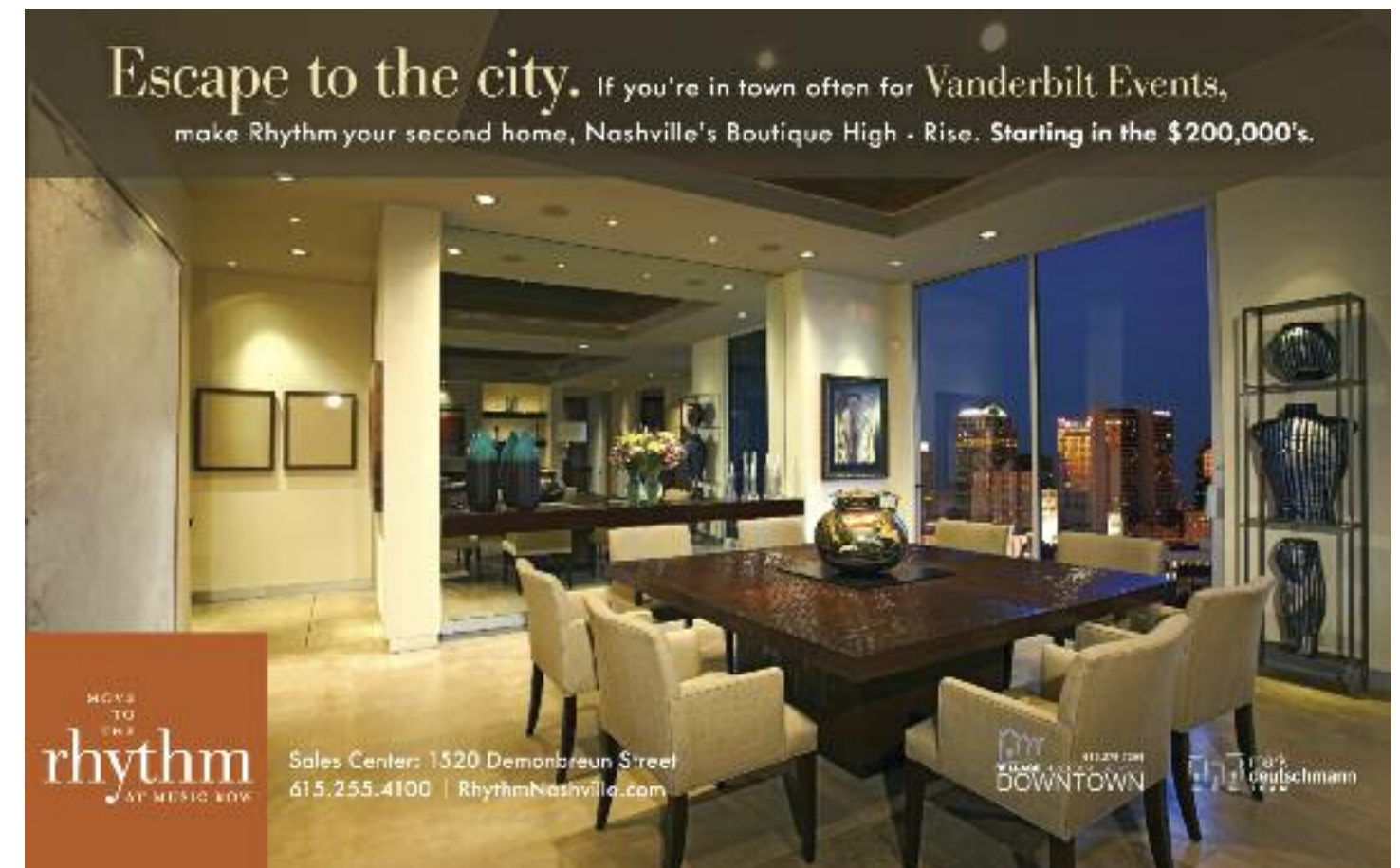
Call 800-988-5288 or visit:  
[www.rightstuffdating.com](http://www.rightstuffdating.com)

Our doors are always open to new members.



*The University Club of Nashville*  
(615) 3 2 2 - 8 5 6 4 or visit our website  
[www.uclubnashville.org](http://www.uclubnashville.org)

Escape to the city. If you're in town often for Vanderbilt Events, make Rhythm your second home, Nashville's Boutique High-Rise. Starting in the \$200,000's.



MOVE TO THE **rhythm** AT MESSE BOV  
Sales Center: 1520 Demonbreun Street  
615.255.4100 | [RhythmNashville.com](http://RhythmNashville.com)



*“Congratulations on an outstanding (and constantly improving) publication! Thank you for keeping alumni connected to Vanderbilt.”*

*“Great magazine! Reading it reminds me of the thought-provoking political science and communications classes I took at Vanderbilt.”*

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift of \$35, \$50, \$100, or whatever amount you choose by sending your check, payable to *Vanderbilt Magazine*, to:

Vanderbilt Magazine Voluntary Subscription  
PMB 407727  
2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Nashville, TN 37240-7727

The corporation’s intentional choice of a relatively isolated site for the Bhopal plant was well known to the Indian government. Nevertheless, no sooner had the plant been built than a shantytown grew up literally against the outside fence. Government officials turned deaf ears to Union Carbide’s protests. The people inhabiting these hovels bore the brunt of the MIC gas attack on Dec. 2, 1984.

Following the tragedy, the legal profession, both American and international, covered itself with shame as lawyers from all over the world rushed to the scene in a frenzied attempt to sign up clients for legal action against Union Carbide. The Indian government did not behave much better. The chairman of Union Carbide was placed under arrest when he flew to the scene to provide humanitarian aid. Union Carbide personnel were barred from the facility, greatly complicating problems of assuring that it was properly secured and determining the cause. Later, when Union Carbide secretly funneled funds through an American university to build a hospital to treat victims of the tragedy, the Indian gov-

ernment discovered the source of the funds—and had the hospital bulldozed.

There are many reasons Union Carbide did not survive as a separate corporate entity, and perhaps Bhopal is more a symptom than the direct cause—but Dec. 2, 1984, definitely marked the beginning of the end.

JOSHUA P. “PETE” HAMILTON, BE’60  
Buena Vista, Va.

### Correction

Jennifer Pietenpol, director of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, who was featured in our article “The Longest War” [Fall 2008 issue], is also the B.F. Byrd Jr. Professor of Oncology.

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

## Invisible Nation

*Today’s generations wouldn’t tolerate the injustice of segregation. So why are we still turning a blind eye to the country’s 46 million uninsured?*  
By DR. JOHN SERGENT, BA’63, MD’66

“JENNY,” AS I’LL CALL HER, came in for a follow-up appointment the other day. You probably don’t know Jenny personally, but you read about her all the time. That’s because Jenny is a statistic, a faceless number.

Jenny is an outgoing, always smiling 40-year-old who has been badly crippled with rheumatoid arthritis since her early 20s. Despite gnarled, twisted hands, crooked feet, and such neck pain that she often can’t sit up for more than a few minutes at a time, she has made it clear that her disease is not going to control her life. She simply refuses to give up, and her spirit is a source of great inspiration to her friends as well as to her doctors and nurses. I always look forward to seeing her. Besides, for the past couple of years she has finally begun to respond to some new medicines, and at her last visit three months ago she was feeling better than she had in years. However, when she returned last week, it was quickly apparent that something was terribly wrong.

After a smile and a feeble “hello,” she suddenly began crying, and through her tears she told me about her unrelenting pain and about the humiliation of having to rely on her friends to help her eat, bathe, and tend to her bathroom needs. After she partially regained her composure, Jenny told me that a couple of months ago, she had been unceremoniously dumped from TennCare, the state of Tennessee’s health-care insurance program, because she was no longer Medicaid eligible. She had previously qualified for TennCare because

she was medically uninsurable, but the fact that she has a few meager assets like an old car got her kicked out of the program.

Jenny is a college graduate and has held a number of responsible jobs in the past, but her only income now is her disability check. The drug regimen that had finally brought a measure of relief costs almost a thousand dollars per month, so when she was dropped from TennCare, she literally had to choose between food and medicine. She stopped her medicines, and within a couple of weeks her disease roared back.

We pride ourselves on our health care in this country, and it is true that our technology outstrips the rest of the world. However, people like Jenny would be better off if they lived in any other Western-style democracy because all the countries of Western Europe plus Canada, Australia, Japan and many others have decided that access to decent health care is a right of citizenship.

Among the world’s industrialized democracies, we alone have huge numbers of people without health insurance. That number is now around 46 million and probably growing as states struggle with budget shortfalls. It is sometimes difficult to put things in perspective while history is being written. I remember one of my daughters studying segregation in the South when she was in junior high



school. One night she looked up at me and asked, “Why did people let it happen?” I had no answer.

As one who grew up in the segregated South, I realized at a pretty early age that black people were treated unfairly, that “separate but equal” was a sham, and that no moral justification existed for the status quo. Yet I, and nearly all white people, went about our daily lives giving little thought to the situation.

The fact is that contact between blacks and whites was minimal, and what little there was almost always had the black person in a subservient role. Later on, when I was in college at Vanderbilt, I had late-night dorm discussions with friends from the Deep South. They insisted that they “knew” black people because they had been around them all their lives, unlike me. But when I questioned my friends further, I learned the black people they were talking about were almost always children of domestic workers or the like. Meaningful relationships were rare.

So, despite the fact that millions of peo-

THE POINT AT ROCK ISLAND

SATURDAY 4:30 PM. LATE SPRING.

*I dropped Lisa and the girls off at the dock so they could shower before dinner. I headed back out for a last ski run with the boys. Josh and his buddies caught fish this morning—they were up and out at first light. Later, our old friends and some new neighbors are coming over for a glass of wine and we’re all walking to the amphitheater for a concert.*

CUSTOM HOMESITES  
starting in the 250’s

Ten percent of revenue from sales to Vanderbilt Alumni in 2009 will be donated to Morris Child Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt

THE POINT AT ROCK ISLAND

Over one mile of prime Rock Island shoreline within a gated peninsula  
832-541-7555 \* WWW.ROCKISLANDTN.COM



ple were suffering from our laws, we whites managed to live with ourselves by the usual techniques or rationalizations. We dehumanized black people by using ugly words to describe them. We joked about them, with the jokes usually ending up with the black person looking stupid. We told stories that blamed blacks for their situation by implying a poor work ethic, dishonesty or other faults. I can even remember my grandmother, a devout Christian, telling me that if God had wanted the races to mix, He would have made us all the same.

Today's young people just don't buy all that. They look at me and ask how in the world we allowed segregation to exist for so long. And in reality, I have no acceptable answer. However, I sometimes ask if they can think of an analogous situation in America today. Are there people who are suffering unjustly because of our current public policies, similar to how blacks suffered under segregation?

They usually stare blankly, smugly confident that their generation would not tolerate such injustice. And then I remind them of an ugly, uniquely American fact: Alone

among industrialized countries, the United States allows a huge proportion of its people to go without health insurance. More than 15 percent of the population—46 million people including as many as 10 million children—do not have access to adequate health care. And the consequences are very real, resulting in poorer care for children with

*“By implying that the problem is just too big to solve, and even worse, by implying that the uninsured are somehow responsible for their predicament, we deflect the conversation from the real issue.”*

asthma, diabetes and other conditions, much less the lack of preventive care, higher death rates and even financial ruin.

That's when the conversation gets interesting. “That's just not the same,” they say, or “We just can't afford it” or “How can we insure them if they won't take care of themselves?” I point out that the answers remind me of the things white people said in the 1950s. By implying that the problem is just too big to solve,

and even worse, by implying that the uninsured are somehow responsible for their predicament, we deflect the conversation from the real issue.

In many ways the problem of the uninsured is even more complex than segregation. While most of the time meaningful contact between blacks and whites was rare, we knew who they were. With the uninsured, we can't even see them. When we go to the grocery, chances are huge that some of the people checking out in front of us are terrified of their next illness, or are being denied good preventive care for their high blood pressure or diabetes, or face bankruptcy because of medical bills, and we don't know who they are. They are truly invisible. An

invisible nation of 46 million people lives within our borders, and we don't even know who they are.

Maybe part of the problem is statistics. Numbers, even big numbers, don't tell the whole story. In fact, they may actually blur the fact that every number represents one individual, and by focusing on statistics we don't clearly portray the degree of pain and suffering these individuals are experiencing. In fact, we may even be pleased when we read that removing people like Jenny “cleans up” the TennCare rolls.

Like segregation, the issue of health care for the uninsured is fundamentally a moral one. We can argue this and that about the details, but one thing is certain: Just as our children don't understand how we tolerated segregation, our grandchildren will wonder how we could have allowed this to happen. What will we tell them? ▼

*Dr. John Sergent, BA'63, MD'66, is a professor of medicine at Vanderbilt who also serves as vice chair for education for the Department of Medicine and is director of the internal medicine residency program. This essay is adapted from his recent book, Healing Words (2009, Cold Tree Press), a collection of writings that first appeared in The Tennessean newspaper.*

**“I love being an advertiser in *Vanderbilt Magazine*. The readership is of the highest caliber—and I've had good results and great exposure.”**

—Joel Anderson, Owner/Creative Director, Anderson Design Group

Advertising in *Vanderbilt Magazine* is a cost-effective means of reaching an exclusively Vanderbilt audience of nearly 110,000 readers.

View our media kit online at [www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/publications/mediakit](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/publications/mediakit), or contact Phillip Tucker, advertising manager, at 615/322-3989 or [phillip.tucker@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:phillip.tucker@vanderbilt.edu).

# everygift everyday year after year makes a difference

Every day, every gift creates world-class learning opportunities for the inquisitive, curious students at Vanderbilt—providing essential financial aid and scholarships, attracting and retaining great faculty, and supporting pioneering research.

Every day, every gift makes a difference in a student's life. Year after year, every gift moves Vanderbilt forward, creating tomorrow's thinkers, teachers and leaders.

Every day, every gift, year after year.

Make a difference today, and make your gift online at [www.vanderbilt.edu/thevanderbiltfund](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/thevanderbiltfund). Or contact Elizabeth K. Wilson, 1-866-882-3863.

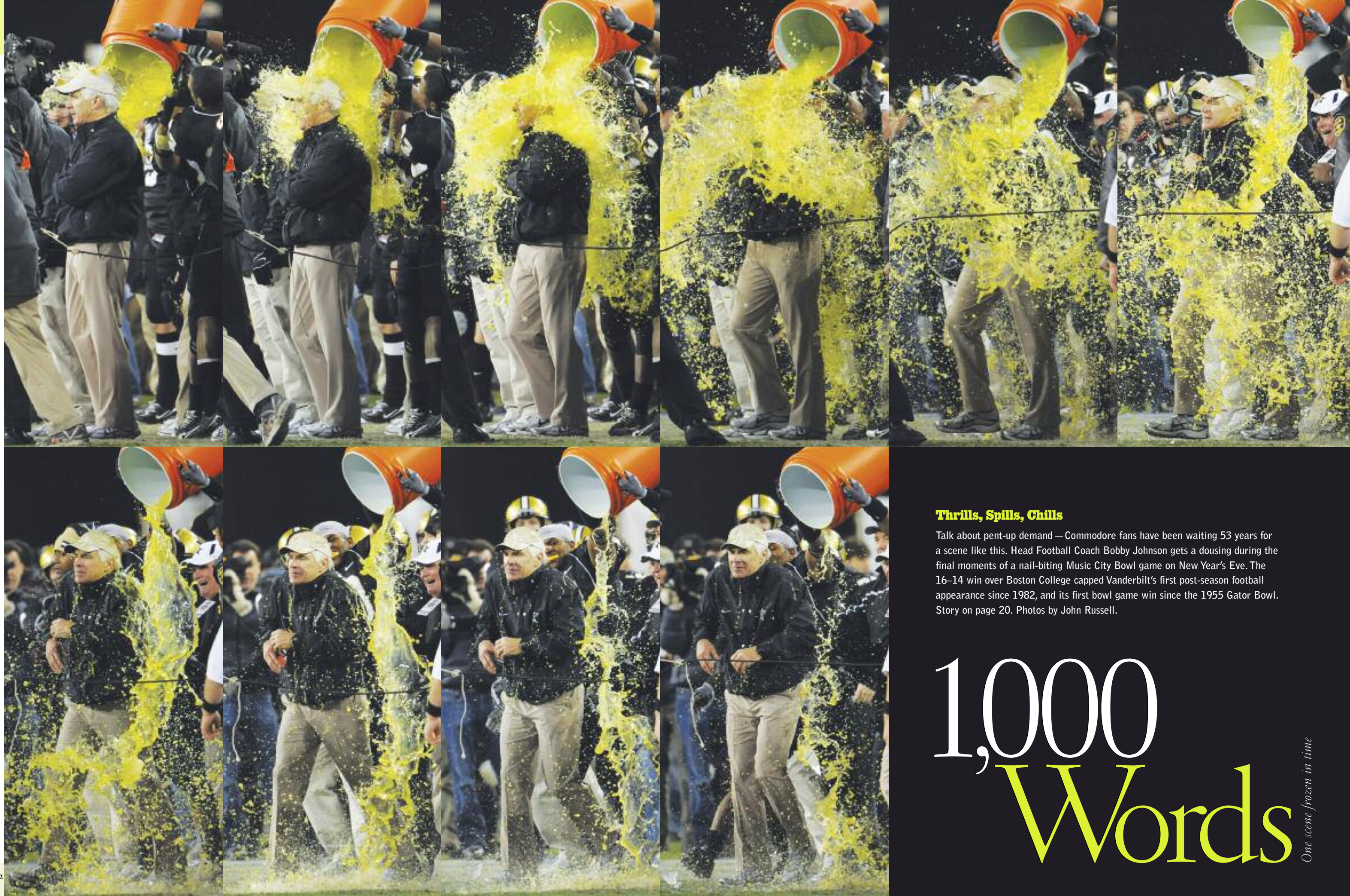
PHOTO BY VANDERBILT CREATIVE SERVICES

VANDERBILT

VANDERBILT  
THE FUND

[www.vanderbilt.edu/thevanderbiltfund](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/thevanderbiltfund)





### Thrills, Spills, Chills

Talk about pent-up demand — Commodore fans have been waiting 53 years for a scene like this. Head Football Coach Bobby Johnson gets a dousing during the final moments of a nail-biting Music City Bowl game on New Year's Eve. The 16–14 win over Boston College capped Vanderbilt's first post-season football appearance since 1982, and its first bowl game win since the 1955 Gator Bowl. Story on page 20. Photos by John Russell.

# 1,000 Words

*One scene frozen in time*



# The Campus

“I knew immediately that it was the magic dingus button I had needed.” —

# Spring 2009

## Vanderbilt Is First-Ever Higher Education Institution on Fortune List

FORTUNE MAGAZINE'S annual ranking of the 100 best places to work in the United States includes Vanderbilt this year, marking the first time a university has made the list. The No. 98 ranking represents approximately 21,000 employees at Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

respect, fairness, pride and camaraderie in the workforce.

Vanderbilt also made a couple of other prestigious lists last fall. In November, Vanderbilt University ranked among the top 10 best places to work in academia by *The Scientist*. And a month earlier, the university was ranked 20th in the nation in the total value of federal science and engineering research grants awarded to campus researchers, according to an annual report compiled by the National Science Foundation.

And *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* recently ranked Vanderbilt 15th for “best value” among American universities.

## Pickin' and Grinnin'

IT WAS A NASHVILLE moment if there ever was one—a patient playing banjo while undergoing brain surgery at Vanderbilt.

Legendary bluegrass performer Eddie Adcock had been shaving left-handed, writing like a doctor, and hitting some sour notes for 15 years. He has what is known as an essential tremor.

“If you consciously intend to use your hand, that's the only time it tremors,” Adcock explains. “So, if I go to write my name, it will tremor.”



Eddie Adcock demonstrates the improvement in his essential tremor after deep brain stimulation surgery.

Adcock made his name for more than five decades playing professionally with bands including The Country Gentlemen and Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys.

Vanderbilt neurosurgeon Dr. Joseph Neimat and neurologist Dr. Peter Hedera performed deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery on the 70-year-old Adcock recently to block the tremor and restore his playing.

The three-part surgery requires implantation of electrodes into the brain as well as insertion of a palm-sized battery-powered generator within the chest wall, plus lead wires to connect the two.

Adcock had to be awake

and playing his banjo during the brain-implantation stage of the surgery to assist his surgeons in their precise placement of electrodes in the brain.

“I advise my patients that surgery should be considered as an option only when the tremor is sufficiently severe that it is not allowing them to live their lives the way they would wish,” Neimat says. “In Eddie's case, not playing banjo at his previous level of skill represented a significant life disruption.”

With essential tremors affecting an estimated 10 million persons in the United States, Adcock's story could have an impact far beyond the

bluegrass world. “The fact that Mr. Adcock, a famous musician, has accepted the role of a famous patient by agreeing to publicize his successful surgery is very important for many patients suffering from essential tremor,” says Hedera.

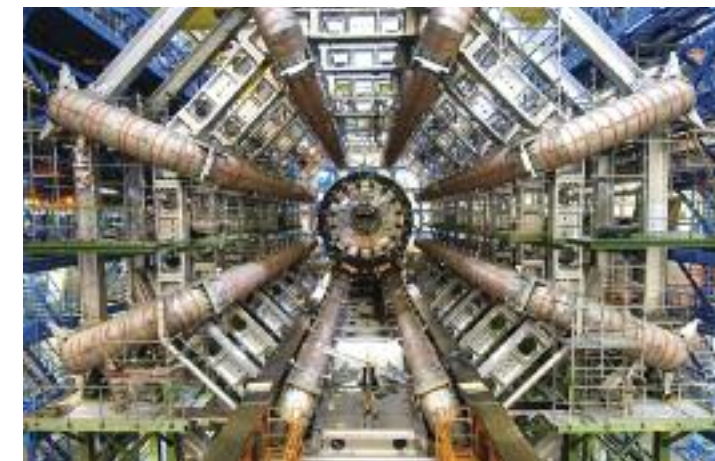
For Adcock, the surgery means returning to his career on the road. The speed and precision of his right hand has helped pay the bills for most of his life.

“I noticed the difference in the hospital, laying on the operating table,” Adcock says. “I knew immediately that it was the magic dingus button I had needed. It is definitely a miracle.”

## Expanded Data Pipeline Makes Big Bang

VANDERBILT RESEARCHERS now have access to 15 times more bandwidth, thanks to a new 10-gigabit-per-second circuit that began routing new traffic in December. The previous circuit allowed 662 megabits of data to be transferred per second.

“The new 10-gigabit-per-second circuit connects to Southern Crossing in Atlanta,” says Matthew Hall, assistant vice chancellor for information technology services and associate chief information architect for enterprise architecture. “This is a telecommunication



A particle detector in the Large Hadron Collider at the world's largest particle physics laboratory near Geneva, Switzerland

hub similar to a large regional airport. Our traffic routes there and, in turn, can attach to various national labs, Internet 2, and other research-related networks.”

For researchers like Charles Maguire, professor of physics,

more bandwidth is a huge plus. Maguire is involved in an international research project seeking to replicate the matter created at the time of the Big Bang. Vanderbilt is the proposed primary U.S. data repository and analysis site for the project, which is being conducted using the Large Hadron Collider at the world's largest particle physics laboratory, CERN, near Geneva, Switzerland.

“The new bandwidth ensures that this data can be transferred rapidly to Vanderbilt, and is the primary reason Vanderbilt was chosen as the best place in the United States to analyze it,” Maguire says.

## Recycled Anesthetic Technology Saves Dollars, Environment

MORE THAN 500,000 GALLONS of anesthetic are released into the atmosphere in the United States each year at a huge cost both financially and environ-



The rankings are determined through an extensive survey process. More than 81,000 employees from 353 companies responded to the survey nationwide. To be eligible, companies must have more than 1,000 U.S. employees and be at least seven years old. The rankings are based on levels of credibility,

## Quote Unquote

“You can do anything with fishing line, a needle, a knife and ketamine.”

—Dr. Bill Frist during a talk titled “Health Care as a Currency for Peace,” delivered as part of the Nursing Centennial Lecture Series last October. The former U.S. Senate majority leader has created a class at the Owen Graduate School of Management, open to business students and fourth-year medical students.



## Inquiring Minds

### Lighter Touch May Help Premies Breathe Easier

Without mechanical ventilation, many premature infants would die—but its use can damage tiny, immature lungs. A study published in *Pediatrics* suggests that early Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) might be a better option for some babies born with respiratory distress than a mechanical ventilator. Adults with sleep apnea use it to prevent airway collapse during sleep. In premature infants the effect is similar. Dr. Mario Rojas, associate professor of pediatrics in the Division of Neonatology, says his findings could help babies in developing countries.

“From a cost-benefit ratio, you can get a CPAP machine for less than \$1,000 versus a ventilator for many times that amount.”

Find out more: <http://snipurl.com/vupremie>

### New Antipsychotics No Better for Heart

A Vanderbilt research team provides strong evidence that new, or atypical, antipsychotic drugs carry the same cardiovascular risk as older, or typical, antipsychotic drugs. Their findings appeared in the Jan. 15 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The atypical antipsychotics have one important advantage over their older counterpart: They are less likely to cause very serious movement disorders like Parkinson's disease and tardive dyskinesia. Researchers included Wayne Ray, MS'74, PhD'81, professor of preventive medicine; Dr. C. Michael Stein, the Dan May Professor of Medicine and professor of pharmacology; and Dr. Katherine Murray, associate professor of medicine and pharmacology.

Find out more: <http://snipurl.com/vudrugs>

### Kids Learn More When Mom Is Listening

New research from Vanderbilt reveals that children learn the solution to a problem best when they explain it to their mom. “We knew that children learn well with their moms or with a peer, but we did not know if that was because they were getting feedback and help,” says Bethany Rittle-Johnson, assistant professor of psychology and human development and the study's lead author. Rittle-Johnson, with co-authors Megan Saylor, assistant professor of psychology, and graduate Kathryn Swygert, BS'06, set out to determine if 4- and 5-year-olds learn more when they must explain the solution to a problem to someone else. “We just had the children's mothers listen, without providing any assistance,” says Rittle-Johnson. “We've found that by simply listening, a mother helps her child learn.” The research was published last July in the *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*.

Find out more: <http://snipurl.com/vumoms>

mentally. What if you could collect the air that contains exhaled anesthetic and condense it, allowing it to be captured and recycled?

That was the idea behind an invention by Dr. James Berry, professor of anesthesiology, along with Dr. Leland Lancaster, assistant in anesthesiology, and Dr. Steve Morris of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Their new technology, called the Dynamic Gas Scavenging System (DGSS), could have an impact on the environment and on health-care economics.

“Vanderbilt spends \$1 million a year on anesthetic,” says Berry. “It is given to patients, then discarded, but it costs \$2,000 per gallon. My idea was that we can do better.”

The DGSS can recover 99 percent of anesthetics without chemically altering them in the process. Berry's company, Anesthetic Gas Reclamation LLC, created the technology, and Vanderbilt University Medical Center has been instrumental in its development by providing a testing

site in four operating rooms. VUMC is the first in the country to do pilot testing with the DGSS system, and the first in the world to recycle anesthetics via condensation, says Berry.

He formulated his idea for a recycling system in the 1980s when he first began studying anesthesia and noticed the pipe on the roof of the hospital where anesthetic was released. “I thought, ‘What a waste. There's got to be a better way.’”

With the new technology, the exhaust system is activated only when the patient exhales and used anesthetic appears. “Now there is a lot less air, which is richer in anesthetic, and it's energy-saving because the exhaust pump can be much smaller,” says Berry.

The system is designed to work with any anesthesia machine. One system costs \$20,000 and can serve up to eight operating rooms. Energy savings also result because the vacuum pump only runs 10 percent of the time, as opposed to 90 percent with the old system.

The next step involves



Dr. James Berry and Dr. Leland Lancaster have developed a recycling system that collects and reuses anesthesiology gases.



Now in its seventh year, the Vanderbilt Dance Marathon is the biggest student-run philanthropy on campus. This year's 14-hour event, held Feb. 13–14, raised more than \$146,000 for Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital.

investigating how to manufacture and commercialize the system. Berry hopes to get FDA approval for a generic recycled anesthetic that could be sold for a significantly lower price.

“There are 6,000 hospitals in the U.S. I'd like to see at least half implement this technology,” Berry says. “We envision giving the machines away for free, just to get CO2 credits and the anesthetic. It's highly efficient, it's not emitting greenhouse gas into the environment, and it's inexpensive. It's not only good, but it's practical.”

### Pilot Program Expands Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

STUDENTS WITH INTELLECTUAL disabilities have few options when it comes to postsecondary education opportunities. Nationwide, approximately 121 postsecondary

programs are available for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) is launching the first such postsecondary program in the state of Tennessee, aided by a three-year grant from the Tennessee Council

on Developmental Disabilities.

“The council made a commitment ... to develop a pilot project on the campus of a Tennessee college or university for postsecondary students who have an intellectual disability and did not receive a high school diploma,” says Wanda Willis, the council's executive director. “Continu-

ing education programs like this are increasingly available on college campuses across the country.”

After an initial planning year, Vanderbilt will accept its first students in January 2010 for the two-year day program. Each year eight young adults will take a mixture of undergraduate, life-skills and technical courses, as well as participate in campus extra-curricular activities with Vanderbilt undergraduates. Regular Vanderbilt undergraduate courses will be offered, life-skills courses with internships will be provided, and technical courses will be available through the Tennessee Technology Centers.

“Key components of the Vanderbilt program will foster the development of independent living and employment skills,” says UCEDD Co-Director Elise McMillan. “As with nearly all of our programs at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, the postsecondary education program we develop will

## Virtual Vanderbilt

Click to Build Your Brick  
[www.vanderbilt.edu/bricks](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/bricks)

Honor your family, a classmate or a favorite athlete with a personalized brick in the new walkway at Vanderbilt Stadium. The area will be completed by the beginning of the 2009 football season, and the price of each brick (\$200 until June 1; \$250 thereafter) is tax-deductible. All funds will go toward Vanderbilt Athletics facilities improvements.





include research, training and service.”

McMillan, who is a senior associate in psychiatry, and Robert Hodapp, professor of special education and UCEDD director of research, are lead faculty members on the grant. The UCEDD also is a part of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities’ National Training Initiative on Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities. The initiative is led by the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts. Other participating universities are the University of Minnesota, UCLA, the University of Hawaii, Ohio State University, and the University of South Carolina.

### 34 Years Later, Coed Murder Case Is Resolved

SARAH (“SALLY”) DES PREZ was a 19-year-old Vanderbilt freshman when she was found suffocated in her off-campus apartment in February 1975. Nearly 34 years later, a jury has found Jerome Barrett guilty of first-degree murder in her death. A repeat sex criminal, Barrett has spent most of the intervening years in prison for other crimes. He is also set to be tried in July for the murder of 9-year-old Nashville girl Marcia Trimble, a crime that took place the same month as Des Prez’ slaying. DNA evidence has played a crucial role in both cases.

## People

### Familiar Faces and New Arrivals

Vanderbilt has seen a number of high-profile appointments during the past few months, including two deans, both promoted from within their schools; two vice chancellors; and several senior posts in the Division of Development and Alumni Relations.

### New Deans for Arts and Science, Medicine

IN THE COLLEGE of Arts and Science, **Carolyn Dever** was appointed dean last December. Dever was offered the position after a national search to replace Richard McCarty, who was named provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Vanderbilt in May. Dever had served as interim dean since June.

An expert on Victorian literature and gender studies, Dever joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 1999 as professor of English. She served two years as the first associate dean for graduate education in the College of Arts and Science, then returned after a yearlong research sabbatical as executive dean with responsibilities for faculty and research.

Her books include *Skeptical Feminism: Activist Theory, Activist Practice* (2003) and

*Death and the Mother from Dickens to Freud: Victorian Fiction and the Anxiety of Origins* (1998), and she edited with Margaret Cohen *The Literary Channel: The Inter-National Invention of the Novel* (2001).

In October, **Dr. Jeff Balsler** became the 11th dean of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine since its founding in 1875. Balsler, who had served as interim dean of the school since last July, will continue to serve as associate vice chancellor for research.

“I recall sitting in Light Hall as a student in 1984, listening to Dean [John] Chapman give a talk about the contemporary challenges in academic medicine,” says Balsler, who received his M.D. and Ph.D. in pharmacology from Vanderbilt in 1990. “I remember thinking at that time how exciting it must be to



**Dr. Jeff Balsler's research has helped us understand how the chambers of the heart contract and relax.**

be dean of the School of Medicine at Vanderbilt. I still feel exactly the same way, and I am extraordinarily grateful for this opportunity.”

Balsler trained as a resident and fellow in anesthesiology and critical care medicine at Johns Hopkins University, where he joined the faculty in 1995. He returned to Vanderbilt in 1998 as associate dean for physician scientists. In 2001 he was appointed the James Tayloe Gwathmey Professor and Chair of Anesthesiology. Three years later he became associate vice chancellor for research, heading a period of significant expansion that moved Vanderbilt into 10th place among U.S. medical schools in funding from the National Institutes of Health.

**Carolyn Dever's teaching and research have focused on topics ranging from Victorian fiction, prose and poetry to gender, sexuality and modernist literature.**



DANIEL DUBOIS

### New Leadership for Public Affairs, Development and Alumni Relations

**Beth Fortune** was named Vanderbilt's vice chancellor for public affairs in December after serving in the position on an interim basis for the previous six months.

The former political reporter and press secretary to former Tennessee Gov. Don Sundquist joined Vanderbilt in September 2000 as associate vice chancellor for public affairs.

As vice chancellor for public affairs, Fortune leads the university's comprehensive communications, government and community initiatives and serves as the university's chief spokesperson.



Fortune

opment since 2004 at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, Stalcup had led all aspects of CUMC's \$1 billion capital campaign, which met its goal two and a half years before its scheduled December 2011 conclusion.

**Christopher P. Toft** has been named associate vice chancellor for university development. Toft will oversee development programs for the College of Arts and Science, Blair School of Music, Divinity School, School of Engineering, Peabody College, Law School, and the Owen Graduate School of Management, as well as



Stalcup

In January, **Susie S. Stalcup**, formerly the chief fundraising officer for Columbia University Medical Center, became Vanderbilt's new vice chancellor for development and alumni relations.

In her new role she will work to complete the current \$1.75 billion *Shape the Future* campaign, which is scheduled to conclude in 2010. She will oversee development and alumni activities throughout Vanderbilt, including the medical center and all schools and programs within the university. As vice president for devel-

College of Medicine and the University of Illinois Medical Center, where he served as chief development officer for medicine and associate dean, and was a member of the senior management team for the University of Illinois Foundation.

**James E. Stofan** has been named associate vice chancellor for alumni relations. Stofan, who most recently directed alumni relations for the University of California system, will oversee Vanderbilt's alumni relations program and outreach to the university's 121,000 alumni as well as the Reunion program.

As assistant vice president for alumni affairs in the University of California Office of the President, Stofan coordinated more than 10 campus



Stofan

alumni programs representing more than 1.5 million alumni worldwide. Under his leadership UC reduced its “lost alumni” percentage from 24 percent to 8.9 percent and developed system-wide international chapters in London, Paris, Beijing, Mexico City, New Delhi, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Stockholm. He also directed the first-ever UC system-wide strategic planning effort for alumni relations.

paradise awaits you...

VACATION RENTALS | INVESTMENT PROPERTIES  
 escape to paradise | invest in paradise  
 luxury dwellings & superb amenities | exceptional opportunities

PIGEON FORGE • GATLINBURG  
 SEVIERVILLE

EDEN CREST

www.EdenCrestLuxury.net • 866.657.6295



Toft

regional major gifts, the Parents and Grandparents Campaign and the Vanderbilt Fund. Toft most recently headed all fundraising initiatives at the University of Illinois-Chicago



# Sports

A look at Vanderbilt athletics

## Bowled Over

*Bobby Johnson coaches the Commodores' first bowl-winning team since 1955.*

By SKIP ANDERSON

**T**HE MAN RESPONSIBLE for leading the Commodore football team to its first postseason win since Sputnik orbited the earth is not necessarily doing the things one might expect after such a feat. He's not going to the beach. He's not going on a fishing expedition with friends. The 2008 SEC Coach of the Year is conferring with his staff about how to summit the next proverbial mountain: winning the Southeastern Conference Championship.

Well, actually, before embarking on that trek, he's first setting the record straight about the Coach of the Year honor that his conference peers bestowed upon him at the conclusion of the 2008 season.



STEVE GREEN

"That award should say 'Coaching Staff of the Year' because that's exactly what it is," Johnson said a few days before his Commodores defeated Boston College 16-14 in the Music City Bowl—a relatively new postseason game that Vanderbilt University hosted for several years before it moved to the much larger NFL stadium just a few miles east across the Cumberland River. That would soon be the setting of Johnson's culmination so far during his seven-year tenure at the helm

of the Commodore football team: its first bowl appearance since 1982 and its first postseason victory since 1955, the same year Ray Kroc flipped his first McDonald's burger.

Bobby Johnson knows exactly how much the Commodores' appearance in the 2008 Music City Bowl—not to mention its dramatic come-from-behind victory—means. But this is no time to marvel at recent suc-

cess that some say marks a metamorphosis from lovable loser to formidable opponent, at least not in Bobby Johnson's mind. This is a time to move forward in a calculated and disciplined manner.

"We want to compete for championships in the SEC," says Johnson. "We haven't been that far from it the past two years, but that little bit we've got left

to go takes a lot of hard work to get it done."

Coaches often speak in vagaries, leaving room for reporters and fans to fill the void with their own vision for the program. But what Johnson is talking about is clear: "That little bit left" translates to "more depth at all positions."

The hard work of building toward the 2009 season is already well under way. Johnson says he and his de facto Coaches of the Year are assessing the returners and drawing

up the game plan for recruiting talent with the potential to make sportswriting legends Grantland Rice and Fred Russell proud.

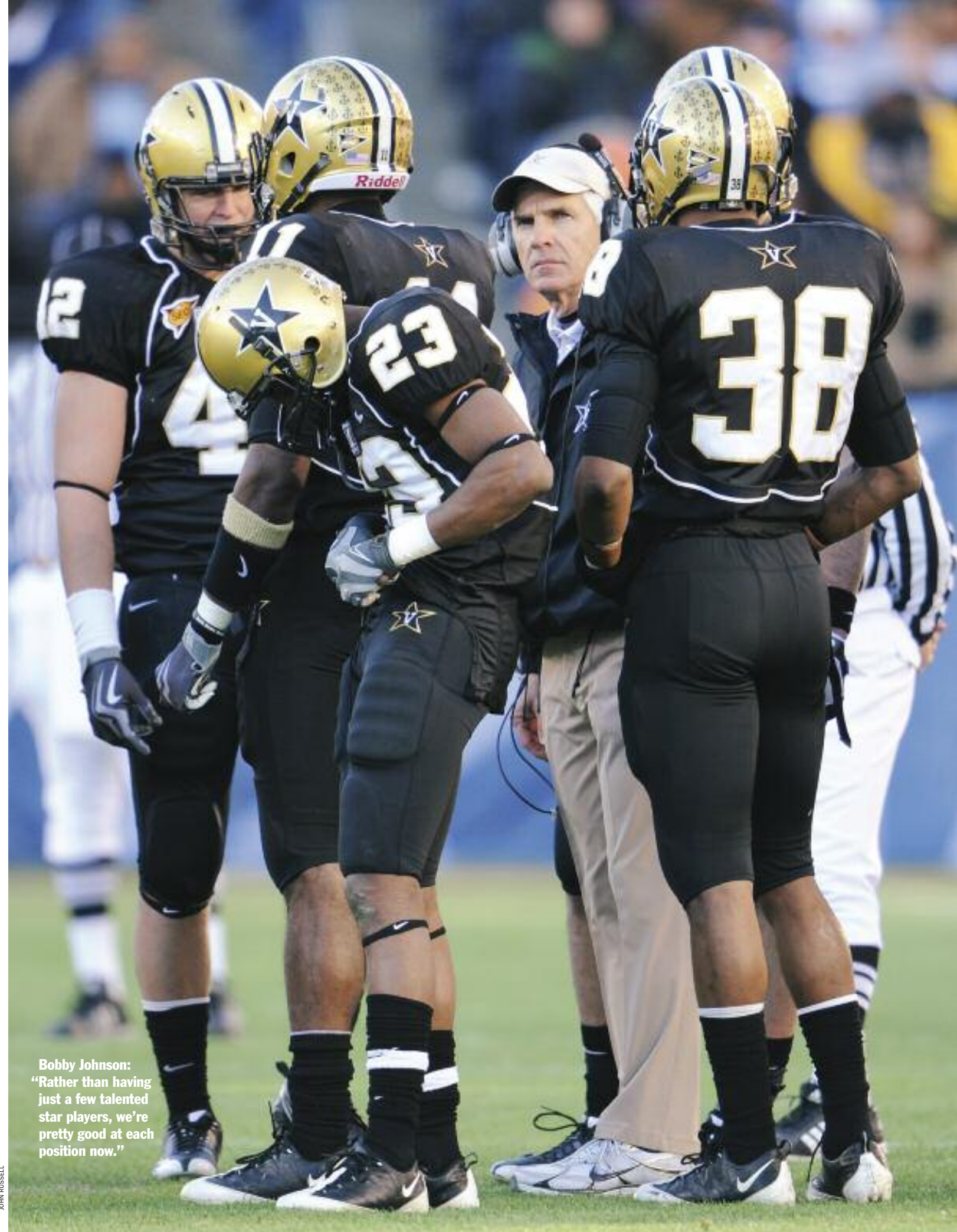
While Rice and Russell spent the 1950s weaving beautiful tapestries in the minds of sports fans across America, a young Bobby Johnson played among the timber-tall pines of Columbia, S.C. He learned to be diligent and disciplined. Johnson credits his parents and five siblings with instilling the no-nonsense work ethic that has long been his hallmark—and that of each team he has coached.

"I worked with the coaches at Furman as my first college job," Johnson says. "I could see how hard they worked. And when I started coaching with them, I wanted to match that effort and make sure I was pulling my weight."

And pull his weight he did. Immediately after coaching the Paladins within a touchdown of winning the NCAA I-AA national championship game in 2001, Johnson took the helm of a languishing Commodore football team. And he opened his first press conference at Vanderbilt with a joke:

"I know what you're thinking," he deadpanned. "This guy looks just like Steve Martin."

With four of the previous seven seasons ending with a fan-crushing nine losses each, a little levity was welcome. There hadn't been much to smile about at Commodore press conferences for quite a while. Unfortunately, the levity was short-lived: Johnson and his



**Bobby Johnson:** "Rather than having just a few talented star players, we're pretty good at each position now."

JOHN RUSSELL



staff, most of whom had followed him from Furman, would eke out two wins in each of their first two seasons.

In their third season, however, the Commodores would realize benefits of the rejuvenated emphasis Johnson had placed on recruiting. With a rough-and-tumble quarterback from Santa Claus, Ind., named Jay Cutler under center, the team started to play with the discipline Johnson had preached since day one. The team opened the season with a string of wins much like it would in 2008. Although the 2005 season was one win shy of the six needed for bowl eligibility, a win over the Tennessee Volunteers in Neyland Stadium helped relieve the sting from that shortcoming.

The team underperformed the following season. And with Cutler's eligibility behind him, the Denver Broncos selected him in the first round of the 2006 NFL Draft. It was a proud moment for the Commodore faithful, but fans and media types opined that perhaps the 'Dores' best chance to put together a winning season was now wearing No. 6 in Mile High Stadium.

"Jay was a very good player," says Johnson. "But if you look at his career from a freshman to a senior, we had better players around him—better receivers and better linemen who allowed him to display his talents."

And that became the model that led to formation of the 2008 team.

"We felt that if we continued to get the good players around our star people that we'd have a better chance to be successful," he says.

While Commodore fans turn their attention to the hard-court and to Tim Corbin's remarkable baseball team and equally impressive stadium, it's business as usual for the disciplined Bobby Johnson and his coaching staff. It's the same thing they'd be doing had they posted a 2-9 season—but this time their on-the-field successes are making it increasingly easier to recruit players to launch the campaign for a Southeastern Conference championship. ▼

Paul Levy contributed to this story.

## Football 2008 Rewards Vanderbilt Faithful

Vanderbilt's football program received the 2008 Academic Achievement Award from the American Football Coaches Association. Head Coach Bobby Johnson was named SEC Coach of the Year, an honor he shared with Nick Saban of Alabama and Houston Nutt of Ole Miss.

Other season standouts: Punter Brett Upson was named Most Valuable Player of the Music City Bowl for consistently pinning the Boston College Eagles deep in their own territory. Defensive back D.J. Moore was named a second-team All-American by the Associated Press and to the All-SEC first team on defense. Linebacker Patrick Benoist was named to the All-SEC second team.



Defensive back D.J. Moore

Four Commodores earned Freshman All-SEC honors: linebacker Chris Marve, tight end Brandon Barden, defensive tackle T.J.

### See the Season Again

Vanderbilt faithful can relive the 2008 football season by viewing the "March to Music City" DVD. The video includes the team's 5-0 season start, national ranking, ESPN College Game Day on campus, and the win over Boston College in the Music City Bowl. Coverage includes exclusive interviews, behind-the-scenes footage, game highlights, radio calls and bowl events. You can order it online at <http://vucommodores.cstv.com/store> or call 615/322-5803. All proceeds benefit Vanderbilt University athletics.

Greenstone, and offensive lineman Kyle Fischer. Marve was one of only four unanimous picks, and the first Commodore chosen unanimously since Kwane Doster was chosen Freshman of the Year in 2002.

The high-profile reorganization of the athletics department that Vanderbilt implemented in 2003 with the noble ambition to fully integrate athletes into the student body may have been controversial at the time, but by and large, the reorganization has been regarded as successful.

"[The administration] wants you to win, but they want you to win the right way, with the right kind of student athletes," Johnson says. "That makes it a lot of fun to work here."

## Where are they now?

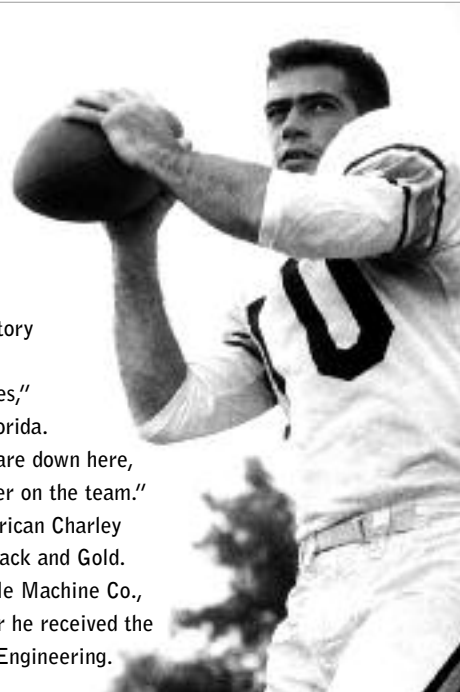
On football game days, you can find **Don Orr**, BE'56, at the same place he was some 50 years ago—overlooking Dudley Field and looking for a Vanderbilt victory. Orr led the Commodores to their first bowl game and first bowl win in the 1955 Gator Bowl with a 25-13 win over Auburn. "It was a thrill, unexpected," he recalls.



This year's Music City Bowl victory was a momentous occasion for Orr. "We watched it down here in Naples," he says from his winter home in Florida. "A bunch of ex-Vanderbilt players are down here, and we went to a sports bar to cheer on the team."

Teammates Jim Cunningham, BA'56, and All-American Charley Horton, BA'56, joined the group to root for the Black and Gold.

Today, Orr is chairman of the board of Nashville Machine Co., a mechanical contracting company. Last November he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the School of Engineering.



# Sports Roundup

## Women's Tennis: Preeg, Blatt Undefeated in Fall Classic

The women's team closed out the fall season with six out of eight singles wins at the SEC Fall Coaches Classic held at the University of Alabama.

Freshman Chelsea Preeg and junior Hannah Blatt won their respective brackets with 3-0 records. Also winning in singles play were sophomore Courtney Ulery and freshmen Jackie Wu, Heather Steinbauer and Erica Robertson. In doubles play, Blatt and Ulery won their draw, as did Wu and junior Catherine Newman.



Preeg

Blatt



Zotov

## Men's Tennis: Zotov Nets Win

Sophomore Alex Zotov won his singles bracket title on the final day of the Crimson Tide Fall Championships in Tuscaloosa, Ala., with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 effort. Also advancing to the finals were freshman Alex DiValerio and junior James Moye.

## Women's Basketball: Risper Honored in California

Senior guard Jennifer Risper was honored in December when her No. 11 jersey was retired at Canyon Springs High School in Moreno Valley, Calif. As a high school senior, she helped lead the Canyon Springs Cougars to a 31-4 record and the school's first section championship.

## Baseball: Minor on Major Lists

Junior pitcher Mike Minor has been named to the 2009 Preseason All-America second team by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association. He also has been named to the Brooks Wallace Award Watch List, which recognizes the top collegiate baseball players in the country. Last season he tied for the team lead in wins with seven. Minor has a career record of 16-4 going into the 2009 season. He was an ace last summer with the USA Baseball National team that finished 24-0 and captured the FISU World Championships in the Czech Republic. Minor went 3-0 with a 0.75 ERA with 37 strikeouts and 13 walks in a team-high 36 innings. In September, *Baseball America* named him Summer Player of the Year. Two years ago former Vanderbilt pitcher David Price, now with the Tampa Bay Rays, won the Brooks Wallace Award after a 12-1 junior season.



Minor

## Swimming: Dillon Sets School Record

Freshman Lauren Dillon set a new Vanderbilt record in the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:22:00 at the Hilltopper Invitational in November. The record previously was held by Susan Hahm, BE'89, who finished with a 2:22:95 time in 1989. "It's exciting to see a freshman come in and see success this early in the year," says Coach Jeremy Organ. Dillon is the second Vanderbilt freshman in consecutive seasons to set a school record. Last year, Leigh-Ann Axt set Commodore records in the 200-yard freestyle and 100- and 200-yard butterfly.

## Soccer: Women Improve in Winning Season

The Commodores finished the 2008 soccer season with a 9-8-2 overall record and 3-7-1 Southeastern Conference mark. They improved on a six-win season from the previous year despite battling injuries. Senior midfielder Katie Schulz, a three-time All-SEC selection, missed seven games due to a knee injury, and sophomore defender Mary Rachel Reynolds, a freshman All-SEC pick last year, played in just one game. The team will return eight starters, including the three top scorers and sophomore goalkeeper Rachel Bachtel, who finished with a 1.23 goals against average and nine career shutouts. Sophomore midfielder Molly Kinsella and freshman forward Candace West were named to the All-SEC team. Kinsella also was named to the Academic All-District IV team. She has a 3.81 grade point average in the College of Arts and Science.



Molly Kinsella



# Collective Memory

Vanderbilt's roots revealed

## A Few Good Women

*World War II prepared a generation for careers in public health nursing.*

AS VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY School of Nursing celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding this year, the nursing profession is struggling to meet the demands of a prolonged and severe nursing and faculty shortage. Alumni from the 1940s can attest that the current shortage is not the nursing profession's first.

In 1941, with the United States facing an acute shortage as it prepared to enter the Second World War, Vanderbilt School of Nursing became one of 88 schools to receive U.S. Public Health Service funding for nurses' training. In 1942, 120 Vanderbilt School of Nursing graduates enlisted in the 300th General Hospital, U.S. Army Hospital.

The following year Frances Payne Bolton, a U.S. congressman from Ohio, pushed for passage of the Nurse Training Act, which established the Victory Nurse Corps, soon to be renamed the Cadet Nurse Corps. Under the terms of the act, the government would pay all expenses for nursing school plus a small stipend. In return, nurses agreed to serve in the military after graduating. By 1944, 108 of the 116 students at Vanderbilt School of Nursing were members of the Cadet Corps.

Only three American universities—Yale, Western Reserve and Vanderbilt—had baccalaureate programs in nursing at the time. Vanderbilt's program, accelerated to help meet demand, granted nurses a baccalaureate degree after three years of study and training. Students were admitted every nine months rather than once a year.

"America was hard at war, and all citizens were trying to do their patriotic duty in whatever way they could," remembers Ada Trice Smith, BSN'47, who grew up in Mississippi and was convinced to enroll at Vanderbilt by an older friend.

"Two of my Tupelo friends who were medical students at Vandy arrived and loaded me and my bulging suitcases into the car. We headed north to a world that was completely new to me. As we approached Nashville, it seemed the city was covered by a gray foggy pall. I had heard about the smog caused by the burning of soft coal, but this was beyond my imagination."

Nursing students lived, studied and took their classes in Mary Kirkland Hall (now Godchaux Hall), except for laboratory classes, which were taught at the medical school. "This limited our contact with other students on the campus," recalls Beth Winchester Isaacs, BSN'47, "but we really had very little time to meet other students or participate in the activities on campus."

Entering students were not fresh out of high school; they had had at least two years of college elsewhere before applying to nursing school. First-semester nurses took 25 hours of courses per week in the accelerated Vanderbilt program.

The Vanderbilt nursing program empha-

sized preventive health care and provided a student rotation at the rural health department in nearby Rutherford County. In their snappy cadet uniforms—gray wool with brass buttons, red epaulets and nifty berets—the nurses would set off toward Murfreesboro, Tenn., in one of the school's black Fords.

"We were each assigned a car and road directions and a brown-bag lunch—usually pimento cheese sandwiches, cottage cheese and raisins," remembers Ann Moore Crain, BSN'47. "Each car had a distinct personality. The one I dreaded the most had a huge hole in the floorboard between the clutch pedal and the gas pedal."

Driving through a creek on the way to Murfreesboro required "one foot on the brake, one foot on the choke, one foot on the gas, and one foot to cover the hole in the floor," remembers Crain. "That was a good lesson in problem solving."

"As we neared our final destinations, it wasn't uncommon to read directions like 'turn at this tree, take a right at the old mailbox,'" says Virginia George, BSN'47 and a professor emerita. "I remember having to crawl over a fence and run across a pasture to get to one house."

Fences and creeks were nothing compared to the scene one fellow student encountered, Crain recalls. "She made a home visit to a



**Above: World War II-era nurses with the 300th General Hospital, U.S. Army Hospital. Below: Nursing students set out for Rutherford County to conduct home health visits.**

rural home and found the mother and her children huddled in a panic. A skunk was under the house. She calmly asked if they had a gun. They handed it to her, she located the skunk, and she shot the skunk before the skunk could shoot her. She returned the gun and proceeded with her visit."

Isaacs remembers another occasion when a group of nurses stalled their car on railroad tracks and were rescued by men from a nearby cleaning shop who pushed the car off the tracks before a train came.

In good weather, nursing students frequently enjoyed a picnic before returning to Nashville. On one such occasion, "whoever was driving the car failed to set the brakes properly, and the car rolled toward the river," says Isaacs. "One of the girls was fast enough to turn the wheel, and the car was stopped by a fence post. That seemed to put a damper on picnics."

In spite of, or perhaps because of, misadventures like these, nurses remember the public health rotation as one of their most gratifying experiences. "It was exhilarating to think that I could provide useful health information to a family," says Nancy Ragsdale Gilien, BSN'47, who spent most of her subsequent career in

public health nursing. "Those tolerant people always listened politely, and I was sure in those days that I had probably saved them from some significant health-care blunder."

Nursing students also conducted surveys and were taught leadership as part of being a "whole" nurse, remembers Iola McClellan Manoogian, BSN'47. Because of the war, "at times it was difficult to get supplies, so we



were taught to improvise and use what we had," she says. That experience proved invaluable to nurses like Manoogian, who went on to work in a small mission hospital in Beirut, Lebanon, where she started a nursing school and taught for 30 years.

"We had a tight group of students who became more like family than classmates," observes Virginia George. "It was a hard program, and there was a lot going on with the war at the time. We started with 40 students, and 29 graduated."

"We were part of the university but also set apart," says Smith. "The medical school faculty—from Dr. Billy Orr, who always wore a bow tie and called everybody 'cousin,' to Dr. Barney Brooks, who scared us all to death, to our own nursing school faculty—all molded and inspired us."

Both Germany and Japan surrendered in 1945, bringing the war to a close. The U.S. Cadet Nursing Corps program graduated its last students in 1948. By then Vanderbilt School of Nursing had expanded its public health program and forged an agreement with the Veterans Administration hospital in Murfreesboro to develop its psychiatric nursing program.

Vanderbilt School of Nursing would continue to evolve in the postwar years, launching a new four-year B.S.N. program in 1950, the state's first master of science degree in 1955, a new Ph.D. program in 1993, and a new doctorate in nursing practice in 2008. The school granted its last baccalaureate degree in 1989. Today most students earn an M.S.N. degree.

The changes engendered by World War II helped to expand opportunities for women and alter nursing education irrevocably. Vanderbilt University School of Nursing's emphasis on public health has not waned. The school opened the Vine Hill Clinic in a Nashville public housing complex in 1991 and now operates satellite clinics in three other public housing complexes, as well as a senior center. ▼

*Vanderbilt School of Nursing's Centennial Web site, which provided most of the material for this article, offers more history and photos of the school at [www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/centennial](http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/centennial).*



# Bright Ideas

“Payday loans seem to be the straw that breaks the borrower’s back.” —PROFESSOR PAIGE MARTA SKIBA

## This Is Your Brain on Bach

1. MUSICIANS REALLY do think differently than the rest of us. Vanderbilt psychologists have found that professionally trained musicians more effectively use a creative technique called divergent thinking, and use both the left and right sides of their frontal cortex more heavily than the average person.

Previous studies of creativity have focused on divergent thinking—the ability to come up with new solutions to open-ended, multifaceted problems. Highly creative individuals often display more divergent thinking than their less creative counterparts.

Vanderbilt researchers Crystal Gibson, Bradley Folley and Sohee Park recruited 20 classical music students from the Vanderbilt Blair School of Music and 20 non-musicians from a Vanderbilt introductory psychology course.

“We were interested in how individuals who are naturally creative look at problems that are best solved by thinking ‘out of the box,’” says Folley, MA’02, PhD’06, a postdoctoral fellow. “We studied musicians because creative thinking is part of their daily experience, and we found that there were qualitative differences in the types of answers they gave to problems and in their associated brain activity.”

The two groups were matched based on age, gender, education, sex, high school grades and SAT scores. The musicians each had at least eight years of training and played a variety of instruments, including piano, woodwind, string and percussion. Overall, researchers found that the musicians had higher IQ scores than the non-musicians, supporting recent studies that intensive musical training is associated with an elevated IQ score.

Research subjects were shown a variety of household objects and asked to make up new functions for them, and were also given a written word association test. Musicians provided more correct responses than non-musicians on the word association test—something the researchers believe may be attributed to enhanced verbal ability among musicians. Musicians also suggested more novel uses for the household objects than their non-musical counterparts.

In a second experiment the two groups again were asked to identify new uses for everyday objects, but this time they also were asked to perform a basic control task while activity in their

prefrontal lobes was monitored using a brain-scanning technique called near-infrared spectroscopy, or NIRS.

“When we measured subjects’ prefrontal cortical activity while completing the alternate-uses task, we found that trained musicians had greater activity in both sides of their frontal lobes,” Folley says. “Because we equated musicians and non-musicians in terms of their performance, this finding was not simply due to the fact that the musicians invented more uses; there seems to be a qualitative difference in how they think about this information.”

One possible explanation for the musicians’ elevated use of both brain hemispheres is that

many musicians must be able to use both hands independently to play their instruments.

“Musicians may be particularly good at efficiently accessing and integrating competing information from both hemispheres,” Folley says. “Instrumental musicians often integrate different melodic lines with both hands into a single musical piece, and they have to be very good at simultaneously reading the musical symbols, which are like left-hemisphere-based language, and integrating the written music with their own interpretation, which has been linked to the right hemisphere.”

Folley and Park are investigators in the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development. Park is a professor of psychology and psychiatry and a member of the Center for Integrative and Cognitive Neuroscience. Gibson, BA’04, was an undergraduate student and research assistant in the psychology department at the time of the study. Their research, which was partially supported by a Vanderbilt University Discovery Grant, will appear in the journal *Brain and Cognition*.



WWW.ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

## Military Grant Spurs Bone Regrowth Study

2. WHY DO SOME bone cells knit together neatly following a fracture or amputation, while others grow wildly into soft tissue that can limit range of motion and cause problems with prosthetics?

Dr. Erika Mitchell, assistant professor of orthopaedic trauma, has won a \$1.3 million, three-year grant from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command to find out.

The condition called heterotopic ossification—excessive bone growth—typically occurs in 11 percent to 25 percent of patients who’ve experienced serious trauma such as auto accidents. Yet, it’s being seen in a staggering 63 percent of military casualties.

“That number is extremely high, and extremely problematic,” says Mitchell. “Bone growth can become so excessive that it needs to be removed. In the case of amputation stumps, the stumps have to get shorter. That causes prostheses problems and requires multiple surgeries, which we’d like to avoid.”

Mitchell hopes that learning what causes the excess bone growth will one day mean it can be “turned off”—or on, in

cases where bones don’t heal. “If we could understand how this excessive bone growth occurs, maybe we could better understand how we could create bone growth when needed.”

Researchers are not sure why, but several studies indicate a link between serious head trauma—a common injury on battlegrounds—and heterotopic bone formation. Yet, it doesn’t occur in every patient with head trauma and a fracture. That leads Mitchell to suspect that some people have a genetic predisposition toward the condition.

Mitchell and her team will examine clinical information gathered from patients to find those with heterotopic ossification. They’ll divide those patients based on categories such as the severity of their injuries, medications they were using, and their overall physical condition at the time of injury. Then Mitchell will explore their genetic data, hoping to identify underlying gene markers that can be linked to the condition.

The premise is promising, says Dr. John Morris Jr., professor of surgery and director of the Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care. “This study looks at the area that is just coming into focus: the role of the genome in response to



MARY DONALDSON

Mitchell

traumatic injury,” he notes. “The hope is that we are going to find multiple pathways where small variations in the genome alter outcome following trauma.”

The grant that funds the study, part of the U.S. Department of Defense’s Orthopaedic Trauma Research Program, is a cooperative venture between Vanderbilt’s Division of Orthopaedic Trauma and the Division of Trauma.

## ‘Quick Fix’ Leads to Personal Bankruptcy

3. EACH YEAR some 10 million American households borrow money through payday loans. Payday lenders now have more storefronts than McDonald’s and Starbucks combined. But a recent study shows that payday-loan applicants who received the quick cash after their first application were significantly more likely to file for Chapter 13 bankruptcy than those whose initial application was denied.

Paige Marta Skiba, assistant professor at Vanderbilt University Law School, and Jeremy Tobacman, assistant professor in the department of business and public policy at The Wharton School, found that first-time applicants who received a payday

loan were almost twice as likely to file for bankruptcy within two years as those denied the first time. The interest from payday and pawn loans amounted to an average of about 11 percent of the total liquid debt interest burden at the time of the bankruptcy filing.

“Our research finds that payday loans and their interest payments may be sufficient to tip the balance into bankruptcy for a population that is already severely financially stressed,” says Skiba.

Skiba and Tobacman looked at four years of data for the state of Texas from a prominent payday loan company. From 2000 to 2004, the company received more than a million applications. The average loan request was around \$300. The median annual income on the applications was \$20,000 with a median checking account balance of \$66.

“Payday loans seem to be the straw that breaks the borrower’s back,” says Skiba, “because the loans are normally due every week or every other week, so other debts like credit cards or mortgages tend to be ignored.”

First-time borrowers tended to continue borrowing. The researchers found that first-time applicants who were approved applied for about



© MCT/TIM LEE



five more loans within a year than did rejected first-time applicants. "Access to payday-loan credit predicts roughly \$2,300 of additional payday borrowing within two years," says Skiba.

And those who were denied their initial payday loan request? Researchers say their probability of taking out a pawn loan doubled.

The full study, titled "Do Payday Loans Cause Bankruptcy?" can be downloaded at <http://snipurl.com/pay-day>.

## Birthday May Play Role in Asthma Risk

**4** CHILDREN BORN four months before the peak of cold and flu season have a greater risk of developing childhood asthma than those born at other times of year, according to new research from Vanderbilt.

In the Tennessee Asthma Bronchiolitis Study, which involved an analysis of the birth and medical records of more than 95,000 children and their mothers, researchers explored the question of whether winter respiratory viral infections during infancy cause asthma. They asked if a relationship exists among winter virus circulation (cold and flu season) during infancy, timing of birth, and the development of childhood asthma.

Their findings indicate that autumn-born babies, who are about 4 months old when the winter virus season peaks, have a nearly 30 percent increased risk of developing asthma compared with births

during other times of the year. This risk was similar to or greater than other well-established risk factors for asthma.

The research, conducted by postdoctoral fellow Pingsheng Wu and colleagues, appears in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

"This evidence holds promise for asthma prevention, as it suggests that avoiding these early respiratory infections during infancy may have long-term as well as short-term ben-



efits," says Dr. Tina Hartert, MD'90, MPH'98, associate professor of medicine, allergy, pulmonary and critical care medicine and director of the Center for Asthma Research at Vanderbilt. "This is the first step; we now have to prove that preventing respiratory infections, such as respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), the most common

virus causing severe respiratory infections during infancy, prevents a common lifelong chronic disease that in most cases begins in childhood.

"RSV always peaks in the

winter," Hartert notes.

"Through the course of the study, if the peak of RSV occurred in December, the highest rates of asthma were seen in August-born babies. If the peak was in February, the highest rates of asthma were seen in October-born babies, and that's exactly what we saw—nearly to the day."

Researchers propose two possible explanations for the link: one, that there is a genetic susceptibility common to both bronchiolitis and the develop-

ment of asthma; and two, that an environmental exposure such as a winter viral infection causes asthma.

Avoiding winter viruses is difficult, as is evidenced by the fact that 70 percent of infants are infected with RSV in their first year of life, and 100 percent by age 2.

For families whose infants are at high risk for developing asthma, avoiding infection through administration of a vaccine (if we had one), immunoprophylaxis, or timing of birth in the spring months could be protective. But Hartert says it's premature to make recommendations until such interventions are tested.

## Satellite Measurements Reveal Region of Magnetosphere

**5** EARTH IS PROTECTED from the onslaught of solar wind by the magnetosphere, an invisible shield of magnetic fields and electrically charged particles that surrounds our planet. The northern and southern polar lights—the aurora borealis and aurora australis, respectively—are the only visible parts of the magnetosphere, but it is a critical part of Earth's space environment.

Now analysis of the measurements of five different satellites has revealed the existence of a new region of the magnetosphere that researchers have dubbed the "warm plasma cloak." The study was conducted by a team of scientists headed by Charles "Rick" Chappell, BA'65, research professor of physics and director of the Dyer Observatory at Vanderbilt University.

"Although it is invisible, the magnetosphere has an impact on our everyday lives," Chappell says. "For example, solar storms agitate the magnetosphere in ways that can induce power surges in the electrical grid that trigger blackouts, interfere with radio transmissions, and mess up GPS signals. Charged particles in the magnetosphere can also damage the electronics in satellites and affect the temperature and motion of the upper atmosphere."

Other regions of the magnetosphere have been known for some time. Chappell and his colleagues pieced together a "natural cycle of energization" that accelerates low-energy ions

that originate from Earth's atmosphere up to the higher energy levels characteristic of the different regions in the magnetosphere. This project brought the existence of the new region into focus.

The warm plasma cloak is a tenuous region that starts on the night side of the planet and wraps around to the day side, but then gradually fades away on the afternoon side. As a result, it only reaches about three-quarters of the way around the planet. It is fed by low-energy charged particles that are lifted into space over Earth's poles, carried behind the Earth in its magnetic tail, but then jerked around 180 degrees by a kink in the magnetic fields that boosts the particles back toward Earth in a region called the "plasma sheet."

Chappell and his colleagues—Mathew M. Huddleston, MS'01, PhD'03, from Trevecca Nazarene University; Tom Moore and Barbara Giles from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and Dominique Delcourt from the Centre d'étude des Environnements Terrestre et Planétaires, Observatoire de Saint-Maur in France—used satellite observations to measure the properties of the ions in different locations in the magnetosphere.

An important part of their analysis was a computer program developed by Delcourt that can predict how ions move in the earth's magnetic field. "These motions are very complicated," says Chappell. "Ions spiral around in the magnetic field. They bounce and drift. A lot of things can happen, but Dominique developed a mathematical code that can predict where they go."

When the researchers applied this computer code to the satellite observations, some patterns became clear for the first time. One was the prediction of how ions could move upward from the ionosphere to form the warm plasma cloak.

The study was published last fall in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*.

## "Obama Effect" Shrinks Performance Gap

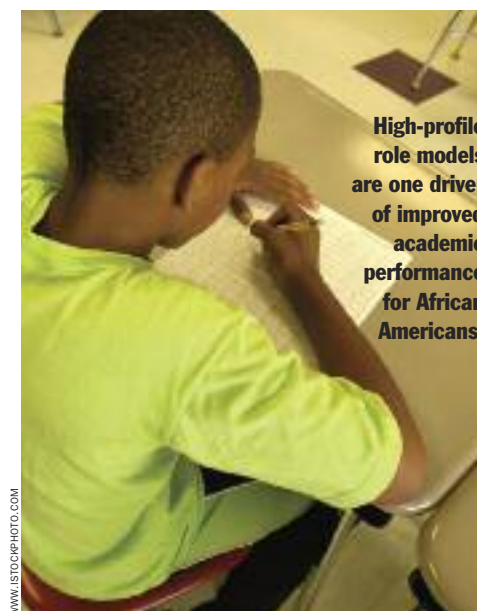
**6** THE PRESIDENTIAL run of Barack Obama has made a strong positive impact on the test-taking achievement of African Americans, according to research by Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management Professor Ray Friedman.

Documenting what Friedman and his co-authors call "the Obama Effect," the study found the performance gap between black and white Americans in a series of online tests shrank dramatically during key moments of the 2008 presidential campaign, when Obama's accomplishments garnered the most national attention. "Our results document compelling evidence of the power that real-world, in-group role models like Obama can have on members of their racial or ethnic community," says Friedman, who is the Brownlee O. Currey Professor of Management.

In the study, tests were administered to a total of 472 participants using questions drawn from Graduate Record

Exams (GREs) to assess reading comprehension, analogies and sentence completion. The tests took place at four distinct points over three months during the campaign: two when Obama's success was less prominent (before his acceptance of the party nomination and the mid-point between the convention and election day) and two when his success garnered the most attention (immediately after his nomination speech and his win of the presidency in November).

The nationwide testing sample of 84 black Americans and 388 white Americans—a proportion equivalent to representation in the overall population—matched for age and education level. It revealed that white participants scored higher than their black peers at the two points in the campaign when Obama's achievements were least visible.



During the height of the Obama media frenzy, though, the performance gap between black and white Americans was effectively eliminated. Black Americans who did not watch Obama's nomination acceptance

speech continued to lag behind their white peers, while those who did view the speech successfully closed the gap.

As part of the study, Friedman—along with David M. Marx of San Diego State University and Sei Jin Ko of Northwestern University—also examined whether Obama's success reduced negative racial stereotypes. Participants were asked, for example, whether they were concerned that poor performance on the exam would be attributed to their race. The results indicate that blacks were concerned that they faced negative stereotypes about academic achievement whether Obama was prominent or not—but when Obama was prominent, they were able to overcome that concern and perform better on the test.

Other research has shown that such historical stereotypes are an underlying reason for lagging test-taking performance by black Americans, Friedman notes.

"Obama as a role model did not have an immediate impact on black Americans' concerns about such stereotypes," Friedman says. "However, our findings give us reason to believe that the influence of extraordinarily successful role models like Obama will help drive improved performance and, over the longer term, to dispel negative stereotypes

about African Americans, bringing us closer to a 'post-racial' world."

The researchers have submitted their study for review to *The Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*.



# InClass

A spotlight on faculty and their work

**I**N 1972, TWO JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY students started a Saturday school for poor children from their Baltimore neighborhood. With the help of college friends, they created centers for reading, chemistry, story writing and math. The Saturday school became so successful that the city of Baltimore gave them a grant to fund a summer program. From that small seed a partnership blossomed that has made a tremendous impact on children with learning problems throughout the nation.

Today, Lynn and Douglas Fuchs are international leaders in the study of learning disabilities. They also share the Nicholas Hobbs Chair in Special Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt's Peabody College, whose faculty they joined in 1985.

"They've had a national impact on learning disabilities," says Craig Kennedy, chair of Peabody's Department of Special Education. "They've won career awards from most national educational organizations and have trained a generation of leaders during their nearly 25 years at Peabody. The legacy they will eventually leave for students in their field is exceptional."

After the success of their Saturday school, Doug and Lynn continued to pursue their interest in children who are at risk because of poverty or disability. They each earned master's degrees in elementary education

from the University of Pennsylvania in 1973 and a Ph.D. in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1978 and 1981, respectively.

"I became interested in learning disabilities while teaching first grade in Pennsylvania," says Lynn. "There were always one or two students each year who had substantial difficulty learning to read



MCT/RICK NEASE/DETROIT FREE PRESS

and do math, although they performed nicely in other areas. Today we say these children have a learning disability."

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), "Learning disabilities are disorders that affect the ability to understand or use spoken or written language, do mathe-

matical calculations, coordinate movements or direct attention."

Before 1970 children with learning disabilities often were termed "slow learners" or "mentally retarded," even though they may have had at least average intelligence. Since the "learning disability" category became official in 1975, between 2 million and 3 million children with learning disabilities in grades K-12 have been served by special education programs in any given year. Another 15 percent to 20 percent struggle to learn in general education classrooms.

"That's nearly 15 million kids," Doug says. Those statistics add up to a public health challenge, according to the NIH, which funds research on learning disabilities by the Fuchses and other investigators.

"Severe difficulties in reading and math lead to lifelong problems," Lynn says. Students often drop out of school before finishing their education, becoming vulnerable for unemployment, poverty, poor health and incarceration. The cost to the United States—both financial and societal—is significant.

But while a considerable number of students continue to be identified as having learning disabilities today, special education opportunities for them are contracting, says Doug. For the past 35 years, many students with severe learning disabilities have been "mainstreamed"; that is, they are placed in

## Double Vision

*Personalized strategies for children with learning disabilities add up to big benefits for everybody.* By JOANNE LAMPHERE BECKHAM, BA'62



Collaborators in work and in life, Douglas and Lynn Fuchs together have reportedly attracted more federal funding than any other researchers in their field.

WOLFF HOFFMAN



the general classroom alongside children without learning difficulties and are assigned to teachers who may or may not be prepared to teach them. At the same time, many special educators have traded their role as expert instructors for that of “helpers” in mainstream classrooms.

“The result is that the lowest 5 percent to 10 percent of schoolchildren are not getting their instructional needs met either in general or special education,” Doug says. “A lot of kids are losing out.”

Another problem concerns identification. “We want to identify children with learning disabilities early,” Lynn says, “but we don’t want to falsely identify them. We want to find the kids who have serious risk for long-term and substantial difficulties.”

Craig Kennedy calls the Fuchses “visionary researchers” and notes that together they have attracted more federal funding than any other researchers in their field. Their work is funded by research grants from the NIH’s National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the U.S. Depart-

“Behaviorism in American psychology has generated very productive practices in special education. But some children are not helped by those strategies. We need something more.” —DOUGLAS FUCHS

ment of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

As investigators in the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development, the Fuchses—together with their colleague Donald Compton, associate professor of special education—have led research on a number of successful teaching strategies. Those strategies include Curriculum-Based Measurement, which Kennedy calls the “gold standard” for assessment of students with diverse learning needs in the elementary school; Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS), a class-

wide program that pairs up students who then tutor each other in research-based reading and math activities; and “Hot Math,” an intervention that seeks to accelerate mathematical problem-solving among primary-grade students with and without learning disabilities.

During the past 24 years, they have worked with teachers in the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools to test the efficacy of those strategies through numerous randomized control trials.

The Fuchses also have played a leading role

in the development of RTI (Response to Intervention), the hot-button issue in special education today, says Kennedy. “RTI is spreading like wildfire across the country, and Doug and Lynn have been instrumental in that effort.”

A tiered program of intervention, RTI starts by screening all children in the general classroom to identify students at serious risk for academic difficulties. Typically, about 20 percent of the students in the general population are identified as at-risk. Those children then receive intensive tutoring within small groups using validated programs.

“All but about 5 percent of the students respond to the special help they receive in the small-group tutoring. They can then return to the general education program where their response continues to be monitored closely,” Lynn says. “The remaining 5 percent of students, however, do not respond. They have serious learning disabilities and need the individualized instruction they can receive in special education.”

The Fuchses are adept at transferring effective teaching strategies from research to their Peabody classrooms, says Kennedy. “Their students rave about them.”

Karen Harris, co-holder of the Currey Ingram Chair in Special Education, concurs: “They have been transformative for our department,” she says.

During a recent doctoral class, Lynn becomes animated as she practices the Socratic method of questioning her mostly female students. The petite, soft-spoken professor obviously enjoys interaction with students, and they seem to revere her.

“Vanderbilt is a very high-powered research university,” she tells the students. “The special education department is rated first or second in the nation. I’m lucky to be at Vanderbilt, but it’s not for everyone.

“You should find the setting where you’ll be happy and satisfied,” she advises.

Doug’s undergraduate and master’s-level students describe him as “awesome.” During a recent classroom debate, the tall, slightly graying, bespeckled professor focuses intently on his students’ arguments, offering analysis and feedback. At the same time he strikes a light note by bantering with them.

“Your rebuttal was very strong, very high

quality,” he tells one student. “Of course, I disagree with practically everything you said.”

“You’re not biased, are you?” the student retorts.

In sharing an endowed chair, the Fuchses are almost unique among Vanderbilt faculty members. Only one other couple, Harris and her husband, Steve Graham, have a similar arrangement.

“We share a title and some additional resources,” Lynn says. “We also collaborate and generate ideas together. But we each have our own program of research that operates independently. On a day-to-day basis, we work pretty much separately.”

Doug specializes in reading and Lynn in math. “He’s interested in how you classify learning disabilities,” she says, “and I’m interested in classroom assessment.” Both, however, co-direct the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center Reading Clinic, along with Professor Don Compton.

Doug points to “a very strong upside and a mild downside” to working with one’s spouse. “We spend a lot of time chewing on interesting ideas,” he says. “We help each other think through various issues. The downside is that we rarely get away from our work. We have to fight to put work behind us. It was easier when our son, Matthew, was still living at home.”

When they’re not teaching and conducting research, the Fuchses are in demand to work with governments and universities in such places as Hong Kong, Israel, Portugal and South America, to name a few.

Together they have received numerous accolades, including the University of Minnesota’s “100 Distinguished Alumni” dis-

tingtion and Vanderbilt’s Earl Sutherland Prize for Achievement in Research. In April 2008 they were awarded the Council for Exceptional Children’s Jeannette E. Fleischner Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Learning Disabilities. Lynn was a member of the presidential delegation to the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China, in 2007 and received the Distinguished Researcher Award from the American Educational Research Association in 2005. Doug received the James M. Kauffman Award in Special Education from the University of Virginia in 2008.

When they talk shop at home in the evenings, one issue that frequently surfaces is the challenge of improving the quality of teaching nationwide.

“For the past 100 years, behaviorism in American psychology has generated very productive practices in special education,” Doug says. “Many children have benefited. But some children are not helped by those strategies. We need something more.”

He is researching the use of cognitive science to help develop personalized instruction based on a student’s characteristics, such as memory, language, intelligence and attention. This research may someday also benefit students without learning disabilities.

“Practices that have come out of special education are also helping children who do not have learning disabilities,” Lynn says.

Her husband agrees: “If we can find ways to personalize education for kids with severe learning problems, we will generate knowledge that can be applied to a great number of children and deliver more effective instruction for many students.” ▼



## Caregivers in the Patient's Own Environment

*With knowledge, talent, resources, commitment and compassion, we promote health and independence and support patients and families during illness.*

- Skilled Nursing
- Medical Social Services
- Physical Therapy
- Home Health Aide Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Specialty Services
- Speech Therapy
- Private Duty



### Vanderbilt HomeCare

615.936.0336

2120 Belcourt Avenue • Nashville, TN  
www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/homecare/





## Paint Made Flesh

Edited by Mark W. Scala

In *Paint Made Flesh*, expressive figuration is considered as a reflection of artists’ responses to such topics as identity, sexuality, and mortality. The book has been developed to accompany an exhibition at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, which includes paintings by artists such as Francis Bacon, Willem de Kooning, Lucian Freud, Pablo Picasso, and Julian Schnabel.

75 COLOR ILLUSTRATIONS  
ISBN 978-0-8265-1622-0 PAPER \$29.95



Orders 800-627-7377  
VanderbiltUniversityPress.com



by JOHN HOWSER

# Sky's the Limit

When lives hang in the  
balance at 3,000 feet,  
there's no time for vertigo,  
no room for error.





**M**anaging a phone call an average of every 45 seconds, the Office of Emergency Communications is constantly under the gun. Radios crackle with updates from pilots, flight crews and ground ambulance crews. Flat-panel monitors display news updates, Doppler weather radar, the configuration of flight crews, camera feeds from inside hospital elevators and at four helicopter bases, and each aircraft's position in real time.

At 1:16 p.m. on an unseasonably warm Middle Tennessee Saturday in late December, the page goes out to the crew of LifeFlight 1, which is based in Lebanon, Tenn.: "ADULT LVL ONE: SCENE: Vanderbilt LifeFlight 1: ETA 10: 18 yom c/c MVA, pt is ett'd poss head inj. BP109/57: HR110: SA02 100%: Unresponsive."

Pilot Greg Stoddard and flight nurses Kathy Nippers and John Kennedy immediately leave their base and fly two counties north, landing at 1:47 p.m. at the scene of an accident. There they find a 17-year-old male who so far has managed to survive a lengthy extrication from his mangled automobile.

During his accident the young man sustained multiple injuries to his skull, a spleen laceration, pulmonary contusions, facial fractures, and a lacerated right kidney, and somehow aspirated fluid into one of his lungs. Unconscious and intubated, the patient is being hand-ventilated by the EMS crew on the scene.

The man is quickly loaded into the back of LifeFlight 1 for the flight to Vanderbilt University Hospital, arriving at the Vanderbilt skyport at 2:23 p.m., where his lengthy hospitalization begins.

Most of us will never hold the outcome of a critically ill person's survival in our hands, or know the surge of adrenaline, anxiety, stress and awesome responsibility that comes with

critical care medicine. As if it isn't challenging enough to keep someone alive long enough to get them to a hospital, imagine the skill and concentration necessary to practice critical care medicine inside the belly of a noisy helicopter—bouncing up and down on air thermals—traveling 120 miles an hour at an altitude of 3,000 feet.

For Vanderbilt University Medical Center's LifeFlight crew, it's a typical day at the office.

"These are people who do extraordinary things under extraordinary, difficult circumstances daily," says Dr. John A. Morris Jr., professor of surgery and director of the Division of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care. "You just have to look at the back of the aircraft. It's like practicing intensive-care medicine inside the space of a bathtub that's traveling at 3,000 feet and bumpy."

Morris should know. He's been at the helm of LifeFlight for a quarter century now.

Since its first flight on July 6, 1984, LifeFlight has logged more than 33,000 patient transports and now averages 250 patient transports a month. LifeFlight is VUMC's most visible brand—walking, flying and rolling billboards. LifeFlight staff serve as Vanderbilt ambassadors in every community within the medical center's 65,000-square-mile catchment area (see sidebar). Today, LifeFlight consists of several distinct and complementary



**"It's like practicing intensive-care medicine inside the space of a bathtub that's traveling at 3,000 feet and bumpy."**

—Dr. John A. Morris Jr.

components: five helicopters, a turbo prop airplane for long-range transports, a highly sophisticated communications and data center, ground ambulance transportation, and a newly launched "event medicine" program.

**Football Field as Landing Zone**

LifeFlight's day-to-day operations, with myriad moving parts, are managed by Jeanne Yeatman. A former LifeFlight flight nurse with more than 1,000 patient transports under her belt, Yeatman has risen through the ranks and has been its program director since 2003.

"As a flight nurse you really feel like you're doing something that matters," says Yeatman. "You're being invited into someone's life at its very worst moment. But being in these situations has also caused some of the most difficult times in my own life. When you're in

the moment, you may not realize the stress of what you're doing, but afterward, when you remove yourself from that moment, you recognize that what you see as a flight nurse isn't normal. It's very much like being on the front line of a war."

LifeFlight's program concept has always been to use specially trained nurses with an expanded skill set who can take Vanderbilt's services into rural communities rather than merely transport patients to the hospital.

While saving lives is the goal, Morris says the program's biggest challenge and most important product from day one has been safety. "Without a doubt, the balance between safety and cost, and the appreciation of that balance by the enterprise, has been the most gratifying part of this job."

Vanderbilt was among the first academic

medical centers to add air medical transportation for critically ill patients. In 1983, Dr. John Sawyers, professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery, and Dr. Joseph Ross, MD'54, professor of medicine and associate vice chancellor for health affairs, made the decision to add a patient transport helicopter to the services of Vanderbilt University Hospital. The move was part of a larger strategy by the medical center to build and brand top-level trauma surgery and emergency medicine programs.

The following year Morris joined the faculty, starting his tenure several weeks ahead of time in order to coincide with the arrival of the medical center's first helicopter.

"I remember the first day. Needless to say, we were all excited. Our first lesson in aeromedical medicine was how to open the door of the aircraft," Morris says with a chuckle. "We paid close attention to how to open and close a door because you don't want it opening at 3,000 feet. It was that basic and demonstrated just how new the whole concept of air medical transportation was to academic medicine."

As the hands-on father of LifeFlight, Morris recalls a flood of vivid memories. "We



PHOTOS BY NEIL BRAKE, JOE HOWELL, JIM LO SCALZO, ANNE RAYNER AND JOHN RUSSELL





did things 20 years ago that were the right thing for the individual patient," he says, "but were horrific in terms of the risks we took—though we didn't know we were taking them at the time.

"We once landed an aircraft on Garland Avenue [the street in front of Vanderbilt University Hospital] so we could treat a guy with a stab wound to the heart, and we got that guy to live. Imagine landing a helicopter in the middle of Garland Avenue to do this. But we knew from the flight nurse's report that the patient wouldn't make it the 500 yards from the football field [LifeFlight's landing zone during its early days] to the ER. There are those kinds of heroic but horrendous stories."

Nearly 25 years later those few people and that one aircraft known as LifeFlight have evolved into a large, fully integrated critical-care patient transportation system.

"The elements of the LifeFlight program have been determined by the needs of the Vanderbilt enterprise, and by the needs of the community we serve," Morris says. "What we found over time is that a huge amount of transportation is needed by the enterprise."

"You can't afford to become complacent," says Program Director Yeatman, whose years of experience as a flight nurse give her great insight and empathy into the extreme challenges her staff often faces. "I may not have walked in every staff member's shoes in every situation, but I have a better idea of what they face because I've been out there on more than 1,000 flights."

Despite the cramped quarters, noise and turbulence inside an aircraft, Yeatman says the environment becomes a familiar venue where nurses are able to focus their considerable skills on patients, achieving a remarkable success rate. LifeFlight's flight nurses typically have multiple years of critical-care nursing experience as a prerequisite to selection for the program.

"Each nurse's role is very clear. You and your partner develop a rapport, and much of what is done is unsaid as far as the patient's care," Yeatman says. "But you must communicate with EMS personnel on the scene and with the patients' families. Communicating



**“What you see as a flight nurse isn't normal. It's very much like being on the front line of a war.”** —Jeanne Yeatman, LifeFlight program director



with the families about what to expect is a big part of what the flight nurses do.”

A leader with a clear passion for her work, Yeatman says, “I tell my staff that if you ever get to the point that you're so OK with what you're doing that you're not tempted to jump out of the aircraft on occasion, then it's time to get out.”

Kevin High, who has been with LifeFlight since 1993 and now serves as manager of the trauma program, agrees. “I have been on five or six missions during which I've been so scared of what was going on—of what was happening to my patient—that if I could have jumped out, I would have,” he says.

“We are called upon to make decisions that most people in the span of their lives will never have to make—I mean walking up to somebody and in 30 seconds sizing them up and saying ‘he's going to live’ or ‘he's going to die’ and walking on. There's no way you can train somebody to do that. It's something you have to want to do, and it's something that you have to want to keep doing.”

The toughest part of Yeatman's job, she says, is “staying ahead of the curve and feeling like I am being proactive and not reac-

tive, that I am constantly keeping the program's core value—that safety is our No. 1 product—at the forefront. Yet I am also staying abreast of everything going on around us inside and outside of Vanderbilt, such as with the Federal Aviation Administration.”

A successful air ambulance program also must contend with various hospital regulations, community EMS regulations, and specific air ambulance/air medical regulations. Staying current with regulatory compliance is one of the most challenging aspects of the air medical industry, says Yeatman. “Basically, it always comes down to putting safety first and doing the right thing for the patient.”

#### The Eyes and Ears of LifeFlight

Perched 180 feet above Medical Center Drive atop Vanderbilt University Hospital is LifeFlight's skyport—an outwardly unassuming structure that is in reality a \$4.5 million engineering marvel. The two-story facility was

below the landing pad sit the flight crew quarters and the program's administrative offices. The helipad has enough space to land two large helicopters, while the facility features a nearly 360-degree approach path for incoming aircraft. The Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital, thanks to a gift from the Christy-Houston Foundation, added its own rooftop helipad in November 2005.

Squeezed into three crowded rooms just off the VUH skyport's helipad is LifeFlight's Office of Emergency Communications, the program's nerve center.

Inside these three rooms is enough specialized communications equipment to echo the look and feel of a Pentagon-like war room. As various radios crackle with updates from pilots, flight crews and ground ambulance crews, large flat-panel monitors surround the communications coordinators, displaying local and national news updates, Doppler weather radar, that day's configuration of each



designed and constructed on top of VUH while the hospital and LifeFlight remained fully operational.

The opening of the skyport in December 2000 solved several of LifeFlight's logistical issues, finally bringing together into one location several pieces of the program. One floor

of the five aircrafts' flight crew, video feed from cameras monitoring the inside of hospital elevators and the four helicopter bases, and satellite tracking of each airborne aircraft's position in real time.

Managing a phone call an average of every 45 seconds, 24 hours every day, the staff of



## LifeFlight's Working Parts



**Helicopters (Rotor Wing):** LifeFlight uses three \$5.4 million state-of-the-art American Eurocopter EC145 helicopters and two American Eurocopter BK117 helicopters. Its four in-service helicopters are positioned outside Nashville at bases located within the communities of Clarksville, Lebanon, Columbia and Tullahoma. Currently, no aircraft are based at either Vanderbilt University Hospital or the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

One of the five helicopters serves as a backup aircraft for the fleet while the other aircraft are being serviced. All helicopters are twin-engine and are equipped with sophisticated GPS technology to allow for patient transports in poor weather conditions. The typical helicopter flight range is approximately 150 miles from Nashville. Morris credits the move from single-engine to twin-engine aircraft back in the late 1980s as a significant safety milestone for the program.



The program flew with only one helicopter until a second was added in March 1997. The helicopter program always flies with one pilot and two critical care nurses as its patient care team.

**Program Personnel:** More than 100 LifeFlight employees keep LifeFlight running smoothly. It takes two mechanics, four pilots and 15 flight nurses to staff each of LifeFlight's helicopters. Approximately 30 pilots, 15 mechanics, and 65 medical crew members work for LifeFlight's air medical programs.

### Office of Emergency Communications

**(Flight Comm):** Twenty full-time and two part-time flight coordinators man nearly \$1 million worth of highly sophisticated communications equipment. Staffed 24 hours a day by three emergency medical technicians, Flight Comm handles approximately 700 calls during each 24-hour period and up to 105 calls per hour during peak periods.



**Airplane (Fixed-Wing):** Added in March 2004, LifeFlight's fixed-wing program, based at Nashville International Airport, uses a medically equipped Beechcraft King Air 200 airplane. The airplane transports all ages of critically ill patients including transplant recipients, burn victims, and pediatric critical care patients. Patients have been flown in from as far away as Cairo, Egypt; the typical range is about 900 miles from Nashville.

The fixed-wing program has a total of nine pilots and a dedicated mechanic on site. It typically flies with two nurses or with a nurse and a flight paramedic patient care team, but can be configured to include a physician for longer transports.



**Neonatal Emergency Transport Team:** Since 1974 Vanderbilt has operated a fleet of ground ambulances that serve as rolling neonatal intensive care units. This program, formerly known as Angel Transport, merged with LifeFlight in 2002. Now the neonatal transport team uses ground ambulances as well as aircraft to fit the location and specific needs of its patients. This team, staffed by neonatal nurse practitioners, is licensed for patient transports in Tennessee and Kentucky.

### Event Medicine:

LifeFlight recently added an event medicine division to provide emergency medical technicians, paramedics and ambulance transportation for large public or private events. LifeFlight



Event Medicine, in conjunction with Vanderbilt Sports Medicine, is the exclusive health-care provider for all events held at Nashville's Sommet Center arena, including all games of the Nashville Predators, the city's National Hockey League franchise.



**Safety is an ever-present concern for Vanderbilt's LifeFlight crew: The program has had zero accidents during its 25 years of operation. Nationwide, medical helicopter crashes killed 35 people in 2007 and 2008 alone.**

the Office of Emergency Communications is constantly under the gun.

"We are known as Flight Comm," says Jeff Gray, director of communications for Vanderbilt LifeFlight. "However, we not only handle LifeFlight dispatch communications, but our responsibilities also include the Neonatal Emergency Transport teams, LifeFlight Event Medicine, both of Vanderbilt's emergency departments, all ground ambulances transporting patients to Vanderbilt, and paging of appropriate teams within the hospitals—such as the STAT teams, rapid response teams, paramedic teams and stroke teams—based on predetermined criteria. We serve as a communications funnel for all those teams.

"Within the last two years, we have added regional communications responsibilities, a state concept funded by Vanderbilt that places us as the communications resource for the 13 counties and 26 hospitals in this region."

In 2006 the Office of Emergency Communications was designated as the EMS Regional Communications Center for the

Mid-Cumberland Region by the Tennessee Department of Health. In the event of a large-scale disaster, the Office of Emergency Communications will serve as the point of contact for the region's hospitals and emergency medical services.

And in 2007 the Office of Emergency Communications also assumed responsibility for Nashville Medcom, now serving as the traffic controller for Metro Nashville-Davidson County's 11 hospitals. All 11 of the county's hospitals share a unique radio frequency enabling ambulance services to radio in patient reports.

"With the regional medical center communications responsibilities, we are handling about 2,000 radio calls per month," says Gray. "LifeFlight averages about 250 patient transports per month. Those flights involve many radio and phone calls. About 60 calls per month are associated with the various teams within the hospitals. So when you add all that up, we're pretty busy."

"You never know what a day at LifeFlight

is going to bring," says chief flight nurse Wilson Matthews, who has been with the program for 12 years. "I've met the president [of the United States] at work. I've had pizza delivered to a hayfield while at work. I've had dinner from a snack machine at a small-town airport while at work. You can never predict what you'll be doing."

And that's no small part of the attraction for the more than 100 men and women who make LifeFlight run like clockwork. After nearly a quarter century of service to Middle Tennessee and tens of thousands of saved lives, LifeFlight is a growing, evolving entity that began with and continues the philosophy of safety first while bringing Vanderbilt to the patient.

"When people hear the roar of those rotor blades overhead, I always want them to remember two things," says Dr. Harry Jacobson, VUMC's vice chancellor for health affairs. "First, that a life hangs in the balance, and second, that this life is in the hands of the most expert and skilled team on earth." ▼



# JANUUS



# RISING RISING

*Like the ancient Roman god, classical studies looks both to the past and the future.*

By TAYLOR HOLLIDAY

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., A CITY OF 125,000 ON the Tennessee–Kentucky border, is best known for its proximity to the sprawling Fort Campbell Army Base. The town takes pride in attracting new industry and bills itself as the “Gateway to the New South.”

But Clarksville is also a place that “represents the perfect circle of classical studies,” says Professor Barbara Tsakirgis, chair of Vanderbilt’s Department of Classical Studies. “Throughout the years I’ve been at Vanderbilt, we’ve had a steady stream of high-school students come to us from Clarksville.”

ILLUSTRATION BY LIZ ASHER/WWW.LIZASHER.COM



What is it about Clarksville and classical studies? “There are five Latin teachers there,” Tsakirgis says, “and we trained four of them.”

One of those teachers, Ed Long, BS’88, MAT’90, estimates that about a dozen of his students alone, during the 18 years he’s taught in the Clarksville public schools, have gone on to study classics at Vanderbilt. Long’s wife, Laura Lindsey Long, and another married couple, Grady Warren (BA’68) and Kaye Phillips Warren (BA’67, MA’71, PhD’76), are the other Vanderbilt-trained Latin teachers who so often inspire students there to devote their college years—and sometimes their careers—to the ancient world.

“Grady Warren was one of the most dedicated and motivated teachers I have ever had,” says Dr. John Frattarelli, BA’89, who went on to double-major in classics and general biology at Vanderbilt, became an Army doctor, and now directs the largest *in vitro*-fertilization center in Hawaii.

“I think there were two other classics majors from Clarksville in my year,” says Elizabeth Brown, BA’01, “so the department should probably give Mrs. Warren and the others a recruitment fee.” Brown, a double major in classics and economics, went directly into investment banking after graduation and is now in London as the head



Anonymous, Italian (Etruria),  
Head of a Maenad, from an  
Antefix, sixth century  
Polychromed terracotta  
Vanderbilt Art Association  
Acquisition Fund

of finance at Virgin Galactic, the company that is developing the world’s first commercial space-tourism business.

What would the ancients think about Brown, or anyone else, creating a vacation in outer space? Most of us wouldn’t know exactly, but a classics major probably would have a pretty good idea, having spent her college years trying to get inside the heads of everyone from Homer, the Greek historians Thucydides and Herodotus, and philosophers Plato and Aristotle to Roman writers such as Virgil, Lucretius and Ovid.

When asked what inspired them to study the classics at university, almost everyone points to a high-school Latin teacher, explains Daniel Solomon, senior lecturer and director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Classical Studies at Vanderbilt. “Of all my high-school teachers, the Latin teacher was by far the most enthusiastic, the most dedicated. This is a teacher who would collapse and break down in tears when reading Greek tragedy or about the victims of Roman imperialism. We were just intrigued by what made this material so compelling to her,” recalls Solomon, an American who grew up in Italy.

There came a time in the 1970s when high-school Latin teachers in the United States were crying for a different reason, as society started to question the relevance of Latin in the curriculum and schools moved to replace Latin teachers with those who taught “living” languages.

*“If you broaden your focus, you’re looking at men and women, young and old, free and enslaved, and at all the people in the lands that the Greeks and Romans came in contact with.”*

“But here in the South, and especially in Tennessee, there was less of that pressure,” says Tsakirgis. “I don’t know why. Perhaps because of some conservatism among educators here. But in fact, while high-school Latin programs in some other parts of the country were reduced in size, that didn’t happen in the Southeast.”

At the university level, however, Tennessee was not immune from the winds of change. Buffeted by accusations that Greco-Roman civilization was both the root of and the justification for our own white-male-dominated world, “classics in general was in danger of disappearing in the ’70s,” says Solomon. “And since then we’ve had to claw our way back year by year.”

#### A Broader View

But let’s start at the beginning, a few centuries ago, when the study of the classical world was considered in the West to be the very foundation of a good education, when it was the foundation of the United States thanks to our classically trained Founding Fathers, and when, later, it was indeed the foundation of Vanderbilt University.

Vanderbilt started life in 1873 with 10 professors, two of whom were professors of classical studies. “That number, and that percentage, expressed very well how classics was regarded from the foundation of Vanderbilt and of universities across the country,” says Tsakirgis. She points to a framed photograph she keeps in her office of Milton Humphreys, a professor of Greek who was considered to be one of, if not *the* finest scholar among the 10.

Despite a strong start, however, the growth of classical studies did not keep pace with the growth of Vanderbilt, and by the end of World War II the department was languishing—a victim perhaps of larger forces such as the Great Depression and the war.

Then in the early 1950s, Vanderbilt brought in H. Lloyd Stow from the University of Oklahoma, basically to re-found the department. During the next two decades, Stow steadily grew the department and the faculty until, by 1969, it had six tenure-stream professors.

The secret to Stow’s success was a modern, broad view of classics. “His training at the University of Chicago made him believe that classics was not just the language and literature, as Milton and his colleague had taught, but also the history and the material culture,” explains Tsakirgis. “He hired ancient historians and the first classical archaeologist here. It’s really his vision of a broader classics department that resulted in what we are today.”

To understand the breadth of the discipline now, consider the definition of classics, which is the study of the culture, in a very broad sense, of the lands of classical antiquity. That included everywhere Greeks lived, where people worshiped the Greek gods and spoke the Greek languages—an area that stretched from parts of Spain, France and Italy to Greece, Turkey and Egypt. Ultimately, at the height of the Roman Empire, it included everywhere from Britain to North Africa and from Spain to Iraq.

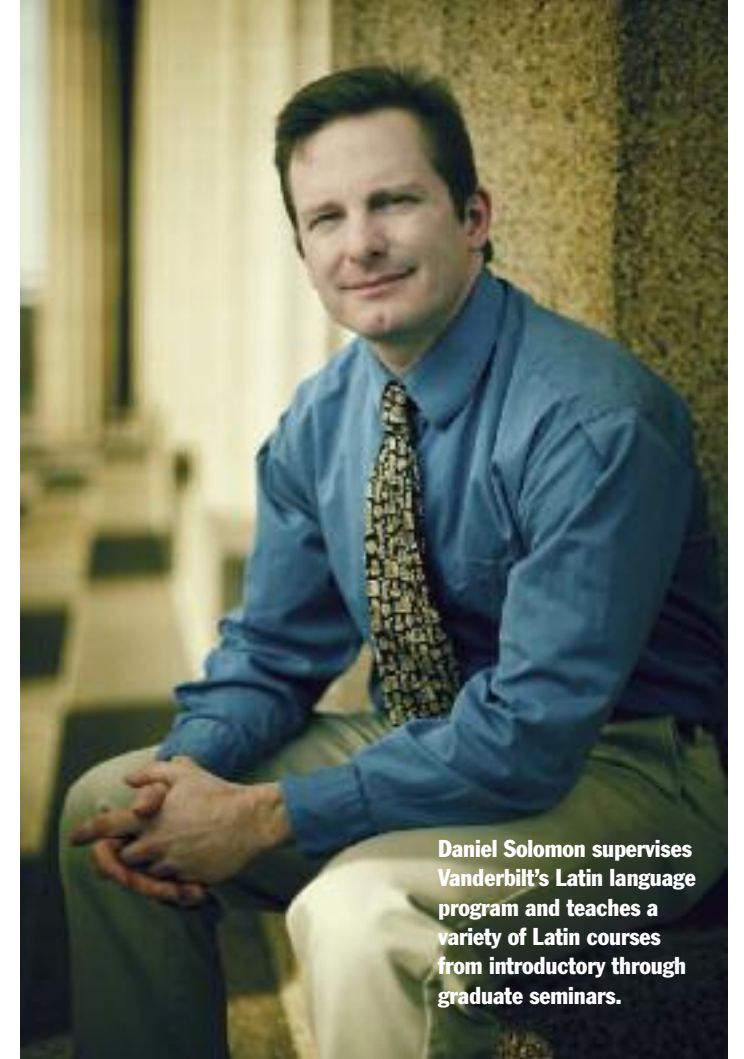
These civilizations—which lasted from the eighth century B.C. to the fifth century A.D. before gradually giving way to the Middle Ages—are studied through their written culture; through the massive body of literature, philosophy, drama and science that survives them; and, nowadays, through their material culture, the art and architecture, as well as objects of everyday life.

“If you view classical antiquity solely through the lens of what was written down,” says Tsakirgis, “you’re talking about [elite, male Greeks and Romans]. But if you broaden your focus, you’re looking at men and women, young and old, free and enslaved, and at all the people in the lands that the Greeks and Romans came in contact with.”

Comparisons among various types of evidence allow you to get a sense, says Solomon, “not only of how the intellectual elite lived, but how the other 99 percent of Greek and Roman society fared, of what was going through their minds.”

As a classical archaeologist, Tsakirgis

The Haverford Painter, Apulia (present-day Italy)  
Red-figure bell krater, ca. 330–320 B.C.  
Terracotta  
Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery purchase



Daniel Solomon supervises  
Vanderbilt’s Latin language  
program and teaches a  
variety of Latin courses  
from introductory through  
graduate seminars.

spends her summers sifting through material culture at the houses around the Agora, the town square of ancient Athens, on a site that Americans first started digging in 1931.

“I’m interested in the way that people lived in antiquity,” says Tsakirgis. “I have been looking at Greek houses across all the lands where the Greeks lived, considering how they built and lived in their houses. While I’ll grant that temples are wonderful, I think houses ultimately are more valuable for informing us about daily life—in particular about the lives of women, who don’t get much of a voice in literature.”

Abigail Humphrey, BA’03, a double major in classics and French, cites Tsakirgis’ class in Egyptian art and architecture as one reason she was particularly drawn to art history, and to the multidisciplinary aspect of the classics major. “My first course in classics went straight to the heart of my intellectual curiosity for the big picture,” she says. “I decided rather quickly afterward to major in it, as it offered me the opportunity to learn about the philosophies, artistic movements, historical moments, languages, and even the sciences and economic trends that were all great contributors to the centuries that followed, even to how we think today.”

#### New Answers to Old Questions

While classical studies had begun to reinvent itself, its biggest challenge was yet to come. In the late 1960s and 1970s, as students began to question authority and tradition with a vengeance, classics became a particular target.

Barbara Tsakirgis’  
archaeological digs in  
ancient Sicily and  
Athens provide insights  
into how patterns of  
human behavior have  
been repeated over time.



It was a reaction against 2,000 years, but especially against 200 or 300 years, of colonial teaching of the classics, says Solomon. The British, in particular, used the classical world to prop up their own empire, to justify their exploitation of their colonies. Many believed that Americans were starting to do that, too, in the 20th century. And the reaction against the inherited American tradition translated into a reaction against the classical tradition, which was largely seen as responsible for many of these international abuses as well as for inequalities in American society.

So classical studies was pushed further toward the precipice and further toward reinvention. “The crisis in which classics found itself was something of a godsend for us,” argues Solomon, “because it really prompted our entire profession to question ourselves and reevaluate not just how we went about our jobs but what classics meant to us. For the first time in 2,000 years, we were giving new answers to those questions.”

For Kathy Gaca, associate professor of classics and director of graduate studies in the Department of Classical Studies, the change couldn't come fast enough. “I found classics rather overly focused on dead white males when I was an undergraduate and graduate student,” she says. “I stayed in the field partly because I saw great opportunities for reshaping our awareness of women's history by staying in classics and retrieving women's experience in antiquity.”

In this effort Gaca got more than she bargained for, as she started studying the impact of warfare on women and children (and girls in particular) in antiquity. “A lot of evidence indicates that they were specifically targeted for exploitation.

“One still has to deal with lots of dead white males to elicit this parallel universe,” she says. “One of my brothers gave me a picture he put together of a woman sitting and looking bemused partly on top of and in the midst of a collage of a bunch of Greek male statues. It's on my office desk. I'm her!”

Beginning in the 1980s, enrollment in classical studies gradually recovered and grew each year at Vanderbilt. Yet as goes the zeitgeist, by the 1990s there was a growing backlash. Pundits and politicians—mostly conservative though occasionally liberal—lamented the broad, multicultural approach, arguing that universities had gone too far in marginalizing the canon, the writings that are the pillars of Western culture.

Solomon himself agrees with that assessment—to a point. “Most teachers in the last 30 years have gone too far in the opposite direction. Most have taken it upon themselves to emphasize the more destructive aspects of classical civilization, particularly of Roman civilization.

“I think this was necessary at the time to balance, to redress the inequities, in classical education previously. But now, a generation later, I think we're in a better position to take a more nuanced view.

My understanding is that most younger professors in particular are more open to the idea of weighing up the pros and cons.”

Solomon promises in his own Roman Civilization course description that “throughout this semester we will try to abstain from passing value judgments, whether on the excesses of Roman cruelty or on the benefits of Roman empire.”

As for Gaca, “I think there is a creative tension between the two approaches [traditional vs. broad],” she says, “and classics is the stronger for it.”

### One for the Parents, One for the Heart

For years Romans had been portrayed as the bad guys in Hollywood movies. But classical studies got a boost from pop culture in 2000, when the more sympathetic portrayal of them in the film *Gladiator* sent students rushing to Latin classes and pushed up enrollment in Roman Civilization at Vanderbilt by 50 percent.

*“I found classics rather overly focused on dead white males when I was an undergraduate and graduate student. I stayed in the field partly because I saw great opportunities for reshaping our awareness of women's history.”*

The spell cast on young readers by the *Harry Potter* series hasn't hurt, either. As *The New York Times* suggested last October in an article titled “Latin Returns from the Dead,” “The resurgence of a language once rejected as outdated and irrelevant is reflected across the country as Latin is embraced by a new generation of students ... who seek to increase SAT scores or stand out from their friends, or simply harbor a fascination for the ancient language after reading Harry Potter's Latin-based chanting spells.” American students are signing up to take the National Latin Exam in increasing numbers.

That trend is reflected at Vanderbilt, which has increased the number of upper-level Latin courses each of the past three semesters. The department is also in the process of adding a new tenured position—the first since 1969—which will bring the faculty total to seven tenure-track professors and one senior lecturer.

The department now has an average of 30 to 35 majors and four to seven master's students each year. The vast majority of undergraduate students are double majors—“One major they do to keep the parents happy; the other is for the heart,” says Solomon.

Professors describe the typical classics major as a self-aware, mature student who takes a long-range view of his or her education. No one comes to classics as the easy option, as Vanderbilt expects classics majors to read both Greek and Latin at the intermediate level in order to be able to investigate these ancient cultures on their own terms.

In fact, a few years ago when the department added a third major (along with classics and classical languages) with less stringent language requirements, they expected mass defections from language



Anonymous, Greco-Roman from Hellenistic East  
Head of a Young Girl or a Goddess, 1 B.C.–1 A.D.  
Marble  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. David K. Wilson



Kathy Gaca's research in Greek and Roman philosophy includes social justice and the effects of warfare on women and children.

classes. But it didn't happen. “I give full credit to Vanderbilt students,” says Solomon. “They made the choice, and they didn't want to be shortchanged.”

Most classics majors do go on to further study, many to law or medicine, realizing there aren't necessarily jobs available for them to teach Latin at the high school or college level, says Tsakirgis.

Clarksville Latin teacher Ed Long was not the only person interviewed for this article who said his parents were a bit disappointed at first when he decided to major in classics, wishing he had chosen something more marketable. They have since told him repeatedly that they are proud of his career choice.

“I love it,” he says. “I can't see myself doing anything else. And as a bonus, I get to take students to Italy and Greece every two or three years to show them where it all began.”

Marilyn Reinhardt, BA'71, MAT'73, teaches Latin at Memphis University School, a prep school with three Latin teachers and more than 150 members in the Latin Club. Reinhardt says she originally had planned to be an English teacher, but had such a great professor

at Vanderbilt, John Zarker, that she changed her mind.

She also calls her semester abroad in Rome at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies—to which Vanderbilt encourages all majors to apply—“one of the best experiences of my life.”

At least one student majoring in classics went on to graduate work at Vanderbilt and classics teaching positions at the university level before switching tracks: Lynne Ballew, BA'68, MA'74, PhD'75, who now runs a hotel for the homeless in Anchorage, Alaska.

Many majors admit they have no intention of a career in classics. “I just studied it for the enjoyment and intellectual challenge,” says space-tourism pioneer Elizabeth Brown. She says this background has paid off more than expected in the world of British high finance.

“It helps to counteract some negative stereotypes about Americans from the South,” she says. “You don't expect a redneck to like Cicero!”

Thomas Greener, BA'86, who majored in classical studies and minored in religious studies, is now the minister of a 1,000-member United Methodist Church in Durham, N.C. “Classical studies teaches the most foundational elements of thinking in Western civilization, and those broad themes still influence us today,” Greener says. “It's hard to watch the current financial collapse and not think about Greek tragedy and hubris in its truest sense. It's hard to listen to various speakers and not hear echoes of Cicero and Plato.”

“The 21st century is not the first time humans have experienced an explosion of communication, trade, environmental degradation, resource shortage or ideological conflict,” notes Richard Davis Jr., BA'96, who teaches Latin and Greek at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Conn. “I hope my students learn some sense of how to encounter other cultures inquisitively, respectfully and critically. And I hope they come away with a critical mass of knowledge, as I did, that informs everything else they do—from recognizing a mythological reference in a commercial to reading literature to rhetorically dissecting an inaugural address.”

That is exactly what the Vanderbilt Department of Classical Studies strives for. It trains students to be excellent researchers and writers—which is invaluable in almost any career—but most of all, it trains them to be critical thinkers.

For example, those who have taken Solomon's classes may find themselves turning to his teachings in Epicurean philosophy during these trying times precipitated by greed and excess.

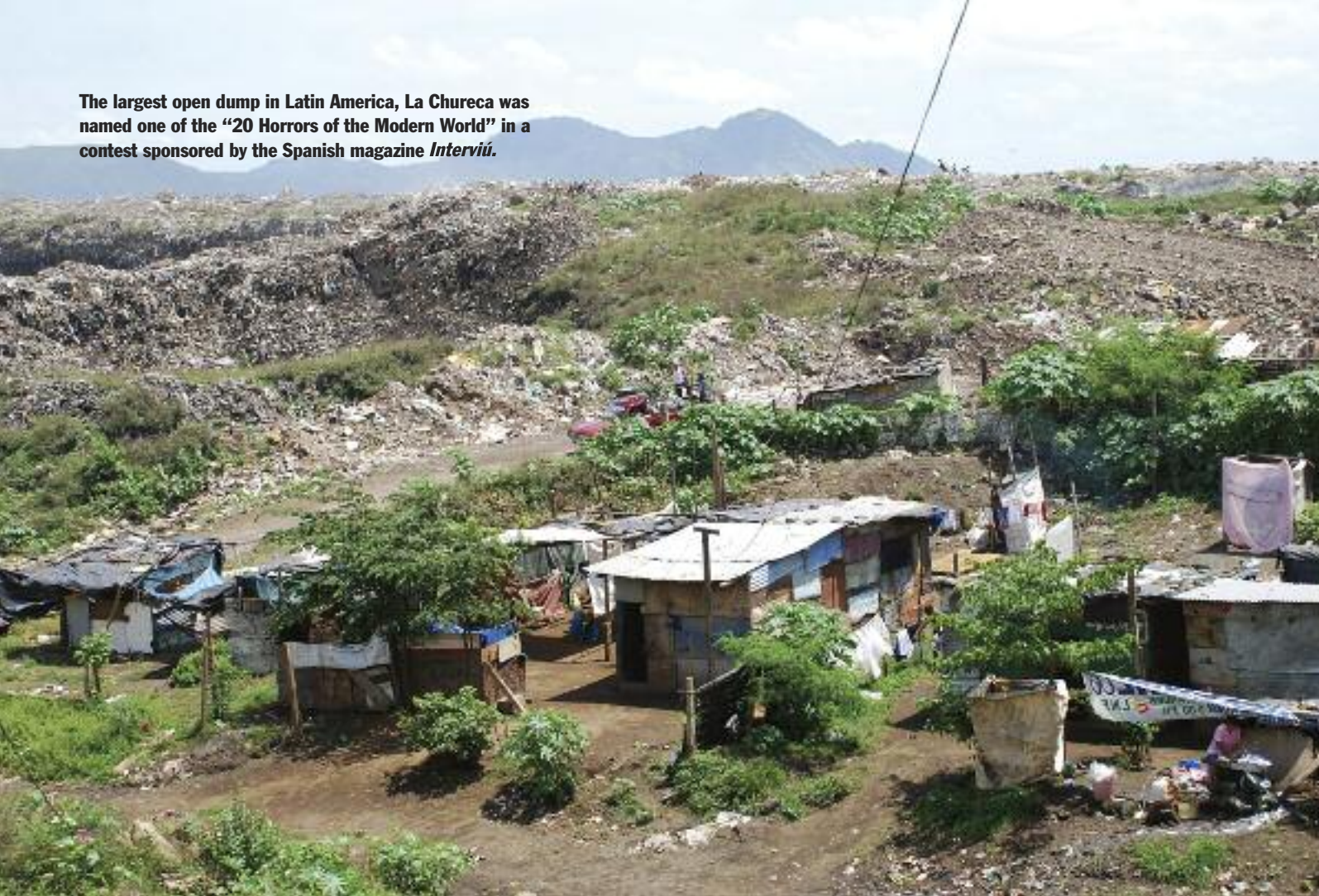
The Greek philosopher Epicurus and his followers were not addicted to luxury, as often has been the interpretation through the millennia, but were instead concerned with maximizing pleasure in life without becoming either addicted or inured to it. They taught that you should never lose sight of why something is giving you pleasure in the first place.

“The idea is to first begin a complete self-evaluation from top to bottom,” says Solomon. “Rethink everything anyone has ever told you, question every single one of your authority figures. And once you have a better sense of who you are, then you can re-relate to the outside world.”

Not a bad prescription for our times, straight from the classical world. ▼



The largest open dump in Latin America, La Chureca was named one of the “20 Horrors of the Modern World” in a contest sponsored by the Spanish magazine *Interviú*.



By RAY WADDLE, MA'81

# MANNA FALLS *on* La Chureca

*“Generation Global” brings a zest for practical solutions to intractable problems.*



For outright squalor and heartbreak, the city dump of Managua, Nicaragua, where 1,500 people live daily on rotting scraps, could serve as a global image of hopelessness.

When Lori Scharffenberg first encountered the dump in all its stink and chaos, she saw unspeakable human struggle.

But not hopelessness.

“Unless you are there to smell the smells and see the dust and all the devastating conditions, it’s hard to describe,” she says. “But no, it’s not hopeless, because people are there, and people can change. People change when they know other people want to serve them and love them.”



**Tressa Hoekstra, BA'08 (above), took many of the photos on these pages. Hoekstra is one of four directors of Manna's Child Sponsorship Program.**





Hope is an organizing principle for Scharffenberg, BS'04, and for the humanitarian organization she runs, Manna Project International. It was started five years ago by a group of young idealistic Vanderbilt graduates who felt anguished by the poverty they saw in their Latin American travels but who also summoned determination to find solutions to the suffering. Today, Manna Project is deepening its roots in Latin America, spreading its vision across U.S. campuses, and expanding its dream for the future.

Most stories about Manna Project begin with Managua's city dump, called La Chureca, where much of Manna Project's daily work is done. La Chureca is a hellish place that could have sprung from the pages of Dante—a zone of toxic air, burning debris, fetid drinking water, lead poisoning, drug addiction and chronic malnutrition, where people jostle for each new haul of garbage, and where youngsters prostitute themselves with trash workers in order to get a better pick of the latest haul.

Into such conditions step Vanderbilt volunteers who help monitor needs at a health clinic on the grounds, tutor at a school, give health talks to families, and carry out a nutrition program for kids who scavenge and grow up among the trash heaps.

"The volunteers walk the community and make friends with people. The relationships add so much," Scharffenberg says. "It lets the mothers know that other people care for them and want to know how to help them. It instills accountability and purpose. When you show someone you care, they care more about those around them."

The Managua municipal dump does not exhaust Manna Project's reach or identity.

The cadre of Vanderbilt grads and others who have joined Manna Project—living on small stipends, taking cold showers, exploring a dramatically different culture from the United States—enhances neighborhood health and education elsewhere in Managua (through classes in literacy, English, math, exercise) and now in Ecuador, too, giving voiceless people a reason to dream.



A shanty in La Chureca before a nearby lagoon flooded during last fall's rainy season, destroying some of the meager homes.

*"I want students to be shaken by what they see. For some, the transformation is quick: They change their major to Latin American studies or consider social justice work for the first time. They are confronting issues in ways that will have impact on the choices they make later."*

—MARSHALL EAKIN, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

"There are lots of theories about how societies develop," says Scharffenberg, whose office is in Managua, "but what people need as human beings, no matter what the culture, is encouragement, support, hope, having someone believe in them. If they see no future for themselves, then it doesn't matter if we teach them to read. They'll see no point in it.

"So often the American assumption about people in poverty is, 'Oh, they have dreams; they just need money.' But in actuality, they've never been asked about their dreams for a better life. They've never been encouraged. They need to

know that dreams are a possibility."

Some 200 people annually do the work of Manna Project, signing on for various time commitments and bringing an array of vocational goals. The core group is the volunteers who work a 13-month stint, sometimes stretching it to two years. These program directors (PDs) raise their own money back home—\$7,500 a year is needed—in order to dive into the program work and local partnerships forged by Manna Project in Nicaragua and Ecuador. There are currently 10 PDs in Managua and eight in Quito, Ecuador.

"Until Manna Project, everything I'd done in my life had been for myself; I wanted to see if I could do things for others," says Chris Taylor, who worked for Manna Project in Nicaragua for a year and now oversees Manna Project's U.S. campus chapters, based in Nashville.

"I was looking at other programs abroad,

but I liked that Manna Project was started and run by young people. Most of my focus in Nicaragua was on teaching English. It turned out to be a teacher's dream—an open-air setting, where students showed up because they purely wanted to learn."

Some volunteers sign up to work through Alternative Spring Break, arriving in groups of college students who work for a week under Manna Project's direction. Others are part of student groups that come for a month or so during the summer for a deeper immersion experience.

Or they find the Manna Project through the Vanderbilt Initiative for Scholarship and Global Engagement (VISAGE) program, which combines international study with hands-on experience abroad. VISAGE sends students to Nicaragua for a few weeks to aid Manna Project.

Professor of History Marshall Eakin and a group of nine students operated in three Managua neighborhoods last summer, working with disabled children and health clinics and organizing youth sports.

"Though the students are incredibly well-prepared academically, there is culture shock nevertheless, even for those who know Spanish," Eakin says. "They are moving into some of the poorest areas in the Americas.

"I want them to be shaken by what they see. Their experience might be brief there, but the idea is to get them thinking about the world in new ways. For some students the transformation is quick: They change their major to Latin American studies, or they consider social justice work for the first time. They are confronting the issues of Latin America in ways that will have impact on the kinds of choices they make later. They are changing the way they look at the world."

Eakin's remarks hint at one of the dramas of the Manna Project story: the theme of transformation. Several Vanderbilt students and graduates testify to making shifts in career goals after their experiences abroad with struggling families and children.

"Because of this experience I want my life's work to be wrapped up in where the U.S. meets the rest of the world," says Mark Hand, BA'06, who is Manna Project's site director for Ecuador and based in Quito, the capital city.

After his Ecuador work he'll consider law

## Manna Goes Viral

Through e-mail and by word of mouth, it didn't take long for word to spread that students at Vanderbilt had created a fresh way to go abroad and do service-oriented work. The idea has struck a chord with a generation of students restless to problem-solve, create networks of support, and venture onto a global stage to test themselves and their values.



By 2005, students at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington were stirred to start a Manna Project chapter on campus, modeled on the Vanderbilt campus chapter. Now eight campuses besides Vanderbilt have Manna Project chapters. Most send volunteers to Manna Project programs in Nicaragua or Ecuador. For instance, the

University of Iowa has sent medical students during spring break to work in health clinics; the University of Texas has sent nutrition students.

Central to the work of campus chapters is the nurturing of a service-minded spirit among students, raising awareness about international issues on campus, identifying initiatives that aid local immigrants, or raising money for international Manna Project programs.

Vanderbilt's chapter remains the largest, with more than 80 undergraduates whose activism ranges from teaching English as a second language off campus to raising money for Manna Project through the annual spring MannaFit benefit dinner. This year seven groups associated with Manna Project at Vanderbilt plan to do service work abroad during spring break. Two groups will link up with Manna Project in Nicaragua and Ecuador; five will partner with service organizations in other Latin American nations.

Other Manna Project campus chapters are located at:

- Baylor University
- Duke University
- Louisiana Tech
- University of Iowa
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina-Wilmington
- University of Texas-Austin
- Worcester State College (Mass.)



"The desire is growing: Young people want to go abroad and give back," says Chris Taylor, U.S. director for Manna Project, who is based in Nashville. "Students are doing a phenomenal job of getting the word out."





*“They had sexually transmitted diseases by age 6. They sell their bodies until they are old enough to steal. But when we played soccer with them, they were kids again.”*

—MARK HAND, BA’06



or business school, with an eye toward social entrepreneurship.

“I love the creativity and challenge of starting things,” he says. “I have real internal drive to affect the way America relates to the rest of the world, whether it’s trade policy, immigration policy, foreign policy or development. I want to help other young Americans get out of the country and see how the rest of the world functions and operates. I want to help break down the category of ‘the other.’”

Manna Project’s beginnings arose out of one such fateful, jarring encounter of Vanderbilt students with the larger world. In 2003 a dozen Vanderbilt undergraduate men, including Hand, took part in an Alternative Spring Break in Lima, Peru. They were there to interact with orphaned street kids—kick the soccer ball with them, tutor and befriend them. The Vanderbilt men arrived with little idea how hard the youngsters’ lives were, or that such dire conditions could exist in the world

outside the prosperous, complacent United States. They quickly learned otherwise.

“It was a typical gringo-goes-abroad-and-experiences-poverty-for-the-first-time kind of trip,” Hand recalls. “I was a freshman who got invited to Peru. I had no expectations. I took a pocket translator on the plane. When I say I was clueless, that’s the perfect word.”

The experience turned out to be a deeply emotional journey in getting to know the kids, he says. Peru made the Vanderbilt students see how fragile is the human condition and how urgent it is that people put their passion and expertise into the search for solutions.

“These kids, abandoned by their parents, had sexually transmitted diseases by age 6. Many would be dead by 19. They sell their bodies until they are old enough to steal. But when we played soccer with them, they were kids again. They loved that. It was incredible.”

The trip fired the imaginations of several who journeyed to Peru, including undergraduate Luke Putnam. After they returned, some of the students sought ways to enhance campus connections with Nashville immigrants. Manna Project was incorporated by 2004, after Putnam and others established contacts in Managua, where new initiatives in children’s education and health care were under way.

In talks with Manna Project veterans, certain themes emerge. Some students keenly embraced their global adventure because they had positive exposure to foreign travel in high school or college; the simplicity of life, the food, the sense of community were revelatory.

“In the United States we’re surrounded by so much materialism and safety,” says Putnam, BS’04, now a medical student at the University of Guadalajara in Mexico, “so we’re amazed by how little they have in Nicaragua and yet what joy they experience in being together and depending on each other.”

Another theme expressed by volunteers is the humbling feeling of confronting the social problems encountered in the work undertaken for Manna Project. Workers discover there is no simple fix-it answer to poverty. Strengthening partnerships is slow work. The Managua city dump, for instance, ought to be closed, but that’s not realistic or plausible.

Nevertheless, another theme resounds among Manna Project alums: an unexpected self-discovery concerning their sense of voca-

tion once they immersed themselves in the work at hand.

“My time abroad took me completely by surprise,” says Abigail Foust, BS’06. “I knew I loved learning about different cultures, and I loved speaking Spanish, but I had no idea how touched I’d be working with people and discovering what I could contribute.”

“I also learned that a short-term experience doesn’t make for much of a lasting difference. To make a real difference, you must make a long-term commitment.”

Foust, now in medical school at the University of Colorado-Denver, worked for Manna Project for a year in Nicaragua, then for a year in Ecuador. In Quito she helped create, among other projects, a community-assets survey of neighborhood attitudes and needs. Manna Project trained seventh graders to help in interviews with hundreds of households.

“They started out as giggly seventh graders but soon became poised interviewers,” she says.

The Manna Project experience appears to reinforce the observations of commentators who see this generation as markedly different from their elders’. Pollster John Zogby calls today’s demographic of 19- to 29-year-olds “First Globals”—the first generation truly to feel at home with global perspectives. Whatever the reason—an era of great prosperity and cheap travel, or the media revolution of instant global e-mail networks and YouTube immediacy, or a post-9/11 consciousness—many young adults embrace an outward-looking orientation, with a zest for practical solutions to intractable problems.

“I think this generation of young adults views international work as an investment in their futures,” Scharffenberg says. And recruiters for corporations and professional schools have come to view a year abroad as a plus, she says.

“It’s not postponing your life or taking a year off. It’s an incredible experience to have. We hope an old attitude is changing—the compartmentalization of service work and work in the ‘real world.’ They don’t need to be separated. The world of a Nicaraguan farmer is as much the real world as the corporate ladder. We’re all human. Our experience shows us how much bigger the world is, yet at the same time how connected we all must be.” ▼



## Lifting Children Above the Chaos

Some 50 young children have a fighting chance to rise above the daily brutality of Managua’s municipal garbage dump, the only world they know. These clinically malnourished children, aged 7 and under, come under the wing of Manna Project sponsorship. With help from donors in the United States, Manna Project volunteers see that the children regularly receive fortified milk, oatmeal and vitamins, regular pediatrician visits and clinical care, and Christmas and birthday gifts.



They are among the many embattled youngsters who live as orphans or with their families in La Chureca dump, a place that could symbolize the human tragedy and ordeal of the Western Hemisphere’s second-most impoverished nation.

An estimated 1,500 people live at the city dump, managing to survive in huts of sheet metal and barbed wire. More than half are under the age of 18. They contend with lead poisoning, parasites,

skin disease, and the jostle of animals and people who subsist on the scraps and garbage.

“It’s wonderful to see the children being helped, building relationships with the mothers of the kids, seeing them smile,” says Lori Scharffenberg, Manna Project executive director.

“Everything isn’t fixed; they’re still living in the dump. But progress is made.”

Readers interested in sponsoring a child may contact Manna Project at [childsponsor@mannaproject.org](mailto:childsponsor@mannaproject.org).

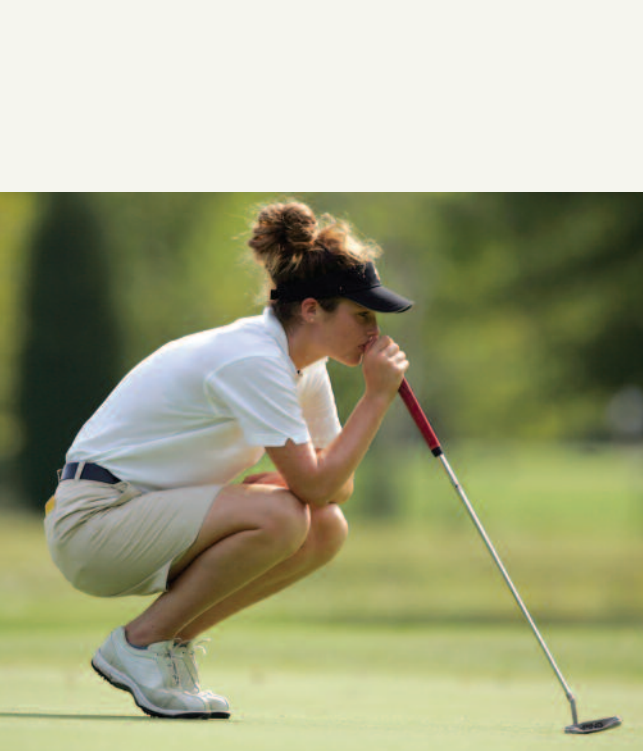
### Find out more:

[www.mannaproject.org](http://www.mannaproject.org)

**Above: Each month on “Milk Day,” dried milk is given to mothers, and children’s weight, height and progress is measured. Right: Children enrolled in Manna’s literacy and math classes.**







# the truest eye

*Whenever Neil Brake stepped out on campus, something just clicked.*

By JUDY KOMISKY ORR, BA'82

Photography by NEIL BRAKE



I knew Neil Brake was a remarkably gifted photographer as soon as I saw his portfolio. From the day he came to work at Vanderbilt eight years ago, he dogged the campus like it was his beat and as if he were competing for a front-page hot spot. Years of working as a newspaper photographer gave him a nose for news and a work ethic I had never seen.

One time as we chit-chatted, he spied some smoke, just barely above the treetops outside my window. He looked in that direction several times and suddenly said, "I've got to go." A fire had erupted at an apartment house and displaced some Vanderbilt students. Neil got there about the same time as the fire engines.

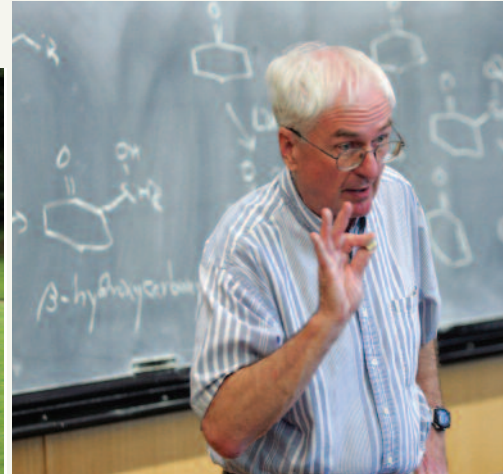






Neil cared so much about Vanderbilt's having the best sports photography that he made a point of being at every crucial game. And he had some pixie dust in that camera. Rod Williamson, Vanderbilt's director of media relations for athletics, was fond of saying, after Neil would turn in his shots of a football game, "We may not have the best team in the SEC, but we sure have the best photographer."

Neil was a larger-than-life personality and became known to nearly everyone on campus. He was full of passion and determination, fun and foolishness. If he had an opinion about something, it was a strong one. When he put himself into something, it was whole-hog.



Neil was born in England and moved to the United States with his parents when he was 5. When he was 13 and a paperboy for the *Birmingham News* in Alabama, he suffered massive injuries in a motorcycle accident. He endured dozens of surgeries and lived with pain for the rest of his life. The accident was reported in the paper, and he became fascinated by the photographers who covered his recuperation.

By the time I hired him to come to Vanderbilt in 2000, he had worked at several newspapers and freelanced for wire agencies. His work was published in several books, as well as in *Sports Illustrated*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, *The New York Times* and *USA Today*. He worked in Vanderbilt's Creative Services for seven years before moving to Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Office of News and Public Affairs.



We all knew he lived with pain and sought out every available medical resource to try to alleviate it. But it was easy to forget he was suffering because he almost never complained. Neil was 47 when he died at his home near Nashville on Nov. 4, 2008.

One day a few years ago, Neil showed me a beautiful fall image he had captured. I did not recognize the stand of trees and asked where it was. Turns out it was just outside our offices, between Wilson Hall and the Kissam Quad. Neil saw what the rest of us didn't see from the ground—and knew that if he went up to one of the upper floors, he'd get this amazing view. I've kept the photo on my desktop ever since, and each fall when this group of trees changes color, I am reminded of Neil. He lives on through this and the thousands of remarkable images he left us. ▼





# The Mind's Eye

“On America’s Got Talent, some of the singers have never had a voice lesson. When I showed [one singer how] to do vocal warm-ups, it was like I had taught her how to read.”

—GEORGIA STITT, BMus’94

## Music:

### Getting Real

IN SHOW BUSINESS, the saying goes, it’s not what you know but whom you know. In the case of Georgia Stitt, award-winning composer and vocal coach on *America’s Got Talent*, it’s both.



Georgia Stitt, BMus’94, with 4-year-old *America’s Got Talent* contestant Kaitlyn Maher.

A Tennessee native, Stitt received her bachelor’s degree in music theory and composition from the Blair School of Music in 1994 and her M.F.A. in musical theater writing from New York University. Since then Stitt has forged a successful career as a composer, conductor, arranger and music director in musical theater, dividing her time between New York City and her home in Los Angeles. As unlikely as it sounds, it was Stitt’s classical training and Broadway experience that led to her current work in reality television.

Two years ago Stitt got a call from director/choreographer Kathleen Marshall, with whom she had worked on the Broadway revival of *Little Shop of Horrors*. “Our paths had crossed several times since then,” Stitt recalls. “This time she was directing and choreographing [the TV show] *Grease: You’re the One That I Want*, and she brought me on board as vocal coach.” On the NBC reality show, aspiring

performers competed to be cast members in a revival of the musical *Grease* on Broadway.

*Grease: You’re the One That I Want* introduced Stitt to Nigel Wright, prominent British record producer and Andrew Lloyd Webber’s longtime musical director. Wright, who was musical director for the *Grease* reality show, was so impressed with Stitt’s vocal coaching that he brought her in as his assistant musical director on *Clash of the Choirs*. That musical TV reality hit pitted five amateur choirs from around the country, each led by a celebrity singer, against each other. “That went well,” Stitt says. “So when Nigel went to work on *America’s Got Talent*, he called me again.” Stitt worked on the 2008 season and hopes to return for the 2009 competition.

The difference with *America’s Got Talent* was that not all the talent was musical. “Of the 40 acts, though, 19 were musical, and one of my singers won the top prize,” Stitt says with pride. That singer is Neal E. Boyd, an insurance salesman from St. Louis who had studied classical voice and sang opera—which made his win even more impressive, says Stitt. “The show truly has Americans voting for the winner, and in this case they voted for an opera singer.” Stitt and Boyd clicked so well during the competition that Stitt continues to coach him for recordings and performances.

Reality TV work is very different from the vocal coaching Stitt does on Broadway or with private clients. “There’s a level of professionalism that’s already there, of course, when I coach singers on Broadway,” Stitt says. “On *America’s Got Talent*, some of the singers have never had a voice lesson. One woman who was in her 40s had never done vocal warm-ups before. When I showed her how, it was like I

had taught her how to read. But that’s what teaching is about—you have to figure out where a student is and then meet them there.”

Find out more: [www.georgiastitt.com](http://www.georgiastitt.com)

—Angela Fox

### A Holler Back from Music City

BEING ON TOUR and missing life at home is nothing new for Stokes Nielson, BS’00, and Ryder Lee, BA’00, of the fast-rising country band The Lost Trailers. But on New Year’s Eve, the day of Vanderbilt’s historic victory in the Music City Bowl, it was especially painful to be alumni 250 miles away.

“We would have loved to have been there, but we had to play Atlanta,” says Nielson. “And a buddy of ours texted us from the game.” The message said that The Lost Trailers’ breakout hit of last summer, “Holler Back,” was being played over the public address system.

For a group that got its start when Lee, Nielson and bassist Manny Medina, BA’98, were at Vanderbilt, that news was a modest

but fitting cap to what they consider to be their first big year. Lee and Nielson, from rural Georgia and North Carolina, respectively, met at boarding school in the 1990s, where they started playing music together and set their sights on a record deal.

Vanderbilt became a responsible excuse for moving to the city of their dreams, a formal and an informal education next door to one another. Nielson studied human and organizational development, which he says has been useful in building a grassroots fan base in the social networking era. Lee opted for political science and Russian, continuing a line of study he’d found interesting in high school.

Lead singer Lee says his Vanderbilt professors couldn’t have been more accommodating to their busy music schedule, calling the experience “the best of both worlds.” Nielson told one academic adviser recently that he was part of the reason they had moved into a position where success was possible. >>



The Lost Trailers are (from left) Manny Medina, BA’98; Andrew Nielson; Ryder Lee, BA’00; Stokes Nielson, BS’00; and Jeff Potter.



Photography by Charles “Teenie” Harris is the inspiration for Great Performances at Vanderbilt’s presentation of “One Shot” by Ronald K. Brown: Evidence, A Dance Company on April 16. Harris’ photos are shown at Sarratt Gallery in April and May.

One of the most influential photographers of the last half-century, **William Eggleston**, ’61, has helped define the history of color photography. *William Eggleston: Democratic Camera, Photographs and Video, 1961–2008*, an exhibit at New York City’s Whitney Museum of American Art from November through January, was rated one of the top 10 art exhibits of 2008 by *Time.com*. It is the artist’s first retrospective in the United States and includes both his color and black-and-white photographs as well as *Stranded in Canton*, the artist’s video work from the early 1970s. The exhibition is now traveling throughout the United States and then to the Haus der Kunst in Munich. An interview with the photographer can be heard at [www.whitney.org/eggleston](http://www.whitney.org/eggleston).

etc.



Untitled (*Peaches!*), 1971, by William Eggleston

**Fred Westfield**, BA’50, Vanderbilt professor of economics, emeritus, whose flight from Nazi Germany was chronicled in the Spring 2008 issue of *Vanderbilt Magazine*, is suing the Federal Republic of Germany in a case that may break new legal ground in compensation for lost art.

Westfield made it out of Germany, as did his brother, parents and an uncle, largely due to help from his uncle, Walter Westfeld, an art collector and dealer. Westfeld was arrested two weeks after Kristallnacht, the “night of broken glass,” when German Jews were terrorized in November 1938. He was charged with smuggling art and foreign-exchange violations for sending money to his family who had relocated to Nashville. Walter Westfeld ultimately was sent to Auschwitz, where he died in the death chambers. The Nazis seized his art collection, which included works by Rubens and El Greco, and sold it off.

Fred Westfield’s suit differs from most in that it seeks damages for the loss of the paintings, rather than the restoration of specific paintings to the family. Because of the number of works involved and the immense difficulty of tracking down the individual pieces at this time, the family instead seeks recompense for their loss: Inasmuch as Germany wrongfully caused the damage, they contend, it should bear the liability.

Nashville arts champion **Bill Ivey** was selected to President Barack Obama’s transition team for arts and culture. Ivey, director of the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and Public Policy at Vanderbilt, is a veteran of the Clinton administration. He served as chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts from 1998 through 2001.



The band members' post-graduate work consisted of relentless touring and launching an underground NASCAR circuit hit about Dale Earnhardt. In 2005 they were signed by the same record company that paved the

way for career role model Alabama. Then they released two singles that went nowhere before "Holler Back" hit the airwaves and saved their mainstream country career. The song debuted at No. 5 on the *Billboard* country chart and

later was chosen as kick-off music to Westwood One's worldwide radio Super Bowl broadcast.

"There was a point where, when we did get a hotel, it was a \$19 hotel and all five of us got into the room," says Nielson, the band's primary songwriter. "But when you do that and you finally reach this place [of success], you realize how special that was—six years of touring America together and the fellowship that brings."

Not to mention football fringe benefits.

Find out more: [www.thelosttrailers.com](http://www.thelosttrailers.com)

—Craig Havighurst



### Visual Arts: Prints Abound

IN 1956, Vanderbilt's Permanent Collection was founded by a generous gift from renowned art collector Anna C. Hoyt of Boston. Hoyt, who had been a print curator at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, had a particularly fine



eye for prints by the Old Masters. "They're some of the better things we have in our print collection, as far as historic importance is concerned," says Joseph Mella, director of the Fine Arts Gallery.

Since this gift, the collection has grown in number and depth to include more than 5,500 works of art. In honor of Hoyt's founding patronage and its impact on the arts at Vanderbilt, while marking the last exhibition



Prints from the Hoyt Collection now on exhibit include two chiaroscuro woodcuts from the 16th century—"The Madonna and Child and St. John" by an unknown artist (opposite) and Zanetti's "St. Andrew" (left)—as well as more recent works such as "Family Doctor" by American artist Grant Wood (above).

in the Old Gym before the gallery moves to the Cohen Memorial Building in the fall of 2009, Mella has assembled a survey drawn exclusively from her gift.

Highlights include a woodcut by Albrecht Dürer; Honoré Daumier's lithograph from his series *Les Beaux Jours* (*Life's Great Moments*)—a model study in 19th-century realism; a delicate lithograph portrait by Pablo Picasso completed in 1948; and a 17th-century woodcut by Dutch artist Christoffel Jegher based on a work by Peter Paul Rubens that is often considered one of the great prints in the history of the medium. Other works feature mezzotint, etching or wood-engraving processes.

The exhibition will run through May 8.

## Accolades

**Rick Hilles**, acclaimed poet and assistant professor of English at Vanderbilt, was named one of 10 recipients of the 2008 Whiting Writer's Awards given for "writers of exceptional talent and promise in early career." Author of the award-winning poetry collection *Brother Salvage*, Hilles received a \$50,000 prize from the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation, based in New York.

*Brother Salvage* won the 2005 Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize (University of Pittsburgh Press) and was named the 2006 Poetry Book of the Year by *ForeWord*

magazine. Hilles has been an Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholar, a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford, and the Ruth and Jay C.

Halls Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also received the Larry Levis Editor's Prize in Poetry from the *Missouri Review*. His poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *Ploughshares*, *Salmagundi* and *Witness*.



### Films That Break Down Barriers

From a recent Russian adaptation of *Hamlet* to a 1928 French silent classic about Joan of Arc, from a South Korean film influenced by Hitchcock's *Vertigo* to a documentary about the lives of gay, lesbian and transgendered Muslims produced jointly by the U.S., U.K., France, Germany and Australia—those looking for a cinematic experience outside the usual American multiplex or even independent movie house will find something to their liking in this spring's International Lens series at Vanderbilt. The films feature many different international viewpoints, as well as some that are distinctly American.

International Lens, which began last spring, seeks to transcend geographic, ethnic, religious, linguistic and political boundaries by enabling conversation and greater cross-cultural understanding through the medium of film. The series partners the Office of the Dean of Students with various academic departments, centers and programs. Vanderbilt faculty provide an introduction to each film and facilitate post-screening discussion afterward.

"We introduced the participatory element to our screenings to generate dialogue that can develop a deeper understanding of the film's intent and cultural implications," says JoEl Logiudice, director of the Office of Arts and Creative Engagement. "Sarratt Cinema has a strong history of providing thought-provoking foreign, independent and experimental films. Our goal is to continue that tradition by featuring award-winning films that in many cases have not been shown here in order to build a vital film community on campus and in Nashville."

Screenings are shown in 35mm, unless otherwise noted. All the films in the series are free and open to the public, though "not rated" films may contain material suitable for mature audiences only.

The schedule, which is subject to change, can be found online at the series' Web site: [www.vanderbilt.edu/internationalens/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/internationalens/).

film series  
**INTERNATIONAL  
LENS**

## Books and Writers

### Transformative Literature

When Ann Neely, faculty director of the Ingram Scholars program, went to Cape Town, South Africa, last July to visit three of her students involved with a Vanderbilt service-learning project, she never dreamed that she would be inspired to create a new service-learning course of her own.

During spring break this year, the 15 students in Neely's Literature of Transformation course traveled to Cape Town to restock the library at Manenberg Township Primary School with children's literature. In April they will travel to Birmingham, Ala., to visit the civil rights

museum there. In between, they will read picture books and juvenile fiction that reflect the post-apartheid and post-Civil Rights Movement eras, comparing and contrasting the two.



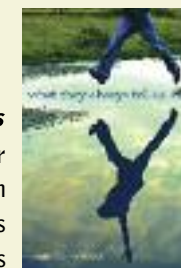
For Neely, professor of the practice of education and director of undergraduate admissions and scholarships for Peabody College, the touchstone was seeing her favorite picture book, *The Very Grouchy Ladybug* by author-illustrator Eric Carle, used in an unusual way. "[At Manenberg Primary School] they had used it to block out a window so that gang members wouldn't look inside," says Neely. Meanwhile, in the school library, "I would guess there were no more than 100 to 150 books in English," a serious shortage considering those are the books used to teach English to the entire student population of 700. "I suspect that I have more books in my office library than the school for 700 has," Neely wrote in her blog about the visit.

Neely's efforts will help remedy this situation to some extent, as will the fact that alumni of the Ingram Scholars program have pledged to raise \$15,000 for the 15th anniversary of the program in order to name a library in South Africa in her honor.

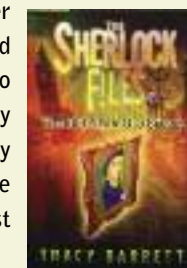
"All of this is quite incredible," Neely says. But she has learned one thing already from the experience. "I'm going to split apart the course in the future and offer the portion on post-Civil Rights Movement children's literature as a separate course. It's a tough syllabus to pull together because I've had to cut about two-thirds of everything I wanted the students to read."

### Recent Juvenile Fiction

*What They Always Tell Us* (2008, Delacorte Books for Young Readers) by Martin Wilson, BA '95. In Wilson's debut novel, brothers James and Alex have barely anything in common anymore—least of all their experiences in high school, where James is a popular senior and Alex is suddenly an outcast. The book has received starred reviews in both *Publishers Weekly* and *Booklist*, which wrote, "This is a strong debut, and Wilson shows admirable control of a complicated story that in less-accomplished hands could have spun out of control."



*The 100-Year-Old Secret* (2008, Henry Holt and Co.) by Tracy Barrett, senior lecturer in Italian. In the first book of Barrett's middle-grade series *The Sherlock Files*, little mysteries lurk around every rain-dampened London corner for Xander and Xena Holmes. A career opportunity for their father transplants the brother and sister from sunny Florida to rainy England. Here they learn that they have a very famous ancestor and have inherited one of his most intriguing possessions.





## Traveler at a Crossroads

Seven months in Iraq tested every bit of ROTC training and Modern Standard Arabic I had at Vanderbilt. By DANIEL CROWELL, CLASS OF 2009

IT IS HARD NOT TO FEEL SLIGHTLY OUT OF PLACE now that I have returned to Vanderbilt's campus. War is a difficult reality to face, and the experience brings irreversible changes within a person.

I am a senior in the College of Arts and Science, with a major in history and minor in Islamic studies. I am also a recently returned veteran of the Iraq War.

I enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves as a Vanderbilt student. During the 2007 fall semester, the Marine Corps ordered me to activate in preparation for a seven-month combat tour in Iraq. I withdrew from Vanderbilt in October 2007, underwent four months of theater-specific training, and finally set foot on Iraqi soil in late March 2008. Now I am back at Vanderbilt for the spring semester of 2009—my last before graduating.

Everything about war is dangerous. Deaths related to hostile fire may draw the most headlines, but enemy action is quickly being surpassed as the No. 1 threat to Coalition forces. Military experts refer to the current mode of warfare as "fourth generational"—meaning warfare that involves terrorism, guerilla warfare, and a blurring of the lines between peace and conflict, soldier and civilian. Fourth-generational warfare creates circumstances that form a perfect storm for accidental casualties not associated at all with combat. In recent months noncombat-related deaths from motor vehicle accidents, accidental weapon discharges and the like have claimed as many American lives as the Iraqi insurgency.

Even the most rudimentary elements, like a soldier's gear, create hazards. I served as a machine gunner in Iraq. With all my mission-essential uniforms, equipment and weapons, I weighed more than 300 pounds. Although much is now mechanized, combat still requires a great deal of maneuvering on foot. Daily jarring under loads far exceeding a soldier's natural body weight leads to the breakdown of joints, ankles, knees and backs.

While the physical risk is substantial, the most intense and long-lasting effects of the Iraq War are psychological. The reality of being in a war zone first struck me during the plane ride from Kuwait to Iraq. The flight began like any other as the C-130 barreled down the run-

way and slowly lifted off. Then, once at altitude, all lights went out. The crew that had politely ushered us aboard donned night-vision goggles and went into an entirely different mode. Thirty minutes or so into the flight, the plane jerked and dived as if crashing. We continued to bank, twist and dive until dropping on the runway in Iraq. The dynamic flying is a standard operating procedure for pilots to make American aircraft hard targets for surface-to-air missiles.

At that moment I realized I was in a place where people wanted to kill me. You could say I was there because they had already killed 4,000 of my brothers- and sisters-in-arms. That harsh and unnatural reality confronts every

service member head-on; how you deal with it affects how well you perform your role as an executor of U.S. policy and an ambassador of the American people.

The feeling of being in imminent danger produces terror, which feeds paranoia. You suspect everyone and trust no one. Even Iraqi security forces could be insurgent infiltrators. Whether patrolling on foot or in a vehicle, you feverishly scan the ground, cars and people, looking for improvised explosive devices, suicide vests, car bombs and small arms. Every minute or so you check rooftops and towers for snipers. The process is exhausting, but common sense and military training promise it will keep you alive.

While remaining alert and maintaining vigilance are critical to survival, sooner or later you must come to terms with reality. I maintained my own frantic, paranoid vigilance for the first week or so in-country. Every stray wire and tube was a potential bomb, every bulging stomach a possible suicide vest. I soon came to the realization that there was very little I could do to prevent an attack. The somber truth is that if someone is willing to die in order to kill you, precious little can stop them.

I spent my entire combat tour in and around Walid, Iraq. Walid is a small town of 500 people, less than a mile from Iraq's border with Syria. Fewer than 50 yards east of Walid, a burgeoning tent camp is home to 2,000 Palestinian refugees. Outside the town are numerous scattered populations of sheep-herding Bedouins who scratch out a meager existence in much the same way their ancestors have for thousands of years. The local economy relies on travelers driving along MSR Copper, a major highway connecting Damascus and Baghdad that runs through Walid. The border crossing where MSR Copper continues into Syria is the busiest in all Iraq.

The security situation has improved so dramatically in Iraq that thousands of Iraqi refugees are returning after fleeing to Syria during the early stages of the war. Security gains have contributed to political and economic stabilization. Internal stability, helped by high oil prices, lit a fire within the Iraqi economy. The amount of commercial traffic ferrying imports into Iraq skyrocketed during the course of my tour. Agricultural products, appliances and automobiles from Europe,

Egypt, Syria and Lebanon now pour into the country, while convoys, hundreds of trucks long, leave Iraq every week, their tanks topped off with Iraqi crude.

When we first arrived in late March, some 2,000 to 3,000 travelers came through Walid on their way to and from Iraq every day. By October the number had grown to 7,000. Dur-



ing peak times—summer and the month of Ramadan—the outdated Iraqi passport office and customs house cannot keep up with the increased volume. Long waits lead to angry travelers, often resulting in fights and occasionally riots. The presence of crowds and hundreds of Iraqi government officials in close confines presents an attractive target for insurgent suicide bombers. Added to that, much of the remaining insurgency is attempting to flee from American and Iraqi forces into Syria. My primary mission was to aid Iraqi security forces in securing and defending the crowds of travelers and government offices from insurgent attacks.

The single greatest obstacle to joint Iraqi-American operations is the language barrier. With the tour system in place, American troops simply do not spend enough time in-country to become functionally proficient in Arabic. The U.S. military employs thousands of inter-

preters, but there are never enough. Without adequate interpreter support, Americans and Iraqis are relegated to communicating via something akin to charades.

The bulk of my work at Vanderbilt has been in studying Islam, Arab culture and politics, and the Arabic language. In addition to serving as a military policeman, I also functioned as an interpreter. My Vanderbilt language training made a significant impact on my unit's ability to complete its mission. Armed with two years of training in Modern Standard Arabic and considerable background knowledge of Islamic history, customs and traditions, I was able to bridge those broad linguistic and cultural barriers.

In addition to working one-on-one with Iraqi police, I interacted directly with crowds of travelers. This allowed the passport office to run more smoothly and presented a more favorable image of American troops. I fielded questions from the crowds, explained the long delays and, if needed, intervened in conflicts before things got out of hand. Once it was established that I could understand Arabic, rabble-rousers were far less likely to try to incite a riot. Elements of Islamic and Arab culture that I retained from Vanderbilt classes helped guide me in my interactions with travelers. I drew from classes about Islamic holidays, the significance of clothing and hats, Arab etiquette, and so on. The Iraqis, travelers and officials alike, assumed that I was a Muslim. I was asked on a few occasions, usually by puzzled Iraqi children, if I was an Iraqi soldier.

My Vanderbilt education came to life and played a vital role every day. I left Iraq in October 2008 with fond memories and a great sense of optimism for the future of that country. Iraq is on the rebound, though the scars of years of poverty and destruction remain.

The war has changed me forever, in ways good and bad. I feel much more confident and accomplished now. On the other hand, I cannot help but fear that the most meaningful work of my life is already behind me. Everything in my life seems incredibly trivial now. I am easily irritable for the first time. My wife says I have lost my youthful sparkle.

The body heals quickly from physical exhaustion; rest and good food take care of that. It takes your mind a lot longer to detoxify. ▽



**"I maintained my own frantic, paranoid vigilance for the first week or so. Every stray wire and tube was a potential bomb, every bulging stomach a possible suicide vest. I soon came to the realization that if someone is willing to die in order to kill you, precious little can stop them."**

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL CROWELL



# A.P.O.V.\*

\*Alumni Point of View

## Green Planet Blues

*I've spent 35 years trying to erase my carbon imprint—so why are there still so many smudges?* By ELLEN PEARSON, BA'63

“GRIPES, KUDOS, INSPIRED ideas for future stories? Put 'em here,” read the *Vanderbilt Magazine* voluntary subscription card I received in the mail last year. Having long fancied myself an enlightened environmentalist with a throbbing social consciousness, I wondered whether the Vanderbilt I attended had evolved along with me.

At my Vandy, which wasn't even integrated when I graduated in 1963, coeds obliged the social standards of the day by wearing raincoats over our Bermuda shorts and disdaining to walk while smoking cigarettes. We stood breathing in Nashville's coal smog and our friends' passive smoke, and knew in our hearts that we were upholding the standards of our school.

That in mind, I scribbled something like this on the card:

“Feature articles on efforts by the university to get 'green.' Publish personal accounts by alumni about reinventing their previously black and gold lifestyles.”

“P.S. I drive a Honda Civic Hybrid, use compact fluorescents, and own a tankless hot water system, composting toilets and Energy Star appliances. I raise my own veggies, organic lamb and egg layers. I only purchase organic food and humanely raised meats.”



Ellen Pearson, second from right, and her family hang themselves out to dry.

COURTESY OF ELLEN PEARSON

This has happened before. When will I learn? For 35 years in my tiny, hip town of Monterey, Mass., I played the part of Queen of Community Cohesion. My court and I produced annual celebrations, each with a noble theme (energy conservation, world peace, local food, local culture, Mother Nature). Two years ago I decided to move to North Carolina to be near my grandchildren. As a last hurrah I was asked to co-chair the committee for the 2007 I Love Monterey Day. The theme was “Greening Monterey.” Our kick-off parade forbade all but hybrid vehicles, the bio-diesel town truck, horse or oxen power, and foot travelers (including llamas and dogs). The Center for Ecological Technology, the Community Land Trust, and a nearby bike shop set up booths, and a local farm provided

lunch. There were tours of solar-powered homes, and we wrapped up the celebration with contradancing featuring local musicians. To keep the energy going, I suggested that townfolk be invited to submit descriptions of their efforts to green their lifestyles to our monthly newspaper. Me and my big, highfalutin' mouth. Guess who got picked to go first? I diligently assembled my list: the hybrid car, the Energy Star appliances, on-demand water heater, composting toilets, low volatile organic compound (VOC) paints and varnishes, wood heat backed up with a bio-fuel furnace, an organic food garden tilled with draft horses, egg layers and broilers, a backyard sheep flock, a mountain of compost, and an elaborate recycling system. And, I added, I buy local, eschew “big box” stores, invest in socially responsible companies, use

a community-invested bank, volunteer for service vacations addressing environmental concerns—and on and on.

But as I prepared to galvanize my audience, I realized that my lofty practices came with a matching set of glaring contradictions:

Let's start with the **hybrid car**. Good enough on its own, but I also own a one-ton truck (that gets 10 mpg) with which I have hauled my horses, taken recyclables to the dump and brought in firewood.

The firewood was cut with a gas-powered chain saw and split with a gas-powered wood splitter. When not on pasture, the horses were fed hay harvested by tractor-driven implements. Oh, yeah—and I also owned a Polish tractor fueled with diesel. And a gas-powered lawn mower to smooth over what the horses and sheep didn't tidy up in the yard.

**The organic garden:** I grew every vegetable the Northeast climate would support, stored root crops in a root cellar, and froze veggies, lamb and chicken for winter use. I canned crabapple jelly and pickles. But freezers are notorious guzzlers of electricity. Canning makes for low-cost storage, but home canning and freezing use outlandish amounts of fuel and water in the processing stage.

**Composting toilets:** My state-of-the-art toilets spared the water used to flush conventional toilets. They also employed a vent fan and an optional electric heater to speed the composting process. I used the heater only to finish the compost before I removed the residue. The fan ran most of the time. It was not powered by oxen.

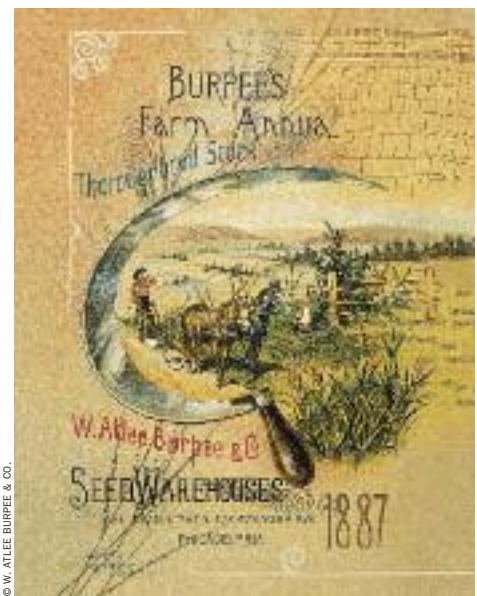
**Shopping local:** Yes, I bought owner memberships in local co-op stores—but much of their high-end, organic food came from far, far away. I gave the horses and sheep wild and domestic apples off my farm, but when supplies ended, I bought organic fruit—shipped from the West Coast—at a chain supermarket.

**“Responsible” investing:** I invest in Socially Responsible funds with stringent “avoidance” screens against corporations with defense contracts, woeful environmental track records, and records of social injustice. I requested a special screen against pharmaceuticals because I am averse to animal testing.

On the other hand, I take at least three medications that were surely tested on animals.

And now my investment counselor's newsletter informs me that it is probably more effective to put money in best-in-sustainable-class fossil fuel, automotive, mining or chemical companies, thereby providing an incentive to further improve their behavior.

The hard truth is: We are all in some way dependent on fossil fuels. After all, who's ever



© W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO.

going to know that you're *not* investing in something?

**Service vacations:** To avoid exploitive tourism I volunteered for two Earthwatch expeditions, one to study a threatened culture of cave dwellers in China, the other to study the effect of human encroachment on monkeys in Costa Rica.

I flew to each destination in an airplane, leaving big, black carbon wing strokes across the globe. Even using the Earthwatch program to offset carbon input, I can't erase all the smudges.

So here I am in North Carolina, pondering the many contrapositions inherent in living green. Ever the optimist, and using an “ecobroker,” I bought an impeccable property in the woods near Pittsboro, N.C. My house is owner-built, incorporating timbers sawn on site from trees removed to create the lot.

A 500-gallon rain barrel collects water off the roof. There's a pond fed by runoff from my neighbor's and my house, channeled in rock ditches. I can pump from the pond in times of drought to water two gardens, one for food and native plants, the other for fruit trees and berries. The site plan was designed

to facilitate a “permaculture” community, and I'm collaborating with my neighbors to share food gardening and egg-laying chickens.

The house is oriented for passive solar gain through south-facing double-glass windows and doors. Roof overhangs minimize solar gain in the summer. Four-inch-thick concrete floors in the living room and master bath contain water tubing for transferring heat to the floor and into the house. These can be enabled by mounting a solar hot water collector on a southern slope at the edge of the woods.

So far, so good. The house is built with autoclaved aerated concrete block with excellent thermal and acoustic features. The thermal mass moderates temperature swings, both in winter and summer, saving both air conditioning and heating energy.

Too good to be true? Yep. My research on this porous precast block—known in the building trade as “Hebel type”—reveals that it is imported from New Zealand. Transportation costs in carbon currency effectively overwhelm its otherwise splendidly low environmental impact.

Out, out, damned spot! It's Lady Macbeth here, zealously scrubbing at coaly stains.

I'm selling the truck and the tractor. All incandescent bulbs have been replaced by compact fluorescent bulbs with the lowest percentage of mercury. I'm flushing toilets with bathtub water. I hang out my laundry to dry. The entire TV/DVD/satellite system is off at the power strip, except when I watch a show. I shut down my computer (not just to sleep—all the way down) between every use.

And I found the most beguiling little device, called “Kill-A-Watt,” into which one may plug one electric appliance at a time to determine how many kilowatt-hours each uses. So far, I know that one Energy Star washer load uses .10 kwh. The refrigerator uses .66 kwh per day. Listening to NPR all day uses only .02 kwh! Heating 16 ounces of tea in the microwave is only...

Oh, never mind. My daily average electric usage is now 28 kwh per day. I'm heating my tea on the woodstove. My carbon karma will rise as I “kill the watts”—you wait and see. ▼

*Ellen Pearson, BA'63, used .75 kwh to write this story.*





BLAKE LEMASTER, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, CLASS OF 2010

PHOTO BY VANDERBILT CREATIVE SERVICES

# MAKE BIG POSSIBILITIES HAPPEN

BLAKE LEMASTER is focused on possibilities.

Neurons, axons and how the brain thinks. Emergency rooms and the surgeons there who save lives. A neuroscience major, Blake is thinking about med school, but also considering research.

Blake stays focused on his future because people like you chose to support Vanderbilt—where a priority on scholarships and financial aid helps ensure that outstanding students from all backgrounds can attend.

“I wouldn’t be here without scholarship assistance,” the Kentucky native says. “My mom owns a barber shop and my dad is a surveyor. For me, Vanderbilt is one of the best opportunities ever. I was able to come to what is now my favorite place on earth.”

Keep students like Blake focused on possibilities with your gift today.

Shape a future. Give to Vanderbilt.

SHAPE THE FUTURE A CAMPAIGN FOR VANDERBILT

Make a gift to Vanderbilt online—[www.vanderbilt.edu/givenow](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/givenow). Questions—Christy Passmore, 615/322-6791.

**Southern Journal** continued from page 80  
la” sequences, with “mi” closing the octave. Traditional singers have long learned to sing using this method (often called “fasola”), and are accordingly adept sight readers, but the shapes can be a stumbling block to the more conventionally trained.

Finally, while some shape-note music can be slow and lyrical—for instance, those shape-note tunes that have gone mainstream, like “Wondrous Love” and “Amazing Grace”—Sacred Harp singers tend to favor headlong tempos. For that reason a neophyte joining a group of experienced singers can find the experience terrifying. I certainly did—but I quickly knew that I wanted to master it.

At this point, though, I had yet to experience a traditional Sacred Harp singing in full cry. Here, however, a revolutionary new development was opening up the Sacred Harp network to me and many others: the Internet. I discovered an e-mail fasola discussion list and subscribed. Then came the World Wide Web and the Web site [fasola.org](http://fasola.org)—a gateway site to all things shape-note. The list is run by a singer in Minnesota and the Web site by a singer in California; indeed, the great revelation of the Internet was that the Sacred Harp network was by no means confined to the Deep South.

As it happened, for some 20 years, utterly beneath my radar, a major Sacred Harp revival had been taking place. Major singing conventions were thriving in New England, New York, the Midwest, on the West Coast and in Great Britain. Even in the South, “traditional” singings were drawing participants from all over the English-speaking world, coming to rural Southern churches as if on pilgrimage. Chicagoans, Portlanders and Londoners were eager for the Southern experience and eager to learn from its traditional guardians.

I learned through the list that one of the major conventions, the United Convention, would be held in September at Liberty Baptist Church in Henagar, Ala., atop Sand Mountain. I got up my nerve, arose early on a Saturday, and set forth to find Liberty Church. Someone had thoughtfully placed signs as I arrived in Henagar, directing me down a rural road.

After several miles I came to the church.

It was surrounded by a sea of vehicles, many with out-of-state tags, and I had to park several hundred feet down the road; nonetheless, on quiet, far-from-the-interstate Sand Mountain, I could hear the singing as soon as I stepped out of my car. I walked to the front door and stepped inside. The church was crammed with well over a hundred singers, each part sitting on one side of a hollow square, and the leader in the middle. (All who wish



View a slideshow of David Carlton's photos from Sacred Harp all-day singing events at <http://snipurl.com/vusing>.

to lead get the chance to do so in the course of a day's singing.) Many in the room beat time with the leader, and the air fairly shook with the sound. I could only think, “Where has this been all my life?” I had finally arrived at the heart of the tradition.

From there on, the journey has become easy and delightful. I quickly learned that an utter stranger can show up at a Sacred Harp singing and, if he comes prepared to sing and shows respect for the tradition and those who have carried it on, he will be welcomed with open arms. Theology and politics are checked at the door; liberals and conservatives, Christians, Buddhists and atheists all commune in the hollow square.

I was at first careful not to divulge my hoity-toity Vanderbilt connection, but it eventually leaked out—and then everybody wanted to talk football. I'm no longer a stranger in these Alabama churches, and a world that I otherwise would have scant acquaintance with is now full of old and dear friends.

Since then, too, Sacred Harp has become more visible to the outside world. A group of singers gathered at Liberty Church contributed several tunes (including the chilling “Idumea”

to the soundtrack of the movie *Cold Mountain*—making music that stunned popular music critics from *The New York Times* on down. Sacred Harp influences are seeping into indie rock; a recent recording of Sacred Harp-themed popular music includes tracks from the likes of John Paul Jones of Led Zepelin, Elvis Perkins, and punk-rock band Cordelia's Dad. The Fleet Foxes, a Seattle band, also claim inspiration. On the classical side, the ensemble Anonymous 4 has released two best-selling explorations of early American religious music, filtering shape-note harmonies through their own early music-movement sensibilities.

Not that Sacred Harp is likely to become “popular,” however; the music and the texts remain their frequently forbidding selves, poles apart from most popular music. But Sacred Harp nonetheless speaks to many in our time. The music has an astringent power that can catch the casual listener short, even if he would never make it a staple of his iPod.

Those willing to immerse themselves in an all-day singing (even the atheists) find it a worship experience unlike any other. The tightly packed space, full of people blending their voices in sometimes spine-tingling harmonies while flashing smiles of recognition across the square; taking one's turn as leader, with all parts focused on *you*; the ceremonies of remembrance that link singers, past and present, together in a great chain of being—these are rituals of solidarity and transcendence that our culture of spectators sorely lacks, and sorely misses.

Best of all, Sacred Harp is not a closed subculture, but one open to all who desire it. I wish I'd known that sooner. ▼



Carlton takes his turn leading the singing at Liberty Church in Henagar, Ala.



## Sweet Affliction

*Liberals and conservatives, believers and atheists—all are welcome in the hollow square of Sacred Harp singing.* By DAVID CARLTON

FOR MOST OF MY ADULT LIFE, I have been fascinated by the old Southern style of shape-note singing—even though for many years I actually knew little about it and certainly never participated in it. It lay at the intersection of several of my personal involvements: the history and culture of the South, religion and choral singing. Yet, for many years it flitted around the edges of my consciousness without impinging on a fairly full life.

My understanding of what the music sounded like came chiefly from occasional recordings by nontraditional singers, folk musicians embracing a tradition of religious song that seemed to hearken back to an undefined pre-capitalist America, or early music ensembles exploring a style with affinities to the Renaissance. None of these renditions was the genuine article, but for someone consumed with the task of making it as an academic, they would do.

Then came the 1990s and a reasonably established career (I began teaching history at Vanderbilt in 1983), and the time arrived to address unfinished life agendas. One evening at home I found myself thinking regretfully about that lost cultural heritage—and then recalled that some years earlier, I had encountered in a used-book store a book titled *The Sacred Harp: A Tradition and Its Music*, written by a man named Buell E. Cobb. Of all the surviving forms of shape-note singing, Sacred Harp is the most widespread and vital.

Named for a tunebook first published in 1844 and periodically updated ever since, it has withstood repeated assaults from devo-

tees of more polished church music and modern gospel music. While its rugged harmonies and uncompromising texts (death, hell and sin are confronted head-on and without sentimentality) appeal to rather specialized tastes nowadays, those who love Sacred Harp singing have maintained it with tenacity, chiefly through a network of annual all-day singings and two-day conventions supported with a kind of faithfulness seen in modern-day Trekkies.

Cobb's book contained a list of these singings—one of which, I discovered, was held annually on the first Saturday after Easter here in Nashville. At last!—a possible connection. On the appointed Saturday I duly drove to the designated church—and there they were. There were not many of them, but those who were there were true believers who welcomed me as a potential convert to the cause and sold me my (now well-worn) copy of the 1991 edition of the *Sacred Harp*.

From that point on, this hitherto hidden world began to open up to me—but it was daunting. Sacred Harp singing may be of a primarily rural-based style, but it is hardly easy to learn. Unlike most standard hymnals, shape-note tunebooks are wider than they are tall, and are laid out with each of the three or four parts on a separate staff. The melody, or the "lead" voice, is actually the tenor line, with altos and trebles above and the basses beneath. Unlike in regular church hymns or gospel songs, the other voices have lines independent of the melody; in the intricate "fug-



STITCHERY BY ETHEL WRIGHT MOHAMED (1906-1992)/COURTESY OF HAZEL L. WILSON

ing tunes," they interweave in elaborate patterns that require close attention.

Singers typically begin by "singing the shapes." Beginners (and for that matter, tonguetied veterans) can fake this, but learning the four note shapes—a triangle (fa), a circle (sol), a square (la), and a diamond (mi)—and their relationship to each other in the scale is critical to understanding the structure of the music. The shapes were invented around 1800 as a device to aid the itinerant singing-school masters of the day in teaching people how to read music. While later shape-note systems (such as those used in many gospel hymnbooks) use seven shapes, the early shapes used an old Elizabethan system of solfège in which the major scale starts with "fa" rather than "do," and is constructed with two "fa-sol-

*continued on page 79*

# ★ SPIRIT OF NASHVILLE ★

## Celebrate & Accessorize That Diploma!



- Beautiful 120-page 9" x 12" hardcover coffee table books
- Over 60 different 18" x 24" classic Nashville gallery prints
- Lavish Music City gift baskets full of genuine Nashville treats

### The perfect gift for every Vandy Grad: A piece of Nashville "to go."

Everyone who ever lived in Nashville still carries a piece of it in their heart. Now your favorite Vandy grad can hang a piece of it on their wall! Shown above: a few of the 60+ designs in the award-winning Spirit of Nashville Gallery Print Collection. Our classic gifts and prints celebrate Nashville history and charm, keeping warm Music City memories alive for years to come!

To see all of our classic prints and gifts, visit our web site or call 615-327-9894  
**Order online at: [www.spiritofnashville.com](http://www.spiritofnashville.com)**



