

# Vanderbilt International

VOL. 2, NUMBER 1, FALL/WINTER 2009/10

A publication of the Vanderbilt International Office

## My Journey to India



- Creating family ties in **Brazil**
- Strides in pediatric care in **Jordan**
- Doing Business with **China**



Led by University President Yvonne van Rooy, delegates from Utrecht University (UU), the top university in The Netherlands, visited Vanderbilt in February to begin discussions on joint collaborations. Vanderbilt participants included Richard McCarty, Provost; Joel Harrington, Associate Provost for Global Strategy; James Hudnut-Beumler, Dean of the Divinity School; Carolyn Dever, Dean of the College of Arts and Science; and Ed Rubin, former Dean of the Law School.



Undergraduate Nichols recipients volunteer at a local school in Nicaragua.



DANIEL DUROIS

In late July, the day before I left for a year's research leave in Germany, I had the pleasure of welcoming thirty-seven Fulbright scholars to the U.S. to begin their graduate studies at institutions throughout the country. Vanderbilt was the first stop in their U.S. academic journey, and we had the honor of providing a taste of what life may be like in the next few years through the Fulbright Gateway Orientation Program. I met several vibrant scholars from over two dozen countries, including one young man from Ghana, who will pursue a PhD in fish epidemiology at Auburn University. Upon completion of his doctorate, Samuel will be one of the few people in his country to possess such a specialized degree in fisheries. He hopes to help the Ghanaian economy by identifying the diseases harming fish populations, which are a valuable export. As a former "Fulbrighter" myself, I was impressed and inspired by the students' goals and aspirations. Vanderbilt is truly better off for hosting such bright and talented individuals.

In addition to the Gateway program, this issue of *Vanderbilt International* will highlight many other ways that Vanderbilt is taking part in developing world leaders. We meet Assistant Professor Natasha Halasa, a researcher and teacher attempting to answer questions concerning children's respiratory burdens in Jordan. Professor Halasa is one of the leaders in international collaboration on campus, bringing faculty members and graduate students to the U.S. as well as encouraging our medical students to participate in rotations abroad to tackle these problems.

Incredible strides are being made at the School of Engineering, with Associate Dean Stacy Klein organizing the efforts. Typically viewed as underrepresented in study abroad, her students are challenging the traditional paradigm and actively reaping academic, professional, and personal benefits from programs in Lorraine, Dresden, Guadalajara, and Sydney.

And you'll have the chance to meet Tyler Sanchez, '10, a recipient of a Nichols Humanitarian Fund award who paints vivid images of his experience traveling the streets of New Delhi and engaging with the local community. Tyler represents a model of global citizenship to which all our undergraduate and graduate students can aspire.

Stories of new international collaboration and global learning also appear in this issue. The Center for Latin American Studies and Dyer Observatory, for example, hosted twenty-six teachers at the Archaeoastronomy Summer Institute, a five-day professional program exploring mythologies, religions, and worldviews of ancient cultures in Latin America. Several policymakers from surrounding states, led by the Max Kade Center for European and German Studies, traveled to Belgium to learn about educational reform in the European Union, hoping to bring back fresh ideas and new perspectives to instruct practice in the U.S.

As I mentioned at the outset, this academic year I am taking my profound commitment to international collaboration and exchange to a new level, embarking with my wife and our two children on our own international venture in Berlin, Germany. Vice Provost for Faculty, Timothy McNamara, will direct the university's global strategy in my absence; and without question, our many efforts to build bridges globally and bring worldwide perspectives to our students at home will continue to flourish.

I hope that you are intrigued by some of this issue's stories of international academic engagement and the relationships that members of the Vanderbilt community continue to cultivate with our friends abroad. As always, we welcome your suggestions and feedback, please feel free to email me at [vio@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vio@vanderbilt.edu).

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# Vanderbilt International

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interning in India.

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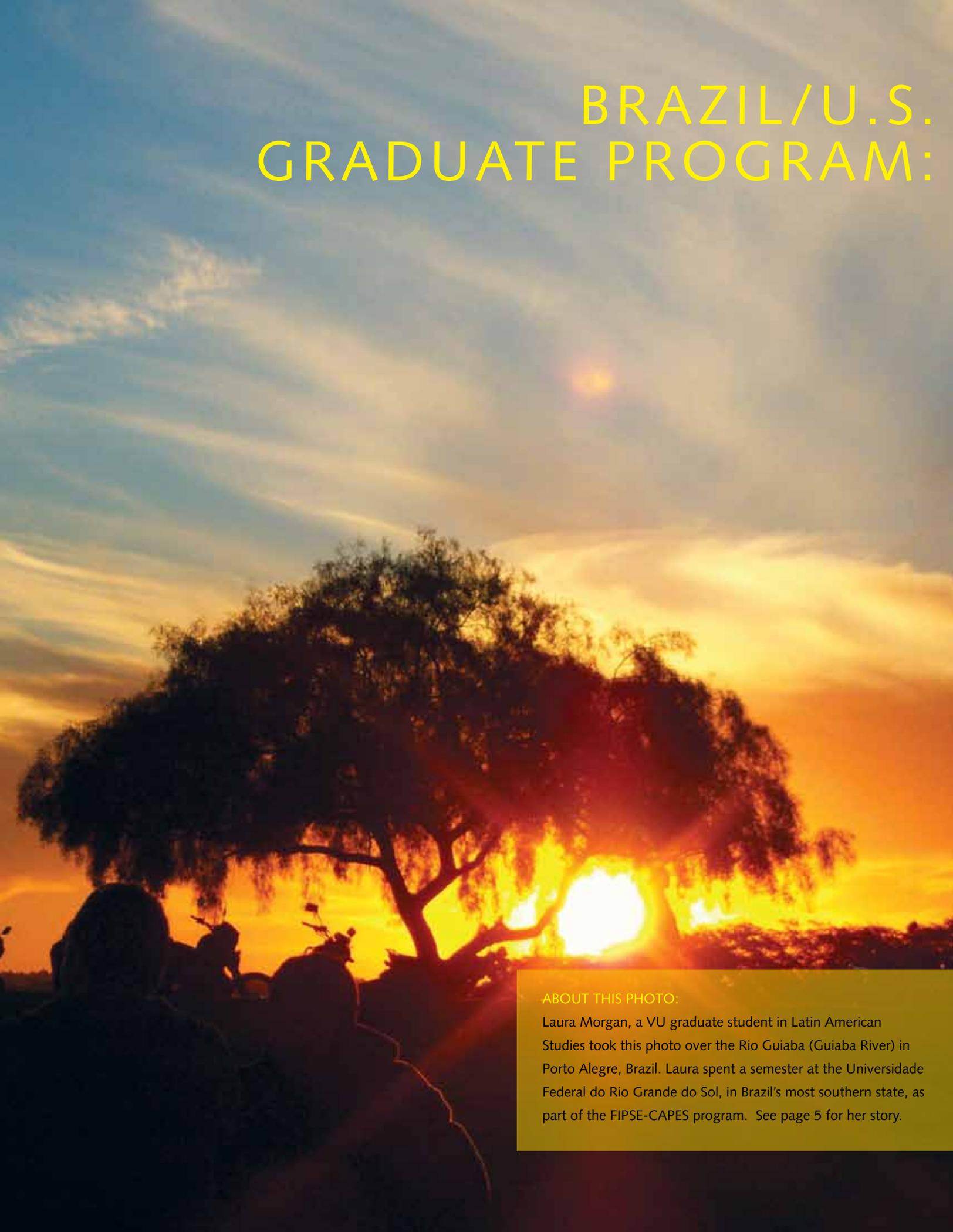
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A Quick Look at Vanderbilt's  
Recent International Influences



# BRAZIL/U.S. GRADUATE PROGRAM:

A photograph of a sunset over a river. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. A large, dark silhouette of a tree is in the foreground, and the silhouettes of several people are visible in the lower left corner. The sky is filled with wispy clouds, and the overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

## ABOUT THIS PHOTO:

Laura Morgan, a VU graduate student in Latin American Studies took this photo over the Rio Guiaba (Guiaba River) in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Laura spent a semester at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sol, in Brazil's most southern state, as part of the FIPSE-CAPES program. See page 5 for her story.

by ALLIE MORRIS

# FIPSE-CAPES

## Developing Cross-Cultural, Interdisciplinary Curricula

For Brazilian exchange students Rita Lewkowicz and Rodrigo Dornelles, it wasn't the campus scenery or college sports that got them most excited about Vanderbilt, but instead the campus library system.

"If we had this type of library and inter-library loan in Brazil, we could do so many things," Dornelles said.

Lewkowicz and Dornelles were part of Vanderbilt's FIPSE-CAPES program, an exchange program funded by a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE) and the Brazilian Ministry of Education (CAPES). The FIPSE-CAPES grant is awarded to a consortium of universities in the U.S. and Brazil, united under a specific course of study, and includes graduate student exchanges to encourage theoretical and practical knowledge of the other countries.

The consortium, made up of Vanderbilt, Fisk University, Universidade Rio Grande do Sul and the Universidade de Bahia, has a record of successful student exchange. The interdisciplinary program, called "Multicultural Diversity, Social Inequalities, and the Pursuit of Health in Brazil and the United States," included courses and certificate programs developed by faculty at all four consortium institutions.

"Our program is one of the few focused on humanities. Almost all the others are set on science and technology," said program co-director Marshall Eakin, Professor of History at Vanderbilt.

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PHOTOS (right, from top to bottom):

Vanderbilt professors Marshall Eakin and Jane Landers (right front and back) chat with Brazilian professors and FIPSE-CAPES exchange students;

Traditional gaúchos carrying the flag of Rio Grande do Sul during the Semana Farroupilha, the south's celebration of its attempt at independence;

Professor Jane Landers with FIPSE students in Bahia, Brazil.

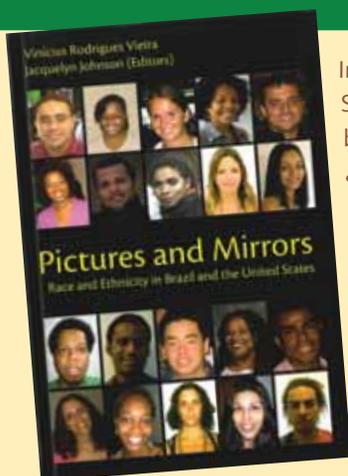
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FIPSE-CAPES students show off their book, "Pictures and Mirrors: Race and Ethnicity in Brazil and the United States."

## PICTURES AND MIRRORS



In June, the University of São Paulo School of Economics released the book, *Pictures and Mirrors: Race and Ethnicity in Brazil and the United States*. The book is comprised of 20 essays written by Brazilian and American students who took part in the FIPSE-CAPES program and spent time at the participating universities in each other's countries. A grant given by the U.S. Consulate in São

Paulo facilitated the publication of the book in support of the U.S.- Brazil Joint Action Plan to eliminate Racial and Ethnic Discrimination and Promote Equality.

The FIPSE-CAPES consortium brought together 59 Brazilian and American scholars and students to research, discuss and write about various aspects of the general theme of Race, Development and Social Inequality in Brazil and in the U.S.

The majority of the Brazilian students were low-income Afro-Brazilians and represented such fields as sociology, history, education, geography and journalism. The American participants were all of African descent as well. Vanderbilt University History Professors Jane Landers and Marshall Eakin, along with faculty members from Howard University, Federal University of Bahia, USP School of Economics, and U.S. Consul General Thomas White, took part in an opening panel in support of the book.

The initial five-year FIPSE-CAPES grant, which partnered Vanderbilt and Howard Universities with Brazilian institutions Universidade de São Paulo (USP) and the Universidade da Bahia (UFBA), ended in 2007, but Vanderbilt was awarded a new five-year grant focusing on race and social inequality in developing interdisciplinary curricula.

"The topic is a natural fit for relating Brazil and the U.S.," said Jane Landers, Associate Professor of History and program co-director of the consortium. She said both countries struggle with social and racial disparities in curriculum development.

Landers also pointed out the long history between Vanderbilt and Brazil. During a time when many U.S institutions maintained scholarly focus at home, Vanderbilt was developing an eye towards South America. Vanderbilt and three other southern research universities received a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to develop a center dedicated to the research and scholarship of Latin America. Using the funds from this grant, Vanderbilt developed the Institute for Brazilian Studies in 1947, the first program in the U.S. to focus entirely on the South American nation. Throughout the following decades, the institute grew into the Vanderbilt Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS) to include the rest of South America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

The FIPSE-CAPES grant ensures that the relationship between Vanderbilt and Brazil remains strong and paves the way for collaborative projects and tangible outcomes. For students, it provides an opportunity to experience their discipline in another country. At Vanderbilt, both Lewkowicz and Dornelles studied anthropology. To gain cultural exposure and competency is the main reason students participate in the program.

"The greatest aspect of this experience was to be able to see another way of thinking and doing," said Lewkowicz, who enjoyed comparing the two university systems. She recognized different teaching strategies employed by each country as a stark difference. "[In Brazil], they discuss a lot more theory, and here it's more examples and practical applications."

Lewkowicz credits the pedagogies employed and curricula used by Vanderbilt faculty as bridging the gap between theoretical teachings and practice.

Dornelles hopes to bring back some of the teachings he learned to his home country. Upon returning to Brazil, he is pursuing a master's degree and planning to apply to the University of California-Berkeley for a Ph.D. in Anthropology.

For more information about FIPSE-CAPES, visit <http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/fipsecapes/fipse>

## LAURA MORGAN IN HER OWN WORDS:

*Laura Morgan, a VU graduate student in Latin American Studies, spent a semester at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) in Porto Alegre, capital of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil's southernmost state famous for its gaúcho, or cowboy culture. Her experience was part of the FIPSE-CAPES program for curricular development and student exchange, entitled "Multicultural Diversity, Social Inequalities, and the Pursuit of Health in Brazil and the United States."*

"When asked the popular question, "What did you most enjoy about Brazil?" my answer, much like my stay in Porto Alegre, is short and sweet: "My family." When I received the FIPSE-CAPES grant, little did I know that down in Brazil's southernmost state, my fate was already being decided by a certain Anthropology student at Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul named Lucia. No, she was not interested in studying my strange American behavior and customs; she wanted to open her home and her family to me for what was originally just the first month of my stay. Her two sons, 19 year-old Bruno and 12 year-old Chico, were waiting for me at the airport, wide-eyed and nervous.

Over the next four months, I spent a significant amount of time with them, which was a wonderful way to gain knowledge of and experience local customs. Lucia and I talked and laughed about almost every aspect of the human experience; Bruno and I took the city's nightlife by force; and Chico and I joked about ridiculous English translations while sneaking sweets upstairs. I was soon a part of the family, and even the forty-or-so members of the extended family made sure that I would attend every birthday party, graduation, welcome-back party, going-away party, and of course, churrasco (Brazilian barbeque) in Porto Alegre. They started telling me, "Tu não é americana, tu é gaúcha!-You're not American, you're from Rio Grande!"

Before I knew it, it was time for my own going-away party. The aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, and family friends all came to bid farewell. As the trays of "real" barbeque stopped their rotation, and as the loud samba rock died down, so too diminished the normally animated Portuguese conversation...I knew I would be heartbroken to leave Brazil, but never expected how difficult it would be to leave the people of Brazil: my family."



Laura Morgan (back row, middle) and her Brazilian host family at their last dinner together before Morgan left Porto Alegre.

# My Journey To India

BY TYLER SANCHEZ, '10

Tyler Sanchez was one of 22 students this past year to receive an award from the Nichols Humanitarian Fund that enables Vanderbilt students to volunteer for local, domestic, or international humanitarian relief efforts. The funds are primarily focused on summer projects or projects during defined academic breaks. Sanchez used his scholarship to spend a month in India working with International Development Enterprises India (IDEI). The following are a few excerpts from Tyler's journal while in India.





Nichols Scholar Tyler Sanchez demonstrates how to use a treadle pump in the village of Gorakhpur, India.

I've always tried to live a life of purpose and have sought meaning in every new experience. Choosing to spend my one-month spring break working for a nonprofit in India was one of the greatest risks I've ever taken. Aside from the language barrier, the cultural barrier, and the fact that I knew no one in India, my task of designing a training manual for IDEI was a tall order. IDEI specializes in developing and marketing innovative and low-cost irrigation systems to rural farmers who otherwise have no sustainable way of irrigating their crops outside of the monsoon season. Living locally in a poverty-stricken area with no hot water, showerheads, or air conditioning, and with sweltering daily humidity, I certainly struggled at first. But after experiencing great kindness and witnessing the daily struggles faced by people in India, it gave me tremendous perspective and an unending gratitude for my own blessings. What began as my greatest life risk turned into my greatest life gift and has shaped my global perspective in a way that I never expected.

#### First Impressions:

"This morning I had the most exhilarating, if not terrifying, experience ever in my life. Rajpreet, a nice lady working at the IDEI office who has been helping me settle in and find my way around

Delhi told me to meet her at the nearby bus stop so that she could help me find my way to the office. So at 9 a.m. sharp, I waited for her there, only to see her appear a few minutes later wearing a helmet and motioning me towards her. I strolled up to her "two-wheeler" (read: Indian motorcycle) and she told me to jump on. Instinctively, I listened, and awkwardly I hopped on, but it was not without gripping the seat with all my might. This was before we even began moving. I had never ridden a motorcycle before and since the rumors about Delhi traffic had proven to be true, I was rightly primed with fear. It was terrifying. Within seconds we were off, zooming through Delhi traffic, weaving in between autorickshaws, cars, bicycles, people, and other vehicles and flying by them. The wind was screaming in my face as I looked on past Rajpreet to the busy street in front. Soon I began to relax a bit, though I think I held my breath the entire seven minute ride (I swear, though, that the journey took at least twenty minutes). Part of me didn't actually want it to end. I felt like the young Che Guevara in *The Motorcycle Diaries* as he and his doctor friend are driving across South America on a motorcycle witnessing the widespread poverty around them. I felt like a silent observer watching a movie about the real India play in front of my eyes. I was completely aware of everything around me, and although we averaged only 40 mph (with a high of 65 mph), everything felt as if it were going in slow motion. My eyes would latch onto a scene of a young barefooted boy walking away from me down a dirt road with a doll in his hand, and then I would notice a black spotted goat tied to wooden stake right on the side of the street.

Often I will imagine music playing in the background of important and defining moments in my life, almost as if my life were a movie playing in real-time and I can sit back and watch it. As we were speeding along, I could hear the song "Hard Sun" by Eddie Vedder from the movie *Into The Wild* playing in the background as we sped by a blurry scene of barefooted people, slum-dog housing, vocal street vendors, and dirt clouds, under a bright sun already beating down in the early morning of this hot and crowded city known as Delhi. It was at the same time terrifying, peaceful, and completely enlivening."

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Farmers in India practice working a treadle pump. Vanderbilt student, Tyler Sanchez interned with IDEI, a company that specializes in developing low-cost irrigation systems to rural farmers.

### Growing Comfort, Changing Impressions, and Lessons Learned...

“In a few short weeks I have come to know my small corner of India well and in this entry I may attempt to make larger generalizations about the country as a whole. Let me preface, though, with this: India is a country with various customs, dialects, and people that vary greatly depending on the region. Much like the United States, India is divided into states and to say that all the states are the same is like saying everything and everyone are the same in Tennessee and Wisconsin or that Californians are the same as New Yorkers. Obviously, it is not true, neither is it true for India. Now for the continuation of my adventure...

Last week I electrocuted myself. Man, did it hurt! I had set the bulky metal heating rod in the water bucket to warm the water for my daily standing bath (which I’ve affectionately come to call it) and 15 minutes later, I went back to check and see if the water was warm enough. I naively stuck my hand in the water only to feel the high-voltage shock of electricity snake towards my elbow at lightning speed. Never do I want to experience that again! You may be thinking, well at least you have water, right? Well, not the other day. The entire side of our dirt street was without water for 10 hours from 8 a.m. to the evening. This happened because only one single metal tube feeds water up from the ground and it failed us that day.

But for all that has seemingly gone awry in India, there’s much I’ve come to love about Delhi. For one, it keeps you on your toes. You’re never quite sure if someone is giving you a fair price or if they’re trying to take advantage of you because you’re a ‘rich American.’ For example, when getting price quotes in street markets or when taking rickshaws (basically big bicycles with two seats in the back that act as taxis), you always have to make your best effort to read the drivers’ body language when they give you the price—everything from the subtlety in their facial expressions to how quickly they say the price, to how loudly or softly

they say it. If they say the price quickly, in a lower-tone, and look away, they’re generally over-charging you and they know it. For me though, I always look at the eyes because the eyes never lie—wherever I’ve been, they are always the key to the truth.

But certainly not everyone in Delhi is trying to take advantage of you to make a little extra profit. Through various interactions with people during my time here, I have realized that there are a lot of good people in India, people who are honest, who work hard at sometimes less than exciting tasks, and whose personal pride in their job, themselves, or in some higher moral code won’t allow them to take handouts, easy routes, or shortcuts. These are people who do the right thing regardless of their financial situation or how easy the take looks—people who take care of each other even when they themselves have so little.



## A Final Thought

Over the weekend when I was out walking around Delhi with Bijit, the man I live with, he stopped three times to give spare change to disabled beggars on the street. He didn't stop to talk to them; he just acknowledged their presence and pulled some coins out of his pocket. We as Americans have so often conditioned ourselves to not see what is plainly in front of us. It is refreshing to know that there are people like Bijit out there who even with his very limited income (he rides a bicycle to work and lives in a very poor area of Delhi), are doing the right thing on a daily basis. He is doing more than his fair share of good. Every time we stopped and Bijit gave the beggars money, I felt a sick feeling in my stomach—it was guilt. I always used to think that it was wrong

for people to give money to beggars because they were likely just going to use it for drugs or alcohol, and sometimes that may be true. But the truth is I was wrong, and the ill feeling in the pit of my stomach that day proved it, because it's so much more than a question of giving or not giving... it's a question of humanity, and it is people who will ultimately decide if they want to answer that call. As for me, I have answered mine: I know now that I can do more, I can be more, I can give more of myself, I can be more righteous, and I can be a better man."

**Once again, a heartfelt thank you to the Nichols Humanitarian Fund for making this journey of service and learning possible.**

## NICHOLS SCHOLARS AT VANDERBILT BY SHELLEY MCFARLAN

"I remember Bob Geldof saying 'demand things of the world and if they don't do it then change the world to suit those demands,'" said Ed Nichols recalling the speech that Geldof, singer-songwriter, philanthropist and activist, gave during Senior Class Day in 2008. According to Mr. Nichols, that is the goal of the Nichols Humanitarian Fund: to help and encourage Vanderbilt students to become better citizens of the world and broaden their thinking by volunteering for humanitarian efforts.

The Nichols Humanitarian Fund was established in 2006 by the E.C. and Lucile Hamby Nichols Trust in honor of former First Lady Laura Bush's speech to the Vanderbilt class of 2006. Ed Nichols, a Vanderbilt Law School graduate, and his wife, Janice, wanted there to be a companion fund to the Nichols Chancellor's Medal that would provide students with awards to cover their educational, living and travel expenses.

"They're young and should be exposed to all kinds of cultures, lifestyles, religions, and standards of living. We want to encourage students to step outside their comfort zone, and there is no way to do that without actually being there. We want to provide them with the opportunity to do what we couldn't do. We are fortunate enough to be able to do what little we can through the fund."

Since 2006, over 45 students have

received awards from the Nichols Humanitarian Fund. These students have served in communities all over the world, including Australia, Costa Rica, India, Nicaragua, and South Africa. Support from the fund is primarily focused on summer projects or those that occur during defined academic breaks.

In Summer 2006, the Nichols traveled to Kampala, Uganda, to see the work that some student recipients were doing. "There are so many memories from our trip to Kampala, but what we remember most is the students who we met and have come to know. These students worked tirelessly in hospitals, hospices, and orphanages showing great compassion towards community members. We were able to witness the courage and determination of children and families left in cities ravaged by deaths from AIDS. When I think



Ed and Janice Nichols

about how remarkable these students are who work in these communities, I know that things will get better and be okay. We'll never forget them," commented the Nichols.

Janice traveled to Melbourne, Australia, during the summer of 2008 to be a part of the Vanderbilt Initiative for Scholarship and Global Engagement (VISAGE) program and participated in service activities hand-in-hand with some of the fund recipients.

"The students and I learned about global warming and water desalination. We saw for ourselves how little water they had and how precious a resource it is."

Throughout their travels with the students, the Nichols were amazed by the people in the communities who offered what little they had, whether it was food or a mat to sit on. As a result of these experiences, they have come to appreciate all that they have in the U.S. and are committed to giving students the ability to do things that they couldn't do when they were younger.

"These students have their whole lives ahead of them to use these experiences positively, to make a difference. We encourage Vanderbilt alumni to make their next vacation an active learning experience. By donating to student scholarships you will receive the reward of a lifetime that will keep giving in the future."

To learn more about the Nichols Humanitarian Fund, visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/nichols-prize](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/nichols-prize)

# InterVU *with* PROF. NATASHA HALASA

*Assistant Professor, Pediatric Infectious Diseases*

In the summer *Vanderbilt International* sat down with Assistant Professor of Pediatric Diseases and VIO grant recipient, Natasha Halasa, to ask her some questions about her Jordanian background and the groundbreaking research she is doing.



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

**Halasa:** I was born in Akron, Ohio and I am one of four girls. Both of my parents are Jordanian and my father came to the U.S. for college. I have been at Vanderbilt for eight years now.

**VI: Why did you choose to pursue medicine as a career?**

**Halasa:** I was always interested in science throughout school and one of the things that attracted me to medicine and being a physician was the ability not only to see patients, but also perform research and train medical students.

As for pediatrics specifically, I have always loved working with kids. I feel that I am able to relate to them and I have always admired their resilience. During a fourth year rotation in Medical School, I was with a mother during delivery and I found myself wanting to follow the baby to see how she was doing. I just felt drawn to pediatrics.

**VI: Can you tell us a little bit about your research?**

**Halasa:** My research interest is on improving children's health through identifying the different types of illnesses affecting kids and subsequently identifying the ways to prevent them through the use of vaccines. Respiratory illness is the leading cause of death in children worldwide under the age of five and many of these deaths can be prevented with vaccines.

**VI: How did the relationship between Vanderbilt and Jordan University develop?**

**Halasa:** There was a natural connection being that both my

parents are from there. Dr. Sten Vermund, Director of the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health, put me in touch with Dr. Najwa Khuri-Bulos, Division Head of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Professor of Pediatrics at Jordan University. From there we were able to build a relationship. We applied and received a VIO faculty exchange grant that funded a month-long visit by Dr. Khuri-Bulos to Vanderbilt where she gave five lectures and met with multiple faculty and staff members as well as medical and undergraduate students.

The mission of our collaboration is three-fold: teaching, service and research. The ultimate goal is for students (undergraduate/medical), residents/fellows, and faculty members from both universities to have the ability to visit each other's institutions. This is vital as Vanderbilt seeks to offer training in and understanding of the Middle East while Jordan seeks to increase their technical and managerial capacities in health and education.

**VI: What results have you seen in your research?**

**Halasa:** Jordanians are unaware of the viral respiratory burden of children under five years, especially with respect to influenza. I spent a month in Jordan setting up and training individuals there to conduct the study by collecting nose and throat samples from children under five who were admitted with respiratory symptoms to two major hospitals. The samples were then shipped to Vanderbilt to be analyzed. We found that 88% of the children were infected with a respiratory virus, which was far more than we had anticipated. In Jordan, where healthcare is free for children under six years of age, if we are able vaccinate children against these diseases the impact on the nation's healthcare expenditures would be vast. Unfortunately, there is not a vaccine currently available in Jordan. Although scientifically this is what we want to do and makes the most sense, the practicality and cost in developing countries results in a lag in vaccine introduction.

**VI: Why do you think it's important to think about healthcare in a global context?**

**Halasa:** My father left Jordan knowing he could have a better life in the U.S., and that has given me motivation to turn back around and work with physicians in Jordan to provide better healthcare and improve the lives of the children and people there.

As a medical student, I went to South America and those experiences were invaluable for me. It opened my way of thinking and I found out that the U.S. way of healthcare is not universal.

I grappled with questions of how to deliver vaccines or travel to remote clinics when there were no roads to transport the medicines. It is important to realize that not everyone is as privileged as we are or has access to the same standards of care. Even when science has proven that vaccines can cure certain diseases affecting children, ten million children are still dying every year and we need to understand how and why they are dying.

It is necessary to connect a face to a country, and bringing Dr. Khuri-Bulos here was a perfect example. I received strong commitment on behalf of Vanderbilt including from the dean of the medical school to pursue my research.

## VI: Anything you want to say about Jordan?

**Halasa:** I would have to say the food is amazing. One of my favorites is mansaf, a traditional Jordanian dish of rice and meat with yogurt sauce. Jordanians use food as a way of bringing large groups together where eating is a communal and social activity. Jordanians are extremely friendly and welcoming people. Also, Jordan is home to some incredible historical sites: Mt. Nebo, the Dead Sea, and Petra—one of the new wonders of the world.

## COMMON GROUND: COLLABORATIONS IN PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Dr. Najwa Khuri-Bulos



Dr. Natasha Halsha (VU) and Dr. Najwa Khuri-Bulos (Jordan University)

Like many university collaborations, the partnership between Vanderbilt and Jordan University began with a personal connection. For Dr. Najwa Khuri-Bulos, her connection was to Dr. Sten Vermund, Director of the Institute for Global Health at Vanderbilt, who ultimately led her to Dr. Natasha Halasa.

“My first contact with Dr. Halasa was the result of helpful suggestions from Dr. Vermund and was facilitated by a grant from the Vanderbilt International Office,” Khuri-Bulos explained. “The grant allowed me to visit Vanderbilt for a one-month period during which I presented four lectures—two of which were grand rounds on ‘polio’ and on the ‘State of Arab Child Health.’ ”

Dr. Khuri-Bulos, Professor of Pediatrics and Head of Infectious Diseases at Jordan University Hospital, is now a familiar face at Vanderbilt. The success of the pilot project between Vanderbilt, Jordan University and the Jordan Ministry of Health at the Al Basheer hospital has led to additional funding for projects in the next three years.

“Jordan and Jordan University are very well suited to benefit from the advanced research capabilities at Vanderbilt, while at the same time providing Vanderbilt with significant patient research opportunities relating to disease epidemiology, disease outcome, and etiology.”

In addition, both universities benefit from student exchange. “The exchange is a great opportunity for students to be exposed to the way things are done in other universities, and in different countries,” she explained.

Dr. Khuri-Bulos acknowledges the importance of working across borders and the ability to utilize the strengths and opportunities available in different parts of the world.

“The ease with which people, knowledge and news travels around the world has made it necessary that we work in international context since everything affects the local health and other social determinants of health.”



# patterns in the pampas:

## Inside the Peruvian Desert

BY MISSY PANKAKE AND  
AVERY DICKINS DE GIRÓN



(TOP) Excavators in highland Bolivia exhuming a burial. (ABOVE) Excavators take a break at Khonkho Wankane, Bolivia.

The Nazca Lines are an enigma. The strange geometric shapes and animals carved into the land were first spotted in the Peruvian desert south of Lima in the 1930s when commercial airlines began flying over them.

No one has proof of who built them or why. Since their discovery, the Nazca Lines have inspired fantastic explanations ranging from monuments honoring ancient gods to a landing strip for alien spacecraft to a celestial calendar created by the ancient Nazca civilization.

Anthony Aveni, a pioneer in the field of archaeoastronomy, particularly the astronomical history of Latin America, presented an illustrated lecture about the Nazca Lines at the Vanderbilt Dyer Observatory library. Aveni, the Russell Colgate Professor of Astronomy and Anthropology at Colgate University, reviewed a number of seemingly diverse hypotheses relating to the origins of the Nazca lines and put them to the test by the examination of relevant evidence derived from remains in the area.

Aveni is considered one of the founders of Mesoamerican archaeoastronomy, in particular for his research in the astronomical history of the Aztec and Maya of ancient Mexico. Archaeoastronomy is the study of the astronomical practices, celestial lore, mythologies, religions and worldviews of ancient cultures. It is a study that shows us the role the cosmos played in civilizations throughout history and that allows us to look at the development and formation of scientific and religious beliefs relating to the cosmos.

Aveni's lecture was part of the Archaeoastronomy Summer Institute for teachers sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies and Dyer Observatory. Twenty-six teachers from Tennessee and surrounding states came to Vanderbilt for the five-day program. The institute consisted of workshops presented by scholars from anthropology, physics, astronomy, and the Dyer Observatory who examined astronomical practices, celestial lore, mythologies, religions, and worldviews of ancient cultures in Latin America. Topics ranged from Mayan and Incan mathematical and calendrical systems, archaeology, and social practices to the equation of time-astronomical principals, sundial usage, and a tour of Dyer Observatory's Star Chamber.

Eric Shelton, a history teacher from Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, came away from the workshop with a better understanding of the Mayan calendric system and the impact of pre-Incan civilizations. "I love the multidisciplinary aspect of a workshop like this. It is

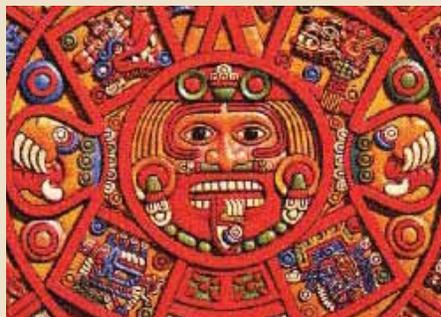


Anthony Aveni, presents an illustrated lecture about the Nazca Lines, reviewing a number of seemingly diverse hypotheses relating to the origins of the Nazca lines.

something that gets lost at the high school level," he says. "Archaeoastronomy lends itself to interdisciplinary studies better than any other approach I have encountered. There are opportunities for the development of lesson plans in a variety of subjects including literature, science, astronomy, history, and mathematics."

Pam Volk, another workshop participant, teaches Spanish language and culture at Liberty Elementary School in Franklin, Tennessee, and is already coming up with ways to share the information in her classroom. "I think I'll first introduce the Mayan number system. Kids love 'puzzles' and it will be easy to present the 20-based number system as a challenging puzzle. I would like to have the students make a Mayan style codex, using a number line/time line of important events in their own lives, and use the Mayan numbers to mark their age when the events took place."

Linda Gauthier teaches middle school in Louisiana and also serves as a solar system ambassador for NASA. She was impressed with the diverse background of the participants and presenters and is still trying to digest all the topics presented at the workshop. "As a science teacher, I had almost no background in the cultures of the



Incas, Mayans, their calendrics, math, and religions," she reflects. "All of these topics tie in so closely with their sciences. Dr. Aveni's lecture at the Dyer Observatory on the Nazca Lines has peaked my interest in using this topic in my middle school science class as a 'hook' in learning how a hypothesis can be formulated and tested even though conclusive proof may not be possible."

In addition to the lecture by Aveni, participants cited several other highlights of the week including a sunrise viewing of Venus at Dyer Observatory and an interactive session using the armillary sundial on Vanderbilt's main campus. "I was blown away by the caliber and expertise reflected in the presenter roster," Shelton commented. "I never expected to be in the classroom with the top minds of so many different fields. I felt like I should be getting more autographs."

Avery Dickins de Girón, Assistant Director of the Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), believes the collaboration between CLAS and Dyer produced one of their most successful professional institutes. "Through these summer workshops and those held during the academic year we reach hundreds of teachers and students throughout the middle Tennessee region, fulfilling our K-12 outreach mission. In this case the teachers were really excited to go back and integrate what they learned about astronomy and ancient Maya and Andean cultures into their curricula."

A podcast of the Aveni lecture is accessible on VUCast at <http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/news/video/2009/06/18/video-patterns-on-the-pampa-secrets-of-the-nazca-lines>.

# Listening to HISTORY



BY JONATHAN MARX

Cultural context, including the role of politics, has always shaped how music is composed and performed, and Blair School of Music professors Joy Calico and Jim Lovensheimer feel that as musicologists they are charged with helping students to understand music within the cultural context of its creation. Both will tell you, however, that this context is perpetually shifting, subject to the vagaries of history and society. Through their own scholarly pursuits, Calico and Lovensheimer come a little closer to grasping the profound complexities of music as it is experienced in the real world.

“I try to discourage my students from thinking of music only as entertainment,” Calico says. “Composers don’t live in a vacuum. We have this idea that they operate in a parallel universe where outside forces don’t affect them, but politics—on any number of fronts, and interpreted any number of ways—affects what they do.”

This idea is at the core of Calico’s latest research-in-progress. *Musical Remigration: Schoenberg’s “A Survivor from Warsaw”* in Postwar Europe, a study of the celebrated modernist’s 1947 choral work, gives powerful expression to the experiences of Polish Jews during the Holocaust. The composer died in 1951, leaving behind *A Survivor in Warsaw* as a kind of thorny posthumous legacy.

“The piece is a lens through which to view what was happening in postwar Europe,” Calico explains, “so I’m looking at how the piece was received in seven different countries on both sides of the East/West divide. It managed to hit every exposed nerve of the European psyche at the time. It was written by a Jew; it’s about the Holocaust; it makes the Germans look like fiends and the Jews look heroic; and though Schoenberg (who moved to the United States in 1934) never returned to his home in Austria, this piece serves as a kind of symbolic remigration.”

“The buttons it pushes are the same everywhere, but the specific contexts that emerge are interesting.”

As a case in point, Calico cites the piece’s mixed reception in West Germany during the 1950s. “We have this image of West

Germany in the 1950s as a nirvana for modern music, but that’s not entirely true. My research shows that there was an anti-Semitic sentiment running through the country at the time, and that influenced the reception of *Survivor*. The American version of West German history isn’t an accident—in this case, history was quite literally written by the victors.”

Calico will continue to work on the book during the next academic year, thanks to having received a highly competitive ACLS Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars, which will allow her to spend 2009-10 as a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard. Her archival research thus far in Warsaw, Oslo and Paris has been funded by a Vanderbilt University Research Scholars Grant and a Howard Fellowship from the George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation. The latter will fund Calico’s additional archive work in Prague, Vienna and Leipzig.

“There’s a huge body of literature on Holocaust studies that I’m just now getting into,” Calico says, “and I have no doubt that this scholarship will affect the way I’m handling this project.”

Lovensheimer has encountered his own share of revelations about the postwar era in his latest research project, *South Pacific*:

**“My goal is to make people aware of the vast body of music that’s out there to be experienced.”**

—Professor Jim Lovensheimer

*Paradise Rewritten*, due to be published by Oxford University Press later this year. Though Rodgers and Hammerstein’s hugely popular musical would seem to have little in common with Schoenberg’s jarring piece, the two works premiered within a year of each other. And, like *A Survivor in Warsaw*, *South Pacific* has a lot to tell us about the mid-20th-century mindset.

“When I was doing some research at the Library of Congress in the Oscar Hammerstein II Collection, I discovered that the

*“I try to discourage my students from thinking of music only as entertainment. Composers don’t live in a vacuum. We have this idea that they operate in a parallel universe where outside forces don’t affect them, but politics—on any number of fronts, and interpreted any number of ways—affects what they do.”*

—Joy Calico

Associate Professor of Musicology,  
Blair School of Music



show started out much more political than it ended up being,” Lovensheimer says. “At the same time, it does have a message of racial tolerance. So the playwrights had to find this fine line between edifying and entertaining their audiences. My work at large is about looking at issues of gender, race, colonialism and the new corporate system, and demonstrating how *South Pacific* deals with those issues.”

In the field of musicology, American musical theater remains a relatively unexplored topic of discussion. This is, Lovensheimer says, because it’s a popular genre. “Classical music critics don’t take it seriously because they think it’s middlebrow, and theater people don’t take it seriously because they think it’s not legitimate theater,” he says. “This is starting to change, though, and I’m hoping that this book will be a part of creating that change. Within this genre, there are some powerful cultural texts that tell us about who we are.”

Lovensheimer routinely brings his irrepressible enthusiasm for research into the classroom, where he urges students to open their minds to new ways of thinking. It’s for this reason, among others, that he was named not only the 2008 winner of the Ellen

Gregg Ingalls Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching at Vanderbilt, but also the recipient of the Chancellor’s Cup, given annually to a faculty member whose dedication to teaching spills out of the classroom and into student life. For Lovensheimer, it’s all a part of getting people to understand the fundamental vitality of the culture that surrounds us every day.

“My goal is to make people aware of the vast body of music that’s out there to be experienced,” he says. “One of the few soapboxes I get on is to instill in my students the idea that American music is not inferior to European music. It’s an intersection of cultures and people and ideas and traditions that most of us don’t think go together. And yet they’re always bumping together and creating something new, and that’s what makes American music so exciting.”

For more information about Blair’s faculty of musicology and ethnomusicology, visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/Blair/faculty/faculty\\_muslit.html](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/Blair/faculty/faculty_muslit.html)



# FULBRIGHT GATEWAY

BY MELISSA SMITH

“Pinch me! I can’t believe I’m really here. This has been my dream since I was fourteen.” These words came from an Iraqi Fulbright scholar describing her reaction to being in the United States. For three days in July, Vanderbilt hosted 37 Fulbright graduate student recipients, participating in a Gateway Orientation before traveling to other universities throughout the U.S. to pursue their graduate work. Their fields of study range from Public Health to Piano Composition, and they will be attending public and private institutions from Kansas to California.

For many of the participants, their visit to Nashville and Vanderbilt was the first time they had been in the U.S.

“I know nothing about America, and I only know a little bit about the state of Tennessee now,” said Vusani Tshivhase from South Africa. “Having the opportunity to be in the U.S. for two years of graduate study will be a great start to understanding this country and achieving my personal success.”

Vanderbilt was one of eight universities chosen by the Institute of International Education (IIE) to host a Gateway Orientation in 2009. The Gateway Orientation program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

According to IIE, the orientation “aims to provide professional development and leadership as well as an introduction to the U.S. academic system and culture as part of the overall goal of promoting mutual understanding.”

Thomas Guess of Germany joked that ‘learning the culture’ for him meant learning how to wakeboard while in the U.S. He then added that, in reality, studying mathematics at the University of Kansas would make him a more well-rounded student.

“I will be able to expand my professional skill set by taking

courses not offered in Germany. I hope to improve my language skills and find new friends, whom I can share about my country while also learning about theirs.”

With the help of students, staff and faculty from across campus, the Vanderbilt International Office (VIO) designed the orientation to include academic, cultural and social activities that would prepare students to live and learn in the U.S.

“The Gateway program provided a wonderful opportunity for Vanderbilt to engage some of the world’s most promising young scholars. We hope that they know they are now part of the Vanderbilt community,” said Dawn Turton, Executive Director of VIO.

Each day began with a lecture or discussion on aspects of U.S. culture, including sessions on cross-cultural awareness and understanding, graduate education in the U.S., academic integrity, research skills, and the U.S. healthcare system, among others. A panel of current U.S. and international Vanderbilt graduate students provided insight and tips on graduate life from the importance of being involved on campus to utilizing student discounts.

Samuel Addo, from Ghana, appreciated learning about his

*“Before I arrived in the U.S., I was worried that I would be lost. Everything was so different. Through these three days I have gained enough knowledge and tools to start my academic life in the U.S.”*

—Samuel Addo, Fulbright Graduate Scholar

# WAY ORIENTATION



Fulbright scholars outside the Commons Center during the three day orientation.



Students enjoy some down time before one of the final sessions of the afternoon.



Panel participants field questions from Fulbright scholars on graduate student life.

role in graduate school. “I was glad to learn that I won’t be alone on an island, but I’ll be with fellow students, in a department, in a school, in a university, in a community.”

Dayle Savage, Lecturer in Leadership, Policy, and Organization at Peabody facilitated a leadership session and expressed her enthusiasm for working with the Fulbright students. “I’m honored to work with these bright individuals. It’s important to be united in learning and leading since this is our future—these students will be leaders in the world.”

Outside the classroom, students got a taste of life in Music City, including a scavenger hunt of downtown Nashville landmarks, dinner at the Hard Rock, and line dancing at the Wild-horse Saloon—and that was just the first night. The group also experienced America’s favorite pastime by attending a Nashville Sounds baseball game and cheering on the teams.

VIO Program Coordinator Shelley McFarlan added that the

orientation gave Vanderbilt an opportunity to highlight our university and the city. “The nature of the Gateway orientation allows us to showcase both the campus and Nashville to a unique international audience. We tried to make sure participants felt welcomed and comfortable here, and we hope that they take this sentiment about Vanderbilt to the 30 countries they call home.”

Though they were only on campus for less than a week, participants left Vanderbilt ready for the challenges and adventures awaiting them at their new institutions across the U.S.

“Before I arrived in the U.S., I was worried that I would be lost. Everything was so different. Through these three days, though, I have gained enough knowledge and tools to start my academic life,” said Addo.

Added Tshivhase, “I’m going to work very hard to reach the goals I have. This is a great opportunity for us all, and I thank Vanderbilt for helping us start this journey.”

# Getting to Know



BY ELLIE DURHAM AND LEIGH SHOUP

In June 2009, ten educational and policy leaders from the mid-South and six participants from Vanderbilt traveled to Belgium for a week to learn about European Union (EU) institutional structure and educational policy reform. A “Getting to Know Europe” outreach grant from the European Union commission awarded to the Max Kade Center (MKC) for European and German Studies made the trip possible.

Led by MKC Director John A. McCarthy and Pearl Sims, Lecturer in Education at Peabody, the group set out to increase awareness of the importance of EU institutions and to learn about EU initiatives in the areas of language, diversity, immigration, and education.

“It was inspiring to see how 27 countries have begun the process of advocating for common education goals and norms,” said Paul Fleming, Principal of Hume-Fogg Academic High School in Nashville. Fleming was one of ten principals, school district superintendents, policy-makers, and other educational leaders in Tennessee selected to travel to Belgium based on their potential to enhance educational policies regarding European studies in state curricula. In addition to McCarthy and Sims, the group included four other Vanderbilt participants also included: Virginia Scott, Associate Professor of French; Kurt Johnson, Outreach Coordina-

tor for the grant; Leigh Shoup and Ellie Durham, graduate students and research assistants to Sims and McCarthy, respectively.

Scott, a nationally known second-language acquisition expert, was impressed by the range of activities aimed at promoting multilingualism in the EU. “The insights gained on the trip add a new perspective to my own work on this side of the Atlantic,” she said.

The study trip is just one of the MKC’s initiatives as part of the “Getting to Know Europe” grant. The Center aims to raise awareness about the relevance of the EU in local, state, and regional affairs, including the local and regional economy.

“Our hope [for the trip],” McCarthy stated, “was to capture the imagination of leading policy makers and to promote the awareness of Europe’s importance for us in our educational programs.”

The Tennessee delegation spent a week in Brussels, attend-



A joint meeting with Margaret Nicholson, Executive Director, Council for Educational Exchange and René Erl, Changeé d’ Affaires, U.S. Mission to the EU.



**“Our hope [for the trip] was to capture the imagination of leading policy makers and to promote the awareness of Europe's importance for us in our educational programs.”**

*—John A. McCarthy, MKC Director*

ing lectures and discussions at the European Commission, the United States Mission to the EU, the Commission for Foreign Exchange, and the European University Association – among others. The itinerary also included a day trip to The Hague, in The Netherlands, organized by Vanderbilt's spring 2009 EU Scholar in Residence, Gerrit B. M. Dielissen (Utrecht University), to visit the International Court of Justice and a visit with an internationally renowned expert on minority integration. Other highlights included an interview with the European Commission for Multilingualism, and a discussion with the Chargée d'Affaires of the U.S. Commission to the EU. Topics included Europe's multilingual policy, teacher education, K-12 reform, and changing transatlantic relations.

“We could not have wished for a more wonderful group of presenters, more rich and focused presentations, or hoped for greater hospitality than we experienced in each governmental and NGO office,” McCarthy said.

The trip was truly a “learning experience of a lifetime” for John Bell, Coordinator for Leadership and Evaluation at the Alabama State Department of Education. Other delegates were quick to echo the sentiment and acknowledged coming away with a more informed view of the EU's impact at local, state, and regional levels.

But the impact didn't end with the week in Brussels. The delegation are continuing their collaboration under the moniker “The American Consortium for Global Education” to define next steps in proposing reforms to teacher education, K-12 policy, and higher education in their member states with the intent to enhance educational policy in the mid-South.

The grant activities that have taken place this year represent initial steps in raising general consciousness of these transatlantic issues. MKC has also sponsored, in collaboration with the American Council on Germany and Sister Cities Nashville, lectures by European and American ambassadors, outreach initiatives in schools and universities and visits by notable experts to discuss topics ranging from political-economic institutions to the Russian/Georgian conflict to transatlantic and EU perspectives.

For more information on the Max Kade Center and “Getting to Know Europe” grant, please visit the Center's Web site at [www.vanderbilt.edu/euro](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/euro) For more information regarding the Brussels Study Trip, please visit the trip Web site at [www.vubrussels.com](http://www.vubrussels.com)

# China

DOING  
BUSINESS  
WITH

BY CAROLYN MILLER



Owen student Ed Bayer and other members of his group visit the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, China.

**W**hat does it mean to be a foreigner doing business in China? What companies are best to partner with or hire in China in order to grow a business? What are the intricacies of working in the financial market in China?

These were among a list of questions designed by students from the Owen Graduate School of Management during a week-long intensive practicum on issues of business, management, culture, and the political economy in China.

Daniel Eckman, '09 MBA, was one of the members of a team working on the expansion of Abigail Washburn's music into the Chinese market. Eckman, also Chairman of "Abbyinchina Music"

publishing corporation, was interested in what it would take for Washburn—fluent in Chinese—to succeed in China. The team researched censorship laws and practices, economics, and costs of putting on shows.

Based on one of the research findings, the group determined that to be viable, Abigail Washburn must be present in China for at least six months out of the year. The project apparently made an impact. As of today, her website informs fans that she is engaged in multiple projects in China.

"We met with record companies, local music producers, disc jockeys, and government officials to see if we could find a way to make Abby's music 'stick' in China while maintaining the musical integrity," explained Eckman. "The whole experience has given me hands-on business experience and provided me with a better understanding of how business needs to be conducted."

Powered by the one of the world's most impressive economic growth rates, doing business with China is quickly becoming an

increasingly lucrative affair. Ever since the country started on the capitalist road, businesses and entrepreneurs have been keeping a close eye on China to see how they might capitalize on the booming economy.

“If there is one area of the world where U.S. businesses will need to work, it’s China,” says Ray Friedman, Brownlee O. Currey Professor of Management and developer of the Owen in China program.

It’s not surprising, then, that Owen is tackling that issue head on by creating courses specifically designed to introduce students to the intricacies of the Chinese market, including a course that includes in-country projects such as Eckman’s.

Friedman has been working on the China-focused courses for five years. He teaches “Doing Business in China,” designed both for students who know little about the area and those with long-standing interests in the country. It provides an overview of the history, culture, and economic structure and examines issues faced by foreign companies.

Of course, the highlight for the students is the field experience provided by the practicum during spring break when students put their projects into action.

Friedman asks students early in the semester to find a company that may have operations and/or interest in China and negotiate with the company to identify a management issue or research question to be addressed.

The students are intentionally given leeway in developing individual projects: they agree on the scope of the project, intended deliverables, and present final research results to the companies they select.

According to Friedman, the experience in China is key to widening the scope of their perspective.

“You know how people say, ‘A picture is worth a thousand words?’ I would say that a visit is worth a thousand pictures. In other words, you don’t get a sense of the power of the experience until you’re there.”

Curious about investing in China, Kevin Cragholm, ’10, and his team examined the state of regulation. The team was specifically interested in the financial transaction market. They surveyed dealmakers in areas including private equity, law, real estate, professional services, government, and industry.

The takeaway for Cragholm? “The key point—the ‘aha’ moment—was our recognition that Chinese business culture is quite similar to the West and Chinese businesspersons have the same intentions: to create significant wealth opportunities.” He admitted, however, that there are some differences. “Deal strategies that are successful in Western countries, if implemented without ‘Red Star’ adjustments, are unlikely to be successful.”

As Friedman points out, the importance of understanding the nuances of business behavior is crucial. “Unlike many other countries, China is different enough that you must study it and understand its culture,” he said.

Students, including Cragholm, picked up on this difference throughout their experience there.



Owen Professor Ray Friedman (right, front) poses with business students and alumni in Beijing.

“Patience, flexibility, and due diligence are required in all deals, but are particularly important in China. Foreign businesspersons must pay particular attention to the country’s history, culture, consumer demographics, and government policies.”

Students are motivated to understand China within the global economy for another reason: job marketability.

Edward Bayer, ’10, learned about the trip through the *Owen Daily News* during his first week of classes and decided that this experience was something that would strengthen his resume.

“The trip allowed me to have a better understanding of the global economy, but also interested me because I have no international work experience and felt this could only benefit me in molding myself for future employment,” Bayer said.

The goal of Bayer’s team project was to develop a vendor scorecard for a U.S. hardware company that allowed the company to better choose their vendors based on specific rankings rather than a trial and error system.

According to Bayer, the consulting atmosphere and self-driven nature was a big positive for the program.

“The responsibility is all on you and your team. You could make the experience as grand as you wanted it to be. I was fortunate to have such a dedicated, motivated, and diverse team that enabled me to share in one of the best Owen experiences thus far,” he said.

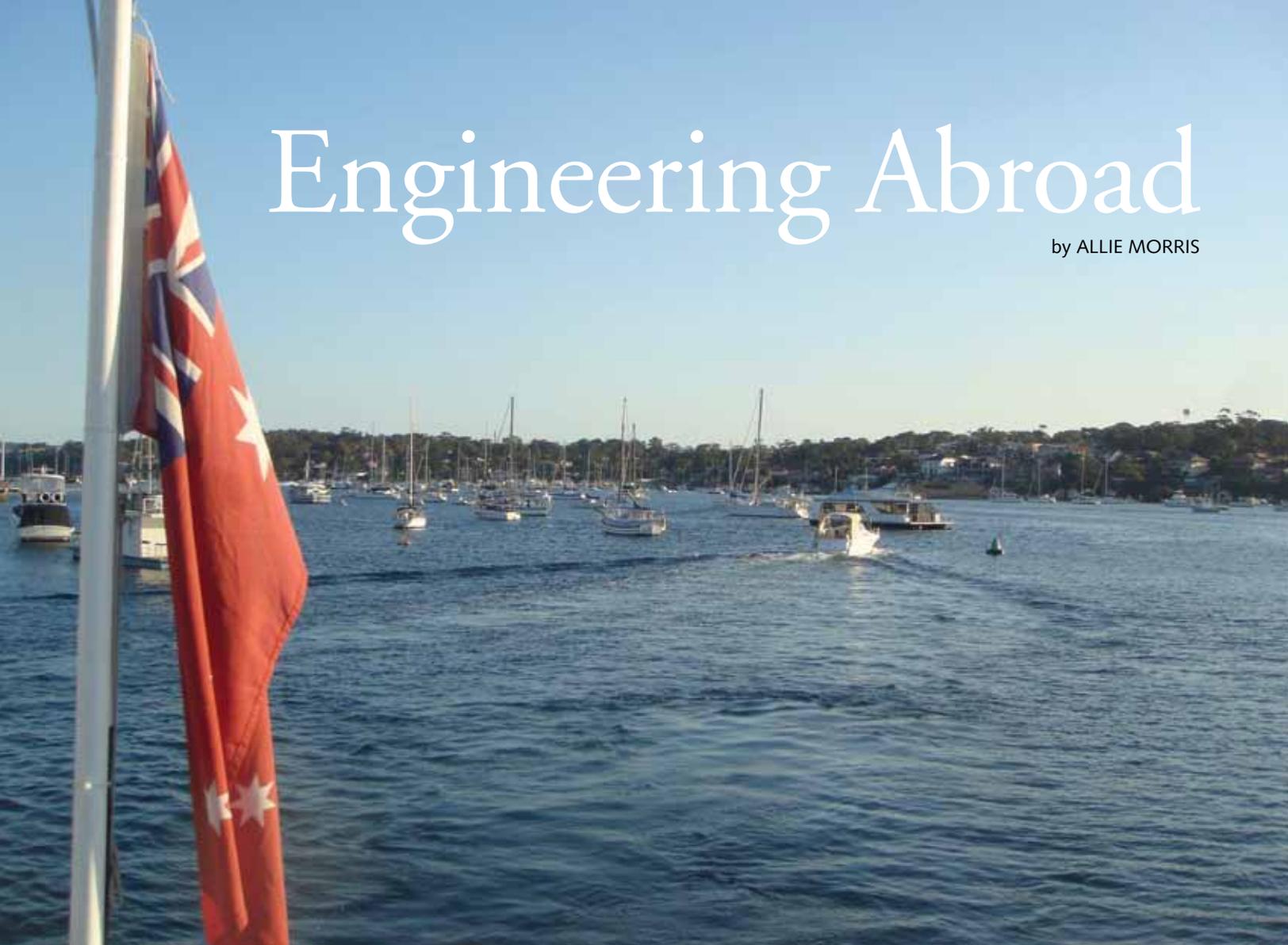
For Eckman, he hopes the program continues to grow even more entrepreneurial.

“I think it would be interesting to research starting a company that would have a footprint in China. This would give students even more opportunity to really understand the nature of business there.”

To learn more about the program, visit [www.owen.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.owen.vanderbilt.edu)

# Engineering Abroad

by ALLIE MORRIS



Engineering student Meghan Murphy, '10, captures the scene at Port Hacking, Australia, during a field trip with her Marine Environment class. She spent the day studying sediment size as it related to wave energy.

Study abroad and engineering usually don't go hand in hand. Difficulties in transferring credits, strict coursework requirements, and differences in professional certification standards overseas prevent many students from enrolling in study abroad programs. However, Vanderbilt is looking to change that perception.

In the past five years, engineering participation in study abroad at Vanderbilt has risen by 50%, with engineering students making up 6.4% of the total number of students studying abroad, double the national average 3.1%.

"Switching two courses was all it took," explained engineering undergraduate Meghan Murphy, '10, when discussing her decision to study abroad. "It's not nearly as difficult to study abroad as an engineer as some people perceive it to be."

These growing numbers are the result of a marked effort in the School of Engineering (VUSE) to increase global opportunities for its students. The effort is being led by Prof. Stacy Klein, appointed in 2007 as the Associate Dean for Outreach, as well as the faculty international strategy committee at the school.

"Our strategy is to seek international collaborations leading to research, education, and professional excellence," Klein said. "Our international committee is trying to develop mechanisms to support students and faculty in their international efforts and to address existing barriers that have hindered people from international activities."

The committee is currently working to develop student outcomes and metrics, expand coursework and design work to incorporate methods of global education, and grow and develop international opportunities for undergraduates and graduates to study abroad.

"VUSE is committed to increasing the participation of engineering students in all our international activities, particularly

**FACT:** The number of Vanderbilt engineering students going abroad is more than twice the national average

study abroad, and to expand its international efforts,” explained Kenneth Galloway, Dean of the School of Engineering.

According to Murphy the word is spreading. “Study abroad is definitely becoming more popular among engineers. More programs are being offered all over the world. A quick meeting with Dr. Klein helped me to rearrange my schedule, easily making room for a semester abroad.”

So why is this a priority now? “The goal,” said Klein, “is for students to gain the required skills to practice engineering in an international context. We want to develop global engineers, and we want students to come back and educate others about their experiences.” For Klein, the international component is value-added to students’ degrees.

Murphy agrees, “This type of learning is extremely important because there are a number of countries leading advances in science and technology, each with their strengths. We are all learning from each other, extending our independent strengths to one another.”

As Murphy found, it was hard not to think about her studies at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, in an international context.

“We couldn’t discuss the Australian Drug Administration without discussing that of the newly established European Union, or that of the U.S. or that of Asia. For one class alone, I had three lecturers: an American, an Australian and an Indian, each with backgrounds in mechanical, biomedical, and electrical engineering, respectively.”

Klein hopes students are able to see that going abroad is feasible. “The engineering curriculum is somewhat rigid, but certainly flexible enough for students to study abroad,” she says. While she would like to see a continued increase in semester-long study, getting students overseas during the summer also has its merits.

James “Van” Gambrell felt a summer program was better suited for him. After receiving an email from Klein promoting a summer trip to India through the University of Arkansas, Gambrell responded, discussed the trip with her and applied.

“It was kind of spur of the moment. I wanted to go abroad somewhere where I could get engineering credit and India is an integral part of globalization. Dr. Klein was a liaison between myself and Arkansas and helped me get ready for the program and helped transferring classes when I got back.”

Such encounters with Klein are the norm throughout the year. She coordinates three presentations each semester focusing on Europe, Asia/Africa, and Australia/New

Zealand. Over 100 students attended a reception for study abroad that featured student panelists and pictures from their trips.

“We also recommend that students spend time on the School of Engineering Web site and the Global Education Office’s Web site to learn about opportunities.”

**“Study abroad is definitely becoming more popular among engineers. More programs are being offered all over the world. A quick meeting with Dr. Klein helped me to rearrange my schedule, easily making room for a semester abroad.”**

Klein regularly advises students on engineering programs and curricula requirements, enabling students to study abroad without disrupting their required coursework.

“I met with about 100 students who wanted to study abroad,” she explained. “I help develop a four year plan with students, especially those that are pre-med or pre-vet and have minors or very specific study abroad opportunities in mind.”

Understanding degree requirements and clearly navigating coursework overseas is crucial for getting students on board with the idea of taking time away from Vanderbilt. Klein spent the summer working with Peabody practicum student Landon Anderson on creating specimen curriculum for students in each major at select universities.

According to Klein, existing study abroad programs at Vanderbilt have been designed to include all engineering majors.

Since 2008, VUSE has partnered with Georgia Tech and Boston University on their programs in Lorraine, France (GT), Dresden, Germany (BU), and Guadalajara, Mexico (BU). Agreements have been signed with the City University of Hong Kong and the National University of Singapore to begin a student exchange. Other partner programs around the world are in development for both the academic year and the summer, providing a balance of opportunities for each major in each region of the world.

Ara Pachmayer, Director of the Global Education Office (GEO), says she is excited to see the increase in the number of VU engineering students studying overseas.

“These students are typically underrepresented in study abroad, and GEO staff work closely with students and faculty to



The effort is being led by Stacy Klein, appointed in 2007 as the Associate Dean for Outreach, as well as the faculty international strategy committee at the school.



Vanderbilt engineering students work on hospital equipment in Guatemala.

make sure that everyone, regardless of their major, can participate in overseas programs. The fact that we have moved so quickly past the national average for engineering students going overseas is very encouraging and I'm excited to see this growth continue."

Murphy said her experience helped reshape her thinking about how to do research.

"One significant difference between the learning environment within the U.S. and abroad that has significantly impacted me is the level of independence. Students are expected to seek out their own learning material, and I have developed a great appreciation for the amount of information and knowledge that is available."

Immersion into the Indian engineering culture gave Gambrell a new understanding of how some engineers in India view their profession and future.

"Visiting the business parks in Bangalore gave me a glimpse of the motivation and power Indians have in their engineering companies," he said. "I saw how hard Indians work at 'regular' engineering tasks—for much less than an American would—and how profitable outsourcing can be. It made me really think about my own credentials and how to protect my job from being outsourced."

And what about those students who decide to stay on campus?

"That is the larger question," admits Klein. "How do we internationalize the experience for everyone?"

The key, she says, is to develop new ways to bring international experiences to Vanderbilt, including the internationalization

of coursework—a topic of conversation already brewing in the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Cynthia Paschal, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering, recently received a curriculum grant from the Vanderbilt International Office to fund a planning project for 'International Biomedical Engineering Studies'. While one part of the project calls for strengthening existing ties with programs in Guatemala, it also includes adding new material in required core courses, developing recommendations for selection of electives such as foreign language or cultural competency courses, and cultivating international foci for senior design projects.

Klein believes that Vanderbilt engineering students who have had international experiences stand out to employers for their communication and leadership skills. They are also much more willing to live or work overseas.

"Our students are more self-confident. They have gone on an adventure and succeeded. In doing so, they see how the rest of the world views engineering, which is very beneficial to a student's education."

**"Our students are more self-confident. They have gone on an adventure and succeeded. In doing so, they see how the rest of the world views engineering, which is very beneficial to a student's education."**

Gambrell agrees. "I think it is really important to study abroad in order to widen personal horizons and learn how people from other countries think differently from ourselves. The differences are more than social: they are religious,

political, educational, and business related. The best way to understand another culture is to immerse yourself in it and that's what you get from a study abroad trip."

# INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH & CURRICULA GRANTS

## The Program

The Vanderbilt International Office (VIO) Grants Program offers multiple ways to receive funding for international research projects and curriculum development:

- Research Grants, Category A: Collaborative Exploratory Grants**  
Up to \$8,000 to develop new research collaborations with foreign partners
- Research Grants, Category B: Project Development Grants**  
Up to \$15,000 to lay the foundation for ongoing and sustainable research partnerships
- Curricula Grants**  
Up to \$10,000 for teams of at least three faculty members to develop global content and perspectives in undergraduate courses within a department

See website for eligibility and guidelines



Prof. James Dickerson,  
Past  
Recipient

Vanderbilt  
International  
Office Grants  
Program

## When to Apply Deadlines

### Research Grants:

- October 1, 2009
- November 11, 2009 (*Cat. A only*)
- January 20, 2010
- March 17, 2010 (*Cat. A only*)

### Curricula Grants:

- March 17, 2010

# Finding Their Home at VANDERBILT



BY JENNIFER LARSON

Nearly 7,500 miles separate Shanghai from Nashville. An ancient city on the eastern coast of China near the mouth of the Yangtze River, Shanghai is one of the largest cities in the world and an important trade port. It's a sprawling metropolis that's home to about 20 million people.

And while Nashville is a much smaller and younger city with just over a million people, it's Nashville that is home now to distinguished researchers Xiao Ou Shu and Wei Zheng.

The two, who have been married for more than 20 years, came to Vanderbilt in 2000 because they believed it was the place where they could carry out their vision. Trained as cancer epidemiologists, they wanted to find a place that would support them as they conducted research and looked for answers to questions that have perplexed other scientists for years.

Vanderbilt turned out to be the perfect fit—for both of them. Wei now directs the Vanderbilt Epidemiology Center, which he helped establish in 2006, and both are professors of medicine with lengthy lists of ongoing research projects.

They live in the Nashville suburb of Brentwood now. But it is Shanghai where their story gets its start.

Both were born in south China, but in different provinces. Xiao Ou was raised in Zhejiang and Wei grew up in Fujian. Eventually, they left home to attend medical school in Shanghai. But it was only

later that they met, after they both went to the Shanghai Cancer Institute and worked under the same mentor.

After moving from China to the United States, they studied and secured appointments at several universities, making the typical compromises of couples with dual academic careers.

"Sometimes I have to sacrifice, and sometimes he has to sacrifice," Xiao Ou explained, adding that they strive to balance each other's needs so that neither of them feels like he or she is giving more than the other.

In 1999, Vanderbilt came calling. At the time, Harold Moses, M.D., was the director of the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center and had a vision of developing a cancer epidemiology program.

"It was an adventure—a new experience for us," Wei said.

In 2006, with their help, the Vanderbilt Epidemiology Center was born. Earlier this year, the Division of Epidemiology was set up to co-exist with the center.

Xiao Ou and Wei each have an ongoing list of projects. And both continue to add even more research studies to their rosters. Xiao Ou says she refers to themselves as "medical detectives" because there's always a new case to work on, a new question to answer.

"Each day you have a new challenge," she said.

"It's just a lot of interesting questions to answer," agreed Wei.

While Xiao Ou and Wei do not always work together, they are often drawn to the same research project, which is perhaps not surprising, given their educational background and professional experiences. Currently, they are conducting several large population-based studies in China and the United States with a common goal to develop cost-effective strategies for the prevention of cancer and other chronic diseases in both developed and developing countries.

In some cases, Xiao Ou is the principal investigator, with her hus-

band serving as one of the co-investigators, as is the case with a study called, “Soyfood and Coronary Heart Disease in Women”, which is part of a larger program called the Shanghai Women’s Health Study. As part of this study, Xiao Ou and her collaborators hope to discover if a substantial intake of soy-based foods is associated with reduced heart attacks or coronary heart disease—the first large scale epidemiological study on the topic. They hope to determine whether certain lifestyle choices make a difference.

“Although soy food intake has been suggested to reduce cholesterol level and blood pressure in some literature, the results are not completely consistent,” she explained.

On other projects, their roles are reversed. Wei is the principal investigator for the ongoing Shanghai Breast Cancer Study, which is funded by the National Cancer Institute and evaluates genetic and lifestyle factors that increase a woman’s breast cancer risk. As part of that study, they are conducting interviews with women and taking samples from female residents of Shanghai. The project began in 1996, and the team has already produced 100 research papers with findings from it.

Looking at their research interests, it’s clear that Wei and Xiao Ou have an affinity for projects that involve China and other Asian countries. Wei created the Asia Breast Cancer Consortium to pull together experts from various Asian countries, examining data from over 20,000 breast cancer patients and healthy women to evaluate genetic susceptibility markers for breast cancer. Wei also plays a major role



hopes to see even more scientists from Asia and America collaborating across their borders.

Much of Xiao Ou and Wei’s work involves the study of risk factors. They hope to use survey data, combined with information about people’s genetic markers, to predict each person’s risk of developing a certain type of cancer. “Drs. Wei Zheng and Xiou-Ou Shu lead a team of enormously talented epidemiology and biostatistics experts who use comparative global research to unlock genetic, nutritional, and other risk predictors of chronic diseases,” explains Dr. Sten Vermund, director of the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health. “Their work is providing insights of huge importance to the causes of heart disease and cancer in both China and the United States.” In addition to the Millennium Promise Award that Xiao Ou received, their work was also recognized with a prestigious MERIT award from the National Cancer Institute given to Wei.

Xiao Ou and Wei travel back to China at least once a year, but no matter how much they enjoy the chance to spend time there, they always look forward to returning to Nashville.

“This is our home,” says Xiao Ou.

They try to balance work with family life and outside interests. It’s not uncommon for Wei to initiate a discussion about history or politics around the dinner table, or to head out to his garden to check the progress of his winter melon and tomato plants. In fact, he says he might like to have a small farm when—if—he retires one day. Xiao Ou laughs that all she does is work, but then she admits that she loves her work and feels at home in her office, and she is grateful for the flexibility it allows her to be able to spend time with her children.

Besides, they have a lot of work to do. There is that long list of research projects that they want to tackle...and all those questions they want to answer. And Vanderbilt is where they will carry out their vision.

“We plan to do big things here,” Wei said.

**“In the office, we work just like regular colleagues,” [there are some benefits to working with a spouse.] “We are less concerned about criticizing each other.” —Xiao Ou**

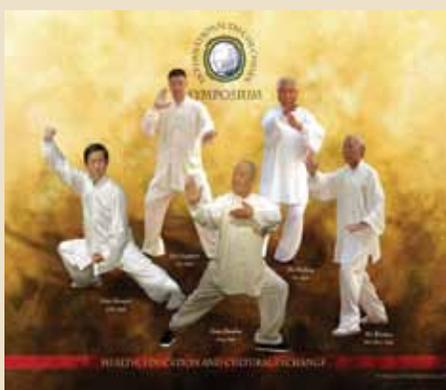
in the Asia Cohort Consortium and directs a project to determine how mortality rates are affected by people’s body weights using data from over a million people in a number of Asian countries. Xiao Ou is directing several large epidemiologic studies to evaluate dietary and other lifestyle factors for cancer and other chronic diseases. Recently, Xiao Ou received a Millennium Promise Award from the NIH Fogarty International Center for a program that will bring Chinese scientists to Vanderbilt to learn more about the emergence and management of chronic diseases that are becoming more prevalent in their home country.

Wei and Xiao Ou both believe that such multicultural studies have a far-reaching effect, and their work exemplifies that belief. With their leadership and dedication, Vanderbilt faculty members have been collaborating on cancer epidemiology studies with the Shanghai Cancer Institute for more than a decade now. And as more scientists begin to make global health issues a priority, Wei said he

**For more information about the Vanderbilt Epidemiology Center, visit [www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/epidemiology](http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/epidemiology)**

## First International Tai Chi Chuan Symposium Held at Vanderbilt

■ Five of China's Grand Masters in Tai Chi Chuan from China participated in the first International Tai Chi Chuan Symposium on Health, Education and Cultural Exchange, hosted at the Vanderbilt Center for Integrative Health and Vanderbilt University in July.



The symposium, "Traditional Tai Chi Chuan: A View through the Lens of Science," focused on the role of Tai Chi Chuan in integral health. As the largest integral health forum held outside of China, the symposium opened a dialogue between the wisdom of Chinese culture and clinical science. For five days, grandmasters from five traditional Chinese family styles of Tai Chi Chuan, academic researchers, physicians, and Tai Chi Chuan enthusiasts shared data, exchanged discoveries, discussed Tai Chi Chuan research issues, and planned future research collaboration.

## 28 Students to Serve in International Externships During 2009

■ Twenty-eight Vanderbilt law students served in externships and placements relating to international law during the summer and fall of 2009 as part of the International Legal Studies Program.

"Our students have accepted positions with 25 different international organizations, consulates, government agencies, and NGOs, and they will be working in nine foreign countries and in the United States," said Professor Mike Newton who

coordinates a broad range of international and other externship opportunities for an increasing number of interested students. "This is an impressive array of public service and experiential learning, due in large part to the substantive preparation of our students and the intellectual daring it takes to follow their convictions into demanding legal environments." In several instances, externships are associated with complex projects that are an integral component of the International Law Practice Lab taught each semester.

The list of summer and fall 2009 externships and placements includes the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; the ABA Rule of Law Project, Azerbaijan; the Global Constitutional Justice Project, The Netherlands; and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague.

## Global Summer Fellows (GSF) Program Awards 38 Students \$250,000

■ A new program at Vanderbilt provided \$250,000 in scholarships to help undergraduate students with financial need pay the costs of summer study abroad. The GFS program came in response to a need to allow students the opportunity to study abroad in the summer regardless of their financial situation. Vanderbilt Student Government leaders developed the funding proposal and with support from Provost



Global Summer Fellow, Stephanie Freeman, with a yeoman warder ("beefeater") at the Tower of London. Freeman participated in the Theatre in London Maymester program.

and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard McCarty created the GSF Program. The scholarships offset the costs for students enrolling in Vanderbilt-approved, credit-bearing summer study and Maymester programs. The Global Education Office oversees the program and awarded scholarships to 38 students studying in 15 different programs last year.

For more information on the Global Summer Fellows Program, visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/geo](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/geo), click on 'Prospective Students', then click 'Costs & Scholarships.'



Last year, Rachel Gore, '09, worked for the Office of the Prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The International Criminal Court building in The Hague, Netherlands, hosts the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor.



## International Student Population Continues to Grow

■ International students have always been an integral part of Vanderbilt's student body. For all but two years since the university opened its doors in 1875, Vanderbilt has enrolled students from other countries. In 2008/09, staff from the Vanderbilt Office of Undergraduate Admissions visited 28 different countries. Thanks to their efforts, Vanderbilt received 1,122 international freshman applications for this fall and 207 of these applicants were admitted. These students come from 52 different countries and represent Vanderbilt's commitment to enrolling the best students from all over the world.

## Vanderbilt-Warwick Symposium

■ Love triangles and murder: just two of the topics discussed at a symposium hosted by the history and English departments at Vanderbilt and Warwick University in Coventry, United Kingdom. Faculty from Warwick traveled to Vanderbilt to share their research with their VU counterparts and identify new areas for collaboration.

Over the last two years, faculty and administrators from both universities have flown across the Atlantic to explore areas of research synergy at the two institutions. Warwick, consistently ranked in the top

ten in the UK, is particularly strong in the humanities, boasting strong programs in economics, business, and math, among other areas. The VU-Warwick collaboration is largely centered on the humanities and has included visits to Vanderbilt by Warwick's Vice-Chancellor, Nigel Thrift, as well as the chairs of Warwick's history and English departments. Joel Harrington, Associate Provost for Global Strategy, Martin Rapisarda, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Science, Elizabeth Lunbeck, Chair of the History Department, and Prof. Jane Landers have all visited Warwick. Warwick will host VU history professors next May.

Both departments plan to pursue research or exchange opportunities for their graduate students and post-docs, and they hope to make the research symposia an annual event.



University House, the administration building of the University of Warwick.

## Alumnus Muhammad Yunus Receives Medal of Freedom

■ Vanderbilt alumnus and Nobel Prize recipient Muhammad Yunus was among 16 recipients of the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom, awarded to individuals who make an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

Yunus, who earned his Ph.D. in economics at Vanderbilt in 1971, is a global leader in anti-poverty efforts, and has pioneered the use of "micro-loans" to provide credit to poor individuals without collateral.

President Obama presented the awards at a ceremony on Aug. 12.



Muhammed Yunus

This past summer, Vanderbilt senior, Banks Benitez, had the opportunity to visit Grameen Bank, the bank Yunus started, in Bangladesh. While there, he met with the Nobel Prize winner and conducted a short interview. Yunus advised students to think simply, start small and act quickly to change the world. To read the interview in its entirety, visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/vio/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/vio/)

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Bruges, Brussels. Ten educational and policy leaders and six Vanderbilt delegates traveled to Belgium for a week to learn about European Union (EU) institutional structure. See page 18 for the complete story.