

# arts AND SCIENCE

The magazine of Vanderbilt University's College of Arts and Science

FALL 2010





whereAREYOU?



STEVE GREEN

*Answer found on the back cover*



## 10 Head of the House

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

*Cover: Associate Professor Tony Brown often bikes across campus to his apartment on The Commons. He normally wears a bike helmet, but eschewed safety for the sake of this photo by John Russell.*

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DANIEL DUBOIS

**I WRITE TO YOU TODAY IN A CALL TO COMMUNITY AND A CALL TO COMMUNITY ACTION.**

We, the members of the Arts and Science community, can be so proud of and grateful for the opportunities Vanderbilt University has placed before us.

If you are an alumnus or an alumna of the College of Arts and Science, you have had the benefit of a world-class liberal-arts education with remarkable professors and spirited classmates on this gorgeous 330-acre campus we call home.

For the Arts and Science families out there, you have entrusted us to educate your young people, and we have accepted that trust as a calling. We strive each day to be rigorous, clear, caring and fair in order to make your students the very best new graduates in the world each May.

For the Arts and Science faculty and staff reading this magazine, you come to work every day with the charge to do better, to be better, than the day before. In your labs, offices and libraries, you work to create new knowledge in partnership with the best and brightest graduate and undergraduate students. You are great researchers, great teachers and great colleagues.

The readers of *Arts and Science* are a diverse community, intersecting our school in many different ways, and from many different life perspectives. What brings us together, however, is this great College of Arts and Science itself: our shared commitment to education, to great teaching and to the discovery of new knowledge—an inherently optimistic belief in a future better than today. It is inspiring to me to welcome a new class of undergraduate and graduate students to campus each fall, knowing that these young men and women will carry our mission forward far into the future.

It is in this spirit, then, that I ask you to join forces with several remarkable alumni who have come forward in support of those students who are just now coming out of the gate. Thanks to Dan Lovinger, BA'87, we now have a Vandy on Madison Avenue summer internship program that placed 17 students in positions in Manhattan for summer 2010. Because of Chad Gervich, BA'96, and Rich Hull, BA'92, our Vandy in Hollywood summer internship program has just completed its fourth year, bigger and better than ever, and with a remarkable record of job placement for its students.

We owe these industrious alumni a debt of gratitude for reaching out a hand to their fellow Commodores. The generosity of Dan, Chad and Rich leads me to ask: how can we turn our collective resources even more effectively to the support of our students? Do you work in an industry that hires interns? Do you have a great story that might help to support or inspire someone behind you on the path? Are you willing to serve as a mentor, an example or even a boss to someone who is just starting out?

If so, please raise your hand and let us know your thoughts and willingness to help. You can reach my office directly via email at [aandsdeanspartnership@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:aandsdeanspartnership@vanderbilt.edu) or with a note or letter to me at A&S Dean's Office, 301 Kirkland Hall, Nashville, TN 37240. I look forward to your suggestions and hearing from you on this important initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Dever'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Carolyn Dever  
Dean



JOHN RUSSELL

Robert Scherrer

Professor of History **William Caferro** has been awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. He was one of 180 fellows named from a field of more than 3,000 applicants.

The American Academy of Religion named *Making Transcendents: Ascetics and Social Memory in Early Medieval China* by Professor of Asian Studies **Robert Ford Campany** the 2010 AAR Best Book in Historical Studies.

**Celso Castilho**, assistant professor of history, was awarded the 2009 American Historical Association/Conference for Latin American History Lewis Hanke Award.

**Julia Cohen**, assistant professor of Jewish studies and assistant professor of history, has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for her proposed collection, *The Sephardic Studies Reader*.

**Nita Farahany**, associate professor of law and philosophy, has been appointed to the Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues by President Barack Obama.



DANIEL DUBOIS

**Barbara Hahn**, Distinguished Professor of German, received the 2010 Margherita von Brentano Prize from the Free University of Berlin for her work in reconstructing the history of intellectual women from the beginning of the 19th century to the early 21st century.

**Mark Hosford**, associate professor of art, received a Tennessee Arts Commission 2010 Individual Arts Fellowship in Visual Arts. The

award is one of the highest honors a Tennessee artist can receive.

**Larry Isaac**, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, received the ASA Culture Section's 2010 Clifford Geertz prize for best article and the 2010 Southern Sociological Society's Distinguished Lecturer Award.

Professor of History **Jane Landers** has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship. Landers will use this, her third NEH fellowship, to study *African Kingdoms, Black Republics and Free Black Towns in the Iberian Atlantic*. She has also been awarded a 2010 Gilder Lehrman Research Award and a Vanderbilt International Office International Curriculum grant.



DANIEL DUBOIS

Mark Hosford



**Jennifer F. Reinganum**, E. Bronson Ingram Professor of Economics, has been named secretary/treasurer of the American Law and Economics Association.

**Robert Scherrer**, chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, received the 2010 Klopsteg Memorial Award from the American Association of Physics Teachers for his science fiction writing. The award recognizes extraordinary accomplishment in communicating the excitement of physics to the public.

**The Department of Sociology** in the College of Arts and Science was awarded the 2009 Seal of Approval for Gender Scholarship by the Sociologists for Women in Society in recognition of a commitment to gender equity.

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# VUCONNECT

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**expand your horizons**



PROMOTED TO PROFESSOR

**Katherine Crawford**, history  
**William Franke**, comparative literature and Italian  
**Jane Landers**, history  
**Anna Roe**, psychology  
**Mark Schoenfield**, English  
**Virginia Scott**, French  
**Robert Talisse**, philosophy

NEWLY NAMED ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS WITH TENURE

**Brandt Eichman**, biological sciences  
**Shane Hutson**, physics  
**Richard Lloyd**, sociology  
**Richard McGregor**, religious studies  
**Nancy Reisman**, English  
**Elizabeth Zechmeister**, political science

NEW TENURED AND TENURE-TRACK APPOINTMENTS

**Tyson H. Brown**, assistant professor of sociology, on the tenure track  
**Robert Ford Campany**, professor of Asian studies, with tenure  
**Celso Thomas Castilho**, assistant professor of history, on the tenure track  
**C. André Christie-Mizell**, associate professor of sociology, with tenure  
**Nicole K. Clay**, assistant professor of biological sciences, on the tenure track  
**Jennifer Fay**, associate professor of film studies, with tenure  
**Monique L. Lyle**, assistant professor of political science, on the tenure track  
**Philip James McFarland**, assistant professor of German, on the tenure track  
**Paul Benjamin Miller**, assistant professor of French, on the tenure track  
**Evelyn J. Patterson**, assistant professor of sociology, on the tenure track  
**Kamal Saggi**, professor of economics, with tenure, and Director of the Graduate Program in Economic Development  
**R. Jay Turner**, professor of sociology, with tenure  
**Alan E. Wiseman**, associate professor of political science, with tenure

## High Distinction

At Vanderbilt, scholars of exceptional national and international stature may be honored with distinguished professorships. The title signifies that these professors are leaders in scholarship, distinction, discovery and teaching in their disciplines. The College of Arts and Science is pleased to announce that three professors were named to distinguished professorships in 2009-2010. Lynn E. Enterline is now Chancellor's Professor of English, James A. Epstein became Distinguished Professor of History, and Tracy D. Sharpley-Whiting is Distinguished Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies and French.



DANIEL DUJOS

Enterline



STEVE GREEN

Epstein



STEVE GREEN

Sharpley-Whiting

## New Chairs, New Faces and New Titles

Two academic departments started the 2010-2011 year with new leaders, while several others welcomed new faculty and celebrated promotions of other faculty. Mark Schoenfield, professor of English, is the new chair of the English department and John Geer, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, will chair political science.

Schoenfield, an expert in romanticism and literature and law, is the author of *British Periodicals and Romantic Identity: The "Literary Lower Empire."* He has published in



JOHN RUSSELL

Schoenfield



JOHN RUSSELL

Geer

*The Wordsworth Circle*, *Studies in Romanticism* and various other journals. Schoenfield succeeds Jay Clayton, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English, who served as chair of English since 2003.

Geer is a widely quoted media expert on elections, public opinion and political communication. He is the past editor of *The Journal of Politics* and author of *In Defense of Negativity*, a study of negative political advertising. He follows Bruce Oppenheimer, who stepped in as interim chair after the death of Neal Tate in fall 2009.



## But Are the Chairs Silver?

Traditionally those who mark 25-year anniversaries at Vanderbilt receive a school chair as a token of appreciation. In the coming year, the following faculty will celebrate their silver anniversaries in the College of Arts and Science: Karen E. Campbell, associate professor of sociology; Vivien Green Fryd, professor of history of art; Jon W. Hallquist, associate professor of theatre; Terryll W. Hallquist, associate professor of theatre; Timothy P. Hanusa, professor of chemistry; Steven D. Hollon, professor of psychology; C. Bruce Hughes, professor of mathematics; Thomas W. Kephart, professor of physics; Michael Kreyling, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English; John G. Ratcliffe, professor of mathematics; and David G. Schlundt, associate professor of psychology.



DANIEL DUBOIS

Fryd



DANIEL DUBOIS

Hanusa



STEVE GREEN

J. Hallquist



STEVE GREEN

T. Hallquist

## Heart of the Institution

“The work of the College of Arts and Science is fundamental. It is the basis of all professional study. No professional school can be self-sufficient. The College in its undergraduate and graduate work must remain the heart of the whole situation, and send its quickening life blood into every fiber and tissue.”

—Chancellor James H. Kirkland, October 1925



DANIEL DUBOIS

## Peer Recognition

For the second year in a row, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) recognized *Arts and Science*, the alumni magazine of the College of Arts and Science, in its annual District III competition. The magazine won an award of excellence in the alumni magazines division for schools of less than 5,000 students.

CASE is the professional organization that supports educational institutions by enhancing the effectiveness of the alumni relations, communications, marketing, fundraising and other advancement professionals who serve them. District III is the second largest district in CASE, with more than 4,000 members and representing educational institutions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

In 2009, *Arts and Science* was named CASE District III’s Grand Award winner in the category of magazine publishing improvement and earned a special merit award for its World Wide Web home page design and implementation.

## Update on Professor’s Tragic Death

Three Nashville men have been found guilty in the deaths of anthropology professor Pierre Colas and his sister, Marie. The Colases were shot at Pierre’s home in East Nashville in a home invasion/robbery in August 2008. The assailants have been sentenced to life terms; additional suspects are in jail awaiting trial.



The Department of Anthropology celebrated Colas’ life and work with a 2009 conference that examined the themes and perspectives central to Mayan culture, identity, language and history. At the time of his death, the 32-year-old Colas was an assistant professor in the College of Arts and Science as well as a prolific scholar known for his groundbreaking work in Mayan epigraphy.

## SURVEY SAYS...

# Latin American Public Opinion Project Collects and

Imagine living in a country where participating in a survey could get you killed.

Not long ago, that was reality in some parts of Central and South America, where dictatorships ruled. Then as democracy spread, so did the ability to express political opinions openly. Today citizens of nearly every country in the Western Hemisphere participate in the AmericasBarometer, a regional survey series conducted by the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP). LAPOP was founded and is directed by Mitchell Seligson, Centennial Professor of Political Science and professor of sociology in the College of Arts and Science.



Through LAPOP, researchers in North, South and Central America and the Caribbean interview thousands of citizens on topics related to democratic values and citizenship. The survey data are made public and mined for insights into the nature and determinants of public opinion. The information is used by scholars, as well as utilized by those who support democracy and good governance to determine policies and programs

The U.S. Agency for International Development uses LAPOP data, as do the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme and numerous other governments and nongovernmental organizations.

Seligson and his colleagues regularly travel presenting the surveys' results. LAPOP scholars and Vanderbilt graduate students also prepare short, targeted analysis of results, which are released biweekly. These AmericasBarometer Insights Series reports provide tightly focused analyses of specific, timely topics ranging from the role of government in job creation to citizen satisfaction with municipal services and even vigilante justice in Mexico.

The most recent AmericasBarometer wave of surveys was completed in 2010, and is focused on the effects of the world economic crisis on attitudes toward democracy.

"Analysis of this data can provide insight not available from other sources," Seligson says, using the overthrow of the Honduran government by the military in 2009 as an example. "Data collected in 2008 were really leading indicators of that event, as they reflected Hondurans' discontent, which eventually boiled over into the breakdown of constitutional democracy."

### Credible and Meticulous

LAPOP's AmericasBarometer surveys are meticulously developed with input from academics, policymakers and others with a stake in democracy. LAPOP's partners are drawn from universities and think tanks located in each country, and the surveys are translated into respondents' languages—currently 15 different languages.

Expansion in scope and sophistication has been a recent hallmark of LAPOP's AmericasBarometer program. "In 2010, we did surveys in Trinidad/Tobago and in Surinam for the first time," says Elizabeth Zechmeister, associate director of LAPOP and associate professor of political science. In all, the 2010 AmericasBarometer survey included 26 countries, representing the largest coherent public opinion project in this hemisphere.

One recent and novel addition to LAPOP's approach is the use of GPS technology underwritten by the National Science Foundation. It was employed in Chile, which experienced a magnitude 8.8 earthquake just prior to the survey there. The technology will support a study of political opinions in the aftermath of a natural disaster. "The GPS units will allow us to tag interviews based on the street block where they were conducted," Zechmeister says. "We'll be able to create a data set reflecting the individual's distance from the hardest hit areas and then analyze how experiences with the earthquake affect attitudes toward democracy."

LAPOP evolved from the two years Seligson and his wife, Susan Berk-Seligson, associate professor of Spanish, spent with the Peace Corps in Costa Rica in the late '60s.

"For years, it was impossible and dangerous to do surveys in many Central and Latin American countries," says Seligson,



# Analyzes Democratic Values across the Americas



JOHN RUSSELL

*Seligson and Zechmeister*

Today the program covers every major country in mainland North and South America and the Caribbean.

recalling hearing of people murdered in Paraguay in retaliation for participating in a survey in the 1960s. “The horrific consequences of dictatorship are clear to me. We have to retain a deep commitment to democratic systems, despite their many flaws.”

In 2004, Seligson moved from the University of Pittsburgh, where LAPOP had been based, to Vanderbilt. Today the program covers every major country in mainland North and South America and the Caribbean, and is spreading. Seligson and his team are currently working with the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health to develop a survey on health and other topics for Mozambique.

## Draw for Young Scholars

Seligson says in addition to their value supporting scholarship and policies focused on democracy, LAPOP and AmericasBarometer are strong recruitment tools for the College of Arts and Science. Not only does the program attract graduate students who want to participate in survey development and implementation, but each AmericasBarometer database provides rich fodder for master’s theses and doctoral dissertations.

Zechmeister uses AmericasBarometer survey data in her undergraduate classes and will teach an honors seminar in 2011 on LAPOP. “We want undergraduates to learn more about how high quality public opinion data is collected and to build skills with respect to its analysis,” Zechmeister says. “This can carry forward to their working lives where public opinion may be an important part of their jobs.” She also sees LAPOP as a means of challenging undergrads to broaden their view of the world.

LAPOP funding comes from research institutions such as Princeton, Notre Dame and Vanderbilt, but the majority of its operating costs come from governmental and international entities including the USAID, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. Such organizations share LAPOP’s passion for democracy and often rely on its findings to guide policy, programs and funding.

An endowment to provide permanent support for their work is Seligson and Zechmeister’s fondest desire and ongoing goal. The potential for return on investment is direct and clear, they say. “I am committed to a democratic Americas,” Seligson says. “But democracy isn’t an end goal, it’s a process. It’s constantly being challenged and constantly changing and our work demonstrates that. ... The AmericasBarometer helps policymakers understand the strengths and weaknesses of democracy.”

# Mouzon Siddiqi

**MOUZON SIDDIQI HAS PARTICIPATED AND THRIVED IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FROM ALABAMA TO AFGHANISTAN.** Most of that time and effort have been on the Vanderbilt campus, where she serves as program coordinator for the Graduate Program in Economic Development (GPED). She and her husband, Sultan Siddiqi, MA'70, have served as ambassadors to incoming international students for 35 years. In 2009, the university recognized her contributions with the Commodore Award, Vanderbilt's highest staff honor, which recognizes and rewards individuals who have made exceptional performance contributions to the university.

## What are your duties with GPED?

I work with admissions, assist students with housing, and coordinate tutors and help sessions. During the year, I follow students' progress and assist in planning their schedules to ensure their timely graduation. I am on call for anything and everything. All the students have my cell and home phone numbers and know that they may call at any time—day, night or weekend—if they are worried about something, need help or just want to talk.

I work with sponsoring agencies (including foreign government sponsors) and manage the office and student aid budgets. I assist the program director with whatever is needed, including drafting remarks for various occasions and writing letters for students for visa purposes, to bring families and so forth.

Much of my time is devoted to email with prospective students—encouraging strong students to join our program and answering a myriad of questions. I also correspond frequently with alumni, assisting them with requests for transcripts, reference letters, alumni information and the like.

## You met your husband while he was a grad student at Peabody?

Yes. Sultan enrolled in M.A. study at Peabody in 1968—the same time I came to Scarritt as a junior. At that time, Scarritt was a senior college and graduate school. Students at Vanderbilt, Peabody or Scarritt could enroll in courses at any of the other two schools. I took several courses at Peabody and Sultan studied English at Scarritt. We met in December 1968 at a Christmas dance at Scarritt. He asked me out the following night for dinner. We dated two years, graduated, married in my hometown of Centre, Ala., and left for Afghanistan for two years.

Back then, people who married an American could immediately change their status to permanent resident and then U.S. citizen, but we never considered the option of not returning to Afghanistan. People in my hometown (population 2,500) were worried about my living halfway across the world, but I viewed moving to Kabul as the biggest adventure of my life—and I was right! It was wonderful! The country was so peaceful then—a beautiful place with beautiful people.

## What brought you to the College of Arts and Science?

When we returned to the U.S., I found a job with a large sales company where I worked for two years. I soon knew that I wanted to be back in an academic environment where people are more diverse, generally have different priorities and are respected for their individuality. I started to work at Vanderbilt in January 1975 and quickly realized this was the place I wanted to be.

## Tell us about your interaction with international students.

I love meeting students at the airport when they arrive. I look forward to seeing the students' faces for the first time and welcoming them to Nashville and to Vanderbilt. Our staff and second-year students help the new students settle in. We use my pickup truck to help students furnish their apartments [with] purchases from places like Wal-Mart, secondhand stores and the Vanderbilt surplus store.



I love meeting students at the airport when they arrive. I look forward to seeing the students' faces for the first time and welcoming them to Nashville and to Vanderbilt.

Our office has quarterly birthday parties to celebrate students' birthdays, a fall picnic, a Valentine's party and a celebration for student employee appreciation week. We invite students over to our house whenever we can manage it. They know that they are always welcome. Our office strives to be a very friendly, welcoming place. It not only is a place for students to come for assistance, but a place to study and hang out. If we don't see students for a few days—maybe a week or so—we check to make sure they are okay.

My husband helps students buy cars and assists the Muslim students in finding places that sell halal meat [adhering to Islamic dietary practices]. He also cooks halal meat for the awards dinner in the spring.

#### How does it feel to be the 2009 recipient of the Commodore Award?

I was overwhelmed and humbled. There are so, so many deserving employees. I never imagined I would receive this award! It is the greatest honor I could ever have. I will always cherish the award, but most of all, the wonderful, unselfish and thoughtful people, with whom I work, who made this possible.

#### What activities do you enjoy outside of work?

I like having a garden (although my husband does all the work) and I love to swim. In the fall, I am a football junkie. My dad played for the University of Alabama and football is in my blood.

My husband and I spend many weekends in Atlanta with our daughter, son-in-law and our two grandsons (ages 6 and 2)—the delight of our lives. We also enjoy spending lots of time with our Afghan family and friends in Nashville. Aside from family gatherings, I would have to say the most fun I have is hanging out with my GPED family. It keeps me young!



JOHN RUSSELL

# Head of the House

*Tony Brown thrives on research, teaching, service, learning... oh, and mentoring 290 first-year students.*

by SANDY SMITH

Tony N. Brown's office is in Garland Hall, exactly where one might expect to find a scholar in the College of Arts and Science. But the associate professor of sociology might not be in, as his teaching, research projects and secondary appointments take him all over campus.

It's a good thing he has no real commute. All of campus is accessible by foot or bike from his apartment on the second floor of a first-year residence hall.

In fall 2008, Brown and his partner, Chase Lesane-Brown, research assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and Human Development, moved into Hank Ingram House with 290 Vanderbilt first-year students and 10 resident advisers. "Hank's House," as it is known, is one of 10 residences on The Commons, Vanderbilt's first-year student living-learning community.

In addition to residential amenities, students experience unique programs designed by their faculty head of house in collaboration with resident advisers. During the 2009-2010 year, Hank's House hosted more than 40 such programs, some academic, some social, but most a blend of the two. That's in addition to the Browns' apartment hours (known as First Fridays), when their apartment door opens to residents seeking a home-cooked meal or impromptu conversations about politics, sports, career paths or whatever.

"When I leave Garland Hall, I often tell people 'Now I've got to go to work,'" Brown says. He likens the house programs to a smorgasbord for residents. "The faculty heads have provided this educational and social buffet and you can eat as much as you want, or as little as you want."

Brown realizes that not all residents will pick up a plate at that buffet. He believes only a third will take advantage of "having a faculty member who lives in the building and has vast knowledge about university life, faculty life, and how to find a path in life."



JOHN RUSSELL

JOHN RUSSELL

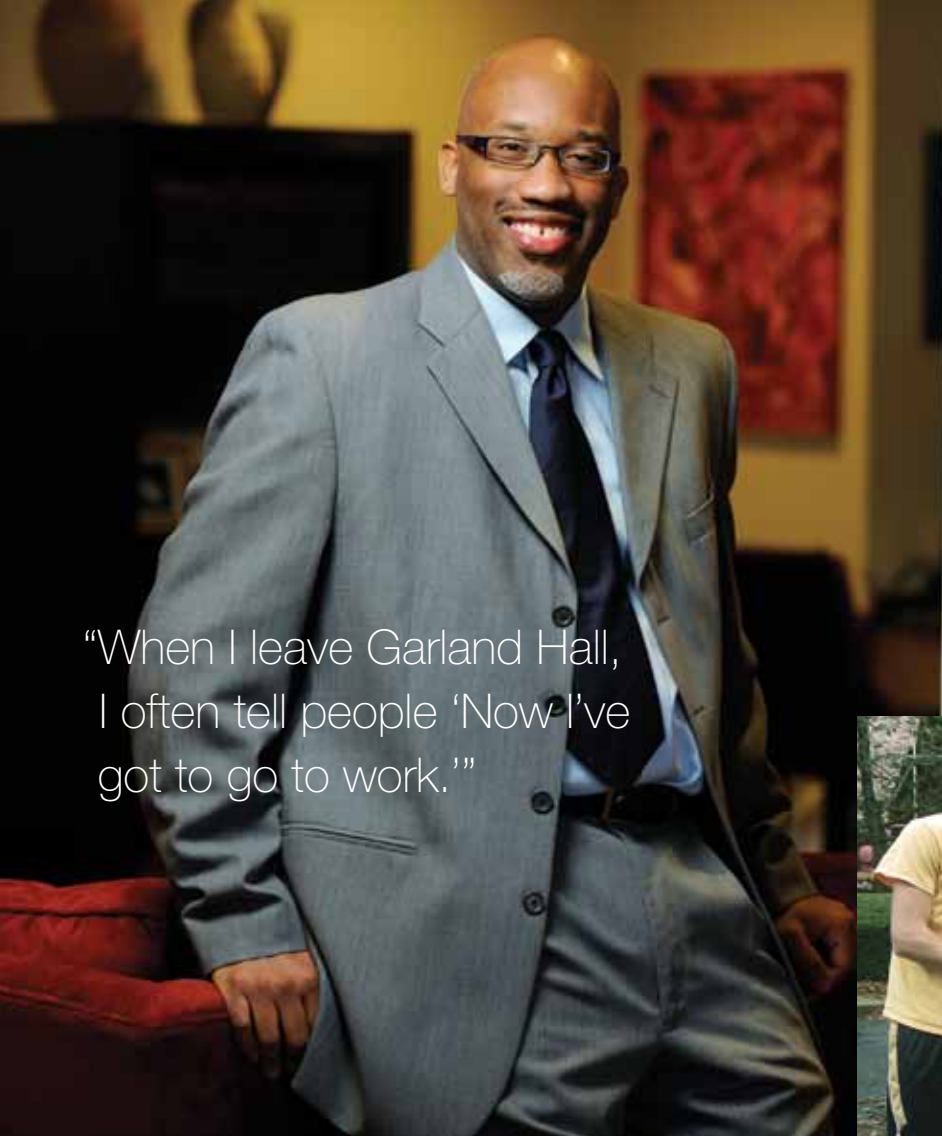
The rest are focused on studying or partying. "But I realize that we've been spectacularly successful (in integrating with students on The Commons)," he says. "Getting one-third to embrace the life of the mind is amazing."

## Frequent Knocks on the Door

The faculty head of Hank's House has developed a greater appreciation of students and their life stories, even if it takes a vast amount of commitment. In addition to interacting through programs and dinner in the communal dining room, there are frequent knocks on the apartment door. The Browns live in a spacious apartment with a large TV that often becomes the spot for watching sporting events. The couple's two pet bunnies—Memphis and Sakkara—are also popular draws. "Having the bunnies is a really good way to get some of the students to come over to the apartment," Lesane-Brown says. "They'll come and say, 'I just want to hang out with the bunnies.' Sometimes it's an excuse for them to come over and talk about a real issue."

Having the Browns at hand eased the transition to university life, says Lauren Koenig, a member of the Class of '12, which was the first to experience The Commons. "Whenever I stop by, they always want to know what's going on both inside and outside of my classes," the junior says. "They've also provided some really helpful advice that I've taken to heart over the past two years."





“When I leave Garland Hall, I often tell people ‘Now I’ve got to go to work.’”



Opposite: Tony Brown at dinner with first-year students.  
Above: At home in the Browns’ Hank Ingram House apartment.  
Right: The house’s 2009 Race for the Cure team.

Katharine Donato, chair of the Department of Sociology, believes that The Commons is a powerful classroom. “Tony has an opportunity to have an informal classroom setting, one on one, five on one, at all times of the day and night. It’s enormously helpful to him as a scholar and a teacher and a person,” she says. “There’s only so much learning that happens in the classroom. Outside of the classroom is where Tony and Chase have been able to insert themselves in important ways.”

Their open door also has demystified professors, says Mengting Ren, also a member of the inaugural Commons Class of ’12. “My friends and I were hesitant to go in at first, scared that there would be nothing to talk about in a professor’s apartment. Instead we found ourselves rocking out to Rock Band or Guitar Hero, and staying up until 2 a.m. watching Blu-ray movies back to back,” Ren says.

### Balancing the Workload

Brown and Lesane-Brown, who officially became associate faculty head of house in the second year of their Commons immersion, balance the workload by splitting tasks and delegation. There must still be time for research and teaching. Brown conducts research

into mental health and racial and ethnic relations, and he is known for excelling with quantitative methods and survey design. His expertise has made him a popular collaborator for any number of research projects, including a major survey study of black-white health disparities in Nashville.

In addition, he’s one of four sociology professors who edit sociology’s most prestigious journal, the *American Sociological Review*, now located at Vanderbilt. That means reading hundreds of manuscripts and shepherding diverse research through the publication channel. Though it ranks as a third full-time job, it is an honor.

“I’m too young to be doing it,” says Brown, who came to Vanderbilt in 2001. “This is something that’s reserved for the big names and eminent scholars in the field. Yet I’m now in a position to observe the production of science from the inside. I’m reading about topics way outside my specialty area. It’s so rich, so exciting, so stimulating to see your discipline from this vantage point and it’s empowering to shape the future research agenda of sociology.”

The journal is yet another avenue in which Brown finds himself learning. “Constant learning: It’s like Popeye and spinach. The more I get, the more connected I feel, the more alive I feel,” he says.

# ACTIVE earth

*EES researchers study Earth's history while the planet is still making it.*



In the College of Arts and Science, if you're going to study Earth and environmental sciences (EES), you get out of the classroom.

So in the Cascade Range of Washington State, Professor Calvin Miller and his students examine Mount St. Helens. Beside a river in Bangladesh, Associate Professors Jonathan Gilligan and Steven Goodbred Jr. help students try to find answers to that country's fresh water needs. And in frozen Antarctica, Professor Molly Miller tracks environmental changes in the face of global warming.

As wide ranging as those topics and locations seem, they are all part of how the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences studies, teaches and interprets Earth's history—its age and origin as recorded in rocks and the landscape—as well as how geological processes affect modern environmental and ecological systems.

"This department is a gem," says David Furbish, chair of the department. "The faculty is spectacular. We're getting applications from students that match those at the best schools." Faculty members are consistent in receiving grants, including funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF). "We're not surprised when people from NSF ask us to serve on science review panels—a measure of the respect that these folks, representing the Earth sciences community, hold for the accomplishments and perspective of our faculty," Furbish says. "We may be small but we're also fierce."

At the core of the department's international reputation are quality research and teamwork. Most research projects involve collaborations with other EES faculty, Vanderbilt scholars, top researchers worldwide and students. Graduate students are drawn by the department's small, personal size and its faculty's reputation for significant research in which students are coauthors.

The interdisciplinary culture of collaboration ranked high in drawing Assistant Professor Larisa DeSantis to the department in 2009. DeSantis, whose area of expertise is mammalian fossils, studies how past climate change affected mammals and their environments.

"EES is an ideal place to integrate geological and biological disciplines with the flexibility to ask biological questions using the fossil record," DeSantis says. "Students here continually challenge me to communicate the broader implications of current Earth and environmental science research, connecting my work to fields spanning the sciences to the humanities."

## Collaboration is Key

In conjunction with Professors Calvin Miller and John Ayers, Assistant Professor Guilherme Gualda is studying a volcanic eruption that buried parts of the Southwest in ash 18 million years ago. The trio is exploring volcanic forces with a particular eye for ancient eruptions, their causes and impact, and what they tell about today's eruptions. Gualda focuses on how magma chambers form and factors leading to volcanic eruptions, Ayers studies how earth materials behave geochemically under high pressure and temperatures, and Miller concentrates on ancient magma systems.

"Collaboration is an explicit goal of the department—no isolation. Multiple people thinking about a problem in different ways benefits everyone," Gualda says. "Having two to three people interacting brings different perspectives." His research draws in graduate and undergraduate students, and he reaches out to faculty whose interest in the formation of the Earth's crust mesh with his. The EES professors says this approach gives students opportunities to learn and work in different areas, which can broaden their post-graduation employment options.

"People who collaborate spread their enthusiasm," Calvin Miller says. "People who have diverse experiences have more job opportunities."

Miller is an expert on Earth materials, particularly those rocks derived from magma that has cooled and solidified below the Earth's surface. Fieldwork by Miller and his students at Mount St. Helens has uncovered rich data about the evolution of the recently active volcano. Miller also works with Furbish, an expert in fluid dynamics and geomorphology, on a study of how magmas and particles interact within magma chambers.





*Opposite: Observing fishermen on Bangladesh's fragile waterways. Above, clockwise from top left: Heading toward Mount St. Helens' active lava dome; in the field in Nevada; home base in Antarctica; rocks formed within a magma chamber that erupted 16 million years ago.*

Furbish's fluid studies also tie in with Molly Miller's landmark work two continents away. New faculty member Dan Morgan, senior lecturer in EES, also interacts with Miller as he studies configuration and evolution of rocks and landforms in Antarctic dry valleys. Miller's ongoing research in Antarctica is revealing how sediment is delivered to coastal areas and how sea creatures beneath the ice modify the sediment. Concurrently, she tracks environmental changes on the continent in the face of global warming.

### Environmental Change and Sustainability

Currently, the department is seeing increased interest in the environment and sustainability. "As Earth scientists, we work both in the present and the past, which gives us a unique perspective," Furbish says. "Climate change is front and center in students' worldview. EES continues to broaden its scope in this direction."

In the spring semester 2010, students came face-to-face with the impact of Earth issues on climate change and sustainability through a multidisciplinary EES seminar called Water and Social Justice in Bangladesh. During the course, faculty and students from the College of Arts and Science, School of Engineering and Peabody College traveled to Bangladesh with Goodbred and

"Earth scientists...work both in the present and the past."

—David Furbish

Gilligan. The team toured the country, met with Bangladeshi representatives and discussed solutions to the South Asian country's dire freshwater needs.

The trip tied both to Goodbred's climate change-related research on the formation of deltas by major rivers draining from the nearby Himalayas and to Gilligan's work as associate director of the Vanderbilt Climate Change Research Network. Working in a multidisciplinary environment, network members produce theoretical and applied research on the impact of individual and household behavior on greenhouse gases. Gilligan's emphasis is the intersection of transdisciplinary environmental problems—issues that combine scientific, technical, social, political and ethical concerns—and helping students prepare to solve them.

That's ultimately the work of EES, Furbish says. "So many of the challenges the world faces fundamentally involve breaking down barriers, bringing the expertise and perspectives of many people and fields to finding solutions," he says. "Ours is the quintessential interdisciplinary science, providing vital perspectives on how Earth's physical and geochemical templates simultaneously sustain and threaten life and influence human interactions with Earth."

# RESOLVED

*Can an Underdog Debate Team Argue Its Way to a National Championship?*

I sat in the semifinals of the American Debate Association National Tournament. My debate partner, Cameron Norris, avidly clicked away on his computer, preparing in case we advanced. Directly across from us, our two opponents from Liberty University hunched over their computers doing the same. In the back of the room, three judges quietly deliberated who had won the round. I gazed out the window, too nervous to even think. I could hardly believe how far we'd come.

## *Inexperienced but Competitive*

I came to Vanderbilt with just one year of high school policy debate experience (most collegiate debaters have three to four), and during my freshman year, my lack of experience showed. Somehow I was partnered with Phil Rappmund, BA'08, the debate squad's senior varsity member. I debated with him at the SEC District tournament. This tournament was hugely important for Phil—it determined whether he would qualify to compete in the National Debate Tournament (another national title) his senior year. He didn't. I knew I'd stopped him. Policy debate is a two-on-two match, and it's impossible to succeed without a good partner.

But from that failure rose an insatiable desire in me to win—at all costs. After Phil graduated, I met Cameron Norris, a junior from Knoxville, Tenn. With a shaved head and sporadic facial hair, he had an intense look about him. He loved debate. I've never met anyone with such a fierce desire to compete and we decided to become partners. I knew that even if we weren't the most finessed duo, we'd at least be the hardest working.

## *The Underdogs*

We were the underdogs, of course. When the school year started, we had to work to keep up with larger, more experienced varsity squads.

Cameron had only as much experience as I, and we had only two other varsity members to help us, juniors Richard Waller and Brian Abrams. Compared to schools like Harvard or Emory, which often have squads with 15 or more debaters, we knew the odds were stacked against us.

Luckily, though, we had help. The squad hired a former debater, Christian "Seds" Sedelmyer, as an assistant debate coach. From afar, Phil and former debater Houston Shaner, BA'09, helped us research and develop arguments even after they'd graduated. Of course, M.L. Sandoz, the school's debate director and senior lecturer in communication studies, constantly kept us on track and pushed us to strive for success. Still, winning a national championship seemed about as likely as the Commodores winning the Rose Bowl.

After one particularly disappointing tournament at Wake Forest, Seds forced Cameron and me to play a game of chess against him. Cameron and I took turns moving our pieces, learning to think and act a team and rely on each other.

Cameron and I retooled and competed in the 2010 Berkeley Debate Tournament, placing among the top 16 varsity debate teams. We could hardly believe it. I still remember Will Repko, a legendary debate coach from Michigan State, passing us in the hall and saying, "Great tournament, you guys."

## *A Shot at the Nationals?*

But in this moment at the ADA National Tournament semifinals, I simply waited. The judges finally announced their decision. We had won! I looked to Cameron, smiling to congratulate him, but he was already packing up to relocate for the final round. "Let's go!" he barked.

The final round. A national championship on the line. As we fought off exhaustion, we made our way to the auditorium. Across from us sat our opponents, University of Mary Washington's top



I hardly remember what I said in my speech. I felt nothing but the pure force of argument.

team of Kallmeyer and Susko. As defending ADA National champions and one of the top ten debate teams in the country, they were intimidating adversaries.

Everything moved in slow motion as our opponents readied their evidence, set their timers and prepared to start.

“THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD...” the words rang out. No turning back now. Susko moved back and forth, words spewing from his mouth. They argued that we should eliminate its land-based nuclear missiles to help stop nuclear proliferation. Minutes later, Cameron returned fire. We countered that these missiles were key to our security, that proliferation was a manageable risk, and that the president needed to focus on passing health care reform rather than on controversial defense cuts. Just seconds after Cameron’s first speech, Kallmeyer shot off his responses like a machine.

“Dude, I don’t know how to answer this argument. I’ve never heard it before,” Cameron whispered. I couldn’t recall Cameron ever saying those words. I stared at him. “Well, can you do it?” I asked. He paused. “Yeah, I think so.” A gamble. Cameron and I gave our mid-round speeches as the debate passed the halfway mark.

Susko started, and I watched the timer ticking down. He fired off arguments. Our opponents had built their argumentative fort, and the time had come for me to knock it down. This was my final speech. Whether the national championship belonged to us depended on the next six minutes.

I shut everything else out. Cameron gave me a brief nod. I sharply inhaled, and then fiercely spoke as persuasively as I could.

### Pure Force of Argument

It’s an odd thing giving a debate speech. You think, but only instinctively. Your brain is processing information and your mouth is saying it, but you do so almost unconsciously. I hardly remember what I said in my speech. I felt nothing but the pure force of argument.



*Clockwise from top: Cameron Norris (left) and Brown research arguments during a debate; the author; Brown using plastic tubs full of research materials as a makeshift podium.*



After the speech, sweat dripped down my forehead. I looked at my notes, scanning for flaws. But it was done. As I moved to sit down, I will never forget what Cameron said. He whispered, “That was the best speech I’ve ever heard you give.”

As we waited, I ate for the first time that day, now-cold Chinese food I’d forgotten to eat earlier. I kept nervously glancing at the judges. Their demeanor told me the debate was extremely close.

Over an hour passed. Finally, the debate judges prepared to announce their decision. I held my breath. “The winner of the 2010 American Debate Association National Tournament...”

“...is Vanderbilt University.” Shocked, I stood up and hugged Cameron. We’d done it. Against the hurdles of limited experience, past setbacks and strained resources, this scrappy team from Vanderbilt prevailed. We won a national championship!

*Nick Brown and Cameron Norris still have a year of college debating left. They’re working harder than ever, and want to bring more national titles back to Vanderbilt and the College of Arts and Science.*



BRIEFS

Rescuing History

CRUMBLING WITH AGE, ATTACKED BY INSECTS AND AT RISK FROM CLIMATE AND OTHER DAMAGE, historic records of Africans

in the Americas were at risk of being lost entirely. Professor of History Jane Landers and a team of international scholars set out to digitally preserve the oldest black and Indian records in the hemisphere. Since the



Ecclesiastical and Secular Sources for Slave Societies project began, materials from Cuba, Brazil and Colombia have been preserved for researchers in digital form. Landers continues to direct the project, with the digital files stored at Vanderbilt's Jean and Alexander Heard Library.

What if Darwinism and Religion Got Along?

DID LIFE BEGIN IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN, AS THE BIBLE SAYS, OR IN A PREHISTORIC PRIMORDIAL SWAMP? Can you believe in creation and Darwin? In his new book, *Creation and Evolution*, Lenn Goodman, Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, says the two viewpoints are

(continued opposite)



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Spare the Rod and Signal Your Politics

WATCH THE NEXT TIME YOU ARE IN TARGET AND A CHILD THROWS A TANTRUM NEARBY. The way the parents respond could tell you if they are conservative or liberal. Research by Professor of Political Science Marc Hetherington indicates some people signal their political preferences through their actions, whether or not they mean to—from spanking a child to questioning authority and established ways of doing things.

In the book *Authoritarianism & Polarization in American Politics*, Marc Hetherington and co-author Jonathan Weiler explore the connection between voting patterns and attitudes toward authority. They discovered that those who possess higher levels of authoritarianism tend to vote conservatively.

“Authoritarians tend to see the world in concrete, black-and-white terms and have a stronger than average need for a sense of order,” Hetherington says. “Those who score lower regarding this cluster of attitudes are more comfortable with viewing the world

in ambiguous shades of gray. They are often more tolerant of differing opinions.”

On the other end of the spectrum are liberals who have less regard for authority. In terms of child raising, they de-emphasize discipline and obedience and encourage creativity and questions.

“If partisans can’t even agree on a fundamental issue like the best way to raise kids, you can imagine how tough it might be to reach compromises on some of the most important political issues on the agenda,” he says.

Those divisive issues include gay rights, immigration and support for the war in Iraq.

While most people can be described as either basically liberal or basically conservative, few are wholly in one group or another. Even a staunch conservative like President George W. Bush showed his liberal leaning occasionally—his position on immigration reform reflected the views of someone with a lower amount of authoritarianism.

Polarization is at an all-time high in American politics—and with these fundamental differences between the two sides, coming together might be harder than ever.

## Heaviest in the World

**IF YOU HAVEN'T LOOKED AT A PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS SINCE HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY CLASS, YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT IT HAS CHANGED QUITE A BIT.** The discovery of new superheavy elements in the last few years means there are additions to the chart.

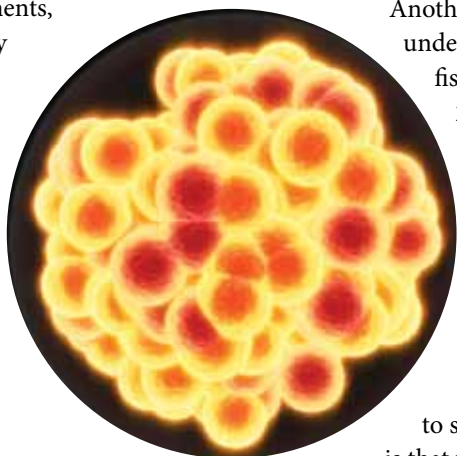
One of those new elements, no. 117, was discovered by an international team of scientists, including two from the College of Arts and Science—Joseph H. Hamilton, Landon C. Garland Distinguished Professor of Physics, and Akunuri V. Ramayya, professor of physics. Other groups involved in the discovery are the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research, Dubna, Russia; Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; and the Research Institute for Advanced Reactors, Dimitrovgrad, Russia.

Element 117, which now goes by ununseptium (Latin for 117), has the distinction of being the world's heaviest element and one of the most newsworthy.

"There have been more than 250 articles in newspapers around the world because people just have an interest in the chemical periodic table and the elements," Hamilton says. "These discoveries broaden our understanding of the basic building blocks of the world around us."

New superheavy elements may have practical applications in the near future.

"These elements may prove very useful as new compact energy sources because after they decay, they undergo fission," Hamilton says. "When they undergo fission, they give off an enormous amount of energy and lots of neutrons."



Another element that undergoes spontaneous fission—Californium 252—is currently used as an energy source in oil well exploration, space probes and the space shuttle. The superheavy elements would give off even more energy.

"Another reason to study these elements is that they may have a different chemistry than is expected," Hamilton says. "This opens up a new area of study that's unexplored at the present time and I think that it will capture people's imaginations to see that there are new chemical behaviors that, in a sense, have been predicted but not seen."

The name of element 117 is going to change, says Hamilton, who played a key role in the element's discovery. "I was crucial in getting the group together and in getting the  $^{249}\text{Bk}$  target essential for the discovery," he says modestly. "As a result of that, I'm going to get to name the element. I can't tell you the name, but it will bring distinction to the region."

PHOTO BY KWEI-YU CHU/LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY

## BRIEFS

*(continued...)*

not mutually exclusive. Fundamentalism—on both ends of the spectrum—can present a misleading point of view, he believes. "Thinking that way can obscure the real biblical message and also distort the deepest insights and richest findings of Darwinian science," Goodman says.



### Trash Talk

**TELL THE TRUTH—DO YOU RECYCLE PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES OR TOSS THEM IN THE TRASH?** Does your state have a law mandating recycling? Such laws greatly increase recycling, according to a national study by W. Kip Viscusi, University Distinguished Professor of Law, Economics and Management.

"What was really surprising is that recycling laws and bottle deposits have a dramatic impact when they are effective. A person who formerly recycled zero to two bottles out of 10 will jump to recycling 8 to 10 bottles out of 10 when these policies take effect," Viscusi says.

*Why a liberal arts education matters in tough economic times.*

# what employers want

by MARDY FONES

The battle erupts every time the economy nosedives: skills training versus education. With unemployment high and the future uncertain, should students focus on a trade or a broad-based education?

Employers, corporate recruiters and education experts say short-term thinking will cost you in job growth and lifetime income potential.

Their preference? The liberal arts education.

Long on critical thinking, writing, communication, problem solving, and development of analysis and synthesis of data, a liberal arts education fosters a capacity for lifelong professional success.

“Especially in bad economic times, the argument about skills training versus a liberal arts education emerges,” says Sarah Igo, associate professor of history and co-director of the National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education. “But technology and skills become outmoded quickly. What doesn’t is the ability to think on your feet, assess problems critically and develop innovative solutions. These are the foundations of a liberal arts education.”

Kenan Arkan, BA’04, MBA’06, and a member of Goldman Sachs Private Wealth Management service, agrees. “Anyone can be taught to run numbers,” Arkan says. “But what you can’t do on the job is teach someone how to think about the world, to have intellectual curiosity.”

Arkan says while his MBA might boost his credibility in the business world, it is his undergraduate degree in political science that fuels his professional growth. “I was working with a client starting a bank focusing on southern European customers. From my classes at Vanderbilt, we were able to talk about the historical ties people in that region have and what their motivations to patronize a bank would be,”

he says. “To be successful, you have to understand people’s motivations, not just their financial needs. Fundamentally, my job is about asking the right questions and then using that information to help a client find a solution.”

Arkan, who also serves as a member of Goldman Sachs’ recruitment team, says the company recruits liberal arts graduates like him. “We want people who have a global perspective, who have an interest in the world around them, people who have depth and breadth and aren’t constrained by their education...people who speak and think intelligently,” Arkan says.

## Communicate and Think

John Kuhnle, PhD’71, is a recruiter specializing in educational placements for the executive placement firm, Korn Ferry. He says skills are great, but people who lack the ability to communicate intelligently lose out. “You can’t distinguish between clear writing and clear thinking,” says Kuhnle, who earned his doctorate in English. “Oral and written skills are the passports to success. Absent those, people are permanently hampered and their careers thwarted.”

A recent study for the Association of American Colleges and Universities affirms Kuhnle and Arkan’s experiences. Surveying more than 300 companies about the qualities they seek in employees, researchers reported:

*90 percent are asking employees to take on more responsibilities and to use a broader set of skills.*

*81 percent believe students who are able to research and conduct evidence-based analysis pay off.*

*84 percent endorse requiring senior projects as a way to prepare new graduates for work success.*

The survey found employers want people who have a wide range of skills and higher levels of learning to meet the increasingly complex demands of the workplace. A majority of those surveyed encourage colleges to emphasize written





and oral communication; critical thinking and analytic reasoning; the application of knowledge and skills in real-world settings; problem solving; ethical decision making; and teamwork skills.

### What Matters

“A liberal arts education teaches you how to think and work outside settled patterns. It produces doubt, examination and skepticism,” Igo says. “That’s the way we reform our world and develop new ideas.”

As co-director of National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education, Igo leads research and discussions about the liberal arts. Forum membership consists of more than 70 rising academic stars selected in a nationwide search of the sciences, social sciences and humanities at top American research universities. The prestigious three-year program seeks to identify and prepare a core national group of emerging academic leaders to guide the future of the liberal arts.

“The real contributions to our society come from understanding the ways in which social and political systems interact, of critical thinking and skeptical questioning,” Igo says. “These qualities produce new knowledge, the ability to adapt and improve, to communicate, to analyze and to make ethical judgments that impact society.”

### Proven Leaders

To power up their success, liberal arts majors should enhance their potential with practical internships and leadership experience, the experts say.

As a student, Arkan interned with companies ranging from Smith Barney and USAirways to Goldman Sachs. He’s adamant that the workplace experience and leadership opportunities he had set the stage for his current job.

“Candidates with more experience in an actual corporate role have the upper hand,” Arkan says. “Even if the experience is in an unrelated sector, candidates can have success (in

job interviews) by contrasting their previous role with what they are applying for to show a depth of understanding.”

Companies that look to the College of Arts and Science for new employees say leadership experience is key. “We look for people who have taken the lead, whether it’s in an internship or a community activity,” says Keturah Akida Henderson, a recruiter with Deloitte. “We like people who are versatile, who can use technology, yes, but who perform well in front of the client.”

“We want people who have a global perspective, who have an interest in the world around them, people who have depth and breadth and aren’t constrained by their education.”

—Kenan Arkan, BA’04, MBA’06

Deloitte’s preference for liberal arts graduates emerges from their ability to analyze, to be proactive, and above all, to learn. “We train new graduates. We don’t expect them to come in knowing advanced software,” Henderson says. “What we want is people with a hunger for learning—people who can understand client problems and come up with ways to solve them that are creative, focused and goal-driven.”

### Disciplined Problem Solvers

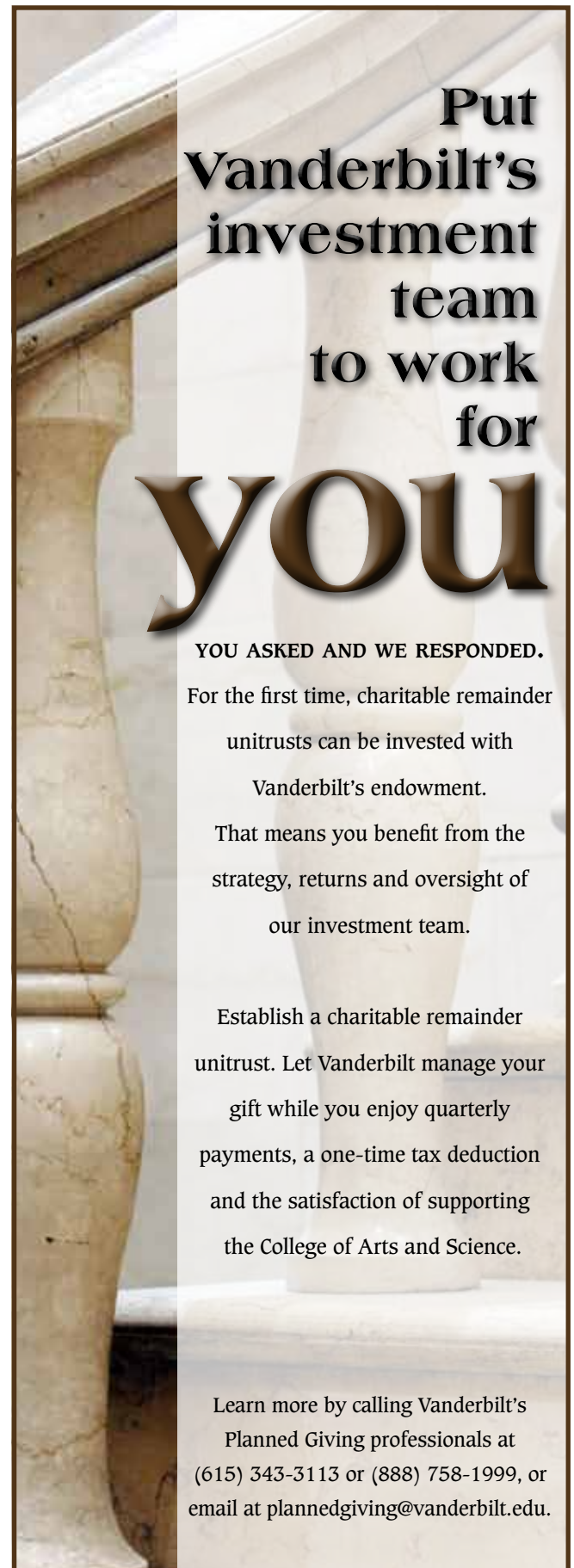
Personal and professional discipline is another employment-tipping factor. A high GPA is expected, but advantage goes to candidates with broad and fulfilling interests. If job candidates are also marathon runners or have long volunteer records in community service, that makes them stand out.

“We’re always looking for evidence of discipline,” says Stevie Toepke, director of recruiting for Harris Williams, one of the nation’s largest mergers and acquisitions advisers. “A good GPA plus a full resume tells us you can balance a lot and set priorities. We’re looking for well-rounded candidates.”

During job interviews with both Harris Williams and Deloitte, candidates are presented with case studies and asked to talk about how they’d handle particular business situations. This assesses the candidates’ ability to think on their feet and problem solve creatively, Toepke says.

Harris Williams’ hires face a steep learning curve on the business side, but Toepke says liberal arts graduates are positioned to take the new material and make it their own.

“An ideal candidate for us is one who has a strong educational foundation plus the great classes that come with a liberal arts degree,” Toepke says.



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Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, classics and new works—  
Arts and Science people are captivated by writing in  
all formats: printed, online, audio and even e-books.

*Kafka on the Shore* by Haruki Murakami  
(The Japanese title is *Umibe no Kafuka*)

*Gentle Japanese (language): The expressions that  
cannot be translated into English* by Rumi Sei

—**Keiko Nakajima**, senior lecturer  
in Japanese

*Drive: The Surprising Truth About What  
Motivates Us* by Daniel H. Pink

*Truckpatch: A Farmer's Odyssey* by Ward Sinclair  
(wonderful, Twain-like reading—written by my late  
uncle, a writer for the *Washington Post*. I've read  
this many times and am reading it again—  
it speaks to the seasons so well.)

*Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise  
and the Brain* by John J. Ratey and Eric Hagerman

*Made By Hand: Searching For Meaning in a  
Throwaway World* by Mark Frauenfelder

*New York Times* (daily)

—**Connie Sinclair**, program coordinator,  
Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and  
Public Policy

*Miracle in the Andes* by Nando Parrado

*Generation Kill* by Evan Wright

*The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway

—**Christian Anthony Lehr**, senior, history

*Critique of Pure Reason* by Immanuel Kant (audio)

*Lectures on Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*  
by J. M. Bernstein (audio)

*The Epistle to the Romans* by Karl Barth

—**Matt Pagan**, senior, art studio

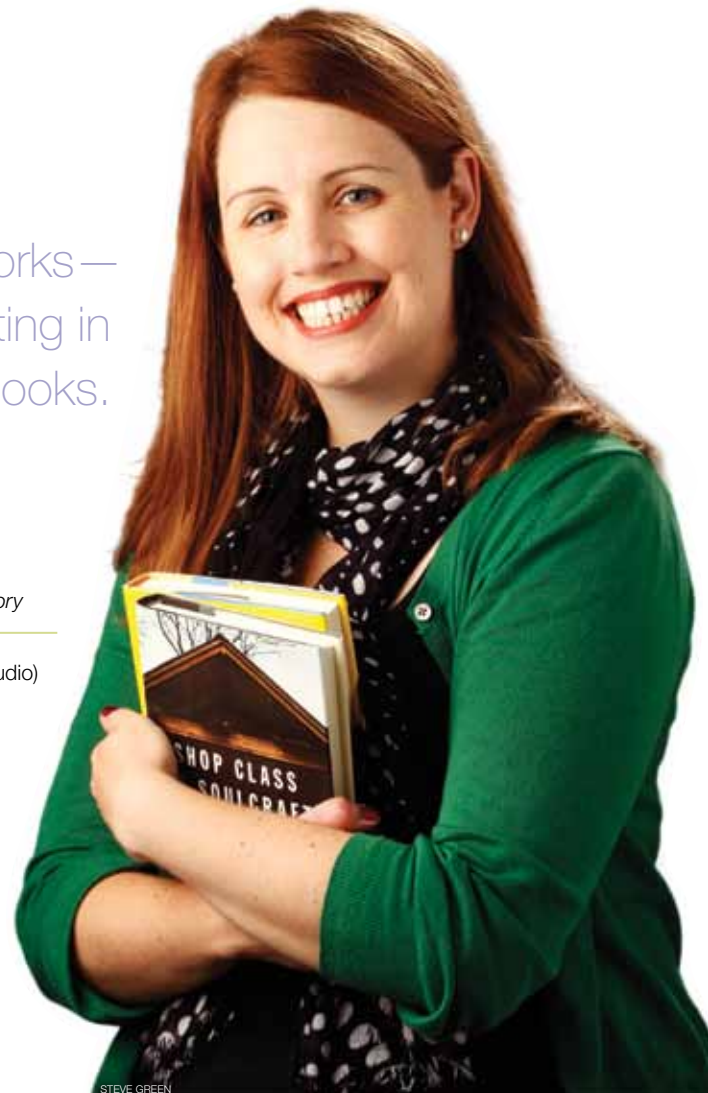
*On War* by Carl von Clausewitz, edited by  
Anatol Rapoport

*Memorial Day* by Vince Flynn

—**Joel Walden**, junior, communication  
studies and economics

*A Gilded Lapse of Time* by Gjertrud Schnackenberg

—**Christopher M. S. Johns**, Norman L. and  
Roselea J. Goldberg Professor of History



STEVE GREEN

**Meg Risen** serves as the education coordinator for  
the managerial studies program. In addition to reading  
The New York Times, House Beautiful magazine and  
Gawker.com regularly, she's just finished:

*A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again*  
by David Foster Wallace

*Moneyball* by Michael Lewis

*Baltimore's Alley Houses* by Mary Ellen Hayward

*Shop Class As Soulcraft* by Matthew B. Crawford

*The Works: Anatomy of a City* by Kate Ascher



# Kitchen Chemistry 101

*Explaining the science behind recipes made chemistry graduate Shirley Corriher an international cooking star.*

by CINDY THOMSEN



*Corriher demonstrates how to fry just about anything on Jimmy Kimmel Live. From left, Adam Carolla, Snoop Dogg, Corriher and Kimmel.*

Having a conversation with Shirley Ogletree Corriher, BA'56, is like taking a ride on a verbal roller coaster. Her voice swoops and swirls, plunges downward and then rises to a crescendo. Her words roll clicketyclack down the track and her stories, often as not, end with a belly laugh.

Corriher has a lot to be happy about these days. The one-time single mother of three who supported herself with a paper route is an international culinary phenomenon with two best-selling books (*CookWise* and *BakeWise*) to her name and a dance card filled with cooking demonstrations, television appearances and speaking engagements. If that's not enough, her face will soon grace the packaging of a new flour from Tenda-Bake.

Corriher grew up in Atlanta and spent a lot of time in her grandmother's kitchen. Milking cows and going into the yard to wring a chicken's neck were normal activities. She graduated from high school in just three years and came to Vanderbilt where she majored in chemistry at the College of Arts and Science. After graduating cum laude, she worked at Vanderbilt as a research chemist and supported her first husband as he completed graduate school.

Her next move was back to Atlanta where she and her husband opened a boarding school for boys, with Corriher in charge of the kitchen. Cooking didn't come naturally.

"I went crazy at first scrambling eggs in the school. I had this big old skillet and I would stand there and crack a dozen eggs in the pan and then I would sigh and put it on the heat and stand there and scrape like crazy," she says. "Because I was using a cold skillet, those eggs—liquid protein—went into every nook and cranny of the pan. When I heated it, I literally cooked the eggs into the pan and ended up with this knotty pile of mess."

When she is at home, Corriher keeps it simple with recipes like this one for fresh asparagus, which corresponds beautifully with the fresh fish recipe.

## Simple Elegance—Four-Minute Asparagus

Perfectly cooked, gorgeous bright green asparagus literally in minutes

### WHAT THIS RECIPE SHOWS

The chlorophyll in green vegetables remains bright green if vegetables are cooked less than seven minutes. Lemon zest is used to give a fresh lemon taste without the acidity of the lemon juice, which turns cooked green vegetables yucky army drab.

1 pound fresh asparagus, rinsed in cold water

3 tablespoons olive oil

1/2 teaspoon salt, sea salt if possible

1/2 teaspoon sugar

zest (grated peel) of [one] lemon (optional)

1. With one hand at the root end of an asparagus stalk and the other hand 3/4 of the way up the shaft, gently bend. The asparagus will snap where the tough portion ends.
2. Spread asparagus out on a jelly roll pan. Drizzle with oil, then roll asparagus to coat all sides.
3. Slip under the broiler, about 5 inches away and broil for 4 minutes only. Sprinkle with salt and sugar and place on serving platter or individual plates. Sprinkle with lemon zest and serve immediately.

## Fresh Fillets With Macadamia Butter

Makes 6 servings

A mild fish like sole, flounder, haddock or orange roughy is a perfect match for this delicate topping. A real expert with fish, Susan Jones from Santa Clara Beach, Florida, and Hawaii, taught me the joy of macadamia nuts on fish.

### WHAT THIS RECIPE SHOWS

Delicate fish should be cooked briefly to prevent drying out.

6 medium-size mild fish fillets (sole, flounder, orange roughy, halibut)—about 1 1/2 pounds (680 grams). If the fillets are over 1/2 inch thick, I slice them at an angle into 1/2 inch slices.

Salt (sea salt)

2 ounces (about 60 grams) butter

1/2 cup coarsely chopped macadamia nuts

1/4 teaspoon salt

4 sprigs parsley, finely chopped

5 sprigs parsley

1. Preheat oven to 500°F (260°C).
2. Place fillets on a baking sheet. Bake uncovered for 5 minutes. Sprinkle with salt and remove to a warm serving platter.
3. While fillets are baking, melt the butter in a large skillet. Add the chopped macadamia nuts and cook until lightly browned. Stir 1/4 teaspoon salt in, then pour the macadamia nut and butter sauce over the fish fillets. Garnish the fillets with chopped parsley. Garnish the platter with parsley sprigs.

## Chemistry for Cooks

Fortunately for Corriher—and the schoolboys—her mother-in-law visited and taught her to heat the pan first so that the eggs cook on the surface of the skillet. Corriher took that lesson to heart and explains how it can help inexperienced cooks.

“Heating the pan first is the key to cooking meat. Say you have two chicken breasts—you put them in the hot pan and they’re literally stuck to the pan. But this is the Zen moment—you have to think happy thoughts and be at peace with the universe. Have a sip of zinfandel, BUT DON’T TOUCH THE CHICKEN BREASTS!” she says.

“As soon as they realize their food is stuck, new cooks will start scraping frantically. Get over it!” she commands. “It takes a full 90 seconds, which is an eternity, but eventually the proteins will coagulate—they hook together and form a light tan surface—and the chicken releases all by itself.”

The story is Corriher in a nutshell—present her with a cooking or baking problem and she’ll tell you why it happened and how you can fix it. She credits the College of Arts and Science with giving her both the science and communications skills that fuel her success today.

“Most people would not associate cooking with Vanderbilt, but my chemistry and English backgrounds both serve me well,” she says. “I probably took as many hours in English as I did in chemistry and I was the editor of the literary magazine, *The Phoenix*. I use not only my major, but everything I learned at Vanderbilt.”

## The Mad Scientist of the Kitchen

Corriher’s marriage ended and so did her job at the boys’ school. The mother of three found herself struggling to make ends meet, even working a paper route for money. Then she won cooking lessons at Rich’s Cooking School in Atlanta and came to the attention of the school’s founder, legendary Southern cook and award-winning cookbook author Nathalie Dupree. If a cake failed to rise or a vegetable turned mushy, Corriher used her chemistry background to explain why. It didn’t take long for Dupree to turn to Corriher with food science questions. Dupree soon hired the newly



Shirley Corriher

divorced Corriher to help at the school and eventually, to teach a food science class.

Corriher's reputation as a food scientist grew and she soon found herself in demand as a teacher. Over the years, Julia Child, Pillsbury and magazine test kitchens tapped into her expertise. In an era of celebrity chefs, Corriher, who still lives in Atlanta, stands out because of her chemistry background. You won't hear Bobby Flay or Mario Batali tossing around terms like chlorophyll, hydrogen sulfide or peptic substance, but they're Corriher's stock in trade and the reason she's called the "mad scientist of the kitchen."

Keeping green beans green is a favorite topic where Corriher uses chemistry to demonstrate a point—and to explain how to keep vegetables like fresh asparagus from turning "yucky army drab."

"When you're cooking green vegetables, there are three things that happen almost all at once. First—there are fine air bubbles on the vegetable's surface. When you heat them, they pop and you see the beautiful green that's underneath," she explains. "The second thing that happens is that the cell walls shrink and the little cells start leaking out their insides, and the third thing is the glue between the cells—the peptic substance—changes to water soluble pectin and dissolves so the cells are leaking and falling apart—it's just mass death and destruction." (See her solution in the asparagus recipe on p. 23.)

### Teaching and Television

If some of these expressions and explanations sound familiar, it may be you've seen Corriher on television. One of her most memorable television appearances was on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, where she was given the task of deep frying a variety of objects including a ping-pong ball, chocolate bunnies and a wrist watch. She has also made several appearances on the Food Network's *Good Eats* with Alton Brown.

"The early shows were filmed in his mother-in-law's kitchen and we didn't even have scripts," Corriher says. "We just talked. Thank goodness they rerun those over and over—it keeps me out there so people in airports recognize me."

*Corriher loves sharing her knowledge—and she extends that sharing to her signature biscuit recipe. While there are several key characteristics that make her biscuits famous, one of the most important ones is that she insists on using low-protein Southern flour. That insistence and her identification with low-protein flour has led to a partnership with Tenda-Bake flour, based in North Carolina. Packages of its gourmet self-rising flour will soon bear Corriher's name and likeness.*

From *BakeWise* (p. 151–153):

I do know biscuits. I have made biscuits all over the United States and Canada, and as far away as Europe. I even got a standing ovation for my biscuits at a meeting of food science writers in Erice, Sicily. ...

I will, and have, put my biscuits up against anyone's. ...

### Shirley Corriher's "Touch-Of-Grace" Southern Biscuits

Makes 12 to 14 medium biscuits

As a little girl, I followed my grandmother around the kitchen. For breakfast, lunch, and dinner she made the lightest, most wonderful biscuits in the world. I used her bread bowl, her flour, her buttermilk—I did everything the same, and I shaped the biscuits just like she did. But mine always turned out a dry, mealy mess. I would cry and say, "Nanny, what did I do wrong?" She was a very busy woman with all my uncles and grandfather to feed three meals a day, but she would lean down and give me a big hug, and say, "Honey, I guess you forgot to add a touch of grace."

It took me twenty years to figure out what my grandmother was doing that I was missing. I thought that the dough had to be dry enough to shape by hand, but she actually had a very wet dough. She sprinkled flour from the front of the bowl onto the dough, pinched off a biscuit-size piece,

and dipped it in the flour. She floured the outside of the wet dough so that she could handle it. This wet dough in a hot oven creates steam to puff and make feather-light biscuits. A wet dough was the big secret. Now I make biscuits almost as good as my grandmother's, and so can you, with a good wet dough and a touch of grace.



*Tenda-Bake flour now sports Corriher's likeness on its packages.*



Corriher laughs at herself a lot, but behind this self-deprecating persona is a bona fide superstar in the culinary galaxy. She has twice been honored by the James Beard Foundation, she was named a grande dame of Les Dames d'Escoffier International and has served on the board of directors of the International Association of Culinary Professionals. She crisscrosses the country regularly demonstrating her unique brand of kitchen chemistry, and not long ago, co-hosted a chemistry of barbecue event during the national meeting of the American Chemical Society.

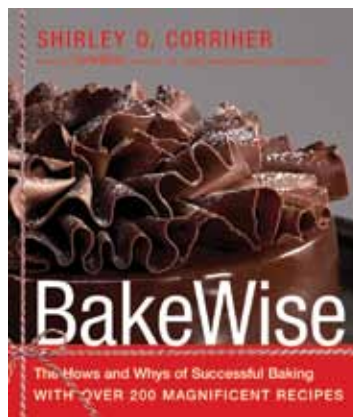
However, even someone as seasoned as Corriher gets thrown for a loop occasionally—it happened recently at the Oregon Culinary Institute when she realized that she was expected to teach a participation class instead of her usual demonstration class.

“I’m a big ham up there with my molecules moving around, but I’ve never taught a participation class in my life,” she says, relating her dismay when she discovered what she was being asked to do. “Our names and everything were already printed in the brochure.”

Corriher then saw that the topic of her class had already been chosen—Northwest regional ingredients.

“I called my co-teacher and said ‘I know nothing about this.’ He said, ‘Well, Shirley, let’s just cook what’s in season.’ I said, ‘Fine, what would it be?’ And do you know what he said? Asparagus!”

“Hallelujah, hallelujah!”



Shirley Corriher’s *BakeWise* and *CookWise* are the go-to volumes for experienced and novice cooks alike. If you need to know why a recipe calls for shortening instead of butter or why brushing puff pastry dough with ice water makes for higher, flakier pastry, Corriher explains it in easy-to-understand language and instructions. Less collec-

tions of recipes than entertaining how-to guides, both books also include Corriher’s indispensable “What the Recipe Shows” background information.

*CookWise: The Hows & Whys of Successful Cooking, The Secrets of Cooking Revealed* has sold more than 300,000 copies (making it an evergreen seller in the book world). *BakeWise: The Hows and Whys of Successful Baking* remains a top seller nearly 18 months after being released. Both books were honored with the James Beard Foundation Book Award for excellence, the cooking industry’s top honor.

#### WHAT THIS RECIPE SHOWS

Low-protein flour helps make tender, moist biscuits.

A very wet dough makes more steam in a hot oven and creates lighter biscuits.

Nonstick cooking spray

2 cups (9 oz/255 g) spooned and leveled self-rising flour (low-protein Southern U.S. flour like Tenda-Bake or any self-rising flour)

1/4 cup (1.8 oz/51 g) sugar

1/2 teaspoon (3 g) salt

1/4 cup (1.6 oz/45 g) shortening

2/3 cup (158 ml) heavy cream

1 cup (237 ml) buttermilk, or enough for dough to resemble cottage cheese (if you are not using low-protein flour, it will take more than 1 cup)

1 cup (4.5 oz/127 g) plain all-purpose flour, for shaping

3 tablespoons (1.5 oz/43 g) unsalted butter, melted, for brushing

Preheat the oven to 425°F/218°C and arrange a shelf slightly below the center of the oven. Spray an 8- or 9-inch (20 or 23-cm) round cake pan with nonstick cooking spray.

1. In a large mixing bowl, stir together the self-rising flour, sugar, and salt. Work the shortening in with your fingers until there are no large lumps. Gently stir in the cream, then some of the buttermilk. Continue stirring in buttermilk until the dough resembles cottage cheese. It should be a wet mess—not soup but cottage-cheese texture. If you are not using a low-protein flour, this may require considerably more than 1 cup (237 ml) of buttermilk.
2. Spread the plain (not self-rising) flour out on a plate or pie pan. With a medium (about 2-in/5-cm #30) ice cream scoop or spoon, place 3 or 4

scoops of dough well apart in the flour. Sprinkle flour over each. Flour your hands. Turn a dough ball in the flour to coat, pick it up, and gently shape it into a round, shaking off the excess flour as you work. Place this biscuit into the prepared pan. Coat each dough ball and place the shaped biscuit scrunched up against its neighbor so that the biscuits rise up and don’t spread out. Continue scooping and shaping until all of the dough is used.

3. Place the pan on the arranged shelf in the oven. Bake until lightly browned, about 20 to 25 minutes. Brush with the melted butter. Invert onto one plate, and then back onto another. With a knife or spatula, cut quickly between biscuits to make them easy to remove. Serve immediately.

RECIPES © 1976, 1989, 1998 SHIRLEY O. CORRIHER. USED BY PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR AND OF SCRIBNER.

# The Times They Are A-Changin’

Earlier this year, Cecelia Tichi, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English, accepted the Hubbell Medal from the American Literature Section of the Modern Language Association of America for lifetime achievement. In her acceptance speech, abridged here, she championed the role of literary scholarship in defining a country, reflecting an era and helping future generations make sense of contemporary events.

The founding year of the Hubbell award—1964, the year in which I graduated from the Pennsylvania State University—is significant and in many ways it has proved to be a major pivot point. At that moment—the mid-1960s—the post-World War II generation of Americanist critics (those awarded the Hubbell medal in the first decade of its existence) had published the landmark studies that all of us younger scholars of American literature relied upon for our exams, our dissertations, our entry-level work. We thought “so’ would last for aye,” to quote a phrase from the Puritan verse of Michael Wigglesworth. We did not know that contemporary events were about to challenge us to undertake scholarship, criticism and the formation of course syllabi in a radically different direction.

Events of 1964 and thereabouts augured a new American literary-critical future. The origins of a half-century of new angles of vision (to borrow Wallace Stegner’s title) can be read in a backward glance. It was in 1964 that President Lyndon Johnson met with Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, approving covert operations in Vietnam, and later that year dispatching 5,000 troops to do battle in Southeast Asia.

In that same year, some ten thousand persons, mainly students, rallied on the Berkeley campus of the University of California to call for the lifting of a ban on political speech and for freedom of speech for students everywhere.



STEVE GREEN

In 1964, Martin Luther King conferred with FBI director J. Edgar Hoover concerning FBI surveillance of the civil rights leader, while Malcolm X left the Nation of Islam and formed the Organization for Afro-American Unity. In Mississippi, three young civil rights workers—Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner and James Chaney—disappeared near Meridian, their bodies found more than 40 days later. The year 1964 marked the federal Civil Rights Act and the ratification of the 24th Amendment forbidding the poll tax in federal elections.

It was in 1964 that China detonated a nuclear bomb, while social critic E. Digby Baltzell coined the term WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant). Panamanians staged a lethal protest against American control of the Panama Canal. Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique* appeared in a paperback edition for 75 cents. And it was the year Rachel Carson died, the author of *Silent Spring* having concealed her fatal breast cancer to prevent dismissal of her work by critics—really, chemical companies and their political apologists—on the grounds of personal female animus.

On a light note, 1964 saw the introduction of the Ford Mustang, Pontiac GTO, and the *Billboard* hit “I Want to Hold Your Hand” by a British rock ‘n’ roll quartet called The Beatles.

## Radically New Literary Scholarship

This farrago of events in and around the year of the first Hubbell award is an augury of the radically new and nationally burgeoning





Students need to understand literary engagement as a civic engagement.

### Literary Engagement as Civic Engagement

We owe ourselves, our graduate students and our undergraduates the scholarly and pedagogical projects commensurate with attention to these conditions throughout the continuum of the literary canons in which we operate (and which we delineate). Our graduate students deserve the encouragement to venture boldly. Our undergraduates deserve the courses that demonstrate to them that literary engagement is important to their lives in the present and in the future.

Students need to understand literary engagement as a civic engagement. Reluctant to acknowledge rivalry with colleagues in other fields, we must face the fact we indeed compete for our students' time and thought. Literature and the humanities are tremendously pressured in the era of dominant science, technology and business. Quality of life is regarded in some quarters as synonymous solely with salary and wages. The monetary costs of higher education are questioned, and the humanities regarded as a costly distraction and (some suspect) irrelevant to students' main endeavor: future employment. The terms "training" and "education" threaten to become interchangeable.

Yet we are uniquely positioned to read these times in all their complexity, to address them in the classroom and in scholarship, and to guide students and peers into the prior centuries of literature that speak fully and richly to the ongoing present.

We are well-situated to recognize the bases for encouragement in the work engendered by the equally critical decades of the later 20th century. We can thereby anticipate that new strengths and resources will disclose themselves and inspire our work in the years to come.

literary scholarship and criticism of the succeeding 45 years, and I am proud to have been a part of it. To cite the Bob Dylan album title of 1964, *The Times They Are A-Changin'*.

Hubbell awardees in recent years chronicle the richness and contiguity of numerous areas whose epistemic origins can be traced to dynamic events circa 1964. The change has long been self-evident in African American and diverse ethnic literary studies; in Native American literature and multicultural work; and in popular culture studies, including film, feminist studies, eco-criticism and disability studies. My own work has benefited enormously from the foment of that period of the Sixties and from the vigorous intellectual debate instigated and propagated by it.

But what of this moment? The times are always "a-changin'" and our challenges are unrelenting. A man of color has been elected to the presidency, but no woman has yet occupied that office. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan drag on and on, and the militarism of our culture and society deepens. These, and the so-called Great Recession, summon us to a new literary-scholarly engagement. At this moment some 15 million Americans are jobless, 46 million without health care, millions more underinsured. The sociopathology of Wall Street continues, while populism flares at both ends of the sociopolitical spectrum. "Food insecurity" is the new euphemism for hunger (those who are "insecure" report this problem upward of eight months of the year). And climate change grinds on, as political and civic action lags badly.





IMAGES: VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

*How Nixon, Campus Protests and Alexander Heard Still*

# Inspire Social Change

John Gaventa, BA'71



Professor, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

PLACE OF RESIDENCE  
Sussex, England

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT  
Brazil (It's a beautiful and really interesting country)

FAVORITE BOOK

Anything by Barbara Kingsolver or Isabel Allende

FAVORITE MOVIE

*Gandhi*

Working in the White House during what was later known as the Watergate era also exposed me to the uses and abuses of power.



I LIVE IN SUSSEX, ENGLAND, THOUGH MOST OF MY WORK TAKES ME TO POORER PARTS OF THE WORLD IN AFRICA, ASIA OR LATIN AMERICA. The College of Arts and Science, from which I graduated almost 40 years ago, often seems a long way away. But when I learned last year of the death of Chancellor Alexander Heard, I began to reflect on the connections between my years at Vanderbilt and my work in international development today.

The late '60s and early '70s were turbulent times on American campuses, and Vanderbilt was no different. In April 1968 during my freshman year, Martin Luther King Jr. was killed in Memphis. Within hours, National Guard troops rolled down West End Avenue to set up camp in Centennial Park. With other Vanderbilt students, I joined Fisk University students in a peaceful vigil in downtown Nashville. In June, Robert Kennedy was assassinated, 74 days after he had spoken to a packed Memorial Gym.

These were life-changing events, which caused me to rethink my studies. The College of Arts and Science offered an interdisciplinary major, and with the encouragement of my advisers, I linked courses in philosophy, political science and sociology under a broad theme of the philosophy and politics of social change. I had vague thoughts that this would prepare me to work on issues of social justice, poverty and human rights. I was taught by wonderful professors with whom I stayed in touch after graduation, including John Compton, Lester Salamon and John McCarthy.

In 1970, at the end of my junior year, I was elected student body president. The U.S. invaded Cambodia, and campuses across the country, including Vanderbilt, erupted in protest. Students were killed at Kent State, Jackson State and in Lawrence, Kansas. Chancellor Heard was recruited by other university presidents to lead an independent mission to the White House to sensitize the Oval Office on campus unrest. The chancellor asked me along as his special assistant.

That summer in Washington was quite an education. One of the best parts was working closely with the chancellor and learning from his incredible work discipline, attention to detail, and belief in the importance of deliberation and listening to different points of



Opposite: Robert Kennedy at Vanderbilt (1968). Above: Chancellor Heard and Gaventa in Washington, D.C. (1970). Right: Campus protest over Heard's role as an independent adviser to President Nixon (1970).



view before reaching decisions. He was a man of greatness, with an unwavering commitment to fairness and tolerance, a man who was willing to take stands based on what he believed was best for the university, nation and world. I was privileged to witness his courage and leadership firsthand.

But working in the White House during what was later known as the Watergate era also exposed me to the uses and abuses of power. I returned to campus a bit disillusioned with what I had seen. I researched international scholarships, which led to a Rhodes scholarship. Before I left for England, I was elected a young alumni trustee on the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust. I spent the summer with the Student Health Coalition, which worked with poor communities in rural Tennessee and Appalachia. I thought that maybe grass-roots change, rather than Washington politics, was where the hope might be for the future—well, for my future at least.

Little did I know how these various steps would later come together. Residents of a poor East Tennessee mining community whose lives and land had been adversely affected by a British-owned mining company asked me if I could find the London owners of the company and “tell them how bad things were.” I tried to respond to that request—a process which led to a documentary on their situation, aired nationally in Britain, as well as to my Ph.D. thesis. Later the thesis became a book, *Power and Powerlessness in an Appalachian Valley*. It continues to be a text for students worldwide and has sold over 35,000 copies. This wouldn't have happened without the Vanderbilt connections.

In the midst of this work, I discovered the Highlander Research and Education Center, a small nonprofit in East Tennessee. Since the 1930s, it had served as a training ground for social action and played a key role in the civil rights movement. When I finished my degree, I was asked to start a research program there. For almost the next 20 years, my wife (whom I met in Oxford) and I worked to link our research to grass-roots social action on poverty, environmental and social justice issues across Appalachia and the rural South.

While at Highlander, I was awarded one of the first MacArthur Prize Fellowships, which provided five years of much-needed funding.

The fellowship allowed my family and me to travel to Scandinavia, India, Nicaragua and other countries to study how grass-roots, participatory approaches were used to tackle social issues and what we could learn for rural America.

I have been with the Institute of Development Studies, based at the University of Sussex, since 1989, first as a visiting fellow and now as a professor. My work takes me to many countries, still linking research and writing to action, training and consulting with nonprofit/non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and teaching graduate students, many of whom are community development workers and social activists internationally.

In 2006 I was invited to become chair of the board of Oxfam GB, Britain's largest overseas NGO, which provides humanitarian relief, supports grass-roots development programs, and advocates on issues like climate change, poverty and social justice in more than 70 countries. When interviewed for this post, and asked about my previous board experience, I thought back to my years as a young Vanderbilt trustee, and all I had learned from that opportunity.

In my writing and teaching, I find myself still referring back to the work of the wonderfully stimulating professors who encouraged me to structure an interdisciplinary major on social change and who supported my career even when I had left campus. In leadership roles, I draw on my experiences with Chancellor Heard. He was not only a leader, but also a mentor and teacher, representing the best tradition of what a liberal arts education ought to be.

On reflection, maybe the College of Arts and Science is not so far away from my life and work these days in Sussex.

# At Home in the World

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ISN'T FOREIGN TO THE DEROMEDI FAMILY—IT'S ESSENTIAL.

Roger Deromedi, BA'75, has visited 70 of the near 200 countries in the world. His wife, Sandra, and their three children joined him in Paris and Switzerland while Roger worked for Kraft Foods in Europe. Family members mark where they've been on a map crowded with pushpins. So important are travel and international experiences to them that Roger and Sandra recently created a scholarship at Vanderbilt to help students expand their international knowledge, too.

"Living abroad and traveling allows us to experience how other people see the world," says Roger, chairman of the board for Pinnacle Foods Group and former CEO of Kraft. "Having been born and raised in Berkeley (California) and then moving to Chattanooga in the late 1960s, I experienced quite a culture change. I went from the height of political and social activism in California to the South. It really heightened my appreciation that we're all human beings no matter where we live; we just manifest how we do things in different ways."

"It's critical that we understand how other people think and live their lives."

—Roger Deromedi

In today's world, however, understanding and appreciating those differences is paramount to success, Roger says—in both business and in life. Therefore, the Chicago-area-based couple developed the Sandra and Roger Deromedi International Service Learning Scholarship in the College of Arts and Science. The scholarship allows students to study abroad without the hardship of loss of income



Roger and Sandra Deromedi

from summer or part-time jobs.

The Deromedis say it was an easy decision to become involved.

"When Roger brought it up, my response was, 'Send them. Send them, because the students will be better people for their life-changing experiences,'" Sandy Deromedi says.

The Deromedis' scholarship supports students in the Vanderbilt Initiative for Scholarship and Global Engagement (VISAGE) program, which offers participants a yearlong learning experience regarding a global issue. VISAGE students take a core course on campus in the spring and a seminar in the fall, with a field-based project or service opportunity abroad in between.

Previous sites and themes have included South Africa (education, social cohesion and economic development), Nicaragua (family, community and social justice) and Australia (sustainable water resource development).

## Travel Changes One's World

Neither of the Deromedis traveled abroad as students themselves, though Roger admits living vicariously through his parents' trips when he was younger. After graduating from the College of Arts and Science with majors in mathematics and economics, he started his career at General Foods, which later merged with Kraft. He was with the companies 29 years, eventually becoming CEO. International roles at Kraft allowed the couple to experience other cultures. They're thankful that their own children—now ages 16 to 24—were able to catch the global bug when they were young. The Deromedis encouraged local involvement and limited English television wherever they were. "It was just a terrific experience for all of us," Sandy says.

"Travel changed my world," Sandy says. She laughs that Roger proposed in Paris—and then the couple squeezed in travel to five countries in two weeks.



Living overseas later, however, taught her about being American. “Before then, I’d have to say, I never called myself an American,” she admits. “We’re such a melting pot here. When people would want to know what my nationality was, I would say, ‘50 percent Scottish’ and da-da-da-da. It was an acceptable answer. But after going overseas and meeting people who were Scottish and who were German, no longer did my 50 percent seem so important. It became, ‘I’m from the United States.’ ‘Oh, I’m an American,’ and what a wonderful thing to be.”

### Listen to Other Cultures

While Roger Deromedi worked his way up the Kraft ladder, he visited factories and grocery stores in various regions and countries. There also were in-home visits with consumers, talking about how the company’s products fit into their lifestyles. Deromedi relished those opportunities.

“It’s critical that we understand how other people think and live their lives,” Roger says. “The American paradigm is not always right. I’ve learned that you have to listen, and not assume the way you may approach something is correct.”

Now he wants the scholarship to give others the same discovery. Roger Deromedi credits Vanderbilt with allowing him to engage in the program’s design in addition to offering funding. He has met several times over lunch with students who have participated in VISAGE to learn ways that the program can be more strategic and relevant.

“I think Vanderbilt has a great understanding of what it takes to develop students to be successful in the world today, and not just in the United States or in the South,” Roger says. “A program like VISAGE shows that they know what it takes to be leaders on a global platform.”

That worldwide platform affects everyone, he notes. Even if a student is going to be a farmer in the United States, he notes, commodity markets are global.

Despite his responsibilities with Pinnacle, which manufactures and markets food brands including Duncan Hines, Vlasic, Armour, Lenders, Birds Eye and Log Cabin, Roger returns to campus each



#### FOUR KEY DESTINATIONS FOR A WORLD-VIEW

Roger Deromedi advises students to visit the four countries designated by global economists as the BRIC countries:

**Brazil**      **Russia**      **India**      **China**

Combined, these four countries currently account for more than 40% of the world’s population and approximately 25% of the global economy and the world’s land area. (Source: *BRICs Monthly*, May 20, 2010)

quarter as a guest lecturer. He says his College of Arts and Science background gave him a good grounding and early sense of responsibility for what came next, including an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

“The world is so much more connected now,” Roger says. “We see things on the news instantly. I think if you’re a student today, and you don’t have that global understanding and awareness, you’re going to have a hard time. . . . You need to understand the dynamics that impact our global society.”



# The College Cabinet 2009–2010

I am pleased to take this opportunity to thank you—the alumni, parents and friends who support the College of Arts and Science—for helping to start an exceptional Vanderbilt experience for our students.

The following pages list the College Cabinet, which recognizes those donors who contributed \$1,000 or more during our last fiscal year, July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

In the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the generosity of College Cabinet members totaled nearly \$15 million. Gifts from College Cabinet members make up more than three-fourths of all unrestricted giving to the College of Arts and Science. This year, unrestricted giving to the College of Arts and Science helped:

- bring U.S. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, then head of the U.S. Central Command, to campus to speak to students. This was in connection with the course, Humanities 161—The War in Iraq, taught by Katherine Carroll, assistant professor of political science, and Mike Newton, professor of the practice of law. The course grew out of Carroll's year in Baghdad as an embedded professor with the U.S. Army.
- support Vanderbilt University debate team members Cameron Norris and Nick Brown (see p. 14), who won the varsity debate championship at the 2010 American Debate Association's national tournament.
- improve and maintain our buildings, including the recently renovated Cohen Memorial Hall. This historic building is now home to the Departments of Classics and History of Art, as well as the

Fine Arts Gallery, and features classrooms with state-of-the-art technology.

- continue our unwavering commitment of providing financial aid to ensure that the best and brightest students have access to a Vanderbilt education regardless of their families' financial resources; more than 60 percent of Vanderbilt undergraduate students receive some type of financial aid.

These are only a few of the opportunities and needs met by the generosity of College Cabinet members this year, and all of us in Arts and Science are most grateful for their support.

If you are not a member of the College Cabinet, I'd like to invite you to consider joining with an annual gift of \$1,000. If you are a recent graduate within 10 years of commencement, you can join the College Cabinet with an annual gift of only \$500.

The contributions of College Cabinet members are vital to the success and strength of the College of Arts and Science. We are sincerely grateful to you, and all our donors, for your dedication and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Dever'.

Carolyn Dever  
Dean

**CORNELIUS VANDERBILT  
FOUNDERS LEVEL  
(\$25,000 AND ABOVE)**

Greg Scott Allen, BA'84, and Elizabeth Sauereisen Allen, BS'83  
 Samuel E. Allen, BA'58, and Angie Allen (parents)  
 Bequest of Grace M. Almon, BA'53  
 John Douglas Arnold, BA'95, and Laura Arnold  
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Student singers performed at lunch



In fall 1975, four undergraduates with love for performing and Broadway musicals launched a new campus organization called the Original Cast, a Broadway revue troupe. That first year, they had to find their own funding, run auditions, find places to rehearse and perform, and put on a show. Now 35 years later, the group started by Laura Jansen (BA'78), Ron Mayers (BA'77), Phil Walker (BA'77) and Margie Womer (BSN'79) continues its long run as one of Vanderbilt's most popular performing arts groups. Student developed, led, directed, produced, choreographed, promoted and staged, the Original Cast performs every semester to audience acclaim. Each production showcases 16 to 18 cast members singing and performing numbers from different Broadway and movie musicals. Most students stay involved for several years, and alumni of the close-knit performance troupe stay in touch, attending shows and organizing reunions. Over the years, the Original Cast has performed at school and alumni functions, on cruises and on tours across Europe and the West Coast.

- (1) *Vanderbilt Alumnus*, Winter 1978, vol. 63, no. 2;  
 (2) 1976 *Commodore*; (3) *Vanderbilt Hustler*, vol. 88, no. 26;  
 (4) *Vanderbilt Hustler*, vol. 119, no. 61; (5) *Cast photo 2010*;  
 (6) 30th anniversary program, (7) ticket for 2008 performance of *Catching Fire* (8) *Vanderbilt Hustler*, vol. 87, no. 12.  
 (9) *Promotional album jacket*

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8

## Original Cast' meets, organizes auditions

By JIM HATHAWAY

A new organization got off to a good start in the catacombs of Sarratt Center last Monday. The organization, called The Original Cast, will be a singing and dance group specializing in Broadway show music with additional doses of popular and traditional songs.

The group is headed by four people who have been dreaming of this kind of troupe for several months. They are Laura Jansen, Margie Womer, Phil Walker, and Ron Mayers. The four are tremendously optimistic and excited about the prospects of The Original Cast. There were 24 performers chosen from the 62 who participated in tryouts held Wednesday. In addition to these performers, the accompanist is Mike Crowe, the choreographer is Katy Campbell, and the director is D. J. Johns.

According to Walker, Campbell has had experience in choreographing several other groups like this one and has worked as a professional dancer. She should be a helpful addition to the group, providing dance routines for the musical numbers.

The Original Cast will be run by a board of directors which, for the first few weeks, will consist of Jansen, Womer, Walker, and Mayers. They intend to pass along their duties to other members of the group after this period.

Financing for The Original Cast is a problem. The Office of Student Life does not have the group included in its budget. Says Jansen, "We didn't start the group early enough. The budget is drawn up in the spring and we didn't decide to go ahead with this until the fall." Therefore, the group will have to find some means of financing on its own.

The group is planning an untraditional Christmas show, probably containing a large amount of show tunes, to be followed by four spring shows — two on campus and two on the road.

The Original Cast is optimistic and should provide Vanderbilt with a fresh approach to both dramatics and music.



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THE ORIGINAL CAST

...By Request



# Original Cast

The Original Cast is a new and very different singing group at Vanderbilt. It is made up of sixteen students who select, direct, and choreograph the songs themselves. They meet twice a week to put together a revue of Broadway show tunes which they perform in the spring semester.

This year has been quite challenging for the Original Cast. They have learned how to work together, how to produce a theatrical sound, and how to overcome the obstacles that any beginning group faces. The rewards of this effort have been impressive. Besides producing a successful show, they have had several offers to perform around Nashville. Their plans for next year include a three-week tour of Europe and several other performances in the Southeast. They plan to enlarge the group size and increase the number of performances next year.

The most exciting thing about the Original Cast is its future. As one cast member put it, "When you start from the bottom, there's only one way to go—up!"

## 'The Original Cast' It's no longer a secret

By JIMMION

The Original Cast had been rehearsing for two hours, and the twenty-four people clustered around the piano had just botched the "Fiddler" sequence — again. Enthusiasm was waning and the Drummer challenged the normal oppressive heat of the Different Jansen looked frustrated and tired. Her brain was numbed by another "OK, let's take it from the top," but she managed a half-smile as she thought back to a September night over a year ago, and the beginnings of "The Original Cast."

Jansen and a group of friends had often discussed the possibility of forming a small musical troupe to provide an alternative to the Vanderbilt Concert Choir, a group they thought was too large and confined by the General Sacred tradition. Jansen and Phil Walker wanted an organization which performed primarily Broadway show tunes; a group similar to the Princeton Triangle, the Tulane Tansians, or the Yale Bluenotes. These ideas were born The Original Cast. That night, Sidney Boutwell put it, "We dreamt a big dream somehow sur-

the next morning and soon "Cast" was an officially chartered organization with Dean Sidney Boutwell as the

and Walker and began to problems of challenge smoothly. A drive com- most eighty- nity of whom r. Then the

was man- en recalls, of the group part of the per- developed over dates and times of rehearsals. The professional director, whom the group could not

afford to pay, often missed rehearsals and eventually dropped out completely. The students had to direct and choreograph themselves, and personality conflicts began to emerge. Friction developed because, as Jansen remembers; "it wasn't easy for people to sit there and be told when to come, what to do ... by students just like them." Jansen admits that she often played the heavy, and it is easy to see that she was probably effective. Laura is an imposing person; she is at least 6'1" tall with flaming red hair. She is a dominating person, but she is a person who gets things done.

The weeks of rehearsal wore on and the group discipline and dedication increased. Finally, they put on the show — "The Original Cast Entertains" — in the Bran-scomb rec-room. The sixteen diehards who stuck it out emerged from the kitchen, their makeshift costumes, and gave the makeshift crowd an evening of unforgettable entertainment. One of the evening's lighter moments oc-curred after a western medley which had involved throwing corn flakes about the stage. During the soloist wandered about the stage, causing the others to groan quietly as he loudly crunched the scat-tered flakes.

There were other problems, too. Despite the show, the "Original Cast" had little publicity. The help solve this idea, directors went to L and, with his help, organizations. They re-accepted an invitation at a Rotary luncheon. clubs do not have financ-ments for these occasions, the men were very impres- the performance, and received over \$100 in donat-

This year, the "Original C has ironed out many problems is operating in relatively health. They hired and were pay a reliable profes-

— Joe Giles. (Giles has directed Tennessee Youth Chorale. Recent credits include directing the music for Circle Theatre's "Three Penny Opera" and several tours in Europe.)

There is less tension amongst members, many of whom returned from last year's Cast. More local appearances are planned and there is talk of a European tour in May. But certain problems persist. The "Original Cast" is still unknown to the majority of the University; they are, perhaps, one of the best kept secrets on campus. And then there is the money. Or the lack of it. Unlike the Choir or VUT, the "Cast" has no operating budget financed by the University. Dean Boutwell's office helps, but producing a show is not cheap; the use of Neely Auditorium to the TOC must pay for everything from printing of programs. The group hopes to break even by making money from other appearances. They also cut corners by having volunteer accompanists, choreographers and costume directors.

The "Original Cast's" fall show is December eight and ninth, 8:00 p.m. in Neely Auditorium. The production is an impressive collection of group rehearsals.



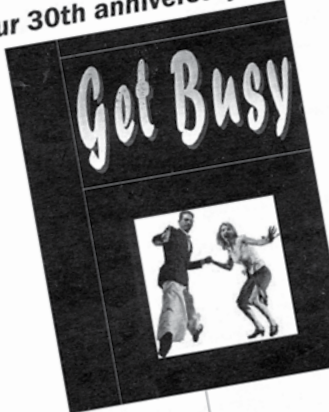
The Original Cast

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The 60th Original Cast  
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Our 30th anniversary show



Dates: April 7th, 8th, 2006  
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## ORIGINAL CAST TUNES UP

Oliver Wolf... at the end of November. The student group performs...









It's amazing how a scent or familiar walk can transport one back to student days. The Vanderbilt campus—known for its beautiful trees and plants, stately stone and brick buildings, and even its scrabbling squirrels—makes up as much of the college experience as do classes, professors, dorm life and even friends. Every year, the College of Arts and Science welcomes alumni back to campus. Many come in the autumn for Homecoming or Reunion. Some come for campus visits with their own soon-to-be-college students. Still others come to attend meetings or to speak to classes. When they come, many experience the feeling of being home again and a bond with the campus that ignites memories, experiences and emotion.

ANDREW MCNURTINE

- 1 This white oak, located at the top of Library Lawn between Buttrick and Garland, served as a meeting place for (from left) Kelly Collins Cunningham (BA'84, history), Mary Beth White Kirsch (BA'84, Latin American studies) and Ellen Haddock Chandler (BSN'84, M.Ed'89). As students, the three would meet when coming from different classes or heading off campus for a weekend brunch at the Laughing Man Cafe or Elliston Place Soda Shop.
- 2 The three women met as freshmen in 1980 and stayed close throughout their college years and beyond. Kirsch, who lives in the Boston area, serves on the Board of Visitors for the College of Arts and Science.
- 3 Originally from Houston, Cunningham now lives in the Grand Canyon State. Her observations about life at Vanderbilt reflect those of so many other alumni. "I look at my college years not so much as an educational experience in regard to academics as I do an education in friendship, identity and life," she says. "Those years helped define me as an adult."
- 4 In addition to reuniting with her two friends, Chandler was visiting the campus with her family. Her daughter Julia just entered the College of Arts and Science as a first-year student. The Chandlers—Ellen and her husband, Jimmy (BS'79)—met while she was a senior at Vanderbilt.
- 5 Since the campus holds special memories for so many alumni, the university tries to keep its Reunion and Homecoming celebrations on site. In 2009, more than 1,400 Arts and Science alumni attended Reunion events.
- 6 The more than 6,000 trees and shrubs on the Vanderbilt campus helped the university receive the designation as a national arboretum in 1988. In 2005, Steven Baskauf, senior lecturer in biological sciences, created an interactive walking tour of the trees on campus. It can be found at <http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/vu/frame.htm>.
- 7 White oak is common in Middle Tennessee. The most common oak on Vanderbilt campus, its leaves and acorn are symbols of the university.



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*Where Are You? Answer:* Viewing the snow-dusted sculpture "Condition of Man" near Benson, Calhoun and Garland Halls. This bronze by Larisa Fuchs is one of 15 pieces in Vanderbilt's Garden of Great Ideas collection.



STEVE GREEN

### 'DORES AND DINNER

Alumni regularly meet informally with current students for Opening Does dinners set up by the Vanderbilt Alumni Association. Participants talk about the workplace, career skills and whatever else is on their minds. From left, senior Alex Wendelborn listens as Fred Stow, BA'77, vice president of SunTrust Bank, talks to students about careers in the financial sector. More than 100 alumni each year participate in such networking dinners, produced in partnership with the Vanderbilt Career Center. Alumni are always needed to share insight with current students—to volunteer for an Opening Does dinner, contact Kate Stuart ([kate.stuart@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kate.stuart@vanderbilt.edu)) in the Office of Alumni Relations.