

The Campus

“I was able to give patients narcotics

Man Earns School of Nursing Founder's Medal for First Time

A BIT OF HISTORY WAS MADE at Commencement in May when Michael Gooch became the first man—and the first flight nurse—ever to earn the School of Nursing's Founder's Medal, recognizing the year's highest-achieving graduate.

Gooch, a Vanderbilt Life-

Flight nurse, is a trailblazer in many ways. He grew up on a farm in Goodspring, Tenn. As a freshman in high school, the former Boy Scout joined the Explorer Post through the local emergency medical services office, and was allowed to go on ambulance runs and

later spent time job-shadowing in the local hospital's emergency department.

From then on he knew he wanted to pursue a health-care career. He attended Columbia State Community College to earn his associate's degree and, at age 20, was working in the emergency department and critical-care unit at the local hospital. “I was able to give patients narcotics before I was even the legal drinking age,” Gooch says.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University after attending paramedic school. That's when he got his first taste of what it's like to be a flight nurse.

“I figured out what I needed to get under my belt in order to become a flight nurse,” he says. His strategy included working as a paramedic in nearby Williamson County, and working in the Vanderbilt emergency department as an R.N. He worked his way into a position on Vanderbilt's LifeFlight team in 2002. After that he jumped at the chance to use Vanderbilt's tuition-reimbursement program to enroll in the School of Nursing's acute-care nurse practitioner program.

Gooch will continue his work with LifeFlight. He's also signed on with a Knoxville, Tenn.-based emergency department group and is working

at River Park Hospital in McMinnville. He hopes to continue with community education and outreach and perhaps guest-lecture at the Vanderbilt School of Nursing. He's also exploring options to pursue a doctoral degree.

Five Prominent African-American Scholars Join Faculty

VANDERBILT has hired five prominent African-American scholars in a blockbuster recruiting

coup that advances its efforts to be a major player in the study of African-American literature and deepen scholarship of Southern and American literature. Houston Baker, Hortense Spillers, Charlotte Pierce-Baker, Alice Randall and Ifeoma Nwankwo will begin work at the university during the fall 2006 semester.

The new hires are being tapped by Vanderbilt to be leaders in continuing efforts to pursue interdisciplinary studies, train minority scholars, and reach out to historically black colleges. Programs in collaboration with historically black colleges are already in place at Vanderbilt in fields including physics and medicine, and



Baker

Summer 2006

before I was even the legal drinking age.” —MICHAEL GOOCH, School of Nursing Founder's Medalist



Pink Bowties Are In, Uggs Are Out: The Year According to Versus

VANDERBILT MAGAZINE thanks student-produced *Versus* magazine for sharing these campus favorites from its 2006 “Best of Vandy” reader poll.

Best Professor:

James Lovensheimer, Assistant Professor of Musicology

For a professor who prefaces his class with a story about how he was a homeless substance abuser 20 years ago, he sure has come far. Teaching music history courses here at Vanderbilt, he brings musical excitement to all Vanderbilt students.

Best Greek House:

Beta Upsilon Chi

BYX is in its fourth year on campus and this year had more new members than any other frat. BYX is the lone Christian fraternity on campus and is known for its island party thrown on Alumni Lawn in the spring.

Worst Fashion Trend:

Uggs (second year in a row)

Short for “ugg-ly” and by far the worst fashion trend ever to make it to the big market. Vanderbilt students have declared this to be a winner only in the sense that they never again want to see those shapeless boots strut the campus.



Best Gordon Gee Bowtie:

Pink with Green Polka Dots

With more than 700 different bowties, when will we see him wear this one again?

Best Place to Study on Campus:

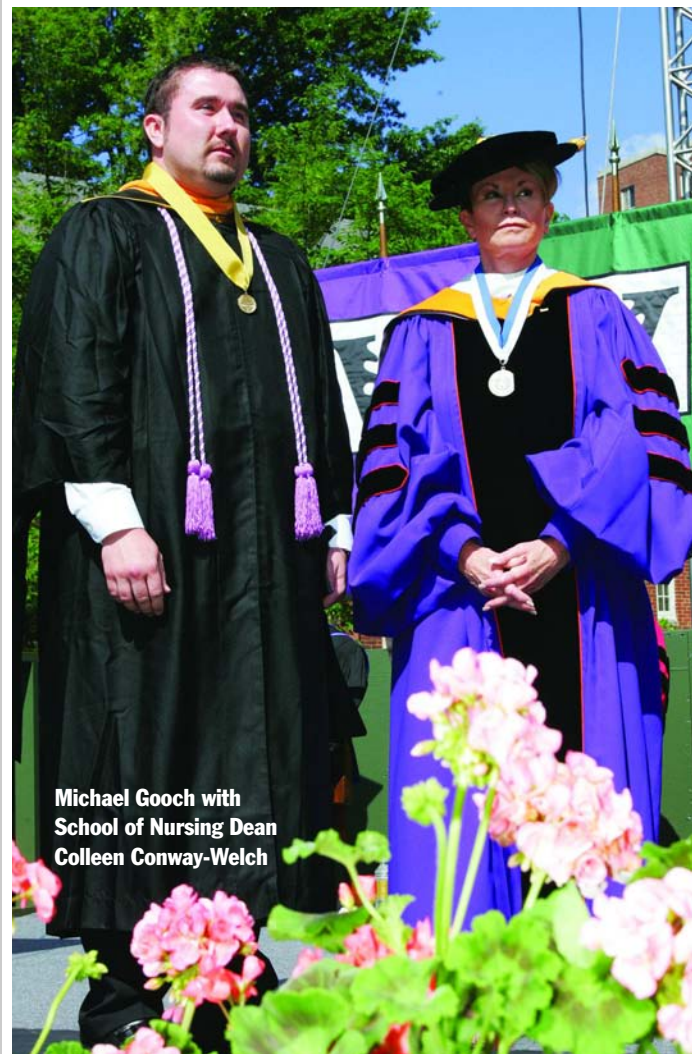
Buttrick Hall

After its long-awaited renovation, Buttrick Hall opened its doors last fall to reveal crisp, clean enclaves lit by sunlight. Buttrick offers comfortable leather chairs without the somber, soporific silence of the Baseball Glove lounge.

Best Vanderbilt Sports Moment:

VU Football Beats UT 28-24

Students unanimously picked the November triumph in Knoxville. Jay Cutler led the offense for a touchdown connection to Earl Bennett with slightly more than a minute left in the game, and Jared Fagan ended the game with an interception as UT threatened to steal a win from the Commodores. The win was Vanderbilt's first over Rocky Top since 1982 and was especially sweet as the Commodores eliminated any chance the Volunteers had to go to a bowl game.



Michael Gooch with School of Nursing Dean Colleen Conway-Welch

NEIL BIRNIE

Pierce-Baker leaves Duke to become a professor of women's and gender studies and professor of English at Vanderbilt. She was nationally acclaimed for her 1999 book, *Surviving the Silence: Black Women's Stories of Rape*, and will teach

sociolinguistics for the English department.

Randall, a former visiting professor at Vanderbilt, returns for a three-year term as writer-in-residence. Her debut novel, *The Wind Done Gone*, a parody of Margaret Mitchell's *Gone*

with the Wind, sparked a First Amendment court battle, and her second, *Pushkin and the Queen of Spades*, was critically acclaimed in 2004.

Nwankwo, who leaves the University of Michigan, was one of the most heavily

{Inquiring Minds}

Helping Children Handle Emotions May Improve Stuttering

Children who stutter often face greater challenges managing their behavior and emotions than other children—a finding that offers new insight into how to help these children in a more holistic way. “Stuttering, as it continues, can impact a child’s academic, emotional, social and vocational potential and development,” says Vanderbilt psychologist Tedra Walden, a co-author of the research.

The research team also included Vanderbilt researchers Jan Karrass, who was first author of the research; co-author Edward G. Conture, director of graduate studies in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences; and Corrin Graham, Hayley Arnold, Kia Hartfield and Krista Schwenk. The research will soon appear in the *Journal of Communication Disorders* but is available online now at www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00219924.

Study to Weigh In on Grapefruit Diet

Vanderbilt researchers have launched a two-year study to determine how consumption of grapefruit and grapefruit juice affects appetite, dietary intake, weight loss and body composition.

“The myth of the grapefruit diet has been around for decades,” says Heidi Silver, research assistant professor at Vanderbilt’s Center for Human Nutrition and the study’s principal investigator. “But in all this time, there has never really been any solid science to support this assumption, other than one study completed by the Scripps Clinic in California in 2004.”

Funded by the Florida Department of Citrus, the Vanderbilt study will use a total of 4,158 white-marsh grapefruits and 893 bottles of grapefruit juice that are being shipped each month from Florida.

Engineers to Help Air Force Use Global Information Grid

Vanderbilt engineers are working on software to harness the power of the Global Information Grid to help pilots and other soldiers communicate with their commanders more effectively. The GIG includes all communications networks, from the Internet and landlines to cell phones and satellites. Douglas C. Schmidt, Vanderbilt professor of computer science, is principal investigator of a group of U.S. researchers that has received a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory to tackle the multidimensional challenge of developing software that enables U.S. military commanders to use the disparate resources of the GIG in an effective fashion.

“The software we are creating not only will broaden communications capabilities by utilizing the GIG to augment air-force communications technology such as war-fighters’ radio, landline and satellite communications,” says Schmidt, “but also will ensure that all communications are delivered according to commander priorities and are protected from interception and disruption.” Vanderbilt is teaming with Carnegie Mellon University in the project.



recruited mid-career professors in the country before Vanderbilt lured her to be an associate professor of English. She is a specialist in Caribbean literature and culture with a book soon to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

University Names New Enrollment Strategist

DOUGLAS L. CHRISTIANSEN, Purdue University’s top admissions and enrollment-management executive, has been named Vanderbilt’s senior enrollment strategist in a newly established position designed to enhance the university’s admissions and financial-aid efforts.

Christiansen, assistant vice president for enrollment management and dean of admissions at Purdue, will become associate provost for enrollment and dean of admissions at Vanderbilt, where he will oversee the offices of undergraduate admissions and financial aid beginning in August.

“Doug Christiansen already has an exceptional track record as an enrollment executive in a very competitive environment, as well as a national reputation for academic excellence and integrity,” says Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Nicholas S. Zeppos. “He is a brilliant, thoughtful, analytical and creative leader who will help us build on Vanderbilt’s tremendous success in recent years.”

Under Christiansen’s leadership, applications for admission to Purdue increased 48 percent, resulting in improved academic quality, ethnic diversity and

international presence. In addition to serving as chief enrollment officer at Purdue, Christiansen was administratively responsible for a wide range of programs, including admissions, financial aid, orientation, new-student programs, learning communities, early access programs, the registrar, and enrollment-management analysis and reporting. He also had coordinating responsibility in the areas of space management and academic scheduling, the bursar, graduate school admissions, and international students and scholars. He held an appointment as assistant professor in Purdue’s college of education.

Christiansen earned a doctor of philosophy degree in higher education administration, a master’s degree in public administration and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. He consults with universities throughout the United States on enrollment management and revenue-generation funding models.



Debate Team Takes National Championship

VANDERBILT’S DEBATE TEAM had a record season this past year, competing in 15 tournaments and more than 300 debate rounds, and winning more than 60 awards.

The team ended the season by competing in the Cross Examination Debate Association’s (CEDA) 2006 National Championship Tournament

{Virtual Vanderbilt}

<http://bioimages.vanderbilt.edu>

Sycamores and Sassafras

Senior Lecturer of Biological Sciences Steve Baskauf has spent years documenting the trees and plants on Vanderbilt’s campus, which holds the distinction of being a designated national arboretum. Now Baskauf has come up with an interactive Vanderbilt University Arboretum tree tour. The site receives between 1,000 and 2,000 page views per day. Several national organizations have endorsed the site, including PBS’ Web site and the journal *BioTechniques*. As a companion to the Web site, Baskauf has created a CD-ROM that is available for \$1.50 at the Vanderbilt Bookstore. (Support from The Mapheus Smith Tree Fund, established to support Vanderbilt’s trees, helps keep the cost of the CD low.) Baskauf views the site as a resource for educators and plant lovers alike, including those who come across it as they try to identify a mystery plant from their own yard or garden.



March 31–April 5 in Dallas. Team members senior Katie Ryzoc and junior Phil Rappmund cleared to the final tournament bracket at the national championship—the equivalent of a college basketball team being invited to the NCAA tournament. Ryzoc was chosen for the CEDA’s National All-American Debate Squad.

During spring break, Vanderbilt juniors Courtney Gould and Russell Ross beat more than 80 debate teams from colleges and universities across the country to win the CEDA’s 2006 Novice National Debate Tournament at West Virginia University.

Gould’s and Ross’ win is the first national debate championship for Vanderbilt since the 1980s. “The squad really pulled together, and it has been an amazing effort on everyone’s part,” says M.L. Sandoz, debate team coach and the University’s

director of debate. Sandoz is a senior lecturer in the Department of Communications Studies.

In intercollegiate debate, one resolution is chosen for the year. This year students from across the country debated whether the United States should pressure China on economic, trade and diplomatic issues. During the year the students must approach the topic from several perspectives—both for and against the proposed resolution.

At the novice national tournament, Gould was also presented with the fifth-place Speaker Award. Ross ranked 17th in the same category.

Sandoz received the 2006 John A. Jacobsohn Memorial Award for career contributions to education through debate. She also received the CEDA’s 2006 Galentine Award, given to an outstanding female debate

coach and one of the two most prestigious national awards recognizing contributions to national education, community and competitive success.

Third Bed-Tower Plan Takes Shape

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY Medical Center is moving forward with longstanding plans to add a third bed tower to the main hospital. The 11-story tower would be built atop Vanderbilt University Hospital’s Emergency Department and would add 141 additional acute-

care beds as well as several new operating suites. The project’s \$234 million price tag includes renovations and upgrades to other areas of the hospital, as well as other buildings on the Medical Center campus.

VUH currently has 501 adult beds and is the largest hospital in Middle Tennessee. Including the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt and the Psychiatric Hospital at Vanderbilt, VUMC is licensed for 805 beds.

With occupancy rates at VUH routinely around 90 percent, the addition is needed to keep pace with demand. High occupancy levels over the past five years have overtaxed the hospital’s capacity, resulting in patient diversions and extensive use of holding areas for patients who would otherwise be admitted.

Pending state approval, construction could begin this fall and is expected to be completed in phases, with completion targeted for 2012. The new tower would consist of eight patient-care and two mechanical floors above the existing one-story emergency department. The project also involves relocation and expansion of existing cardiac catheterization labs and cardiac “hybrid” >>>





“It was some guy named George Bush. Four years later I married his son.”

— First Lady Laura Bush, recalling the name of the commencement speaker at her own 1973 graduation ceremony (which she skipped) at the University of Texas. Mrs. Bush was speaker at Vanderbilt’s Senior Day on May 11.

operating rooms, relocation of a clinical research unit, and the addition of 14 new operating suites.

Students Spend Summer in Uganda

ABOUT 20 VANDERBILT University students spent the summer working with health organizations in Uganda as part of that country’s response to HIV/AIDS.

Uganda’s HIV/AIDS response is viewed as a model in sub-Saharan Africa, and work continues there to help the more than 500,000 people who the Centers for Disease Control estimates are infected with HIV. The students helped in these efforts in the country’s capital, Kampala.

The Kampala Project on Global Citizenship is an example of Vanderbilt’s efforts to expand its nationally recognized commitment to service learning. Vanderbilt has the

oldest and one of the largest Alternative Spring Break (ASB) programs in the nation. The university’s Office of Active Citizenship and Service, which coordinates ASB, also helps students, faculty and staff plan other service trips across the country and around the world.

The Kampala Project is a partnership among the Office of Active Citizenship and Service, the School of Medicine’s Institute for Global Health, and the Center for Medicine, Health and Society.

“Our aim is to foster lifelong civic involvement among our students,” says Mark Dalhouse, director of the Office of Active Citizenship and Service, who

served as program director for the Kampala Project and made the trip with the students.

Students in Kampala worked with nongovernmental organizations to help those infected with and orphaned by HIV/AIDS. They took a preparatory course this spring designed to help them under-



Vanderbilt students in Uganda meet members of The Nile Beat dance troupe at the home of Kyabazinga, the king of the Basoga people.

stand cultural differences and the global context of Ugandan issues and development.

Vanderbilt students have helped residents in Louisiana’s rural Washington Parish clean up in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and worked in a medical and dental clinic started by a Vanderbilt medical student in Xela, Guatemala. A trip is also planned to Lwala, Kenya, where students will help another Vanderbilt medical student build a clinic in his home village where people frequently have to walk miles to receive medical care.

For more information visit the Kampala Project Web site at <http://web.mac.com/gregory.barz/iWeb/Site/Welcome.html>.

Sleep Core Adds to Research Arsenal

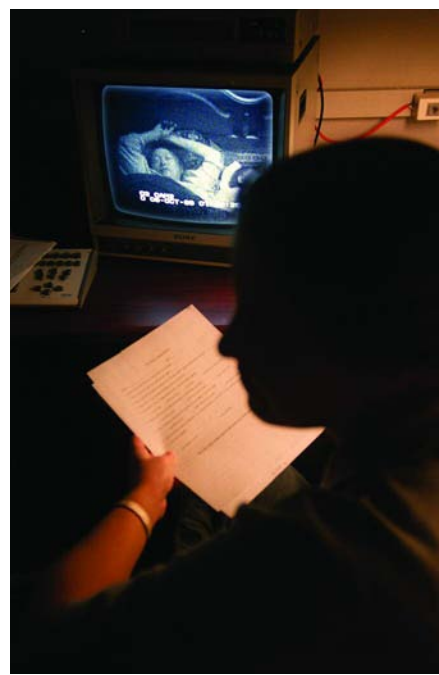
IT DIDN’T TAKE LONG FOR Vanderbilt’s Sleep Research Core to fully awaken. Not yet a year old, the core—housed in Vanderbilt’s General Clinical Research Center—is supporting numerous clinical research efforts.

“Clinical sleep research is becoming more recognized as an important investigative tool,” says Beth Malow, associate professor of neurology and director of the Sleep Research Core as well as director of the Vanderbilt Sleep Disorders Center. “It really spans many disciplines, including neurology, pulmonary medicine, psychiatry and pediatrics. This core was established to develop collaborations among researchers with very specific clinical interests, allowing them to add a sleep component to their research.”

The core currently has nine ongoing studies, which include examining the effects of treating sleep apnea in people with epilepsy; studying how sleep patterns in children with autism impact their daytime behavior; and assessing how circadian/sleep rhythms impact protein content in human blood.

Two sleep rooms in the core are equipped with digital monitoring technology. Studies also can be done off-site or in patients’ homes. In the case of one current study, the research takes place in Vanderbilt’s Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU), where researchers are looking at how quality of sleep may affect outcomes in the MICU and how different types of sedation and medication impact sleep quality.

“No area of clinical research is more productive and compelling at the moment than



sleep and circadian rhythm studies,” says David Robertson, director of the General Clinical Research Center.

Magazine Wins Two National Awards

VANDERBILT MAGAZINE won both a gold medal and a silver medal in the “Best Articles of the Year” category of the 2006 national Circle of Excellence competition sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Out of 265 entries in this category, 22 were recognized with awards. Vanderbilt and Johns Hopkins University were the only schools to win both a gold and a silver medal.

Vanderbilt’s winning articles were “Take the Side Road,” a profile of alumnus Roy Blount Jr. written by Dale Keiger (gold medal, Fall 2005 issue), and “One Chocolate at a Time,” a profile of alumna Katrina Markoff written by Rachel Morton (silver medal, Summer 2005 issue).

{Top Picks}

Peabody Dean Nominated to National Science Board

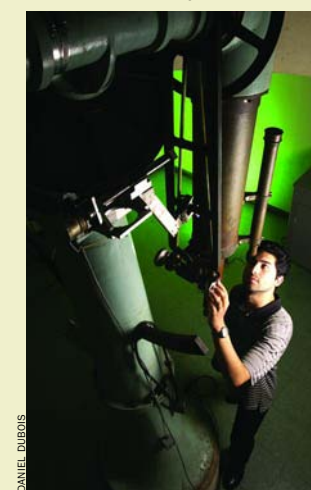
Camilla P. Benbow has been nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to the National Science Board. Benbow is the Patricia and Rodes Hart Dean of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt’s Peabody College. The National Science Board provides advice to the president and Congress on matters related to science and engineering in addition to its oversight role for the National Science Foundation, which funds approximately 20 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America’s colleges and universities.



Cottrell Scholar to Use Award for Research, Minority Recruitment

A Vanderbilt physics professor is one of 13 young scientists named a 2006 Cottrell Scholar, a \$100,000 fellowship designed to encourage early career science researchers who show promise. Keivan Stassun, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, was on the list of winners released in May by the Research Corp.

Stassun plans to use some of the funding to support his research on the process of star formation. The rest will go



toward expansion of the Fisk-Vanderbilt Master’s-to-Ph.D. Bridge Program, a partnership between Fisk and Vanderbilt universities that allows minority students in the sciences to earn a master’s degree in physics at Fisk and then a Ph.D. in a related science at Vanderbilt. Stassun directs the program, which this fall will include its first students from a second historically black university, North Carolina Agriculture and Technology State University in Greensboro.

Meltzer Chairs International Mental Illness Meeting

Dr. Herbert Meltzer chaired the national organizing committee for the biennial meeting of the world’s largest neuropsychopharmacology organization, held in July in Chicago. An estimated 4,000 psychiatrists, scientists and mental-health officials from 30 countries attended the 25th Congress of the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (CINP). Meltzer, a former CINP president, is the Bixler/May/Johnson Professor of Psychiatry, director of the Division of Psychopharmacology, and professor of pharmacology at Vanderbilt.

