

The Campus Spring 2003

“We share the hope that we can feed one person, then one day make a big dent in the hunger problem.” —DIVINITY STUDENT FREDDIE HADDOX

Seeds of Change

FREDDIE HADDOX CAME INTO land in a most unusual way, so it's fitting that he has a most unusual dream for that land. In the 1800s a farm near Franklin, Tenn., was owned by a man named Samuel Winstead who also owned nearly 70 slaves. When Winstead died, he bequeathed the entire farm to his former slaves instead of to his own family. The Winstead family contested the will, but the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled in favor of the former slaves.

Haddox, a 55-year-old Vanderbilt divinity student, is a direct descendant of those slaves. His stepfather has farmed the property for the last 50 years. Now, despite weekly offers from land developers who claim Haddox is “hindering progress,” the divinity student is using part of the land to launch the Just Crumbs hunger-relief initiative. Volunteers from the Divinity School and elsewhere have planted seeds, built fences, constructed a new entrance to the farm, and bottle-fed baby goats.

The initiative has started with just three acres, using an organic method of cultivation called “nature farming” as a model for feeding people who struggle with hunger. By focusing on the nutrition of the soil



ADAM COLLIN SAYLER

instead of added fertilizers, pesticides and other “unnatural” growth stimulators, proponents of the method say a small area can produce large amounts of produce.

Harvest from the Just Crumbs initiative will be distributed through the Society of Saint Andrew, an ecumenical Christian ministry established by United Methodist pastors. Twenty-four-year-old divinity student Will Connelly has

embraced the Just Crumbs initiative, raising funds for farm equipment and other supplies. “We believe it's a basic right to have nutritional food,” he says. This April through October, Connelly is trading his urban existence for the life of a farm hand on the land.

“Will and I share this hope that we can feed one person, then one day make a big dent in the hunger problem,” says Haddox.

The Next Best Thing to House Calls

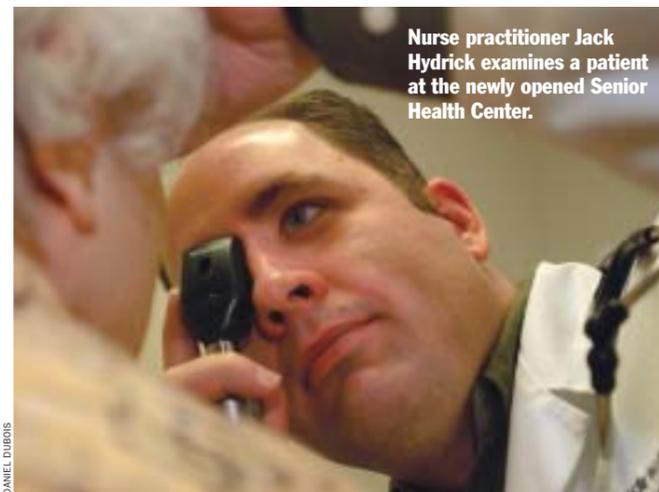
VANDERBILT SCHOOL OF Nursing's Faculty Practice Network (VNFNP) has opened a nurse-managed, community-based clinic. The new Senior Health Center, which opened in February, offers family practice, mental health and women's health services.

The clinic is located in Hermitage, a Nashville suburb, at McKendree Village, a progressive living community for seniors with cottage homes, apartment-style living quarters, and housing for residents in need of assisted living, rehabilitation and nursing-home facilities. The center will serve nearly 400 potential clients. McKendree Village has been part of the Vanderbilt family of related institutions for several years. Recently, McKendree's physician services ended and the School of Nursing moved in to provide health care for the facility's senior residents.

“Older people have a greater demand for health-care services, but may not be able to get out whenever they need to, so this is a huge convenience for them,” says Bonnie Pilon, senior associate dean for practice management. “Senior women often don't seek gynecological or breast care perhaps because of embarrassment or because

they're no longer reproductively active, and that can be detrimental to their health. They face serious risks, particularly from cancer. By providing targeted GYN services, for example, we're making an important preventive health program readily available.”

The Senior Health Center brings to nine the number of clinics run by nurse practitioners in the Vanderbilt School of Nursing's Faculty Practice Network. However, two of its three Jane McEvoy School-Based Health Centers, which serve neighborhoods with a high need for easily accessible health care for children and families, could be faced with closing soon unless additional support is found to replace funding that is expected to be gone by the end of the school year.



DANIEL DUROIS

Stiff Competition Prompts Creative Entries

MARKING THE CONTINUATION of a healthy upward trend, Vanderbilt has increased its number of applicants by approximately 11.4 percent this year. These numbers shed a hopeful light on an institutional goal of increasing applications from 10,000 to 15,000 over the next several years, and dramatically dropping the acceptance rate. This academic year the University admitted 39.7 percent of those who applied, a record low.

This year 10,945 prospective students applied to Vanderbilt, breaking all previous records for total number of applicants, Hispanic applicants, and African-American applicants.

Most application letters



{Details}

Mosaic in Marble

Marble mosaic embellishes the entrance atrium of Cohen Memorial Building, given to Peabody College in 1926 by Nashville art collector George Etta Brinkley Cohen, who occupied an apartment on the second floor until her death in 1930. Nowadays students enjoy studio art classes in the stately columned building.

arrive in a standard legal-sized envelope, but there are always a few applications, usually about 200 or so, that come with more than what's required. The office has received necklaces, videotapes, slides, manuscripts and countless other items that applicants include in hopes of setting themselves apart from the rest by showing a real-life example of their talents and interests. This year, what may be the most unusual “extra” included with an application was a vial of red food coloring attached to a note indicating the applicant would “sweat blood” to come to Vanderbilt.

“People under stress do all sorts of stuff to try to give them an edge,” says William M. Shain, dean of undergraduate admissions. “But I am concerned with super students.” Shain himself says he reads at least a third of the applications—around 3,000 files—and says he's probably read at least 10,000 essays per year during his career at Vanderbilt, which began in 1998.

“Every winter there are a reasonable number of essays that really move me, that are especially poignant, or are intellectually on the cutting edge.”



{Inquiring Minds}

Drug Improves Outlook for Suicidal Patients

The antipsychotic drug Clozaril has received the Food and Drug Administration's first indication for reducing the risk of recurrent suicidal behavior in people with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. The decision, announced in December, was due in large part to an international clinical trial led by Vanderbilt's Dr. Herbert Meltzer, director of the Division of Psychopharmacology, that compared Clozaril to the more commonly prescribed drug Zyprexa.

"Treatment with clozapine reduced suicidal events by up to a quarter over and above an established and effective anti-psychotic," said Meltzer. "There would be 10,000 fewer suicide attempts and 20,000 fewer hospitalizations annually, with greatly reduced costs for treatment and, of course, suffering to the individuals and their families."

The study could lead to clinical trials of Clozaril to prevent suicide in people with bipolar disorder, a disease that affects as many people as schizophrenia but carries twice the rate of suicide deaths. It also has gained the attention of the American Psychiatric Association, which will soon publish new guidelines for treating suicidal patients in all diagnoses.



PHILIP DYORAK

The Kids Are All Right

American children fare surprisingly well when their military parents are deployed halfway around the world, says Claire Smrekar, associate professor of educational leadership at Peabody College.



FRANK RENLIE

"It's part of the culture at school for these kids," she says. "The schools are well informed by military command, and many teachers grew up in the military and understand what students are dealing with."

Smrekar, who has overseen a much-publicized study of why students in Department of Defense-run schools score higher in reading and writing, recalls visiting a military base in Germany where school personnel were being fitted for battle fatigues in preparation for a visit to Kosovo, an experience they hoped would help them help their students cope.

Pay Now or Pay Later

How do you put a price tag on the cost of failing a high-risk youth? Mark Cohen, Owen associate professor of management and co-director of the Center for Environmental Management Studies, says the cost to society is between \$1.7 and \$2.3 million. Cohen used multiple economic models to estimate the potential cost savings for three scenarios: when a youth is rescued from becoming a high-school dropout, is a chronic substance abuser, or is a career criminal. His models employ variables such as victim costs, lost earnings, rehabilitation expenses and medical costs.

It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time

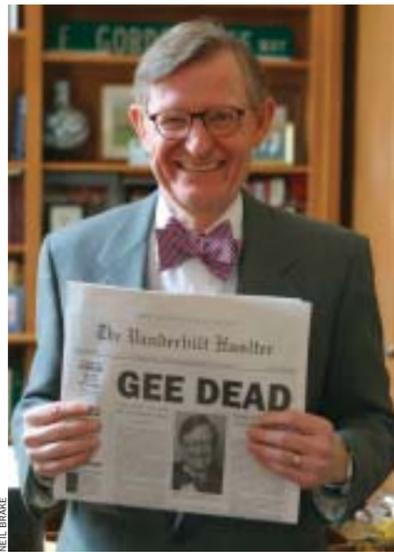
VANDERBILT'S SPRING jonquils weren't the only things popping up all over campus the week after spring break. Chancellor Gordon Gee was all over the place, resplendent in his trademark bowtie, reassuring students in the flesh that, contrary to the front-page story in a bogus issue of the *Vanderbilt Hustler*, he was alive and well.

"GEE DEAD" read the headline in what first appeared to be the March 11 issue of Vanderbilt's student newspaper, complete with advertisements. Front-page stories told of Gee's death from a heart attack and detailed his accomplishments as chancellor. Some students were in tears while others immediately saw through the hoax. For one thing, *Hustler* was misspelled in the masthead—deliberately, it turns out. Gee's office moved quickly to issue a good-humored press release and campus-wide e-mail statement reassuring the Vanderbilt community that he was still around.

That afternoon staff members of the *Slant*, a student-run humor magazine, acknowl-

edged responsibility for the prank. "It was a bad idea, and we got wrapped up in it," says sophomore *Slant* editor-in-chief David Barzelay. Only the magazine's senior staff members were involved in the counterfeit issue, which was a year in the planning and included a couple of real advertisements that they say helped foot the \$350 cost of printing approximately 3,000 copies.

Following the prank, Barzelay's student peers on the board of directors of Vanderbilt Student Communications—the corporation that owns the *Hustler*, the *Slant*, and other media outlets at Vanderbilt—voted to remove him as *Slant* editor, but he has continued as an active contributor to the magazine. ➤➤



NEIL BRAME

Editorial cartoon appearing in a post-hoax *Hustler*

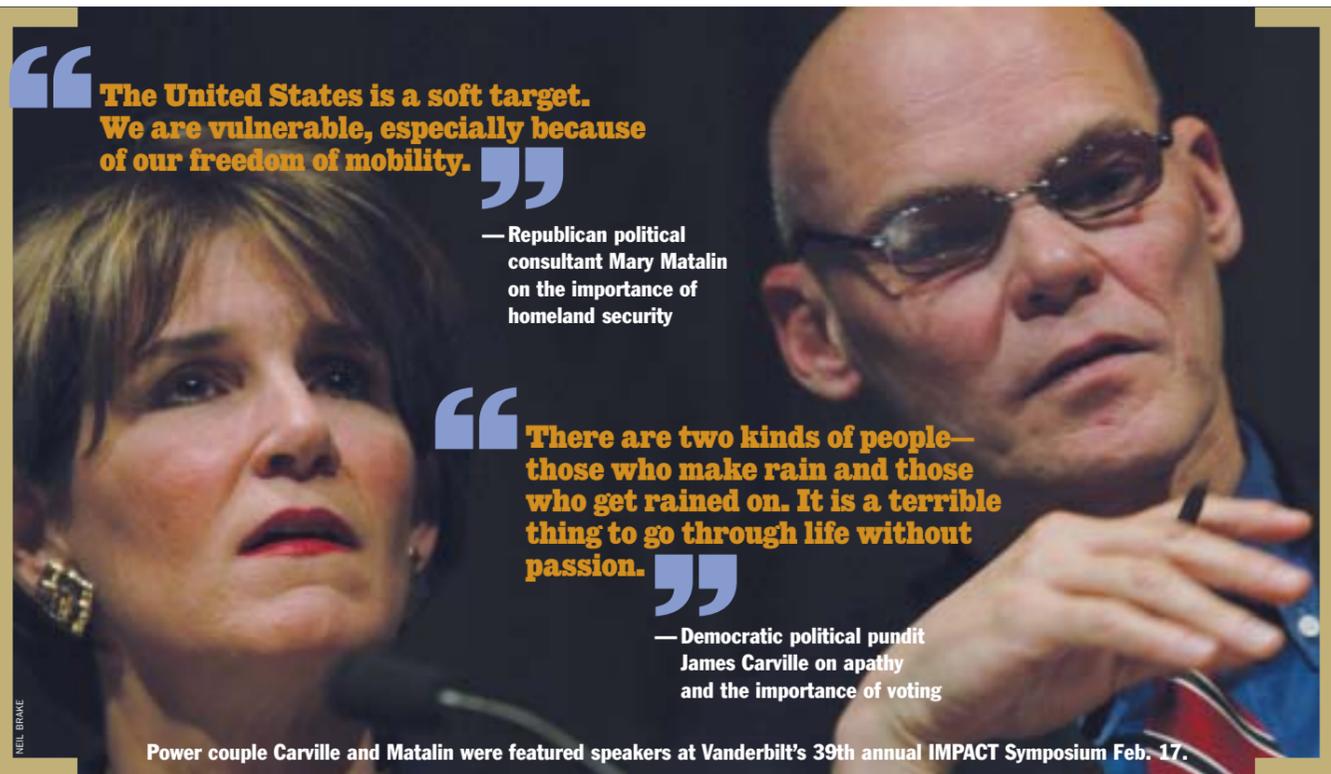


NEIL BRAME



Stairway to Heaven

Step out into the stairwell at McGill Hall and you enter Dante's *Inferno*, a three-story mural of images conjured up by students who live there. McGill students began painting the stairwell art in the early 1990s. The mural, which evolves from year to year, currently includes figures from ancient Egypt, fantastic mythological beasts, and this celestial creature. The gothic collegiate dormitory is the site of the McGill Project, a program to encourage discussion between residents and department of philosophy faculty.



“The United States is a soft target. We are vulnerable, especially because of our freedom of mobility.”

— Republican political consultant Mary Matalin on the importance of homeland security

“There are two kinds of people—those who make rain and those who get rained on. It is a terrible thing to go through life without passion.”

— Democratic political pundit James Carville on apathy and the importance of voting

Power couple Carville and Matalin were featured speakers at Vanderbilt's 39th annual IMPACT Symposium Feb. 17.

Health-Care Construction in a Brave New World

VANDERBILT SCHOOL OF Engineering has developed a new construction project management graduate program including specialization in health-care construction. Currently, only a handful of civil and environmental engineering departments in the nation provide graduate training in building health-care environments. Engineering graduates with the necessary expertise to build health-care environments capable of meeting these complex challenges are in short supply.

“Health-care facilities are challenged by new threats and new public expectations,” says David S. Kosson, chair of Vanderbilt's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. “What is required is a new approach to design that will create environments that mitigate

threats and optimize healing.”

The new Vanderbilt program will incorporate latest developments in construction technologies, advanced engineering design and management principles with other disciplines. Post-Sept. 11 construction considerations include blast barriers that separate public roadways from the hospital area, reinforced materials, strong supportive baffles, and overpressure releases built



PAUL WENZ

into the roofs. Pre-wiring facilities so they can be quickly converted from public spaces to treatment areas allows improved emergency response. Management of the flow of hospital personnel and patients is important in dealing with highly contagious diseases and large numbers of patients. Advanced ventilation systems are needed to reduce the spread of infection.

Research: Good for the Economy

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT activities at Vanderbilt are responsible for more than 5,700 jobs in Middle Tennessee, according to a report based on statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Those jobs constitute about 43 percent of the more than 13,300 employment opportunities supported by research and development activities at colleges and universities statewide. Na-

tionally, the number of jobs resulting from academic research totaled more than 1.08 million, according to data for 2000, the most recent year for which complete statistics are available.

The federal data, collected by the Association of American Universities, consider grant money received at academic institutions. The expenditures come from all sources of funding including federal, state and local government, industry and institutional funds.

Vanderbilt's research expenditures of \$171.9 million in the 2000 fiscal year directly and indirectly supported an estimated 5,759 jobs in Middle Tennessee.

“University research is one of the best investments we make as a country,” says Chancellor Gordon Gee. “While creating new knowledge, developing cures for diseases, inventing new technologies, and improving understanding of the world

around us are primary missions of research, a rewarding offshoot is the creation of thousands of jobs.

“The results of research often take years to have an impact on society,” he adds. “But the thousands of jobs that sustain this enterprise have a real and tangible effect on the local economy.”

The AAU noted that a report published by a University of Pennsylvania professor in 1991 concluded that the average annual rate of return to society from academic research was 28 percent. That means that society gets back 28 cents every year from every dollar invested in academic research.

Ready for Their Close-Ups

“ER.” “ST. ELSEWHERE.”

“Marcus Welby, M.D.” “Ben Casey.” America just can't get enough of TV docs. And now, coming soon to a living room near you, is a program tentatively titled “Young Meds”—a 13-episode series told through the eyes of Vanderbilt University Medical Center residents and fellows.

Set to debut on the Learning Channel this fall, the series will offer viewers a comprehensive look at what it takes to be a physician in training in today's highly specialized, highly competitive environment. A production crew from New York Times Television, the electronic bureau of the *New York Times*, began filming the series at VUMC in January.

Vanderbilt's medical center was selected over several other top academic medical centers for the series based on strength, size, and diversity of its graduate medical program. It has



Videographer Brandon Terrell films a segment of a Learning Channel series that will provide a look at medical training through the eyes of Vanderbilt residents and fellows like Julie Prudhomme.

hosted film crews for New York Times TV on several other occasions. Several episodes of “Trauma: Life in the ER” and “Maternity Ward,” both programs produced for the Learning Channel, have been filmed at Vanderbilt.

Consortium Exploits Vanderbilt's Brazilian Ties

VANDERBILT AND HOWARD universities are joining with two Brazilian institutions to help prepare their nations' next generation of scholars, government officials and corporate executives for the challenges of a global economy.

A grant of \$430,000 from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education and the Brazilian Ministry of Education's CAPES program will help establish a consortium among Vanderbilt, Howard, the Universidade de São Paulo, and the Universidade Federal da Bahia.

Faculty from all four schools will develop an interdisciplinary curriculum allowing students to explore themes of race, economic development and social

inequality in both the United States and Brazil. In addition to faculty and student exchanges between the U.S. and Brazilian universities, the program will allow students to earn a gradu-

ate-level certificate recognizing their concentrations.

Student exchanges will begin in the 2003-04 academic year, and students who complete certain courses and study abroad will receive a certificate in international studies from Howard University or a certificate in Latin American studies from Vanderbilt.

“Vanderbilt has one of the largest concentrations of specialists on Brazil in the United States and has a long and distinguished history in Brazilian studies, dating to 1947 when Chancellor (Harvie) Branscomb established the Institute for Brazilian Studies,” says Jane Landers, principal investigator of the Vanderbilt effort and associate dean of the College of Arts and Science.

{Top Picks}

Kent D. Syverud, dean and Garner Anthony Professor of Law at Vanderbilt University Law School, has been installed as president of the American Law Deans Association (ALDA). An organization of deans of law schools in the United States, ALDA advocates on behalf of the deans on issues of accreditation, academics, admissions, and other issues affecting legal education. Its membership includes about 110 deans of American Bar Association-accredited law schools from throughout the United States.

Bill Frist, who founded and directed the Vanderbilt Transplant Center and retains a post as assistant professor of cardiac and thoracic surgery (on leave), was elected Republican senate majority leader by the members of the Republican caucus in January. First elected to the U.S. Senate in 1994, Frist was the only challenger to defeat a full-term incumbent in 1994 and the first practicing physician elected to the Senate since 1928. In 2000, Frist was elected to a second term in the U.S. Senate by the largest margin ever received by a candidate for statewide election in the history of Tennessee.

Lamar Alexander, BA'62, has been elected to the U.S. Senate seat formerly held by Fred Thompson, JD'67. Alexander is the first Tennessean to be popularly elected both governor (1979-87) and senator. He later served as president of the University of Tennessee and was U.S. secretary of education during the administration of President George H.W. Bush.