

The Campus

“One night four Maya elders showed up at my tent. They told me that a woman had been

VU, Fisk Win \$2.9 Million to Study Nanotechnology

VANDERBILT AND FISK UNIVERSITIES will conduct joint research and train doctoral students from both institutions in the rapidly growing interdisciplinary field of nanoscience and nanoengineering, thanks to a \$2.9 million National Science Foundation grant.

The five-year grant will fund research leading to creation and application of nanoscience materials while also enhancing collaboration between the two schools and advancing recruitment of underrepresented minorities to the field. The goal of the Vanderbilt-Fisk Interdisciplinary Program for Research and Education in the Nanosciences is to create nanoscale materials for basic science and a variety of applications ranging from medicine to microelectronics.

“This program will give students a complete background in the interdisciplinary materials sciences, which provide the underpinnings of nanoscience and nanoengineering,” says Vanderbilt professor of physics Leonard Feldman, director of the Vanderbilt-Fisk program.

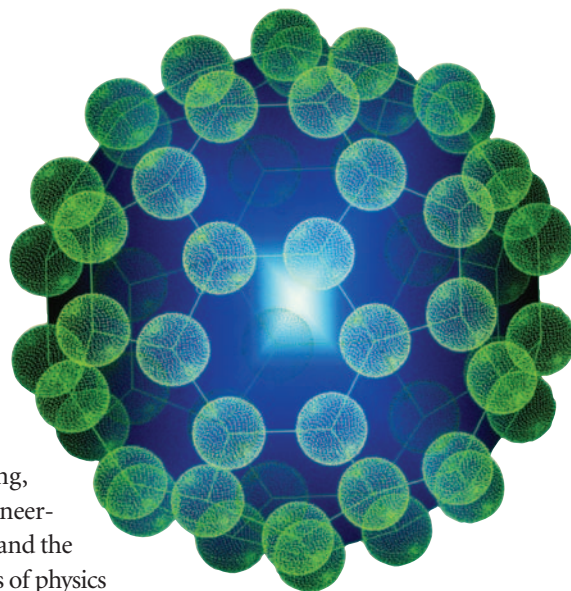
“Nanoscale” describes objects that measure approximately a millionth of a millimeter, or roughly 1/100,000th the thickness of a human hair. Nanotechnology is based on understanding the behavior of materials at the nanoscale level and how they can be used to accomplish goals such as the continued miniaturization of computer components and genetic engineering.

The Vanderbilt-Fisk program will involve more than 30 pro-

fessors from the Vanderbilt departments of biomedical engineering, chemical engineering, chemistry, civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and physics, and the Fisk departments of physics and chemistry.

Under the program Fisk students may earn their master’s degrees at Fisk, which does not offer doctoral degrees, then transfer automatically to Vanderbilt to complete doctoral degrees in materials science. The doctoral program, to begin fall 2004, will immerse students in nanoscale science and engineering.

The Vanderbilt Institute for Nanoscale Science and Engineering (VINSE) will provide critical support for the Vanderbilt-Fisk program. VINSE is constructing a new nanoscience and engineering complex that will include five laboratories specializing in various aspects of nanoscale science and engineering.



“It’s one thing for the president to lie about his sex life ... It’s another thing to lie about why we’re sending young men and women into battle.”

— Satirist and best-selling author Al Franken, addressing a sold-out Project Dialogue audience on Nov. 17



Court Rules on Name Change

A DAVIDSON COUNTY CHANCERY Court has cleared the way for Vanderbilt to remove the name “Confederate” from one of its residence halls and supported the University’s argument that continued use of the word contradicted Vanderbilt’s goal of achieving “the kind of inclusive and welcoming environment that is essential for a world-class university.”

The Tennessee Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy had filed suit against the

University in an effort to block the decision to rename the building on the Peabody College campus.

In issuing his decision, released in September, Davidson County Chancellor Irvin Kilcrease said Vanderbilt “sufficiently complied with its obligations to UDC” by installing a plaque on the building explaining the history of its construction. Vanderbilt has said that the historic marker will remain in its current location. Kilcrease further stated, “Van-

Winter 2004

brutally beaten by men who were searching for a great altar. ” —ARCHAEOLOGIST ARTHUR DEMAREST

derbilt may remove the name ‘Confederate’ from the building without any further obligations to UDC, other than to maintain said plaque on the building.”

The former Confederate Memorial Hall was built in 1935 in part with funding by the UDC in order to house, at no or low cost, women descendants of Confederate soldiers who were nominated by the UDC and accepted for admission to what was then called George Peabody College for Teachers. Vanderbilt University assumed ownership of the building when the institutions merged in 1979. The housing provision was discontinued after Vanderbilt first leased and then acquired the dorm through merger. Vanderbilt paid for significant renovations to the building in the 1980s. In 1989 a plaque was added to the building to explain its origins and historical significance, as well as the contributions of the UDC.

In renaming the building Memorial Hall in September 2002, the University said the new name was intended “to honor the men and women who have lost their lives in this country’s armed conflicts.”

Sorry, Guys, You’re Outnumbered

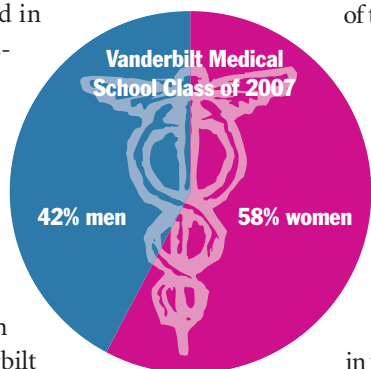
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN Vanderbilt University Medical School’s 128-year history, women in the incoming class outnumber men. Of the 104 students in the Class of 2007, 60 of them—or 58 percent—are women.

“We look for the best people, regardless of gender, race or ethnicity,” says Dr. Steven Gabbe, dean of the VUSM. “We look for people who are going to make a difference in medicine, who will contribute as leaders and scholars.”

Competition to be one of those 104 students is stiff, with 35 applications received for every student’s spot. Other medical schools have also seen a steady increase in women, although the gap isn’t quite as large.

The medical school class of 2007 at Johns Hopkins University has 57 men and 63 women. The first-year medical school class at Duke University has 51 women and 49 men.

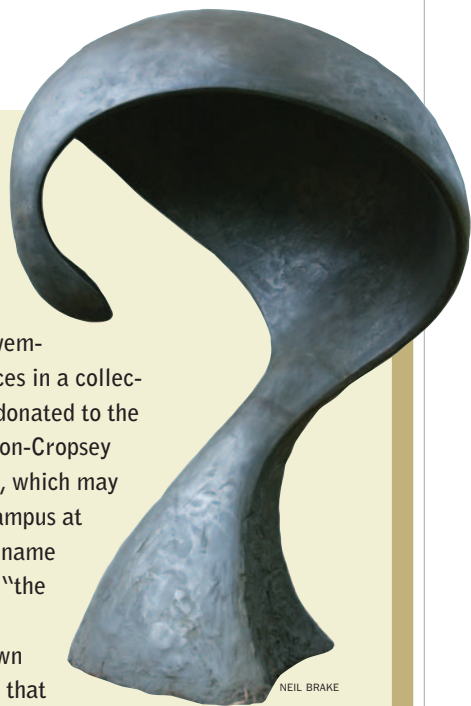
The first Vanderbilt University School of Medicine diplomas were given to 61 men in 1875. The first women to graduate from VUSM were Thelma Byrd Bowie and Louise Rector Allen in 1929. Over the years the number of women



{Details}

Looking Inward

Alex Simon's "Solipsis" is one of four sculptures unveiled on campus in November. They are the final pieces in a collection of 16 bronze statues donated to the University by the Newington-Cropsey Foundation. Simon's piece, which may be seen on the Peabody campus at Magnolia Circle, takes its name from solipsism, defined as "the theory that the self can be aware of nothing but its own experiences and states; or that nothing exists or is real but the self."



students slowly increased. By 1977 there were nine; by 1981, 20.

“Lost Boys” Find Home at Vanderbilt

THREE YEARS AGO A GROUP OF young men came to the United States from Kakuma, a United Nations refugee camp in Kenya. Civil war in Sudan had left an estimated 30,000 children orphaned or cut off from their families. They migrated to Ethiopia until civil unrest drove them back into Sudan. Facing rebel armies, wild animals and hunger, they fled again, this time for Kenya. Only a few thousand made it. After a decade in the camp, an international effort was made to resettle the remaining boys. The United

States accepted 3,000, and they came to be known as the Lost Boys of Sudan.

One hundred of these young adults live in Tennessee, and nine work for Vanderbilt on the grounds crew or in the Medical Center’s environmental services department. Members of the cattle-farming Dinka tribe, some had never experienced snow, cars or electricity.

Because refugees must be financially self-sufficient within a short time before their aid runs out, dreams of going to college are on hold. Achouth Deng Kur works mornings at a grocery store before clocking in at Vanderbilt at 3 p.m., where he brings hospital beds to LifeFlight and the emer-

{Inquiring Minds}

Flu Shots Recommended at Younger Age

Flu among young children is a bigger problem than once thought, according to the results of a study now in its fourth year at Vanderbilt. Last fall the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention voted to recommend that children as young as 6 months old receive the influenza vaccine starting with the 2004 flu season. The decision was based in part on data provided by a CDC-sponsored study led by Vanderbilt researchers Drs. Marie Griffin, professor of preventive medicine and professor of medicine, and Kathryn Edwards, professor of pediatrics and vice-chair of pediatric research. "Flu is not just another cold. It's worth preventing, and it's also worth not transmitting it to other people," says Griffin.



Cooking the Books

Despite attention called to the audit industry for its complicity in corporate scandals, audit firms under pressure from major clients bending the rules are still prone to produce inaccurate audit opinions—if they think they won't be caught.

"Our study demonstrates that audit firms may lie to keep a profitable audit client if the expected benefits of keeping the client happy outweigh the expected costs of an audit failure if the firm gets caught," says Debra Jeter, associate professor of accounting at Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management and co-author of a study published in the November/December 2003 issue of the *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*.

"Top management should require managers at various levels within the firm to certify the numbers they are responsible for. Companies should make sure that most—if not all—audit committee members are financially literate and that they meet more than once a year."



Treatment Allows Radiation for Liver Tumors

Vanderbilt is one of eight U.S. medical centers offering a new radiation treatment for inoperable liver tumors. Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT) targets a high radiation dose to tumors within the liver, regardless of their cell of origin, number, size or location. The procedure uses biocompatible radioactive microspheres (SIR-Spheres®) that emit high-energy beta radiation.

"The liver doesn't tolerate external beam radiation in sufficient doses to affect tumor without damaging the remaining good liver," says Dr. C. Wright Pinson, the H. William Scott Jr. Professor of Surgery. "These spheres emit radiation for a short distance, less than a centimeter. If you can cluster radiation right around the tumor, the radiation exposure at the tumor site compared to normal liver is favorable."

The spheres are implanted using a catheter placed in the artery feeding the liver and travel via the bloodstream, where the spheres are targeted to tumors within the liver and become trapped in the small blood vessels.

agency department. Then he goes to night classes at Cohn Adult Learning Center. He has a wife and child back in Kakuma to whom he sends money.

He has helped newer arrivals adapt to American culture, handling some of the "women's work," though he wasn't eager to lose face in front of the others. "I cook the tea, put it on the table, then I go to work and they say, 'Who cooked the tea?'" he says with a smile. "I say, 'Don't worry who cooked the tea.'"

"Talk about resilient," says Jan Holton, doctoral student in the graduate department of religion and VUMC chaplain, who has befriended Achouth. With a grant funded by Vanderbilt's new Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, Holton spent five weeks last fall at Kakuma, which still houses some 85,000 refugees.

"Some of them, within a year, had their GED. Their whole world has changed, and they have adapted and conquered."

Rare Artifact Recovered in Dramatic Rescue

COLLABORATION AMONG Guatemalan undercover agents, Maya villagers and American archaeologists that included a six-month pursuit and arrest of a ring of antiquities looters has resulted in recovery of a rare piece of ancient history.

Vanderbilt archaeologist Arthur Demarest, who helped recover the 600-pound elaborately carved altar, says the relic is one of the finest Maya altars known and provides important clues about one of the wealthiest Maya kingdoms. Demarest, with co-director Tomás Barrientos, leads the Cancún Archaeological Project, which is supported by Vanderbilt and the National Geographic Society.

The altar is one of two from Cancún known to exist. The other, unearthed in 1915, is on display in Guatemala's National Museum of Archaeology.

Demarest learned of the altar's existence while working at the site. "One night four Maya elders showed up at my tent," he recalls. "They told me that a woman had been brutally beat-

en by men in ski masks who were searching for a great altar that had been looted from Cancún, one that I hadn't even known existed."

The visit set in motion a secret investigation by Cancún project members, Guatemala's Ministry of Culture, and the Ecological and Cultural Patrimony Division of Guatemala's Servicios de Investigación Criminal. Guatemalan officials state that this may be the first time an entire network of looters and dealers of Maya artifacts has been exposed.

The Cancún Archaeological Project has been the scene of a series of spectacular discoveries in the remote southwestern region of the Petén rainforest. The project has been unearthing the lost city of Cancún, an ancient Maya mercantile port city. The great altar was placed in 796 A.D. at the royal ball court of Cancún, site of one of the largest royal palaces ever found. The king pictured on the altar, Taj Chan Ahk Ah Kalomte, was the greatest of Cancún's long dynasty of rulers.





Building Anticipation

Nearly 1,000 people turned out for a December ribbon-cutting event at the new \$172 million Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. Many of the children who celebrated the occasion with Children's Hospital mascot Champ are former patients.

A Forum for Dialogue

VANDERBILT'S NEW CENTER for the Study of Religion and Culture is nothing if not ambitious.

"The subject of our center's work is global in both nature and scope," says Volney P. Gay, professor of religious studies in the College of Arts and Science and co-director of the new center. "CSRC faculty investigators will be challenged to examine the world's cultures as they intersect with any and all forms—and understandings—of religion."

The center is part of Vanderbilt's effort to develop intellectual centers that foster collaborative research by scholars who might not otherwise interact with each other.

Gay and colleague Douglas Knight, Divinity School professor of Hebrew Bible and co-director of the CSRC, developed a proposal for the center that last spring won a \$3.1 million grant from the Academic Venture Capital Fund. Faculty members from across the University are eligible to participate in CSRC research groups, publication projects and conferences. Principal investigators will convene faculty research groups to wrestle with an approved topic for up to three years.



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The group furthest in development is examining the relationship among religion, economics and poverty. The center also funded a weeklong conference at Vanderbilt in July involving editors from Cambridge University working on the *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, an 800,000-word reference. Also in early stages of development are groups who wish to study civic justice and religious

thought; ecology and religion; art, spirituality and culture; religion, music and HIV/AIDS in Africa; theories of religion; Christianity and world literatures; and violence, terror and religion.

Graduate education is a second focus. Last fall two graduate fellows received full tuition and stipend awards for five years of doctoral study at Vanderbilt. Four \$4,000 summer stipends enabled

graduate students to examine Christian fundamentalism in the Southern U.S., female shamans in Korea, sexual consumerism in Thailand, and Dinka refugees.

Student Life Center to Fill Demand for Social Space

A NEW \$11.4 MILLION STUDENT Life Center will feature a 10,000-square-foot social hall, a comprehensive career center, and consolidated space for international scholars and study-abroad services. The project also includes renovation of Branscomb South Dining Room, which will be linked to the new 55,400-square-foot building.

Vanderbilt broke ground on the building in October. It will be located near 25th Avenue South and Kirkland Place, in keeping with the University's Land Use Plan, which designates that area as the new central campus. The construction has a projected completion date of January 2005.

"The best part will be the new social space," says Madani Adjali, Vanderbilt Student Government Association president. "It can be configured as one large room for concerts or segmented into three separate rooms. This flexibility will help student organizations plan large events without scrambling to find a location." The social hall will comprise nearly all of the first level. There will also be meeting space on the lower level and in the renovated Branscomb South dining hall.

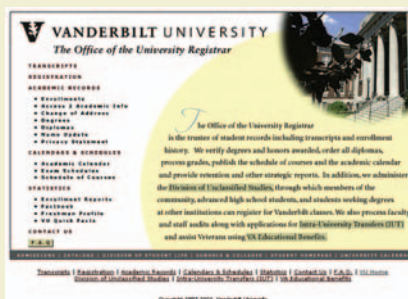
The second level of the building will house an expanded career center as well as offices for pre-professional advising and international scholarship. For more than 50 years, the Career Center has been located in Alumni Hall, but

Virtual Vanderbilt

<http://www.registrar.vanderbilt.edu/index.htm>

Last August the University Registrar's Office announced that alumni will no longer be charged a fee for transcripts, though they will continue to pay for special handling and delivery charges such as via FedEx and Priority Mail. Also new as of last fall, first-time students pay a \$30 one-time transcript fee that replaces the per-transcript charge.

Ordering transcripts online is just one of the options alumni have when they go to the Registrar's Web site. You'll also find information about enrollment, Vanderbilt statistics, answers to frequently asked questions, and quick links to Vanderbilt calendars and course schedules.



the space is “unprofessional and uninviting,” says Career Center Director Francene Gilmer, adding that it isn’t in a location typically visited by students. The new space places staff, employer interview rooms and the resources center on one floor and will simplify logistics of the Center’s four annual career fairs. The Study Abroad

program and International Scholars and Student Services will also be located on the second floor.

“The project is a direct response to the wishes of our students,” says Chancellor Gordon Gee. “They have told us that their No. 1 priority is the development of a large social space on campus.”

Office Centralizes Scholarship Quest

VANDERBILT’S YEAR-OLD OFFICE of Honors Scholarships is helping students succeed in the hyper-competitive field of post-graduate awards. Of the 40 or so students who applied for post-graduate scholarships through the office last year, 13 won awards.



Truman Scholars Jessica Heaven (left) and Amber Wallin with Professor Paul Elledge.

“Not too shabby for the first year,” says Paul Elledge, professor of English and director of the Office of Honors Scholarships. Elledge has supervised campus administration of the Rhodes, Marshall and Churchill scholarship competitions since 1998, and now oversees at least 26 additional fellowship opportunities.

Before formation of the office,

students were largely left to uncover the various awards offered and apply for them without help from informed sources. “Historically, institutions with such offices as this one annually produce more scholarship winners than those without one,” says Elledge, “in part because the collection, in a single facility, of data over many years from many applicants for many different scholarships creates an ever-enlarging resource for candidates to draw upon when preparing application packets.”

Since opening the office Elledge has worked to contact eligible students from each undergraduate class. The office hosts informational gatherings and receptions throughout the year to pitch its services. “We’re not here to promote or foster trophy-hunting,” he says. “We’re here to help people interested in continuing their education at an advanced level.

“Preparation for successful participation in the scholarship competitions cannot begin too early,” he adds. “It includes cultivating certain habits of mind, developing intellectual disciplines, seeking out culturally enriching events and dialogue, maximizing the potential benefits of spring break and summertime, diversifying interests, volunteering, and keeping abreast of current events through appropriate media.”

{Top Picks}



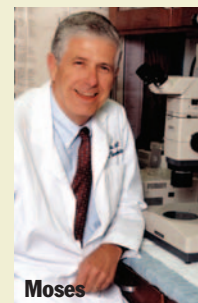
NEIL BRAKE

Joe Hamilton, Landon C. Garland Distinguished Professor of Physics at Vanderbilt, received the National Prize of International Scientific and Technological Collaborations of China—the highest award bestowed on foreign scientists by the Chinese government. Hamilton traveled to Beijing in September for presentation of the award, which was presided over by China’s minister of science and broadcast on national television.

In 1978 Hamilton made his first formal trip to China and gave a series of lectures that were translated into Chinese and published in booklets that were used for many years. That same year he hosted the first group of Chinese physicists to visit the United States. “One of the most important things I did,” says Hamilton, “was to encourage the Chinese to submit articles for publication in international journals and allow foreign scientists to publish papers in their journals. That helped move them into the international scientific community.”

Two Vanderbilt University Medical Center faculty members have been elected into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, an elite group of scientists called upon for independent analysis and recommendations on issues related to human health.

Harold Moses, MD’62, director of the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, is internationally known for his research in growth factors, particularly transforming growth factor-beta, which Moses’ team discovered as the first growth factor to act as both a cell-growth stimulator and suppressor under different circumstances. He recently began a two-year term as president of the Association of American Cancer Institutes.



Moses

Peter Buerhaus, senior associate dean for research at the Vanderbilt School of Nursing, is considered the leading expert on issues relating to the national nursing shortage. Buerhaus has published nearly 50 peer-reviewed articles, numerous book chapters, and various papers on topics concerned with the nurse labor market and changes in the health-care system.



DANA JOHNSON

Vanderbilt LifeFlight nurse **Kevin High** has been named National Medical Crew Member of the Year by the Association of Air Medical Services. High has been instrumental in Vanderbilt’s “EMS Night Out” program, which has provided training to more than 3,500 emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics, first responders and nurses. Topics have ranged from treatment of the cardiac patient to the role

of the Secret Service in providing patient care for the president. An RN for 18 years and an EMT for 15 years, he lectures and teaches on a local, state and national level and has authored numerous articles on emergency medicine.