

TheClasses

“**Tony Spence, E’75**, has been named director and editor-in-chief of the Catholic News Service in Washington, D.C.”

PLEASE NOTE: Class Notes only appear in the printed version of this publication.



Emily Glasgow Bruno,
BA'68, MSN'96

NEIL BRAKE

Steely Resolve

Emily Glasgow Bruno is a woman on the run, one who finds competing in triathlons around the globe to be a metaphor for aging with zeal and good health.

"Setting goals is important, no matter what your age," says Glasgow Bruno, 57, the mother of three grown sons. "It's good for your body and your mind."

Her typical event-preparation schedule includes swimming 9,000 meters, running 20 to 25 miles and biking 80 miles weekly. It's an ambitious program that had its genesis in the 1960s when she started running with her orthopedist husband, John Bruno, BA'67, MS'70, MD'74. In June she competed in the Short Course World Championship Triathlon in Portugal.

A women's health nurse practitioner, she recently published a book, *Iron Women Don't Rust: Making Memories While Managing Menopause*, which chronicles her competition experiences and the health issues women face with age.

Glasgow Bruno's passion for exploring new possibilities and finding ways to challenge herself infuse both the book and her personal philosophy. "You have to be willing to take risks that help you achieve and continue to grow," she says. "That's what keeps you going."

“**Khaled Ali, BS’92** was profiled in a Lebanese newspaper for writing the flight software for the twin Mars Explorer Rovers.”



Renford Reese,
BA'89, MPP'90

TOM ZASADZINSKI

Role Reversal

“Young black men have embraced one model of masculinity—the gangster-thug model. It’s an image detrimental to an entire generation,” says Renford Reese, a political science professor at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Reese explores the forces leading teenaged African-American males to emulate these stereotypes in his book *American Paradox: Young Black Men*.

“I interviewed 765 black males, ages 13 to 19, and had them rate black men based on their so-called ‘realness’ and their perception of certain individuals as role models,” says Reese. Repeatedly, teens chose rap artist Tupac Shakur and NBA bad boy Alan Iverson over less controversial role models such as Tiger Woods and David Robinson.

“They didn’t like Robinson because he hadn’t been in trouble with the law,” says Reese. “Kids are blindly embracing this model. It’s manifest in underachievement in school and in acts of violence.”

To foster a change in thinking among one group, Reese lectures in California prisons. “Hopefully, others will be motivated to do their part in countering the negative images,” he says.

Renford is also founder and director of Colorful Flags, a program aimed at bridging cultural differences which he was inspired to create in the wake of escalating tensions between African-American and Korean-American youth in Southern California.



Rusty Darling, BE'91

Mending Lives

Restless—that’s how Lyman “Rusty” Darling describes himself during his tenure in corporate America. “In 2001 I turned 30 and was thinking about my purpose in life,” he says. He found that purpose and a new career as executive director of KidsDom, a faith-based charity that helps 570 orphans in four Russian institutions prepare for productive, successful lives.

“In Russia, orphans are viewed as criminals in training,” says Darling. “An estimated 1 million children in Russia live in orphanages, most because their families can’t care for them. The fall of socialism and the absence of social services and community support through Russian churches have left orphans ill-prepared for work and independence.”

Darling raises the money KidsDom needs for improvements at the orphanages—clothing, educational materials and medicine. In three years he’s grown that pool from \$60,000 to \$450,000.

KidsDom has two U.S. missionaries in Russia, and Darling hopes to add two more this year so it can expand its work with local churches. “The kids really take your heart,” he says. “We think we can make a difference for them and for the Russian churches that help them.”

“ **Jon Bonnell, BS'94** is owner and chef of a Fort Worth restaurant that serves wild game, seafood, and 'cheese grits to die for.' ”

Alumni Association News

New Online

Now you can post your news online and find out what your classmates are doing. The Alumni Association's new **online class notes** let you post a note, upload a photograph, create a buddy list to see if your old friends have news, and much more. Class notes are the latest addition to Dore2Dore, Vanderbilt's free online community at www.dore2dore.net.

While you're there, be sure to update your information, including your e-mail address. Vanderbilt is trying to reduce costs of sending paper mail by collecting e-mail addresses that are used to send selected information electronically.

Former Association President Dies



Vanderbilt mourns the untimely loss of Board of Trust member and former Alumni Association president **Jane Evans Sheer**, BA'65, who died Nov. 16, 2003. A memorial scholarship has been established through the generosity of classmate and close friend Ruth Montgomery Cecil, and KB Home, a corporation where Jane served on the board. Additional gifts to the Jane Evans Memorial Scholarship may be mailed to Vanderbilt University, Gift Processing Office, VU Station B

357727, Nashville, TN 37235-7727. For information, call Joe Rively at 615/343-2029. For more on the life of one of Vanderbilt's most energetic boosters, please see page 85.

Alumni Interviewing Program Expands

Last year the offices of Alumni Relations and Undergraduate Admissions jointly launched the Vanderbilt Alumni Admissions Interviewing Program in Atlanta, Chicago and Houston. This fall the program will expand to include Birmingham, Dallas, Memphis, and the metropolitan New York area. The program serves as an informal exchange of information between Vanderbilt applicants and our alumni. It also allows alumni to serve as a personal link to prospective students and their parents in local communities.

Last year nearly 400 students requested interviews in Atlanta, Chicago and Houston. By interviewing students, alumni help offer a more personalized view of the admissions process, promote good will, and present a positive impression of Vanderbilt. Thanks to everyone who participated in this important program.

Training in the new cities will take place this fall, and follow-up training sessions will be held in Atlanta, Chicago and Houston this summer. If you are interested in volunteering in any of the interview cities mentioned, please contact Cami Isaac in the Office of Alumni Relations at cami.isaac@vanderbilt.edu or 615/322-2929.

Alumni Association News

Campus Activist Elected Young Alumni Trustee

The Vanderbilt classes of 2003, 2004 and 2005 have elected **Heather Souder**, BA'04, as the newest Young Alumni Trustee. A political science and communications double-major from Marietta, Ga., Souder will serve two two-year terms on the Vanderbilt Board of Trust.



At Vanderbilt she dedicated herself to women's issues, political activism, and bridging the gap between students and the Nashville community. A Chancellor's Scholar, she served as a mentor to fellow minority students and participated in phone-a-thons and letter writing campaigns to recruit a more diverse student body. She served as a Vuceptor, a tutor, and a mentor for refugee families.

Senior Celebration

More than 500 graduating seniors flocked to the first-ever **Almost Alumni Affair** on April 2. The Class of 2004 and alumni in attendance enjoyed margaritas, great food and a hip DJ. The seniors picked up their class rings, received Vanderbilt ball caps, and learned about the Vanderbilt Travel Program and other opportunities for alumni. Many also donated to the Senior Class Fund and purchased Pub Crawl t-shirts. Special thanks go to **Karen Fesmire**, BS'80, and senior class officer **Zach Thomas**, BA'04, for their roles in creating a winning event that's sure to become a rite of passage.

Black and Gold All Over

As the global economy continues to expand and more graduates than ever before are working and living overseas, Vanderbilt continues to expand its alumni outreach.

Chancellor Gordon Gee and a Vanderbilt delegation spent 14 days in March traveling through Asia on a tour to strengthen academic and diplomatic ties and solidify the alumni network. The group visited Tokyo, Beijing, Hong Kong and Seoul.

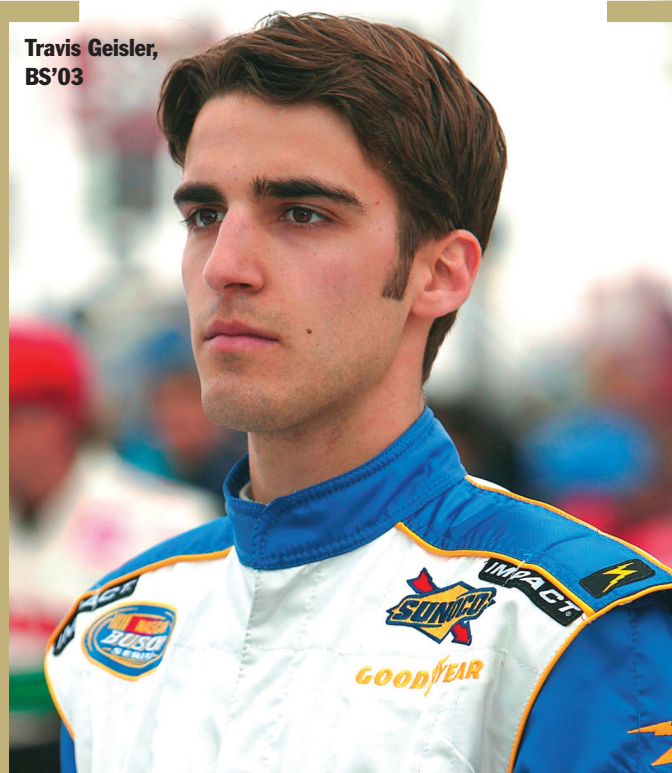
Many graduates are involved at the highest levels of government and business throughout Asia. There are an estimated 300 alumni in Japan, more than 150 alumni in the Chinese mainland, and 100 in Hong Kong. In part thanks to Peabody's historic ties, Vanderbilt has a particularly strong presence in Korea, where the Alumni Association boasts more than 265 active members and a network of more than 500 individuals.

Outside Asia, Vanderbilt is also well represented in the United Kingdom, where more than 300 alumni live and work. Chancellor Gee has visited the U.K. alumni twice, and the group recently formed its own Vanderbilt club.

Vanderbilt has long had important ties in Latin America and last year created a Center for the Americas to provide perspectives on history, culture and society by bringing together scholars whose work cuts across political and geographical boundaries. During a trip last year, a Vanderbilt contingent connected with more than 75 alumni in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

“Edward Michaels, BA'00, won the 88th DHL-Philippine Open golf championship by three strokes.”

Travis Geisler,
BS'03



WALTER G. ARCE—ACTIONSPO RTSINC.COM

Fast Company

“Driving is the only thing I’ve found that’s completely rewarding,” says Travis Geisler, a newly minted Busch Series NASCAR driver. Following in the footsteps of his father, Lynn, also a NASCAR driver, Geisler started with go-carts and progressed to full-sized cars. In April he got his break when he signed with DCT Motorsports’ NASCAR Busch Series team as a driver.

Along the way, he’s learned to market himself strategically to achieve his goals. To get the class flexibility he needed to drive competitively while at Vanderbilt, Geisler approached Arthur Overholser, senior associate dean of the School of Engineering. “I showed him the presentation I do about my work to prospective sponsors and the press coverage I’d generated. He understood I wasn’t skipping class; I was working on a career,” says Geisler, 23.

His vision, along with his degree, he says, opens doors and creates alliances. “Having an education helps when I meet with prospective sponsors. They’re surprised I have a degree like they do, so it bridges a certain gap,” says Geisler. He credits Vanderbilt with helping him to prepare for NASCAR’s competitive ranks. “Vanderbilt opened my eyes to the opportunities that exist if you devote yourself to what you really want,” he says.

