

## COLLEGE TO HOST MILLENNIAL GATHERING OF SOUTHERN WRITERS

**K**ate Daniels is hoping the face of Southern literature will change—literally—as a result of the “Millennial Gathering of the Writers of the New South.” The historic, two-day literary conference will take place at Vanderbilt April 6–8.

“We hope the gathering will make a major statement about Southern literature at the millennium,” says Daniels, conference organizer, poet, and assistant professor of English. “The grandeur of Vanderbilt’s reputation for Southern literature has overshadowed some of the more recent developments, such as the presence of more women, minorities, and working people in the ranks of important Southern writers and poets.”

More than 40 writers are planning to attend, among them a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet.

Yusef Komunyakaa, who writes from his experience as an African American and a Vietnam veteran, will deliver the keynote address in poetry on Friday, April 7. A professor at Princeton, Komunyakaa received the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1994 for his book, *Neon Vernacular: New and Selected Poems* (Wesleyan Poetry).

Novelist and short story writer Lee Smith will deliver the keynote address in fiction on Thursday, April 6. Smith, who recently retired from the faculty of North Carolina State University, has won many awards for her work, most recently the Academy Award in Literature presented by the American Academy of Arts and Letters in May 1999.

According to Dave Smith, coeditor of the internationally acclaimed *Southern Review*, a literary journal founded at Louisiana State University

in 1935 by Fugitive poet Robert Penn Warren, BA’25, the effects of the Vanderbilt conference could be significant and far-reaching.

“The old generation of Southern writers is dead,” says Smith, one of the most eminent contemporary Southern writers. “This conference, to my

knowledge, may gather in a single place and time almost everyone of importance in the new generations of Southern writers. I expect to see a sense of fellowship and camaraderie emerge, as well as a profitable exchange of views on our common endeavor and the culture in which we live. If previous gatherings are any guide, it might have some very substantial, international effects.”

The setting of the Millennial Gathering at Vanderbilt is particularly appropriate, given that Vanderbilt was the home of the Fugitive literary movement in the early 20th century and has produced many award-winning writers, Daniels says.

Writers with Vanderbilt ties will be well represented at the conference. In addition to Daniels, they include the following:

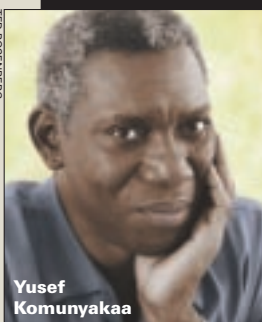
- Novelist and short-story writer Tony Earley, assistant professor of English;
- Professor Mark Jarman, a poet; and
- Novelist Walter Sullivan, A’41, professor of English.

Vanderbilt alumni include humorist Roy Blount Jr., BA’63, and novelist

*continued on page 2*

Southern writers  
**now**

TED ROSENBERG



Yusef  
Komunyakaa



Lee  
Smith



LAEL SMITH

Dave  
Smith

and then



*With the publication of the Fugitive, these Vanderbilt writers sparked a renaissance of Southern literature during the 1920s and '30s: Allen Tate, BA'22, left; Merrill Moore; Robert Penn Warren, BA'25, standing; John Crowe Ransom; and Donald Davidson.*

## Infante to step down as A&S dean

Dean Ettore F. "Jim" Infante has announced that he is resigning for health reasons from the position he has held since 1977.

"It is with deep regret and a sense of sadness, but nevertheless with conviction, that I have tendered my resignation," Infante said. "The reasons behind my decision are strictly personal ones."

Infante said he is concerned about his long-term ability to serve the college as dean in the manner that he feels appropriate. He will continue in office until June 30, when he will receive emeritus status.

"Jim Infante has brought brilliant intellect and intense energy to bear on the entire University," Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt said. "His ideas and innovations will benefit all future generations of Vanderbilt students and their faculty mentors."

"In a relatively short time, Dean Infante has had a significant impact on Vanderbilt," Provost Thomas G. Burish said. "His dedication to the job, high standards, penetrating intellect, and ability to consider issues from a breadth of perspectives have enriched the college and the University."

Burish has appointed Associate Provost John H. Venable to serve as acting dean beginning July 1. He also appointed a committee to conduct a national search for a new dean, headed by Professor Timothy P. McNamara, chair of psychology.

As dean of Vanderbilt's largest college, Infante said he feels he has been able to "rearticulate and rejuvenate" the undergraduate curriculum. "One of the most precious things about Vanderbilt is its commitment to undergrad-



Ettore F. Infante

uate education. I believe I have been able to help enhance the undergraduate experience for which Vanderbilt is so well known."

Another focus of his efforts has been ensuring that the faculty have the resources they need for research and teaching excellence. "I have attempted to see to it that the faculty of the college have the support and the means to be the kind of scholars and teachers that they and we want them to be.

"I am particularly grateful to alumni and other friends for their continued and enthusiastic support of the college and its activities. It is a wonderful institution, fully deserving this care and concern," he says.

One alumnus expressed his admiration of Infante's relationships with students. "I felt that Dean Infante had an understanding and concern for the students and their way of life and ability to learn," said William C. Lortz, A'60, of Sheldon, South Carolina, retired senior vice-president of Enterprise Rent-A-Car. "I also admired his ideas about getting alumni together with small groups of students, talking with them about business and what the business world is really like. He will be missed by all."

Infante, a mathematics professor, came to Vanderbilt in August 1997 as the successor to the late Madeleine J. Goodman. He had been senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of Minnesota and provost of the university's Twin Cities Campus. Earlier, he had served as dean of the Institute of Technology, the Twin Cities Campus's College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and of Engineering.

## Millennial Gathering continued



Kate Daniels, assistant professor of English, is organizing a "Millennial Gathering of the Writers of the New South" at Vanderbilt April 6-8.

Elizabeth Dewberry, BS'83.

Many attendees are members of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, such as Clyde Edgerton and Richard Bausch. Also scheduled to attend are novelists Madison Smartt Bell and Elizabeth Cox, and poets Betty Adcock, Diann Blakely, MA'80, and Miller Williams, the father of singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams.

Underwritten in part by the Harold and Gertrude Vanderbilt Visiting Writers endowment and by the contributions of alumni and other friends of Vanderbilt, the conference will include lectures and workshops on gender, race, language, the role of memory in Southern literature, and place ("Is there a distinctive Southern place?" asks Daniels).

The Millennial Gathering is free and open to all in the Vanderbilt and Nashville communities, including alumni and students.

"Students will have the opportunity to hear and meet leading authors," Daniels says. "One of our goals as professors of creative writing and literature is to demonstrate the fact that fiction and poetry are alive and vital, rather than dead in the pages of a book. The Millennial Gathering provides an incredible opportunity to make that happen for students."

For more information on the event, visit the Web site at [www.vanderbilt.edu/News/writers2000](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/News/writers2000).

## A first: VU laser surgery on the brain

For the first time ever, physicians have successfully used a free-electron laser (FEL) for surgery on humans, thanks to the work of A&S physicists, biomedical engineers, and medical center researchers.

The FEL was used for the first time on a human patient shortly before Christmas when Dr. Michael Copeland, assistant clinical professor of neurosurgery, removed part of a non-cancerous tumor from the brain of Virginia Whitaker, 78, of Kansas City, Missouri. Two days after the surgery, a beaming and enthusiastic Whitaker told a press conference, "I feel fine."

Vanderbilt researchers believe the FEL will greatly improve surgical treatment of brain tumors, certain eye disorders, and other serious problems because it can cut with less collateral damage to adjoining tissues than conventional lasers or scalpels.

"The operation shows that the FEL is an exceptional tool for exploring never-before-examined territories in surgery," says David Ernst, professor of physics and interim director of Vanderbilt's W.M. Keck Foundation Free-Electron Laser Center. One of five FEL centers in the



Left: For the first time ever, Vanderbilt physicians, Dr. Gary Cram, left, and Dr. Michael Copeland, right, used the free electron laser for brain surgery on a human. Cram holds the laser, while Copeland prepares the tumor for its use. Physicists in the College of Arts and Science helped develop the ground-breaking technology.

country supported by the Office of Naval Research, it is the only facility in the world that produces beams of infrared laser light powerful enough for use in surgery and is also equipped to perform human operations.

Ernst says researchers at the FEL center are continuing to explore and refine medical uses for infrared laser light. Some applications will be based on the clean cutting of soft tissue and bone. Other uses may include welding tissue to assist in wound healing, repairing nerves, reattaching retinas, or monitoring neurological activity.

Vanderbilt researchers are also working to produce smaller, desktop, infrared lasers that could be used for medical purposes throughout the world.

## Documenting an earthquake

Last November, A&S geologist Jay Noller traveled to Turkey to study the sites of two devastating earthquakes that, by some estimates, killed as many as forty thousand people in that country. He also gathered eyewitness accounts from men and women who survived the tremors. He is pictured here standing inside one of the fissures.

"The smell of death still hangs heavy here in the dust-filled atmosphere of this recovering country," Noller wrote in an article e-mailed to the *Vanderbilt Register*. You can read his account in the online version of the Dec. 6 and 13 issues of the *Register* at [www.vanderbilt.edu/News/register/Dec13\\_99/story1.html](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/News/register/Dec13_99/story1.html)



More than one thousand parents, other family members, and guests shared in their freshmen's exciting new surroundings during the traditional Freshman Family Weekend last October.

Among the attendees were Lynda and Roger Moister, BA'67, JD'71, left, the parents of Preston Moister, and Pat Tuff, whose son, Chris, is also an A&S freshman. Both families live in Atlanta.

The weekend included meetings with A&S deans and faculty advisers, entertainment, and plenty of free time to spend with the newly away-from-home student.



## Did you know?

One of the nation's oldest professional organizations has made Vanderbilt its headquarters for almost 30 years. The American Economic Association, founded in 1885 and composed of more than 22,000 members in this country and abroad, moved to Vanderbilt in 1970, when Professor Emeritus Rendigs Fels became secretary (administrative head of the organization). Professor John J. Siegfried now serves in that office. He succeeds Professor C. Elton Hinshaw, who recently retired after 20 years as secretary.

"We believe it is unusual to have a major national association at Vanderbilt for such a long period," Siegfried says.

The association publishes three journals, including the prestigious *American Economic Review*, and organizes the annual Allied Social Science Associations convention.

For more information about the College of Arts and Science, visit our Web page at

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AnS/cas.htm>

You can also access the main alumni Web page at

[www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni)

and the on-line version of the A&S Cornerstone at

[www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/publications/cornerstone.html](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/publications/cornerstone.html)

## A&S CORNERSTONE

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ON THE COVER

PHOTO OF THE FUGITIVES COURTESY OF VANDERBILT PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

# Freshmen tackle space, politics, and the simple art of murder

PHOTOS ON THESE PAGES BY PEYTON HOGE

Can you see how this goes?" Assistant Professor of English Drayton Nabers asks the dozen or so students assembled around the conference table.

The impossibly young-looking students lean forward and nod knowingly as they individually contribute their own observations, without raising their hands or hanging back shyly. As the class unfolds, the professor and students freely discuss the intriguing inner workings of the mind of a highly intuitive detective and how his thought processes parallel the complex psychology of the criminal he's tracking. The detective and murderer are central characters of a modern detective novel, *Red Dragon*, by Thomas Harris.

This is a freshman class?

This close-knit class is one of almost 80 "Freshman Seminars" the College of Arts and Science offers to help freshmen make the transition from high school and home to college.

"The type of environment that we had for our seminar was what I pictured when I applied to Vanderbilt," says freshman Stephanie K. Sweeten. "It seemed like our professor genuinely cared about us as students, which made



Morgan Barrera, center, discusses ideas in her seminar paper with fellow participants Lindsey Rosso, left, and Chris Dorn.

the transition into a collegiate learning environment much easier.

"It almost had a type of family atmosphere to it."

Making that transition with other freshmen in a supportive environment was more than fortifying, students say: It's fun. Undergirding the fun and intellectual stimulation, however, is the true purpose of the seminars: to help students develop a scholarly approach to asking and answering questions, as well as finding and communicating solutions to problems.

Freshman Sarah E. Hille says that her seminar on murder and detective fiction challenged her thinking. "You began to question if you really believed, for example, that entrapment was a crime. It twisted your head in knots and forced you to question everything, and the discussion that was sparked from it in class was phenomenal."

Designed in the turbulent 1970s to draw students clos-

er to faculty and to infuse a passion for learning, the freshman seminars are structured to foster close working relationships among students and with faculty members, who are often senior professors. No more than 18 students are registered in each class, and courses that fulfill a writing requirement are kept at a 15-student maximum.

"The biggest advantage of a seminar is the small class size," says freshman Calvin K. Curd. "Everyone in the class gets to know each other, and no one is uncomfortable sharing their opinions in a close-knit group."

## Stimulating topics

Eric Catalfamo says he enjoyed the mixture of challenging content and close interaction with sociology Professor Gary Jensen, who taught *Salem and Other Witch Hunts: Witch Trials as Sociological Crucibles* (see sidebar on page 5). That seminar examined sociological factors at work throughout 500 years of witch hunts and other types of persecution in Western civilization.

"Whether discussing patterns of witch trials in class or meeting personally with Professor Jensen outside of class to discuss paper topics, I felt like my ideas were nurtured and developed in a positive manner."

According to Associate Provost John H. Venable, stimulating students to become acquainted with and interested in unfamiliar academic subjects was one of the original goals of the freshman seminars. "The topics are unique and not available in other courses," he says (please see box at right).

Curd, who chose *The Simple Art of Murder: Knowledge and Guilt in Detective Literature*, says Nabers not only kept the seminar interesting, but also laid a solid foundation for studying all genres of literature.

"I chose that seminar because I have always been a fan of mysteries and detective literature," he says. "Not only were the works entertaining, but the discussion was enriching in understanding the particular work and literature as a whole."

Nabers says that he worked to teach students how to develop arguments and aggressively pursue a thesis. The legal and analytical themes they explored in detective fiction helped students analyze and write in a more disciplined manner. "Their engagement of the material was pretty serious, and I think they did well on the writing front."

## Interdisciplinary diversity

Exposure to a wide range of disciplines is another attractive feature of the seminars, making them stimulating to students and faculty alike, says Nabers, who is new to Vanderbilt this academic year.

"It was my hope that I would have a group of bright undergraduates who wouldn't necessarily be English majors, so I chose detective fiction because of its broad appeal."

The resulting mixture of students made the class



Left: Katie Sweeten, a member of the Vanderbilt women's tennis team from Kerrville, Texas, discusses a paper she wrote for the freshman seminar, "Salem and Other Witch Hunts."

livelier, Nabers says, and gave freshmen a chance to get to know students they might not otherwise meet as they begin to specialize academically and enter different social arenas as upperclassmen.

The interdisciplinary variety also helps students make good choices of a major subject, says Associate Dean George Graham.

"The last time I taught one, I had two premed students who got excited about public policy and political science, and one ended up majoring in public policy and the other in political science," he says. "Yet they both went on to professional school after graduation."

Garrett C. Klein, associate director of undergraduate admissions, says that the freshman seminars also help recruit new students to Vanderbilt. Although other colleges offer freshman seminars, Vanderbilt's commitment to undergraduate education and strength in research professors who are also engaging and stimulating teachers gives the College of Arts and Science an edge in attracting new students, he says.

"I loved the seminar structure of the class," Sweeten says. "I went to a public high school where class sizes were fairly large, so I wanted to attend a university where I knew that I would get specialized attention."

"The class was a lot of fun," says Curd. "Since we all got to know each other, we didn't have to hold anything back if we wanted to dive deeper into the material."

Catalfamo agrees. "My seminar was my favorite class here at Vanderbilt this semester. I only wish it was continued next semester."

In fact, that's apparently the only problem associated with the freshman seminars: You have to be a freshman to take one.

Vivian Cooper-Capps



Jamie Little, left, and Eric Catalfamo discuss issues during their freshman seminar. Catalfamo, a Dean's Select Scholar, says he enjoyed the mixture of challenging content and close interaction with his professor.

## FRESHMAN SEMINARS: A SAMPLING

Freshmen are required to take one freshman seminar their first year, but no one has to twist any arms. A sample of some of the topics hints at why they're so popular:

- The Nature of Discovery—From America to Mars (Science, Technology, and Humanities)
- Art and Politics (Fine Arts)
- Ethics and the Professions (Philosophy)
- The Good Life: Ancient Origins of Western Humanism (Classics)
- African American Literature and Its Image in Film and Video (English)
- The Birth, Life, and Death of Stars (Astronomy)
- Shakespeare and Music (Music Literature)
- Women and Work in the U.S. (Sociology)
- The Meaning of Fossils and the Age of the Earth (Geology)
- China Through Western Eyes (History)

## WITCH-HUNTS OLD AND NEW

It may have included a rollicking Halloween party and pulling topics for the final paper from a witch's hat, but the freshman seminar, *Salem and Other Witch Hunts: Witch Trials as Sociological Crucibles*, had little to do with the dark arts that are getting Harry Potter in so much trouble these days.

No, Professor of Sociology Gary Jensen's popular seminar served a more uplifting purpose: To teach students how to examine the sociological causes, structure, and changing dynamics involved in community turmoil.

"Everyone's heard of the infamous 1692 witch trials in Salem, Massachusetts," Jensen says. "Few realize that the Salem trials came at the end of what is known as the Early Modern Witch Craze that spanned three centuries. I wanted students to learn how to look at such sociological phenomena in the context of relationships and conflicts in the community."

In the process, Jensen's students covered 500 years of Western civilization, including satanic panics, ritual child abuse, and political witch-hunts such as the 1950s "Red Scare" in the United States.

"I feel like I have learned a great deal about Salem and witch hunts in general," says freshman Eric Catalfamo. "I found our detailed analysis of the sociological patterns that recur in witch trials throughout history and in diverse locations to be fascinating."

"Professor Jensen was amazing," says freshman Kiah S. Dennis. "He knew everything there was to know about the various witch trials and such. It was fun just to listen to him talk about everything because he was so animated and knowledgeable about the subject."

As with freshman seminars generally, Jensen's class fostered close communication among students and teacher, allowing the former to participate actively in their own education. Because the class also fulfills a writing-course requirement, the seminar required students to complete three essays and one semester research paper.



Professor Gary Jensen discusses persecution with members of his freshman seminar, *Salem and Other Witch Hunts: Witch Trials as Sociological Crucibles*.

For the research paper, students drew names out of a witch's hat. Each name represented one of the people involved in the Salem Witch Trials.

Students researched their selected person, determining the person's social characteristics, relationships with others, and their relation to the trials. Characteristics such as gender, race, age, occupation, religion, interpersonal conflicts, and social status were examined for their relevance to issues and themes involved in the trials.

Freshman Christopher G. Dorn studied Susanna Martin, who was convicted and executed in 1692. "She was very intelligent and very outspoken, and that's probably why she was accused," he notes.

The Salem Witch Trials, prompted by the strange behaviors of several girls that seemed to signify bewitchment, ultimately involved accusations of some 160 residents of Salem and surrounding villages. The court tried and convicted 27 suspects: 19 were hanged, and one was pressed to death during questioning.

Most were women, but other sociological factors came into play. Dennis's character, Mary Easty, was accused because she was related to another accused suspect, Rebecca Nurse. "They believed that witchcraft and sorcery were passed down through families," Dennis says.

Jensen, who says the course helped him push ahead with research on his monograph, *The Path of the Devil*, says he also enjoyed the interactions with the students. "I devoted a lot more time to this seminar than for any graduate course," he says. "I wanted students to see how to approach this study scientifically, and I had frequent contact with the students."



Kiah Dennis, Kettering, Ohio

## Fine Arts alumni share career paths with current students

Students studying the liberal arts often wonder what career paths will be open to them after graduation. They received some answers to that question at the first annual Fine Arts Alumni Roundtable Discussion in October.

Sponsored by the Fine Arts Students Association, the standing-room-only event attracted six alumni who majored in fine arts: Mary Morrison, BA'97, manager of corporate support at the Atlanta High Museum of Art; David Plummer, BA'90, an architect; Henry Huffnagle, BA'97, an independent artist and former winner of the Margaret Stonewall Wooldridge Hamblet Award; Kathryn Hannen, MA'95, currently in her last year of law school at Vanderbilt; Katie Delmez, BA'95, assistant to the director of the Cheekwood Museum of Art in Nashville; and Shannon Horn, BA'95, a national account director with the Merrimac Group.

"That's part of why the discussion was so interesting," said senior John Nading. "There were people there who had done so many different things with their degrees." Nading plans to go to law school after graduating in May, but wants to work in the art world after earning a law degree.

"I found that art history prepared me for the rigors of thinking, writing, and taking timed exams in law," Hannen told the students. Horn noted that no one in her department, which is devoted to sales, marketing, and account management, majored in business or economics as undergraduates. "All of my colleagues found that their liberal arts

*This mixed media work, Frames of Reference, and other work by Henry Huffnagle, BA'97, won the Margaret Stonewall Wooldridge Hamblet Award in 1998. Huffnagle, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was one of six alumni who returned to campus in October to participate in a round-table discussion on career opportunities for fine arts majors.*



degrees prepared them for their current positions in the business world," she said.

"The importance of a liberal arts degree was one of the common threads shared by the speakers," said Professor Vivien Green Fryd, undergraduate advisor in the Department of Fine Arts. "They also spoke of the significance of travel and experiences abroad, the importance of taking a year off between undergraduate and graduate schools, and the importance of 'following your heart' and not worrying about income.

"I can't wait until the students who listened to this meeting are able to return and explain their opportunities to future students," Fryd says.

"It seems as though the work that I was blessed to participate in during my season at Vanderbilt plowed through my hard heart," says McDonald. "It gave me a new sense of vision and of life that I know I will never shake—that of living outside of myself."

Whether conducting a service-learning class in northern Chile, expanding a language-translation service for patients at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, or organizing a day of community service with universities statewide, McDonald believes you cannot overestimate the value of hands-on experiences.

"Service-learning provides a sphere where we can offer our hand to others, and they can offer theirs to us," she says. "The learning trains students to see more than they would have before, to feel more, to understand more, to appreciate more and to require more. The service that goes along with the classroom education takes the academics into a deeper level."

In her long list of community service projects, one international effort stands out from the rest. "My greatest human rights experience was in Costa Rica when I worked with the United Nations Latin American Institute for Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders. I worked with street children, oppressed women, and persons with mental handicaps. To grant justice, to defend their cause, to give them love, to give them life—that's how to live outside ourselves."

## RESEARCH BRIEFS

**Brainstorm** • Scientists have known for years that, to perceive figures against a busy background, human vision uses color, brightness, and direction of motion. But startling new findings by Professor of Psychology Randolph Blake and graduate student Sang-Hun Lee indicate that the human brain can also use the precise timing of subtle visual changes, even in the absence of any other cues, to group elements into objects. This is "perhaps the most interesting new work in visual psychophysics to come out in the past 10 years," says neuroscientist William Newsome of Stanford University School of Medicine. "They tell us something new and important about what the visual system can do." And that, adds Stanford neuroscientist David Heeger, "opens up the opportunity for trying to measure and understand the underlying neural basis."

**Stress less, live longer** • What are the things in life that affect the process of being old? asks psychology Professor Oakley Ray. His research indicates that the various systems of the human body do not function autonomously from each other, as scientists once thought, and that one key to living longer is to reduce stress in your life. "Age is what's on your driver's license. How old you are is in your head," he says. All of this is elaborated in his new book, *Grandma's Rules for Good Health and Happiness*.

**Spotlight on the Senate** • With all the media attention on the race between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Rudolph Giuliani for one of New York's two U.S. Senate seats, the public might forget that voters in 32 other states will also select senators in the 2000 elections. "Those other races may well be more important," says Bruce Oppenheimer, professor of political science. In his new book, *Sizing Up the Senate: The Unequal Consequences of Equal Representation*, Oppenheimer reports that small-state senators enjoy more advantages than their populous-state colleagues. "The most influential positions in the Senate, those of the party floor leaders, have in recent years been occupied by senators from less populous states," he says. "Because there are so many small-state senators, the Senate designs policies in ways that distribute federal dollars disproportionately to the small states."

## F a c u l t y   N o t e s

### New faculty

**Jay M. Bernstein** has joined the Vanderbilt faculty as the W. Alton Jones Professor of Philosophy. He received his undergraduate honors degree in philosophy from Trinity College in Connecticut and his PhD in philosophy from the University of Edinburgh. A leading world scholar, Bernstein has written extensively on the Frankfurt School, Jürgen Habermas, aesthetics, philosophy of literature, and mass culture.

**Walter J. Chazin**, right, has joined the faculty as professor of biochemistry and director of the new Structural Biology Program, a major initiative that bridges the University and the Medical Center. This new program will involve approximately 12 investigators focusing on atomic resolution in structural biology—detailing molecular structures down to the atomic level. It will also be a resource center promoting molecular research across the campus and will bring computational biology expertise to Vanderbilt for the first time. Chazin comes to Vanderbilt from the Scripps Research Institute in California.



### Kudos

**Cathy L. Jrade**, professor of Spanish and chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, has had her book, *Modernismo, Modernity, and the Development of Spanish American Literature*, recognized by *Choice* magazine as a 1999 Outstanding Academic Title. It was published by the University of Texas Press, Austin, in 1998.

**Joseph H. Hamilton**, Landon C. Garland Distinguished Professor of Physics, and A.V. Ramayya, professor of physics, have received *Doctor Honoris Causa* degrees from

### POET WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Mark Jarman, professor of English, has been awarded the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize for his book, *Questions for Ecclesiastes*. The prize, which includes a \$10,000 award for the most outstanding book of poems published in the United States, was announced in October by the Academy of American Poets and *The Nation* magazine. *Questions for Ecclesiastes*, a book of poetry that deals primarily with issues of religious faith and belief, was also nominated for the National Book Critics Award earlier in 1999.



the faculty of the physics department of Bucharest University for their outstanding contributions to the development of nuclear physics and their longstanding and fruitful scientific cooperation with Romanian scientists.

**Ned A. Porter**, the first holder of the Stevenson Chair in Chemistry, received the prestigious Cope Scholar Award at the American Chemical Society's annual meeting in August. The award includes a \$40,000 unrestricted research grant. Porter is recognized as one of the best physical chemists in the nation. He came to Vanderbilt in the fall of 1998 from Duke University, where he served as James B. Duke Professor of Chemistry.

**Virginia M. Scott**, associate professor of French, has been elected chair of the Department of French and Italian.

The following College of Arts and Science faculty members received awards from Dean Ettore F. Infante at the September A&S faculty meeting: **Karen Campbell**, associate professor of sociology, the Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching; **Molly Miller**, professor of geology, Alumni Outstanding Freshman Adviser Award; **M. Donald Hancock**, professor of political science, the Ernest A. Jones Faculty Award; **Michael Kreyling**, professor of English, the Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award; **Albert Bronstein**, lecturer in mathematics, the Harriet S. Gilliam Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Lecturer.



Virginia Scott

## Marshall Eakin named Tennessee Professor of the Year

Associate Professor of History Marshall Eakin has been named the Tennessee Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

The award was given in recognition of his "extraordinary dedication to teaching, commitment to students, and innovative teaching methods."

Created by CASE in 1981, the U.S. Professors of the Year program is the only national award program that recognizes college and university professors for their teaching.



In the next millennium, computers may use individual molecules for switches, allowing them to shrink to the size of salt grains. Molecular electronics—moletronics—is currently the focus of considerable research worldwide. Vanderbilt physicist **Sokrates T. Pantelides**, left, has acquired a supercomputer valued at \$1.2 million from the IBM Corporation that will allow him to simulate electrical properties of the molecular circuits more effectively. He and members of his research team, **Massimiliano DiVentra**, center, and **Alan Tackett**, are pictured with the new computer.

## Where are they now?

**R**emember that professor who inspired you to choose your life's work? The one who caused you to think differently about something you had always taken for granted? Your most unforgettable character? We want to know who they are. If one of your professors made a lasting impression on you, let us know about her or him. We also welcome your short articles (300 words maximum) about interesting faculty members. Send your nominations or articles by e-mail to [Cornerstone@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Cornerstone@vanderbilt.edu), or by U.S. mail to **A&S Cornerstone**, Box 7703 Station B, Nashville, TN 37235.



VANDERBILT PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

### Celebrating a new millennium and a new century

Many things have changed at Vanderbilt since the beginning of the last century. In 1900, arts and science classes were held in Main Hall (now Kirkland Hall), which sported two towers. A single tower replaced them after a fire destroyed the upper part of the building in 1905.



## BROADENING HORIZONS

■ Several Vanderbilt students flank the Queen Mother of the Ashanti Tribe, center, while participating in the Vanderbilt Study Abroad Program in Ghana during the summer of 1999. Joining them were Vanderbilt Professor Felix Boateng, third from left, director of the program and of the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center at Vanderbilt, and several members of the Queen Mother's entourage at the far left and right of the photo. Vanderbilt's program at the University of Ghana is one of the College's newest Study Abroad Programs.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Seven of the hundreds of trees and shrubs on campus have been designated Tennessee State Champion trees. One, Vanderbilt's bicentennial oak, is more than 250 years old and was growing at the time of the American Revolution.



## VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

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