

ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNEARTH SPLENDID MAYA PALACE



In a remote jungle of Guatemala, Professor Arthur Demarest and his team of Vanderbilt and Guatemalan archeologists have uncovered one of the largest and most elaborate Maya palaces ever discovered. With 170 rooms built around 11 courtyards, it occupies an area larger than two football fields. The palace is located in

the ancient city of Cancuén, which means the Place of Serpents.

"It's a truly amazing palace," says Demarest, the Ingram Professor of Anthropology, who led the discovery team with Tomás Barrientos from the Universidad del Valle in Guatemala (please see sidebar, page 4).

The Cancuén research might cause scholars to revise their views of Maya civilizations, and it has garnered national attention for Demarest. Included in the media attention is the naming of Demarest's find as one of the top science projects of the year 2000 by *Discover* magazine.

While enjoying his "15 minutes of fame,"

(please turn to page 4)

University names new A&S dean

Richard McCarty, executive director of science for the American Psychological Association, will become the new A&S dean July 1, 2001.

McCarty, who is also a professor of psychology and former department chair at the University of Virginia (UVA), said he was interested in coming to Vanderbilt "because it is such an outstanding research institution with aspirations to be even better. It is unusual to find an institution with both high standards and a tremendous base of support."



He succeeds John H. Venable, who became dean of the University's largest college upon the resignation last summer of Ettore "Jim" Infante. Venable agreed to serve as dean while the University conducted a national search for a successor to Infante.

An authority on the physiological and behavioral aspects of stress, McCarty was professor and chair of UVA's psychology department from 1990 to 1998. He has been with the American Psychological Association since 1998. In

1994-95 he was visiting scientist for the Clinical Neuroscience Branch of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

McCarty came to his field of study in a somewhat roundabout way. "I started out to be a biologist," he said, "before becoming interested in psychology." He received his bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in zoology from Old Dominion University before earning a PhD in comparative animal behavior from the Johns Hopkins University.

He spent two years as a research associate in pharmacology with the National Institute of Mental Health before joining UVA in 1978 as an assistant professor of psychology. He also was a senior fellow at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and spent 10 years as behavioral science coordinator for the FBI National Academy.

He is a fellow of numerous professional organizations and serves as editor of the *American Psychologist*.

McCarty plans to teach classes at Vanderbilt but will forego his research. He will make regular trips to the campus during the spring semester to meet faculty and students before assuming the deanship next summer.

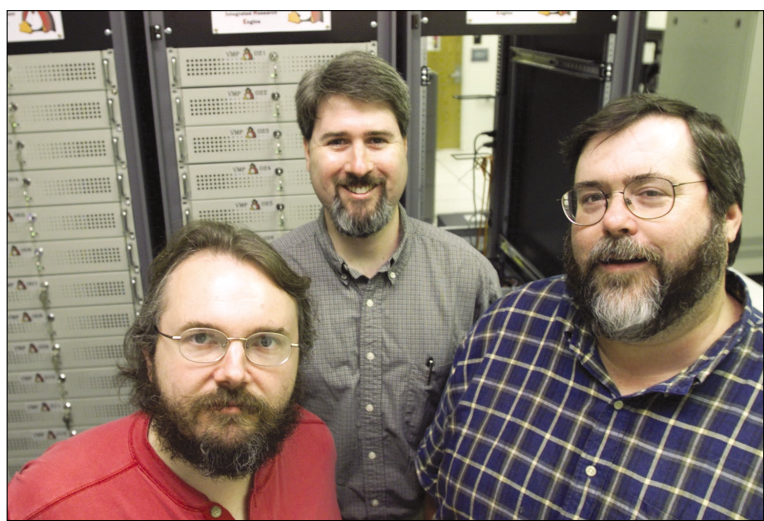
Homebrew supercomputer crunches data at bargain-basement prices

A group of physicists, biologists and computer technicians from the College of Arts and Science and the Medical Center have assembled a powerful supercomputer from off-the-shelf PC parts for a bargain-basement price.

The new number cruncher, named VAMPIRE (Vanderbilt Multiple Processor Integrated Research Engine), will support a huge range of research projects across the campus in physics, medical research, and the Human Genome project, says Paul Sheldon, associate professor of physics and astronomy. Such research could result in better understanding and treatment of Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular illness and diabetes.

In its current configuration, VAMPIRE cost about \$90,000 to build. That is about the same price as a single thin node, or processing unit, for IBM's supercomputer, the IBM RS/6000 SP. In addition, two VAMPIRE nodes are more powerful than a single SP node, says Alan Tackett, the Information Technology Services administrator who manages the new machine. VAMPIRE received funding from A&S, Medical Center and University Discovery Grants, and funds from the individual investigators.

Sheldon spearheaded the project along with Jason Moore, assistant professor of molecular physiology and biophysics, and Will Johns, assistant professor of physics and astrono-



The VAMPIRE crew, left to right: Professors Will Johns, Jason Moore, and Paul Sheldon

my. Johns and Sheldon decided to build the supercomputer to support the research that they are conducting at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Ill. They are studying the behavior of quarks, the tiny particles that make up the protons and neutrons that reside in the nucleus of the atom.

"VAMPIRE provides campus investigators with an invaluable research tool," says Sheldon. "It will allow them to compete successfully for research projects that involve intensive computation, as well as bringing increased funding specifically targeted to support computer facilities to campus."

Diversity with Distinction

For half a century, Vanderbilt center has devoted itself to Latin American culture

Last August, Jane Landers, associate professor of history, became director of the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies, making her the first woman to lead the center in its 53-year history. Kurt Weyland, a political scientist, is the new associate director.

Their appointments coincided with a *Gourman Report* that ranked the center's undergraduate program eighth in the nation.

In 1947, Brazil's president Eurico Dutra inaugurated the A&S center as one of the first four permanent university centers on Latin America in the U.S. Today, it is the oldest, largest and best-supported area studies program at Vanderbilt, with leading scholars from the anthropology, fine arts, history, political science, Portuguese, sociology and Spanish departments.

One of Landers' primary goals, she says, is "to build upon the center's reputation, bringing it to even higher levels of excellence."

"By bringing people of different backgrounds together from Vanderbilt, Nashville and the greater U.S. and Latin American communities," she says, "the center can pave the way to a stronger commitment to diversity at Vanderbilt."

Learning while serving

Landers hopes to expand upon the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies' tradition of diversity through a new service-learning project, developed by former associate director Marshall Eakin, professor of history.

"Last fall we started a year-long faculty development sem-

inar with 12 faculty members from all schools of the university," Eakin says. "It will be held each year for the next three years and will specifically help faculty understand service-learning and develop their own courses."

The seminar is funded by an \$87,000 grant from the Corporation for National Service, which Eakin obtained while with the center.

The project will also "provide students with an opportunity to combine academic learning with hands-on experience by working with Nashville's Hispanic community," Landers says.

There are currently only a few service-learning courses at Vanderbilt, but Eakin hopes the seminar will increase their number.

In addition to Eakin, who has taught a service-learning course on Chile, a few other A&S faculty members have already incorporated service-learning into their courses. They include Professor of Sociology Gary Jensen, who has developed a criminology course, and Professor Emeritus Melvin Joesten, who has offered service-learning courses in chemistry. Richard Pride, associate professor of political science, and Paula Arai, assistant professor of religious studies, also are developing courses in their fields, Eakin says.

(Please see related article page 6.)



In October, Jane Landers, left, director of Vanderbilt's Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies, welcomed Jesús Reyes-Heróles, the Mexican ambassador to the United States, as part of the center's speaker's series.

Alumnus, student win Fulbright Fellowships

Two prestigious Fulbright Fellowships, the government's premier scholarship program for overseas studies, have been awarded this year to a recent Vanderbilt graduate and a current student.

Mark Pettus, BA'00, is currently studying in Russia. Rhonda Collier, a doctoral candidate in comparative literature, will study for a year in Brazil.

"National competition for these fellowships is extremely sharp, and Vanderbilt is fortunate to have two representatives among the award recipients," said Joel Harrington, associate professor of history, director of the Center for European Studies and Fulbright Program adviser. "International exchanges of all kinds are fundamental to the liberal arts mission of the college as well as to the University's goal of nurturing future national and global leaders."

Pettus, a native of Franklin, Tennessee, whose undergraduate majors were history and German, is currently studying Russian language and litera-

ture at St. Petersburg State University, with a special focus on the theme of political dissent in the lives and writings of Dostoyevsky and Solzhenitsyn.

Collier, a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, received a BS degree in engineering from the University of Tennessee in 1991. She also received a master's degree in engineering from Georgia Tech and has worked for six years as a health systems engineer for General Electric. Fluent in Portuguese, she will conduct a comparative analysis of Afro-Brazilian, Afro-Cuban, and Afro-American women's poetry at the Universidade de São Paulo.

The Fulbright Program was created by an act of Congress after World War II in order to promote mutual understanding among nations through educational and cultural exchanges. Today it enables more than 800 American students, artists and other professionals to study and conduct research in more than 100 countries.



Rhonda Collier



Mark Pettus

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

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

www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/publications/cornerstone.html

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ON THE COVER

Photos of Maya sculptures by Christopher Talbot, National Geographic Society

DID YOU KNOW?



The College of Arts and Science offers majors in more than 25 fields and 15 interdisciplinary majors. Students may also design their own major with approval of the dean.

(*Maya Palace, continued from page 1*)
Demarest says he is most excited about the opportunity to help preserve the ancient site and also provide economic support for the modern Maya.

It's the economy, sweetheart

The Cancuén palace rivals the buildings at the central acropolis in Tikal, one of the grandest seats of Maya power in Guatemala, Demarest says. Earlier expeditions either overlooked or underestimated the size and grandeur of the palace and the city around it, a prosperous center of commerce and crafts at the head of the Pasión River.

"It is an extraordinarily important find," David Freidel, a Maya studies specialist at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, said in a *New York Times* article. "It's been a long time since a major palace complex has come to light. A scientific investigation of the ruins should help us understand political life in the late classic period of the Maya."

The site has already produced one surprise: commerce, rather than warfare or religion, seems

to have been the basis of power in this kingdom. The occupants traded principally in jade, pyrite for making mirrors, and obsidian for razor and knife blades. Thousands of people appeared to live at the center during its peak.

"Even the workmen at Cancuén were well-to-do," Demarest says. "They had teeth filled with jade inlays and were buried with fine ceramic figurines with beautiful headdresses."

These discoveries may cause scholars to reconsider their ideas about the Maya civilization, Demarest says. "I have a book in press that I'll have to revise," he notes wryly.

Real-life Indiana Jones

Demarest has spent the last decade at Dos Pilas and other sites in northern Guatemala, where he found evidence of a highly militaristic kingdom called Petexbatún. He decided to visit Cancuén last year to follow up a lead. Members of his team had found records of a marriage alliance between a Dos Pilas prince and a Cancuén princess.

Demarest literally fell into the palace at Cancuén. "To the untrained eye, the palace looks just like a great, jungle-covered hill," he says. While walking along the ruin's highest level, he fell up to his armpits into vegetation filling one of the courtyards. "I immediately heard the snakes moving around," he says, adding that he had to remain absolutely still until they quieted down and then slowly climb to the top again, inch by inch.

"That's when I realized this hill was the third story of the palace, and we were walking on top of the roof," he explains.

Further archeological study and development of the site is being carried out under the auspices of Vanderbilt's Institute of Mesoamerican Archaeology, which Demarest heads. Among those funding his work are Vanderbilt University and its College of Arts and Science, the American Philosophical Society, the Guatemalan Institute of Anthropology and History, and the National Geographic Society.

Saving the Maya, rain forest

"Archaeologists can't just keep excavating ancient Maya ruins while the modern Maya settlements nearby are starving," Demarest says. This sentiment has led him to use the publicity about the royal palace at Cancuén to test a new approach to archaeological preservation that not only will protect the ancient site, but will also provide eco-



Arthur Demarest, the Ingram Professor of Anthropology, left, and George Higginbotham, a Vanderbilt graduate student, right, are excavating a three-story, 170-room palace at Cancuén, Guatemala. Alejandro Seijas, center, is an undergraduate at the Universidad del Valle in that country.

nomie support for the modern Maya villagers who live in the area.

Demarest is attempting to raise sufficient private funding to recreate the former splendor of the huge, labyrinthine palace and make it the centerpiece of a new ecotourism center.

"We hope this project will create a model for future archaeological research in developing countries—and especially for the Maya area," he says, "using the ancient treasures of the Maya civilization to benefit their descendants."

His plans call for an educational program that will train members of the local village in the various skills needed to operate an ecotourism center and to preserve and protect the site. He also hopes to recruit Guatemalan medical students to provide health care for the villagers.

Demarest has taken the first step toward this goal by contracting a nearby village of modern Maya K'ekchi people to protect the site from looters.

His efforts have the support of Guatemala's new minister of culture, Otilia Lux de Coti, a native Quiche Maya. She has said that she would like to see more projects that will help the modern Maya discover and benefit from their great ancient heritage.

— David Salisbury



State of the College

Dean Venable discusses the strengths and challenges facing A&S

The College of Arts and Science recently named Richard McCarty as dean, to replace Ettore F. Infante, who retired last summer. John H. Venable, associate professor of molecular biology and associate provost, agreed to serve as dean until McCarty takes office on July 1, 2001. We spoke with Venable recently about the strengths and challenges facing the college today. Here is an excerpt from that discussion:

A&S Cornerstone: What are the major challenges facing the College of Arts and Science today?

Dean Venable: In one of the first conversations I had with our new chancellor, Gordon Gee, he asked me what I consider the toughest challenge facing the college. My answer was "maintaining the optimal balance between teaching and research."

A&S Cornerstone: How is that balance being accomplished?

Dean Venable: There is no magic solution, but there are a number of things we know we have to do. We start with the appointment of faculty members who, by their training and personality, are likely to sustain an interest in both undergraduate teaching and research throughout their careers. Then we need to reinforce the faculty in both endeavors through various means that let them know that both teaching and research continue to be valued. Teaching and research awards are just one of the numerous ways to send this message. We must continue to require excellence in both teaching and research for promotion, tenure, and salary advancement. Finally, we provide assistance to faculty members in both teaching and research through, for example, the Center for Teaching and research leaves. Still, teaching and research are in a delicate balance that requires an ongoing commitment and attention on the part of the faculty and administrators.

A&S Cornerstone: What do you see as the major strengths of the college?

Dean Venable: One of our great strengths, something relatively rare among the top schools with whom we compete, is that all of our regular faculty members teach, and they teach undergraduates—regardless of how many research accolades they have garnered. As former Dean Jacque Voegeli once put it, "We teach undergraduates willingly, and we teach them well."

Another strength is directly related to balancing teaching and research. At Vanderbilt, we provide our students the advantages of attending a small liberal arts college within a research university, where they encounter and even participate in pathbreaking research. This is something that liberal arts colleges cannot do to the same extent.



Although the campus continues to change with the construction of new buildings, some things, like Kirkland and Alumni Halls, provide continuity for the college and its people.

A&S Cornerstone: For the past three years, the college and the other schools of the University have been engaged in developing a strategic plan for the future. Although the process is still underway, what can you tell us about that plan?

Dean Venable: Our first goal is to renew our commitment to provide undergraduate students with an outstanding education. Next, we need to increase our efforts to advance some of our graduate and research programs.

Graduate education, while important in its own right, also contributes to strengthening undergraduate education in several important ways. First, a strong graduate program is a major factor in helping us attract and keep outstanding faculty. Our faculty places a high value on having top quality, engaged graduate students who stimulate and challenge them, and with whom they can develop mentor/apprentice relationships. These faculty members will also teach undergraduates.

Secondly, graduate students enormously enrich the academic environment for undergraduates. In terms of sophistication, knowledge, and maturity, graduate students bridge the gap between undergraduates and the faculty. They often can communicate with younger students more easily and on more equal terms.

What graduate students cannot do at Vanderbilt, of course, is replace the faculty. But they can

mentor undergraduate students and help them pursue their own research projects.

Stronger graduate programs will also benefit undergraduates and the college generally through improved and expanded facilities. A case in point is the new Biological Sciences/Medical Research Building III, which is now under construction near Stevenson Center. Designed to house a community of scientists with shared interests, the building combines facilities for the study of genetics, neurobiology, and structural biology—to cite three areas—jointly undertaken by faculty members in several medical school departments and our Department of Biological Sciences. The building differs from conventional research structures by incorporating classrooms and laboratories where undergraduate students will learn in proximity to renowned researchers and graduate students.

A&S Cornerstone: You mentioned the biological sciences as an area of interdisciplinary research programs. Are there others under way in the college?

Dean Venable: One of the college's strongest and most promising interdisciplinary programs is the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies (please see related story, page 3). Probably more A&S departments participate in that center than any other, from history, to political science, to anthropology and even the sciences. We hope to expand the vision and influence of this center by recruiting several outstanding faculty members in the humanities and social sciences. They will complement the outstanding scholars we already have on the faculty, such as Arthur Demarest, Ingram Professor of Anthropology (please see related article, page 1).

We also have strong interdisciplinary research in psychology. Professors Jon Kaas, Jeff Schall, and Randolph Blake are international leaders in the field of neuroscience. They are collaborating with scientists in the medical center and the Kennedy Center to unlock secrets of the brain and develop our understanding of it to the point that better treatments for disorders such as schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease can be found (please see related article on Professor Blake, page 7).

We could not attract faculty of the stature of Arthur Demarest and Jon Kaas if we could not offer them endowed chairs. Gifts from alumni for faculty chairs and scholarships for outstanding students are vitally important in strengthening the College of Arts and Science.



John H. Venable

Eye on the sky

Francille Bergquist, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science, likes the idea of people looking in the sky where her brother loved to fly. That's why she and her family donated a new telescope to the university in his memory. Eric Bergquist was a 24-year-old Army helicopter pilot who was shot down in Vietnam in 1969.

"My brother loved to fly," says Dean Bergquist, adding that he enlisted in the army because he believed in the cause and it gave him the opportunity to fly.



A&S Associate Dean Francille Bergquist looks through the new telescope that she and her family donated to Vanderbilt in memory of her brother, Eric. Looking on is Eric's widow, Gae Nell Bergquist Trommald.

The 14-inch-diameter telescope has been mounted in its own dome at Dyer Observatory. Although not as large as the observatory's main telescope, it will serve many useful purposes, says Douglas S. Hall, professor of astronomy and director of the observatory.

"This [gift] will help us branch out to make Vanderbilt's riches and treasure more available to the broader public," Hall says.

Bergquist says giving the telescope, which cost \$15,000, is a positive way to memorialize her brother.

"I want it to be used to open up people's ideas of the universe, especially children," she says. "Eric was always exploring. He was never afraid to try something new."

The new Bergquist C14 telescope can be seen at the observatory's Web site: www.dyer.vanderbilt.edu

Donors give \$12.7 million to A&S

At the close of Vanderbilt's fiscal year on June 30, alumni and other friends had contributed \$12.7 million to the College of Arts and Science. Those gifts included more than \$1.46 million for endowed scholarships, \$3.75 million for endowed professorships, and \$935,000 for endowed teaching fellowships.

Contributions to the Studio Arts Building totaled \$1.69 million, bringing the total amount contributed for that project to \$3.1 million. Donors added about \$6.9 million to the A&S endowment, which now totals \$280 million.

Twenty-one percent of the 31,000 A&S alumni contributed to the college, and another 11 percent supported

Connecting hearts and minds

The young woman listened intently to the small child as he described the drawing he was making. Carefully she drew him out, encouraging his efforts. Patricia "Peachy" Myers was in her element—helping others.

A four-year Ingram Scholar, Myers received her BA degree with honors during Commencement 2000. Today, as an employee of Americorps-Vista for the Massachusetts Campus Compact in Boston, she helps college professors integrate service-learning into their classes at the University of Massachusetts-Boston and Bunker Hill Community College.

"Service-learning," she explains, "involves applying classroom knowledge within the community, helping to meet real needs, and then bringing that valuable experience back into the academic setting. It deepens student learning in any discipline and has the power to transform institutions of higher education into true community partners."

The middle child of a hospice nurse and an engineering professor from Rolla, Missouri, Myers learned the value of service early in life from her parents. "We grew up knowing that service ought to be part of everyone's life," she explains.

Among her many volunteer activities at Vanderbilt, Myers designed a creative arts enrichment program called V.E.R.S.E.S. (individual Exploration & creative Self Expression) for youth who live in Nashville public housing.

In her senior sociology honors thesis, Myers set out her view of service-learning and its possibilities for A&S: "While service is generally reserved for the sphere of the human heart and learning is usually restricted to activities of the mind," she wrote, "the basic aim of service-learning is to combine both elements in a more powerful pedagogy." (Please see related article, page 3.)

While an undergraduate, Patricia "Peachy" Myers, BA'00, started VERSES, an art program for youngsters who live in Nashville public housing.



other parts of the University. Members of the College Cabinet, the A&S donor society made up of those giving \$1,000 or more to the college, contributed 67 percent or \$1.64 million of the unrestricted funds, the largest amount in the school's history. Membership in the cabinet climbed to 863, the highest since its founding 25 years ago.

"We can never overstate the crucial role of our alumni and other friends in the ongoing process of strengthening the college," said Dean John H. Venable. "Their continued support is vital as we increasingly find ourselves competing with liberal arts colleges who have a much larger endowment per student than we do."

RESEARCH BRIEFS

How they voted • Religious commitment and doctrinal conservatism have become increasingly important predictors of how Americans vote and the party with which they identify, according to Geoff Layman, assistant professor of political science. In his new book, *The Great Divide: Religious and Cultural Conflict in American Party Politics*, published by Columbia University Press, he says that American political parties are becoming increasingly divided along the lines of a new religious and cultural cleavage. "The Republican Party is becoming the home of religious and cultural traditionalists," he says, "while the Democratic Party grows increasingly attractive to religious liberals and secular individuals."

Attacking free radicals • Everyday events like exposure to sunlight and normal processes like respiration can generate free radicals in the body, says Ned Porter, Stevenson Professor of Chemistry.

"My group and I try to understand how these organic free radicals react with oxygen and how antioxidants like vitamins C and E can affect and even stop this reaction," Porter says.

Researchers know that free radicals attack low-density lipoprotein (LDL or so-called "bad cholesterol.") Porter believes this process may be critical to the development of arterial plaque that can lead to heart attacks and strokes.

"We've shown that vitamin E slows this reaction, but also affects the kinds and amounts of product formed...which can be more damaging. We don't know yet what kind of disorders might be related to free radical reactions," Porter recently received the prestigious Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award from the American Chemical Society for his groundbreaking research.

Christian witnesses • Joel Harrington, associate professor of history, has written a new book on the history of Christianity titled *A Cloud of Witnesses: Readings in the History of Western Christianity*. The book takes a unique approach, introducing the reader to the works of more than 100 men and women from Christianity's past and present.

"It not only includes writings by such well-known Christian authors as St. Augustine, Martin Luther, and John Calvin," he says, "but also lesser known figures, including previously unknown or ignored women." As a result, it makes 2,000 years of Christian ideas and practices accessible to the average reader. The book is, Harrington notes, "the ideal introduction to the history of Western Christianity."

Kudos

Jimmie L. Franklin, professor of history, received the 2000 Jefferson Award, the third major honor during his distinguished Vanderbilt career. He also received the Madison Sarratt Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 1993 and the Chancellor's Cup in 1990. The Jefferson Award honors a faculty member who exemplifies service to the University based on the character, work, influence, principles, and ideals of Thomas Jefferson. Franklin celebrates his award with his wife, Golda, at left.



Assistant Professor of English **Tony Earley** has completed his first novel, *Jim the Boy*. It has received excellent reviews in newspapers and magazines, and it appeared on the cover of the *New York Times Book Review*. Earley is the author of a book of stories, *Here We Are in Paradise*. A book of his essays, *Somehow Form a Family*, will be published by Algonquin Press in April.

Robert Drews, professor of classics and of history, organized an international conference last spring at the University of Richmond, where he was the National Endowment for the Humanities Visiting Professor of Classical Studies. The colloquium, titled "Greater Anatolia and the Indo-Hittite Language Family," brought together a number of prominent scholars of the archaeology and languages of Anatolia, the part of Turkey comprising the peninsula of Asia Minor.



Samuel T. McSeveney, associate professor of history, received the 2000 Chancellor's Cup. This award is given annually for the "greatest contribution outside the classroom to undergraduate student-faculty relationships in the recent past." The award was established in 1963 by the Nashville Vanderbilt Club. McSeveney, at left in the photo above, received the award from Jim Littlejohn, BE'76, club president, and Chancellor Gee.

Professor of political science **Bruce Oppenheimer** and one of his former students, **Frances Lee**, PhD'97, have won the prestigious D.B. Hardeman Prize for their book *Sizing Up the Senate: The Unequal Consequences of Equal Representation* (University of Chicago Press). Lee is now an assistant professor of political science at Case Western University. The Hardeman Prize is funded with a grant from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation, and entries are judged on the importance of their contribution to scholarship, originality, and depth of research. The book was cited as the best book published in 1999 on a congressional topic.

Twenty-five years of dedicated service

Vanderbilt has recognized the following faculty members who recently completed 25 years of full-time service to the University:



Roy K. Gottfried, professor of English



Thomas A. Gregor, professor and chair of anthropology and professor of religious studies



Charles F. Maguire, professor of physics



Joel Barton Tellinghuisen, professor of chemistry

Noted neuroscientist receives Sutherland Prize

Centennial Professor of Psychology Randolph Blake, a national leader in neuroscience research, particularly in visual perception and cognition, received the Earl Sutherland Prize in November.

Blake is well known for his work on binocular perception—how the brain combines information from the two eyes. He is considered a world expert on binocular rivalry, the perceptual competition that occurs between the two eyes when the images in each eye are different. Besides shedding light on normal vision, this work has practical implications for understanding visual disorders. His most recent research focuses on how the brain assembles pieces of visual information into meaningful perceptions of objects and events. This work could eventually shed light on developmental disabilities such as dyslexia.

A fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Psychological Society, Blake has been called "an international leader in visual psychophysics and visual neuroscience" by William T. Newsome, professor of neurobiology at Stanford University.

Blake is also adept at creatively communicating brain science to non-scientists. He co-authored with Robert Sekuler of Brandeis University the book, *Star Trek on the Brain: Alien Minds, Human Minds*, in which they use "Star Trek" episodes and movies to explain the neurological and psychological basis of human behavior. They also wrote a seminal textbook, *Perception*, now in its third edition.

Blake came to Vanderbilt from Northwestern University in 1988 as chair of the psychology department and continued in that role until 1996. He was awarded the title of Centennial Professor last fall.

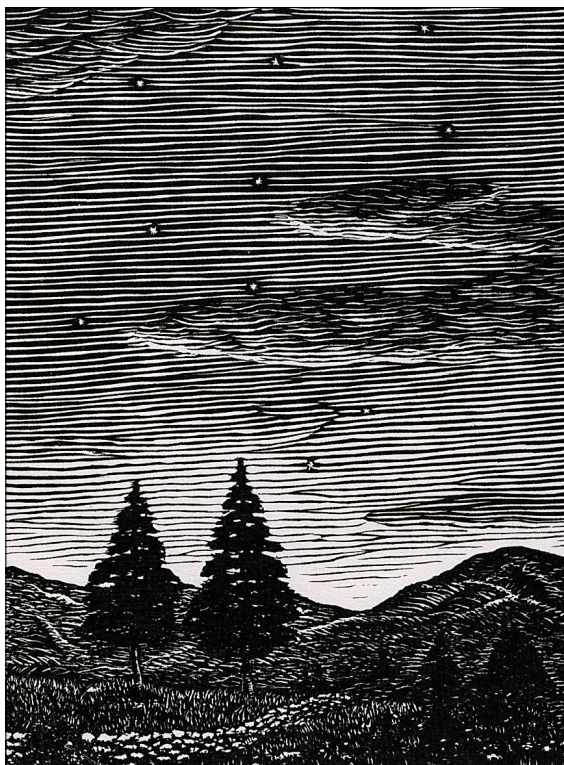
The Sutherland Prize, established in 1976, is named for Vanderbilt's late Nobel laureate, Earl W. Sutherland Jr., who won the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in 1971. More than half of those receiving the Sutherland Prize since its inception have been A&S faculty members.



New appointments

Paul Edelman, a distinguished mathematician, has joined the faculty as professor of mathematics, with a secondary appointment in the School of Law. His expertise is in the ways mathematics can inform a variety of legal issues.





COURTESY OF THE CHILDREN OF J.J. LANKES

A Shared Vision of America

The Fine Arts Gallery is presenting a special treat for Parent's Weekend: the first-ever exhibition of Robert Frost's poetry with woodcut illustrations by J.J. Lankes. The exhibit will open March 31 and run through June 15.

Drawn primarily from the extensive private collection of Patrick J. Alger, a Nashville collector, the exhibition will present rare first editions of Frost's poetry, each containing woodcut illustrations by Lankes, as well as a large selection of his original woodcuts.

"Exhibited for the first time, this remarkable collection will reveal a vignette of a rural America that is both simple, yet eloquent," says Joseph Mella, curator of the gallery.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

The Vanderbilt Alumni Association has named Antonio Gotto, BA'57, MD'65, right, Distinguished Alumnus for the year 2000. Dean of Cornell University's Medical School, Gotto is one of the world's foremost authorities on atherosclerosis, the primary cause of cardiovascular disease. He is also the author of several popular books, including The New Living Heart Cookbook and The New Living Heart Diet. Presenting Gotto with the award are Wayne Hyatt, BA'65, JD'68, left, and Chancellor Gordon Gee.



TOMMY LAMSON

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

As associate dean of the College of Arts and Science from 1973 to 1985, Ruth Grace Zibart, MA'42, advised and counseled many students concerning their academic careers. After each counseling session, she would write a summary on the student's interview card.



Ruth Zibart

"Dean Zibart was famous for her humorous, insightful, and wise counsel, as well as for a wonderful use and appreciation for the English language," says Francille Bergquist, who worked with Zibart. Here are a few of Dean Zibart's more 'famous' lines:

- About a student who was considering a transfer to another school: "Initially counseled student to stay, then urged to go."
- Concerning a student who came to her office wearing earphones: "He came in wired for sound."
- About a student that she had difficulty getting out of her office: "Came to talk, stayed to pray."

In addition to her administrative duties, Dean Zibart also taught in the French department. She became a student again at age 40, earning her PhD degree in French literature from the University of Michigan.

When her late husband, Alan, died in 1995 after a long illness, she began to travel abroad, making trips to Panama, Scandinavia, Italy, Hong Kong and Bali. She continues to live in Nashville and is actively involved with her two granddaughters and 15 great-nieces and great-nephews.

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