It has become almost a cliché to say that the United States was irreversibly changed on Sept. 11, 2001. On that day, America’s illusions that two great oceans could protect the mainland from international aggression were shattered along with an estimated 3,000 lives.

Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff were shocked and saddened by the attacks and concerned by the war that followed. Along with the rest of the country, they went about their daily lives with the threat of biological and chemical terrorism hanging over their heads. Going to class, teaching and learning, working on research projects, writing papers and studying texts were antidotes for anxiety. Acts of patriotism and hope in the future helped, too.

Scholarship and teaching combined to make...
Paul Sheldon, associate professor of physics at Vanderbilt, heads the project to solve the technical problems presented by the BICEP “trigger system.” That system will have applications for automatically identifying and recording potentially interesting astrophysical events. The five-year grant is part of a $515 million program in information technology research announced by the National Science Foundation. According to NSF, the purpose of the award is “to preserve America’s position as the world leader of computer science and its applications.” Projects were specifically selected that could have commercial applications.

Possible applications of the Fermilab project include autonomous vehicle navigation, air traffic control systems, global weather monitoring and disaster surveillance, highly available Internet services, computer vision systems, and turbine engine and rocket motor monitoring.

College faculty members receive $21 million in research funds

T
en on 15 years from now, if auto manufacturers begin offering guidance systems that allow your car to drive automatically to and from work, you may have an ambitious new computer science project at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) in Batavia, Ill., to thank. A research group of physicists, computer scientists and electrical engineers from Vanderbilt, Syracuse University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and the Fermilab has received a grant of $4.98 million to develop an advanced computer system. The system must be capable of scanning terabytes (thousands of billions of bytes) of information produced by the detector in a new high-energy physics experiment, called BICEP. Not only must the system identify the exceedingly rare interactions that the physicists are interested in, but it must also be exception-ally reliable and easy to maintain and upgrade.

Fermilab: Tevatron is the site of a $4.98 million high-energy physics experiment that may result in a variety of practical applications such as autonomous vehicle navigation.

Fermilab, announced by the National Science Foundation. According to NSF, the purpose of the award is “to preserve America’s position as the world leader of computer science and its applications.” Projects were specifically selected that could have commercial applications.

High-energy physics experiment may benefit car, aircraft navigation

T he Astronomical League and its fellow stargazers are mounting an ambitious project to provide U.S. students in K-12 with access to a network of remotely operated telescopes in sites around the globe. Vanderbilt’s Dyer Observatory is slated to play a central role in the effort and will serve as the control and download center of the network. Vanderbilt will provide observational space for a satellite dish that will communicate with the telescopes. The University will also maintain a computer server that will upload control sequences to the telescopes, download the astronomical images that they produce, store the images until they can be transferred to a permanent storage facility, and host the Web site that will take requests for observations and disseminate the images to par-ticipating teachers and stu-dents. The initial phase of the project involves setting up a remotely operated telescope in Arizona, with future sites con-temporized in New Zealand and Saudi Arabia. The required communica-tion equipment will be installed at Dyer Observatory over the next few months. The ultimate goal of the project is to mount a similar setup at four universities. Vanderbilt psychology ranked 9th nationally in the amount of funding it received from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) during the same time period. Psychology’s total included the combined efforts of psychol-ogy faculty and graduate students in arts and Peabody College.

“This is the fourth year in a row of increased research revenue for the College of Arts and Science,” Professor Hall said. “It takes great ideas, hard work and well-written proposals to win extramural funding in today’s com-petitive world. The continuing increase in new research funding could not occur were it not for our faculty’s creativity, talent and effort.”

Appointed in June 2008, Hall came to Vanderbilt full-time last July after 20 years on the faculty of the University of Rochester in New York, where he was William F. May Professor. During the past seven years, he directed the university’s Institute of Optics. Professor Hall received the PhD degree in physics in 1976 from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and conducted his dissertation research at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He also has appointments as professor of electrical engineering and computer science at Vanderbilt.

Vanderbilt on ‘hot’ list

Vanderbilt has performed well in several recent national rankings. U.S. News & World Report ranked Vanderbilt 21st in the magazine’s survey of the nation’s best universities. This is the 12th year that Vanderbilt has been chosen by U.S. News as one of the nation’s top 25 universities. In a report released last fall, Newsweek/Kaplan listed the University atop eight other colleges and universi-ties deemed to be “America’s Hot Schools.”

What makes schools like Vanderbilt, Emory, and Tulane “hot”? Primary con-sideration was the number of students competing for admission. According to Bill Shain, dean of undergraduate admissions, applications to Vanderbilt’s undergraduate schools increased by 14.7 percent from 1999 to 2001. As the University’s largest school, the College of Arts and Science enrolled 909 students in the Class of 2005, out of 7,000 applicants.
W hen Richard Wallman, BE’73, and his wife, Amy, chose to endow a scholarship at Vanderbilt, they did so not in the Engineering School from which Richard was graduated, but in A&S, which is his mother, Dorothy Niederhauser Wallman, BA’39, attended.

Wallman, the chief financial officer of Hon-eywell, and his wife, said that giving the scholarship was important give the same educational opportunity that his mother had enjoyed to other young women from Nashville. The scholarship honors Dorothy Wallman, who died in 1997.

“She thought that Vanderbilt was the best school in the country—and the equal of any,” Richard Wallman said.

Dorothy’s three sisters also attended Vanderbilt, and her daughter and Richard’s sister, Lyne Wallman Reed, earned a master of science degree in engineering. Jessica King is the scholarship’s first recipient. “My moth-er and I are overwhelmed with appreciation for Mr. and Mrs. Wallman,” said King, a junior majoring in sociology and Spanish. “As recipients of such a generous gift, we have been convic-ted even more of our need to give back to the community. We really hope to give others the same joy that we have so appreciatively received.”

King, whose academic work earned her membership in the prestigious Gamma Beta Phi social fraternity, is also a member of Alpha Omicron Pi’s sorority and a Young Life vol-unteer at Nashville’s McCardle High School. She also works part-time at a local restaurant.

After receiving his Vanderbilt degree in electrical engineering, Richard Wallman earned an MBA from the University of Chicago, where he met Amy, who also earned an MBA there. He worked for Ford and Chrysler before becoming controller at IBM. Since 1995, he has been the CFO at AlliedSignal, and subsequently Honeywell, after the two companies merged. Amy has been a partner with Ernst and Young for 17 years.

“We established the scholarship to honor my mother, because she loved Vanderbilt so much,” Wallman said. “It’s hard to imagine what a great feeling you have when your children have had a positive impact on somebody’s life. It certainly helps that Jessica is a wonderful person.”

“What I particularly like about the scholarship is that it is an endowed scholarship that will help students for years and years to come,” he continued.

“The one request that we made is for the recipients to give us an update once a year on how they’re doing. When you’ve helped somebody in their life, it’s a won-derful feeling.”

Students visit Cuba

T hrough a recent change in U.S. policy, licensed cultural organizations may now travel to Cuba. The Vanderbilt Alum-ni Association is sponsoring a tour in February 2002, led by Associate Professor Jane Landers, director of the Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies (please see related arti-cle, page 11). Among the sites they visited was the “Prehistory Mural (Mural de la Prehistoria)” painted by a farm worker following the 1959 Cuban revolution.
important contributions to understanding what happened and why. “The best response to fear has always been knowledge,” said A&S Dean Richard McCarty. “The study of the liberal arts and sciences serve to counteract the forces of ignorance, hatred and violence.”

Studying War and Terrorism

Many A&S professors with expertise in the Middle East, Islam, war and terrorism have incorporated those current topics into their classes. They include political scientists, historians, philosophers, economists, anthropologists and classics professors. As is characteristic of those who study and teach the liberal arts, their views are not uniform. Each brings a unique perspective to the issues. Here are the views of two faculty members: a political scientist and a philosopher.

Speaking about terrorism

Many A&S professors have spoken out about the war and terrorism, either in the media or in their classes. Here is a sampling of what they’re saying:

• “This is a big shock to the American psyche because we have led such sheltered, protected lives of wealth, privilege and such safety. I see that in my students’ eyes. They are looking at the world very differently. This really is without precedent.” Jeremy Black, professor and chair of economics, quoted in the Wall Street Journal on how the terrorist attacks differ from past disasters.

• “Any group we support must be committed to restoring human rights for girls and women—rights to education, medical care and participation in public life.” Beth Costello, associate professor of anthropology, quoted in the Tennnessean on U.S. foreign policy.

• “The Arab-Israeli conflict has proved to be one of the most intractable international issues since World War II. Most Arabs perceive the United States as the primary benefactor of Israel. The facts are that we have also supported Arabs in Kuwait and Muslims in Kosovo. A just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict will go far toward helping the American image among Arabs.” Bill Longwell, director of the Materials Laboratory and expert lecturer in history, who taught a freshman seminar last fall on the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

• “I want to impress upon my students the volatility of expectations and how they can generate severe market fluctuations. As long as we continue to have successful military efforts, confidence will continue to come back and markets will continue to respond. But if another attack were to occur on the magnitude of the [World Trade Center], there will be a devastating effect on consumer confidence.” Peter Reusen, assistant professor of economics, who modified the curriculum of his class, “Financial Instruments and Capital Markets,” to feature the U.S. economy in light of the terrorist attacks.

• “The greatest value [of the course, ‘The Ancient Origins of Religious Conflict in the Middle East’] might be in the principle it demonstrates so well: the enduring value of a liberal arts education. World events have helped to make it easy to see why studying the ancient roots of modern religion and culture in the Middle East—the focus in this case—can be so important to understanding the world in which we live.”

Professor James Lee Ray is a political scientist whose field of expertise includes international politics, international conflict, U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and terrorism. The author of Global Politics, he was recently elected president of the Peace Science Society.

This may be the most serious international crisis on which I have commented over the years, especially for the United States. The longer I look at it, the more I believe it may be wiser to treat the attacks as a crime rather than an act of war.

The best way to fight terrorism is with police work, arrests, increased intelligence and counter intelligence, surveillance, investigation of assets, diplomacy and better domestic security. We have to ask ourselves from a terrorist’s point of view, “What other kinds of threats are most likely and how can we protect ourselves?”

Terrorism is violence for political purposes by non-state actors, such as Osama bin Laden’s organization. In the last 10 years states may have become less important and influential, while non-territorial, non-governmental actors like Al Qaeda have probably become more important.

Some people erroneously think that terrorist violence is pointless, or just an emotional striking out, but it’s clear that it sometimes has the potential to be useful politically. From bin Laden’s point of view, the U.S. could overreact and that could provide a backlash that would serve his political purposes. Let’s say that the U.S. kills thousands of innocent Afghans in a bombing campaign. That would inflame the passions of Islamic groups in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt or even Indonesia, which is the largest Islamic country in the world. There’s always the danger that [the war] will get out of hand and provoke some kind of backlash leading to governmental changes in all of those countries that would be beneficial for Al Qaeda, and very detrimental to the United States. This is the main danger stemming from too much emphasis on the conflict as a “war,” and too little emphasis on “crime fighting.”

The Arab world has three main grievances: first, Osama bin Laden is angry about American troops on Saudi soil, where the most sacred Islamic shrines are located. Second, the issue that has contributed more than anything else to terrorism is the saying that any or all of these things justify the attacks of September 11, or that the U.S. should respond, for example, “This is the largest Islamic country in the world. There’s always the danger that [the war] will get out of hand and provoke some kind of backlash leading to governmental changes in all of those countries that would be beneficial for Al Qaeda, and very detrimental to the United States. This is the main danger stemming from too much emphasis on the conflict as a “war,” and too little emphasis on “crime fighting.”

The Arab world has three main grievances: first, Osama bin Laden is angry about American troops on Saudi soil, where the most sacred Islamic shrines are located. Second, the issue that antigamates the largest number of Arabs, I suppose, is U.S. support of Israel, which also involves foreign aid to Egypt, making it the second largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid after Israel. And then finally, the sanctions on Iraq, which, according to reputable independent sources, have led to the deaths of thousands and maybe even hundreds of thousands of Iraqis since the Persian Gulf War. I’m not saying that any or all of these things justify the attacks of September 11, or that the U.S. should respond, for example, "We’re going to invade Iraq, and we’re going to overthrow Saddam Hussein.”

• “This is a big shock to the American psyche because we have led such sheltered, protected lives of wealth, privilege and such safety. I see that in my students’ eyes: ‘They are looking at the world very differently. This really is without precedent.’”

• “Any group we support must be committed to restoring human rights for girls and women—rights to education, medical care and participation in public life.”

• “I want to impress upon my students the volatility of expectations and how they can generate severe market fluctuations. As long as we continue to have successful military efforts, confidence will continue to come back and markets will continue to respond. But if another attack were to occur on the magnitude of the [World Trade Center], there will be a devastating effect on consumer confidence.”

• “The greatest value [of the course, ‘The Ancient Origins of Religious Conflict in the Middle East’] might be in the principle it demonstrates so well: the enduring value of a liberal arts education. World events have helped to make it easy to see why studying the ancient roots of modern religion and culture in the Middle East—the focus in this case—can be so important to understanding the world in which we live.”

Professor James Lee Ray is a political scientist whose field of expertise includes international politics, international conflict, U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and terrorism. The author of Global Politics, he was recently elected president of the Peace Science Society.

This may be the most serious international crisis on which I have commented over the years, especially for the United States. The longer I look at it, the more I believe it may be wiser to treat the attacks as a crime rather than an act of war.

The best way to fight terrorism is with police work, arrests, increased intelligence and counter intelligence, surveillance, investigation of assets, diplomacy and better domestic security. We have to ask ourselves from a terrorist’s point of view, “What other kinds of threats are most likely and how can we protect ourselves?”

Terrorism is violence for political purposes by non-state actors, such as Osama bin Laden’s organization. In the last 10 years states may have become less important and influential, while non-territorial, non-governmental actors like Al Qaeda have probably become more important.

Some people erroneously think that terrorist violence is pointless, or just an emotional striking out, but it’s clear that it sometimes has the potential to be useful politically. From bin Laden’s point of view, the U.S. could overreact and that could provide a backlash that would serve his political purposes. Let’s say that the U.S. kills thousands of innocent Afghans in a bombing campaign. That would inflame the passions of Islamic groups in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt or even Indonesia, which is the largest Islamic country in the world. There’s always the danger that [the war] will get out of hand and provoke some kind of backlash leading to governmental changes in all of those countries that would be beneficial for Al Qaeda, and very detrimental to the United States. This is the main danger stemming from too much emphasis on the conflict as a “war,” and too little emphasis on “crime fighting.”

The Arab world has three main grievances: first, Osama bin Laden is angry about American troops on Saudi soil, where the most sacred Islamic shrines are located. Second, the issue that antigamates the largest number of Arabs, I suppose, is U.S. support of Israel, which also involves foreign aid to Egypt, making it the second largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid after Israel. And then finally, the sanctions on Iraq, which, according to reputable independent sources, have led to the deaths of thousands and maybe even hundreds of thousands of Iraqis since the Persian Gulf War. I’m not saying that any or all of these things justify the attacks of September 11, or that the U.S. should respond, for example, "We’re going to invade Iraq, and we’re going to overthrow Saddam Hussein.”
SAMAR ALI is an A&S junior majoring in political science and an Arab-American Muslim. The daughter of two physicians—her father from Palestine and her mother from Syria—she was born and raised in the United States. She currently serves as an officer in Vanderbilt’s Middle Eastern Students Club. Here are her remarks she made to the Class of 2001 convocation on Sept. 13.

I was asked to speak to you all today as an Arab-American Muslim. All I know to do is to tell you something from my heart, and my heart is filled with pride to be a student of this amazing Vanderbilt community. Look at us, we are a family. I want you all to be proud to be an American and to feel the patriotism right here, right now.

Several people have asked me how I feel as an Arab-American Muslim. What I think is most important to me is that my fellow countrymen are walking hand in hand with thousands of my fellow citizens on Tuesday; I felt angry as an American at whoever did this. How could somebody do this to our country and feel so much hatred towards us?

Today’s Arab world is made up of 18 states. Are the Arabs’ negative perceptions of the United States part of this new wave of anti-Americanism? And how will America’s relations with the Arab world be restored? A great step is needed to close the gap between the two cultures. The Bush administration has shown a willingness to improve relations with the Arab world by changing some of its policies. It is now clear that the United States needs to take the threat very seriously. It’s a threat against our existence, since the people who threaten us are so dedicated and so violent. We can’t make the mistake of thinking that our enemies are fools or madmen. We can’t operate from an assumption that, just because someone has an Islamic name, he or she must be an extremist. We must remember that anyone who truly desires peace must represent some kind of fringe element.

The United States needs to take the threat very seriously. It’s a threat against our existence, since the people who threaten us so dedicated and so violent. We can’t make a mistake of thinking that our enemies are fools or madmen. We can’t operate from a false assumption that, just because someone has an Islamic name, he or she must be an extremist. We must remember that anyone who truly desires peace must represent some kind of fringe element.

The United States needs to take the threat very seriously. It’s a threat against our existence, since the people who threaten us so dedicated and so violent. We can’t make the mistake of thinking that our enemies are fools or madmen. We can’t operate from an assumption that, just because someone has an Islamic name, he or she must be an extremist. We must remember that anyone who truly desires peace must represent some kind of fringe element.

The United States needs to take the threat very seriously. It’s a threat against our existence, since the people who threaten us so dedicated and so violent. We can’t make the mistake of thinking that our enemies are fools or madmen. We can’t operate from a false assumption that, just because someone has an Islamic name, he or she must be an extremist. We must remember that anyone who truly desires peace must represent some kind of fringe element.

The United States needs to take the threat very seriously. It’s a threat against our existence, since the people who threaten us so dedicated and so violent. We can’t make the mistake of thinking that our enemies are fools or madmen. We can’t operate from an false assumption that, just because someone has an Islamic name, he or she must be an extremist. We must remember that anyone who truly desires peace must represent some kind of fringe element.
A Double Homecoming

When Lucius T. Outlaw Jr. first lived in Nashville as a student at Fisk University during the mid-1960s, sit-ins, protests and riots over civil rights dominated the landscape.

Substantial changes have taken place in American race relations since then; yet, modern problems such as hate crimes and racial profiling remain. The challenge today, says Outlaw, the new dean of Faculty Affairs at African American Studies, is to “continue to embrace our racial, cultural and biological identities without insidious exclusivity and discrimination,” war or genocide.

A graduate and former faculty member at Fisk University, Outlaw returned to Nashville in the fall of 2000 after two decades of teaching at Haverford College in Pennsylvania to become professor of philosophy and director of African American Studies. A leading scholar in race and education, philosophy and history, Outlaw brings both experiential and academic expertise to the Vanderbilt program.

A natter of Starksville, Miss., Outlaw first became interested in African American Studies while at Fisk, and recalls his earliest impressions of Vanderbilt from across town: "Vanderbilt seemed to me a well-off, predominantly white institution that was confusedly confident about the business of producing mostly Southern, white, educated aristocrats."

His early ideas of Vanderbilt shifted as he met students, such as Dr. John Lachs, Michael Hodges and John Compton, who gave him intimate knowledge of “real people” associated with the University. Outlaw’s wife, Frieda, a member of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing faculty, also taught at the Vanderbilt School of Nursing in the early 1970s, making their return to Nashville a dual homcoming.

African American Studies, Outlaw explains, “is not about oppression studies or demonstrating how mean and racist white people are. It’s about studying African and African-descended peoples and understanding them, gaining a critical appreciation of their cultures.” Just as no institution can move forward without studying its own context, “no 21st-century university can be truly ‘universal’ without studying our nations’ peoples,” he states.

The overarching task of such disciplines as African American Studies is to bridge racial and ethnic differences through education, dialogue and what Outlaw calls “truth-telling,” a quintessential goal of any institution.

Garley Rogers, B’99

Seeing Double

When one can’t believe one’s eyes, it may be because of binocular rivalry. Randolph B. Blake, Centennial Professor of Psychology at Vanderbilt; Hugh R. Wilson, a mathematician from York University in Toronto; and Vanderbilt’s...
An exhibition by Vanderbilt studio faculty from the Department of Art and Art History will be held at the Vanderbilt Gallery in the Old Gym this spring. “Diverse Visions 2002” will feature a broad range of work in several different media by Michael Aurbach, Susan DeMay, Mark Hosford, Marilyn Murphy, Ron Porter, and Carlton Wilkinson. The exhibit will open on Parent’s Weekend, March 22-24, and will continue through June 8.