For Robert Penn Warren—poet laureate, novelist, critic, essayist and teacher—the roles of writer and citizen were interrelated. The author of *Democracy and Poetry*, Warren believed that citizens were responsible for having historical knowledge. He argued that poetry, literature and history were important means of gaining such knowledge, says Professor of English Michael Kreyling.

Warren and his contemporaries were engaged in a struggle to show that literary and other humanistic studies were as legitimate as scientific ones. Decades later, the humanities continue to fight for justification and legitimacy. Disciplines such as history, classical studies, comparative literature, art and art history, English and philosophy are increasingly important at a time when world events...
For more information about the College of Arts and Science, visit our Web page at http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/
and on the line version of the A & S Cornerstone at http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/publications/cornerstone.html

CONTENTS
The Humanities, page 1-67
A&S News, page 2-5
Student News, page 6-5
A&S Week, pages 6-7
Warren Chair, page 7
Journal News, pages 8-9
Research and Faculty News, pages 10-11
Fruit/Vigna, back page

To fund the pilot project, Dean Sweeney turned to unre-
leashed funding provided by the College Cabinet. These enabled
the hiring of additional assistance in the slide library and
enanced computer and projection equipment in a renovated Furman 114.

The Death of Major Pierson” by John Singleton

The success of the pilot project has encouraged the ex-
ansion of the digital endeavor,” Sweeney says. “Slides are
now being digitized for other art history courses, and plan-
ing is underway to outfit additional rooms with enhanced
projection facilities.”

A&S Cornerstone is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Division of Institutional Planning and Advancement’s Office of Alumni Communications and Publications. To request the current edition, contact the Alumni Communications and Publications office by e-mail at alumnirelations@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at VU Station B37705, 1221 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7781. Copyright © 2002 by Vanderbilt University.

To fund the pilot project, Dean Sweeney turned to unre-
leashed funding provided by the College Cabinet. These enabled
the hiring of additional assistance in the slide library and
enanced computer and projection equipment in a renovated Furman 114.

The Death of Major Pierson” by John Singleton

The success of the pilot project has encouraged the ex-
ansion of the digital endeavor,” Sweeney says. “Slides are
now being digitized for other art history courses, and plan-
ing is underway to outfit additional rooms with enhanced
projection facilities.”

A&S Cornerstone is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Division of Institutional Planning and Advancement’s Office of Alumni Communications and Publications. To request the current edition, contact the Alumni Communications and Publications office by e-mail at alumnirelations@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at VU Station B37705, 1221 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7781. Copyright © 2002 by Vanderbilt University.

To fund the pilot project, Dean Sweeney turned to unre-
leashed funding provided by the College Cabinet. These enabled
the hiring of additional assistance in the slide library and
enanced computer and projection equipment in a renovated Furman 114.

The Death of Major Pierson” by John Singleton

The success of the pilot project has encouraged the ex-
ansion of the digital endeavor,” Sweeney says. “Slides are
now being digitized for other art history courses, and plan-
ing is underway to outfit additional rooms with enhanced
projection facilities.”

A&S Cornerstone is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Division of Institutional Planning and Advancement’s Office of Alumni Communications and Publications. To request the current edition, contact the Alumni Communications and Publications office by e-mail at alumnirelations@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at VU Station B37705, 1221 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7781. Copyright © 2002 by Vanderbilt University.

To fund the pilot project, Dean Sweeney turned to unre-
leashed funding provided by the College Cabinet. These enabled
the hiring of additional assistance in the slide library and
enanced computer and projection equipment in a renovated Furman 114.

The Death of Major Pierson” by John Singleton

The success of the pilot project has encouraged the ex-
ansion of the digital endeavor,” Sweeney says. “Slides are
now being digitized for other art history courses, and plan-
ing is underway to outfit additional rooms with enhanced
projection facilities.”

A&S Cornerstone is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Division of Institutional Planning and Advancement’s Office of Alumni Communications and Publications. To request the current edition, contact the Alumni Communications and Publications office by e-mail at alumnirelations@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at VU Station B37705, 1221 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7781. Copyright © 2002 by Vanderbilt University.

To fund the pilot project, Dean Sweeney turned to unre-
leashed funding provided by the College Cabinet. These enabled
the hiring of additional assistance in the slide library and
enanced computer and projection equipment in a renovated Furman 114.

The Death of Major Pierson” by John Singleton

The success of the pilot project has encouraged the ex-
ansion of the digital endeavor,” Sweeney says. “Slides are
now being digitized for other art history courses, and plan-
ing is underway to outfit additional rooms with enhanced
projection facilities.”

A&S Cornerstone is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Division of Institutional Planning and Advancement’s Office of Alumni Communications and Publications. To request the current edition, contact the Alumni Communications and Publications office by e-mail at alumnirelations@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at VU Station B37705, 1221 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7781. Copyright © 2002 by Vanderbilt University.

To fund the pilot project, Dean Sweeney turned to unre-
leashed funding provided by the College Cabinet. These enabled
the hiring of additional assistance in the slide library and
enanced computer and projection equipment in a renovated Furman 114.

The Death of Major Pierson” by John Singleton

The success of the pilot project has encouraged the ex-
ansion of the digital endeavor,” Sweeney says. “Slides are
now being digitized for other art history courses, and plan-
ing is underway to outfit additional rooms with enhanced
projection facilities.”

A&S Cornerstone is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Division of Institutional Planning and Advancement’s Office of Alumni Communications and Publications. To request the current edition, contact the Alumni Communications and Publications office by e-mail at alumnirelations@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at VU Station B37705, 1221 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7781. Copyright © 2002 by Vanderbilt University.

To fund the pilot project, Dean Sweeney turned to unre-
leashed funding provided by the College Cabinet. These enabled
the hiring of additional assistance in the slide library and
enanced computer and projection equipment in a renovated Furman 114.

The Death of Major Pierson” by John Singleton

The success of the pilot project has encouraged the ex-
ansion of the digital endeavor,” Sweeney says. “Slides are
now being digitized for other art history courses, and plan-
ing is underway to outfit additional rooms with enhanced
projection facilities.”

A&S Cornerstone is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Division of Institutional Planning and Advancement’s Office of Alumni Communications and Publications. To request the current edition, contact the Alumni Communications and Publications office by e-mail at alumnirelations@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at VU Station B37705, 1221 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7781. Copyright © 2002 by Vanderbilt University.

To fund the pilot project, Dean Sweeney turned to unre-
leashed funding provided by the College Cabinet. These enabled
the hiring of additional assistance in the slide library and
enanced computer and projection equipment in a renovated Furman 114.

The Death of Major Pierson” by John Singleton

The success of the pilot project has encouraged the ex-
ansion of the digital endeavor,” Sweeney says. “Slides are
now being digitized for other art history courses, and plan-
ing is underway to outfit additional rooms with enhanced
projection facilities.”

A&S Cornerstone is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Division of Institutional Planning and Advancement’s Office of Alumni Communications and Publications. To request the current edition, contact the Alumni Communications and Publications office by e-mail at alumnirelations@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at VU Station B37705, 1221 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7781. Copyright © 2002 by Vanderbilt University.

To fund the pilot project, Dean Sweeney turned to unre-
leashed funding provided by the College Cabinet. These enabled
the hiring of additional assistance in the slide library and
enanced computer and projection equipment in a renovated Furman 114.

The Death of Major Pierson” by John Singleton

The success of the pilot project has encouraged the ex-
ansion of the digital endeavor,” Sweeney says. “Slides are
now being digitized for other art history courses, and plan-
ing is underway to outfit additional rooms with enhanced
projection facilities.”

A&S Cornerstone is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Division of Institutional Planning and Advancement’s Office of Alumni Communications and Publications. To request the current edition, contact the Alumni Communications and Publications office by e-mail at alumnirelations@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at VU Station B37705, 1221 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7781. Copyright © 2002 by Vanderbilt University.

To fund the pilot project, Dean Sweeney turned to unre-
leashed funding provided by the College Cabinet. These enabled
the hiring of additional assistance in the slide library and
enanced computer and projection equipment in a renovated Furman 114.

The Death of Major Pierson” by John Singleton

The success of the pilot project has encouraged the ex-
ansion of the digital endeavor,” Sweeney says. “Slides are
now being digitized for other art history courses, and plan-
ing is underway to outfit additional rooms with enhanced
projection facilities.”

A&S Cornerstone is published by the College of Arts and Science in cooperation with the Division of Institutional Planning and Advancement’s Office of Alumni Communications and Publications. To request the current edition, contact the Alumni Communications and Publications office by e-mail at alumnirelations@vanderbilt.edu or by U.S. mail at VU Station B37705, 1221 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37235-7781. Copyright © 2002 by Vanderbilt University.
A group of Vanderbilt undergraduates had the good fortune to be taught this spring by an alumnus who has operated in the very highest halls of political power.

Roy Neel, BAT’72, shared with the students some of the knowledge he gained during more than 20 years in the Washington, D.C., political arena. A former chief of staff for Senator and Vice President Al Gore, Neel became deputy chief of staff for President Bill Clinton in 1993.

“Early in 1993, the White House was in a state of change and President Clinton and (Chief of Staff) Mac McLarty were looking around for people who had experience in Washington managing organizations,” says Neel, who, after a successful career in politics, returned to the political fray in 2000 to campaign for Gore and recovered from a life-threatening illness to head his transition team.

It was a rich and varied experience that has operated in the very highest halls of political power.

“Neel’s stepson, Chris Neel, comes from a family steeped in Vanderbilt tradition. His grandfather, father, an aunt and brother all graduated from the University. His stepson, Chris Dalling, is a rising junior who enrolled in Neel’s class.

Neel incorporated a unique technique in his class on political transitions. Each week a different national- and internationally-known political figure or journalist called into the seminar to address the class and take questions from the students. He prevailed upon a number of old friends to contribute to the class and take questions from the students.

“I’m very impressed with this group of students. They’ve been shockingly good,” Neel says with a laugh.

“After stepping out of politics following this last election, I’m very good at all the information I’ve learned and the political work I’ve done,” Neel says. “Neel’s finding is much more work than I thought it would be, but very much a labor of love.”

Neel, a former Vanderbilt student basketball manager and author of the book, Diamante: 5 Years of Vanderbilt Basketball, came from a family steeped in Vanderbilt tradition. His grandfather, father, an aunt, and brother all graduated from the University. His stepson, Chris Dalling, is a rising junior who enrolled in Neel’s class.

Neel incorporated a unique technique in his class on political transitions. Each week a different national- and internationally-known political figure or journalist called into the seminar to address the class and take questions from the students. He prevailed upon a number of old friends to contribute to this way, including David Gergen, David Halberstam, presidential scholar Richard Neustadt, and former President Bill Clinton.

“I am proud of this group. I am the only one who has been in this class,” says Neel. “They wake up every morning and say ‘I could be a better president than that guy.’ That is why a lot of them run for president.”

A&S SPORTS

PRO AND CON

A&S freshman Erin Steinbruch decided on a whim to compete with the Vanderbilt debate team at its first tournament in September, even though she had no prior experience.

"Going into that first match," she admits, "I had no idea what to expect. By the end of the tournament, I not only had made wonderful friends with my fellow debaters, but I also had learned a great deal about the art form and argumentation skills themselves. In that experience alone, I realized that not all activities, especially debate, are easy to start, but that it is definitely worth the try.

"Open to persons with little or no previous debate experience as well as to seasoned debaters, the 30-member Vanderbilt debate squad performed well in recent competitions. The number one team in the SEC, they won 12 awards at the regional tournament, including first place in two divisions. They also placed among the top 20 teams at the 2003-2004 academic year. CEDA is one of the largest collegiate debate associations in the country.

In an effort to share their expertise with others, the team has reached out to children and television viewers within the Nashville community. Students, coaches, and assistants visit several middle schools in the Nashville area weekly to teach children the value of learning debate skills.

"Few middle school students have the opportunity to team debate," says Sandor. “This new program allows Vanderbilt students to teach middle school children research, critical thinking, and communication skills.”

Sandor hopes the program will expand to a majority of Nashville-area middle schools in a few years. In the meantime, her debaters hosted their first annual middle school debate tournament in April.

The debate team also sponsors ‘VUpoint,’ a weekly television program that airs on WTVY, the campus television station. The program also features more in-depth news stories from this summer’s congressional campaign.

According to M.L. Sandor, director of debate and senior lecturer in the communication studies department at Vanderbilt, “through debate students gain in-depth knowledge about current events and the nature of our society. The program promotes research and critical thinking across all disciplines, including philosophy, political science, bioengineering, sociology and psychology.”

Students are elected by their peers to chair the team, a role that allows students to take full leadership of the team.

"It’s really exciting to watch the students grow and develop in and out of the debate arena,” says Sandor. “I am so proud of them.”
Answering how and why

Technology attempts to answer "how?" but the humanities also ask "why?" Such questions are leading scholars nationwide to break through the bounds of their individual disciplines and joint with colleagues in other fields to search for answers. The College of Arts Science encourages such interdisciplinary research, dialogue, and teaching, says Richard McCarthy, A&S dean. It sponsors interdisciplinary courses and degree programs and a growing number of cross-disciplinary centers. Among these, the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities promotes interdisciplinary work through fellowships, seminars, conferences and courses.

The Warren Center, says Frederick, provides a form of continuing education for humanities faculty. It is also a place for students and the wider community to learn from these faculty members.

"Last fall, Larry Griffin in sociology, William James Booth in political science, and Michael Kreyling jointly taught a graduate seminar on "Memory, Identity, and Political Action," Frederick recalls. "Some students in that class went on to plan an international, interdisciplinary grad colloquium held at Vanderbilt this past April."

Another Warren Center program on the Holocaust and other genocides led to a curriculum guide for high school teachers, which was recently published by Vanderbilt Press.

"Vanderbilt's future achievements in the humanities will come from the energy and originality generated in such collaborations," says McCarthy. Professor of English Jay Clayton, who was Warren's student at Yale, remembers his teacher as a model for such scholarship. "Robert Penn Warren was himself an incarnation of interdisciplinary interest," Clayton says. "At once a poet and novelist, new critic and theoretician of American democracy, learned historian and mentor to younger writers—he both represents Van- derbilt's past and calls us to a future that crosses new boundaries."

Jeremy Christensen, professor and chair of the English department, says that the professional wisdom of Warren and his contemporaries lay in their desire "to discover the idea that was shared by all faculty, the common language that they spoke, and the beliefs they could profess."

"Such knowledge can prove useful in dealing with the rapid changes we face today. Sometimes stepping outside our own culture helps us see more clearly what unites us all as human beings."

Strengthening the humanities

McCarthy is mindful of Vanderbilt's legacy of excellence in the humanities. He also recognizes the challenges of boosting the University's national prominence in the humanities. That task is complicated by the fact that external support for research and teaching in the humanities is dramatically less than that available to the sciences. Government agencies like the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) support the humanities. So do a few private organizations like the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which endowed a chair and three assistant professorships in the humanities at Vanderbilt in the mid-1970s. But overall, funding sources remain limited.

The College of Arts and Sciences has taken the following steps to strengthen the humanities at Vanderbilt:

1. In April, McCarthy announced that endow- ment of the Robert Penn Warren Chair in the Humanities (please see article at right).
2. Next fall, Jonathan Lamb, a professor of English at Queen's University, will join the Vandy English department as the Mellon Professor in Humanities.
3. The Provost's Office has established the Research Scholars Grant Program to encourage imaginative humanistic research and cross-disciplinary scholarship.
4. This past spring, A&S established a program to support summer research by graduate students in the humanities, a group of developing scholars especially hampred by a lack of funds.
5. Finally, Bill Boyd, head of the NEA under Pres- ident Bill Clinton, recently joined the faculty as the Harvie Branscomb Distinguished University Visiting Scholar. He is now working to establish a center that will examine the complex relationship between the arts and public policy.

These are important steps, says McCarthy, but more must be done to advance the humanities at Vanderbilt. In this uncertain time, the study of what makes us human, is, indeed, impor- tant for our future and our world.

"We believe the identification of the chair with Mr. Warren will honor his contribution to our national literature and dialogue and honor and en- hance the college, its students and the entire Vanderbilt community."

Richard McCarthy, A&S dean, an- nounced the chair's endowment at the A&S Weekend dinner (please see photos at left). He praised the donors for giving the College of Arts and Science a gift with enduring benefits.

The several academic disciplines, he noted, "came together, not statistically, but in terms of experience, and to that world consid- ered, not statistically, but in terms of human purposes and values…'…'Poetry gives us knowledge. It is a knowledge of observation in relation to the world of experience, and to that world consid- ered, not statistically, but in terms of human purposes and values…'…"
Scholarship helps student’s dream become reality

No one needs to tell former VU medical student Shane Rowan the value of a Vanderbilt education. Eight years ago, Rowan, BA’94, received a College Cabinet Scholarship to help pay for his residency. Rowan says the College Cabinet Scholarship made his undergraduate education possible. “I’d love to go back and do it again. I love the atmosphere at VU. I could have attended Vanderbilt without it,” says the new physician. “I loved my undergraduate education. I was involved in Vanderbilt Theatre productions and became dorm president of McTyeire Hall. Although he was a nationally prominent scholar, Professor Pharr was friendly and enthusiastic as a teacher. He learned that I loved poetry, and that I had written a number of poems for publication. “Fred, don’t be content with making a merely literal translation of this great Greek epic. Try to capture the poet’s feeling in Homer and express that in English.” Professor Pharr communicated to me—and, I believe, to many others who studied with him—a deep love of language, both ancient Greek and modern English.

A second quality which makes Prof. Pharr glow in my memory was his excitement about sharing the findings of scholars with a wider audience. During my senior year as an English major, I translated into English of the entire Theodosian Code (named for the Roman Emperor Theodosius, who lived from 346 to 395 A.D.). Professor Pharr’s graduate Latin students translated books of the Code into English. Then, I cut stencils and mimeographed the manuscripts and mailed them—along with a cover letter from Professor Pharr—to the advisory board. This board included the heads of classics departments at a number of universities, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia and Stanford. The professors made recommendations for improvement, many of which Professor Pharr incorporated into the final version of the translation.

A year ago, I went to the [Jean and Alexander Heard] Library and examined the final bound copy of the Theodosian Code and remembered Professor Clyde Pharr, who combined topflight scholarship and enthusiasm for teaching students. He made a lifelong impact on me, for which I am grateful.

—Shelton Clark

Administrative changes announced

Several administrative changes affecting alumni and students were announced recently. Nicholas Zeppos, BA’71, MS’78, announced her retirement as executive director of Alumni Relations, effective June 30, to help care for her grandson and other family members. She served 14 years handling a host of services and programs for the University’s 180,000 alumni. During her tenure, the Alumni Association Board expanded to include representatives of all the University’s schools and the 10 largest alumni clubs.

Chancellor Gordon Gee has named Nicholas Zeppos, professor of law and vice chancellor for institutional planning and advancement, to the newly created position of provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Zeppos succeeds Thomas G. Burish, who served as provost for the past 10 years. Burish, who was also a professor of psychol- ogy, has left Vanderbilt to become president of Washing- ton and Lee University in Virginia.

David Williams II, the University’s general counsel, will succeed Thomas G. Burish, who served as provost for the past 10 years. Burish, who was also a professor of psychol- ogy, has left Vanderbilt to become president of Washing- ton and Lee University in Virginia.

David Williams II, the University’s general counsel, sec- retary, and vice chancellor for student life, has been named vice chancellor for student life and university affairs, also a new position.

Both Zeppos and Williams will retain many of their former duties, while assuming new ones. As the chief aca- demic and advancement officer, Zeppos will oversee Vanderbilt’s academic activities and planning, in addition to his duties as dean of students.

About 400 full-time A&S faculty members teach 37 academic subjects to undergraduate students.
Thinking big about the infinitely small

K en Catania studies the brains of some of the strangest-looking animals on earth: the star-nosed mole and the naked mole rat. “I used to be a little defensive about studying such odd-looking animals,” he says, “but now I am excited by the sense of touch that led him initially to the community of moles. In their underground world there is little light, so vision is not very important.

It was not until Catania studied this structure in detail as part of his doctoral thesis at the University of California, San Diego, that the star’s true function came to light. Working with noted neuroscientist and Caltech professor of biology Peter Melzer, Catania showed that these appendages serve as an extraordinary touch organ that allows the hamster-sized mole to literally feel its way around its subterranean environment.

Catania came to Vanderbilt in 1995 as a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Distinguished Professor of Psychology Jon Kaas. He and Kaas determined that more than 25% of the brain’s neocortex, as well as the whole brain, more than six times the number that connect the human hand and brain.

David F. Salazar

Compassionate Cannibalism - Modern society has cultivated cannibalism to be an aggressive, barbaric act. However, compassionate cannibalism is a different matter; a kind of avowed viewpoint gained through her work with the Wari’, indigenous people of the Amazon rainforest. In her book Consuming Greed: Compassionate Cannibalism and Amazonian Identity, Conklin contends that the Wari’ traditional view of cannibalism was seen as a way to provide respect and support for the beliefs and practices of the mamonas. So small, in fact, that “gazillions” of them can fit into the size of a salt grain. Such molecular electronics (sometimes called ‘nanoelectronics’) may be an alternative to the silicon currently used in micro-electronic devices. In other words, Panteles says, Panteles and his associates study the behavior of nanoparticles as catalysis.

Additionally, some are attuned and hearing is not that valuable for survival, so it is not emphasized in the brain. His first research subject was the star-nosed mole—an animal that looks like an ordinary mole except for a star of fleshy appendages ringing its nose. It is an avian predator of insects. He has also been known to ‘eat’ insects.

For more information on Nanotechnology, please visit Exploration, a unique interdisciplinary program at Vanderbilt University, at http://www.vanderbilt.edu/home.htm

Michael Aurbach, professor of art and archaeology, has been selected as the 2002 American Psychological Association (APA) Distinguished Scientific Award for early career contribution to psychology in the area of cognition and human learning. "This award is a huge honor," says Richard McCarty, A’85 dean. "Most of the nation's leading psychologists also received this award early in their careers." Chan's research interests are in visual attention, visual memory, perceptual learning and object recognition. A native of Korea, Chan earned his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to joining the Vanderbilt faculty in 1999, he was assistant professor at Yale University.

I n Memoriam

Aline Patte, retired in May 2001 from her post as registrar at Vanderbilt University Press, died March 19 in New York City. A highly regarded scholar of civil rights policy, Patte worked at the press for more than 25 years. She is survived by her husband, Hugh Graham; a son, Holter Ford Graham, and two brothers.

Hugh Graham

RESEARCH BRIEFS

Three AUX faculty members died this past spring.

Daniel Patte also received a commendation recently from Cameron University Press for his work on and with Deidra J. Park, an assistant professor of English, who is the recipient of the 2001 American Psychological Association award in recognition of lifetime achievement in scholarly work.
Next fall, a new Vanderbilt tradition will begin when Reunion 2002 and Homecoming join forces for extraVUganza, Oct. 25-26. Reunions will take place for undergraduate and professional school classes ending in '2 or '7, while all alumni can join in the fun-filled Homecoming activities. For more details, visit the extraVUganza 2002 Web site http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/homecoming.htm.