We had a spectacular fall on campus, a time when the College of Arts and Science took center stage in Vanderbilt’s ongoing commitment to spark new ideas at the intersections of our departments, disciplines and schools.

With the dedication of two extraordinary buildings this year, Arts and Science provides new homes for some of our most exciting endeavors. Since the late 1920s, Buttrick Hall—originally the campus’ primary housing complex—has been the completion of the new Biological Sciences Building. In 2003, however, we renovated and expanded Buttrick Hall, joining the old building to a new wing with a soaring atrium.

The Center for the Americas, the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and Public Policy, the Program in Jewish Studies, the Film Studies program, and 125 of our graduate students have all made themselves at home in the building. In the classrooms and halls of Buttrick today, undergraduates and graduate students join together to debate the importance of public art, faculty from diverse departments find common interests, and students and faculty regularly converse to exchange ideas. In less than a semester, in fact, the “new” Buttrick Hall has become both a major intellectual hub of this University and a symbol of the innovative direction that it has taken toward the future.

A short walk from Buttrick Hall is the new E. Bronson Ingram Studio Arts Center. Its classic, but innovative, architecture perfectly reflects the values it will shelter and signal our renewed commitment to the creative arts. The building provides our studio arts faculty and their students—many of whom are from schools outside of Arts and Science—with classroom, studio, gallery and gathering space. Already, the Ingram Studio Arts Center lights burn late into the night as students and faculty work. And, at the building’s dedication last November, the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and Public Policy, the Program in Jewish Studies, the Film Studies program, and 125 of our graduate students have all made themselves at home in the building. In the classrooms and halls of Buttrick today, undergraduates and graduate students join together to debate the importance of public art, faculty from diverse departments find common interests, and students and faculty regularly converse to exchange ideas. In less than a semester, in fact, the “new” Buttrick Hall has become both a major intellectual hub of this University and a symbol of the innovative direction that it has taken toward the future.

There are always many reasons to return to Vanderbilt, but I hope your next visit to campus will include a walk through these two magnificent buildings. Both are exciting harbors of great things to come in the College of Arts and Science.

Richard M. Carter

HURRICANES PROMPT QUICK CAMPUS RESPONSE

Response from Vanderbilt and its College of Arts and Science to devastation wrought by last fall’s hurricanes was decisive and swift, both from individuals and the institution.

A number of undergraduate students from Gulf Coast colleges and universities were enrolled at no charge as “visiting students.” The university established a fund to provide aid to current and displaced students and a second fund to provide financial assistance for the Med Center and the School of Nursing traveling to the Gulf Coast to assist with disaster relief and reconstruction efforts.

For more information about Vanderbilt’s response to the disaster, please visit www.vanderbilt.edu/katrina.

— Elizabeth P. Latt

IN THE LANGUAGE OF SCIENCE

The existence of such a test could encourage the development of improved therapies for respiratory viruses, Crowe says. “It is a real-world, practical application that’s here now.”

The researchers’ next step will be to develop a quantum dot cocktail capable of simultaneously detecting the presence of at least five major respiratory viruses: Influenza A and B, parainfluenza and metapneumovirus, in addition to RSV. Quantum dots are available in a dozen different colors, and antibodies specific to the other four respiratory viruses have already been identified and can be used as linker molecules. Such a test would be able to diagnose more than 90 percent of all the cases of viral respiratory infection, Wright says.

The heath of such a test could encourage the development of improved therapies for respiratory viruses, Crowe says. “There is a tremendous amount of hype about nanotechnology,” says Crowe, “but this is a real-world, practical application that’s here now.”

The research was funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Marq of Dimes and Vanderbilt.

— David Salisbury

A multi-media version of this story is available on Explore, Vanderbilt’s online research magazine, at www.explore.vanderbilt.edu.

Did You Know?


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Case photo of the new Studio Arts Center by Niall Brack

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Cover photo of the new Studio Arts Center by Niall Brack

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) sends about 120,000 hospitalizations in the United States each year. Although it is life threatening in only one case out of every 100, it infects virtually all children by the time they are five years old. Few children in the U.S. die from RSV, but it also attacks the elderly, causing some 17,000 to 18,000 deaths annually. Individuals with impaired immune systems are another highly susceptible group. Worldwide, the virus causes about one million deaths annually.

Current methods of detecting the virus can take from two to six days, postponing effective treatment. The new, higher resolution uses multi-colored, microscopic fluorescent beads called quantum dots, which bind to molecular structures that are unique to the virus’ coat and the cells that it infects. In the June issue of the journal Nanotw, the Vanderbilt researchers reported that not only can a quantum dot system detect the presence of RSV particles in a matter of hours, rather than the two to five days required by current methods, but it is also more sensitive, allowing it to detect the virus earlier in the course of an infection.

Current tests too slow

“The problem with current detection technologies is that they take too long,” says Professor of Pediatrics James E. Crowe Jr., who collaborated with Associate Professor of Chemistry David W. Wright in the development. “When a patient with a respiratory illness comes in to the doctor, emergency room or clinic, sometimes their symptoms are caused by bacteria and sometimes they are caused by viruses. There are specific medicines to treat some viral infections and there are definitely antibiotics to treat bacteria. Yet current detection tests take up to five days to tell you if a virus is present and another day or so to tell you which virus it is.”

Crowe lists three potential benefits for an early detection system. It can increase the proper use of antiviral medications, reduce the inappropriate use of antibiotics, and allow hospital personnel to isolate RSV patients.

The researchers estimate that it will take only two to three years to develop and validate the new test. The system should also be inexpensive. As the most costly ingredient is the quantum dot. A small bottle that contains enough of the material for about 200 tests costs $300. As a result, this could be one of the earliest medical applications of nanotechnology, Wright and Crowe say.
New faculty bring diverse perspectives to campus

When the Bush campaign compared John Kerry to a croc during the last presidential election, Dyan Elliott, then student government president, was given a gift to help make history relevant for her students. In her subsequent article, “Getting Mideast with the Presidential Debates,” for the History News Network, Elliott compared the debates with a medieval-early modern carnival, noting that Bush’s campaign bizarrely tried to spin Kerry’s debating skill as an unfair advantage.

The continuing influence of the medieval period—especially the church on gender roles—fascinates Dyan Elliott, who has joined the Vanderbilt faculty as a distinguished professor of history. She has written extensively about medieval Western Europe, with emphasis on women, spirituality and sexuality. After receiving an undergraduate degree and a master’s degree in interdisciplinary studies at York University in Toronto, Canada, Elliott earned another master’s at the University of Toronto’s Centre for Medieval Studies and a Ph.D. in English. Her work on medieval women’s rights is unusual, she said, since the university often teaches medieval literature, not women’s studies.

She’ll teach a freshman seminar on “Race and Gender Theories” and a course on the history of feminism in a cross-disciplinary department called Feminist Studies. “With a focus on women’s rights and gender equality, it’s an area that’s grown so much within the humanities,” she said.

Elliott compared the debate with medieval debates in which ladies and gentlemen debated topics such as the causes of floods or the morality of giving money to beggars. In medieval society, she said, there were strict gender roles. “Women didn’t have the same rights or the same abilities to participate,” she said.

Elliott noted that the university often teaches medieval literature, not women’s studies. “That’s changed a lot in the last 15 years,” she said. “Women’s literature is taught in classics departments and in departments of medieval studies.”

Another new Vanderbilt faculty member, Steve Goodbred, who has written extensively about medieval Western Europe, will teach courses on medieval natural disasters including the Black Death. After earning his Ph.D. in marine science from the College of William and Mary, Virginia, he joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 1999. He came to Vanderbilt from Stony Brook University in New York, where he received a National Science Foundation Career Award for his work on the sedimentology of the Ganges River delta in Bangladesh. His current research focuses in part on naturally occurring arsenic in that country’s ground water, which has become a major health problem for 60-80 million people living there.

Race, Sexuality & Hip Hop

Two new assistant professors are helping to expand the reach of African American and Diaspora Studies, according to Director Tracy Sharpley-Whiting, professor of continental philosophy, diaspora studies, and race and continental philosophy, diaspora studies, and race and international relations. The new hires, Dyan Elliott and Kathryn Gines, have two daughters, Sara and Kate, and a son, Will, is

A & S News

Going Once, Going Twice, Sold

To succeed in today’s competitive business environment, companies need the ability to reliably measure the impact of economic and marketplace factors. Tong Li, professor of economics, is an expert on the application of statistical techniques to economic problems, particularly in key fields such as industrial organizations and health care.

An expert on microeconomics, Li is a leader in the empirical analysis of auctions: For example, he used data from timber sales and bids for oil tracts to test the predictions of auction theory.

Li comes to Vanderbilt from Indiana University where he had been a member of the faculty since 1999. He received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Science and Technology in his native China. It then came to the United States to earn his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California, San Diego, in 1993 and another Ph.D. in economics from the University of Southern California in 1997. He is the 2003 recipient of the Arnold Zellner Award for the Journal of Econometrics for the best theory paper published in 2000 and 2001. In 2004, he became associate editor of that journal.

Sixties student body president heads Bush’s economic council

A president of the Vanderbilt Student Association, Allan B. Hubbard, BA’69, encouraged his fellow students to become interested in national issues. After earning a J.D. and an M.B.A. from Harvard University, he became active in Republican politics. Today, Hubbard serves as assistant to President George W. Bush for economic policy and directs the National Economic Council. After earning a J.D. and an M.B.A. from Harvard University, he became active in Republican politics. Today, Hubbard serves as assistant to President George W. Bush for economic policy and directs the National Economic Council. After earning a J.D. and an M.B.A. from Harvard University, he became active in Republican politics. Today, Hubbard serves as assistant to President George W. Bush for economic policy and directs the National Economic Council. After earning a J.D. and an M.B.A. from Harvard University, he became active in Republican politics. Today, Hubbard serves as assistant to President George W. Bush for economic policy and directs the National Economic Council.

Tong Li

According to Vanderbilt’s own figures, minorities comprised 14.4 percent of the faculty in the non-medical school of the University in 2005-2006. In the College of Arts and Science alone, 52 of the 350 full-time faculty members, or 14.1 percent, are minorities. They include 18 African Americans, 20 Asians, and 14 Hispanics.

Sixties student body president heads Bush’s economic council

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They come from 45 states and 34 foreign countries. They include 184 National Merit Scholars, 68 Eagle Scouts, 50 student body presidents, 101 publications editors-in-chief, and 499 captains of athletic teams. They are the 1,600 freshmen in the Class of 2009. Members of the class have performed musical numbers on National Public Radio, written two top-ten songs, delivered a baby while serving as an Emergency Medical Technician, and invented pants that convert into a chair.

Among many outstanding students in the class of 2009 are 190 who ranked first or second in their high school graduating class. Their average SAT scores are the highest in university history. 22 points above last year's record-setting class. Here’s a look at a few of these extraordinary students.

**Music Man**

Jordan D. Eckerson developed a love for music at an early age from his father, D. E. who was the original guitarist for Prince during the 1970s. At age 10, Jordan decided to put his considerable musical talents to the test commercially and founded Squirt, a Christian band that was signed by a Nashville-based record label. He spent much of the next five years touring in support of Squirt’s two albums and two top-ten radio singles.

As a high-school student at Nashville’s Christ Presbyterian Academy [CPA], Jordan became a published SESAC writer. He also played football on the 2002 Tennessee State Championship CPA team.

**Truman Scholar promotes environment in Africa**

La, her involvement in the school’s Key Club led to leadership roles in Key Club International and a district governor for Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Tennessee. She also served as state president for the Louisiana Association of Student Councils, a position that earned her a statewide reputation as an outstanding motivational speaker. Some of Carrie’s idealism is grounded in personal loss. Her older sister was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in 2003 and passed away in the spring of 2005. Her struggle has inspired Carrie to volunteer with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and the American Red Cross while at Vanderbilt.

Jordan and his new musical group, Lenny, have recorded an EP. Meanwhile, he is working hard toward a degree in communications studies and possibly an MBA.

**Promoting Interracial Understanding**

Marry Wu, of Memphis, Tenn., is the first recipient of the Rebecca and Spencer Wilson Scholarship and Academic Achievement Award. The daughter of Chinese immigrants, Mary is a U.S. citizen and a graduate of Craigmont High School where she was president of the National Honor Society and a member of the Ambassador Corps. She also worked with Bridge Builders, “an organization of high school students who come together to put an end to racial stereotyping.” Mary plans to major in either psychology or philosophy before continuing her studies at Vanderbilt because “I knew it had a good reputation and high academic standards.” She plans to major in public policy studies and religious studies in preparation for law school.

**Student News**

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**Student News**
A soaring atrium connects the new and older sections of a completely renovated Buttrick Hall. The atrium, added a rear wing with 18 new classrooms and basically unchanged, standing next to Rand of the new Buttrick atrium.

In August 2005, a newly renovated Buttrick opened after a $12 million makeover that added a rear wing with 18 new classrooms and a high narrow atrium connecting old building and new addition. Buttrick itself, built in the 1920s, was gutted and dramatically renovated to create new digs — a place where the working materials include ceramics, sculpture, painting and drawing, photography and computer arts.

Reconfiguring Buttrick makes a statement about how important interdisciplinary work is at Vanderbilt. This isn’t a trend or fad but the future, and we want to be solidly riding that wave.

Each center draws scholars from across disciplines to tackle joint projects and conduct research. The aim is to create a fertile cross-pollination of ideas beyond departmental horizons and enrich Vanderbilt’s contributions to knowledge, public policy and world affairs.

“There is no question but that you can create the environment for it,” says Pepper, assistant professor of sociology and associate director of the Curb Center. “We’re building it around that idea. What you can’t guarantee, but you can create the environment for it.”

The interdisciplinary centers are creating new ways of thinking and working. Just a few years ago, the Curb Center’s $13 million, wedge-shaped building on 25th Avenue South, next to the new Student Life Center and across the street from the baseball field. It was built with University funds augmented by gifts from Robin Ingram Patton, the daughter of the late E. Bronson Ingram and Mrs. Ingram, chairman of the Vanderbilt University Board of Trust (BOT), and from BOT member M. Chaie Alomar and others. Along with the Schulman Center, Student Life Center and Bronczicko Quadrangle, the Studio Arts Center provides the campus with a new gateway or entry point off 25th Ave., which is part of a campus master plan, according to McCarty.

Art represents a creative way of thinking, a way of working at problems of all sorts, using the brain in a different way.” —Marilyn Murphy, professor and associate chair of studio art

The Ingram Studio Arts Center provides studio space for students working in ceramics, sculpture, painting and drawing, photography and computer arts.
Every year, support from alumni, parents and friends ensures that the College of Arts and Science continues to provide students with an exceptional educational experience.

The College recognizes our most generous supporters, donors who contribute $1,000 or more annually during our fiscal year. This commitment and support each year make an essential contribution to our success and strength, allowing the College of Arts and Science to achieve its most vital priorities.

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Mary (parents)
In addition to these College Cabinet members in fiscal year 2004-2005, Vanderbilt gratefully acknowledges those who have made special contributions to the College of Arts and Science in the past. These donors are recognized as honorary members of the College Cabinet. Honorary members who have made gifts of $1,000 or more to the College of Arts and Science in the last fiscal year are included in the appropriate College Cabinet giving level.
Imagine a small village in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2015. Few of the children exhibit the violent chills and fever that characterize acute malaria and chronic long-term infection.

The picture was much different just 10 years earlier. If you walked into a classroom in the village’s primary school, you would have seen many empty desks. While most children who contract malaria at this age recover enough to return to class, a large number of children never got to sit behind one of the desks because they died of this dread disease before reaching their first birthday.

The reason for the improvement in the village children’s health is a dramatic drop in the numbers of malaria-infected mosquitoes in the area. The insects have declined because of a new mosquito control system that supple-ments traditional methods. The new system consists of unobtrusive traps that contain powerful attractants mixed with insecticide that lure the mosquitoes to their death.

At the same time, villagers can purchase affordable and highly effective repellents from small kiosks that also sell cooking oil, sodas and bed-nets.

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“The reason for the improvement in the village children’s health is a dramatic drop in the numbers of malaria-infected mosquitoes in the area. The insects have declined because of a new mosquito control system that supplements traditional methods. The new system consists of unobtrusive traps that contain powerful attractants mixed with insecticide that lure the mosquitoes to their death. At the same time, villagers can purchase affordable and highly effective repellents from small kiosks that also sell cooking oil, sodas and bed-nets.”

Professor Zwiebel, right, and R. Jean Pitts, senior research specialist/lab manager, with a bucket of mosquitoes.

Creative Spaces energize campus (continued from page 9)

“This beautiful building and its studio space has had a great impact on my study of art this year,” says Kayla Jones, a senior majoring in history and studio art, with a concentration in painting. “As an artist, I can be somewhat obsessive with my projects — consumed with them for days at a time and unable to think of much else. During these periods, it’s wonderful to have my own quiet space — my own private sanctuary — to come and go, paint and work through my ideas.”

The very location has stirred interest among non-artists in the building.

“Many of my friends have already wandered into the building just to check things out,” Jones says.

Meanwhile, Cohen continues as a place for art endeavor, though long-term renovation plans are indefinite. Two internationally known artists, painter Judy Chicago and photographer Donald Woodman, have taken up residence there and are teaching this semester — the first Chancellor’s Arts in Residence.

For an interactive version of this article, please visit Exploration.Vanderbilt.edu and explore the possibilities of reproducing the prints for public display once again, eventually entering Nashville’s Hatch Show Print shop to create the works for Buttrick.

So the serendipity of history and learning hops and skips forward, across disciplines, across time, across the world. And the grand-house that stood behind Buttrick lives on — atop the Stevenson Center’s Molecular Biology Building. A shriveled remnant of the 1940s — a place for art endeavor, though long-term renovation plans are indefinite. Two internationally known artists, painter Judy Chicago and photographer Donald Woodman, have taken up residence there and are teaching this semester — the first Chancellor’s Arts in Residence.

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Rogaski earns prestigious Guggenheim fellowship

T he horrifying effects of germ warfare may seem far removed from the peaceful ambiance of a liberal arts college. Yet, as a Professor of History, Ruth Rogaski has made it part of her award-winning research on the interaction of science and matters of state. Her work on the role of the biological sciences in the formation of Asian empires has earned Rogaski a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship. She is also the co-winner of the 2005 Berkshire Conference First Book Prize for “Homicide in Modernity: Killing in Health and Disease in Travestry-Port China.” This prize is for a first book in any field of history written by a woman in North America.

“Having scientific knowledge about a place can bolster a nation’s claim to the territory,” she says.

In the course of her research, Rogaski has studied the atrocities of Japan’s germ warfare organization, Unit 731, which conducted experiments on thousands of human prisoners and was responsible for dozens of biological weapons attacks against China during World War II. This case, which is politically sensitive for the government of both China and Japan, is an important episode in the global history of the ways that humans have manipulated the natural world, she says.

Rogaski is also interested in the research conducted by Chinese biologists about alleged American use of germ warfare. “The Chinese archives are still closed to scholars… but documents found in the Chinese,” Rogaski says.

East meets West

For her new book, Rogaski is studying the “wild, icy landscape of Manchuria.” She is comparing Asian and European understandings of nature before and after the development of institutional modern science. “This project allows close scrutiny of the assumption that ‘East’ and ‘West’ possess distinct sensitivities about the natural world,” Rogaski says.

She is focusing on the work of scientists and naturalists during five important times in Manchuria’s recent history, including the Manchu-Chinese-European exploration of Manchuria under the reign of Emperor Kangxi, the establishment of natural history museums by Russian naturalists during the late 1800s–early 1900s, and the excavation of fossils by Chinese paleontologists in the 20th century.

Rogaski is also studying the research conducted by Chinese biologists about alleged American use of germ warfare in Manchuria during the Korean War. In her current book project, she is examining the role that nature, science and the imagination played in the formation of non-Western regimes. “Having scientific knowledge about a place can bolster a nation’s claim to the territory,” she says.

Currently on leave from Vanderbilt, Rogaski is using resources at Harvard and Princeton universities as well as the Library of Congress to complete her research. She also plans to travel to Northeast Asia to examine natural history museums in Harbin in China. She will photograph several locales to be featured prominently in the book, for which she received a National Science Foundation fellowship in 1999.

The book and its images as a new approach to the history of science, one that integrates the beauty of the environment with the work of the scientists who explored it,” she says.

— Ann Marie and Oren and Joanne Beckham

Kudos

Jeremy Atack, professor of economics, has received the “Clio Can” award from the Cliometrics Society for “sustained and significant contributions to the field of economic history.”

Michael Bea, professor of history, has received a grant from the National Institutes of Health/NIH National Human Genome Research Institute to support his study of human identity.

Randolph Blake, Centennial Professor of Psychology and chair of the department, has been elected a fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists.

Elizabeth Boyle, senior lecturer in American and Southern Studies, has been awarded a visiting fellowship by Australian National University to take part in its 2006 research seminar on biography, memory and commemoration.

James Dickerson, assistant professor of anthropology, whose recent book, Cultural Logics and Global Economies, has been designated a “Choice Outstanding Title,” was also named as a fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists.

Edward Fischer, associate professor of anthropology, whose recent book, Cultural Logics and Global Economies, has been designated a “Choice Outstanding Title,” was also named as a fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists.

Sydney Halpern, professor of sociology, has received the Arthur Vrabeck Prize for her book Linear Harms The Morality of Risk in Medical Research.

Molly Miller, professor of geology, received the O. Darby Smith Education Awards from the Association of Women Geoscientists in October.

Ted A. Porter, the Stevenson Professor of Chemistry, chair of the department and associate director of the Vanderbilt Institute for Chemical Biology, is the 2004-2005 recipient of the Christopher Ingold Award from The Royal Society of Chemistry.

M. Stuart McElroy Professor

While reading the 2005 winter issue of the A&S Cornerstone magazine, I was saddened to learn my former professor, Dwayne Grandham, had died. I have thought of him many times through the years. I admired his soft and gentle approach towards his students. He was always open to their questions and curious minds—never rushing them to conclusions. Although I was a poor student, he was a mentor who helped me to establish a successful business career. He will be missed by many.

— Henry Harmon Riffe, BA’58

Former Vanderbilt President, A&S Dean dies

Emmett B. Fields, the only person ever to have the title of president of Vanderbilt University, died at home in Nashville on Sept. 19, 2005. He was 81. Fields served the university as president during the last years of Chancellor Alexander H. Heard’s administration, from 1977 to 1982. However, he believed that his greatest contributions to Vanderbilt were made during the 1960s, when he was dean of the College of Arts and Science. He enjoyed being remembered as “Dean Fields,” according to his wife of 58 years, Christine. “As dean of the Arts and Science faculty, he especially enjoyed the professional interaction with his colleagues on the faculty for whom he felt great esteem and affection,” she remembered.

A native of Fort Smith, Ark., Fields earned his undergraduate degree from Ouachita College in Arkadelphia, Ark., in 1948, and both his master’s degree and doctorate in history from Vanderbilt, in 1950 and 1953 respectively. He was an American history scholar. In addition to his tenure at Vanderbilt, he taught and served as an administrator at the University of Houston, and served as president of the State University of New York at Albany, the flagship institution of the massive SUNY system.

He is survived by his wife, three children and four grandchildren.

John M. Sloopen, professor of communication studies, received the 2005 W. M. Wickersham Memorial Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Rhetoric and Public Address for his book Distilling Gender (University of Massachusetts, 2004).

Frank Tong, assistant professor of psychology, was recently named one of 50 top researchers in the nation by Scientific American.
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