



VANDERBILT

Vanderbilt International News Brief

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Vanderbilt International

A Message from the Assistant Provost for International Affairs

As we look toward commencement for the Class of 2009, we wanted to highlight a few of the many activities Vanderbilt is doing internationally. In this issue, you will find information on our spring/summer 2009 issue of *Vanderbilt International*; Vanderbilt's opportunity to host a Fulbright Gateway Orientation this summer; and a few of the many international collaborative grants awarded to leading faculty in our schools.

As always, if you have any ideas for our fall/winter 2009 magazine or other suggestions, please e-mail us at vio@vanderbilt.edu

Joel Harrington
Assistant Provost for International Affairs

VIO Publishes Spring/Summer 2009 Issue of *Vanderbilt International Magazine*



The Vanderbilt International Office continues to highlight the many successes of faculty, staff and students from their involvement in international research, teaching, and service. In the [spring/summer 2009 issue](#) of *Vanderbilt International*, some of the stories include:

- **Continental Collaboration:** Vanderbilt and the University of Melbourne, one of our core partners, share research and leverage our individual strengths to advance initiatives worldwide.
- **Engineering a Better World:** Read how a Vanderbilt course influences a student to design a hand-cranked otoscope for use in clinics lacking electricity and batteries.

The spring/summer 2009 issue has been mailed to schools, departments, and colleagues involved internationally. All Vanderbilt colleges, schools, departments, divisions, and offices are invited to contribute ideas and stories to the editors. Please email us at vio@vanderbilt.edu with anything you have to share or if you would like to be added to our next mailing list.



Pediatric Infectious Diseases Professor Receives Swiss Funds

Natasha Halasa, assistant professor of pediatrics at Vanderbilt's Children's Hospital, received 870,000 CHF (\$767,000) from the UBS Optimus Foundation for the Vitamin D and Severity of Respiratory

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Viral Illness project. In October 2007, Halasa used VIO grant funds to initiate a collaboration with Jordan University faculty to conduct a joint project concerning respiratory surveillance. This project led to publication and poster presentation at a major international symposium in Singapore in 2008. In March, the foundation board announced that Halasa would receive a three-year grant from the UBS Optimus Foundation to further her search on vitamin D and respiratory viral illness.

For more information on the past recipient success stories of the VIO Grants Program, please visit http://www.vanderbilt.edu/vio/funding/past_recipients.

Vanderbilt to Host Fulbright Gateway Orientation



The [Institute of International Education](#) has awarded the Vanderbilt International Office a grant to host a Fulbright Gateway Orientation for up to 60 Fulbright scholars this summer. The Fulbright Gateway

Orientation is a benefit made available to foreign Fulbright student grantees arriving in the United States, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. During the orientation, Fulbright Scholars will learn about U.S. academic life, engage in discussions surrounding American politics and federalism, and focus on cross-cultural awareness and mutual understanding.

Peabody Receives U.S. State Department Funding



Xiu Cravens, Peabody College's assistant dean for international affairs and research assistant professor, received confirmation from the U.S. State Department of funding for two new international programs at Peabody as well as internal funding from the Vanderbilt International Office

[The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program](#) has received five-year grant eligibility from the Institute of International Education. Fulbright Commissions from Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia will nominate eight Humphrey Fellows for 10 months of non-degree study and professional development in the United States. Funding starts in the 2009-2010 academic year, and Peabody will host a group of Humphrey Fellows.

[The Distinguished Fulbright Awards in Teaching Program](#), another new Peabody international program, received funding through the Academy for Education Development with an annual renewable contract. The funding begins Fall 2009 for 12 recipients of Fulbright Distinguished Teacher awards from Argentina, Finland, India, Israel, Singapore and South Africa to participate in a non-credit semester-long program at Peabody.

This is a Vanderbilt News Service item. For questions, please contact Melanie Moran at Melanie.moran@vanderbilt.edu.



VISAGE Receives National Awards in International Education

The [Vanderbilt Initiative for Scholarship and Global Engagement \(VISAGE\)](#) was recognized for its unique approach to studying abroad by the [Institute of](#)

[International Education](#) and [NASPA](#), a professional association for student affairs administrators.

Vanderbilt received an honorable mention in the study abroad category of the IIE's annual Andrew Heiskell Awards for Innovation in International Education. Assistant Provost Joel Harrington accepted the IIE Award this March at a U.N. reception in New York City (pictured left). VISAGE also received a bronze NASPA Excellence Award in the category "Careers, Academic Support, Service-Learning, Community Service and Related" for combining educational study abroad as well as community service opportunities.

This summer, 35 students will travel to Costa Rica, South Africa, and Nicaragua to explore dimensions of civic engagement, global citizenship, social justice, and sustainability. For more information, read "The Vision of VISAGE" in the [fall/winter 2008 issue \(part 1\)](#) and [spring/summer 2009 issue \(part 2\)](#) of *Vanderbilt International*.

*Please feel free to forward this message to colleagues and others. To unsubscribe, please email vio@vanderbilt.edu with the word, "UNSUBSCRIBE", in the subject line.