

# Vanderbilt

A full-page background image showing a diver in a black wetsuit and purple goggles swimming over a diverse coral reef. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from the surface. The diver is positioned in the upper left, looking towards the camera. The reef below is a mix of green and brown corals, with several small fish swimming around.

SUMMER 2018

## TREASURE HUNTERS

Vanderbilt alumni search the ocean depths for pharmaceutical breakthroughs





## **1,000 WORDS** THE ART OF COOKING

Sharing a meal is one of the best ways to get to know people, especially when you're far from home. Last spring 14 study-abroad students from Vanderbilt, Cornell, Brandeis, and the University of Virginia not only broke bread together, but made it themselves as they delved into the art of preparing gnocchi during a cooking class in Siena, Italy. The photo, a winner in the 2018 Global Education Office photo contest, was taken by senior Stephanie Schor.



STAFF

# Vanderbilt

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A new *Heard Libraries* exhibit illustrates the dramatic impact of the two world wars on Vanderbilt's faculty, students and alumni—on campus and abroad. In fact, during World War II, the 300th General Hospital Unit in Naples, Italy, was staffed primarily by doctors and nurses from Vanderbilt. Read more on page 68.

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Vanderbilt's brilliant students never cease to impress, and members of the Class of 2018 certainly are no exception. Take a closer look at seven of them.

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Applying trailblazing methods to drug discovery, two alumni are plumbing the oceans' depths in search of organisms that could be key to more effective drugs for cancer and other diseases.

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Vanderbilt's successful recruiting model finds the rarest of student-athletes: those who excel both on the field and in the classroom.

## 46 Vanderbilt Bytes into Data Science

The university's expansion of instruction in data science and machine learning will add to the burgeoning field's already pervasive presence in a growing number of industries.

**ON THE COVER:** Sirenas chairman and co-founder Eduardo Esquenazi, BS'98, explores a Caribbean Sea reef in search of organisms with potential pharmaceutical benefits. Story on page 34. Photo by Sirenas Expedition Team.

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# Collaborative Innovation

NEARLY 20 YEARS AGO, new imaging and digital technologies allowed researchers an unprecedented look into the deepest workings of the human brain. Vanderbilt saw the potential of this revolutionary field and invested in a brain institute specifically designed to foster research collaboration from any part of campus, whether in medicine, engineering, the basic sciences, law, business or the humanities.

Today the Vanderbilt Brain Institute proudly occupies its place as a global leader in neuroscience, fueling breakthroughs and innovations that get to the very heart of the university's mission and training the next generation of research leaders in this dynamic area.

During the past several years, Vanderbilt faculty and administrators similarly have witnessed how data-science applications like artificial intelligence and machine learning have opened novel pathways of discovery in a wide array of disciplines. As with the Brain Institute 20 years ago, Vanderbilt is investing boldly in the exciting new area of data science. You'll read on page 46 that we are launching the Vanderbilt Data Science Institute this fall and are developing a master's degree program in the subject that will admit students beginning in 2019.

What makes both these fields ideal for Vanderbilt is that they hold a great deal of promise for sparking research partnerships across campus that might not happen otherwise. Why is collaboration so important? I truly believe the advancement of knowledge is best served by a multidimensional perspective. To get an idea of what this means in practice, look at some of this year's Trans-Institutional Programs (TIPs) award recipients.

One project combines 3-D modeling technology from the School of Engineering with cultural experts in the College of Arts and Science,

Divinity School and Blair School of Music to preserve valuable artifacts. Another proposal maps out a research plan not only to understand the biology behind microbial resistance to antibiotics, but also to determine the best ways to educate the public about protecting themselves and loved ones against these so-called superbugs.

This issue's cover story, beginning on page 34, also shows the value of taking a multidisciplinary approach to solving problems. Alumni Eduardo Esquenazi, BS'98, and business partner Jake Beverage, BA'98, turned to the vast richness of the ocean (aided by data science) to seek potential life-saving compounds in an area largely unexplored by pharmaceutical researchers. Yet the friendship between Eduardo and Jake began long before they went into business together. They met at a party as Vanderbilt sophomores.

It's a good reminder that while each of us has unique interests and passions, exponentially more knowledge is to be gained by engaging with and including those around us—particularly when those people view the world through a different lens than your own.

Every single member of our diverse community, from the oldest alumni to the newest admitted students, contributes a vital part to our core mission. We are united by a distinct set of values. That's why we are a *university*, not a *poly*-versity. We stand together. We are one Vanderbilt.

—NICHOLAS S. ZEPPOS, CHANCELLOR  
@Nick\_Zeppos



DANIEL DUBOIS



# PROLOGUE

Students may have been away during the summer months, but that doesn't mean the campus was entirely quiet. Vanderbilt hosts a variety of camps for kids, including the Summer Academy at Vanderbilt for the Young, intended for gifted and high-achieving children entering grades 1–6. Part of Peabody College's Programs for Talented Youth, SAVY offers weeklong, accelerated courses led by Vanderbilt professors and graduate students. With limited class sizes of fewer than 20 students, the program offered topics like Stellar Astronomy, Dabbling with DNA and Becoming a Botanist, which gave the youngest campers an opportunity to peer through a microscope for the first time.



## Employer of Choice

'FORBES' NAMES VU ONE OF THE BEST EMPLOYERS FOR WOMEN

*Forbes* has named Vanderbilt University among the best employers for women in the United States.

"I'm delighted that Vanderbilt is included in this distinguished list," says Barbara Carroll, associate vice chancellor and chief human resources officer. "It demonstrates that our faculty and staff, as well as others around the country, recognize Vanderbilt's commitment to a quality workplace—one that reflects qualities that may be of special importance to women, such as meaningful work, excellent family benefits, professional and career development, parental leave, flexible work-scheduling opportunities, and generous paid-time-off programs."

The rankings are based on an independent national survey of more than 40,000 employees who work in organizations that employ at least 1,000 workers. Criteria included overall working conditions, diversity, pay, and the likelihood that an individual would recommend their employer to others.

Earlier this year *Forbes* also named Vanderbilt one of "America's Best Large Employers."

"Being included truly speaks to the heart of what we believe in at Vanderbilt—valuing our community members and staying steadfast in our journey of inclusivity and equity," says Eric Kopstain, vice chancellor for administration. "We mean it when we say we want to be an 'employer of choice' and to recruit and retain top talent across the university."

Members of the Eskind family, including Annette Eskind [front row, center], gathered in July for the opening of the Annette and Irwin Eskind Family Biomedical Library and Learning Center.



## Vision and Generosity

RENOVATED ESKIND LIBRARY TO SUPPORT MEDICAL TRAINING, RESEARCH

The Annette and Irwin Eskind Family Biomedical Library and Learning Center opened July 18 after a yearlong, \$12.9 million renovation that included infrastructure improvements and updates to support the continuing evolution of medical education.

The renovated space, which is LEED Silver certified, serves as the new home to students in the School of Medicine. Their learning hub moved from its longtime quarters in Light Hall to Eskind's second, third and fourth floors, which feature flexible, technology-enhanced classrooms, study spaces, a lounge and a rooftop patio, as well as offices for administrators and staff. The ground and first floors are dedicated to library space, which is overseen by newly appointed Eskind Library Director Philip Walker, and the History of Medicine collection is housed on the third floor.

"This project reflects Vanderbilt's immersive, collaborative brand of education and will support the learning needs of the next generation of physicians, nurses and biomedical scientists," says Provost and Vice Chancellor for

Academic Affairs Susan R. Wentz. "The renovated library and learning-center space will help keep Vanderbilt at the forefront of supporting biomedical research and medical education, and we are grateful to the Eskind family for their generous support."

The project was supported with a visionary \$6 million gift to Vanderbilt University from the Eskind family in 2016. Longtime Vanderbilt benefactor Annette S. Eskind and her two sons and their wives—Dr. and Mrs. Steven J. Eskind and Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey B. Eskind—made the gift to continue the vision of the late Dr. Irwin Eskind, BA'45, MD'48, former member of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust and clinical professor of medicine, emeritus.

Vanderbilt and the Nashville community have long benefited from the Eskind family's philanthropy. Irwin Eskind, who passed away in 2005, was instrumental in establishing the comprehensive Vanderbilt-Eskind Diabetes Clinic and the Annette Schaffer Eskind Chair at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. His sons jointly established the Irwin B. Eskind Symposium on Diabetes Care and Research in their father's honor before his death.

"We are excited to have a new home for the School of Medicine's M.D. educational programs. Renovation of the library provides an innovative and adaptable environment for how our students learn today," says Dr. Jeff Balsler, MD'90, PhD'90, president and CEO of Vanderbilt University Medical Center and dean of the School of Medicine. "We remain grateful for the vision and generosity of the Eskind family as they continue to support initiatives that transform Vanderbilt's future."



# Presidential Awards

FACULTY HONORED BY WHITE HOUSE  
FOR STEM MENTORSHIP

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy honored two Vanderbilt researchers with its top award, the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, June 25. Vanderbilt's recipients were Keivan Stassun, Stevenson Professor of Physics and Astronomy, and Virginia Shepherd, professor of education, emerita, who accepted on behalf of the Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach. They were among 140 individuals and organizations honored this year.

Stassun is the co-founder of the Fisk-Vanderbilt Master's-to-Ph.D. Bridge program, which uses master's degrees and research as stepping stones to a Ph.D. for underrepresented minority students. He also directs the Initiative for Autism, Innovation and the Workforce, a trans-institutional program established to help adults on the autism spectrum find meaningful work.

Shepherd directs the Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach at Peabody College. As director for the past two decades, she uses her strong research background and passion for science education to create and implement diverse programs for K-12 students and educators.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring were established by the White House in 1995 to recognize the critical roles mentors play outside the traditional classroom in the academic and professional development of the future STEM workforce. Colleagues, administrators and students nominate individuals and organizations for exemplary mentoring sustained over a minimum of five years, with special consideration given to mentoring of groups underrepresented in the STEM fields.

This year's recipients received a presidential citation, as well as \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation, which oversees the awards program.



Stassun



Shepherd



Geer

ANNE RAYNER

## Seasoned Leader

JOHN GEER NAMED COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE DEAN

John G. Geer, a distinguished political scientist and seasoned academic leader, has been named dean of Vanderbilt's College of Arts and Science. Geer was recommended for the role following an extensive national search by a committee comprising faculty, students and alumni from a broad array of disciplines. His five-year term as dean began July 1.

"John Geer has been essential to the forward momentum of Vanderbilt for more than 20 years," says Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos. "His experience and vision make him the ideal person to lead the College of Arts and Science at a time when it is poised to build on its broad and deep strengths as Vanderbilt's largest and most diverse school."

Since 2014, Geer has served as vice provost for academic and strategic affairs, a role in which he has spearheaded the design and implementation of several of the essential components of the university's Academic Strategic Plan. His responsibilities have included co-chairing the Trans-Institutional Programs Council, which is charged with expanding and strengthening Vanderbilt's research and teaching portfolio, and leading the three-year process to launch Immersion Vanderbilt, a new undergraduate degree requirement that encourages experiences in four pathways: creative expression, research, international, and civic and professional.

A member of the College of Arts and Science faculty since 1995, Geer holds the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Chair in Political Science and has published five books and more than 20 articles about presidential politics and elections. He chaired the Department of Political Science from 2010 to 2014 and was a founder of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions. He also co-directs the influential Vanderbilt Poll, which conducts surveys across Nashville and Tennessee to assess the public's thinking on a range of issues.

"I am truly honored by this opportunity to become dean of the college that has been my intellectual home for more than 20 years," says Geer, who also served as interim dean of Vanderbilt's Graduate School in 2015. "The opportunity to work with amazing faculty, stellar students and gifted staff is one that I cherish. I very much look forward to collaborating with colleagues in A&S and across the entire campus as we further advance the trans-institutional mission of the college and the university."

Geer succeeds Kamal Saggi, the Frances and John Downing Family Professor of Economics, who had served as interim dean of the College of Arts and Science since January 2018.

Cicely Woodard, MEd'03, the 2018 Tennessee Department of Education's Teacher of the Year, knows what it takes for kids—and their parents—to succeed in the classroom. The veteran eighth-grade math instructor has toured the state as an education ambassador this year while also continuing to teach at West End Middle School in Nashville.

From speaking at the Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance Conference to visiting the White House with the nation's other Teacher of the Year winners, the past 12 months have entailed travel, public appearances and, yes, teaching. "It has been a beautiful journey," says Woodard. "This is something I was chosen to do for a purpose and a time."

As summer draws to a close, Woodard and her husband, an assistant superintendent for Maury County Public Schools, are busy preparing for the new school year. In addition to developing lesson plans and other tasks, the couple also will be helping their two sons, ages 9 and 11, get back into the school routine.

Here are Woodard's five tips for making that transition smooth:



Woodard

THERESA MONTGOMERY



### 1 SPREAD OUT AND SHUT DOWN.

Many children have required summer reading, math packets, or other work they are asked to complete during the summer break. "I encourage students to spread their work out over the summer," says Woodard. Parents also have a job to do in providing the right environment for students to do that work. "Start by shutting down all screens for a little while," she suggests. It's also helpful to schedule your child's annual physical and dental visits before school resumes. "You want your children to be in school as much as possible so they don't miss anything," she says. "In our family, if we are going to the doctor during the school year, it's because the kids are sick."



### 2 BACK UP BEDTIMES.

"In my house we get off schedule in the summer," Woodard says. "I find that my kids stay up a little later and sleep in a little more, so catching the school bus at 6:45 is definitely a big shock." To get them used to waking up early, don't wait until the night before school begins to demand an earlier bedtime. "Move that bedtime up 10 to 15 minutes a day until it's right where it needs to be," says Woodard. "Children need rest in order to learn and participate in everything the teachers have planned."



### 3 GET ACCLIMATED.

If possible, meet your children's teachers and locate their classrooms before the school year begins. Learn the route from the front door to their homeroom and what they are expected to wear. "Understanding what is going to be expected of your children before school starts helps both the parents and the kids feel more comfortable," Woodard says. She recommends that families review the class schedule, in part to find out when the teacher's planning periods are. "That way, you can catch the teacher when no students are in the room."



### 4 UNWIND AND DINE.

Once the school year does begin, Woodard says parents will want to provide a good environment in which the kids can do their homework, complete with nutritious, enjoyable snacks. When their work is done, give them time to unwind. "Children need the opportunity to be outside and play with neighborhood kids or in a park," she says. Likewise, Woodard advocates having family dinners as often as possible. "We are so busy in the afternoons, but try to sit down to eat as a family without any screens present," she says. "I learn so much about my family and what's going on with them around the table."



### 5 READ EVERY NIGHT.

Many students have 20 minutes or more of required reading each night, which can be a challenge if your child does not like to read. "Make reading part of your nightly routine," Woodard suggests. "Help them find books by authors they enjoy, a series they really love, or a topic they connect to." Parents should get in on the action, too, maybe even reading the same books. "What if more adults had conversations with kids about the books they are reading? That would be really powerful."



# Across the Pond

HISTORIAN PETER LAKE

ELECTED TO BRITISH ACADEMY

Vanderbilt historian Peter Lake has been made a fellow of the prestigious British Academy for the humanities and social sciences. The honor is in recognition of his status as a major voice in the history of post-Reformation politics and the history of the English Civil Wars of the 17th century.

He is among 76 distinguished scholars from around the world to be elected to the fellowship in 2018.



Lake

DANIEL DUBOIS

The author of eight books, Lake is a University Distinguished Professor of History and holds the Martha Rivers Ingram Chair. He is also a professor of the history of Christianity at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

“We are very fortunate to have as our colleague at Vanderbilt such a distinguished and prolific scholar of 16th- and 17th-century English history,” says Marshall Eakin, professor of history and chair of the department. “This extraordinary honor is truly well deserved.”

The British Academy is a community of more than 1,400 of the leading minds that make up the United Kingdom’s national academy for the humanities and social sciences. Current fellows include the classicist Dame Mary Beard, the historian Sir Simon Schama and philosopher Baroness Onora O’Neill, while previous fellows include Sir Winston Churchill, C.S. Lewis, Seamus Heaney and Beatrice Webb.

The Rev. James Lawson delivers the keynote address to conclude Vanderbilt’s 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration.



JOHN RUSSELL

# Lasting Legacy

NEW SCHOLARSHIP HONORS CIVIL RIGHTS

LEADER JAMES LAWSON

The Rev. James Lawson, one of the civil rights movement’s most influential leaders and an important figure in Vanderbilt’s history, is the inspiration for a new undergraduate scholarship at the university. The Rev. James M. Lawson Jr. Scholarship provides need-based financial support for underrepresented minority students who demonstrate a commitment to civil rights and social justice. The scholarship was established by a gift from alumnus Doug Parker, MBA’86, and his wife, Gwen.

“Gwen and I have tremendous respect for Rev. Lawson and the enormous role he played in the civil rights movement,” says Parker, chairman and CEO of American Airlines and a member of Vanderbilt’s Board of Trust. “We’re honored to help extend his legacy at Vanderbilt through this scholarship and support future generations of civil rights and social justice advocates.”



Doug and Gwen Parker

After coming to Vanderbilt Divinity School as a transfer student in 1958, Lawson helped organize sit-ins to desegregate lunch counters in downtown Nashville. His participation in the sit-ins led to his expulsion from Vanderbilt in 1960 following a vote by the executive committee of the university’s Board of Trust—a move that generated national headlines and prompted some faculty members to resign in protest. A compromise was worked out to allow him to complete his degree, but he chose instead to transfer to Boston University.

Eventually, Vanderbilt and Lawson reconciled, and in 1996 he received the Divinity School’s first-ever Distinguished Alumnus Award. The Vanderbilt Alumni Association also recognized him as a Vanderbilt Distinguished Alumnus in 2005. Lawson returned to campus as a

Distinguished University Professor, teaching from 2006 to 2009, and in 2007 the James M. Lawson Jr. Chair at Vanderbilt was established in his honor. He also donated a significant portion of his papers to Vanderbilt Heard Libraries’ Special Collections in 2013.

“Rev. James Lawson’s impact is still felt 60 years after he first arrived as a student on Vanderbilt’s campus,” Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos says. “We all can draw inspiration from his unwavering courage and boundless determination in bringing about meaningful social change in this country. I’m delighted that this new scholarship enables current and future Vanderbilt students to follow in his footsteps and create legacies of their own as champions of civil rights and social justice.”

IMPRESSION



JOE HOWELL

**SQUEAKY CLEAN** This summer, students got hands-on experience conducting nanoscale research in the Vanderbilt Institute for Nanoscale Science and Engineering’s state-of-the-art cleanroom, a 10,000-square-foot, commercial-grade facility housed in the new Engineering and Science Building. The opportunity was part of the National Science Foundation-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates program, which VINSE has hosted on campus since 2011.



STEVE GREEN

# Holistic Health

COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT CARE NETWORK LAUNCHED

Vanderbilt’s new Student Care Network officially launched July 1, providing a holistic, inclusive system of health and wellness services and resources to the university’s undergraduate, graduate and professional students. The launch is a key element in the university’s initiative to support the community’s mental health and wellbeing.

“We want to be a national leader in innovative approaches to promote the wellbeing of our community,” says Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos. “Students are a vital part of the Vanderbilt community, and we are committed to supporting them in both physical and mental health.”

The new network, which comprises the Office of Student Care Coordination, the University Counseling Center, the Student Health Center, and the Center for Student Wellbeing, supports the recommendations of a chancellor-appointed committee that issued the Strategic Plan for Mental Health and Wellbeing in March.

The key element of the network is the new Office of Student Care Coordination that opened July 1. Staffed with a team of care coordinators, the office is the central and first point of contact for students to identify needs and determine the most appropriate resources to address concerns.

“The staff members in the Office of Student Care Coordination are the people who help the students access the care they need. The care coordinators work collaboratively with students to develop a success plan and get them connected to the right resources,” says Cynthia Cyrus, vice provost for learning and residential affairs. “Students told us they needed a better way to navigate the resources we have available, and this new office provides that personal contact and guidance.”

The creation and launch of the new University Counseling Center, which replaced the Psychological and Counseling Center as of July 1, is also part of the Student Care Network. Under the direction of the UCC’s inaugural director, Todd Weinman, services follow a stepped-care model, providing short-term tailored care based on specific needs. This support includes enhanced services, partnerships with campus wellness offices, and resources for the campus in times of crisis.

A new website provides access to the Student Care Network, linking students to the wide range of services available on campus and in the community. Visit [vu.edu/student-care](http://vu.edu/student-care) to find out more.



# Advance Care

NEW LAW AND NURSING STUDENT CLINIC  
ASSISTS OLDER ADULTS

Older adults in the Nashville area who need advance care plans and financial power-of-attorney documents can get them easily and free of charge thanks to a new interprofessional pilot project involving Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, Vanderbilt Law School and Vanderbilt University Medical Center. The pilot is underwritten by Nashville's West End Home Foundation, whose mission is to enrich the lives of older adults through grantmaking, advocacy and community collaboration.

The Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic uses teams of Vanderbilt nursing and law students to introduce the sometimes challenging topic of advance care directives to patients at the Vanderbilt Senior Care Clinic run by Professor of Medicine Dr. James Powers.

The student teams meet with seniors at the clinic before or after patients' medical appointments. They provide information and assistance in creating the medical and legal documents needed to assure that the patients' wishes are known and carried out if needed in the future. The senior care outpatient clinic provides in-kind office space for the medical-legal clinic, ensuring the patients have access to private, face-to-face counseling sessions.

School of Nursing Assistant Professor Carrie Plummer, MSN'05, established the program. She directs it and oversees the nursing students' involvement.

"A 2017 study found that less than a third of adult Tennesseans surveyed reported having an advance directive or power-of-attorney paperwork completed," Plummer says. "At the same time, the majority of health care providers are not comfortable initiating discussions with their patients about end-of-life decisions and/or feel that they don't have sufficient time to include these discussions in the primary care setting."

"This program gives nursing and law students the skills and experience to successfully engage and navigate these difficult discussions with patients while providing a much-needed service," she adds.

Vanderbilt Adjunct Professor of Law Anne-Marie Farmer, JD'03, supervises the law students. She says the program offers them a valuable opportunity to learn important practice skills that are difficult to teach in a traditional class setting.

"This provides real-life experience in client interaction," Farmer says, "particularly how to explain complex issues to clients who don't have a background in 'legalese' and for whom these concepts are unfamiliar and often avoided."



Nursing student Breanna Baraff discusses advance directive materials with patient Leona Campbell.

Newton coached the Commodores from 1982 to 1989.



ANTHONY BARBOZA/GETTY

# SEC Legend

COACH C.M. NEWTON DIES AT 88

C.M. Newton, former head men's basketball coach at Vanderbilt and two-time SEC Coach of the Year with the Commodores, passed away June 4 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He was 88.

Newton, who also served as head men's basketball coach at Alabama during his career, coached Vanderbilt from 1982 to 1989 and led the 'Dores to two NCAA Tournament appearances, including a run to the Sweet 16 in 1988 that featured an epic 80-74 overtime win over Pittsburgh in the Round of 32.

At Vanderbilt, Newton coached All-American Will Perdue, BA'88, and USA Basketball Team member Jeff Turner, BA'84, as well as other well-known players like Barry Goheen, BA'89, JD'94; Phil Cox, BS'85; Barry Booker, BA'89, MBA'97; and Frank Kornet, BA'89.

Newton, who went on to become director of athletics at Kentucky following his time at Vanderbilt, was enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000, the College Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006, and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Hall of Fame last year.

"C.M. was a great in the field of college sports," says David Williams II, Vanderbilt's vice chancellor for athletics and university affairs and athletics director. "As a coach, an athletics director or an adviser to those of us who worked with him, played against him, or were fortunate to learn from him, C.M. represents the very best of college sports. The foundation of what we have been able to accomplish at Vanderbilt is directly linked to C.M.'s time on our campus and his longtime love and support for this university."

Newton was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Evelyn Davis Newton. He is survived by his wife of 16 years, Nancy Watts Newton, three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## MIND'S EYE SEASONS GREETINGS

Top: Seasonal Cycles mural by Polly Cook; ceramic tile, 1993.  
Bottom: Mural details.



To see more Vanderbilt campus sculpture, visit [vu.edu/sculptures](http://vu.edu/sculptures)

PHOTOS BY JOE HOWELL

## Polly Cook's mural attests to the rhythms of campus

Come sun, rain or snow, one of the best places on Vanderbilt's campus to find shelter is under Calhoun Hall's stone portico, facing out toward the law and business schools. This refuge is also home to a mural of campus life, *Seasonal Cycles*, created in ceramic tiles by Nashville native Polly Cook. Installed in 1993, it depicts all seasons on campus, beginning with summer on the left and ending with spring on the right. It traces Vanderbilt's history, starting with a turn-of-the-20th-century couple in front of the Main Building—the double-towered predecessor of Kirkland Hall—and finishes with a couple in modern dress strolling the campus.

Cook, whose favorite medium is clay, was commissioned by G. Judson Newbern III, now retired as deputy vice chancellor for facilities and

environmental affairs, to create the approximately 8-by-16-foot mural.

"I felt that with Polly's talent and ability to capture imagery with such energy and color in her ceramic work, Vanderbilt should have one of her pieces in its collection," Newbern says. "That open-air porch at Calhoun seemed a great place to animate with a colorful mural. Ceramics was selected because glazed ceramic material holds up longer with more durability [and wash-ability from graffiti] than does paint."

"Polly had never done anything of that scale, but we both liked the cyclical and timeless nature of students moving through these spaces over generations," he says. "We collaborated on a concept that spoke to a campus theme."

Newbern helped Cook get access to archival photographs of campus and sports events that define the academic year. "I can't remember each detail," she says from her home in Texas, "but I tried to fit sports within the seasons."

Known for its narrative style and German Expressionist influences, Cook's work often explores relationships and love. Was that a sub theme within the work?

"I wasn't trying to emphasize romance, but, of course, dating is definitely part of college life. And so is friendship, those you always remember and keep up with years later," she says. "I love nostalgic things and honoring the past, so I hoped to get a little of that in there."

To see more of Polly Cook's work, visit [vu.edu/polly-cook](http://vu.edu/polly-cook)





ALEX IRVIN

## Summer Circuit

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES AND PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS  
ABOUT AT **SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS**

Cornelia Heard has spent nearly every summer since she was in eighth grade at a music festival.

"I went to the Rocky Mountain Summer Music Center that first summer," she remembers, "and the Blair String Quartet was there with Stephen Clapp." Clapp, a former music professor at Peabody College and dean, emeritus, at Juilliard, taught Heard at the precollege Blair Academy. He was a member of the Blair String Quartet, the same signature chamber ensemble in which Heard has now been second violinist for many years. Heard, the Valere Blair Potter Professor of Violin at Vanderbilt, is also a member of the artist faculty at the Aspen Music Summer Festival and School in Colorado.

"At a summer festival the students are not studying for tests or writing papers," Heard says. "Their days are structured around orchestra rehearsals, chamber music coaching, master classes, private lessons, going to concerts, practicing—everything is geared toward being part of this musical community. It shows them what the greater music world is like and what the standards are."

Every summer many of Blair's performance undergraduates and precollege Myra Jackson Blair scholars attend summer music festivals.

To help defray costs, students receive financial assistance through the Potter Precollege Student Opportunity Fund, the Potter College Student Opportunity Fund, and the Jean and Alexander Heard Award.

Samantha Long, a 2018 musical arts (voice) graduate, spent part of last summer at Prague Summer Nights, a music festival in the Czech Republic to which she returned this summer.

"Summer programs allow musicians to get a lot of repertoire under their belts," she says. "Singing the Countess in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* for Prague Summer Nights will be a big résumé boost."

Students also make valuable connections. "It's important to have exposure to a lot of different artists," Heard says. "This helps a student find his or her own voice. At summer festivals our undergraduate students often have lessons with prospective graduate school teachers to find out if they like working together and to see a different approach."

Rising senior violinist Eliza Wong spent last summer as one of very few undergraduate fellows at Tanglewood Music Center, the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

"It's intense because everyone is really good

at their instrument," she says, "but the environment is really inspiring. At least every other night I went to different concerts. It's so special being able to experience such a high professional level of chamber music and orchestral playing." Wong was invited back and attended Tanglewood again this summer.

Heard stresses that even as a faculty member, she is constantly listening—and learning.

"You learn about how other people teach and how music education works in Israel, England, Austria, Japan, Korea. The students and the teachers come from all over the country and the world," she says. "It's very busy, but it's rejuvenating."

"Plus, I met people my first two days in Aspen as a 15-year-old who are still very close colleagues now," she says. "That's what you do at summer festivals. You meet people you will know the rest of your life."

### ACCOLADE



MATT MURPHY

**Alumnus Raviv in Tony-winning musical**  
*The Band's Visit*, a musical about an Egyptian orchestra stuck for a night in a remote Israeli town, swept the Tony Awards on June 10, winning 10 awards, including Best Musical.

Katrina Lenk and Tony Shalhoub (above, seated) both won Tony Awards for their performances in the lead roles. The show's small cast also features Blair alumnus Jonathan Raviv [BMus'03 in vocal performance] in the role of Sammy, the former lover of Lenk's Dina, who owns the local cafe.

Raviv (above, standing) was in the original cast of the critically acclaimed world premiere at the off-Broadway Atlantic Theater Co., which ran Dec. 8, 2016, through Jan. 8, 2017. The Broadway production opened in November 2017.

## Paths to Storytelling

THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE NEH DISCOVERED  
A LOVE FOR WORDS AT VANDERBILT

Jon Parrish Peede, BS'91, who was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in April as chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, has taken several paths in government service, all of them paved with words. "I discovered during my student days that what I loved were words on paper," says Peede, whose career in Washington has been dedicated to promoting history, learning and literature.

Prior to his confirmation, he was senior deputy chair of the NEH for a year, and he previously held leadership posts at the National Endowment for the Arts, where he was literature grants director.

"These are extraordinarily friendly and intellectually stimulating places to work," he says, "with very gifted colleagues."

Peede's road to government service involved several "pivots," as he terms them, but he's quick to say that it began with the education he received at Vanderbilt. "I don't know if I'd be sitting at the National Endowment for the Humanities if it weren't for Vanderbilt across two generations," he says.

His father, Dr. Robert L. Peede Sr., grew up the son of a steel-mill worker and, thanks to a scholarship, became a Vanderbilt-educated (BA'58) surgeon. His brother Robert Jr., known as Bobby, is a 1991 graduate of the Owen Graduate School of Management who currently serves as director of presidential advance for the Trump administration. Jon Peede's daughter, Somerset, extended the Vanderbilt legacy into a third generation when she entered the Blair School as a freshman this fall.

Peede himself entered college planning to follow his father's profession, though he credits Michael Kreyling and Vereen Bell, professors of English, emeriti, and Susan Ford Wiltshire, professor of classics, emerita, with nurturing his fascination with books. A Mississippi native, Peede earned a master's degree in Southern studies at the University of Mississippi before embarking on a varied career as a book editor, publisher and university communications director. His eight-year NEA stint ended in 2011, and he served as publisher of the prestigious literary journal *Virginia Quarterly Review* before coming on board at the NEH.

The common thread in all his endeavors, as he sees it, is the reverence for storytelling that he learned at Vanderbilt.

"Whether funding poets when I was at the NEA or preserving endangered languages and cultural artifacts at the NEH, I was always prepared because of my Vanderbilt professors."

The connection has come full circle. NEH grants currently fund several Vanderbilt faculty projects, including research on the Social Security number by Associate Professor of History and American Studies Sarah Igo



ANNA GODESSI/THE ISPO



Peede

and work at the Slave Societies Digital Archive (hosted at the Heard Libraries) by Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of History Jane Landers. In addition, Peede will deliver the 2018–19 Harry C. Howard Jr. Lecture on campus April 2, 2019.

Peede clearly relishes the NEH's work of enabling scholarship and storytelling, and he wants to see today's students embrace the same passion for the arts and humanities he found at Vanderbilt.

Recalling his own days of discovery, he urges the next generation to "first give in to delight and curiosity."

"They're so focused on getting the perfect grade and following all the rules," he says, "that I sometimes worry they're missing the sheer love of learning."

—MARIA BROWNING

### ACCOLADES

**Blair MTNA national competition winners**  
For the second year in a row, Blair undergraduates won national honors competing against both undergraduate and graduate students at the 2017–18 Music Teachers National Association annual competition March 17–21 in Orlando, Florida. To compete at nationals, musicians have already won their state and regional divisions.



STEVE GREEN

Lauren Urquhart, BMus'18, took first place in the voice category of the Young Artist Performance competition. She studied with Amy Jarman, senior lecturer in voice. The Music City Quintet—composed of juniors Miranda Shum, piano; Hesoo Cha, violin; Emily Monroe, violin; Rachel Haber, viola; and Eric Cho, cello—won first place in the Chamber Music competition. They are coached by Cornelia Heard. Last year Cha and Haber were members of the Claudius Quartet, which won third place in the national Chamber Music competition.

### Hamlet award recipients

The Vanderbilt University Department of Art awarded its prestigious Margaret Stonewall Wooldridge Hamlet Award for 2018 to Joshua Austin Forges, BA'18, from Davie, Florida. He received a \$25,000 prize that provides for a year of art research and travel, culminating with a solo exhibition in Space 204, the main gallery space of the Department of Art. The \$10,000 merit award was presented to Nia Margaret Warren, BA'18, from Cincinnati.



## Meal Plan

QB STARTS NONPROFIT TO  
TACKLE FOOD WASTE

Mo Hasan was a freshman quarterback at Syracuse when, one afternoon, he found himself chatting with a chef at the Orange's football training table. During that conversation Hasan was hit with a sobering reality.

"He started talking to me about how much food they waste," says Hasan, now a redshirt sophomore quarterback for the Commodores. "I started looking into it, and it turns out 40 percent of food in the United States is wasted.



Learn more about Hasan's nonprofit at [vu.edu/second-spoon](http://vu.edu/second-spoon)

Mo Hasan, second from left, in the Second Spoon truck

In my hometown of Miami, there's a huge problem with hunger and homelessness. I thought to myself, *This doesn't make sense.*"

Hasan, who transferred to Vanderbilt this summer after a year at Coffeyville (Kansas) Community College, began researching food waste in America and was taken aback at his findings. Americans throw out \$150 billion worth of food each year. Moreover, food waste produces an estimated 3.3 billion tons of carbon dioxide annually.

Those facts led Hasan to create a nonprofit in Miami called Second Spoon. He organized a successful fundraiser to purchase a food truck and, with the help of volunteers, began cold-calling restaurants in the city to ask for donations of unused food. The group now receives food from up to six local restaurants each week and distributes it to different parts of the city from the truck.

"We've got a ton of volunteers back home carrying it out, and the response has been amazing," Hasan says. "It's been a really humbling experience. Aside from the morality of the issue, it's also a really big economic issue in this country. The amount of food waste produced by our country is unbelievable."



Rice, c. 1943

VU SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

From left: Maria Swebililius, BA'18; junior Natalie Gottschlich; coxswain Matt Gu, BA'18; Jamey Gallegos, BS'18; senior Katy Roach; and Head Coach Jon Miller celebrate their national championship at the ACRA finals.



ROWER

## Big Splash

CLUB ROWING TEAM WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Vanderbilt women's club rowing team was crowned national champion in the Women's Varsity 4+ event at the American Collegiate Rowing Association finals May 28. The team defeated Cincinnati, Washington State and five other boats in a competitive grand final at the Lake Lanier Olympic Rowing Venue in Gainesville, Georgia.

The victory follows last year's silver medal at the 2017 ACRA finals and a decorated 2018 season. In addition to a silver medal at the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association finals and a gold medal at the 2018 ACRA Henley, Katy Roach, Maria Swebililius, BA'18, and Jamey Gallegos, BS'18, were named to the ACRA South All-Region team.

Meanwhile, the Vanderbilt men's club rowing team edged out Texas by 0.2 seconds to earn a fourth-place finish in the Men's Varsity 8+C event at the ACRA finals. And senior Griffin Meert, BA'18, was named to the ACRA South All-Region team as well.

## Dean of Sportswriters

NEW GRANTLAND RICE DOCUMENTARY TO AIR

By *Grantland Rice*, a forthcoming documentary from ESPN Films' "SEC Storied" series, will highlight the life and career of Vanderbilt alumnus Henry Grantland Rice, BA 1901, one of the most important sportswriters in American history. The film will debut Sept. 25 on the SEC Network.

Known for his elegant prose, Rice helped mythologize the accomplishments of sports figures like Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, and the backfield of Knute Rockne's 1924 Notre Dame football team, whom he famously dubbed the "Four Horsemen." Rice also penned one of the most widely quoted lines ever, which appeared in his poem "Alumni Football": "For when the One Great Scorer comes to write against your name, He marks not that you won or lost, but how you played the game."

Today, Vanderbilt's Fred Russell-Grantland Rice Scholarship in Sports Journalism honors Rice's legacy and that of his protégé Fred Russell, '27, by providing support for a student interested in sports journalism. Just a few past recipients include author and humorist Roy Blount Jr., BA'63; Fox Sports commentator Skip Bayless, BA'74; and *New York Times* baseball reporter Tyler Kepner, BA'97.



Vanderbilt Head Athletic Trainer Tom "Boz" Bossung, left, and Lindsay McLean visit the athletic training room that was supported through McLean's bequest.

"If you see me on television, that's not good. It means I'm assisting an injured player."

JOHN RUSSELL

### Gift recognizes efforts of Vanderbilt athletic trainers working 'behind the scenes'

Nashville native J. Lindsay McLean, BA'60, was a self-described "Hillsboro High School junior in charge of the football team's first-aid kit" when he saw an announcement in the local paper that would forever alter his life. The ad was for a class on sports injuries taught by legendary Vanderbilt head athletic trainer Joe Worden, and though it was targeted at coaches, McLean received permission to sit in on it.

The experience not only would have a profound impact on his professional calling but also cement what has become a lifelong devotion to Vanderbilt.

"I used the notes from that class to teach similar courses for the next two decades," recalls McLean, who himself went on to have a legendary career as a head athletic trainer, most notably with the San Francisco 49ers organization, where he won five Super Bowl rings during nearly 25 years with the team.

Two years after that fateful class, McLean began working under Worden as a student athletic trainer at Vanderbilt. What he initially thought would be just a freshman hobby became by year's end a singular dream—one that would prove an enduring connection to Vanderbilt athletics well after his graduation.

McLean went on to act as a de facto Vanderbilt recruiter, seeding the head athletic trainer posi-

tion from the 1970s to the 1990s with candidate recommendations that make up a who's who of luminaries in the field. Among them were John "Jack" Redgren, an inductee—along with McLean and Worden—into the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame; John Norwig, who later became head athletic trainer for the Pittsburgh Steelers; and Fred Tedeschi, who followed his time at Vanderbilt with a position as head athletic trainer for the Chicago Bulls.

Recently, McLean decided to acknowledge the impact of Worden's mentorship and all the ways in which he has benefited from his Vanderbilt experience by giving back to the program that set him on his path to success.

"I've been very fortunate to be in the right places, but I never would have had those opportunities or inclinations if it hadn't been for this community," he says. "I would not have had the career I did without Vanderbilt."

His bequest, allocated in two parts to the Department of Athletics, ensures that future athletic trainers are given every opportunity to succeed. The Athletic Training Room Hall of Fame Scholarship provides need-based student athletic trainer assistance, while the Athletic Training Room

Endowment helps the department maintain a modern, state-of-the-art training facility.

"It's unprecedented," says Tom "Boz" Bossung, MEd'92, Vanderbilt's current head athletic trainer, of the planned gift. "The support staff is rarely seen, but vital to athletics. This gift directly benefits them."

As both McLean and Bossung can attest, athletic trainers occupy a unique place in sports. They may not receive many kudos for their work, but their expertise and tireless dedication are critical to helping the athletes in the spotlight stay on top of their game.

"We're always behind the scenes, and that's where we want to stay," Bossung says. "If you see me on television, that's not good. It means I'm assisting an injured player."

An ardent Commodores fan, McLean is enjoying the proximity to games his Nashville retirement affords, though he confesses with a laugh, "Most of the time that I've got my binoculars out, I'm watching Boz taking care of the players." McLean calls Bossung "the most unsung guy in the SEC."

Bossung, though, is quick to return the respect. "As a young graduate assistant," he says, "I looked at Lindsay's career and thought, 'That's who I want to be.'"

—LILY KANE



# Coaching *Principals*

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS BENEFIT WHEN THEIR BOSSES  
ACT AS MENTORS INSTEAD OF ADMINISTRATORS

A new report by Vanderbilt University researchers finds that school principals and districts benefit when supervisors move beyond the role of administrator to that of coach and mentor.

The study—part of The Wallace Foundation’s Principal Supervisor Initiative, a four-year, \$24 million effort conducted by researchers at Vanderbilt and Mathematica Policy Research—tracks the implementation of five key components to reshape these supervisor positions in large, urban school districts. Each district changed the job descriptions and restructured central offices so that principal supervisors could step away from operational, administrative and compliance tasks to coach, mentor and advise principals to be more effective as instructional leaders.

“Executive coaching is prevalent in high-performing organizations, but it’s not typically done in school districts,” says lead investigator Ellen Goldring, Patricia and Rodes Hart Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy at Vanderbilt’s Peabody College. “After three years, we saw substantial change in all districts. They came up with efficient and effective ways to position supervisors so they could fill the coaching and supporting gap.”

Jody Spiro, director of education leadership at The Wallace Foundation, adds, “This new study shows us that school districts participating in the initiative could transform the principal supervisor role into a source of support for principals in leading, teaching and learning. Principals felt better supported, and the district culture and central office culture changed for the better.”

The six districts included in the study are: Broward County Public Schools in Florida, Baltimore City Public Schools in Maryland, Cleveland Metropolitan School District in Ohio, Des Moines Public Schools in Iowa, Long Beach Unified School District in California, and Minneapolis Public Schools in Minnesota.

The researchers focused on five components for restructuring principal supervisor roles:

## 1. Focus on instructional leadership.

Districts revised the supervisors’ job descriptions to outline new expectations for the role, which moved toward a focus on supporting and developing principals in schools and away from overseeing compliance.

“Most principal supervisors reported they now spend the largest share of their time, 63 percent, working directly with principals, engaging in newly developed routines and practices, such as participating in classroom walk-throughs, coaching principals, leading collaborative learning and providing ongoing feedback,” Goldring says.

## 2. Reduce the number of principals overseen.

The supervisors in the study were initially responsible for managing an

average of 17 principals, though some oversaw as many as 21, making it nearly impossible to engage with them all in a meaningful way. That number was reduced to an average of 12, with districts hiring additional supervisors. The number of supervisors who reported that they oversaw too many principals declined in every district. Supervisors also created principal networks to facilitate collaboration and learning.

## 3. Provide dedicated professional development.

Districts implemented training programs specifically designed to build supervisors’ capacity in coaching and principal support and development in instruction. For many of them, it was the first time they had received professional instruction directly relevant to their role. In spring 2017, 80 percent reported participating in such opportunities.

## 4. Redefine the central office’s role.

The districts made substantial progress in restructuring central offices to better align with the revised role of supervisors. They streamlined departments and dismantled barriers that stifled communication and improved processes, resulting in better integration and collaboration across departments.

## 5. Fill the pipeline.

Three districts developed and implemented apprenticeship programs, serving as a key strategy for preparing school leaders for principal supervisor positions. These programs featured rigorous selection procedures and offered a mix of training sessions, individual coaching and performance feedback, mentoring from a current principal supervisor, and shadowing of central office leaders.

Goldring believes other school districts can learn from this study by seeing both what is feasible—that these supervisor roles can be changed—and what challenges the districts faced.

“Reducing the span of control requires districts to shift spending, which was not an option for some. In addition, districts changing the supervisor’s job description necessitated that they also change other central office roles,” she says. “It’s a heavy lift, but this study represents an incredibly positive example of the power of the supervisor role and a hopeful story about the power of district reform.”

The second of three reports, to be published in July 2019, will measure the Principal Supervisor Initiative’s impact on principal effectiveness. The third report, to be released in December 2019, will compare principal supervision in the six districts in this study with peers in other urban districts.

—JOAN BRASHER



NEIL WEBB



# Adjustable Ankles

TINY MOTORS AND SENSORS ALLOW FOR MORE NATURAL MOVEMENT IN PROSTHETIC LEGS



VANDERBILT VIDEO

Unlike static prosthetic ankles now available for amputees, the new intelligent ankle from Michael Goldfarb's lab anticipates the user's movement and adjusts the feet to different terrains, thanks to a tiny motor, actuator, sensors and a microchip.

It's virtually impossible to know Mike Sasser's left leg is a prosthetic one; after a decade of practice, he moves surely and swiftly through his busy days as a consultant and father.

But when Sasser encounters uneven ground or a flight of stairs, he focuses very hard on balance, because that's when using a prosthetic can mean taking a tumble. For years he's been visiting a Vanderbilt University mechanical engineering laboratory, where he's helping test a new "smart" prosthetic ankle that moves with the user.

Prosthetic ankles available now are static, meaning they don't anticipate movement and adjust the feet to different terrains. Many users swing the prosthetic leg outward ever

so slightly during regular walking to make up for feet that don't naturally roll through the motion of walking.

"I've tried hydraulic ankles that had no sort of microprocessors, and they've been clunky, heavy and unforgiving for an active person," Sasser says. "This isn't that. It actually lifts the toe for you. There's a definite market for this."

The device is from the lab of Michael Goldfarb, H. Fort Flowers Professor of Mechanical Engineering, professor of electrical engineering and physical medicine and rehabilitation, and co-director of the Center for Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology. He's perhaps best known for working on a bionic leg with shark-attack victim Craig

Hutto and later developing the world's first easily portable, wearable robot—the Indego exoskeleton.

The ankle has a tiny motor, actuator, sensors and chip that work together to either conform to the surface the foot is contacting or remain stationary, depending on what the user needs.

Goldfarb says the problem with finding workable prosthetic ankles is so pervasive that many amputees wear only one type of shoe—whichever one works best with their prosthetic.

"Our prosthetic ankle is intelligent, so you can wear a dress shoe, a running shoe, a flat—whatever you'd like—and the ankle adapts," Goldfarb says. "You can walk up slopes, down slopes, up stairs and down stairs, and the device figures out what you're doing and functions the way it should."

Harrison Bartlett, MS'18, a Ph.D. student in Goldfarb's lab, works with Sasser, gathering feedback from the sensors and making adjustments based on both the data and Sasser's experience.

As a participant in the National Science Foundation's I-Corps program for budding entrepreneurs, Bartlett also interviewed nearly 100 potential users to understand what would make the ankle a success. His team hopes to commercialize the ankle within the next couple of years.

"I talked to one person whose favorite restaurant was at the top of a long flight of stairs, so they haven't eaten there in 10 years," he says. "Another sat on benches throughout an amusement park while their family enjoyed the rides because they couldn't be sure about navigating them with their prosthetic. We want to return people to any of the life activities they want to do."

RESEARCH ROUNDUP



ISTOCK

## Tiny recording studios may shed light on vocal learning

Vanderbilt biologists Nicole Creanza and Kate Snyder are studying vocal learning in zebra finches by building the tiniest recording studios in Music City.

"No one has to teach us how to cry, but things like speaking in human language have to be learned," says Creanza, an assistant professor of biological sciences. "If you don't have any exposure to language, you can't produce it."

Like human babies, zebra finches hatch knowing how to make some instinctual cries. But juvenile male finches also learn songs from the adult males around them, much the same way human babies learn language. Like human babies, they babble at first—in the finches, babbling is called "subsong"—as they experiment to discover the vocal mechanics required to create the sounds they want to make. And they learn the same way babies do: by listening to themselves and editing their vocalizations so they more closely match what the adults are doing.

To study the birds' learning process, Snyder built two dozen individual recording studios out of picnic coolers and sound foam, and furnished them with everything a young bird fresh out of the nest needs, including swings and their favorite toys. "We can use a computational analysis to compare how well they learned and how quickly they learned over time through their entire development," says Snyder, a Ph.D. candidate in biological sciences.

The research will continue throughout the year. Creanza and Snyder say this work can help us better understand how humans learn to speak, too, and may shed light on the mechanisms underlying certain speech and language problems.

## \$8.1 million grant funds new center to research highly aggressive form of lung cancer

Vanderbilt University has been awarded a five-year, \$8.1 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to serve as a research center in the institute's prestigious Cancer Systems Biology Consortium.

Directed by Dr. Vito Quaranta, professor of biochemistry and pharmacology in the School of Medicine, the new center will focus on advancing the understanding and treatment of small-cell lung cancer.

Small-cell lung cancer is a highly aggressive, incurable tumor. The standard of care, based on a combination of chemotherapy and radiation therapy developed more than 50 years ago, remains largely ineffective.

The Vanderbilt center will combine experimentation with mathematical modeling, computation and machine learning to generate a comprehensive blueprint of the complex dynamics in small-cell lung cancer that underlie treatment resistance. Hopefully, new treatment avenues will emerge.

"The knowledge accumulated on small-cell lung cancer is extensive," Quaranta says. "Yet there has been little advance, if any, in treatment for the past half-century. Our multidisciplinary, systems-level approach will break this logjam by looking into gene regulatory and cell-to-cell communication networks to neutralize strategies that small-cell lung cancer cells use to evade treatment."

"The results of NCI's CSBC are aimed at ultimately improving patient care," says Jennifer A. Pietenpol, PhD'90, director of the NCI-designated, comprehensive Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, the Benjamin F. Byrd Jr. Professor of Oncology, and executive vice president for research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "We are thrilled to have Dr. Quaranta's leadership of the transdisciplinary team and research efforts at Vanderbilt. The diversity of interactions among the investigators engaged in this research will lead to new approaches to address small-cell lung cancer treatment resistance."



SHUTTERSTOCK



ISTOCK

## Federal Reserve bank accounts for everyone

The Federal Reserve is the central bank of the U.S. and the place where money is most secure. But since its creation in 1913, the bank has been open only for other banks—not people or businesses.

Professor of Law Morgan Ricks, a former U.S. Treasury Department adviser, and his co-authors argue that the general public, businesses and institutions should have the option of an account at the Fed. They map out a plan in their new paper, "Central Banking for All: A Public Option for Bank Accounts."

"[Fed accounts] would be a public option for the unbanked and underbanked while also providing financial stability and other substantial benefits to businesses and our economy as a whole," writes Ricks, along with co-authors John Crawford, a professor in the University of California Hastings College of the Law, and Lev Menand, a former U.S. Treasury senior adviser now with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. "People would experience this organ of the federal government working directly for them."

Some potential benefits of the plan include:

- No fees or minimum balances
- Same interest rate that commercial banks receive on their Fed accounts [currently 1.95 percent]
- No interchange fees for debit card payments
- Payments between Fed accounts would clear in real time
- Though the accounts would not have overdraft coverage, Ricks adds that there would be no need for federal deposit insurance.

"Fed account balances would be sovereign and nondefaultable since central bank accounts are pure money, economically equivalent to dollar bills," Ricks says. "The perks of central banking would greatly increase the efficiency of transactions for businesses."



# Consider the *Martians*

ASTRONOMY PROFESSOR DAVID WEINTRAUB SAYS SCIENTISTS NEED TO CONFIRM WHETHER **LIFE EXISTS ON MARS** BEFORE SENDING HUMANS

THIS FALL, ON NOV. 26 TO BE EXACT, NASA's InSight Lander will touch down on Elysium Planitia—a large, flat plain on the equator of Mars. There it will listen for mars-quakes, measure the rate at which heat flows from beneath the red surface into space, and feel for slight wobbles of the planet as it orbits the sun. The information that InSight sends back will help us understand the planet's structure and history.

InSight is the latest in a decadeslong series of unmanned missions to Mars, but it could be among the last. Our era of robotic explorers may soon give way to a new era of human ones.

Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX, Tesla Inc., and Neuralink, has said that he plans to send a first wave of colonists to Mars on SpaceX rockets within a decade. NASA is eager to send astronauts to Mars and may do so by the 2030s. Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon, has indicated that he first will send his Blue Origin rockets to the moon, but that he also intends to send humans to Mars. And the United Arab Emirates has said it will build a city on Mars by 2117.

All these prospects sound incredibly exciting. Yet everything we know about Mars so far tells us that sending humans to the planet this soon may be a mistake. Indeed, when it comes to colonizing Mars, patience could be an ethical imperative.

The reason: If extraterrestrial life exists, the closest life forms beyond Earth may very well be on Mars.

## PROMISING FINDINGS

Our search for life on Mars has turned up compelling findings. With the Mariner missions in the 1960s, we learned that Mars has a tenuous atmosphere dominated by carbon dioxide, which would be good for plants and anaerobic microbes, though not for us. Measurements made during the Viking missions in the 1970s hinted at the presence of primitive Martian life forms.

Two decades later, scientists studying a meteorite from Mars found evidence that some think suggests the presence of ancient life on the planet. More recently, our robotic explorers have uncovered evidence of an abundance of frozen water, and in 2015, NASA's Curiosity rover found more methane gas in the Martian air than many scientists think Mars should have—unless microbes are responsible for producing some of that methane.

The evidence for ancient and present life on Mars is controversial and inconclusive at best, but there is no proof that Mars is sterile, either. Both scenarios would carry enormous implications.

It is possible microscopic Martians exist already. Although the planet looks barren and sterile on the surface, it could be home to thriving colonies of subsurface microbes.

And if there are subsurface microbes, we might be related. All of life on Earth conceivably could have descended from Martian microbes that caught a ride to Earth on an ancient meteorite and then slowly evolved into our ancestors. This knowledge would tell us that life can survive long journeys in space, perhaps even long journeys from one star system to another.

Alternatively, life on Mars might have no connection to life on Earth. If Martian life is not based on DNA or RNA, then genesis happened twice, on two nearby planets orbiting the same star. That knowledge would tell us that life is likely very common in the universe.

If Mars turns out to be uninhabited altogether, that knowledge, too, would be profound. We might be alone in the universe, or far more isolated than many experts currently believe.

This ambiguity presents us with a moral quandary. If we start dropping habitats, greenhouses, food, fuel and people onto the planet's surface, we will contaminate Mars. We would inject bacteria and viruses into the Martian ecosystem and provide them with places where they could survive and even thrive. Martian life, if it exists, is not likely to outlive an onslaught of terrestrial germs.

So far, our contamination of Mars has been limited. Though our rovers and landers may have transported a few terrestrial bacteria to the planet, those bacteria most likely have been destroyed by ultraviolet light and X-rays. The surface of Mars is probably still sterile, at least when it comes to terrestrial contaminants.

Before we go further and send humans to Mars, we need to know if doing so could trigger the extinction of existing life on the planet. The InSight Lander mission is therefore an important next step. We need to pay close attention to the discoveries made by the InSight team and to the knowledge we gain from all of NASA's ongoing Mars research.

We also need to fund many more unmanned missions to Mars. We need to measure the gases in the atmosphere for an extended period of time. We need to lift up rocks and drill into the polar ice. We need to poke around in crevasses and caves. And we need to do all of these things with sterile robots. We need to know if there is life on Mars before we send humans there.



Professor of Astronomy David Weintraub is the author of *Life on Mars: What to Know Before We Go* (2018, Princeton University Press). An adapted version of this essay first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.



FILM STILL FROM THE MARTIAN © 2015 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX / MOVIESTILLSDB.COM

*Everything we know about Mars so far tells us that sending humans to the planet this soon may be a mistake.*



# The Bank that Built the Owen School

A SMALL BUT MIGHTY NASHVILLE INVESTMENT BANK  
PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN FOUNDING VANDERBILT'S BUSINESS SCHOOL

BY RYAN UNDERWOOD, BA'96

THE OWEN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT'S most prominent benefactors are well known to the school's students and alumni, starting with Ralph, '28, and Lulu Hampton Owen. There's also Brownlee O. Currey, BA'23, Frances Hampton Currey (Lulu's sister) and their son Brownlee O. Currey Jr., BA'49. Then there are places like the Thomas B. Walker, BA'47, Management Library and the H. Laird Smith, BA'27, Courtyard, both of which have undergone recent renovations.

One name, however, is not often mentioned, and it's one of the most important of all: Equitable Securities Corp. That name binds many of the Owen School's earliest and most stalwart supporters—those perhaps responsible for the very existence of the school itself.

Founded in December 1930 as a municipal bonds dealer in Nashville amid the first shocks of the Great Depression, Equitable grew within a generation to become the second largest investment bank in the nation, behind only Merrill Lynch. A shrewd purchase of American Express stock, spearheaded by Brownlee Currey, who died in 1952, helped fuel Equitable's growth throughout the 1950s and 1960s. That investment led to Ralph Owen's appointment as board chairman of American Express in 1960 and the company's eventual acquisition of Equitable in 1968.

Around the same time that Equitable saw its fortunes grow, many of its executives were working behind the scenes to convince Vanderbilt's Board of Trust to launch a graduate school

of management. Once Chancellor Alexander Heard and the board agreed to move forward with the proposal, the school was kept afloat in its rocky early years by the financial support and expertise of many of the same individuals who had ties to Equitable.

In early 1990, Madison S. Wigginton, BA'22, MA'23, a former member of Vanderbilt's Board of Trust and an Owen benefactor, convinced J. Dewey Daane, a longtime professor at the Owen School and former Federal Reserve governor, that he should write a history of Equitable Securities. Daane agreed, setting out to interview former employees and associates "to tell the story—and I sincerely believe it is a great story—in human terms rather than corporate statistics," he wrote in an early draft. Despite the work he put into it, Daane did not finish a manuscript before he died in January 2017.

At the time of his death, Daane had filled four large storage boxes with material, which his widow, Barbara, has since donated to Vanderbilt's Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries. The research includes transcripts of 26 one-on-one interviews with people such as William Cammack, BA'52, who joined Equitable before the sale to American Express, later served as president and CEO, and is now chairman of the current Equitable Trust Co.; Andrew Benedict, BA'66, MDiv'83, a former Equitable vice president; and Ewing "Commodore" Bradford, BA'27, a key Equitable figure who worked at the company into his 80s and died at his desk.

## CRISIS LEADS TO OPPORTUNITY

Equitable's roots trace back to the Nashville investment bank Caldwell & Co., where Equitable founders Brownlee Currey, Ralph "Peck" Owen and George Bullard worked as municipal bond dealers. Caldwell & Co. thrived throughout the 1920s, earning its owner, Roger Caldwell, the nickname "J.P. Morgan of the South." But by Nov. 14, 1930, Caldwell & Co. faced soured investments, coupled with panicked customers withdrawing deposits from the banks it owned, forcing it into bankruptcy. That's when many say the Depression really hit Nashville. As many as 120 banks across the South failed, and unemployment shot to 25 percent.

The three main Equitable founders either lost their jobs or left to avoid that eventual outcome. Less than a month later, they pooled together about \$50,000, aided by H. Laird Smith and Cale P. Haun, to start Equitable Securities.

"At the outset, they were determined to create the most sound and conservative securities firm not just in Nashville but in the entire Southeast region," Daane writes in his draft. "Brownlee was in many ways the acknowledged leader and spark plug of the firm—the deal maker par excellence. Peck was the cautious conservative whose judgment reflected a careful and judicious temperament that lent great stability to the company. And George Bullard is generally credited as the most brilliant of the trio, as well as the one whose family ties and



In this undated photo, members of Equitable Securities Corp. gather in front of the company's Nashville office. The picture is among the items collected by J. Dewey Daane.

resources were instrumental in the firm's beginnings and initial growth."

Equitable grew at a slow and steady pace until about 1949. That's when board minutes detail Currey's efforts to acquire shares of American Express, which had been offered to the firm by Albert Wiggin, the former chairman of the institution that would become Chase Manhattan Bank.

Though Currey didn't live to see the full payoff of the American Express investment, Equitable emerged as the company's largest shareholder by the spring of 1967, with a stake worth nearly \$70 million, according to *The New York Times*. The *Times* estimated the firm's net worth at the time to be around \$90 million total, behind only Merrill Lynch, with a net worth of about \$161 million. One key innovation, the story noted, is that Equitable didn't limit itself to offering services just to outside customers—it also traded in its own accounts.

By the end of 1967, American Express acquired Equitable in an all-stock deal then valued at \$110 million. The subsidiary was paired with a similar financial services company that American Express had purchased a year earlier, creating a new unit called Equitable Securities, Morton & Co.

## Wall St. Profile: Securities Giant That's Only No. 2

By JOHN H. ALLAN  
Wall Street Quiz: If Merrill Lynch is No. 1 among securities concerns ranked by net worth, who is No. 2?  
Answer: A comparatively little-known company in Nashville, Tenn., named the Equitable Securities Corporation.  
Investment banking houses and securities concerns can be ranked in several ways, the most important of which are underwriting volume, stock brokerage volume and net worth.  
An Important Gauge  
Comparative figures on the volume of new stock and bond issues that securities firms underwrite are readily available, and the First Boston Corporation ranked at the head of the list. How much brokerage business firms do is not made available to the general public, but Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc., stands first by a long margin.  
In the free enterprise system, a securities firm is an important gauge of its strength and potential.  
Under Federal securities law, the indebtedness of investment firms may not exceed 20 times their capital. Because of this statute, Street can limit the volume of securities issues sold to finance new plants for American corporations and new state and municipal facilities.  
With corporations and local governments each raising more than \$1-billion a month so far this year, the ability to handle new issues on stocks and bonds becomes a matter of genuine public interest.  
Comparative figures on the net worth of Wall Street firms are not difficult to obtain but they are deceptive. Finance, a monthly magazine aimed at the banking and securities industries, each year polls investment bankers and lists the replies of the top 400 houses in order of their net worth.  
The dates that firms choose to list their capital vary as do accounting methods. Some figures are unaudited, and some they are deceptive. Finance, a monthly magazine aimed at the banking and securities industries, each year polls investment bankers and lists the replies of the top 400 houses in order of their net worth.  
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Ralph Owen, the president of Equitable Securities, in Nashville, Tenn., office.

E. Norman Peterson, executive vice president, at work in his New York office.

The New York Times  
Published: May 14, 1967  
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Continued on Page 9, Column 1

After only three years together, in 1970 American Express began closing Equitable Securities offices around the country and exploring a sale of the unit. That deal came two years later when William Cammack, the current chairman of Equitable Trust, led a group of investors who bought the Equitable name and various other assets from American Express.

Equitable Trust Co. was created in 1991 as a subsidiary of Equitable Securities, though today it is the company that remains, managing more than \$2 billion for families and institutions from its Nashville headquarters.

## EXPRESS CONCERN SEEKS BIG BROKER

Equitable Securities Maps Merger Into American

By CLARE M. RECKERT

The American Express Company is planning to expand its underwriting business through the proposed acquisition of the Equitable Securities Corporation, the Tennessee-based securities concern. The transaction would involve an estimated \$110-million in stock. The agreement in principle was announced yesterday by Howard L. Clark, president of American Express, and Ralph Owen, president of Equitable Securities.

Under the proposed terms of Equitable's merger into American Express, American Express would buy the 526,280 shares of its common stock owned by Equitable and issue the shares to Equitable's stockholders.

An additional number of American Express shares that would be issued to Equitable stockholders for the company's other assets and business will be determined on the basis of valuations made at the time the merger is consummated, Mr. Clark said.

On the basis of recent valuations, he estimated that Equitable's stockholders would receive about 190,000 additional shares of American Express for Equitable's assets other than the American Express shares it now owns.

The total of these shares, 716,280, had a market value of \$109,053,630, based on the American Express bid quotation in the over-the-counter market yesterday. The bid price was 152 1/4 and the asked price, 154 1/2, up 1/4.

On completion of the merger, American Express plans to combine the securities underwriting and distribution business of Equitable with that of W. H. Morton & Co., Inc., an American Express subsidiary. The subsidiary's name would then be changed to Equitable Securities, W. H. Morton & Co., Inc.

American Express marked its entry into the underwriting business last year when it acquired Morton, the New York municipal bond underwriter.

The merger is subject to the approval of directors and stockholders of both companies.

The two companies contemplate submitting the merger proposal to shareholders early in 1968, they said.

The New York Times  
Published: November 10, 1967  
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# Global Ambassa'Dore

FORMER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT AND VANDERBILT TRUSTEE  
 HELPED RAISE THE UNIVERSITY'S PROFILE ABROAD

*As an undergraduate, Patti Early White, BA'76, was active in many service organizations but not particularly focused on international issues. Her perspective changed when she lived overseas—primarily in London—for 24 years. She and her husband, George White, BA'11, raised their two children, Frances White, BA'11, and current Vanderbilt senior George Allen White, abroad. The Whites have established the Early-White International Scholarship to provide need-based support to undergraduate international students who are from the U.K. or European Union member countries and enrolled in the College of Arts and Science.*

*White has maintained strong ties to campus since her election as young alumni trustee in 1976. She recently completed a second board term as alumni trustee after serving as president of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association. She was the 2011 general Reunion chair and president of the Greater London Vanderbilt Chapter during her time in England. The Whites now reside in Alexandria, Virginia.*



**Vanderbilt is fortunate that your undergraduate experience transitioned into strong alumni involvement. Can you tell us about some of your most meaningful volunteer roles and moments?**

My father, Allen Early Jr., graduated from Vanderbilt in 1940 and had a huge influence on my decision to enroll as well. When I arrived in Nashville, I met several people who knew my father when he was a student. However, I would not have been able to come to Vanderbilt without the financial aid package I received as a first-year student.

From an alumna's perspective, I've always enjoyed volunteering, and staying involved has given me a sense of continuing engagement with campus. While my family was living in London, John Hindle, BA'68, PhD'81, started

the Greater London Vanderbilt Chapter, the first chapter outside the U.S. It was easy for me to be involved, hosting tea receptions for incoming Vanderbilt students from the U.K. as well as for current students studying abroad. I became even more connected to university life when I served on the Alumni Association Board.

**Thinking about the Vanderbilt experiences of your two children, what's been the most consistent element between your own experience and that of your children? What's changed most?**

Vanderbilt doesn't cater to just one type of student. Individuals with widely differing interests can all find their niche. My children and I have had three totally different but all excellent undergraduate experiences. I learned leadership skills serving in a variety of university organizations, including Honor Council and search committees for Vanderbilt administrators. Frances' home on campus was VU Theatre, where she developed her passion and career path in the theatrical arts. George Allen has had a very positive experience as a transfer student who is excited to be among the first residents of E. Bronson Ingram College.

**How do you view Vanderbilt's international profile?**

Vanderbilt's reputation is on the rise overseas. In the U.K., which has been my family's particular focus, an increasing number of students are considering the United States for higher education. I remember the Fulbright USA College Day Fair—a big one in London—changing venues at least three times over the years to accommodate the growing number of students interested in studying in the U.S. The number of people visiting the Vanderbilt table at the fair has gone up a lot over the years, especially with the Vanderbilt admissions office stepping up recruitment efforts abroad. It's so important for young people to be exposed to a variety of perspectives. Even though we lived in an English-speaking country, there were some

significant cultural differences from the U.S., and my own children learned many lessons out of the classroom. I am grateful their experiences abroad have helped them become more open to and respectful of other people's beliefs and values.

**Can you speak to your motivations for supporting the residential colleges vision?**

I think it's a fabulous way of adding an out-of-the-classroom dimension to education and deepening the sense of community among students. Particularly for our first-year students, who are all on The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons, there is the opportunity to bond as a class and develop a common identity. The additional residential colleges for upperclass students enable the sense of community to continue. With all the pressures on young people today, creating a supportive community in college is hugely important. We are very happy to contribute to that.

**What's been your experience in providing support through the scholarship established in memory of your father, Allen Early Jr., BA'40, and your husband's mother, Eleanor Hoover White, BSN'48?**

The international aspect of the scholarship was very important to our family. George's mother, a School of Nursing graduate, was working in the Philippines when she met her husband (George's father). My own father, who spent most of his life in Amarillo, Texas, also had a significant appreciation for international culture. Our scholarship is primarily directed at prospective Vanderbilt students in the U.K. Students coming from abroad do not qualify for U.S. government loans. Also, college tuition is much lower in the U.K., so it can be difficult to compete for outstanding students.

*Patti White was interviewed by Ann Marie Deer Owens, BA'76, senior public affairs officer in Vanderbilt's Division of Communications.*



SHUTTERSTOCK



# GODSPEED

## CLASS OF 2018

MEMBERS OF VANDERBILT'S **NEWEST ALUMNI CLASS** REFLECT ON THEIR TIME AT THE UNIVERSITY AND SHARE THEIR PLANS FOR NEW ADVENTURES

### ★ **BRIANA FRANCOIS, BA**

The only thing Briana Francois enjoys more than watching TV and digital content is creating it.

Francois grew up in Woodstock, Georgia, a “TV kid” with an appreciation for the medium’s ability to transcend viewers’ personal experiences and expectations.

“I’m fascinated by the idea that a lot of people can watch the same thing and have different interpretations of it, but ultimately still be entertained by it,” she says.

At Vanderbilt her double majors in psychology and cinema and media arts allowed her to examine human behavior and represent it authentically on film. “In cinema and media arts, we made various short films and videos. It’s a lot of group-based work, so I would be directing on one project and working someone’s camera on another.”

As a student Francois worked as an intern for Nashville Public Television. She also was hired as the Vanderbilt Career Center’s first-ever media manager, creating a podcast called *Wandering Off* where she interviews notable alumni about the circuitous paths they’ve taken to find success.

For her senior project Francois created a three-episode web series loosely based on her and her friends’ experiences as college students. She wrote and directed the series and shot scenes on and around campus, citing actor-writer-producers Mindy Kaling and Issa Rae as inspirations for successfully mining their personal lives to create distinctive shows.

After a stint with Teach for America since graduation, Francois hopes to participate in the NBC page program, which would take her to Los Angeles and hopefully a career in the television industry.

—KARA FURLONG



SUSAN URMY





JOE HOWELL

## ★ LOGAN BROWN, BS

At age 12, Logan Brown decided she wanted to be a lawyer. Up to this point, the extent of her experience with the judicial system was attending civics class and watching lots of episodes of *Law and Order*. So the preteen pursued and landed an internship at the Douglas County district attorney's office in Lawrence, Kansas, giving her a front-row seat to the legal system at work.

"I spent a lot of time throughout middle and high school in a courtroom gallery watching hearings and sitting in on meetings with victims and their families," she says. "I saw how a person's life can be changed in an instant, and I wanted to be a part of helping victims of violence."

A Chancellor's Scholar, Brown chose Peabody College's human and organizational development major because of its diverse course offerings and internship opportunities. During the course of her Vanderbilt career, she spent a semester at East China

Normal University in Shanghai, and another at the American University in Dubai as a William Jefferson Clinton Scholar. She also interned at the U.S. Department of Defense's Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, where she assisted in the instruction of counterterrorism courses to military officials.

Having recently earned a prestigious Marshall Scholarship, Brown is spending the next year pursuing a master's degree in terrorism, security and society at King's College London. Then she'll return to the States to attend law school.

"I'm so lucky," Brown says. "I have a great family, and along the way there have been so many people, including my professors at Vanderbilt, who have gone above and beyond to help me reach my aspirations."

—JOAN BRASHER

## ★ CHRISTIAN MOTYCZKA, BS

When it came time to apply to college, Christian Motyczka did his research. He knew Vanderbilt University was the place for him.

"I was looking for an Ivy-ish experience without the Ivy ego," says Motyczka, a computer science major from Lumberton, New Jersey. "Everyone here has something they are passionate about. Everyone here is a well-rounded, holistic individual."

Motyczka found his passions in and out of the lab. He was one of two computer science undergraduates who developed a virtual reality program to help addicts stay clean. The program includes cloud-based scenes and music designed to help combat cravings. Separately, it involves a social component in which a therapist accompanies an addict into a "virtual bar" or other setting to develop clear boundaries around not using.

The work, through the Emotion and Anxiety Research Lab,

or EARL, was part of a partnership between a Vanderbilt clinical psychology graduate student and a Nashville-based company with both residential and outpatient addiction treatment programs.

"To be able to build something, see it go into use, and now help people is very powerful to me," Motyczka says.

After Commencement he began working as a software developer at the Raleigh, North Carolina, offices of Optum, a technology, data analytics and management arm of UnitedHealth Group. He worked at UnitedHealth last summer in technology development.

"Part of the reason I was attracted to Vanderbilt is that every student accepted already was a student leader," he says. "In the time since, I found leadership doesn't derive from position or title. Leadership is an activity—it's an action."

—PAM COYLE

ANNE RAYNER





## ★ YALUN FENG, BA

Yalun Feng has seen the toll that progress has taken on the environment in his hometown of Wuhan, China—a major transportation hub of more than 8 million people.

“I’ve been studying the environment because I see how pollution in my country affects people’s everyday lives,” says Feng, who double-majored in environmental sociology and political science. He wants to look beyond science—to social solutions and entrepreneurship—to help solve these problems.

As a student at a Climate Reality Project conference, Feng learned about a line of sustainable plates and bowls made of tree leaves and ultimately turned the concept into the Leaves Plates Co.

“The plates are completely biodegradable, no matter how you dispose of them, yet very strong,” Feng explains. They are made by women in Nepal and India with the goal of helping the women gain economic independence.

The Leaves Plates Co. caught the attention of the Clinton Global Initiative, and Feng was invited to be one of five keynote

speakers for the opening ceremony of the organization’s 2017 university conference.

Feng has since focused on another green venture: partnering with Beijing-based ofo to bring its dockless bike-sharing program to Vanderbilt’s campus.

Working with the Vanderbilt Innovation and Entrepreneurship Society, Feng proposed the idea to the university’s Division of Administration last fall. In late March, 100 of the bright yellow ofo bikes were released on campus for a pilot program in collaboration with Vanderbilt’s FutureVU initiative.

Feng is now considering graduate school and ultimately wants to return home to China.

“Vanderbilt definitely has shaped who I am today—as an immigrant, as an entrepreneur, as someone who is passionate about social change,” he says.

—AMY WOLF

ANNE RAYNER



JOHN RUSSELL

## ★ SARAH ROBINSON, BMUS

Despite playing the bassoon as a student at the Blair School of Music, Atlanta native Sarah Robinson knew she didn’t want to play the instrument professionally. Instead, after dropping economics as a second major, she discovered that ethnomusicology could combine her love of languages and culture with music.

“I knew Vanderbilt would be a good place to try out other things,” she says. “My parents tell people I’m a free spirit.”

A summer with Pakistani roommates led her to the religious musical performance traditions of Sufism, which became the focus of her undergraduate thesis. Robinson got her first taste of fieldwork doing service work with women in Morocco through Vanderbilt’s Office of Active Citizenship and Service as a Nichols Humanitarian Fund grant recipient.

“I taught [English],” Robinson says, “but had some free time, so I wanted to pursue my interest in Sufism while I was there.”

Because of her interest in South Asian music, Robinson

began studying Hindi-Urdu at Vanderbilt and received a Critical Language Scholarship to study Urdu this summer in Lucknow, Northern India, through the U.S. Department of State. She returns to Lucknow in the fall on a fellowship at the American Institute of Indian Studies. Robinson likens her facility with languages to the discipline of practicing an instrument.

Robinson also earned certification at Vanderbilt School of Nursing as a doula—someone who assists women through childbirth—and hopes to combine her language and ethnomusicology work with service while in India.

She sees her studies as a door to helping others understand different cultures. “It can open up people’s perspectives on a lot of the world, especially to understanding Muslim communities,” she says. “If we could have constructive critical conversations, that would be something.”

—BONNIE ARANT ERTELT, BS’81





SUSAN URMY

## ★ SAMI CHIANG, BS

The daughter of a school administrator and an engineer, Sami Chiang started conducting experiments at a young age in her hometown of Berkeley, California.

“During the summers, my mom would have my brother and me do science experiments with household items and keep journals,” she says. “We went on field trips to museums. It was like our own little summer school, but all we knew was that it was fun.”

It’s not surprising, then, that Chiang would choose to double-major in child studies and education, with a focus on learning in diverse contexts.

“I love kids and I love the classroom, but what’s really fun is when you see kids learning in informal environments,” she says. “Education extends so far beyond the classroom, and a lot of times it’s in these kinds of settings that a student’s mind opens up and they start to see what’s possible.”

With a computer science minor and a passion for coding, Chiang created the student organization Code Ignite. Two years on, Code Ignite partners with nearly a dozen low-income schools in Nashville, serving more than 250 elementary, middle and high school students and connecting more than 80 student volunteers. This year Chiang applied for and received grants from both Google IgniteCS and the Nashville Predators NHL team, using those funds toward developing curriculum and materials to expand her program to include Lego WeDo robotics.

“In math and science, there is the misconception that not everyone can do it and it’s all about solving for that one right answer,” she says. “In my teaching career I hope to flip that model. When a student takes initiative and engages in critical thinking and struggles productively, that is the most powerful kind of learning.”

—JOAN BRASHER

## ★ JALEN DANSBY, BA

As Commencement approached in the spring, Jalen Dansby already had acceptance letters from 10 of the country’s top medical schools, including Yale and Vanderbilt.

“It’s really about more than just me,” says Dansby, a medicine, health and society major from Houston. “It’s about what I represent as a black male. I’m representing other people who may not have a voice or who may be unfairly labeled.”

Last fall he participated in “The Growing Absence of Black Men in Medicine and Science: An American Crisis,” a Washington, D.C., workshop sponsored by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine and the Cobb Institute of the National Medical Association. The program explored the decline in the number of black men entering medical fields.

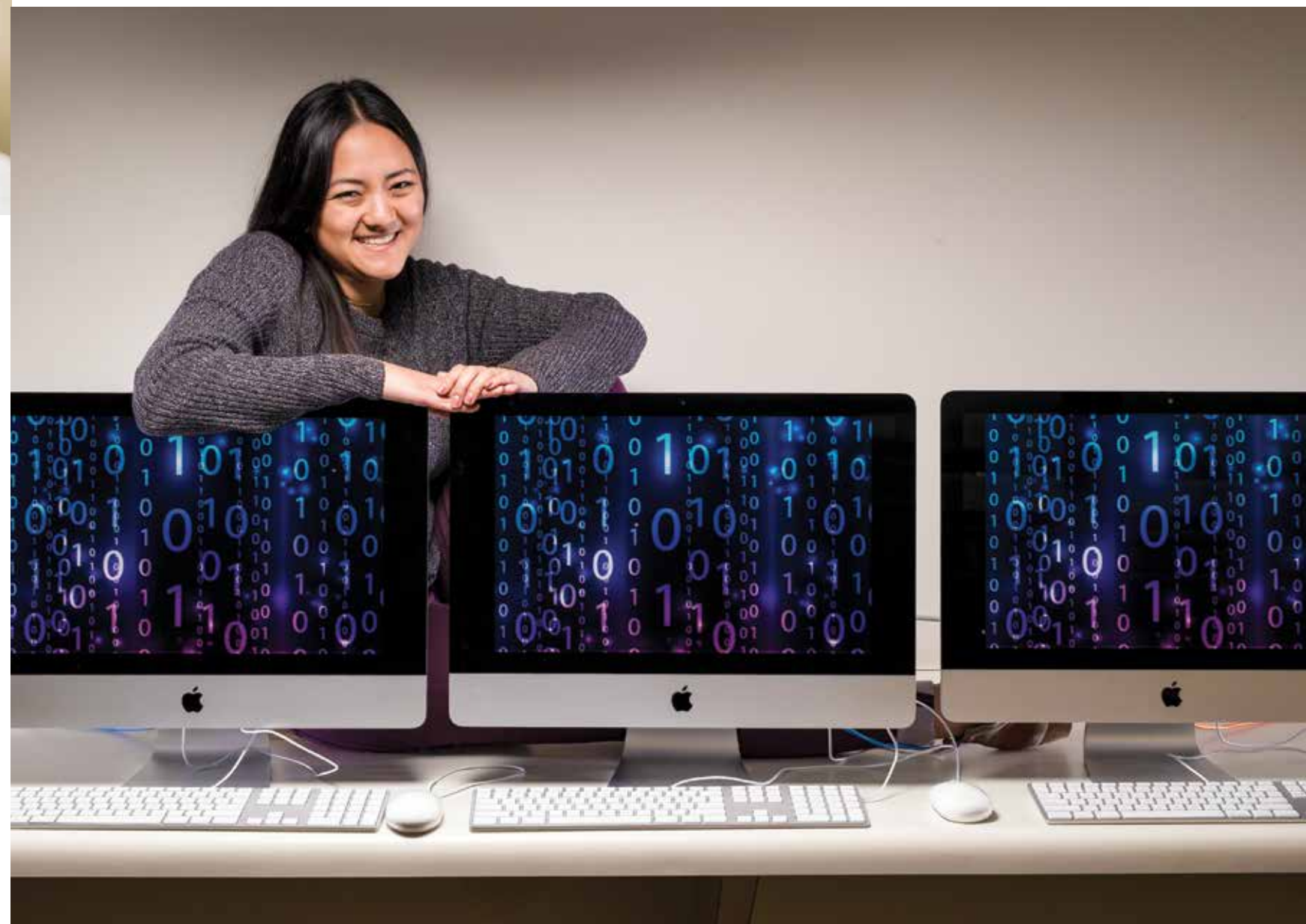
The youngest of five high-achieving siblings, Dansby says his ultimate inspiration is his family.

“It starts with my mother, who’s been a nurse practitioner in the Veterans Affairs hospital system for 25-plus years and is still working,” he says. “I really want to set an example for others, just like my siblings and my parents have for me.”

A Chancellor’s Scholar, Dansby juggled an aggressive premed course load, multiple research internships and a campus job. He even played on the Commodores football team as a freshman, saying all of these experiences have made him a better leader and collaborator.

“One thing I’ve learned from football and from life at Vanderbilt is that everything really is a team effort,” he says.

—AMY WOLF



JOE HOWELL





TWO ALUMNI ARE MAKING WAVES  
IN DRUG DISCOVERY BY **PLUMBING**  
**THE OCEANS' DEPTHS** FOR NEW  
THERAPEUTIC MOLECULES

# DEEP HEALING

BY SETH ROBERTSON

The diagnosis could've been devastating, had Eduardo Esquenazi let it be. He was just 28, leading an otherwise healthy and active life, when he learned that he had advanced testicular cancer. Surgery and two regimens of chemotherapy followed, but the discomfort, tedium and uncertainty of those months didn't discourage him. If anything, they provided him some much-needed clarity.

"When I first got the diagnosis, there was a sense of relief. At least I knew what I was up against. I wasn't frightened, but it definitely made me give some thought to my career," says Esquenazi, BS'98, who at the time was earning his Ph.D. in neurobiology at the University of California, San Diego. "I realized I might not have much time left, so I asked myself, 'Do I really want to continue what I'm doing?'"

*Sirenas expedition members explore the ocean floor near Curacao, an island in the Caribbean.*

SIRENAS EXPEDITION TEAM



The question, it turns out, was surprisingly easy to answer. Ever since he'd decided to major in neuroscience at Vanderbilt, Esquenazi had assumed he'd someday become a college professor, teaching and conducting research, but now he had misgivings about that choice. He tried visualizing himself in the academic setting he'd once striven toward but found he no longer could.

Instead he kept returning in his mind to the place that had fascinated him since his childhood in Colombia, the one place where he felt most alive: the ocean. The decision at hand was not unlike the ones he faced while bobbing in the water on his surfboard, patiently scanning the horizon for good waves. Experience had taught him which approaching swells to pass up and which to pursue. If he paid close enough attention, the ocean would let him know when to act.

And now, during the long hours of his treatment, that very thing was happening again. The ocean was speaking to him, not through

the rise and fall of its waves, but rather through the monotonous drip-drip-drip of the cancer drugs he'd been prescribed.

"I realized something pretty profound," he explained to an audience during a 2017 TEDx Talk at UC San Diego. "Most of the medications I was taking were derived from nature. I've been a scientist my whole life, but I didn't know this. I was blown away."

If, he thought, a powerful cancer drug like Taxol could be obtained from the bark of a Pacific yew tree, imagine what's waiting to be discovered in the ocean, which covers nearly three-quarters of the earth's surface but remains, by most estimates, 95 percent unexplored. Marine organisms possibly could provide the key to more effective drugs for cancers like his, as well as a range of other diseases.

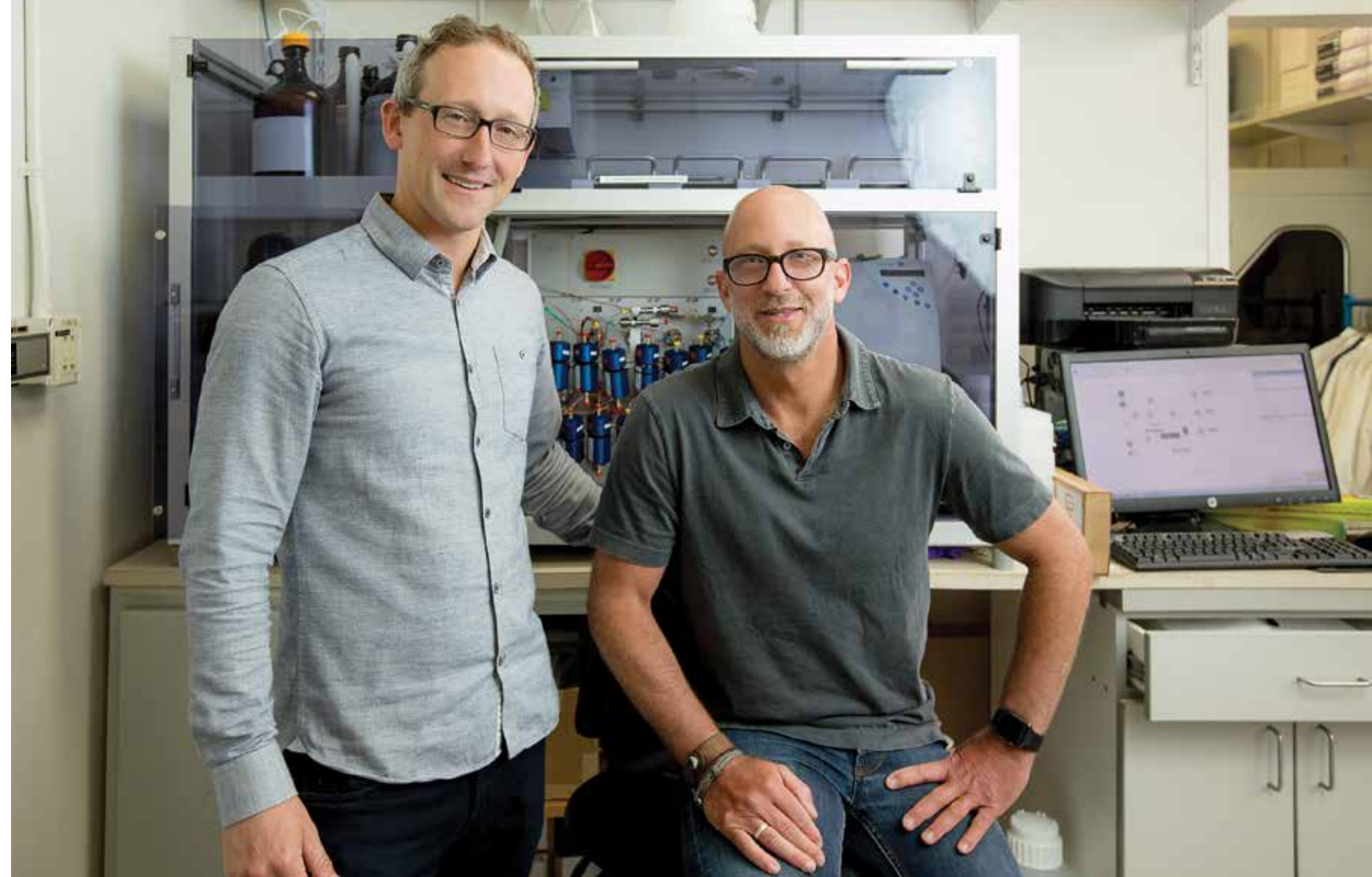
And so, upon completing his treatment and being declared cancer-free in 2007, Esquenazi returned to UC San Diego—not to the neurobiology program this time, but rather to enroll in a doctoral program at its Scripps Institution of

Oceanography. There he studied how to identify and isolate medically promising chemistry from marine organisms while earning his Ph.D. It was also where he began plans for the biotechnology company he would eventually found in 2011: Sirenas.

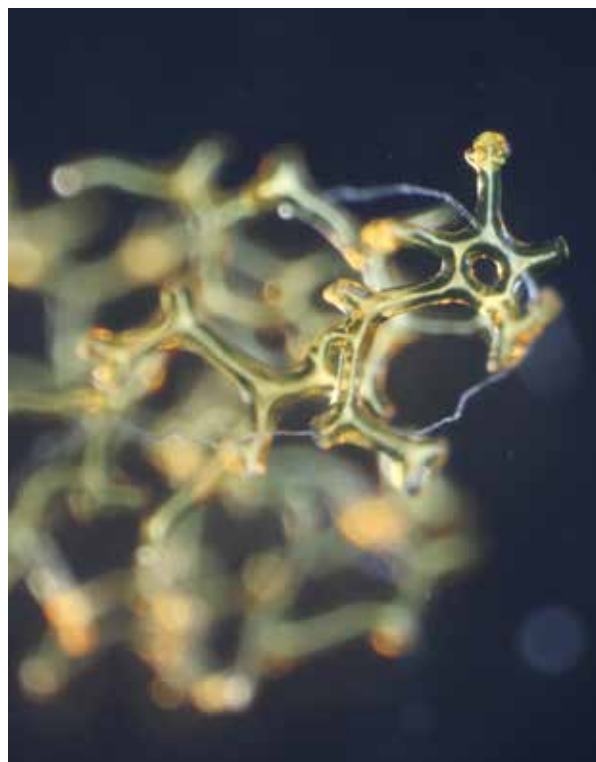
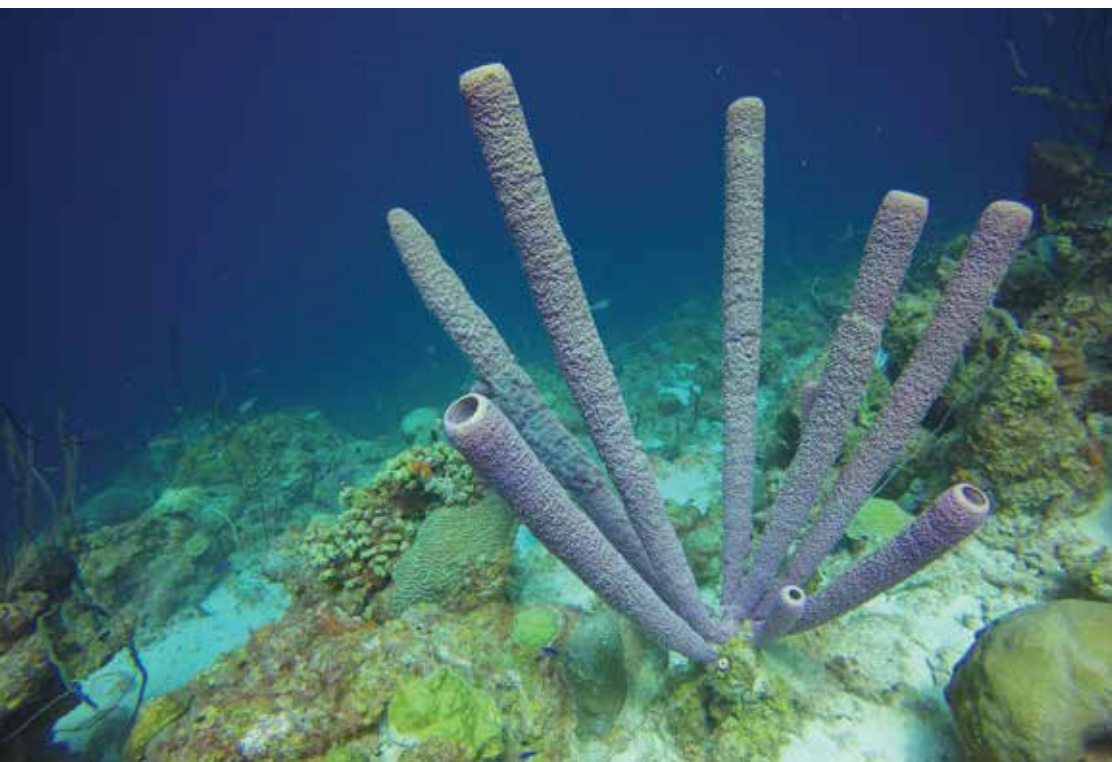
Today the San Diego-based company, which takes its name from the Spanish word for the sirens of sea lore, is applying trailblazing methods toward drug discovery. Using innovative data-mining technology, Esquenazi and his colleagues—including Sirenas CEO and fellow Vanderbilt alumnus Jake Beverage, BA'98—have identified several promising small-molecule drug candidates.

Their success has resulted in two research grants totaling \$1.68 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to generate new leads for treating neglected diseases, such as tuberculosis and malaria. Sirenas also has signed a research collaboration agreement with Bristol-Myers Squibb to identify potential drug candidates for the biopharmaceutical company.

**If a powerful cancer drug like Taxol could be obtained from the bark of a Pacific yew tree, imagine what's waiting to be discovered in the ocean, which covers nearly three-quarters of the earth's surface but remains, by most estimates, 95 percent unexplored.**



BAUMAN PHOTOGRAPHERS



SIRENAS EXPEDITION TEAM

"I was pretty naïve when I started Sirenas," says Esquenazi, who now serves as the company's chairman and head of innovation. "And in some ways I still feel that way. But we've made amazing progress toward our end goal of unlocking nature's therapeutic potential."

#### SCIENCE AND ADVENTURE

For all its ties to the ocean, Sirenas may never have become a reality had Esquenazi not ventured hundreds of miles inland to attend Vanderbilt. He first learned about the university from a girlfriend while at boarding school in Connecticut. His plan was to follow her to Nashville, but in the end she didn't go.

"I'm sure glad I *did*, though," he says with a chuckle.

**Far left:** A purple tube sponge.

**Left:** Purple tube sponge spicules seen under a microscope.

**Above:** Jake Beverage, left, and Ed Esquenazi in the Sirenas lab in San Diego.

During his sophomore year at Vanderbilt, Esquenazi had what he calls his "biggest coming-of-age experience." Up until that point, he'd been on the premed track suggested by his parents, despite not particularly enjoying it. But then he was exposed to some courses in neuroscience that sparked genuine interest and excitement.

"I'd never really gotten interested in something out of my own curiosity until then," he explains. "It was a critical moment in my development as a scholar and a professional. It was the first time I'd encountered the thing that continues to motivate me today—the edge that exists between hard science and what is unknown."

Esquenazi's sophomore year also proved to be momentous in another way. At a pledge function at Pi Kappa Alpha, he met Beverage, who would become not just his future business partner but a lifelong friend. The two hit it off immediately.

"It's a funny story," says Beverage, a Baltimore native who'd transferred to Vanderbilt from Bucknell after his freshman year. "I'm colorblind, so I showed up at this function with

a shirt and tie that were not color-coordinated at all. In my defense, I'd borrowed the tie, but Ed never let me live it down."

The two soon found that they had more in common than their fraternity and the good-natured ribbing that continues to this day.

"We've always loved science and have chatted about that through the years. And certainly that's very pertinent now," says Beverage, who himself majored in biology. "We've also shared a spirit of adventure. Ed taught me to surf, for instance. It's that mix of science and adventure that has kept us tight through the years."

After graduation they both migrated to California. Beverage earned a doctorate in pharmacy from the University of California, San Francisco, before eventually landing at Genentech, a biotechnology company in the Bay Area. They were in touch throughout Esquenazi's illness, and when the idea for Sirenas began to take shape, Beverage was among the first people approached about coming on board.

"I'd been batting around the idea for a while and had talked with different people about it," Esquenazi says. "But Jake was the one who



started helping me act on it, rather than just ideating. He really helped catalyze the movement.”

At around the same time, Esquenazi connected with Phil Baran, an organic chemist and former MacArthur fellow who would become a co-founder of Sirenas along with Beverage. Today Baran oversees the company’s efforts to chemically synthesize complex marine molecules into viable therapeutic candidates. From Beverage’s perspective, the opportunity to work with the likes of Esquenazi and Baran was too good to pass up, even despite the inherent entrepreneurial risk.

“It was scary, I admit. I had a wife and two kids and was leaving a big, stable company in Genentech,” Beverage says. “But that spirit of adventure played a big role in my decision—that and, of course, the idea of making an impact that could truly improve the world.”

#### EVERY LITTLE BIT OF CHEMISTRY

As challenging and complicated as drug discovery can be, there’s a basic idea at the heart of Sirenas’ business model: Focus

on whatever uses chemistry to ensure its own survival.

“Broadly speaking, if an organism doesn’t have teeth or nails or can’t swim away, it typically uses chemistry to defend itself,” Esquenazi says. “So things like plants and sponges—things that seem innocuous—actually can be very prolific chemically.”

For Sirenas, the process of finding new therapeutic drugs begins with collecting these chemically interesting organisms. Every year the team mounts several expeditions, complete with submersible vessels and other underwater exploration technology, to scour the ocean for promising specimens. Biodiverse locations like the Caribbean afford some of the best hunting grounds, but Sirenas has had surprising luck in places far less hospitable to life. In fact, the team discovered a promising antimalarial compound in a salt pond in Chile’s Atacama Desert, the driest place on earth.

The Atacama discovery may seem random and improbable, but there’s an underlying method to Sirenas’ searches that increases the

likelihood of such a find. It’s about casting as broad a net as possible.

“What we do is find a way to track every little bit of chemistry. In previous approaches, you’d go out and collect a lot of stuff and use a cancer or antibacterial test to find something useful for that specific purpose. It was like finding a needle in a haystack and then trying to figure out where that needle was useful for these diseases,” explained Esquenazi in a 2016 interview with *Smithsonian* magazine. “We treat that stack of hay as all needles. We look at every single molecule as being important, and we’re looking to see what all those different needles are doing. We catalog every little thing we find, test everything, and basically get a fingerprint for every needle.”

Sirenas is aided in this effort by its proprietary drug-discovery technology, which it calls ATLANTIS. Using complex algorithms, ATLANTIS compares the vast amount of chemical data harvested from the expeditions against a database of biological information related to disease. The molecules that provide



SIRENAS EXPEDITION TEAM

**“Companies are worried about profits, so it’s important for them to work within a proven chemical space. What’s needed is a new set of chemistry.”**

positive hits—which are sometimes present only in parts per billion in nature—are then synthesized and tested in the lab under Baran’s supervision.

“What we’ve done at Sirenas, which is really a cool form of anthropology, is bring together people who otherwise wouldn’t normally collaborate with one another,” Beverage says of the roughly 20 employees at the company. “We’ve got these Silicon Valley computer types and machine-learning folks talking to biologists and chemists. A lot of different languages go on here. That’s at the core of the innovative stuff we do: to combine those different aspects to drive toward meaningful discoveries.”

**Above, clockwise:** Luciano Hiriart-Bertrand, founder and executive director of Sirenas collaborator Costa Humboldt, takes samples from a salt pond in the Atacama Desert; the source of the antimalarial compound found in the Atacama; the solid-phase extraction of the antimalarial compound in the Sirenas lab.

#### RACE AGAINST TIME

In the search for new therapeutic drugs, the stakes couldn’t be any higher. More than 8.8 million people worldwide died from cancer in 2015, according to the World Health Organization. And the group estimates a staggering 1 billion were treated for neglected tropical diseases during that same year.

Numbers like these are motivation enough for Sirenas to discover more effective drugs, but for Esquenazi it’s also personal. He hasn’t forgotten how fortunate he was to have treatment options, despite his advanced cancer diagnosis.

“When I first got sick, I had a clear treatment plan. That’s pretty rare with advanced cancer,” he said in an interview with the website *Korduroy*. “But at the same time, I was meeting people who didn’t have that option.

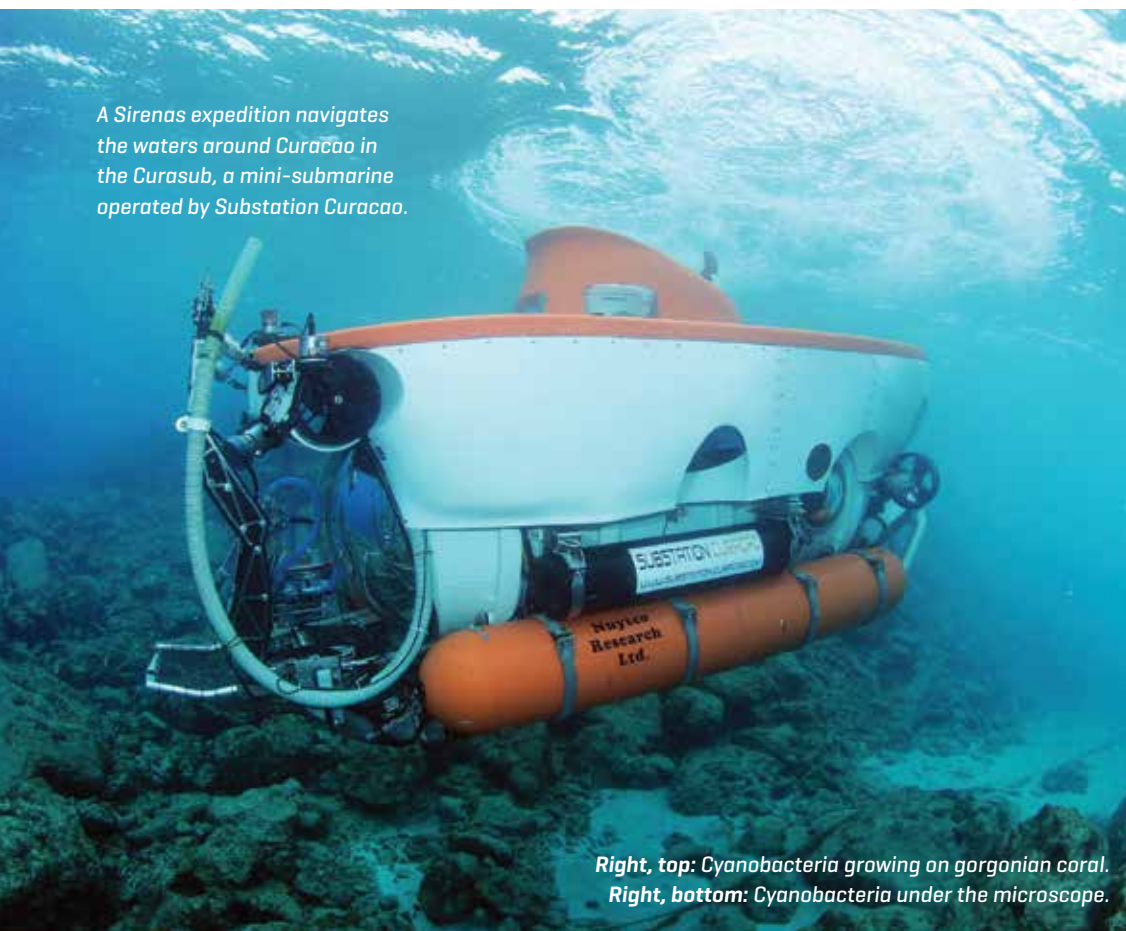
“Most R&D efforts, at least at the commercial scale, are using a lot of the same compounds to drive drug discovery,” he added. “The companies are worried about profits, so

it’s important for them to work within a proven chemical space. What’s needed is a new set of chemistry.”

The molecules discovered by Sirenas are new in the sense that they’ve come from mostly untapped areas of the planet and have been isolated using groundbreaking computational methods. But the chemistry itself is remarkably old, perfected over eons in Mother Nature’s lab. The company’s recent focus on immunotherapy offers a good example.

“Where we’ve decided to put a lot of our efforts recently is in the chemistry that modulates the immune system,” Beverage says. “Certain organisms, including plants, coral and sponges, have an innate immunity that protects them from invading pathogens. We’re trying to take advantage of that ancient evolutionary process—the chemistry that’s co-evolved between the microorganisms and the macroorganisms they live on.”

When one considers how important the interplay is between organisms and their



A Sirenas expedition navigates the waters around Curaçao in the Curasub, a mini-submarine operated by Substation Curaçao.

Right, top: Cyanobacteria growing on gorgonian coral. Right, bottom: Cyanobacteria under the microscope.



SIRENAS EXPEDITION TEAM



The RV Chapman, a research vessel used by Sirenas to launch expeditions, cruises along the coast of Curacao.



SIRENAS EXPEDITION TEAM

**“We’ve got these Silicon Valley computer types and machine-learning folks talking to biologists and chemists. A lot of different languages go on here. That’s at the core of the innovative stuff we do.”**

microbes, it puts a whole new perspective on what constitutes an organism in the first place. As Esquenazi points out, a sponge collected from the ocean floor isn’t really just a sponge alone. It’s a thriving ecosystem unto itself, and the microbes that inhabit it are largely responsible for its chemistry.

“One of the biggest things we’re focused on now is this global microbiome concept,” he says. “That’s the prevalence and ubiquity of all these microbes on the planet and how they’re intimately tied to the organisms we collect, and ultimately to our own health.”

Through this lens, it’s not a stretch to pic-

ture the earth as one big living organism itself, awash in chemistry with boundless applications. At the very least, the work that Sirenas does is a powerful reminder of just how interconnected life is on the planet and how, when one part suffers, the ripple effects are felt elsewhere. One need not look any further than the ocean to see evidence of this.

“In just the few years that the company’s been around, we’ve observed deteriorating conditions in the ocean,” says Esquenazi, who has collaborated with conservationist Fabien Cousteau, grandson of famous underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau, to bring awareness to problems like pollution and rising sea temperatures. “We’re definitely in a race against time.”

Esquenazi doesn’t have high hopes that the damage will be reversed any time soon. It all depends, he says, on whether we humans finally come to realize just how inextricably linked our wellbeing is to that of the ocean. But he and his colleagues at Sirenas persist nonetheless, doing their part to reveal the astonishing healing powers of its depths, one minuscule but mighty molecule at a time.

“Sirenas was born out of the idea that the ocean can help people,” he says. “That’s not something we should ever take for granted. It’s critical that we help the ocean in return.”



SIRENAS EXPEDITION TEAM

From left: Jake Beverage, Sirenas Director of Operations Tamara Schwent, Sirenas consultant Kevin Curtis, and Ed Esquenazi prepare for work in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**From ‘Magic Bullet’ to ‘Magic Shotgun’**

**VANDERBILT RESEARCHERS TAKE NOVEL APPROACH IN IDENTIFYING CANCER DRUGS IN NATURE**

Vanderbilt researchers have developed a new process that can rapidly and inexpensively identify personalized cancer drugs derived from nature. They describe how their new approach works on acute myeloid leukemia in a recently published paper in *Nature Communications*.

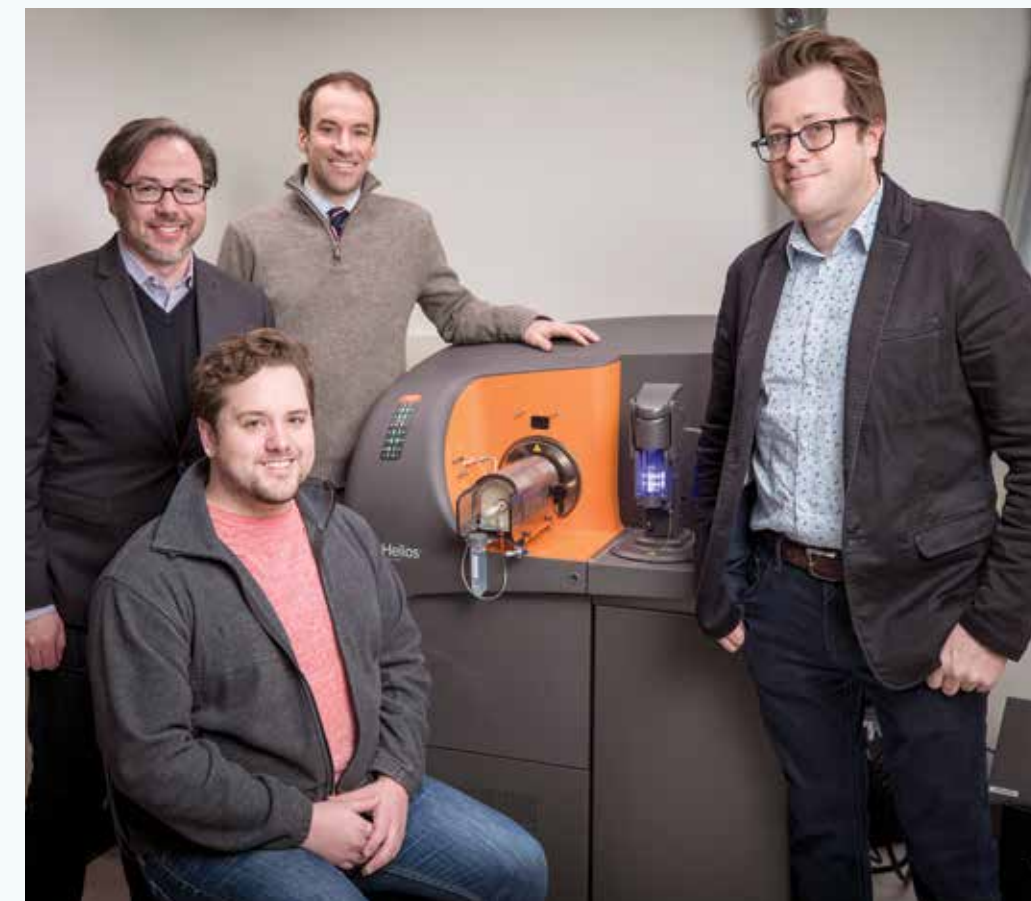
“The conventional ‘magic bullet’ approach to drug development is focused on identifying single molecules that kill disease organisms by disrupting single targets in single artificial cell lines,” says Brian Bachmann, professor of chemistry. “This has had some successes, but it also has a lot of limitations.”

Many diseases consist of cells that possess multiple mutations and redundancies that allow them to compensate for a drug hitting a single target. And the artificial cell lines that researchers often use, like the HeLa cancer cells isolated from Henrietta Lacks in 1951, do not always behave and respond like naturally occurring, or wild, cancer cells found in a patient.

“We wanted to develop a technique that was able to simultaneously detect the effects of multiple compounds against multiple targets in multiple wild cancer cells mixed with normal cells, much as tumors occur in the body,” says Jonathan Irish, assistant professor of cell and developmental biology.

In doing so, Bachmann and Irish have brought an old idea—searching for drug ingredients that occur abundantly in nature rather than developing them one at a time in a lab—into the 21st century with cutting-edge scientific tools and computational power.

The researchers began by combining bacteria-produced compounds called secondary metabolites with a mixture of healthy and diseased cells biopsied from real patients diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. They then coded the contents of each sample with fluorescent dyes so they could quickly analyze how these thousands of metabolites affected the patients’ biopsied cells. Advanced computational tools were



JOHN RUSSELL

Professors Jonathan Irish [standing, far left] and Brian Bachmann [far right] are collaborating with recent graduate David Earl, PhD’18 [sitting] and Assistant Professor of Medicine P. Brent Ferrell on a novel “magic shotgun” method of drug discovery.

then used to process and recognize patterns in the enormous data sets that emerged from these thousands upon thousands of analyses.

“This is akin to a shotgun approach, casting a broad net across cellular responses, which can also detect the unexpected,” Bachmann says.

Bachmann and Irish believe that by performing the discovery process with multiple patient samples representing the various major genetic types of cancer, molecules emerging from their pipeline could be developed for use in personalized therapeutics tailored to individual patients.

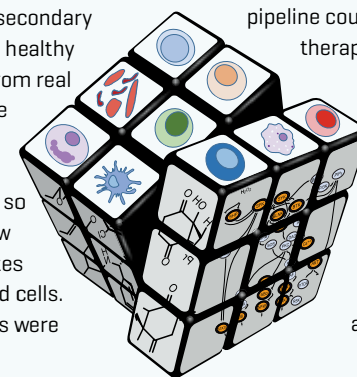
“Our new technology allows drug discovery using complex human tissues from patients without having to experiment directly on people,” Bachmann says. “By leapfrogging past artificial cell lines and animal models of disease, we think this will accelerate the discovery and approval of new therapeutics for

complex human diseases such as cancer.”

Bachmann and Irish are just two of the many faculty members at Vanderbilt who are devoting their research to drug discovery. In fact, this spring the health care investment firm Deerfield Management entered into an agreement with the university to launch Ancora Innovation, a company that will provide up to \$65 million in support of Vanderbilt’s innovative life sciences research and leverage Deerfield’s expertise in accelerating state-of-the-art drug development.

“Vanderbilt has amassed unparalleled research and development capabilities in drug discovery, in part through forging unique collaborations with industry,” says Susan R. Wentz, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “Our collaboration with Deerfield will provide our researchers with the resources and support needed to translate biological insights into technologies that will have real impact on people’s lives.”

—LIZ ENTMAN





# GRADE **A** TALENT

VANDERBILT'S SUCCESSFUL RECRUITING MODEL  
FINDS THE RAREST OF STUDENT-ATHLETES: THOSE WHO  
EXCEL BOTH ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM

BY MITCH LIGHT, BA'93



Khari Blasingame



Astra Sharma



Members of the May 2018 graduating class of student-athletes

**W**omen's tennis standout Astra Sharma, BA'18, originally had no plans to attend Vanderbilt, or any college for that matter, be it in the U.S. or her home country of Australia. The plan was to turn professional soon after completing high school.

"I had no idea about college tennis and had never heard of Vanderbilt," says the Perth native.

That all changed, though, when she broke her ankle a few months after graduating. Instead of going pro, Sharma thought it would be better to let her injury heal and give college tennis a try.

Five years later Sharma is a five-time All-American (twice in singles, three times in doubles) with a national title to her name. And after making her Grand Slam doubles debut at the Australian Open in January, she is finally realizing her dream of playing the pro circuit.

But in the end she came out further ahead than she ever could've imagined. Thanks to Vanderbilt, she received a world-class education as well.

"A lot of people are doing great things at Vanderbilt," says Sharma, who graduated in May with a degree in medicine, health and society. "We, as a team, take a lot of pride in the fact that we're a top program in tennis and also juggling academics really well."

For Geoff Macdonald, head coach of the women's tennis team—and the person who recruited Sharma—her story offers a shining example of what it means to be a student-athlete at the university. He quips that he's honed his recruiting pitch to just 11 words: "Vanderbilt is an Ivy League school, but we play professional sports."

As the only private institution in the Southeastern Conference, Vanderbilt is charged with competing at the highest level of collegiate athletics with student-athletes who also can thrive in the classrooms of a top-15 nationally ranked university.

"It's a different deal at Vanderbilt," says Head Football Coach Derek Mason. "Our student-athletes have to go across campus and compete against students who don't really care about their athletic prowess, and then they have to come back and compete against athletes in the SEC who don't really care about their ACT or SAT scores."

David Williams II, athletics director and vice chancellor for athletics and university affairs, credits the coaches for creating an environment that has allowed student-athletes to thrive.

"This is really about education," Williams says. "What we want to do is get some people in here who desire a great education and who happen to be gifted athletes. But first and foremost, what we want to do here is educate. And our coaches understand that."

Darren Ambrose signed on as the women's soccer head coach in 2015 because Vanderbilt presented, in his words, "an elite opportunity at an elite place." Previously, he'd spent 14 seasons as head coach at the University of Pennsylvania, itself a top academic institution. But Vanderbilt offered a level of athletic competition that Penn could not.

"I wanted to be able to sell the great athletic piece, as well as the great academic piece," Ambrose says.

For Ambrose, Mason, Macdonald, and the head coaches of Vanderbilt's 12 other varsity sports, the top priority is identifying student-athletes who not only can excel on the playing fields but also embrace the academic mission of the university. And the key, according to each coach, is that the prospective students and their families understand the commitment that needs to be made to every aspect of life at Vanderbilt.

"We want kids who want to win an SEC championship," Ambrose says. "Soccer has to be a big part of their life. And they have to want to get a great education. I don't want someone to come just because it's a great education, and, by the way, they can play soccer. If you come in with that attitude, you won't survive in our program."

Macdonald says, "I tell families all the time, 'If you want a great education and you want to really develop your tennis, this is heaven. But if you just want the education part and not the tennis, or vice versa, it won't work.' We try to be really honest with what we expect. This place requires a real commitment."

## THE WHOLE PACKAGE

The track record of Vanderbilt's student-athletes in the classroom speaks for itself. For the 2017-18 academic year, they compiled a cumulative 3.11 GPA, topping the 3.0 mark for the 13th consecutive year. And their graduation rate—96 percent in the latest numbers released by the NCAA—once again led the SEC and ranked among the top 10 percent of the 65 schools in Power Five conferences.

At the same time, the varsity teams have enjoyed a remarkable string of successes. During their time on campus, student-athletes in the Class of 2018 helped win two

NCAA championships—in women's tennis (2015) and bowling (2018)—as well as eight conference championships. And 17 of the student-athletes were recognized as All-Americans.

Sharma, who was a redshirt freshman when the team won its national title, is perhaps the most accomplished athlete in Vanderbilt history. That may never have come to pass had it not been for her aforementioned ankle injury, but it was another unexpected setback—this time for Vanderbilt—that serendipitously opened the door for her recruitment.

"We lost a kid to Stanford whom we thought we were going to get," Macdonald says. "We were kind of heartbroken."

The very next day, though, Macdonald received a tip from the husband of a former SEC tennis player he'd once recruited about an intriguing prospect in Australia who, he recalls, "was a bit raw but was a player who could really be developed."

That player turned out to be Sharma.

A few months later Aleke Tsoubanos, BS'04, the assistant women's tennis coach, traveled to Australia to watch Sharma play.

"Aleke told me she was interested," Sharma says, "but I had no intention of following up with her. I said, 'No, I'm good. But thank you very much.'"

About four months after meeting Tsoubanos, Sharma broke her ankle. Five months later Sharma was enrolled in classes at Vanderbilt and well on her way to a record-setting career.

**"Our student-athletes  
have to go across campus  
and compete against students  
who don't really care about  
their athletic prowess, and then  
they have to come back and  
compete against athletes in  
the SEC who don't really care  
about their ACT or SAT scores."**

—Coach Derek Mason, football





From left: Coaches Geoff Macdonald, Darren Ambrose and Derek Mason have different approaches for scouting players, but their message to recruits is the same: At Vanderbilt you'll receive a world-class education and play against the best competition, all while living in one of the most vibrant cities in the country.

"I got lucky the way it turned out," she says. "It was a perfect fit." Though it worked out well for all parties involved, Sharma's recruitment was anything but conventional. Most Vanderbilt student-athletes take a less circuitous path to campus. Lauren Demarchi, for example, a junior goalkeeper on the soccer team from Hudson, Ohio, knew just what she was looking for in terms of athletics and academics.

"I was one of those kids who was really well-versed in colleges," says Demarchi, who's majoring in human and organizational development. "I wanted to use soccer as my gateway into a really good academic school. I looked at some Ivy League schools but picked Vanderbilt based on the coaching staff, the location, and the competition of the SEC."



Khari Blasingame, BA'18, a running back from Huntsville, Alabama, had a similar outlook when weighing his options. Now a fifth-year senior, he flipped his commitment from the University of Minnesota to Vanderbilt shortly after Mason was hired in January 2014.

"Football was a big part of the equation, but the education was huge," says Blasingame, who graduated in May with a degree in medicine, health and society and is now pursuing a master's in leadership and organizational performance at Peabody College. "My parents really emphasized education. I understand that there will be life after football, so getting that Vanderbilt degree is huge. The SEC and the academics—it's the whole package."

#### GOLDEN TICKET

Sharma, Demarchi and Blasingame were all high-achieving high school students who have excelled, predictably, at Vanderbilt. But not all the recruits fit that profile.

"We pride ourselves on the fact that we've brought in a lot of kids who probably wouldn't have had the chance to go to Vanderbilt [if it weren't for athletics]," Williams says.

If a coach believes a recruit deserves a closer look despite deficiencies in his or her academic profile, certain procedures must be followed. This is where Vanderbilt's Athletics Compliance Office comes into the picture. The office, which ensures that coaches and student-athletes are adhering to NCAA, SEC and university rules and regulations, serves as a liaison between the athletics department and the university's Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

"If Admissions is doing a review of a prospect and the prospect's academic profile does not fit what we're looking for, one of two things can happen," says Erin Adkins, a former Vanderbilt assistant athletic direc-

tor and director of compliance who's now at UCLA. "One is that the coach walks away. Obviously, that's hard, but our coaches understand they can't get everyone into Vanderbilt. At other times they really believe the prospect can do the work. In that case, we'll have the athletics academic counselors also look at the prospect's profile, and they'll come up with an academic plan to help the prospect be successful.

"We'll put up certain parameters for the student," she adds. "For example, they'll come to summer school, and if they don't hit a certain GPA, they'll sit. Then we bring it to David [Williams] and other people around campus. David must feel comfortable that this student can do the work. There are a lot of discussions."

With 85 players on scholarship at any given time, the football program is home to the most players who fit into this category—and it's a part of the process that Mason takes very seriously.

"I embrace the opportunity to change a life," he says. "I believe in some ways Vanderbilt can be a golden ticket, giving a young man opportunities that weren't in front of him before we stepped into the picture. But to whom much is given, much is expected. I've now seen four cycles of graduates come through here, and what I've witnessed are lives impacted for the better and opportunities that have been seized by these young men."

Mason, who was the defensive coordinator at Stanford before making the move to Nashville in 2014, believes that universities like Vanderbilt are more attractive than ever to recruits and their families.

"The game has changed," he says. "Nowadays, parents and student-athletes are smart shoppers. They have access to so much information. Parents come to me to talk about what their son wants to do and why a Vanderbilt degree can make a difference. When that happens, I know I have the right families coming into my office. I know I'm recruiting the right kids."

#### SCOUTING PLAYERS

Ambrose's sales pitch is similar to every other coach's on campus, but he is facing unique challenges because of the changing dynamics of recruiting in his sport. It's now common for female soccer players to commit to college before their sophomore year of high school.

"We're recruiting kids at such a young age," says Ambrose, who already has secured several commitments from students set to graduate from high school in 2020. "When you're talking to a [high school] senior—the kids who have gone through the college counseling process at their school—they know about Vanderbilt. Their counselors are excited about it. But when the kids are younger, like the ones we have to recruit now, they don't always understand the type of impact a place like Vanderbilt can have."

Recruiting such young student-athletes offers another challenge: Vanderbilt cannot technically offer a scholarship to an underclass student

who has an incomplete transcript and has yet to take the ACT or SAT. This can create some awkward conversations in an era in which athletes as young as 14 boast about their offers on social media for the world to see.

"A lot of what you're seeing on social media are verbal offers," Adkins says. "You'll have a Class of 2022 high school student tweet about an offer, and that's something our coaches really have to balance. When an admissions person sees that on Twitter, we will get a phone call and they'll say, 'Have we really offered a ninth grader [admission]?' But Admissions has worked with us and understands the climate and the expectations. They know that the coaches make it clear to prospects that verbal offers are pending admission to Vanderbilt."

The goal for each coach is to recruit quality athletes who are a good fit at Vanderbilt, but how they go about identifying those prospects is unique to each sport.

Ambrose and his staff, who need to fill about six to eight roster spots with each recruiting class, scout players at elite club tournaments all over the country, primarily in the spring and the summer. "We typically don't recruit during our season [in the fall]," he says. "Other than that, we are constantly on the road."

The program also hosts several Elite Prospect ID camps throughout the year to get a better look at players the coaches have watched at tournaments.

Tennis is similar to soccer in that the coaches are on the road scouting at national-level tournaments, but Macdonald and his staff—who had only nine players on the entire 2017–18 roster—must be far more selective. Just two players were signed in the 2018 recruiting class, the fewest of any sport on campus.

Mason, on the other hand, must identify anywhere from 15 to 25 SEC-worthy prospects each recruiting cycle. He and his staff spend a considerable amount of time visiting prospects in their homes and high schools, but—unlike the majority of the other sports—most of their evaluation is done on campus when Vanderbilt Football hosts summer camps.

"It's better for us to get them here and for us to see them with our own eyes on our campus," he says. "Most of our commits are coming from guys who've been to our camps, who've seen our campus two or three times. They know exactly who we are, and we know who they are."

#### 'THE CITY, THE SEC AND THE DEGREE'

Macdonald, whose tenure is longer than any other current Commodores coach, has witnessed firsthand the transformation of Vanderbilt as a university and Nashville as a city—two factors that have made the school a more desirable place to play.

"Nashville has become internationally known as a really great city," he says, "and Vanderbilt is an integral part of the city. The university has made incredible progress. We've changed from more of a Southern school to one that's now nationally and internationally known."

Reinforcing this notion are the global experiences afforded to Vanderbilt's student body, including its student-athletes. Every summer numerous student-athletes take advantage of study abroad programs offered through the university's Global Education Office, traveling to places like Europe, South Africa and Australia.

"We're setting a trend at Vanderbilt," Williams says. "We're giving kids an experience that student-athletes generally don't get at this level."

Mason, for his part, looks at everything Vanderbilt has to offer—its conference, academics, location and extracurricular programs—as one big recruiting tool.

"I talk about the idea of the city, the SEC and the degree," he says. "The SEC is the best football conference in the country. We have a world-class education coupled with the fact that we're in the best city in the country."

"I truly believe we have the best of all worlds," Mason adds. "We're looking for kids who want it all."

Mitch Light is managing editor at Athlon Sports in Nashville. He graduated from Vanderbilt in 1993 with a bachelor's in economics.

**"We're setting a trend at Vanderbilt. We're giving kids an experience that student-athletes generally don't get at this level."**

—Vice Chancellor David Williams

## Hoops Haul MEN'S BASKETBALL SIGNS STELLAR RECRUITING CLASS

Head Coach Bryce Drew and the Vanderbilt men's basketball program recently made national headlines by securing the university's top recruiting class in at least five decades.

The Commodores' 2018 class features three of the nation's top-75 recruits, including two ranked in the top 15. Until this spring, Vanderbilt had not signed a top-75 player since 2011 [Dai-Jon Parker, No. 48].

The class is headlined by Darius Garland, a point guard from Brentwood Academy in Tennessee, who picked Vanderbilt over Duke, Kentucky, Indiana and UCLA in a hotly contested recruiting battle.

Garland garnered most of the headlines, due in large part to his being a local prospect, but the highest rated

of the new recruits is Simi Shittu, a power forward from Canada ranked No. 11 in the nation by the 247Sports Composite. Shittu, who played high school basketball in Vermont, picked Vanderbilt over Arizona and North Carolina.

The third prospect is shooting guard Aaron Nesmith, a South Carolina native who soared up the recruiting rankings with a strong showing as a high school senior. Nesmith, ranked No. 62 nationally, chose Vanderbilt over South Carolina and Florida.

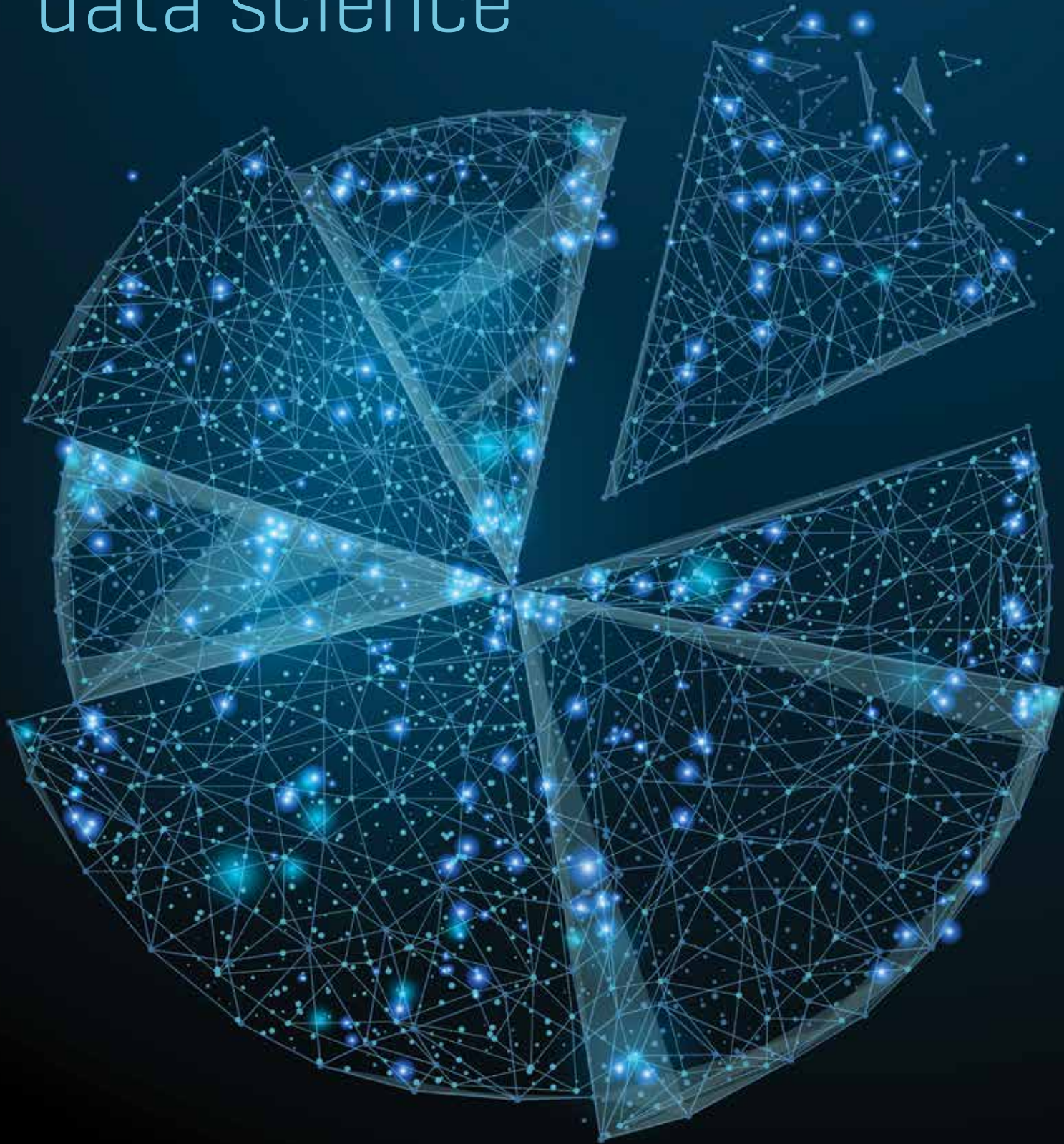
The three freshmen will join two other newcomers—transfers Matt Ryan from Notre Dame and Yanni Wetzell from St. Mary's, a Division II school in Texas—and five returning players on the Commodores' 2018–19 team.



Garland



# Vanderbilt bytes into data science



*New programs in a revolutionary field will foster discovery, collaboration and learning across campus*

BY RYAN UNDERWOOD, BA'96

The robot-assisted future vividly depicted in pop culture a half-century ago—from Stanley Kubrick's film *2001: A Space Odyssey* to *The Jetsons*—looks more like reality every day.

Artificial intelligence (AI) systems are helping solve everything from making hospitals run more smoothly to suggesting effective courses of cancer treatment. Similarly, machine learning continues to improve areas like financial investing, transportation, and voice-activated services like Siri and Alexa.

Data science, as the umbrella field is called, likely will revolutionize a number of other disciplines in the coming years. Yet Vanderbilt experts say we've barely reached the beginning stages of unlocking the full potential of data science—or understanding how to use it responsibly.

“Over the next decade, data science is estimated to have a significant impact across all sectors of the economy, from health care to transportation, manufacturing, construction and urban living,” reads the final report of Vanderbilt's Data Science Visions group, a faculty-led initiative formed through a 2017 Trans-Institutional Projects award. “Investing in data science expertise that is broadly available to, and adoptable by, Vanderbilt researchers will yield dramatic advances in academic discovery.”

That report was released in May, and out of it came recommendations to launch a new Data Science Institute at Vanderbilt, develop a professional master's degree in the field, and add courses on the subject for undergraduates. Those recommendations are now being implemented, with the institute formally launching this fall as planning for the new master's program gets underway.

“Data science forms a natural hub for collaboration across fields and schools,” Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Susan R. Wente said in a news release announcing the recommendations in the spring. “This initiative is designed to ensure our research and scholarship are competitive and innovative.”

## REVEALING THE ESSENCE

Data science is a field that combines statistical methods, mathematics and computer technology to extract patterns and predictions from what seems like random numerical noise. “In research, there's often a problem of recognition. The answer may be in the data, but you don't recognize it,” says Padma Raghavan, Vanderbilt's vice provost for research and professor of computer science and computer engineering.

Raghavan compares data science to the work of surrealist painter Octavio Ocampo, whose portrait of Don Quixote consists of multiple images such as windmills and donkeys that ultimately form a likeness of the adventurer's face. “You have to shift your attention from one scale to another,” she says. “Data science can filter out the distracting information and reveal the essential.”

The field also lends itself to a wide range of academic disciplines. Areas like genetics and astrophysics are already using artificial intelligence and machine learning to explore massive data sets, fueling new discoveries about everything from cell mechanics to the search for extraterrestrial life. But less obvious examples are taking place on campus as well, such as analyzing satellite imagery to map ancient civilizations; identifying fraud signals in the text of regulatory disclosures issued by publicly traded companies; and modeling how networks of medieval religious scholars formed.

Perhaps most tantalizing of all is the prospect of sparking meaningful collaboration among different disciplines across campus through the language and methods of data science.

Andreas Berlind, associate professor of astrophysics, who co-chaired the Data Science Visions group and will co-lead the new institute, says he and other researchers got a taste of the interdisciplinary work to come earlier this year during a series of data-science workshops. Faculty from various Vanderbilt departments presented their work to data specialists





from astrophysics, computer science, biostatistics and other technical fields, brainstorming about new methods and avenues for investigation. Berlind says one particular topic that seemed to offer a rich vein of exploration is a longitudinal data set with information about student, teacher and school performance compiled by Peabody researchers in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education (known as the Tennessee Education Research Alliance). The data scientists in the room beamed at the prospect of applying AI and machine learning to such a rich trove of information.

“But the big obstacle always comes down to who is going to do the work!” Berlind exclaims. “That’s the challenge. You need personnel who

“Data science can filter out the distracting information and reveal the essential.”

are trained in data science and can spend enough time going deep into a specific domain. Interdisciplinary collaborations are not going to happen magically.”

That’s where the new Data Science Institute and the master’s degree program come in. Douglas Schmidt, associate provost for research development and technologies and Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Computer Science and Computer Engineering, says Vanderbilt has made great strides in incentivizing faculty to work across disciplines. As prime examples, he

points to Vanderbilt’s Trans-Institutional Program awards and to the university’s center for innovation, the Wond’ry, where the Data Science Institute initially will be housed.

“The university has established a precedent for incentivizing faculty to collaborate,” says Schmidt, who will co-lead the Data Science Institute alongside Berlind. “The programs we hope to establish around data science will take that collaboration to the next level.”



Schmidt

As Schmidt envisions it, Vanderbilt faculty from various schools and departments would propose collaborative research projects and then apply to have a data-science researcher from the new institute dedicated to the endeavor. On a smaller scale, Schmidt says data scientists housed within the institute would hold regular office hours, so that faculty and other researchers can explore ongoing questions in their work.

The institute also will become the epicenter for the data-science master’s students, and interested undergraduates, to learn about the field while gaining hands-on experience. Jeffrey Blume, associate professor of biostatistics and biomedical informatics, will lead the master’s program. Plans call for the first students to be admitted starting in 2019.

“We want to find ways for faculty, for researchers and for students to hang around,” Schmidt says. “We want to build a whole ecosystem around data science.”

#### THE PROMISE OF PERSONALIZED MEDICINE

One area at Vanderbilt that’s primed to benefit from data science is personalized medicine, says Yu Shyr, chair of Vanderbilt’s Department of Biostatistics and a specialist in applying data-science methodologies to cancer research.

Shyr, who co-chaired the Data Science Visions group with Berlind, says starting in February, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration began approving a handful of diagnostic tools that use artificial intelligence, with plenty more in the pipeline. For example, one application helps doctors pinpoint strokes found in CT scans—either discovering ones that may have been overlooked or confirming a correct reading of a scan while offering an even deeper level of understanding about the event.

“These applications are not going to replace doctors,” says Shyr, who also holds the Harold L. Moses Chair in Cancer Research. “They offer another tool, another piece of data that helps doctors treat patients according to their individual needs.”

Data science has already helped scientists hone their understanding of how genetics plays a role in an individual’s health. Now, Shyr says data science is being used to map patients’ bacterial profiles as well.

“In the future we will link these warehouses of ‘-omics’ data—genomics, microbiomics, radiomics, which is imaging data—with all the biomarkers from a person’s electronic health record,” Shyr says. “That interaction will really provide a solid foundation for precision medicine.”

While personalized medicine holds much promise, Shyr says data science is already playing an important role in preventative care. For example, patients who get an annual checkup at Vanderbilt University Medical Center may see a line on their reports telling them the likelihood of developing heart-related illnesses. That probability, he says, is calculated using inputs like cholesterol levels, blood pressure, age and body mass index. “Already, you can see how we apply that information to daily life.”

Shyr says another major area of health care that will benefit from the rise of data science is drug research and development. He cites Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche’s recent \$1.9 billion acquisition of digital health startup Flatiron Health as an example. He explains that Roche scientists can use information from Flatiron’s expansive network of electronic health records from cancer patients to speed up clinical trials, as well as quickly abandon ineffective treatments. One way to do this, he



JOHN RUSSELL

Professors Yu Shyr, left, and Andreas Berlind co-chaired the Data Science Visions group, from which has emerged the new Vanderbilt Data Science Institute, as well as undergraduate and graduate instruction in data science.

## Arranged by Algorithm

### Drew Silverstein’s Amper is redefining music composition through artificial intelligence

Computers may be able to perform a variety of tasks once reserved only for humans, but composing music—an inherently creative and emotive endeavor—would seem unlikely to be among them. That impression might change, though, if Drew Silverstein, BMus’11, has his way. Silverstein is the co-founder and CEO of Amper, a New York-based startup that uses artificial intelligence, rather than human composers, to create original music.

Formed in 2014, Amper fills a need for licensing music for commercial purposes. Finding production music—what’s heard in advertisements and online videos, for example—requires hunting through an online service’s massive catalog of recordings or hiring a composer to create a bespoke piece of music. As a result, production music can be either inexpensive with high search costs or expensive with low search costs.

“We used our background and expertise as composers to create a novel way to solve the problem,” says Silverstein, whose résumé includes composing, producing and songwriting for film, television and video games. Last year he was named to the *Forbes* “30 under 30” list and already has raised more than \$9 million in early funding for Amper.

The product is remarkably fast and dynamic. A person can build a song from start to finish in less than a minute using the simple interface. The

process begins with the choice of a genre such as hip-hop and an accompanying mood, like “cool,” “chill” or “reflective.” A cinematic song might be “inspirational,” “suspenseful,” “gloomy,” or a dozen or so other moods. The pro version of Amper goes even deeper, allowing the user to select instruments and their specific style, the tempo, and the song’s duration.

At the smallest level, Amper works like the technology that produces the kind of files purchased on iTunes. An MP3 file uses an audio format that’s been stitched together from millions of samples of an analog recording. Individually, each snippet is too short for a human to recognize: An audio CD has 1.41 million samples, or bits, per second, while a high-quality MP3 has 320,000. But when laid end to end, the samples sound like seamless audio. Amper creates songs in a similar fashion using what Silverstein calls a “massive palette” of audio samples arranged according to the algorithms.

An Atlanta native, Silverstein graduated from the Blair School of Music with a degree in music theory and composition. Music is in his DNA, one might say. One of his sisters also studied music in college.

“There’s no better training for life than to be a music major or a student of music because of the emphasis on personal responsibility, practice and attention to detail,” he says.



Silverstein

ERICA LANSNER PHOTOGRAPHY

Recognizing a need for business knowledge to complement his music experience, Silverstein earned an MBA from Columbia University in 2016. The knowledge gained has helped him navigate the complicated, and at times uneasy, relationship between artificial intelligence and the business world. He acknowledges that AI has the potential to change the role of some human composers and songwriters, but argues it’s also opening up new markets, making music production more accessible and more affordable for everyday people.

“We believe that anyone, by virtue of being a human being,” Silverstein says, “is internally creative.”

—GLENN PEOPLES, MBA’08

says, is by replacing traditional control groups needed for pharmaceutical studies with information gleaned from Flatiron’s databases of clinical records, reducing the amount of time and money spent on trials.

“We are still in the very early stages of data science,” Shyr says. “Today we say ‘big data,’ but what does this really mean? Maybe in 10 years it will look like small data.”

#### AVOIDING ORWELL

The new Data Science Institute will play a major role in Vanderbilt’s health and medical research, Schmidt says. But many other areas stand to benefit from data science, such as transportation and several smart-city initiatives. In fact, Vanderbilt already has a partnership in place with the Nashville mayor’s office to help the city navigate its rapid expansion during the past decade.

Schmidt also sees wide data-science applications in the near term for economists and finance researchers from the Owen Graduate School of Management, pointing to potential partnerships with Alliance Bernstein, the Wall Street investment firm moving its headquarters to Nashville. And, as mentioned, Peabody’s longitudinal data about Tennessee public schools offer immediate opportunities for the institute’s involvement.

“One of the most important things we will be doing is teaching people how to tap into and use data sets wherever they reside,” Schmidt says. “There are so many cool tools out there for data analytics, for AI, for machine learning—we want to train people how to use them effectively.”

Berlind says beyond using data science to fuel new discoveries, it’s important to house experts within Vanderbilt who study the field’s impact on society.

In April the Data Science Visions group hosted a forum at which experts debated the ethics of using data-driven algorithms in the criminal justice system. One example is a new system in Chicago that assigns scores to residents, assessing their likelihood of being a victim of violence. But critics have argued that the system is instead being used to target potential attackers before any crimes take place, reminiscent of the dystopian storyline in the film *Minority Report*.

Schmidt says it’s easy to misuse data since the numbers often have a ring of authority about them.

“We fool ourselves into thinking that data sets are objective,” he says. “But they always must be understood in context.”

Yet, examining the risks—and rewards—of data science is part of a larger whole. Similar to the way Vanderbilt invested broadly in neuroscience in the late 1990s as a field that tied together many disciplines on campus, university administrators think data science holds the same promise.

“Data science as an interdisciplinary field is only in its infancy, but we know that across all disciplines there will be more and more data and that they will be increasingly complex,” Raghavan says. “The Data Science Institute is really about taking away the tedium of dealing with data, making it easier to answer the exciting ‘what if’ questions that spur innovation.”



# EPILOGUE

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

## Your Support Drives Vanderbilt



Vanderbilt will always be a special place for me and my family. My wife, Linda Watson Lovinger, is a graduate [BA'87], as are my two eldest sons, Nicholas [BA'15] and Thomas [BA'17]. Our third son,

Joseph, is a proud member of the Class of 2020. It is an honor to serve as president of your Vanderbilt Alumni Association.

I believe deeply in the transformative experience Vanderbilt provides, and I give back as both a volunteer and donor to support our amazing university. I know many of you share that passion. I look forward to highlighting ways you can get involved as a volunteer in the future, but first I want to share how we can all support Vanderbilt philanthropically.

For long-term sustainability, consider creating a scholarship or funding an endowed chair for a leading faculty member. Scholarship support helps make a Vanderbilt education accessible to the most talented students in its applicant pool.

An endowed chair serves as the highest honor for a professor. These chairs are essential for the university to recruit and retain a first-rate faculty. They are amazing people—as you know from your own experience—who make Vanderbilt extraordinary.

Also providing endowment support through a planned gift, such as bequests and life income gifts, will allow you to carry on a legacy in perpetuity.

Many opportunities are available to help the university address critical needs through recurring current-use support. Commit to making a gift of any size to your Vanderbilt school, athletics, or any area of campus that matters to you. Support our no-loan financial aid program, Opportunity Vanderbilt, or consider special programs like Experience Vanderbilt, which helps undergraduates on financial aid to participate in valuable extracurricular programs.

You can make this annual support with the confidence that you will positively impact the Vanderbilt student experience. Any size gift matters. Last fiscal year, gifts of less than \$100 added up to \$1.8 million.

I encourage you to visit [giving.vanderbilt.edu](http://giving.vanderbilt.edu) to learn more about the ways in which you can provide meaningful support to the students, faculty and programs of our university.

—DAN LOVINGER, BA'87

*News for this section should be sent by mail to Bonnie Arant Ertelt, associate editor, at Vanderbilt Magazine, PMB 357737, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37235-7737; by email to [vanderbiltmagazine@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vanderbiltmagazine@vanderbilt.edu); or by fax to (615) 343-7708. Please include your degree, class year and, when applicable, maiden name. You also may send us news, submit a photo, access other class notes, or update your address and other biographical information electronically through Vanderbilt's online alumni community, VUconnect, at [vuconnect.com](http://vuconnect.com). Your submission may be posted in both Vanderbilt Magazine and on VUconnect's password-protected website unless otherwise specified. We reserve the right to edit for length, style and clarity.*

## QUINQ

REUNION OCTOBER 11-13, 2018

### '54

**Curtis D. McCoy Jr.**, BA, of Hanson, Ky., the oldest former mayor of Madisonville, Ky., was profiled in a feature article about his life in May in the *Madisonville Messenger*.

### '60

**Martha Cotten McCain**, BA, and **Howard McCain**, BA, celebrated their 80th birthdays March 17 with more than 30 friends and family members at the Country Club of Landfall in Wilmington, N.C. Married 57 years, they met during their sophomore year at Vanderbilt, where they most recently attended their Quinq reunions in both 2010 and 2015. The party, given by the couple's three children, included several other alumni, including Howard's stepbrother, **Michael Campbell**, BE'65, JD'68; **William Oakley**, BE'61; **William Van Order**, BA'59; and **Sheri Malman**, BA'90. The McCains retired to Wilmington in 2004.

### '61

**John H.S. Boys**, BA, recently was elected senior warden of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Weston, Conn. He also serves on the advisory board of the New Paradigm Theatre Co., a nonprofit organization fostering

creative problem solvers, leaders and global citizens through theater arts education and productions. After graduating from Vanderbilt he left for New York City to begin a commercial and private banking career that lasted more than 50 years, including five years in Brazil and Venezuela, where he was the resident representative of Chemical Bank.

### '64

**Aubrey B. Harwell Jr.**, BA, JD'67, of Brentwood, Tenn., co-founder of Nashville law firm Neal & Harwell, recently was recognized by The Business Journals Co. as one of "100 Influencers of Law" in the United States. Harwell is among only three Nashville attorneys to receive this recognition. The Business Journals is a network of more than 40 publications, including the *Nashville Business Journal*. Each honoree has been featured as a newsmaker in his or her home city.

### '66

**Charles E. Smith**, MA, PhD'76, of Nashville has written a memoir, *Journal of a Fast Track Life*, to be published in September by Charbar Press.

### '68

50TH REUNION OCTOBER 11-13, 2018

**Jack Dorsey** was honored March 28 with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the city of Mount Zion, Ga., for which he served as city councilman from 1973 to 1975 and as mayor for four terms, from 1975 to 1981 and again from 1983 to 1985. He also was justice of the peace from 1981 to 1985. Since his time as mayor, he has organized the first Mount Zion Founder's Day; worked toward opening the Mount Zion Community and Senior Center, for which he served as the first director; and received awards for preserving the history of the area.

### '70

**Richard Alan Bunch**, MDiv, DDiv'71, has authored a new book titled *Hulls Cargoed with Unhurried Glass: Poems 2015-2016*, available through Amazon. A previous book is *Cheers: New and Selected Poems*. Bunch

has now written more than 80 books and 2,900 poems. He writes that his wife will retire soon, that their son works for a high-tech company, and that their daughter continues her medical research.

**Ben L. Cundiff**, BE, JD'73, of Cadiz, Ky., was appointed in April to a four-year term on the Kentucky Board of Education.

### '71

**Cornelia A. Clark**, BA, JD'79, of Franklin, Tenn., was named the 2018 recipient of the Tennessee Bar Association's prestigious Justice Frank F. Drowota III [BA'60, JD'65] Outstanding Judicial Service Award. The Justice Drowota Award is the TBA's highest award for service to the judiciary and has been presented annually for more than a decade. A Tennessee Supreme Court justice, Clark accepted the award June 15 in Memphis at the TBA's annual convention.

**Richard A. "Dick" Sayles**, BA, a trial lawyer and co-founder of law firm Sayles Werbner, was chosen by the Dallas Bar Association as 2018 Trial Lawyer of the Year based on his achievements in the courtroom. He was profiled in the July issue of the association's publication, *Headnotes*.

### '73

45TH REUNION OCTOBER 11-13, 2018

**Lee G. Royce**, BA, MMgmt'75, EdD'93, retired in June after 16 years as president of Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss. In his honor, the college's medical science building has been named the Royce Medical Science Center. In addition, the Rhoda Royce Prayer Garden near Alumni Hall was named in honor of his wife.

**Thomas Walski**, MS, PhD'79, of Nanticoke, Pa., was named 2017 Civil Engineer of the Year by the Lehigh Valley section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. In 2012 he and the late Vanderbilt Distinguished Professor of Engineering W. Wesley Eckenfelder were named by *Water and Wastes Digest* as being among 50 icons in the water industry.

### '74

**H. Scott Hestevold**, BA, retired June 1 after 40 years on the philosophy faculty at the University of Alabama. He served eight years as chair and has pub-

lished essays on philosophical problems involving objects, time and identity, and on problems in moral psychology involving mercy and pity. Currently, he is writing a book about the nature of space.

**David Tanner**, MD, ranked among Metro Atlanta's top doctors in *Atlanta* magazine's July issue. He has appeared on the Top Doctors list since its inception.

### '76

**Mary Aitcheson "Tipper" Gore**, MA, of Santa Bar-

bara, Calif., received an honorary doctor of humane letters from California State University, Channel Islands, at its commencement ceremonies May 19.

**Stephanie James**, PhD, of Potomac, Md., became senior vice president of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health in May. She joined FNIH in 2004 and became director of science and director of the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative, with responsibility for a broad infectious disease portfolio encompassing research to develop vaccines, immunotherapies, drugs and innovative vector control methods.

ALUMNI PROFILE



COURTESY SARAH BYRN EVANS RICKMAN

*Rickman stands with an Aeronca Champ, the plane in which she learned to fly, training on a grass runway. The single-engine Champ is very similar to the trainer airplane the WASP first learned to fly.*

## Sarah Byrn Evans Rickman, BA'58 Ferrying History

During World War II the Women Airforce Service Pilots—known as the WASP—flew and delivered aircraft across the U.S. to docks for shipment to the war zone.

Sarah Byrn Evans Rickman is making sure these flyers' contributions aren't forgotten. She's written eight books about them, most recently *BJ Erickson: WASP Pilot* [2018, Filter Press], a young adult biography and the first of a series. Erickson led a squadron of skilled WASP ferry pilots who, throughout 1944, delivered vital P-51 fighter aircraft from California to the East Coast.

Rickman's *WASP of the Ferry Command* [2017, University of North Texas Press] won the National League of American Pen Women Inc.'s 2018 Marjorie Davis Roller Nonfiction Award.

"It all goes back to reading about Amelia Earhart when I was 13," Rickman says of her interest. "The book was *Biographies of Outstanding Americans*, and Amelia was the only woman in it. Honestly, it changed my life."

An English major at Vanderbilt, Rickman credits her liberal arts education with giving her the tools to be a journalist and later an author. She was editor of the *Centerville-Bellbrook Times* in Centerville, Ohio, when she met her first WASP at the fledgling International Women's Air and Space Museum and fell in love with their story. She now edits the *WASP News* for the WASP Archives at Texas Woman's University.

"Every one of these women I talked to was struck with this absolute desire to fly," says Rickman, who now lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado. "Once they did it, they were hooked."

Inspired by the WASP, she made good on a lifelong dream and earned her pilot's license herself in 2011.

"When you're up there looking down at the earth, it's like a patchwork quilt below you, and you can see the contours of the land," she says. "It's absolutely beautiful."

—ANDREW FAUGHT



## '77

**Martin Zorn**, BA, of Makawao, Hawaii, recently was confirmed by the Hawaii Senate to serve on the board of directors of the Hawaii Technology Development Corp. for a four-year term.

## '78

40TH REUNION OCTOBER 11–13, 2018

**Frances Page Glascoe**, MS, EdS'79, PhD'86, of Knoxville, Tenn., recently retired from her position as adjunct professor of pediatrics at Vanderbilt after 35 years. With research focusing on the accuracy of developmental and behavioral screening measures, she is the author of more than 200 journal articles, books and chapters, including *Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics*. Translating her research into practice, she created several accurate screening tests designed for well-child visits: the Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) and PEDS: Developmental Milestones. These measures are translated into more than 45 languages and are used not only in Vanderbilt's general pediatrics clinics, but throughout the nation. Incorporated into the National Institutes of Health's National Survey of Child Health, a version of PEDS serves as a disability prevalence indicator for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Bob Sneed**, BE, of Springfield, Tenn., received the Distinguished Civilian Employee Recognition Award from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, in June. The retired water manager is best known for overseeing water releases during Nashville's historic flood of the Cumberland River in May 2010.

## '80

**Jon L. Duse**, BS, has joined Eye Care & Vision Associates in Buffalo, N.Y., as eye physician and surgeon. With more than 23 years of experience in comprehensive eye care in Western New York, he specializes in diabetic eye care, cataract surgery and oculoplastics.

**Sherry Galloway**, BA, MD'84, an emergency medicine physician now in her 29th year of practice at Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital in Murfreesboro, Tenn., received Rutherford Cable's 2018 ATHENA Award in April. The award recognizes women who excel in their professions, help develop other leaders, and give back to their communities. Galloway's support and advocacy for the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Program and Child Advocacy Center of Rutherford County were particularly noted among her community activities.

**David B. Schmidt**, BA, was appointed in May as executive director of AOAC International, a nonprofit scientific association headquartered in Rockville, Md. Previously, he was CEO of the International Food Information Council and Foundation.

## '81

**Preston Brown**, BS, of Huntsville, Ala., recently published a book, *A Champion Game Plan for Life*, in March, available through Amazon in print and Kindle editions.

## '82

**David J. Burge**, BA, of Atlanta recently was appointed to the board of visitors of Emory University. He practices commercial real estate and banking law at Smith, Gambrell & Russell in Atlanta.

**Laura Reinbold**, BE, recently was elected to the Geoprofessional Business Association's Council of Fellows. She previously served on the board of directors and was past president of GBA, an international association of geoprofessional firms that for 50 years has been dedicated to confronting risk and optimizing performance for firms and their clients through advocacy, education and collaboration. Reinbold is national director for health care for the engineering firm Terracon, ranked 24th on the *Engineering News-Record* list of top design firms.

## '83

35TH REUNION OCTOBER 11–13, 2018

**Elaine McArdle**, JD, of Portland, Ore., is the co-author, with Dr. Barbara Lipska, of *The Neuroscientist Who Lost Her Mind: My Tale of Madness and Recovery*, the story of Lipska's descent into, and journey out of, mental illness after brain cancer. Published in April by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, it has been featured on NPR, the BBC, the Sunday *London Times*, the *New York Post*, and many other media outlets, and was named a *Publishers Weekly* Top 10 Biography and Memoir Pick and an Amazon "Best Books of the Month" selection. **Nan Thornton**, JD'02, of Aevitas Creative Management was one of the literary agents for the book. McArdle also is co-author of *The*

*Migraine Brain* (2008, Simon & Schuster).

**Jaibun Earp**, PhD, was appointed dean of the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College School of Nursing and Health Sciences in Tifton, Ga., in July. She is a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

**David Szymanski**, MA, was appointed president of the University of North Florida in Jacksonville in late February. He came to UNF after leading the Carl H. Lindner College of Business at the University of Cincinnati. He is also a professor at UNF's Coggin College of Business.

**Kalliat T. Valsaraj**, PhD, of Baton Rouge, La., has been invited to serve on the 2018–19 board of directors of the National Academy of Inventors. He is vice president for research and economic development at Louisiana State University, where he also is the Charles and Hilda Roddey Distinguished Professor in Chemical Engineering and the Ike East Professor in Chemical Engineering. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

## '84

**Edward L. Allen**, BA, of Fredericksburg, Va., was appointed in April as president of the 110-year-old Allen Law Firm. He had been the managing partner of the Fredericksburg office since its opening in 1994.

**Paul Ney**, JD, MBA, of Nashville was confirmed in July by the U.S. Senate as general counsel for the U.S. Department of Defense, following his nomination by President Trump in January. Ney had worked for the past two years in the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, where he was chief deputy attorney general.

## '85

**Jeff Melcher**, BA, of Atlanta has been named regional managing partner for the Southeast region of national law firm Wilson Elser.

## '86

**Bruce Green**, BA, of Franklin, Tenn., rode his bike across the United States from Los Angeles to Boston, from May 13 to June 29, a journey of about 3,400 miles. With the ride he raised around \$60,000 for the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

**Karen Larimer**, BA, MSN'91, took a new position in May as director of clinical development for physIQ Inc., a biotech startup based in Chicago. Recently, she was presented the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association Advocacy Award for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in recognition of her volunteer work on local, state and federal health policy advocacy. She is president of the American Heart Association Chicago Board of Directors and serves on the Illinois State Advocacy Committee for the AHA.

**Karen A. Reardon**, JD, earned tenure and was promoted to associate professor in April by La Salle University in Philadelphia, where she teaches management, business law and ethics in both the undergraduate business and MBA programs.

**Susan Germann Yackzan**, BSN, of Lexington, Ky., earned a doctor of philosophy from the University of Kentucky College of Nursing in December 2017.

## '87

**Albert Dotson Jr.**, JD, is managing partner of business and real estate law firm Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod in Miami. Dotson founded Bilzin Sumberg's public-private partnership and land-development practice, which oversees the legal proceedings of some of Miami's biggest infrastructure projects.

## '88

30TH REUNION OCTOBER 11–13, 2018

**Fran San Diego**, BS, of Carlsbad, Calif., has been promoted to partner at operational accounting firm Pro Back Office, where she is vice president of finance.

## '90

**J. Gregory Hatcher**, BA, of Charlotte, N.C., is celebrating 25 years in the practice of family law. He is recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America 2019* guide for family law and was named to the 2018 North Carolina Super Lawyers list. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a recognized board-certified specialist in family law, and managing partner of Hatcher Law Group.

**David White**, BA, of Greenville, S.C., is the founder and CEO of Fostering Great Ideas, a nonprofit that helps children in foster care in the Greenville area. In June the nonprofit was featured in a cover article in

the *Greenville Journal*. With operations in Greenville, Spartanburg and Denver, White—who teaches MBA-level entrepreneurship at Clemson University—has made improving the lives of foster children his life mission.

## '91

**Barney Graham**, PhD, deputy director of the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institute of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, was named in May as one of 27 finalists for the 2018 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal. He was recognized as part of a team that developed a promising vaccine now in clinical testing to prevent the Zika virus.

### ALUMNI PROFILE

## Dominic McCarthy, BA'90 Bonded Spirits



From a 65-acre dairy farm in Cooraclare, Ireland, Dominic McCarthy is courting clover.

He's the newest player in the booming international market for Irish whiskey, helping to found the Chapel Gate Irish

Whiskey Co. in 2015 with wife Louise McGuane, the company's CEO, and a group of Vanderbilt alumni. The couple's first release, J.J. Corry The Gael, debuted in September 2017.

Chapel Gate is Ireland's first whiskey bonder in a century and has resurrected the lost art of bonding. "Our skill is choosing the barrel to age the whiskey in and the micro climate of the place where you store it. Eighty percent of the flavor comes from the barrel and the aging process.

"We take the best whiskey from across the country, mature it on the farm in our barrels, and then blend the liquids to create fantastic drinkable whiskey," McCarthy says. "Some of the barrels are ex-bourbon barrels from Tennessee and Kentucky, so it's a good reason to come back to Nashville."

He calls The Gael a "classic, full-flavored Irish blend." "I pick up honey and lime notes when I drink it," McCarthy says.

Chapel Gate Irish Whiskey Co. is located on the McGuane family farm, on the country's west coast, making "the most of the little coastal micro climate that will ultimately produce a whiskey that is utterly unique to County Clare," according to the company.

## '92

**Cathy Altman**, BA, a partner in the Dallas law office of Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal, recently was elected to the governing committee of the American Bar Association Forum on Construction Law.

**Cynthia Sandlin Chafin**, MEd, was appointed associate director for community programs in May at the Center for Health and Human Services at Middle Tennessee State University. She joined the CHHS in 2003 as a project director and consultant, was appointed interim director in October 2015, and served in that role through May. She has managed a diverse portfolio of public health research projects and community-based programs and initiatives, with a total portfolio of

Investors include Vanderbilt alumni **Patrick Malloy, BS'89**; **Jon Rickert, BA'90**; and **Ellen Sergeant Rickert, BA'90**.

Production of Irish whiskey has surged in the last decade, according to the Irish Food Board; in fact, whiskey volume is up 131 percent. McCarthy says his company plans to release more blends during the coming year.

Bottles of The Gael sell for \$80 and are targeted to "premium" consumers, he notes. It's available in most U.S. states. McCarthy and his wife recently traveled to Lebanon and Russia in hopes of expanding their market.

After graduating from Vanderbilt with a degree in history, McCarthy held editorial jobs at *Vogue* and *GQ* for six years before joining his family's public relations business in his native England. There he met McGuane, who had a background in spirits.

"Chapel Gate is a nontech, old-school start-up and brings challenges you don't see running a developed, mature business," McCarthy says. "I really enjoy seeing my wife succeed in what is an incredibly tough, male-dominated environment."

After attending prep school in Pennsylvania, McCarthy enrolled at Vanderbilt, which he said helped give him ample business contacts. It was an inauspicious start, he recalls.

"On arriving for my first day, I had no dorm assignment, so they tried to put me in the foreign language dorm," McCarthy says. "I had a great four years, but I never picked up a Southern twang."

—ANDREW FAUGHT



more than \$7 million in externally funded projects for the center during the past 25 years, in partnership with the Adams Chair of Excellence in Health Care Services. The CHHS focuses on research, programs and projects that improve the health and wellbeing of Tennesseans.

**Clint Freeland**, MBA, is senior vice president and chief financial officer for the Mosaic Co., one of the world's leading producers and marketers of concentrated phosphate and potash crop nutrients. Freeland leads Mosaic's global finance and information technology teams and also serves on the company's senior leadership team.

**Stephen Lewis Fuchs**, DMin, has released a new compilation of essays titled *Who Created God? And Other Essays* (2018, CreateSpace). Rabbi Fuchs assumed the pulpit at Bat Yam Temple of the Islands in Sanibel Island, Fla., in September 2017. He also is rabbi, emeritus, of Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford, Conn., and received Vanderbilt Divinity School's

2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award last October.

**Rich Hull**, BA, of Sherman Oaks, Calif., joined this year's class of inductees into the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Earlier this year he also was invited to join the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, making him a dual Oscar and Emmy voter. He is a film producer, financier and entrepreneur who got one of his first entertainment jobs with the help of the late **Delbert Mann**, BA'41, a former Vanderbilt Board of Trust member and Oscar winner, which sparked a close friendship. Hull is the founder and CEO of Pongalo, which creates, acquires and distributes Latino-focused content to audiences in the U.S. and more than 15 countries, and controls the largest Spanish-language film and TV library in the U.S.

**David Macaione**, JD, MBA, relocated last year to Scottsdale, Ariz., to become head of legal and business affairs for Pure Flix Entertainment and Pure Flix Digital. The company recently released *Same Kind of*

*Different as Me*, starring Renee Zelweger and Greg Kinnear, along with Paramount Studios. Pure Flix this fall plans to release a modern-day theatrical version of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first publication of the classic novel.

**Reuben I. Thaker**, BA, earned the juris doctor in 2017 and currently practices cosmetic surgery and wellness medicine in Las Vegas. He writes that he enjoys playing guitar, hiking in the Mojave Desert, travel and, "as always, connecting with other VU alums."

## '93

25TH REUNION OCTOBER 11-13, 2018

**William E. "Billy" Huger III**, MBA, of Atlanta became managing director at Monarch Private Capital, a financial services company, in June. Previously, he was a partner with Los Angeles-based alternative investment firm Voyager Management.

**Carol Richardson**, MDiv, of Rockville, Md., won a silver medal in the Religion (Eastern/Western) category in the 2018 Independent Publisher Book Awards for her book *Truth and Illusion: The Politics of Spirituality and How One Person's Lie Is Another One's Truth* (2017, Highest Harmony). The book is available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle versions.

## '94

**Elizabeth Betts Hickman**, MA, has joined Pendleton Square Trust and Family Office as director of estate services and trust officer. An attorney, she works closely with the Nashville-based company's chief fiduciary officer on legal and compliance matters.

**Michael Kensak**, MA, PhD'98, of Orange City, Iowa, has been awarded a \$10,000 Endowed Research Fellowship by Northwestern College, where he is a professor of English and German and co-chair of the English department. He will use his fellowship to work on a book of literary criticism written for a general audience. The fellowship will allow him to conduct research at Emory University's Woodruff Library and to hire a student research assistant for the summer.

**Cynthia Brandt Stover**, BA, who led the Smithsonian Institution's first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, recently was appointed president and CEO of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health in Palo Alto, Calif. She begins the position in September.

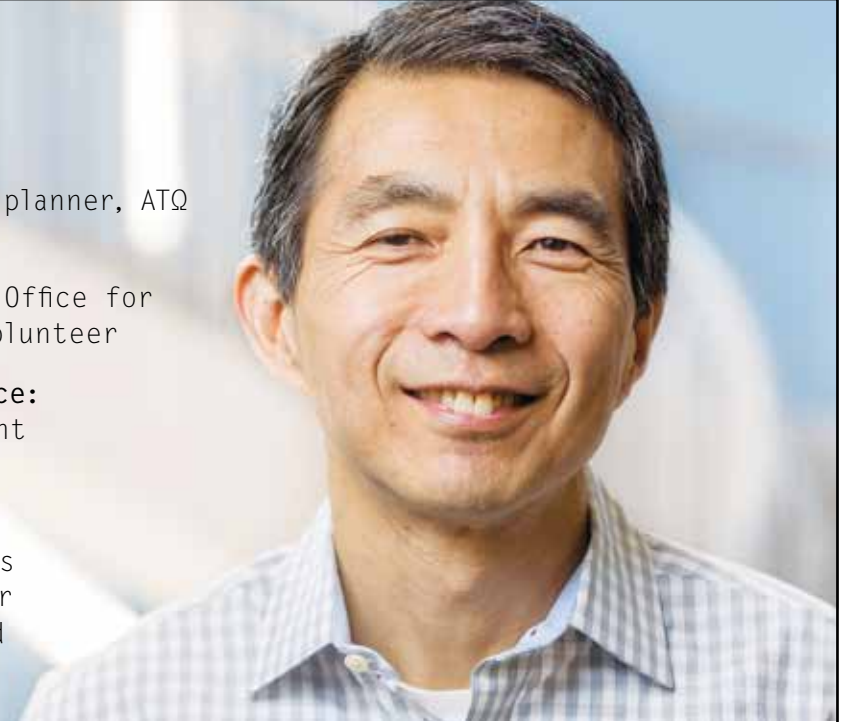
## MARTIN L. CHEN, BA'88

Yearbook entry:  
B.A. History, IMPACT speakers symposium planner, ATQ

LinkedIn profiles:  
U.S. Department of Education attorney, Office for Civil Rights; Atlanta Sports Council volunteer

Highlights from My Vanderbilt Experience:  
Working out with Iggy Pop; having a pint with Graham Chapman from Monty Python

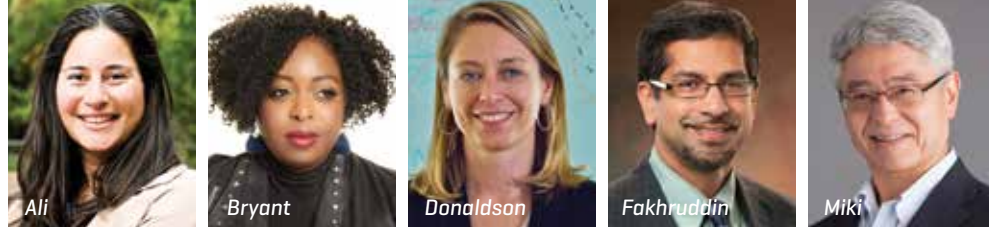
Martin's plan for Vanderbilt:  
Designating retirement account proceeds to Vanderbilt. Because he wants another young person to have the same profound Vanderbilt experience.



Join the Sarratt Society and make your plan for Vanderbilt's future today. Visit [vu.edu/plannedgiving](http://vu.edu/plannedgiving) or call (888) 758-1999.

### VANDERBILT FOR LIFE

## Alumni Association Board Announces 2018 Honorees



The Vanderbilt Alumni Association Board announces its 2018 alumni award recipients: **Samar Ali, BS'03, JD'06**; **Kimberly Bryant, BE'89**; **Krista Donaldson, BE'95**; **Rashed Fakhruddin, BE'91**; and **Heiki Miki, MBA'96**. They will be honored Oct. 11 during Reunion and Homecoming Weekend.

"These honorees include alumni who are recognized around the world for their professional achievements, their services to communities at home and abroad, and the important role they play for Vanderbilt," says **Jane Ann Gass, BS'74**, awards committee chair for the Alumni Association Board. "It is an honor to recognize them."

Ali will receive the Young Alumni Professional Achievement Award. She is international council for law firm Bass Berry & Sims and a former White House fellow, and has been selected for two highly competitive fellowships that recognize emerging global leaders: the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders Fellowship and the Truman

National Security Fellowship.

Founder of Black Girls CODE, Bryant will receive the Alumni Professional Achievement Award for her work introducing an ever-growing number of girls of color to technology, computer programming and entrepreneurial concepts.

Donaldson will receive the International Alumni Professional Achievement Award. As CEO of D-Rev, she leads efforts to design and develop medical technologies that close the quality health care gap for underserved populations around the world.

An advocate and community leader for ending domestic violence and empowering victims of crime, Fakhruddin will receive the Alumni Public Service Award.

Miki will receive the Alumni Volunteer Award. An invaluable ambassador for 15 years, he has represented the university at U.S. Embassy events, recruited prospective students, and helped to build awareness of and connections with Vanderbilt.

—MATT ANDERSON

tor of Civil Engineers, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and Headquarters European Command.

**Christopher Green**, MBA, is listed as an intellectual property leader in the 2018 edition of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*. He is a principal with intellectual law firm Fish & Richardson, which received top "Band 1" national rankings for its intellectual property practice and its International Trade Commission patent litigation practice.

**Cynthia Johnstone**, EMBA, was promoted in June to executive vice president and treasurer of the Nashville-based Southwestern family of companies, which includes sales, publishing, travel, tax and consulting services.

**Oliver Luckett**, BA, launched a new company, Niceland Seafood, in June at the Aspen Food and Wine Festival, where Niceland and its U.S. partner, Seattle Seafood Co., unveiled software and technology that will highlight Iceland as an epicenter of sustainably sourced seafood. Niceland launched its headquarters the week of July 4 in Denver, where Seattle Seafood Co. is based. Niceland Seafood will be available to consumers in select restaurants and through Kroger and King Soopers stores.

## '97

**Tara Mooney Aaron**, BA, earned her credentials as a certified information privacy professional (U.S.) from the International Association of Privacy Professionals in July. She is a founding partner of the intellectual property and technology law firm of Aaron Sanders, which she opened in Nashville in 2011.

**Carim Khouzami**, BA, has been named senior vice president and chief operating officer for energy company Exelon Utilities. Previously, he was the company's senior vice president and chief financial officer.

**Nyree Ramsey**, BS, MEd'00, is cultural innovation district director of the Claiborne Corridor Project, a planned 25-block transformation located under the elevated expressway from Canal Street to Elysian Fields Avenue in New Orleans. A new phase of the project was kicked off with a series of neighborhood celebrations in April and was featured in an article in the *New Orleans Advocate*. **Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes**, BS, one of the event organizers and director of strategic neighborhood development for the New Orleans Business Alliance, was quoted in the article.



## '98

20TH REUNION OCTOBER 11-13, 2018

**Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder**, MA, PhD'00, was appointed academic dean and vice president of academic affairs at Chicago Theological Seminary, effective July 1. An associate professor of theological field education and New Testament, Crowder previously also served as director of theological field education.

**Laura Lowe Furge**, PhD, is interim provost through the 2018-19 academic year at Kalamazoo College in Michigan, where she is the Roger F. and Harriet G. Varney Professor of Chemistry.

**John Pizzi**, BS, writes, "After 14 years in the San Francisco Bay Area, Margaret and I relocated our family to Brentwood, Tenn., in June 2018. We look forward to reconnecting with everyone who has made a home in the area and look forward to celebrating with you all at Reunion Weekend in the fall."

## '99

**Hiram Lewis**, BS, MEd'01, of Franklin, Tenn., recently was promoted to first vice president of commercial real estate agency Chas. Hawkins Co. Inc./CORFAC International.

**Ana Lopez Van Balen**, BS, was appointed in March by Washington, D.C., Mayor Muriel Bowser as affordable housing preservation officer, the first position of its kind in the District of Columbia. Previously, she was the national director of community development and innovation for urban strategies and was a cabinet member for Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett.

## '00

**Kyle W. Brenton**, BA, is of counsel at Denver law firm Childs McCune, where he leads its appellate practice in both civil and criminal appeals. He also continues his trial practice in commercial litigation and personal injury defense.

**Christophe Cloitre**, BE, became licensed as a professional engineer in the state of New Hampshire after passing the Professional Engineer exam in industrial and systems engineering. He is president and operations manager at Ashland Electric Products Inc. in Rochester.

## '01

**Chris Carlson**, BA, of Portland, Ore., joined consumer technology publisher Digital Trends as chief operating officer in April. Previously, he had co-founded MusicQubed, a micropayment-based digital music service. As COO for MusicQubed, he was responsible for building a global team of more than 100 people.

**Lauren Childers**, BS, of Atlanta joined management consulting firm North Highland as managing director and chief financial officer in June. Previously, she was CFO of BeavEx, a provider of final mile transportation and logistics services.

**Rose Mary Webb**, MS, PhD'05, of Boone, N.C., will become chair of the Dr. Wiley F. Smith Department of Psychology within Appalachian State University's College of Arts and Sciences at the beginning of the fall semester. Having joined the department in 2005, she previously served as director of the master's in experimental psychology program and assistant chair.

She teaches courses in research methods, measurement, and personality and individual differences at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

## '02

**Katherine Knight**, JD, was hired in June by USA Truck Inc. of Van Buren, Ark., as vice president and general counsel. Previously, she was senior counsel for Nissan North America Inc.

**Nathan Vooy**s, BS, sends this update: "In October 2014 our family welcomed our third child, and first girl, Evelyn Ann Vooy. She joins big brothers Lucas (age 8) and Henry (age 6). Our family relocated to Terre Haute, Ind., last year so I could take over as CEO at Terre Haute Regional Hospital, one of the facilities in the Hospital Corporation of America network. This move from Florida has made getting back to Nashville easier, and I was able to attend my 15th reunion last year and the Vanderbilt-Georgia football game with the family!"

### ALUMNI PROFILE

#### Mimi Franke Marziani, BA'04 Serving the Vulnerable



It was mid-May when Mimi Franke Marziani, president of the Texas Civil Rights Project, noticed a troubling trend along the Texas-Mexico border: Central American migrants seeking asylum were

being separated from their children and subsequently charged with illegal entry into the country.

"We sprang into action," says Marziani, who has led the Austin-based organization since 2016. "We started monitoring the federal court every single day, and that led us to being the first group to sound the alarm about what was happening. We have absolutely been on the front lines of this."

To date, thousands of children remain separated from their parents—including hundreds of parents TCRP represents.

Under Marziani's leadership, the TCRP and its attorneys are representing parents before an international tribunal, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The organization also has launched a campaign to educate the public "about these horrible stories," Marziani says.

"We were getting stories from these parents

firsthand, and then we were able to share them with the world in a way the parents themselves couldn't."

TCRP's other roles include advocating for economic justice, voting rights and criminal justice reform.

"From a very young age, I have been driven to use my time and talents to help the community around me," says Marziani, who majored in English literature and psychology at Vanderbilt. Her current work to stop family separations is one example: "At TCRP we want to make sure our clients' voices are getting out there, with the overarching goal of putting a stop to this immoral treatment of families."

Marziani was an Ingram Scholar and participated in Vanderbilt's Alternative Spring Break program, which provides community service while promoting critical thought and reflection. She went on to start an alternative spring break program at New York University, where she earned her law degree.

"At Vanderbilt, both of those experiences shaped my ability to understand how I could make a difference and serve people," she says, "particularly folks in a vulnerable position."

—ANDREW FAUGHT

## '03

15TH REUNION OCTOBER 11-13, 2018

**Joe Cloyd**, BS, of Ocean Springs, Miss., was selected in May by the Ocean Springs aldermen to serve on the city's five-member school board. He is owner or co-owner of two businesses: the Cottages at Oak Park residential development and The Roost, a hotel.

**Emily Edwards**, MSN, of Belden, Miss., was named director of nursing support in April at North Mississippi Medical Center. Edwards had been chief nursing officer at NMMC-West Point since December 2016.

## '04

**Katie Bell**, PhD, of Brentwood, Tenn., joined environmental engineering and construction firm Brown and Caldwell in May as managing director of water strategy.

**Molly Duesterhaus**, EdD, has been named head coach of Millikin University's women's triathlon program. She will continue as Millikin's director of swimming. With the assistance of USA Triathlon, Millikin, located in Decatur, Ill., will become the 22nd school in the nation to have a varsity women's triathlon program when they begin competition this fall.

**Bart LeConey**, BA, of San Francisco has been named vice president for business development at investment management and financial services firm Constellation Advisers. Since joining Constellation in 2014 and launching its San Francisco office, he has focused his efforts on establishing and growing Constellation's West Coast presence across the hedge, private equity, venture capital and family office space.

**Ira Murray**, MEd, became president and CEO of the Jackson, Miss., United Way of the Capital Area in July. He had been a K. Leroy Irvis Fellow at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education and Center for Urban Education since 2014. Previously, he worked for United Way of the Capital Area, first as director of community investment from June 2006 to June 2007 and then as vice president of community impact from June 2007 to June 2014.

**Carl Schmidt**, MSCI, joined the West Virginia University Cancer Institute in Morgantown in July as chief of surgical oncology and surgeon-in-chief. Previously, he was an associate professor of surgery at the Ohio State University College of Medicine Wexner Medical Center.

**Scott Seaton**, BMus, of Chico, Calif., was named a Project Maestro finalist and recently served as guest conductor for the Spartanburg (S.C.) Philharmonic.

**Maury Zimring Wolfe**, BS, of Atlanta was named senior director of corporate social responsibility and public affairs at Cox Enterprises in April. She is responsible for leading sustainability-focused, community and employee action programs that support Cox Conserve, the company's signature sustainability program.

## '05

**David Adams**, EMBA, of Brentwood, Tenn., became vice president of business intelligence and revenue cycle management at Crux Strategies in May. Previously, he was divisional chief information officer for Hospital Corporation of America, overseeing more than 20 hospitals.

**Nathan Pagett**, BA, of Larchmont, N.Y., joined law firm King & Spalding's New York office in its Corporate, Finance and Investments practice group as counsel in June. His practice focuses on commercial real estate finance.

### THE GREATER GOOD

#### New Record Set on Third Annual Giving Day

More than 7,000 members of the Vanderbilt community came together to raise nearly \$6 million for the university and its students on the third annual Vanderbilt Giving Day, setting a new record for giving participation in 24 hours.

The Giving Day totals include an \$800,000 challenge gift that was unlocked when the goal of 6,300 overall donors was met and a \$200,000 challenge gift that was secured when the goal of 1,000 G.O.L.D. (Graduates Of the Last Decade) donors was met.

"We are so thankful for the tremendous show of support from our alumni and friends on this important day," says Melinda Phillips, executive director of annual giving. "Giving Day calls upon many thousands of donors to respond to a call to action and invest in the Vanderbilt mission. A result like this shows the power of coming together for a common purpose."

Giving Day 2018 built on the success of last year's 24-hour giving campaign, bringing in more than twice as much in gifts than in 2017. Gifts will be put to use immediately to fund scholarships, career development, study-abroad opportunities and athletic programs.

**Benjamin Poulouse**, MPH, joined Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center in August as division director for general and gastrointestinal surgery. Previously, he was an associate professor in the general surgery division at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, director of the Vanderbilt Hernia Center, and associate director of its gastrointestinal endoscopy suite.

## '06

**Kara Fay Chapin**, BE, and Evan Joseph Uchtman were married Jan. 27 in Cincinnati. She is a professional engineer and vice president for research and development at Eccrine Systems Inc. The groom is head of product development at payment processing company Worldpay.

**Amber Daigre Kemp-Gerstel**, MS, PhD'09, of Miami is a successful DIY blogger (*Damask Love*) and crafter, and was a featured contestant on NBC's new primetime crafting competition program, *Making It*, which began airing in July.



Students pose with Mr. Commodore at this year's Anchor Down Day prior to Giving Day.

Additionally, 1,100 alumni and friends spread the #give4thegold spirit by serving as Giving Day ambassadors, and hundreds of alumni and friends showed their pride on social media by sharing their reasons for giving.

"I am so proud to be part of a Vanderbilt family that recognizes the value of higher education and invests in its success," says Sara Tabor Simonds, BS'08, MAcc'09, G.O.L.D. Council president. "Today and every day, I'm thankful to be a Commodore."

To learn more about Giving Day results, visit [vu.edu/givingday](http://vu.edu/givingday).

—NICOLE SMITH



# '07

**Michael Burns**, BS, and Sarah Cathryn Bryant were married Dec. 9, 2017, at the George Peabody Library in Baltimore. He is a compliance officer for U.S. Bank, and she is assistant marketing director for the Cato Institute. They reside in Arlington, Va.

**John J. Cox**, MDiv, received a doctor of ministry from Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary May 11. He was installed as the seventh pastor of the Historic Vermont Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., on July 29.

**Devora Shiri Kaye**, BS, MEd'08, and Aidan King Thomas were married July 6 in Ghent, N.Y. She is assistant commissioner for external affairs at the New York Police Department, and the groom is principal of the middle academy at Leadership Preparatory Bedford-Stuyvesant Charter School in Brooklyn.

**Monique Moultrie**, MA, PhD'10, had her first monograph, *Passionate and Pious: Religious Media and Black Women's Sexuality*, published in December 2017 by Duke University Press. The book explores the impact of faith-based sexual ministries on black wom-

en's sexual agency to trace how these women navigate sexuality, religious authority, and their spiritual walk with God. She recently earned the rank of associate professor at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

**Brian Signorelli**, BS, of Boston recently published *Inbound Selling: How to Change the Way You Sell to Match How People Buy* (2018, Wiley). He is director of software developer HubSpot's Global Sales Partner program, for which he advises HubSpot partners on inbound sales and inbound marketing.

# '08

**10TH REUNION** OCTOBER 11-13, 2018

**Ravi Chari**, EMBA, became president May 1 of Hospital Corporation of America's West Florida Division. Previously, he was senior vice president of clinical excellence, leading HCA's Clinical Excellence program and Physician Leadership Academy. A 10-year veteran of HCA, he has held hospital, division and corporate positions with the company.

**Erik Johnson**, BA, of Brooklyn, N.Y., recently was promoted to principal by TSG Consumer Partners, a

leading private equity firm focused exclusively on the branded consumer sector. He joined TSG in 2011.

**Gary Montle**, JD, a shareholder at Patterson Intellectual Property Law in Nashville, recently was named president of the Tennessee Intellectual Property Law Association.

# '09

**Emily Louise Hon Castellanos**, MD, MPH'18, of Nashville earned a master of public health in May from Vanderbilt. Her thesis research explored the relationship between health literacy and health care use and access within the Southern Community Cohort Study.

**David Hall**, BA, and **Stacey Jackson**, MSN'12, were married Feb. 18 in St. Augustine, Fla. Members of the wedding party included best man **John Hall**, BE'12; **Anthony McCready**, BA; **Matthew Berns**, BE; **Joshua Kramer**, BA; **Jambu Palaniappan**, BA'08; and **Michael Oreluk**, BS'08. The couple celebrated with numerous other Vanderbilt alumni in attendance. They reside in Gainesville, where David is completing his surgery residency, and Stacey works at the Student Health Care Center at the University of Florida.

**Darcy Clayton Newell**, BA, and Alexander Hastings Muñoz were married May 5 in Sonoma, Calif. She is a senior director and head of verbal branding at Prophet Brand Strategy, a consultancy in San Francisco. He is vice president for finance at Jitterbit, a technology company based in Alameda.

**Lauryn Smith**, BA, and **Michael Poku**, BA, MD'15, were married Jan. 14, 2017, in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. The couple resides in Baltimore, where Lauryn is a management consultant and Michael is completing his internal medicine residency at Johns Hopkins.

**Tyler Smith**, BA, in 2012 founded health care IT consulting firm Health Data Movers Inc., which serves many academic medical centers, including Vanderbilt Health, Stanford Health, Yale-New Haven Health, Northwestern Medicine and many others. He reports that the staff has doubled in the past year, and the firm continues to grow.

**Amy Wilcox**, BA, has released the first single from her Blue Élan Records debut EP *West*. "Bandwagon" was available for download June 15, the same day an article about her was published in *Broadway World*.

**Amber Curtis Widrick**, BA, of Delray Beach, Fla., recently joined law firm Broad and Cassel as associate in the firm's Real Estate Practice Group. Previously, she was a real estate attorney with Lazer Aptheke Rosella & Yedid in West Palm Beach.

# '10

**Tamesha Derico**, BA, and Evanna Derkach were married April 28 in a *Wizard of Oz*-themed wedding in the brides' North Nashville backyard. Wedding attendants included **Ekam Essien**, BS, MSN'14; **Felicia Bell**, BA; **Lesley Colon**, BS'09; **Preiyaa Gopinath**, BA'11; and **Kembral Nelson**, BA'11. Other alumni in attendance included **Hallie Arrigon**, BA'09, MSN'11; **Thuy Dang**, BS, MSN'13; **Kendra Curran**, BS; **Judy Lewis**, BS'11, MEd'13; **Robert Robinson**, MEd'13; **Rachael Whitley Starcher**, MA'11; and **Jordan Walker**, BS'12, MDiv'15.

**Jonathan Hasebe**, JD, joined Nashville law firm Bass Berry & Sims in June as a senior corporate attorney. Previously, he was an associate at Gallagher & Kennedy in Phoenix.

**Mario Y. Ramos**, EMBA, was appointed vice president of global product development in June for Columbus McKinnon Corp., a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of motion control products and services for material handling. Previously, he led

new product development efforts at Schneider Electric, where he was instrumental in development of products incorporating both hardware and software in leadership roles during the past 18 years.

**Blair Tolbert**, MDiv, of Hiawassee, Ga., is among several Vanderbilt Divinity School alumnae who are contributors to *We Pray with Her: Encouragement for All Women Who Lead*, to be published in September by Abingdon Press.

# '11

**Angela Flanagan**, MDiv, of Silver Spring, Md., and **Katie Pearce**, MDiv, of Morrilton, Ark., are among several Vanderbilt Divinity School alumnae who are contributors to *We Pray with Her: Encouragement for All Women Who Lead*, to be published in September by Abingdon Press.

**Scott Lee**, BMus, of Durham, N.C., was selected to par-

ticipate in the American Composers Orchestra's 27th Annual Underwood New Music Readings for emerging composers in June. He also attended the Tanglewood Music Festival this summer as a composition fellow, and at least four of his works were performed. Peter Askim and the Raleigh Civic Symphony recently premiered Lee's orchestral work *Deep Sleep* in the Stewart Theatre at North Carolina State University as part of a concert featuring the music of North Carolina composers. He defended his doctoral dissertation at Duke University in March with his composition *Through the Mangrove Tunnels* for string quartet, piano and drum set.

**Sirui "Ray" Liu**, LL.M., recently was named head of international law firm Dorsey & Whitney's Beijing office. He is a member of Dorsey's Commercial Litigation and U.S.-China practice groups.

# '12

**Rachel Kathryn Price Apple**, MD, MPH'18, of Nashville earned a master of public health in May from

VANDERBILT FOR LIFE

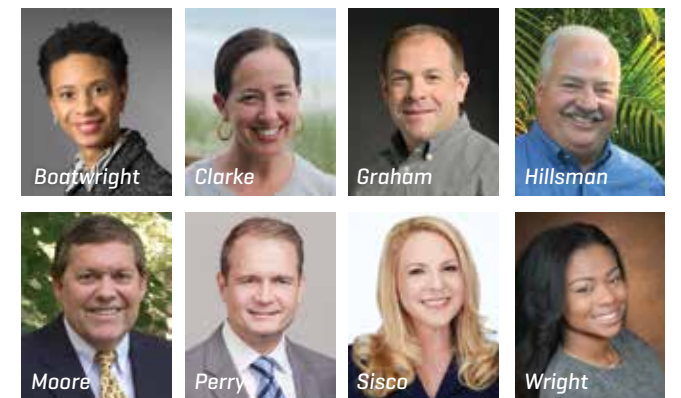
## New Members, Leadership for Alumni Association Board

The Vanderbilt Alumni Association Board announces new leadership and the addition of eight new members. On July 1, **Dan Lovinger**, BA'87, replaced **Perry Brandt**, BA'74, JD'77, as president, and **Tim Warnock**, BA'84, became president-elect. Each will serve a two-year term.

"I look forward to working with each of these new members," Lovinger said. "Through their philanthropy and many volunteer roles, they have been great supporters for Vanderbilt and bring a variety of insight and experience to the board."

These alumni will serve a three-year term on the Alumni Association Board:

- Dr. Makeba Williams Boatwright**, BS'98, director of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison;
- Debbi Clarke**, MEd'98, consultant to the provost and executive vice chancellor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill;
- Todd Graham**, BE'96, of



McLean, Virginia, senior associate with technology consultants Booz Allen Hamilton;

**Jim Hillsman**, BA'79, of Fort Myers, Florida, partner at Surety Lender Services;

**Terry Moore**, BE'81, of Knoxville, Tennessee, principal at Adcredo and vice president for executive services at Info-Tech Research Group;

**Will Perry**, BS'92, of Marietta, Georgia, managing director at PricewaterhouseCoopers; and **Michelle Peden Sisco**, BA'88,

of Tampa, Florida, circuit court judge for the state's 13th Judicial Circuit.

Additionally, the Vanderbilt Board of Trust selected **Kenya Wright**, BA'18, of Brooklyn, New York, to serve on the Alumni Association Board as young alumni leader before joining the Board of Trust for a two-year term July 1, 2021.

Learn more about the Vanderbilt Alumni Association Board at [vuconnect.com/board](http://vuconnect.com/board).

—MATT ANDERSON

**THANK YOU! YOU ARE OUR GREATEST STRENGTH. YOU ARE VANDERBILT.** See the impact of your gifts at [vanderbilt.edu/impact](http://vanderbilt.edu/impact)

From our alumni and friends around the world to the students, faculty and staff who call Vanderbilt's campus home, together you allow us to continue to bring forth bold ideas that make a difference at a global level.



Vanderbilt. Her thesis research focused on understanding the complex relationship between body mass index and health-related quality of life.

**Kathryn Brown**, JD, and **Matthew Heller**, BE'09, announce the birth of their son, Everett James, March 26 in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

**Peter Dayton**, BMus, of Baltimore had the Tennessee premiere of his opera *MAY SHE | SHE MAY: A Chamber Opera in One Act*, a piece he composed in 2015 about poet Gertrude Stein's first love affair as a medical student at Johns Hopkins University. The opera was performed in June by the Nashville Chapter of Opera on Tap.

**Stacey Jackson**, MSN, and **David Hall**, BA'09, MD, were married Feb. 18 in St. Augustine, Fla. Members of the wedding party included best man **John Hall**, BE; **Anthony McCready**, BA'09; **Matthew Berns**, BE'09; **Joshua Kramer**, BA'09; **Jambu Palaniappan**, BA'08; and **Michael Oreluk**, BS'08. The couple were honored to celebrate with numerous other Vanderbilt alumni in attendance. They reside in Gainesville, where David is completing his surgery residency and Stacey works at the Student Health Care Center at the University of Florida.

THE GREATER GOOD

Students Lead Way in Giving Back to Vanderbilt

More than 1,360 members of the Class of 2018 participated in giving to this year's Senior Class Fund, setting a new record. By reaching 85 percent class participation, this year's seniors were the first to secure a \$100,000 challenge gift issued by Vanderbilt Board of Trust member and student philanthropy advocate **Alex Taylor**, BS'97.

Senior Class Fund Chair **Claire Fogarty**, BS'18, presented the Class of 2018's gift to Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos as part of Senior Day activities before Commencement.

"I offer my deepest gratitude to Claire and to all the Senior Class Fund officers for inspiring their fellow students to give back to Vanderbilt," Zeppos said. "Your philanthropic spirit provides a tangible confirmation of the value that you place on your Vanderbilt experience. With this gift the great Class of 2018 leaves an enduring imprint that strengthens our beloved university for the generations of students that follow in your footsteps."

The undergraduate seniors were not the only ones who set class gift records this year. Graduates of the Divinity School and Owen Graduate School of Management's MBA and MMHC programs also

**Sarah Karber**, MDiv, of Minneapolis and **Sara McManus**, MDiv, of West Fargo, N.D., are among several Vanderbilt Divinity School alumnae who are contributors to *We Pray with Her: Encouragement for All Women Who Lead*, to be published in September by Abingdon Press.

**Lauren Koenig**, BA, of East Lansing, Mich., was runner-up in a photo contest depicting scientists at work sponsored by *Nature* magazine and published in April. Her photo was of ecologist Hae Yeong Ryu of Stony Brook University in New York keeping track of ground-squirrel populations on Gothic Mountain, Colo., about 600 meters above the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory. Koenig is a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow.

**Jordan Elizabeth Levy**, BA, recently graduated from the SUNY Upstate Medical University College of Medicine and now is a first-year psychiatry resident at the University of Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital.

**Edward Bernard Ruff IV**, MBA, and Madeleine Alanna Casella were married June 23 at St. Thomas More Church in New York. He is a vice president in the investment banking division of Citigroup in New York, and the bride is assistant to the director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.



Senior Class Fund Chair Claire Fogarty, BS'18, presents the Class of 2018's record-breaking donation during Senior Day activities May 10.

JOE HOWELL

had record-setting years. Additionally, Owen's MSF, MMark, MAcc and EMBA program graduates reached 100 percent class participation.

"It is incredibly inspiring to see these newly minted alumni leading the way in giving back to Vanderbilt," says Melinda Phillips, executive director of annual giving. "By making gifts of all sizes to the areas of campus that have meant the most to them during their time as students, they have a direct impact on the future of the university. For that, we are thankful."

—NICOLE SMITH

**Tori Samples**, BMus, MBA'18, of Nashville is chief technical officer of financial services firm Leaf Global Fintech, chosen as the Best Bootstrapped Startup at the 2018 South by Southwest festival. She also was named by Launch Tennessee as a Tennessee Trailblazer.

'13

5TH REUNION OCTOBER 11-13, 2018

**Taylor Rhodes Dickinson**, BS, and **Andrew Peter Cordeiro**, BA'14, were married April 28 at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lookout Mountain, Tenn. They work at Goldman Sachs in New York City, where the bride is an associate in the executive office and the groom is an associate in investment banking.

**Baxter Lee**, EMBA, of Nashville was appointed chief financial officer in May at cyber-risk management firm Clearwater Compliance, where he is responsible for leading its finance organization, including budgeting, business planning, tax, accounting and reporting.

**Laura Rossbert**, MDiv, of Nashville is among several Vanderbilt Divinity School alumnae who are contributors to *We Pray with Her: Encouragement for All Women Who Lead*, to be published in September by Abingdon Press.

**Krysta Rexrode Wolfe**, MDiv, joined Cross Lanes United Methodist Church in Charleston, W.Va., as minister July 1. Previously, she was a minister at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in St. Albans.

'14

**Alexandra Meigs Noll**, MBA, and Stephen Anthony Iacobucci were married June 23 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. She is the senior sourcing analyst in the global sourcing group at URBN, the parent company of Urban Outfitters, Anthropologie and other companies. The groom is director for marketing and asset management for the Iacobucci Companies, a commercial real estate development company in Haverford, Pa.

**Joseph Robert Starnes**, BA, MPH'18, of Nashville earned a master of public health in May from Vanderbilt. His thesis research identified risk factors associated with childhood death so that interventions can be targeted to the highest-risk children.

**Thomas Blake Walden**, BA, and Victoria Ashley Flynn were married April 7 in Little Rock, Ark. He

is director of quantitative research at Westrock Asset Management, and she is a resident physician in general psychiatry at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

'15

**Caleb Graves**, MBA, recently was named director of business development and staffing as a mission by the Tennessee Chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. Previously, he was director of membership services for the Nashville Health Care Council. He began his career working at the White House for President George W. Bush in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

**Joshua Jeffery**, MTS, recently was appointed an Advanced Placement U.S. history and government teacher at the Orme School in Prescott, Ariz. Additionally, Fortress Press will soon publish *God and Country (Music)*, co-authored by Jeffery and Justin Bronson Barringer, which will examine religious imagery in country music in light of systematic theology.

**Sierra J. McKissick**, MDiv, MA'17, has published her first book, *Faith Lessons: A Guide for Christians Battling Doubt and Frustration*, available through Amazon. The book and workbook aim to open up conversations about vocation and what it really means to walk the path of righteousness day in and day out. She practices full-time ministry in New Jersey and is the founder and president of the design company Sarah's Faith Ministries.

'16

**Sara Barron**, BA, of Detroit was profiled by *Billboard* magazine in June following the release of the video for her single "That Man." Her debut album, *Sad, But True*, was released in August through Bandcamp.

**Cassandra Denise Oliver**, BA, MPH'18, of Norfolk, Va., earned a master of public health in May from Vanderbilt. Her thesis research focused on substance use and retention in HIV care during the postpartum period at the Vanderbilt Comprehensive Care Clinic between the years of 1999 and 2016.

**Hayley Brianna Ryskoski**, BE, and **Michael Gregory Lindsay**, BA, were married April 2 in Southlake, Texas. Members of their wedding party included bridesmaids **Rachel Gerald**, BA; **Saba Getaneh**, BA; and **Lauren Mitchell**, BA; and groomsmen **Fahad Iqbal**, BE. Many more friends from Vanderbilt also were in atten-

dance, and *Dynamite* was played at the reception. The couple moved to Austin, Texas, in August to pursue graduate school studies and career opportunities.

**Christian Talley**, BA, recently published a book, *Forgotten Vanguard: Informal Diplomacy and the Rise of United States-China Trade, 1972-1980* (2018, University of Notre Dame Press). He received his master's from Oxford University in 2017.

**Rui Wang**, MEd, MPH'18, of Long Island City, N.Y., earned a master of public health in May from Vanderbilt. Her thesis explored the risk factors for depression among rural Kenyan women and made recommendations for future research on depression in low-resource settings.

'17

**Aaron Dorn**, MBA, was featured in a June article by *Nashville Business Journal* about Nashville-based lender Studio Bank, which he leads as CEO. In April 2017 the *NBJ* first reported that Dorn—a former Avenue Financial Holdings Inc. executive—had teamed up with several of his former Avenue colleagues to launch a new bank that would focus on catering to Nashville's creative class. The bank was approved to launch by regulators in June.

**Alicia M. Johnson**, MSN, has joined Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare in Wheaton, Iowa, at Covenant Midwives and Women's Health Center. She is a certified nurse midwife and nurse practitioner and began her position with the center at the end of May.

**Kiffany Peggs**, EMBA, of Brentwood, Tenn., was profiled in the *Nashville Medical News* in March. She is medical director for long-term services and support at UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Tennessee.

OBITUARIES

Family and classmates may inform *Vanderbilt Magazine* about the death of an alumna or alumnus by writing 150 words or less to share the date of death and a brief memory or information about their time on campus. Newspaper obituaries cannot be reprinted in full. However, we are happy to include a shorter version edited from the published newspaper obituary. Please email obituaries to [vanderbiltmagazine@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vanderbiltmagazine@vanderbilt.edu). Obituaries are accepted on an ongoing basis and will be published in the issue in production closest to the date of receipt.

**Robert Overman Nellums**, BE'42, of St. Louis, Jan. 2, 2018. He attended Vanderbilt while working a 40-hour week at the *Nashville Banner* and *The Tennessean*, graduating cum laude with a chemical engineering degree. He served as radar and navigation lieutenant on the USS *Myles C. Fox* during World War II. In 1947, he moved to St. Louis, where he began a long career at Monsanto as project engineer, research engineer, research section leader, assistant director of research, assistant director of engineering, director of purchasing and director of fiber intermediates. After retiring from Monsanto in 1988, he worked many years as a consultant, including aiding in the development of sucralose (Splenda) sweetener. He was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Elizabeth Alexander Nellums. He is survived by his sister, brother, four children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Ralph Pillsbury Gates Jr.**, BE'47, of Park City, Utah, May 7, 2018. At Vanderbilt he earned a degree in engineering and, after receiving a master's in chemical engineering from M.I.T. after the war, went to work for Victor Chemical in Nashville and later Stauffer Chemical in Westport, Conn. He moved to Park City in 1990. He was proud of his participation in the Manhattan Project and his contributions as a young man to that top-secret effort building the atomic bomb that finally ended the war in the Pacific, for which he was featured in *Vanderbilt Engineering* in 2011. In his later years he spoke to groups all over the country about his World War II experiences. A recording of one such event can be found on the Atomic Heritage Foundation website. He enjoyed recording interviews of World War II veterans for their families to remember them by, and later recording life stories for many in Park City as the "Voices of Park City" project. A collection of these recorded life stories is anticipated to be made available at the Park City Library. His last project, finished last fall, was a recording of him singing songs from as far back as the Civil War. This can be found via search on YouTube under "Ralph and Ethel's Music Project." He is survived by a brother and four children.

**William Patton "Bill" Maddy**, BA'47, of Springfield, Mo., April 4, 2018. He was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving as a supply officer on the destroyer USS *Laffey* during World War II. He was a banker for more than 60 years, having been brought to Springfield in 1967 to head American National Bank where he served as president for 15 years. He was a member of First & Calvary Presbyterian Church and was involved in numerous civic and charitable organizations, including the Shriners, Rotary, Boy Scouts and the Sons of the American Revolution. Survivors include three children, 12 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.



**Richard Jay Harris**, BA'51, of El Paso, Texas, April 6, 2018. He met his wife, **Toni Davidson Harris**, BA'54, at Vanderbilt. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Texas, Galveston Medical Branch, in 1955. Commissioned as a captain in the U.S. Army, he was commanding officer of the 225th Station Hospital in Muenchweiler, Germany, retiring from the military with the rank of major. Among his many accomplishments in the military was serving as a surgeon on the recovery team of Project Mercury, NASA. After retiring from the military, he returned to El Paso to continue his medical career, practicing with Gary Schabacker, M.D., for more than 22 years. He was chief of the Department of Surgery at both Thomason and Providence hospitals and was the founding chief of staff at Sierra Medical Center. He retired from his active practice in 1994. In addition to his wife of 62 years, he is survived by his brother, two children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Ann DeMonbreun Charlton**, '53, of Knoxville, Tenn., May 4, 2018. She married **Tom Smith Charlton**, BE'49, in 1953, and they enjoyed 61 years together until his death in 2014. She was a member of West Hills Baptist

Church. She was a voracious reader, an accomplished gardener, and a lover of animals of all kinds. She had a menagerie of pets over the years, many of which were strays. She was a direct descendant of Timothy Jacques DeMonbreun, a French-Canadian fur trapper recognized as the original settler of what is now Nashville. She is survived by two children, including **Tom Smith "Smitty" Charlton**, MBA'80; three grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; two brothers, including **William Andrew DeMonbreun**, '55, and his wife, **Myrtice DeMonbreun**, BSN'54; nieces and nephews.

**Bruce F. Bower**, BA'54, of Needham, Mass., July 6, 2018. He received his medical degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1958. Following his internship and residency, he did postgraduate work at the National Institutes of Health, then studied clinical endocrinology at the University of California. In 1965, he completed a senior residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and began private practice in endocrinology at Hartford Hospital. He held the position of chief, Diabetes and Endocrinology Division, at Hartford Hospital from 1975 to 2002. He also taught at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine from 1986 to 2004. He authored numer-

ous articles for national medical journals and received awards for his medical expertise and patient care from the American College of Physicians, American Diabetes Association, and American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. He was awarded Distinguished Clinician from the American Diabetes Association in 2000 and Distinction in Clinical Endocrinology from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology in 2004. He is survived by his wife, four children, eight grandchildren, a brother and two nieces.

**Richard J. Raridon**, MA'55, PhD'59, of Oak Ridge, Tenn., June 17, 2018. He received an AEC Radiological Physics Fellowship to attend graduate school at Vanderbilt in 1955. While attending Vanderbilt, he met **Mona Marie Herndon**, '55, who was also an AEC Fellowship recipient, and they were married in 1956. He was an associate professor of physical science at Memphis State University before joining Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1962, where he worked in the Chemistry, Computer Science and Fusion Energy divisions before taking early retirement in 1992. He was the author or co-author of more than 100 papers in the fields of chemistry, physics and computer science. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Tennessee Academy of Science, also serving as its president. He also served as secretary and president of the National Association of Academies of Science. He actively volunteered with the UT Arboretum Society, the American Museum of Science and Energy, and the Manhattan Project National Park site in Oak Ridge. He was a 50-year member of the United Church, Chapel on the Hill, where he served on the board, sang in the choir and had tended the landscaping since 1965. He is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, a sister, a half-sister, and many nieces and nephews.

**Robert Anthony "Bob" Frazier**, LLB'59, of Signal Mountain, Tenn., June 10, 2018. After serving in the U.S. Army, he attended Vanderbilt Law School and was a member of Delta Theta Pi legal fraternity. He moved to Chattanooga in 1959 and joined the law firm of Spears Moore Rebman & Williams as an associate attorney. Later he and Ray Seiner shared a law office from 1967 to 2000. He was an active member of the Lions Club of America, Boy Scouts of America, Tennessee Bar Association, Manker Patten Tennis Club and the Catholic Men's Cursillo. He loved gardening, hiking, tennis and being with his family. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, **Gail Combs Frazier**, BS'58; three children; nine grandchildren; two siblings, including **Carey T. Frazier**, JD'63; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**John L. Hondros**, MA'62, PhD'69, of Wooster, Ohio, June 18, 2018. He was an emeritus professor of history

at the College of Wooster. A 32-year veteran of the college's history department, he came to Wooster in 1969 as an assistant professor of history. He was promoted to associate professor in 1975 and professor in 1981. His areas of academic expertise included modern European history, World War II and the Cold War. He was the author of *Occupation and Resistance: The Greek Agony, 1941-1944* (1988, Pella Publishing). In 1999, Hondros was named the Henry J. and Laura H. Copeland Professor of European History. He retired and was named a professor, emeritus, in 2001. He is survived by his wife, two children, two grandsons and extended family.

**Howard Flowers "Howdy" Johnston**, BA'63, of Knoxville, Tenn., May 8, 2017. At Vanderbilt, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He was a financial adviser, entering the brokerage in 1963 with PaineWebber/UBS until his retirement in 2011. He was an avid golfer and loved sports. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, **Barbara Davis Johnston**, BA'63; two children; five grandchildren and two sisters-in-law.

**Roy Sheldon Marokus**, '66, of Prosper, Texas, May 26, 2018. He attended Vanderbilt and University of Michigan and graduated from State University of New York Downstate School of Medicine. He was board certified in pediatrics, family practice and occupational medicine. He also earned his master's in public health. He was honorably discharged from the regular Army with the rank of colonel, June 6, 2011. Survivors include his wife, twin daughters, a son, two stepsons, four grandchildren and a brother.

**William Landess Bourland**, BA'69, of Memphis, Tenn., April 10, 2018. At Vanderbilt he made dear friends as a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and graduated with a degree in chemistry. After he earned his medical degree from the University of Tennessee, he interned at Methodist Hospital, then completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery at Campbell Clinic and a fellowship in hand surgery at the University of Virginia. After his training, he practiced at OrthoMemphis (formerly the Orthopaedic Clinic) for more than 40 years with colleagues he loved and respected. He was an esteemed hand surgeon who was active in many professional organizations and served as a founder and past president of the Tennessee Hand Society. He is survived by his wife, Gayle; three daughters, including **Merrill Bourland Skipworth**, BA'96, and **Hallie Bourland Wagner**, BA'99; six grandchildren; two brothers and many nephews and nieces.

**Jane Mary O'Hagan Erickson**, BA'71, of Massillon, Ohio, June 7, 2018. At Vanderbilt she studied economics and business administration. She enjoyed spending time with her family and ocean cruising with her

friends. She was involved in multiple community service activities, including being an original board member of Community Hospice. The founder of Erickson Interiors, she had an incredible eye for contemporary design, possessed a great appreciation for modern art and was an accomplished chef. Her greatest joy derived from being a mother and grandmother. Survivors include two sons, including **John Erickson**, MD'15; a granddaughter; her father; sister and niece.

**Kenny Diehl**, BS'75, of Nashville, Feb. 20, 2018. At Vanderbilt, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, a varsity cheerleader and Mr. Commodore. He was a familiar face at Vanderbilt football, basketball and baseball games. For the past 40 years, he worked in the engineering field, primarily at Smith Seckman Reid Engineers as director of marketing. In 2013, he became SSR's director of business development and was responsible for the firm's business development at both the national and local levels. He was active at the local and national level in the Society for Marketing Professional Services, serving as national president and receiving their lifetime achievement award in 2016. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, **Patty Pangle Diehl**, MS'76; two sons; brother **Robert Diehl**, '77, and his wife, **Sallie Diehl**, BA'77; a niece and extended family.

**Margaret Ellen "Peg" True**, EdD'79, of Falls Church, Va., June 16, 2018. She was a resource and classroom teacher for children with special learning problems and also supervised learning disability teachers at the elementary school level. She helped create resource programs for secondary schools in Fairfax County and was the coordinator of special education for 45 schools in the Fairfax County School System at the time she retired. After retirement, she earned a master of divinity from Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C., and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1988. She was pastor at Waverly Presbyterian in Baltimore and interim general presbyter in the Baltimore Presbytery before returning to the Washington area as an interim and temporary supply pastor at Silver Spring Presbyterian and Church of the Pilgrims. She is survived by her brother, three nephews and nine great-nephews and great-nieces.

**Nathan Wright Richtand**, BA'13, of London, July 1, 2017. At Vanderbilt he earned a bachelor's in economics with a minor in mathematics and was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He was employed at Capital One in Washington, D.C., and London as a business manager working in data analytics. He died in a hiking accident on Scafell Pike, United Kingdom. His parents, brother, stepsister and stepmother survive him.

**This listing includes the names of undergraduate and graduate alumni who were confirmed deceased by the alumni records staff between Nov. 1, 2017, and Jan. 31, 2018, although the actual date of death may have occurred outside that period. Because of the volume of reported deaths, the listing lags by several months.**

**Catherine Jarmon Hall**, BS'37, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Jan. 11, 2018.

**Emily Harvey Adams**, BA'38, of Chattanooga, Tenn., Nov. 11, 2017.

**Glynn Pearce Wheeler**, BA'41, PhD'50, of Homewood, Ala., Dec. 14, 2017.

**Ann Lenore Fonville Closuit**, '42, of Aitkin, Minn., Dec. 11, 2017.

**Ann Vaughn Poindexter**, '42, of Nashville, Dec. 11, 2017.

**Eugene Reese Bogle Jr.**, BE'43, of Audubon, Pa., Nov. 21, 2017.

**William Irvin Brightwell**, BA'43, of Georgetown, Texas, Nov. 2, 2017.

**Frances Evalyn Ledbetter Johnson**, MA'43, of Windom, Minn., Dec. 28, 2017.

**Elizabeth "Libby" Gordon Topp Lord**, BA'43, of Cleveland, Nov. 28, 2017.

**Henley Jordan Smith Jr.**, BA'43, MD'46, of Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 2, 2017.

**Wilfred "Bill" Turbeville**, BE'43, of St. Simon's Island, Ga., Dec. 30, 2017.

**Bette Smith Fay**, '44, of York, Pa., Dec. 14, 2017.

**Rosemary Miles Haselton**, BA'44, of Cookeville, Tenn., Nov. 26, 2017.

**Pattie French Byrn Lester**, BA'44, of Nashville, Nov. 17, 2017.

**Maybelle "Rosa" Payne**, '44, of Roanoke, Va., Dec. 30, 2017.

**Wallace "Wally" Edwin Weiss**, BE'44, of Frankenthum, Mich., Jan. 14, 2018.

**Frances "Fran" Ward Bondurant**, BA'45, of Atlanta, Dec. 12, 2017.

**Ruth Robinson Dietrich**, BA'45, of Louisville, Ky., Jan. 29, 2018.

**Kathryn Bowers**, BA'46, of Cordova, Tenn., Jan. 5, 2018.

**Marge H. Ewers**, BA'47, of Nashville, Jan. 15, 2018.

**Marquita Peel Gillenwater**, BA'47, of Glasgow, Ky., Jan. 28, 2018.

**Martha J. King**, BSN'47, of Evans, Ga., January 2018.

**Irene Beavers**, BS'48, of Ames, Iowa, Nov. 5, 2017.

**Anna May Nagle Flynn**, BS'48, of Jacksonville, Ill., Dec. 23, 2017.

**Bonnie Johnson Graves**, '48, of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Atlanta, Nov. 28, 2017.

**Betty Niel Johnson**, '48, of Huntsville, Ala., Nov. 27, 2017.

## PASSAGES

## M. Carr Payne Jr., BA'49 Growing Up Peabody

Maxwell Carr Payne Jr. of Franklin, Tenn., grandson of Bruce Ryburn Payne, the first president of George Peabody College for Teachers, died Nov. 19, 2017.

The son of Mary Evans Tarpley Payne and Maxwell Carr Payne Sr., Carr, as he was known, attended Peabody Demonstration School from nursery school through high school. He attended Vanderbilt for a year before serving in the U.S. Naval Reserve, then returned, graduating magna cum laude. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi, Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Beta Kappa. He attended Princeton University, receiving his master's and doctor of philosophy in 1951. He became a research associate of the Training Research Laboratory of the University of Illinois, then joined the faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1954, where he stayed for 37 years. He helped the Department of Psychology develop bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

Payne received the institute's Distinguished Teacher's Award in 1970. He was an active member of the faculty, serving on many institutional committees and also was active in professional societies in psychology, presenting many papers at meetings and serving on committees. He was president of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, the Georgia Psychological Asso-



*Carr Payne Jr.; Edwin Mims, Vanderbilt professor of English; and Carr Payne Sr. at the dedication of Payne Hall in 1953, with the painting of former Peabody president Bruce R. Payne behind them.*

ciation, and the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

He was a member of Northside United Methodist Church in Atlanta, where he taught Sunday school classes until his health prevented it. He most recently was a member of Franklin First United Methodist Church.

He is survived by a son, Maxwell Carr Payne III; two daughters, **Elizabeth Payne McKinney**, BS'85, and **Allison Payne Klausner**, BA'87; and six grandchildren.



**Dorothy Nelle Stewart**, BSN'48, of Prayer Town Emmanuel, Texas, May 26, 2018.

**Robert O. Beauchamp Jr.**, BS'49, MA'51, of Raleigh, N.C., Nov. 11, 2017.

**William T. "Bill" Hankins Jr.**, '49, of Atlanta, Jan. 23, 2018.

**Milton Paul Rice**, JD'49, of Nashville, Jan. 1, 2018.

**Mark V. Biar**, BE'50, of Fort Worth, Texas, Nov. 13, 2017.

**Samuel H. Chester Jr.**, BA'50, of Signal Mountain, Tenn., Dec. 29, 2017.

**Benjamin C. Cabbage Jr.**, BA'50, JD'56, of Evansville, Ind., Nov. 15, 2017.

**James G. "Jim" Currey Jr.**, BA'50, MA'52, PhD'75, of Nashville, Dec. 28, 2017.

**Betty Jean Smith Erickson**, MA'50, of Nashville, Nov. 4, 2017.

**William T. "Bill" Gamble**, JD'50, of Kingsport, Tenn., Nov. 13, 2017.

**Joseph O. "Joe" Martin Jr.**, BA'50, LLB'54, of Nashville, Jan. 2, 2018.

**Thomas Carl Badgett Jr.**, '51, of Miramar Beach, Fla., Jan. 23, 2018.

**John Thomas Groom**, BA'51, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Dec. 9, 2017.

**Margaret Lisby Melville**, '51, of Lexington, Ky., Jan. 3, 2018.

**Dolores Cullop Penrod**, BS'51, of Portales, N.M., Dec. 11, 2017.

**Charles N. "Charley" Shockley**, '51, of Nashville, Jan. 17, 2018.

**Jack Smith Staggs**, MA'51, of Huntsville, Texas, Dec. 17, 2017.

**Bexta Jean Callan Baker**, MA'52, of Branch, Ark., Dec. 10, 2017.

**Robert A. "Bob" Brown**, BA'52, JD'57, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Dec. 12, 2017.

**Thomas J. "Tom" Hunt**, BA'52, of Griffin, Ga., Jan. 21, 2018.

**Joseph C. Rogers**, BA'52, of Cornelia, Ga., Jan. 11, 2018.

**Martha Waller Sims**, '52, of Oak Ridge, Tenn., Dec. 18, 2017.

**Sylvia Farrell Alderson**, BSN'53, MSN'76, of Taneytown, Md., Nov. 14, 2017.

**Catherine A. Connors**, BA'53, of Nashville, Jan. 19, 2018.

**G. Forrest Green Jr.**, BE'53, of Dallas, Nov. 8, 2017.

**Louise "Sis" Baird Kinnard Halliday**, BA'53, of Nashville, Jan. 2, 2018.

**James Brown Millis**, '53, of Nashville, Jan. 24, 2018.

**Charles Douglas Norman**, MA'53, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Dec. 2, 2017.

**Richard Olney Russell Jr.**, BA'53, MD'56, of Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 22, 2018.

**Weaver Jo Tenpenny Sikes**, MA'53, of Readyville, Tenn., Dec. 9, 2017.

**William A. "Bill" Treadway**, BE'53, of Brentwood, Tenn., Jan. 24, 2018.

**Marilyn Ruth Floyd**, BS'54, of Fayetteville, Tenn., Jan. 17, 2018.

**William T. "Bill" Galloway Jr.**, BA'54, JD'59, of Destin, Fla., Jan. 20, 2018.

**Herman Jacob Kaplan**, MD'54, of Nashville, Dec. 31, 2017.

**Marjorie Del McDorman**, MLS'54, of Mint Hill, N.C., Dec. 8, 2017.

**Mae Frances Nix**, MALS'54, of Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 17, 2017.

**Reid Baytop Sinclair**, MA'54, of Raleigh, N.C., Nov. 20, 2017.

**Ralph Hightower Bolls**, BS'55, MA'58, of McAllen, Texas, Jan. 10, 2018.

**Norma Jean Vesti Glassburner**, BS'55, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 24, 2017.

**Frances Hill Caldwell Jackson**, BA'55, of Nashville, Dec. 30, 2017.

**Betty Brown Perkins**, BA'55, of Nashville, Jan. 23, 2018.

**Charles F. "Chuck" Smith Jr.**, BA'55, of Pensacola, Fla., Jan. 3, 2018.

**Basil Owen Sweatt Sr.**, MA'55, of Fayette, Ala., Dec. 12, 2017.

**William D. "Bill" Brown**, BA'56, of Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 31, 2017.

**Catherine Dale Burrus Castleman**, BS'56, of Nashville, Jan. 20, 2018.

**Julia Cherry**, '56, of Hillsboro, Tenn., Dec. 11, 2017.

**Charles W. "Buz" Dooley**, BA'56, of Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 2, 2017.

**Emmie Evans Rector**, MA'56, of Gaffney, S.C., Nov. 20, 2017.

**Andrew Jackson Yates III**, '56, of Ridgeland, Miss., Nov. 24, 2017.

**Louis B. Todd Jr.**, BA'56, of Nashville, Nov. 21, 2017.

**Jerome P. Magdovitz**, BA'57, of Cordova, Tenn., Nov. 9, 2017.

**Jesse Taylor Perry**, BE'57, of Nashville, Dec. 29, 2017.

**Robert Clarence Pickens**, MA'57, of Tequesta, Fla., Dec. 14, 2017.

**Margaret Wright Sistrunk**, BA'57, of Odessa, Fla., Jan. 8, 2018.

**Nina Lee Walker**, MA'57, of Huntsville, Ala., Jan. 17, 2018.

**Alice Keene Garnache**, '58, of Auburn, Mass., Jan. 9, 2018.

**Bradford Earl Roberts Jr.**, '58, of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Jan. 24, 2018.

**Jack Akin Butler**, BA'59, of Nashville, Dec. 7, 2017.

**Lowell Hobart Dasher**, MA'59, of Guyton, Ga., Nov. 29, 2017.

**Robert "Bob" Marion Friend**, MA'59, of Salem, Va., Dec. 9, 2017.

**Mary Ann Lay Neel**, MLS'59, of Burtonsville, Md., Nov. 29, 2017.

**John Nicholas Rockman**, MA'59, of Lake Ariel, Pa., Jan. 23, 2018.

**Ruth Grindle Thompson**, MA'59, of Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 19, 2017.

**Charles William "Bill" Wilson III**, BA'59, MA'61, of Oak Ridge, Tenn., Nov. 29, 2017.

**John G. Doak Sr.**, BA'60, of Nashville, Nov. 20, 2017.

**Carol Lansden Brewbaker Hodges**, '60, of Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 23, 2018.

**James Robert Thompson**, BE'60, of Houston, Dec. 4, 2017.

**Jerry Neal Boone**, PhD'61, of Oxford, Miss., Dec. 13, 2017.

**Richard Ray Hedgepath**, BA'61, of Nashville, Jan. 25, 2018.

**Bettie Jean Merritt**, MA'61, of Nashville, Dec. 7, 2017.

**Judy Whitworth Bassham**, BS'62, of Niceville, Fla., Dec. 15, 2017.

**John Eugene Bentley**, MA'62, of Naperville, Ill., Nov. 28, 2017.

**William Edward Cheek Sr.**, MA'62, of Charlotte, N.C., Jan. 23, 2018.

**Noel Bowen Bearden**, BA'63, of Nashville, Jan. 9, 2018.

**Luther A. Clark Jr.**, BD'63, of Jackson, Tenn., Dec. 18, 2017.

**Leroy J. Grossman**, PhD'63, of Chesterfield, Mo., Jan. 3, 2018.

**Lawrence T. Holmer**, MST'63, of Stow, Ohio, Dec. 23, 2017.

**John "Sam" Hosbach**, BA'63, of Louisville, Ky., Dec. 20, 2017.

**Albert D. Noe**, BA'63, JD'66, of Jackson, Tenn., Dec. 3, 2017.

**Rockne Porter**, MA'63, of Nashville, Jan. 10, 2018.

**Frazier Eugene "Gene" Tharpe**, BA'63, of Fayetteville, Ga., Dec. 29, 2017.

**Dana G. Willard**, MS'63, of York, Maine, Jan. 5, 2018.

**Harry Leon Bowman**, MA'64, EdD'66, of Clermont, Fla., April 21, 2018.

**Charles Campbell Brown Jr.**, BA'64, LLB'67, of Nashville, Nov. 14, 2017.

**Theresa Tribble "Terri" Caldwell**, MAT'64, of Richmond, Va., Dec. 15, 2017.

**Dee Lamar Metcalf III**, BA'64, of Greeneville, Tenn., Jan. 22, 2018.

**Kathleen M. "Kathy" Pitt**, BA'64, MA'66, of Severna Park, Md., Jan. 24, 2018.

**H. Gray Skelton Jr.**, BA'64, of Marietta, Ga., Jan. 5, 2018.

**Bruce L. Baird**, BE'65, of Southbridge, Mass., Dec. 3, 2017.

**Marian Caddis Braswell**, BA'65, of Gainesville, Fla.,

Nov. 30, 2017.

**Jerry Lee Hassell**, '65, of Lexington, Tenn., Dec. 26, 2017.

**Andrew Jay Isbell**, MA'65, of Savannah, Ga., Dec. 24, 2017.

**Ronald Alan Jones**, BE'65, MS'66, of Acworth, Ga., Dec. 29, 2017.

**Ronald Dean Smith**, BS'65, of Brentwood, Tenn., Dec. 3, 2017.

**Benjamin C. Ben Wade III**, BA'65, of Roswell, Ga., Dec. 21, 2017.

**John W. Leftwich Sr.**, BE'66, of Carthage, Tenn., Jan. 11, 2018.

**David F. "Dave" Matthews**, BA'66, of Carmel, Calif., Nov. 19, 2017.

**Lewis Higgins Peters**, MA'66, of Ellaville, Ga., Jan. 3, 2018.

**John Allen "Al" Spivey**, MLS'66, of St. Simons Island, Ga., Dec. 2, 2017.

**P. Raymond "Ray" Bartholomew**, JD'67, of Hermitage, Pa., Jan. 5, 2018.

**William W. "Bill" Chastain**, BA'67, of Tampa, Fla., Dec. 28, 2017.

**James Marion Cook**, PhD'67, of Christiana, Tenn., Dec. 4, 2017.

**Charlene "Candy" Luckhardt LeMay**, BSN'67, of Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 14, 2017.

**John William Menees Jr.**, BD'68, DMin'83, of Madison, Tenn., Nov. 26, 2017.

**Laura Gerow Bramlette**, BSN'69, of Houston, Nov. 25, 2017.

**Genevieve "Geny" Baird Farris**, BA'69, of Nashville, Nov. 28, 2017.

**Jeanne "Susy" Barksdale Brown Horsley**, BA'69, of Reidsville, N.C., Dec. 8, 2017.

**Terrence Michael Kopansky**, BS'69, MA'70, EdD'95, of Nashville, Nov. 30, 2017.

**David Alexander Burba**, PhD'70, of Pegram, Tenn., Nov. 25, 2017.

**Cecil Merritt Cork**, MS'70, of Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 26, 2017.

**Marcia Jean Gaarden Gretz**, BA'70, of Elkridge, Md., Nov. 9, 2017.

**Judith Ann Simmons Humphreys**, BS'70, MA'72, of Nashville, Dec. 12, 2017.

**Jerry Linnstaedter**, PhD'70, of Jonesboro, Ark., Nov. 22, 2017.

**David Lloyd Armbruster**, MA'71, PhD'73, of Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 28, 2017.

**John Boehm Jr.**, PhD'71, of Alliance, Ohio, Jan. 14, 2018.

**Gary L. Reynolds**, BA'71, of Creve Coeur, Ill., Jan. 5, 2018.

**Tom Allen Wittenbraker**, BA'71, of Dallas, Nov. 17, 2017.

**Kathleen Campbell Deskins**, BA'72, of Lexington,

Ky., Dec. 31, 2017.

**Mary Kathryn "Mary Kay" Sauder**, MSN'72, of Lititz, Pa., Jan. 26, 2018.

**Ruth Evangeline Phelps Bolton**, PhD'73, of Huntsville, Ala., Dec. 1, 2017.

**Patrick Joseph "Pat" McHale**, BA'73, JD'76, of Milan, Tenn., Nov. 20, 2017.

**Rebecca Semenek Jordan**, BS'74, MS'76, of Hendersonville, Tenn., Sept. 30, 2017.

**Dieu Van Tong**, MLS'74, of Trussville, Ala., Nov. 1, 2017.

**William Sterling Smithson**, MBA'75, of Fate, Texas, Feb. 18, 2018.

**Connie Brandon Woodham**, BS'75, of Columbia, S.C., Dec. 22, 2017.

**Jere Robert Lee**, BA'76, JD'79, of Nashville, Dec. 14, 2017.

**Irving J. Slotchiver**, MA'76, of Nashville, Jan. 13, 2018.

**Andrew Joseph Soltys Jr.**, MA'76, of Cordova, Tenn., Nov. 21, 2017.

**Marshall L. Hix**, BA'79, of Nashville, Jan. 14, 2018.

PASSAGES

## Camilla Dietz Bergeron, BA'64 'From Stocks to Rocks'



Camilla Dietz Bergeron, an emerita trustee whose passion for collecting jewelry led to her founding a noted estate jewelry firm, died May 20 after a long illness. She was 76.

Bergeron was president of Camilla Dietz Bergeron Ltd., a New York-based purveyor of fine antique, period and estate jewelry. She also was a longtime Vanderbilt supporter whose many contributions included the establishment of a scholarship for men's basketball student-athletes.

Bergeron majored in economics in the College of Arts and Science, where she earned a bachelor of arts in 1964. After graduation, she moved to New York City to enroll at New York University for a master's degree. Her first job in the financial world was as a security analyst for Chase Manhattan Bank. She then joined Seiden and de Cuevas as a security analyst and institutional salesman. In 1973, she became a founding partner of Furman, Selz, Mager, Dietz, and Birney Inc., which specialized in funding small- and medium-size growth companies. The firm was sold to Xerox in 1987. Two years later she founded Camilla Dietz Bergeron Ltd. with her business partner, Gus Davis. Those who knew her said she went "from stocks to rocks." On the company's website, she talked about the importance of exceeding her

clients' expectations: "I love to search for that one-of-a-kind piece—the pearl in the oyster. Chic isn't some kind of formula; chic just is."

Bergeron was a former executive board member and president of the American Society of Jewelry Historians. She taught at an annual jewelry and gemstone conference on Long Island and lectured frequently for museums and other organizations, including the Nashville Antique and Garden Show.

Bergeron served on the Vanderbilt Board of Trust from 1989 to 2014, when she was elected emerita trustee. She was a former president of the New York Vanderbilt Club. In addition, Bergeron previously served on the Owen Graduate School of Management Committee of Visitors and was a member of the Vanderbilt College Cabinet. In 2017, she established the Camilla Dietz Bergeron Scholarship to provide scholarship support for deserving student-athletes in the sport of men's basketball in the Department of Athletics.

She was active in a number of professional organizations, including The Committee of 200 Foundation and the Bard Graduate College for the Decorative Arts.

She is survived by her husband, Jean Maurice Georges Bergeron; her sister, Harriet Nunnally; Gus Davis, her devoted friend and partner in business; and two goddaughters.

—ANN MARIE OWENS



**Helenmary Clouse Hendrix**, MEd'91, of Gallatin, Tenn., Dec. 30, 2017.

**Victoria Ann Warren**, MA'91, of Nashville, Nov. 10, 2017.

**M.C. "Mickey" Beckham**, MEd'92, of Furman, S.C., Dec. 17, 2017.

**Marianne W. Rodgers**, EdD'92, of Naples, Fla., Nov. 23, 2017.

**Jonathan Craig Stewart**, MTS'93, of Nashville, Oct. 29, 2017.

**Jon Roger Thomas**, MLAS'95, of Nashville, Dec. 28, 2017.

**Leslie Dawn Herman Cavallaro**, MD'97, of McDon-ald, Tenn., Dec. 28, 2017.

**Meghan Andrea Still**, BS'07, of Austin, Texas, Nov. 29, 2017.

**Victor Maurice Hill**, '11, of Cleveland, Tenn., Dec. 23, 2017.

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**John Kenneth Folger Sr.**, professor of education, emeritus, of Nashville, Oct. 28, 2017. He was 93. After earning an associate's degree from West Georgia College and a bachelor's degree from Emory University, he went directly into officer training school for the U.S. Navy. He served on the ship *LST 922* in the South Pacific during the last 14 months of World War II. He served

### PASSAGES

## Gary D. Scudder Strategic Management



An expert on new product development and strategic planning, Gary D. Scudder, James A. Speyer Professor of Production Management and professor of operations management, died June 13 in Nashville. He was 65 years old.

Scudder came to Owen in 1990 from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. During the course of his career, he helped corporations and students build new products and technologies more strategically and quickly. Scudder consulted with multinational corporations like United Airlines, 3M, Motorola, RR Donnelley and Bridgestone. He taught the core MBA business strategy course, along with classes in operations strategy, technology management and manufacturing strategy. Scudder also taught courses in the Executive MBA program and in Executive Education.

Scudder's research earned him several accolades, including two of the most prestigious awards from the Production and Operations Management Society: the Wick Skinner Award and the Stan Hardy

award. He was honored by Owen for his work in the classroom with the Dean's Teaching Award and the James E. Webb Teaching Award. Scudder dedicated a significant amount of time and energy to service, at Vanderbilt and in his community. In addition to participating in and chairing dozens of committees at Owen and Vanderbilt, he sat on the church and school boards of Christ Presbyterian Church in Nashville. "Gary loved people and always had an open office door," says Dean M. Eric Johnson. "Generations of students found him to be a ready ear, interested in their careers and life. Young faculty, including myself 25 years ago, found Gary to be a patient mentor. "He always wanted to hear updates about Owen colleagues and alumni. With a cellphone never out of reach, he constantly dashed short messages to congratulate and encourage those in his life. We will miss those messages." He is survived by his wife, Marti; daughter Sarah Scudder Morrison, BS'03, MEd'04, and her husband, Chris Morrison, BA'03; son David Scudder, MD'19, and his wife, Hannah; and four grandchildren.

another year in China, Japan and Vietnam, ending as captain of the *LST 505*. After the war, Folger earned his master's and doctorate from the University of North Carolina. Following research work for the Air Force, he served as associate director for research at the Southern Regional Education Board, 1954–61. He returned to academia as dean of the graduate school at Florida State University. His leadership in higher education continued through the 1970s, when he was named the first executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The Johnson White House recruited him to do a national study on the draft for a two-year posting in Washington, D.C. Folger's experience in educational policy research and teaching resulted in a faculty position at Vanderbilt's Peabody College. He served as an elder at Trinity Presbyterian Church and more recently was a member of Second Presbyterian Church in Nashville. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary "Midge" Harrison Folger, five children, 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**John W. Halperin**, Centennial Professor of English, emeritus, of La Jolla, Calif., March 1, 2018. He was 76 years old. Halperin was a prolific author and editor whose books included *The Language of Meditation* (1973, Stockwell), *Egoism and Self-Discovery in the Victorian Novel* (1974, Franklin), *The Theory of the Novel* (1974, Oxford University Press), *Trollope*

and *Politics* (1977, Palgrave Macmillan), *Jane Austen's Lovers* (1988, Palgrave Macmillan), *Novelists in Their Youth* (1990, Chatto & Windus), and *Eminent Georgians* (1995, Palgrave Macmillan), as well as biographies of Jane Austen, George Gissing and C.P. Snow and editions of the novels of Trollope, Gissing, George Meredith and Henry James. He was short-listed twice for the Pulitzer Prize for Biography for his books *Gissing: A Life in Books* (1982, Oxford University Press) and *The Life of Jane Austen* (1986, Johns Hopkins University Press). Halperin received a bachelor of arts from Bowdoin College in 1963 and a master of arts from the University of New Hampshire in 1966. Three years later he earned a master of arts and a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University. Halperin taught at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the University of Southern California before joining the Vanderbilt faculty as Centennial Professor of English in 1983. He was awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships as well as fellowships from the American Philosophical Society, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Vanderbilt Research Council. He also was named an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. At Vanderbilt, he was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award by the College of Arts and Science and the Outstanding Educator Award by Peabody College. He became an emeritus professor in 2007. Halperin is survived by his brother and extended family.

**P. Galen Lenhert**, professor of physics, emeritus, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., Dec. 21, 2017. He was 84 years old. He attended Messiah College in Grantham, Pa., and Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. In 1960 he earned a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University in biophysics with a specialization in X-ray crystallography. From 1960 to 1961 he was at Oxford University in England for postdoctoral research on the structure of the vitamin B12 coenzyme, working with Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin who later won the Nobel Prize for her work in X-ray analysis of molecules. In 1964 he accepted a position as professor of physics at Vanderbilt, where he taught until retiring in 1994. In addition to teaching undergraduate students at Vanderbilt, he continued his crystallographic research and trained numerous graduate students from around the world. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sara Brubaker Lenhert, two daughters, six grandchildren and two siblings.

**Dr. Kevin T. McDonagh**, professor of medicine, of Nashville, Dec. 23, 2017. He was 59. Educated at Columbia University and Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, his internal medicine training was completed in St. Louis at Washington University's Barnes Hospital, where he met his wife, **Dr. Leslie J. Crofford**, BA'80. They moved to Bethesda, Md., to pursue biomedical

research at the National Institutes of Health, where he also completed his subspecialty training in hematology. After a postdoctoral fellowship, he joined the faculty of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he studied the immunology of hematologic malignancies. He moved to Lexington, Ky., to become division chief of Hematology, Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation at the Markey Cancer Center of the University of Kentucky. After eight years, he moved to Vanderbilt to lead programs in benign hematology and multiple myeloma. He is survived by his wife, parents, his four siblings and their families.

**Robert Peebles**, also known as Robert Knight, of Nashville, Nov. 5, 2017. He was 77 years old. He worked at Vanderbilt as a lab technician and a member of the grounds crew. As Robert Knight, he recorded the first version of "Everlasting Love." As a young man, he was a member of the Fairlanes and sang lead for the Paramounts before becoming a solo artist. In 1967, while performing during a fraternity party at Vanderbilt, songwriter and producer Mac Gayden heard "this voice coming from the Kappa Sigma house." He ran over and met Knight as he was coming off the stage. Gayden introduced Knight to Buzz Cason, who signed Knight to Rising Sons Music, and they began working on an album. "Everlasting Love" was, according to Gayden, the last song cut during the session, "kind of like a throwaway tune." Knight's recording became an R&B and pop hit and a beach music staple. Over the last half-century, it has been covered by Carl Carlton, Love Affair, U2 and Gloria Estefan, among others. Knight's subsequent recordings didn't reach the heights of "Everlasting Love," but he had a few minor hits in the 1970s. After stepping away from music, he worked at Vanderbilt. Knight was featured in the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's exhibit *Night Train to Nashville: Music City Rhythm and Blues*, which opened in 2004 and ran for more than a year. The exhibit closed with a section about the making and impact of "Everlasting Love." He is survived by three children, 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Charlie R. Smith**, clinical medical instructor, of Nashville, Nov. 8, 2017. He was 88. He practiced ophthalmology and taught as a clinical medical instructor at Vanderbilt until 1994. He had dual careers, one as an airline pilot and another as a doctor. Federal Aviation Administration mandatory retirement at age 60 took him out of the left seat as an airline captain after 36 years with American Airlines. For the next 25 years, he continued to practice medicine in Nashville, primarily as one of Middle Tennessee's FAA medical examiners. Smith joined the Air Force at the age of 18, where he learned to fly and instruct in more than 25 different airplanes. He later flew a B-29 mission into Korea on

the first day of the Korean War. After 57 missions over Korea, he was discharged as a major at age 23, having been awarded more than 11 medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross with four (bronze) Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal with five (silver) Oak Leaf Clusters. He would serve in the Tennessee Air National Guard for another decade following his military career. After retirement he continued to serve aviation through his private practice of aviation medicine as an FAA senior aviation medical examiner and consultant to the Federal Air Surgeon. He was inducted into the Tennessee Aviation Hall of Fame in 2006. He is survived by his four children, 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Shannon Bishop Snyder**, MD'00, former assistant professor of emergency medicine, of Nashville, Jan. 11, 2018. She was 47 and passed away after a fight with brain cancer. She graduated in 1994 from Stanford University with bachelor's and master's degrees in biology. She taught science for a year at the Groton School, then worked as an investment banker in New York City

for a time. During medical school at Vanderbilt, she met her husband, **Dr. Oran Aaronson**, MMHC'13. She completed a residency in emergency medicine and stayed on as a member of the Vanderbilt faculty for 11 years. She was the first fellow at Vanderbilt to train in emergency bedside ultrasound. She also spent three years at TriStar Horizon/Natchez. While at Stanford, she spent many hours exploring the ecosystems in California, particularly in Yosemite National Park. She took five mission trips to Vanderbilt's program in Guyana, South America, and taught their students and doctors. She is survived by her husband; two children; her mother, **Gayle Fambrough Snyder**, BA'56; two siblings, including **Brett Snyder**, BS'85, MD'89; and her extended family, including a niece, **Anna Jamison Greene**, BA'16, and nephew, **Thomas Snyder**, BA'19. Her father, **Dr. Harold E. Snyder**, MD'60, survived her, but died in March 2018.

**R. Jay Turner**, Harvie Branscomb Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Emeritus, and affiliated professor and psychiatric director, Center for Research on Health Disparities, of Sacramento, Calif., May 2018.

### PASSAGES

## Tommy Howe Science in Glass



Thomas Floyd "Tommy" Howe Jr., who served as the scientific glassblower for Vanderbilt's Department of Chemistry for 30 years, died June 29 in Nashville. He was 76.

During his three decades at the university, Howe made major contributions to the chemistry department's teaching and research programs as well as to other science departments in the College of Arts and Science, School of Engineering and School of Medicine. Howe retired from the Department of Chemistry in 2016.

His abilities ranged from fabricating incredibly intricate scientific glassware to mass-producing simple glassware for the teaching labs in the Department of Chemistry that saved the College of Arts and Science an estimated tens of thousands of dollars during the expansion of its undergraduate laboratory courses, according to B. Andes Hess, professor of chemistry, who was instrumental in hiring Howe in 1986.

"While I was chairman of the Department of Chemistry in the early '80s, I had to fill the vacant position of scientific glassblower," Hess recalls. "Being an experimental organic chemist, I had had the opportunity to work with glassblowers at Yale, the University of Oregon and also Vanderbilt.

It did not take long to see that he was the most talented glassblower that I had ever encountered in my career," Hess says. "He was, in fact, likely the most talented university glassblower in the United States, having had numerous offers from other universities during his tenure at Vanderbilt."

Howe is also remembered for his warmth, kindness, loyalty and readiness to assist in the research projects of Vanderbilt chemists as well as many other scientists across the university.

"After 50 years of service to Vanderbilt, I can say with deep honesty and pride that the choice of Tommy as our glassblower-artist [is] one of my most important achievements," Hess says. "He changed the laboratory standards of our scientific community."

In addition to his glassblowing skill, Howe was a gifted baritone in the Southern gospel tradition, singing since age 3. He performed with his group, the Houston-based Royals, and often would fill in for prominent groups such as Masters V and The Blackwood Brothers, among others. Howe was a member of White House Church of God.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Tollie Louise Pate Howe; a daughter, Darla Gayle Howe-Hixon; two sons, Thomas Floyd "Jym" Howe III and Walter Dillon Howe; two sisters; two grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

—KARA FURLONG





Clockwise, from top left: Student Army Training Corps members in line near Kirkland Hall, c. 1917–18; ROTC color guard at home football game on Curry Field, 1930s; students tending victory garden on Peabody College campus, 1940s; and Vanderbilt physicians performing surgery at 300th General Hospital Unit in Naples, Italy, 1940s.

*Vandy Goes to War*, an exhibition highlighting the dramatic effects of two world wars on Vanderbilt's campus, are on display in the Central Library lobby through Oct. 16, Reunion and Homecoming Weekend.

"Vanderbilt became involved in World War I in late 1917 when then-Chancellor James Kirkland issued the first decree to require military training on campus for all male students," says Sara Sterkenburg, coordinator of exhibitions for the Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries.

Vanderbilt Board of Trust minutes documenting this decision can be viewed at the exhibit, among other artifacts that include a 48-star flag, patches and accoutrements from uniforms, and war correspondence.

"The Student Army Training Corps was established, transforming Vanderbilt into a military post and attracting an influx of student soldiers, many of whom were sent to the warfront in Europe," Sterkenburg says. She notes that enrollment dropped by 20 percent, requiring remaining faculty

to condense their courses.

Among the students spotlighted is Irby "Rabbit" Curry, a hero of the 1916 football team and an All-American. He died in aerial combat over France on Aug. 10, 1918.

A campus map from the World War I era shows Curry Field as the location for football games. The current medical campus did not even exist yet. The exhibition also features a rich collection of World War I-era sheet music that would have been popular with the campus community.

"A lot of transition [took place] on campus between the first and second world wars, with the campus doubling in physical size and almost doubling in terms of student enrollment," Sterkenburg says.

Fast-forward to the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor. The draft pulled a vast majority of students and faculty to the battlefield for World War II. More than 4,500 alumni served in every branch of service and theater of operation. The demand for medical professionals pushed Vanderbilt to offer acceler-

ated degrees that ran year-round, often graduating multiple classes each year. Many Vanderbilt medical and nursing graduates joined the 300th General Hospital Unit in Italy that saved thousands of lives.

Enrollment of male students in the College of Arts and Science dropped to 40 percent below the prewar level. The Law School almost completely collapsed, reunions were eliminated, and yearbooks were barely finished.

"The high enrollment of women kept the university stable during World War II," Sterkenburg says. "Women played leading roles in organizations like the Red Cross, planted victory gardens, and stretched monthly ration coupons."

World War II ended in 1945, and a campus map from that period forward reflects rapid growth in areas such as dormitories and classrooms.

Sterkenburg notes that the university's ROTC units have been strong partners in providing pertinent information about various materials in the exhibition and in developing educational programming.

—ANN MARIE DEER OWENS, BA'76



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**#SUMMERGRAM** While most students were away for the summer, plenty was still happening on campus, from a hawk surveying the grounds [top left] to Peabody's Next Steps program welcoming Summer Institute students [bottom center]. Nursing students continued their work [top right, bottom left], while some took time to explore Nashville [bottom right] or just—*ahem*—hang around [top center]. See more of what's happening at any time at [social.vanderbilt.edu](http://social.vanderbilt.edu).