Return of the ’Dores

Hats—the bigger the better—were definitely in fashion Oct. 10–11 when more than 3,700 alumni, friends, guests and fans converged on campus to reconnect and reminisce at extraVUganza (Reunion and Homecoming) 2003.

New this year, but destined to be an annual tradition, was the Commodore ReVUe Parade, with Chancellor Gordon Gee leading hundreds of alumni and guests through campus to the game. Alumni also gave thumbs-up to “Back to the Classroom” events, which included a rousing discussion on the Middle East and a session on investing in today’s economy.

The Quinq Society welcomed 394 members of the Class of 1953. Taking honors for greatest class participation at extraVUganza was the Class of 1993 with 427 registrants. Altogether, a grand total of $20 million was raised by undergraduate and graduate Reunion year classes and the Quinqs.

For more photos and information about this year’s extraVUganza, planned for Nov. 5–6, go to www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/reunion.

PHOTOS BY PEYTON HOGE AND NEIL BRAKE
Cabaniss, BA’60, has been appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic.
Marilyn Jesse Justman Kaman, BA’70, was selected to serve as an

Musica on the Row

In 1999 a group of Nashville art patrons approached Alan LeQuire with the kind of proposal most sculptors dream of. They wanted to commission a work of art that would beautify a high-traffic intersection through Nashville’s Music Row—an area that was in decline as the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and nearby tourist shops moved out.

“It was the first time a group of patrons had approached me directly and said, ‘We want you to do this,’” LeQuire says. “There was no competition with other artists.”

“Musica” was unveiled last fall to both acclaim and outrage. The bronze work’s nine dancing figures, each at least 14 feet tall, are nude, something that fueled local headlines and talk radio for weeks.

“Public art in America is a bureaucratic nightmare because every project creates controversy,” LeQuire says. “But in the end it’s been gratifying because people have seen that it is beautiful and uplifting.”

The creator of several works on the Vanderbilt campus, as well as the massive Athena in the Nashville Parthenon, LeQuire has just opened a gallery to showcase his own and other artists’ work.
as an international judge for the United Nations in Kosovo.
Bill Carey, BA ’87, has written *Chancellors, Commodores*
**Alumni Association News**

**Shift in Alumni Relations Responsibilities**
In a move to further enhance and expand the work of the Alumni Relations Office, Randy Smith, BA’84, MDiv’88, associate vice chancellor of alumni relations, has announced the appointment of Sheryl Rogers, BS’93, as executive director of alumni relations. Her primary charge is to provide strategic direction and leadership for all aspects of programs and services for alumni in conjunction with the aims of the Division of Development and Alumni Relations. She will also work with Smith on matters involving the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Rogers formerly was director of alumni relations marketing and communications, a position now held by Betsy Hoban. Smith will continue to oversee the functions of the Alumni Relations Office, in addition to the Regional Development and Reunion and Annual Giving offices.

**Vanderbilt Club Spotlight**
The Nov. 13 gathering of the Los Angeles Vanderbilt Club was a resounding success, with nearly 200 members enjoying a cocktail reception and lecture at the California Club, followed by a private tour of the “Frank O. Gehry: Work in Progress” exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Leonard Folgarait, professor of art history and director of undergraduate studies at Vanderbilt, shared his broad knowledge of modern architecture. Some of Gehry’s most renowned architectural works highlighted in the exhibit were the new Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. One alumnus who’s been attending club events for 40 years commented that it was the best ever. Credit and thanks go to Katy Citron, BS’00, and Carolyn Leslie, BA’99, for the success of this event.

Each month Vanderbilt Clubs in dozens of cities host a wide variety of events for alumni and friends. To find out more, go to www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/alumclubs&events.
has been named Best Reporter in Ohio by the Society of Professional Journalists.
Lauren Gaffney, BS'03, won the National Collegiate Cycling...
Association championship last May
A week after the vaccination, my arm began to hurt—not just at the inoculation site, but throughout my shoulder. Shooting, burning pains traveled across my shoulder, back and neck. The pain hit intensely and unpredictably, producing headaches. For the first time I began to doubt my decision to participate in the study. Although informed of possible pain, soreness, redness and swelling at the vaccination site, I was surprised by the intensity of the effects. But it was too late to turn back.

On each of my return visits to the clinic, a nurse removed the bandage to measure and photograph the blister underneath. Air against my skin felt wonderful, as my skin begged to breathe underneath the shiny plastic bandage. But within a couple minutes, they sent me on my way, arm covered again. Occasionally, blood was drawn to examine antibody levels, which is the only method to determine if the vaccine dilution was strong enough to cause my body to react. About two weeks after the vaccination, all pain and headaches subsided. My blister began the process of scabbing, and with each visit I hoped the scab had fallen off. Only then could my bandage be removed permanently.

Fourteen months after my immunization, I now have a dime-sized scar on my left shoulder, antibodies in my blood, and $375 in the bank. Three small blisters resulted in an asymmetrical scar the deep-red shade of skin healing itself. Instead of being asked about the patch on my arm, people now ask me about the scar.

Discussing the personal choice I made with strangers is still awkward. Many don’t understand my decision, and I struggle to explain. But I finally figured out what to tell them. Medical researchers do all they can with animal subjects, but without human volunteers they cannot bring new medicines and vaccines to market.

Last November, President Bush approved preemptive smallpox vaccination of 1 million U.S. military personnel and civilian medical workers. My involvement in the study helped to make these vaccinations as safe as possible. Although I experienced pain and discomfort, in the long run science and society gained some valuable knowledge. That is worth the inconvenience of strangers stopping me on the street.