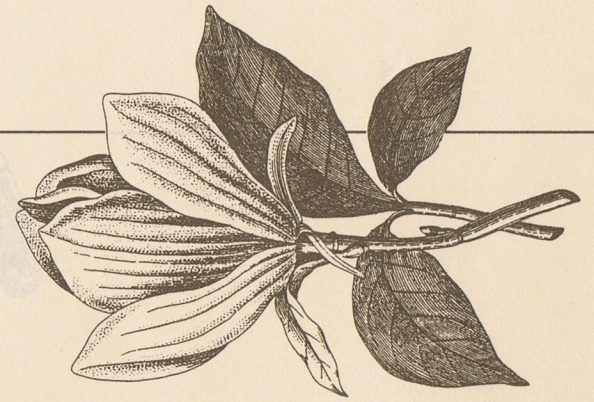


sored seminars on various topics, including several issues in comparative literature, theories of interpretation of both ancient and modern texts, intellectual and social life at the University, and Allan Bloom's *The Closing of the American Mind.*

Among the offerings this fall are a five-week seminar on recent French feminist thought led by Gail Stenstad, an instructor in the philosophy department, and an early modern studies seminar focused this year on unauthorized sexuality in the early modern period and organized by Franklin Brooks, associate professor of French.

The Center also offers regional faculty development seminars. "The regional aspect makes us unique," said Scott, "with the Center serving as a magnet for scholars working in the region." He cited Laurence Lerner's two-weekend seminar in May on the theory and criticism of lyric poetry. Paul Conkin, Distinguished Professor of History, led an NEH summer seminar for college teachers in June and July that addressed "The American Regulatory and Welfare State, 1887-1987."

Conkin's words in a final report aptly capture the Center's intent: "The beauty of the building, the peaceful environment, affected all of us, and helped create an atmosphere, even a mood, conducive to intellectual growth."

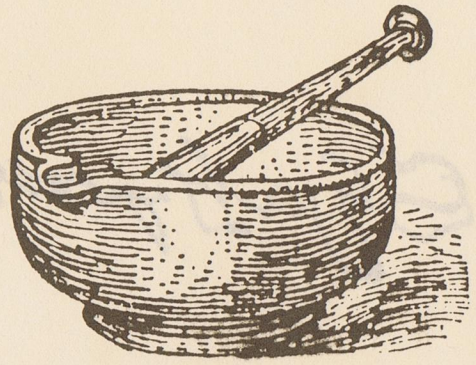
Reflections of a Chemist

Almost thirty years before Chernobyl, Lamar Field, professor of chemistry, was working to develop antiradiation drugs aimed at reducing the otherwise lethal effects of ionizing radiation.

Sponsored in various stages by the U.S. Army, Field's research has yielded a number of chemical compounds—two are patented—designed to ameliorate effects of radiation sickness for troops in the field, nuclear cleanup crews, space station crews periodically subjected to solar flares, and cancer patients undergoing radiation therapy. The University is patenting a recently developed compound from which Field intentionally excluded nitrogen, a probable cause of toxicity and other side effects. Current antiradiation drug research is focused on developing a compound that can be taken orally—like an aspirin tablet—but "with any drug there is a long period between the lab work and the appearance of the drug," Field said.

Former chair (1961-67) of a chemistry department that has enjoyed a renaissance over the past few decades, Field good-naturedly recalled his first laboratory at Vanderbilt when he arrived in 1949 as a young professor, fresh from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Housed in the basement of Furman Hall, the chemistry lab was "a long narrow room with thick iron bars on the windows and four 100-watt light bulbs—naked with no shades—suspended by wires from the ceiling. Merlin Peterson, department chair at the time, had the bars sawed off to create an exit at either end of the room and installed fluorescent lighting. The hood had no motor and was attached to a flue which took noxious fumes out to the roof." One major drawback: "The hood worked only when the wind blew!"

The department vacated Furman Hall in 1964 for more spacious, technologically advanced quarters in Stevenson Center, built on a site designated as "the sacred grove," said Field, "with magnolia trees as old as the University separating the main Vanderbilt campus from the Medical Center complex." Field's teaching overlapped for many years with four men "to whom the chemistry department owes a great debt. Their names are memorialized in lectureships. Arthur Ingersoll (organic), Waite Fishel (inorganic), Louis Bircher (physical), and Frederick Conover (analytical) brought the department back into doctoral work, carrying teaching loads twice what we have now."



Like other scientists across the country, Field is concerned about the decreasing number of students entering the sciences. "It is a reflection in large part of what students encounter in high school," he said. "High schools aren't developing mental discipline, and the students are looking for the easy way out."

Field teaches organic chemistry and medicinal chemistry and supervises undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral research. For an organic chemistry class that can range from 50 to 200 students, he schedules a weekly help session that is voluntary. "I try to alleviate the dread of organic chemistry that their student predecessors have instilled by creating an informal setting in which we can sip tea or coffee and take a more relaxed approach to the material," he explained, adding that the students are "markedly interested nearer the exam."

Inspired as a student by "the warmth of a general chemistry professor" who provided similar sessions, Field said he "wanted to pass on this influence"—all part of a legacy this gentleman-scholar has imparted to thousands of students as he prepares to retire on December 31 after forty years at Vanderbilt.

Development Report

The College of Arts and Science raised $980,661 in unrestricted funds in the 1987-88 fiscal year. Dennis Wayne Cross, director of development for the College, reported a successful fundraising year, with more than 5,000 alumni, parents, and friends supporting the College's mission.

The average alumni gift was $167; the average parent gift was $603. Unrestricted receipts in 1988 reflect a 21% increase since 1986. Corporate matching gifts accounted for $126,000 of the unrestricted monies received. The College Cabinet gave 56.8% of the annual operating funds. Of the College's total external funding ($3,203,477), $1,423,610 came from bequests that primarily benefited endowed scholarships and professorships.

According to Cross, the College is challenged to meet an unrestricted goal of $1,100,000 in 1988-89. "In order to be successful, we need the support of everyone who believes in the importance of the liberal arts tradition and experience at Vanderbilt. The money someone contributes directly through a will or trust, or multiplies through a matching gift program, will meet an important need of the College."

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News from the
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Vanderbilt University
Fall 1988

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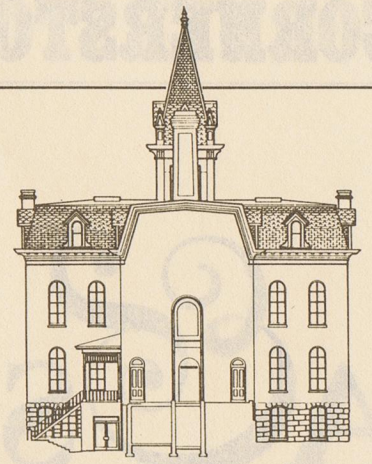

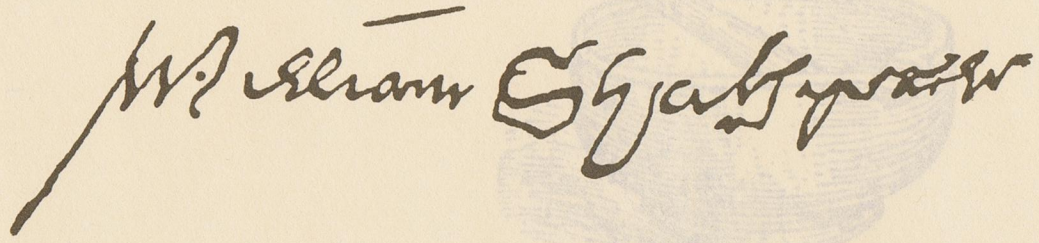

The Shakespeare Connection

Posters of past World Shakespeare Congresses, prints of Shakespearean characters in a Beardsleyian style, and book after book of Shakespearean criticism line the walls of a spacious room in Benson Science Hall, creating an ambience appropriate for the headquarters of the Shakespeare Association of America (SAA). "The hub for the organized exchange of Shakespearean scholarship is here," said Ann Jennalie Cook, associate professor of English and executive secretary of Shakespeare Association of America from 1975 to 1987. "I call it Vanderbilt's Shakespeare connection."

Nancy Elizabeth Hodge, lecturer in English, is the new executive secretary, while Cook has moved to a different arena with plans to "make Shakespeare and Vanderbilt visible in new places." Cook succeeds Kenneth Muir, University of Liverpool ("a dean of Shakespearean scholars"), becoming the first woman and the first American to chair the International Shakespeare Association (ISA). "Quite a precedent," said Cook, noting the traditionally exclusive policy regarding leadership in the world of Shakespearean scholarship and the fact that the United States and Canada were latecomers in organizing a Shakespearean society.

Until the forties and fifties, the formal organization of Shakespeare in the United States was in clubs "where amateurs and devotees of Shakespeare read and discussed the playwright's work," she said. Fragmentation, cliques, and infighting dominated Shakespearean scholarship to the extent that scholars didn't feel it was possible for competing interests to be set aside." Finally, Leeds Barroll III, "a doer and a dreamer," attended the 1971 World Shakespeare Congress in Vancouver and then founded the Shakespeare Association of America in 1972. (Barroll was an English professor at Vanderbilt in 1968-69.)

Appointed to chair the International Shakespeare Association for an indefinite tenure, Cook enthusiastically anticipates presiding over both the next World Shakespeare Congress (Tokyo, 1991), whose theme is "Shakespeare in Other Cultures," and the 1996 congress in Vancouver, marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding congress. "We're circumnavigating the globe," said Cook, recalling past congresses held in Washington, D.C. (1976), Stratford-upon-Avon (1981), and West Berlin (1986).

"Shakespeare is a universal tongue, and cultural approaches to Shakespearean studies vary from country to country. We are chauvinistic in thinking the borders for interpreting Shakespeare stop with the U.S., Canada, and England. World congresses are valuable for reminding us of the extent and variety of work in Shakespeare around the world." As organizer of the first World Congress ("Shakespeare in America") held in 1976 in Washington, D.C., Cook introduced the seminar format, "devising a new form, a new way of doing scholarship in a conference setting."

Earlier this summer Cook met with theater professionals and other Shakespeare scholars to plan a national conference on "Shakespeare and the American Theater" to be held next year in Washington, D.C. Performers, directors, and designers will work together in small groups, studying techniques for producing the texts, said Cook, who is co-chairing the event. "This will be a real hands-on occasion when we will concentrate on staging Shakespeare, tackling the problems inherent in Shakespeare's work as scripts rather than literary works. The first of its kind, this conference marks a new partnership in which scholars serve as resources for the theatrical world."

Cook's research has enhanced Shakespearean scholarship in the area of social history. Author of *The Privileged Playgoers of Shakespeare's London, 1576-1642* (Princeton University Press, 1981) and *The Bridal Path: Courtship in Shakespeare and His Society* (submitted for publication), she is co-editing (with Vanderbilt colleagues Chris Hassel and Scott Colley) the Variorum Edition of *Richard III*. She is the first woman—and the only woman—who has delivered the Folger Shakespeare Library Ramsbotham Lecture.

Asked about her initial exposure to Shakespeare, Cook recalled reading Shakespeare "as stories rather than plays" in Charles Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare,* a book her father gave her when she was a child growing up in Wewoka, Oklahoma. Years later, after attending countless Shakespearean performances in the U.S. and abroad, she remains captivated. "Even now, I cannot wait to see the plays; they are never the same."

A Playwright of Distinction

Francisco Ruiz-Ramón, Centennial Professor of Spanish, has received the 1988 *Letras de Oro* award for his play "El Inquisitor" (The Inquisitor). The literary prize for drama, presented to Ruiz-Ramón last spring at the University of Miami, honors the work of Hispanic writers living in the United States.

Set in sixteenth-century Spain, his play recounts the personal conflict of the Inquisitor who is forced to judge and condemn to execution members of his family accused of heresy. The play has modern relevance, examining the relationship between politics and religion, power and personal freedom.

Ruiz-Ramón came to Vanderbilt last fall from the University of Chicago, where he was a professor of Spanish in the department of romance languages and literature. An authority on classical and contemporary Spanish drama, he has written the standard history of Spanish theater from its origins to the present and a monograph on Calderón de la Barca. "Ruiz-Ramón is internationally recognized as one of the most influential critics of Spanish seventeenth-century drama, mainly for redefining the tragic mode as applied to Calderón," said John Crispin, chair of the department of Spanish and Portuguese.

A Boon to the Humanities

Among the original crescent of seven brick faculty houses built on campus in 1875 was the home of William J. Vaughn, professor of mathematics and astronomy, who lived there with his wife and five children from 1884 to 1912. Subsequently serving as a dormitory and providing offices for the department of romance languages and teaching assistants in Western Civilization, the Victorian structure fell into disrepair.

In 1987 two grandsons of the first residents of the house, Houghton D. Vaughn and William S. Vaughn, BA'23, a former president of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust, provided funds for its restoration. Today the handsomely refurbished Vaughn House is headquarters for the Vanderbilt Center for the Humanities.

Established earlier this year under the aegis of the College of Arts and Science, the Center is designed to "intensify and increase discussion of academic, social, and cultural issues among specialists and scholars in related fields," said Charles Scott, professor of philosophy and department chair, who is director of the Center for a three-year term.

Scott envisions the Center as encouraging and supporting collaboration—rather than competition—among scholars. "In an age of increasingly specialized intellectual endeavor, the Center is committed to the belief that cooperative research and study in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences is crucial to the modern university. By bringing together faculty members drawn from a variety of disciplines, the Center creates an environment that encourages intellectual exchange and deepens and broadens research and teaching in the humanities at Vanderbilt and in the region."

Vanderbilt is among a handful of private research universities nationwide that have established such centers, noted Mona Frederick, program coordinator and formerly affiliated with the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

The focused nature of the Center's Fellowship program brings together seven or eight Vanderbilt professors around a common question or theme "that relates to all but is special to none," said Scott, "and allows them to continue to work in their own specialty. Our role is to provide office space and an atmosphere where they can withdraw and concentrate without other distractions."

Designated as Fellows for 1988-89 are: Timothy Bagwell, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow and assistant professor of Germanic and Slavic languages; Jay Clayton, associate professor of English; Idit Dobbs-Weinstein, assistant professor of philosophy; Jean Elshtain, Centennial Professor of Political Science; Michael Hodges, associate professor of philosophy; Laurence Lerner, William R. Kenan Professor of English; and Hans-Joachim Schulz, associate professor of German and comparative literature.

In its brief history the Center has spon-