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Nashville native and astronomer Edward Emerson Barnard was known as one of the greatest observational astronomers of the 19th century. He was one of the first academic superstars to emerge from Vanderbilt, and is the only person to ever receive an honorary academic degree from Vanderbilt. In 1892, he used this 36-inch telescope at the Lick Observatory in California to discover Amalthea, the fifth moon of Jupiter. He was the first to discover a new moon of Jupiter since Galileo discovered the first four in 1610.

An online exhibit titled “Edward Emerson Barnard: Star Gazer,” features photographs, letters, publications and ephemera from the Edward Emerson Barnard Papers manuscript collection. Barnard, who was born into extreme poverty before the Civil War, rose to prominence as an astronomer and was known as the world’s greatest observer of his time. Barnard began his career at the Vanderbilt observatory in 1883 before moving on to larger observatories at the University of California and the University of Chicago. Special Collections developed the exhibit, which can be accessed at http://whospeaks.library.vanderbilt.edu/.

Vanderbilt’s Fine Arts Gallery loaned the Divinity Library three pieces of Japanese art in December. All three pieces are compositions by the Japanese artist Sadao Watanabe and are from the Herman D. Doochin Collection. “Christ with the Woman at the Well” (1974) is displayed in the south wing of the library’s entrance gallery; in the north wing are “Noah’s Ark” (1979) and “The Last Supper” (1973).

Library helps make Robert Penn Warren interviews accessible via Internet

For the first time, anyone with Internet access is able to hear tapes of Robert Penn Warren’s 1964 interviews with prominent Civil Rights activists like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and the Rev. James Lawson. The interviews were conducted for Warren’s book Who Speaks for the Negro?, and the project was made possible through the cooperative efforts of the Vanderbilt, Yale and University of Kentucky libraries. The digitized audio as well as transcripts for most of the interviews can be found at http://whospeaks.library.vanderbilt.edu/.

When Vanderbilt won the Music City Bowl on New Year’s Eve last year, it marked the university’s first bowl victory in 53 years. Special Collections yielded this photo from the Commodores’ 1955 Gator Bowl win over Auburn, showing Vanderbilt scoring a touchdown on route to its 25-13 victory. Special Collections is home to the university’s impressive collection of rare books, manuscripts, photographs and memorabilia. The Photographic Archives has nearly 300,000 images dating back to Vanderbilt’s founding in 1873.

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Robert Penn Warren during his Vanderbilt years

Champagne, poetry highlight Bandy Center 40th anniversary party

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Divinity Library displays three loaned artworks

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