



# over **VU**

NEWS FOR VANDERBILT PARENTS AND FAMILIES

## Vanderbilt prepares for next phase of College Halls

A big change in student housing is coming to Vanderbilt. Immediately after Commencement in May 2012, Kissam Quadrangle's six residence halls—home to 582 undergraduate students each year for 55 years—will be demolished to make way for the next phase of the university's residential college system, College Halls at Kissam. Two residential colleges will be built and are scheduled to open in August 2014.

Approximately 330 students—a mixture of seniors, juniors and sophomores—will live in each of the two colleges, along with a resident faculty director. Each college will be divided into two halls led by resident graduate fellows. A resident area coordinator will support both colleges. Room types will include singles, doubles, suites and duplexes alongside amenities like informal dining, study and social spaces, music practice rooms and a classroom. The colleges will provide intimate and engaging settings for upperclassmen that leverage the sense of community that students encountered on The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt during their first year.

To increase on-campus housing options and capacity, the Office of Housing and Residential Education (OHARE) is acquiring and renovating a building located near Dudley Field next to the Vanderbilt Police Department. This new residence hall will house approximately 140 students beginning in the fall of 2012. OHARE also will create new student spaces in existing residence halls by converting underused spaces into student rooms.

These next two years also will see an increase in the number of juniors and seniors living off campus. In cooperation with OHARE, Vanderbilt University Real Estate will give first priority to Vanderbilt undergraduates among lease applicants seeking to live in its properties: Village at Vanderbilt, Wesley Place Apartments, Barbizon Apartments and 1808 Edgehill. Among undergraduate applicants, priority will be given to groups of students who will maximize the occupancy of these apartments.

Your student will hear more about these initiatives in the months to come. Parents can learn more by contacting OHARE at (615) 322-2591 or [resed@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:resed@vanderbilt.edu).



Artist's rendering of College Halls at Kissam

### Key dates

- November 19**  
Residence halls close at 9 a.m.
- November 19–27**  
Thanksgiving/fall break
- November 27**  
Residence halls reopen at 9 a.m.
- December 8**  
Fall semester classes end
- December 9–17**  
Reading days and examinations
- December 18**  
Residence halls close at 9 a.m.
- December 17–January 9, 2012**  
Winter break
- January 6, 2012**  
Residence halls reopen at noon
- January 6–8 and 13–15**  
Greek Life recruitment
- January 9**  
Spring semester classes begin
- March 3**  
Residence halls close at 9 a.m.
- March 3–11**  
Spring break
- March 11**  
Residence halls reopen at 9 a.m.

**FALL 2011**



VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY

### Inside OverVU

New housing options .....	2
Spotlights .....	4
Barnes & Noble on campus .....	5
PLC recap .....	6

## Thank you, parents!

The following parents graciously gave of their time as volunteers during Move-in Day 2011:

Lee and Paulette Allen  
George and Kim Atkins  
Collier Blades  
Jill Boyle  
Mike Bolin and Sandra Bohn  
LaDonna Bonner  
Mary Beth Christain  
Michael and Karen Clavin  
Jerry and Perla Cooksey  
Kay Dayton  
Carol Duncan  
Damian and Kimberly England  
Veronica Gasaway  
William and Mary Gillett  
Kelly Ginn  
Michael and Allie Han  
Beth Higham  
Bob and Ami Hill  
Caroline Hinds  
Libby Hinson  
Mary Holmes  
Amy Jaramillo  
Mary Lintel  
Eve McClure  
John and Kenda McCord  
Doug and Sally MacSwan  
Gordon and Joy Miller  
Joanita Miranda  
Harold and Nancy Morrison  
Sherman and Christine Power  
Barclay and Catherine Randall  
Barbara Rose  
Stewart and Louise Rosenthal  
Bruce and Tina Ross  
Karen Shindhelm  
Dong Siegel  
Jennifer Smith  
Dana Summerbell  
Lisa Valrie  
David Vancura and Sandy Bishop  
Kin and Carol Watkins  
Evan and Adina Zeppos

## New co-ed housing options for 2012-2013

Vanderbilt first offered co-ed housing in the fall of 1970: 12 women and 12 men living on separate floors of Landon House. Today, Cole and Tolman halls remain single-sex options for women and men, respectively, but all other residence halls house both women and men. The most common co-ed arrangement has women and men living on separate floors or in self-contained suites and apartments.

Two of Vanderbilt's oldest living/learning communities have offered variations on the co-ed theme for many years. Since 1981, McTyeire International House, composed entirely of single rooms, has students of both sexes living together on the same halls. The McGill Project has housed women on the fourth floor, men on the second, and both women and men on the third floor but separated into wings, each with its own communal bathroom, since 1993.

Two years ago, Vanderbilt's living/learning communities again led the way in expanding co-ed options in response to rising student interest. McGill opted to allow women and men to live wherever they wished on the third and fourth floors, as McTyeire has done. Mayfield Lodges accepted applications from groups of students composed of both women and men.

In response to student demand, two new options that de-emphasize gender will be available for the 2012-2013 academic year. A floor of Lupton House in Branscomb Quadrangle will offer an equal number of double rooms for pairs of women and pairs of men. In Carmichael Towers, a small number of suites will be open to mixed-sex groups of students. The double rooms of the suites will be single-sex but students will decide on the composition of their suites. The housing assignment process for 2012-2013 will begin in February. Parents should discuss housing options with their students.

## Boredom not allowed

One thing you'll probably never hear from your Vanderbilt student is, "I'm bored, and there's nothing to do here." Thanks to the Vanderbilt Programming Board (VPB), opportunities abound to get involved.

The purpose of the VPB is to sponsor, integrate and provide social, cultural, educational, recreational and multicultural activities on campus for students. Leading the charge is Dwayne V. Elliott, now in his eighth year as director for student campus events.

"I've enjoyed every exciting minute of my tenure here at Vanderbilt University," Elliott says. "There's truly an event for everyone. This year our first event was the VPB Palooza, which had more than 1,400 students in attendance."

Elliott asks that you encourage your student to check out VPB events regularly online by visiting [studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vpb](http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vpb). Also, because the organization is student-run, numerous leadership opportunities also are available for students. Those opportunities will be posted on the website in December.



Carmichael Towers

## The Commons renamed in honor of Martha Ingram

The Vanderbilt Board of Trust has renamed the university's living-learning community for first-year students in honor of Martha Ingram, who recently retired as chairman of the board. Located on the campus of Peabody College, The Commons is now known as The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt. A sculpture of Ingram, to be placed within the complex, also been commissioned by the university.

The board surprised Ingram with a resolution proposing the renaming of The Commons at her last meeting as chairman on April 29. "I'm really quite stunned," said Ingram, who served as board chairman for 12 years. Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos also presented her with a gold and diamond brooch in the shape of a magnolia. "It has been a privilege to serve as chairman, and a life-altering experience that I have treasured," she said.

The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt is the first phase of the university's College Halls residential college system. Opened in 2008, it includes 10 houses, each guided by a faculty member who lives on site and serves as head of house and as a mentor. Ingram was a driving force behind the concept.

## Parents host dozens of Summer Send-off Parties

A Vanderbilt tradition that dates back to 1968, Summer Send-off Parties bring alumni, current students and incoming students and their families together in a casual setting in their hometowns to celebrate the university's newest arrivals and send them off to Vanderbilt in style. Past, current and future students are given an opportunity to connect with each other at these events, experiencing the "Vanderbilt community" together firsthand.

The following parents of past and current students served as volunteer hosts for Summer Send-off Parties this past summer, for which the university offers its hearty thanks:

Robert and Linda Akenhead  
Daniel and Joanne Aronson  
Darryl and Louellen Berger  
Rob and Debra Bush  
Perry and Liz Brandt  
Mike McGee and Olga Castellanos  
Rob and Poppy Clements  
Lucian and Patton Davis  
Charles and Ivette Esserman  
Brian and Jenny Gaston  
Walt and Lynn Kunau  
William and Barbara Macon  
Steve and Julie Maroda  
John and Leslie Moore  
Michael and Judy Orkin  
Gary and Cecilia Peters  
Bruce and Tina Ross  
Harold and Diane Smethills  
Timon and Diana Sullivan  
Burney and Lee Threadgill  
Bryon and Tina Trott  
Giffen and CiCi Weinmann  
George and Patti White  
Larry and Caroline Wilson



From left to right, Executive Associate Vice Chancellor Randy Smith, Provost Richard McCarty, Parents Leadership Campaign Chairs Tina and Bruce Ross with sons Bruce (BA'10) and Bryant, Class of 2012, and Parents & Family Programs Director Suzanne Thigpen enjoy the party in Cincinnati.



## Spring 2012 brings academic calendar changes

The academic calendar has been updated to reflect changes that take effect with the spring 2012 semester.

The first day of classes after winter break will be Monday, January 9, rather than Wednesday, January 11. Beginning spring classes earlier than the traditional Wednesday start will give students and faculty members the opportunity to commemorate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday while allowing the university to maintain the integrity of course schedules and program accreditation standards.

Also, the Academic Calendar Committee, which is composed of administrators, faculty and students, has approved Monday, January 7, as the start date for the spring 2013 semester. This change means the last day of classes for the spring semester will be on a Monday rather than Tuesday. However, Commencement will continue to be held the second Friday in May.

Although the university will be open for business on MLK Day, administrators chose to cancel classes following a student resolution asking that the day be set aside as a day of service to the community. The 2010-11 academic year marked the first time the university canceled classes to commemorate MLK Day, which is the third Monday in January. Various activities and volunteer opportunities were planned in honor of King's legacy.



Karen and David Branding

### Parent Spotlight: David and Karen Branding

David and Karen Branding of Libertyville, Ill., are faithful volunteers with the Parents and Family Association—and have been since Move-in Day 2008. They serve on the PAFA Advisory Board and were the first to hold the position of PAFA liaisons to The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt, the university's residential learning community for first-year students.

"The most fun we've had was interacting with and lending support to first-year parents during Move-in Day, student orientation and Family Weekend," Karen says.

The couple also staff Vanderbilt admissions events and college fairs as parent representatives and writes letters to parents of incoming students. "Parents seem thrilled to connect personally with other parents," Karen says.

The Brandings' older daughter, Tracy, graduated from Vanderbilt in 2010. She is now a student at Harvard Law School. Daughter Lisa is a senior at Vanderbilt.

"Our daughters love Vanderbilt and have benefited greatly from the fabulous opportunities afforded them there," Karen says. "We relish the chance to give back in some small way when our daughters have received so much."

### Faculty spotlight: David W. Wright



David Wright

David Wright's research lab is discovering simple solutions to some complex problems. "Everyone who has a child is familiar with late nights, high fevers, and not knowing why their child is sick," says Wright, associate professor of chemistry. "Parents wonder if they should call the doctor at 2 a.m. or go to the emergency room."

Because of the time required to get test results, often a child's fever will break and he will be on the road to recovery before a diagnosis can be made. "The question we wanted to answer was how to figure out what your little one is sick with—quickly," says Wright.

"Nanotechnology offers not just one way, but several ways to do it."

Through a process that binds quantum dots to proteins, the time it takes to receive a clinical culture assay has been reduced from three days to one hour. And several viruses can be tested simultaneously with one tiny sample. "This is as close to off-the-shelf nanotechnology as a scientist can get," Wright says. "We're not talking five or 10 years down the road. We're talking today."

Wright earned his Ph.D. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 2001.

### Student Spotlight: Patrick Thomas

For as long as I can remember, I have led two different lives: One is defined by schoolwork and extracurricular activities. The other is defined by music.

These two lives have always coexisted with few conflicts until this past March when I was forced to choose one over the other. It seemed a simple decision at first, particularly for someone like me who has dreamed about a popular music career for years. However, once I arrived in Hollywood, Calif., on the set of NBC's new hit reality show, *The Voice*, I began feeling the anxiety.

I had spent nearly four semesters working to maintain a high GPA, staying involved in Sigma Nu and the Vanderbilt community, and balancing that with the responsibilities of being an R.A. and a voice major in a classical program. I was not ready to throw it all away on a chance to make it on *The Voice*. So I spoke with Dr. Jonathan Retzlaff, my voice professor and chair of the voice department, about my hesitations, and he reminded me that I go to Vanderbilt and that my school is different from others. Francille Bergquist, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science, encouraged me further: "Take the chance while it's there, give it your all, and don't look back."

I did just that. As I prepare to balance school and a publishing deal, as well as various performance dates. I am thankful that I was blessed enough to attend this university. I do not know many schools where I could have found so much support, so much wisdom and so much integrity. Vanderbilt is truly in a league of its own. This university has proven to me just how important an education can be, and has challenged the traditional belief that the "boy in the band" can't go to school.

*Thomas made it to the top 16 on the inaugural season of NBC's The Voice. He has since landed a major publishing deal and is working on an album.*



Patrick Thomas

### Clark joins Greek Life staff

Krystal Clark has joined the Vanderbilt Dean of Students Office as associate director of Greek life. In this role she serves as the primary adviser for the Panhellenic Council. Nine National Panhellenic Conference sororities plus two multicultural sororities are currently part of the council, with a new one scheduled to join in spring 2012. About 50 percent of Vanderbilt women are Greek members.

"I began my work in fraternity and sorority life unaffiliated with a sorority, but I was honored in February 2010 to be initiated into the Alpha Pi chapter of Delta Delta Delta," says Clark, who had been the program coordinator for Greek life at Duke University. "Working with college students, and specifically those involved in fraternities and sororities, is my passion. I believe that when done correctly, membership in a Greek-lettered organization can be a transformational experience for students."

Clark, who is originally from Portsmouth, Va., earned her bachelor's in sociology and psychology at the College of William and Mary. She then earned her master of education in college student personnel from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she also served as a student affairs residential fellow for Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Please contact Clark with any questions about Greek life at Vanderbilt by emailing [greeklife@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:greeklife@vanderbilt.edu) or calling (615) 322-0241.



Krystal Clark

### Vanderbilt partners with Barnes & Noble to operate bookstore

Vanderbilt announces the grand opening of Barnes & Noble at Vanderbilt University, the new university bookstore, at 2525 West End Ave.

Formerly located in Rand Hall, Vanderbilt Bookstore has partnered with the national book retailer at its spacious new location, where it continues serving students in-store and through convenient online ordering of textbooks and course materials. As always, students are guaranteed to receive accurate materials, and they will have access to a wide variety of textbook options.

In addition to serving the Vanderbilt campus, Barnes & Noble at Vanderbilt University serves the surrounding community with items typically found in Barnes & Noble retail stores: more than 60,000 trade book titles, literary events, magazines, and a full-service café featuring Starbucks coffee. Vanderbilt sports fans will enjoy the extended line of emblematic apparel and gift items.

The 2525 West End location offers ample parking and expanded hours of operation. It also will be added as a Vandy Vans stop.

Barnes & Noble at Vanderbilt University continues to offer the popular "Hugs from Home" program to Vanderbilt parents who wish to brighten their son or daughter's spirits with a care package. The packages are seasonal and include such themes as birthday, Halloween and Valentine's Day. To learn more, visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/bookstore](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/bookstore) or call (615) 343-BOOK [2665].



### Frequently asked questions

**Q: What academic resources are available for my student as the semester progresses?**

A: If your student needs some academic assistance, you may find these resources helpful:

The Writing Studio is a free, confidential writing resource for Vanderbilt students. Students meet individually with trained consultants and discuss writing concerns and projects. Call (615) 343-2225 or visit [vanderbilt.edu/writing](http://vanderbilt.edu/writing).

Tutors offer assistance to students who wish to enhance their academic performance in classes offered by the College of Arts and Science and the School of Engineering. For Arts and Science, call (615) 322-5218 for more information. For Engineering, call (615) 343-8061.

The Psychological and Counseling Center helps students who are having difficulties with classes, wish to improve their grade point average, or simply want to get up to speed on study techniques. Call (615) 322-2571 for an appointment with Rosanne Awbrey, reading and study skills coordinator.

**Q: Does the university provide airport shuttles during major holidays or breaks?**

A: Yes. Vanderbilt Student Government operates an airport shuttle during Thanksgiving break and spring break. For more information and a list of shuttle operation times, visit [studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg/services/airport-shuttles](http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg/services/airport-shuttles).

**PLC fall meeting a success**

The fall meeting of the Parents Leadership Committee, which coincided with Family Weekend in September, was a resounding success. PLC members enjoyed networking with each other, spending time with their students and meeting with university administrators. The committee heard presentations by Provost Richard McCarty, Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Relations Susie Stalcup and Career Center Director Cindy Funk.

On Friday afternoon, PLC members then joined forces with members of the Parents and Family Association Advisory Board to celebrate the Commodores at the Black and Gold Reception in anticipation of the next morning's football game. The Commodores posted a dominating 30-7 win over Ole Miss, capping off an exciting weekend.



Cindy Funk



Richard McCarty



Susie Stalcup



**Q&A: Parents Leadership Committee**

**Q: What is the Parents Leadership Committee?**

**A:** The Vanderbilt Parents Leadership Committee (PLC) is composed of parents of undergraduate students enrolled in the College of Arts and Science, Peabody College, School of Engineering and Blair School of Music. From time to time, parents of recent graduates and graduate students also serve on the committee.

**Q: What exactly does participation in the PLC entail?**

**A:** The PLC meets once per semester—during Family Weekend in the fall and during Parents and Family Leadership Weekend in the spring. Committee members meet with senior university administrators and faculty members and have the opportunity to discuss critical topics that impact student life and Vanderbilt. PLC members also host Vanderbilt gatherings in their communities, participate in a variety of programs including the annual Thank-A-Thon, and provide internships and networking opportunities for Vanderbilt students and recent graduates.

Vanderbilt PLC members also are asked to make a leadership gift at one of the following levels:

- Cornelius Vanderbilt Level (gifts of \$25,000 or more)
- Chancellor's Council Level (gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999)
- Dean's List Level (gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999)

**Q: Why join the PLC?**

**A:** PLC members provide the foundation for a robust Parents Campaign and offer valuable insight and feedback to Vanderbilt leadership. Additionally, membership in the PLC is a rewarding way to be engaged with Vanderbilt and network with fellow parents. PLC members are dynamic, dedicated volunteers who wave the black and gold and advocate on behalf of Vanderbilt in their communities.

**Q: May I allocate my PLC gift to any area of the university?**

**A:** Yes, leadership gifts may be allocated to any area of the university you choose to support. Most PLC members choose to support their student's undergraduate school. Gifts also may be split among several areas of the university. For example, a gift of \$10,000 may be allocated with \$5,000 to Peabody College, \$2,500 to the College of Arts and Science, and \$2,500 to the National Commodore Club.

For more information about the Parents Leadership Committee, please contact Amy Jarvis or Rebekah Rohrbach in the Parents & Grandparents Campaign Office at (615) 343-3120, at [pag.campaign@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:pag.campaign@vanderbilt.edu), or through the website at [vanderbilt.edu/pagcampaign](http://vanderbilt.edu/pagcampaign).

**Parent giving sets new record**

Now nearly halfway through the academic year, our students are already thriving members of the Vanderbilt community. Each year Vanderbilt welcomes these talented individuals and offers them exceptional opportunities due in part to the generosity of parents, alumni and friends of the university.

Many thanks to all our supporters for their gifts to the Vanderbilt Parents Campaign during the past year. Your participation has played a vital role in its growth and success. The result of your giving was a record-breaking year for the Parents Campaign, with \$6.7 million in outright gifts and \$8.3 million in new pledges for a total of \$15 million in new commitments from parents—a 6 percent increase over the previous fiscal year! Whether responding to appeals in letters, emails, by phone or in person, many of you answered the call from the Vanderbilt Parents Campaign Office.

The Parents Leadership Committee (PLC) also deserves a round of applause for providing a strong foundation for the Parents Campaign. Gifts from PLC members were up 36 percent, totaling an impressive \$6.88 million. Throughout the year they also waved the black and gold high in their communities by hosting events, participating in community outreach, helping students to find jobs and internships, and volunteering for events in their areas and on campus.

The great successes of the past year could not have been reached without the gifts and efforts of each and every person. Thank you for your support. Now the bar is set higher, and this year we seek even more parent and family involvement.

To learn more about the Parents Leadership Committee or the Parents Campaign, please contact Amy Jarvis or Rebekah Rohrbach in the Parents and Grandparents Campaign Office at (615) 343-3120 or [pag.campaign@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:pag.campaign@vanderbilt.edu).



**Ways to give**

For your convenience, Vanderbilt provides a number of ways for parents, grandparents, alumni and friends to make gifts. Specific information is available online at <http://giving.vanderbilt.edu>.

- Gifts, pledges and pledge payments may be mailed to Vanderbilt Parents and Grandparents Campaign, Gift Processing Office, PMB 407725, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240
- Credit card gifts may be made on our secure website at [vanderbilt.edu/giveonline](http://vanderbilt.edu/giveonline).
- For specific instructions on making a gift of stock to Vanderbilt, please call (615) 322-4987 or email [stockgifts@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stockgifts@vanderbilt.edu).
- To make an anonymous gift, tell the Parents and Grandparents Campaign Office of the request—(615) 343-3120—and it will be processed accordingly.
- If you're considering a planned gift such as a charitable gift annuity or bequest, please contact Anthony Barclay in the Office of Planned Giving at (615) 343-3113.

**2010-11 Parents Campaign at a glance**

**Parents Leadership Committee Facts**

- Total PLC membership: 202 families
- Number of new PLC members last year: 52
- Total amount given by PLC members in fiscal year 2011: \$6.88 million

**Overall Parents Campaign Totals**

**Total received in gifts and pledges in fiscal year 2011**

- \$6.7 million in gifts
- \$8.3 million in pledges

## Key links

**Parents & Family Programs**  
[vanderbilt.edu/families](http://vanderbilt.edu/families)

**Parents and Grandparents Campaign**  
[vanderbilt.edu/pagcampaign](http://vanderbilt.edu/pagcampaign)

**Dean of Students**  
[vanderbilt.edu/deanofstudents](http://vanderbilt.edu/deanofstudents)

**Commencement**  
[vanderbilt.edu/commencement](http://vanderbilt.edu/commencement)

**Housing and Residential Life**  
[vanderbilt.edu/ResEd](http://vanderbilt.edu/ResEd)

**Student Health Center**  
[vanderbilt.edu/student\\_health](http://vanderbilt.edu/student_health)

**Athletics**  
[vucommodores.com](http://vucommodores.com)

**First-year orientation**  
[commonplace.vanderbilt.edu](http://commonplace.vanderbilt.edu)

**Greek life**  
[vanderbilt.edu/greek\\_life](http://vanderbilt.edu/greek_life)

**Bookstore**  
[vanderbiltbookstore.com](http://vanderbiltbookstore.com)

**VSG shuttle service**  
[studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg](http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg)

**University calendar**  
[calendar.vanderbilt.edu](http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu)

**For more information, please contact:**

**Parent Helpline**  
(877) 887-2736

**Email**  
[parents@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:parents@vanderbilt.edu)

**Parent website**  
[vanderbilt.edu/families](http://vanderbilt.edu/families)



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