



# over **VU**

NEWS FOR VANDERBILT PARENTS AND FAMILIES

## A Message from Richard McCarty, *provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs*



In 2001, I came to Vanderbilt to join an outstanding research institution as dean of the College of Arts and Science. I was drawn to Vanderbilt's high standards for excellence in the classroom and its willingness to invest strategically in talented faculty and students. Today, Vanderbilt is in a remarkable position of strength and achievement with new goals and opportunities on the horizon. As provost, I am prepared to build upon our momentum and create the best possible educational experience for your sons and daughters.

That experience will certainly be enhanced by Vanderbilt's announcement last month of our expanded financial aid program. As you have probably heard, beginning in fall 2009, all need-based undergraduate student loans will be replaced with Vanderbilt grant and scholarship assistance. All undergraduate students—both new and returning—who would have normally received need-based loans as part of their financial aid packages will benefit from this new program. Additionally, all seniors slated to graduate in May 2009 will have their need-based loans for the spring 2009 semester replaced with Vanderbilt grant/scholarship assistance. These changes in our financial support of students provide a clear indication of our fundamental commitments as a university during a time when our nation's economy is facing unprecedented challenges.

This new financial aid program is only one reason that this year holds special promise for the university and its bright future. After years of planning and anticipation, we have opened the doors of The Commons and welcomed to it the most academically talented and diverse entering class in our history. Greeted by an army of pink t-shirted volunteers on opening day, these new students have been successfully launched into life at Vanderbilt with the support of literally hundreds of faculty, staff and peer leaders.

We are also joined this year by an impressive group of new faculty who will contribute significantly to our vibrant intellectual community. They represent a variety of undergraduate areas of study, including anthropology, chemical and biomolecular engineering, civil and environmental engineering, history, human and organizational development, music performance and political science.

With classes now underway, our academic cycle begins anew. We welcome it with high expectations and great confidence that the breadth and energy of the Vanderbilt experience will be a constant source of discovery and inspiration for your sons and daughters. Here's to a great beginning for all of us!

### Contents

Financial Aid News . . . . . 2  
Greeks Help Many . . . . . 2  
Keeping Vanderbilt Safe . . . . . 3  
Parents FAQ . . . . . 3  
Career Center Calendar . . . . . 4  
Alternative Lifestyle Resource . . . . . 4  
Take a Commodore Cruise . . . . . 4  
Fun Facts . . . . . 5  
Zipcars Arrive . . . . . 5  
Your Support Matters . . . . . 6-7  
Key Dates and Links . . . . . Back

**WINTER 2008**



**VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY**

**For more information, please contact:**

**Parents & Family Programs**  
PMB 401627, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240-1627  
Parent Helpline: 877/887-2736, E-mail: [parents@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:parents@vanderbilt.edu)  
[www.vanderbilt.edu/families](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/families)

## Parent Volunteers Make a Difference

We would like to thank the following parents who hosted a Summer Send-Off Party and helped with Move-In Day.

### Summer Send-Off Hosts

Barry and Jean Ann Banker  
Darryl and Louellen Berger  
Richard and Collier Blades  
Bruce Brockenborough  
Ed and Lynn Cassady  
Kevin and Anne Connor  
Youndy Cook  
David and Sylvia Evans  
Bill and Karen Fesmire  
Pat Frost  
Martha and Robert Funke  
Stan and Leslie Godoff  
Patrick and Fran Gowdy  
Alan and Lynne Greenwald  
French and Martha Hill  
Susan and Doug Holmes  
Jed and Meg Hunter  
Diane and Donald Kane  
Walt and Lynn Kunau  
Oscar and Cathy Munoz  
Hibbett and Susan Neel  
Cheryl and Gerald Nichols  
Daniel and Pat Peck  
Megan and Jimmy Rose  
Scott Simon and  
Teresa Morris-Simon  
Kathe Smiley  
Betty and Steve Sterrett  
Mary Thorsby  
Debbie and Buck Wearn  
Patti and George White  
Kerri Wilks  
Ted Wilson  
Dale Yu

### Move-In Volunteers

Ed Duckworth  
Robin Forester  
Lee and Georgianna Fortier  
Mary Hartong  
Sue Jackson  
Andrew and Loretta Liyana  
Elizabeth Nichols  
Melissa Sadeghi  
Brenda Shirley  
Jay and Pam Sottolano  
Jim and Pat Waring  
Rick Weisner  
Wanda and Dixon Witherspoon  
Wen Yarbrough

## Expanded Financial Aid

*New initiative increases access to Vanderbilt*

On October 1, 2008 Vanderbilt announced that it is eliminating need-based loans for all undergraduates demonstrating financial need and replacing them with Vanderbilt grants and scholarships. This move reinforces Vanderbilt's commitment that ability, achievement and hard work—not a family's financial circumstances—should determine access to a great education. The program takes effect in the fall of 2009.

"We enrich Vanderbilt's unique learning community and make it a more dynamic environment for everyone when we open our doors to highly talented and qualified students of all economic, cultural and geographical backgrounds," Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos said.

This is the latest step of a seven-year initiative aimed at reducing students' education-related debt. It is funded through a combination of strategic budget allocations and Vanderbilt's Shape the Future fund-raising campaign. It has already reduced the average overall indebtedness of graduating seniors by 17 percent.

"The generosity and activism of those who are contributing to this massive need-based initiative reaffirm everyone's passion for helping the most academically talented, diverse and engaged students," said Associate Provost for Enrollment and Dean of Admission Doug Christiansen.

In determining a student's demonstrated financial need, Vanderbilt takes into account each student's individual family circumstances and all educational costs such as tuition, fees, housing, meals, books, course materials, and personal and travel expenses.

To find out more about the program, please visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/expandedaidprogram](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/expandedaidprogram).

## Greek Life Benefits Students and Community

The Greek community at Vanderbilt represents over 2500 students that are members of 37 chapters—15 sororities and 22 fraternities. Membership in a fraternity or sorority is a very popular option for involvement at Vanderbilt with over 43 percent of undergraduate students choosing to be a part of the Greek community. The men and women involved in fraternities and sororities are committed to their academics—the All Greek GPA is consistently higher than the All Undergraduate GPA. Greek students volunteer time in the community, giving over 51,000 hours of community service and donating over \$315,000 to local, national and international charities last year. Involvement in a fraternity or sorority helps students strengthen their leadership skills, form life-long friendships and develop networks with other Greek students and alumni.



In order to be eligible for membership in a fraternity or sorority at Vanderbilt, students must achieve a minimum grade point average (between a 2.3 and 3.0, depending on the council or individual chapter), have completed at least 12 credit hours and not be on disciplinary probation.

Parents are important partners in the Greek community. Most chapters have at least one parents' weekend a year and several chapters have active parent organizations. Any parent that is interested in learning more about the Greek community can visit the Office of Greek Life Web site: [www.vanderbilt.edu/greek\\_life](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/greek_life) or call 615/322-2048.



## Vanderbilt University Police Force

*An interview with Marlon Lynch,  
assistant vice chancellor and chief of police*

### **What size is the VU Police force? And do you collaborate with the Metro Nashville Police Department?**

We have 115 police officers and we work with MNPD on a daily basis.

### **Can you describe the sorts of crimes we have on campus?**

The most frequent kind of crimes are property crimes like theft, but we experience a variety of other crimes on a lower volume.

### **Describe some of the programs that VUPD coordinates.**

Vandy Vans shuttle system provides vehicular escorts to designated locations on campus during the fall and spring semester from 5 p.m.–5 a.m., 7 days a week. As a supplement to Vandy Vans, Vanderbilt Police Department provides walking escorts to students, faculty, and staff walking to and from any location on campus during the nighttime hours.

Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) is a self-defense program for men and women. It provides comprehensive courses that begin with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training. The RAD System is dedicated to teaching defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault, by utilizing easy, effective and proven self-defense/martial arts tactics. Our system of realistic defense will provide participants with the knowledge to make an educated decision about resistance.

Our Operation ID registers personal property like bikes and computers.

Please visit our Web site at [www.police.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.police.vanderbilt.edu) for a more complete list.

### **If a student is in an uncomfortable situation, what are the ways the students can reach VUPD?**

There are over 130 emergency phones on campus that call directly to our communications center. Each phone has an emergency button that, when pressed, automatically dials the VPD Communications Center. An open line on any emergency phone will activate a priority response from an officer. An officer will be sent to check on the user of the phone, even if nothing is communicated to the dispatcher. Cooperation is essential to help us maintain the integrity of the emergency phone system. These phones should be used only for actual or perceived emergency situations.

### **There is an active social scene on campus.**

#### **Do you have special procedures for patrolling social events?**

Yes, we have police officers that are assigned to Greek Row. Contract security officers are also assigned to fraternity parties. The sponsoring student organizations are also required to have a “party patrol” and risk management procedures are implemented and required for each on-campus party.



## Parents' Frequently Asked Questions

- Q.** What resources are available for my son or daughter who, for the first time, is struggling academically?
- A.** Students experiencing academic difficulty in a specific course should see the professor of that course. Other resources available include the student's faculty adviser and the academic dean of the college or school.
- Q.** Does the university provide airport shuttles during major holidays and breaks?
- A.** Yes. Vanderbilt Student Government (VSG) operates the VSG Airport Shuttle during Fall break, Thanksgiving break, and Spring break. For more information and a list of shuttle operation times, please visit <http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg/index.php?cmsid=25> or call 615/322-7993.
- Q.** My son/daughter sounds lonely, and somewhat anxious, during our phone conversations. What resources are available?
- A.** Suggest that your student talk with the resident adviser or head resident on his/her floor. Other resources include assistant directors and graduate scholars who are also in the residence halls. Your student's faculty adviser and the Psychological and Counseling Center are also valuable resources.

*To submit a question for this column, e-mail [parents@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:parents@vanderbilt.edu) with the words OverVU Question in the subject line.*

## Upcoming Career Center Events

### Career Fairs and Industry Career Days

- Nashville Area College to Career Fair  
February 10, 2009
- Nashville Area Teacher Recruitment Fair  
February 10, 2009
- Healthcare Spring, 2009
- Government, Public Service and Comm. Organizations Spring, 2009
- Pre-Health Fair Spring, 2009

### Coaching Assessments

(after completing ICAP on VCC website)

- Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays  
1–3:00 p.m.
- Tuesdays, Thursdays  
2–4 p.m.

### Total Access

(networking and information)

- Banking and Finance  
November 11

### Fall Recruiting Season

- Full time hires and internships  
September 15–November 19
- Company Information Sessions  
September 10–November 19

### Spring Recruiting Season

- Internships and some full-time hires  
January 14–April 10

Please visit the Vanderbilt Career Center Web site, <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/career>, for a full listing of events and activities.



## Office of LGBTQI Life

*A resource for students and families*

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) students and their families—and students with LGBTQI family members—have a new resource in the Office of LGBTQI Life. Part of the Office of the Dean of Students, LGBTQI Life is staffed by two professionals and a host of student volunteers; it was formed in the summer of 2008 upon recommendation of the LGBTQI Student Issue Committee commissioned by Associate Provost and Dean of Students Mark Bandas.

Fostering a welcoming atmosphere, the office sees visitors of all identities.

“Students come to visit or study or research a project. Student organizations are hosting meetings here. Parents call with questions about resources. Departments on campus reach out to collaborate or to seek input in making their policies more inclusive for LGBTQI individuals. We’ve even had requests from other nearby universities to come and speak to their classes,” says Nora Spencer, director of the office. “We serve as a clearinghouse for anything related to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.” The Office continues the work that had been done by a part-time resource center that operated under the Office of Religious Life.

LGBTQI Life is housed in the K. C. Potter Center in Euclid House, 312 West Side Row. For more information, please visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/lgbtqi](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/lgbtqi) or call 615/322-3330.

## Commodore Cruises Showcase Nashville

The office of Residential Education is proud to highlight our annual Commodore Cruise Series. As we enter into the third year of this exciting program, we are pleased to offer more students the opportunity to engage in an alcohol-free, social and educational Nashville experience. These off-campus events take us from some of Nashville’s most popular entertainment venues to historic sites to many of the city’s hidden treasures.

We kick off the year with Bill Cosby in concert. Other “cruises” will include the symphony, live theater and, as always, cheering on the Nashville Predators in an exciting hockey game.

Students enter a drawing to attend one of 10 cruises with members of the Vanderbilt faculty and staff at no cost to the student and their approved guest. Once students are selected, they receive an e-mail and grade/conduct checks are performed. Our ultimate goal is to allow as many students of the Vanderbilt community the opportunity to experience Nashville in a safe and alcohol-free way. And with this year’s awesome schedule, we anticipate another year of *smooth sailing* with Commodore Cruises.





# FAMILY WEEKEND TAILGATE

## by the Numbers

- 100 cases of water
- 149 football balloons
- 1 face painter and balloon artist
- 1432 chairs, 121 tables
- 3 plasma TVs
- 1,000 pounds of ice
- 1540 soft drinks
- 5th Vanderbilt victory

## FUN FACTS

### about the Move-In

by Jennifer Hackett, Vanderbilt University recycling coordinator

- There were 8.74 tons of cardboard recycled during Move-In. That equals 17,500 pounds and is the weight of a full-size railroad car.
- There were 2000 pounds of plastic bottles recycled during Move-In—that's the size of a killer whale.
- There were 500 student, 75 staff, and 25 parent volunteers helping during Move-In.

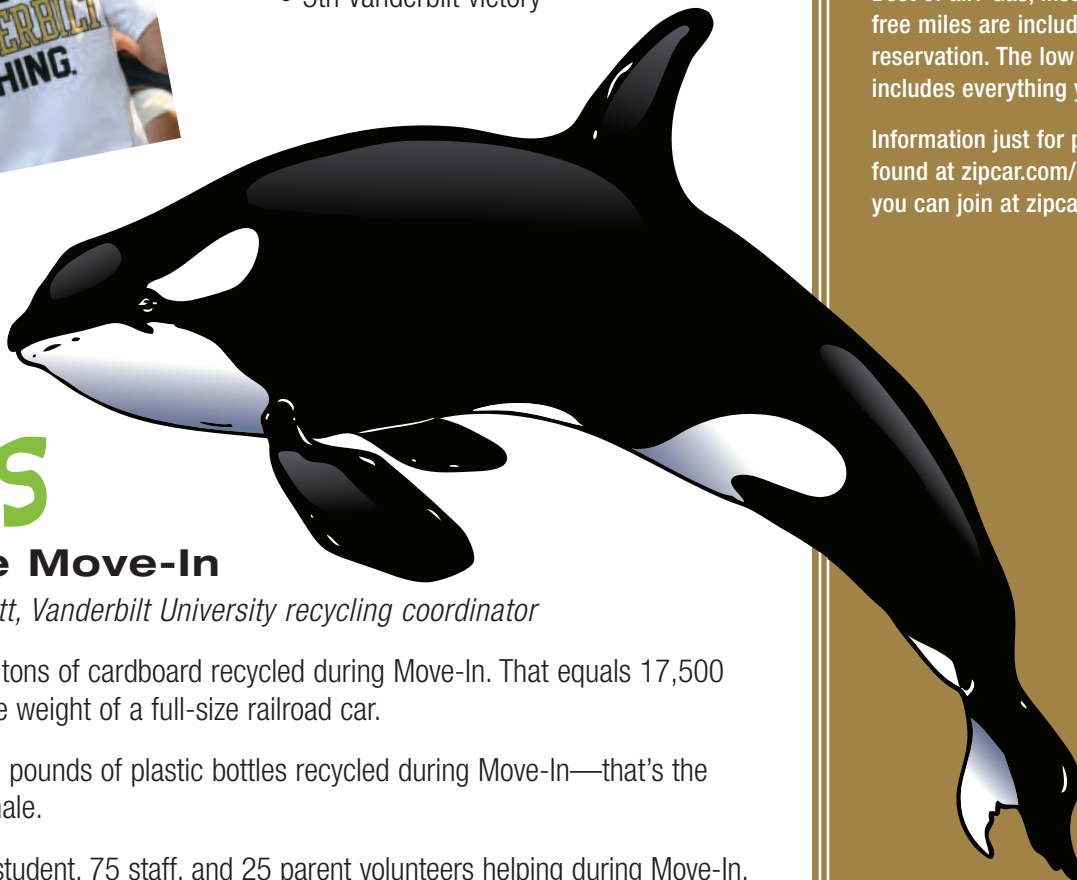


## Zipcars Are Ready and Waiting

Have you heard about Zipcars? They're the latest thing on college campuses around the country and Vanderbilt is no exception. Essentially, a Zipcar is a new, clean, safe vehicle that is rented by the hour. So it's perfect for running errands, lugging laundry around or a special event. All you have to do is go online and reserve. Zipcars are available by the hour or the day—wheels when you want them. Unlock the car with your Zipcard (the keys are inside) and you're ready to drive. Just remember to bring your Zipcar back on time when you're done.

Best of all? Gas, insurance and 180 free miles are included with every reservation. The low hourly rate includes everything you need.

Information just for parents can be found at [zipcar.com/parents](http://zipcar.com/parents). And you can join at [zipcar.com/Vanderbilt](http://zipcar.com/Vanderbilt).





## The Ellis Family's Vanderbilt Tradition

When Nancy Payne Ellis' son, Bond (BA'82), was looking at universities, the visit to Vanderbilt came at the end of a long, tiring trip.

"I thought that Vanderbilt wouldn't get a fair opportunity, but Bond walked off the campus and announced that he had found his school," Nancy says. "The application procedure was not easy and Bond was wait-listed. But he held out and held out and then was accepted."

Today Nancy's family is keeping the Vanderbilt tradition alive. Her granddaughter, Amy Brown, is on track to graduate in 2009. Nancy knows better than most the cost of a Vanderbilt education. That's why she and her family created the Payne-Brown Leadership Fund.

"It is a very expensive education. But it's also very valuable. And I think you get a good value for your money," she says. "But I also feel that children who cannot afford to go to Vanderbilt—but have earned the right for a fine education—should be helped with scholarships. Cost should not be a penalty to a student who has worked hard."

Over the years, Nancy has noticed some changes at Vanderbilt.

"I think the academics have definitely gotten harder," she says. "These students have to work very, very hard. But we grow from learning, and it will serve them well."

## Athlete's Father Offers Unique Perspective

For his entire life, Jack Stokes (BA'83) has been connected to Vanderbilt. First, as the son of two alumni. Then, as a student. Now, he and his wife, Carol (BS'83) are not only alumni themselves, but also the parents of a member of the Commodore football team. Their son, John (Class off 2011), is the snapper on special teams and also plays linebacker.

"John had a heart to play football at the highest level, and that of course is the SEC," says Jack. "But he also wanted an outstanding academic program. He chose Vanderbilt because it had the perfect combination."

Jack and his family have always supported Vanderbilt athletics, not only as fans in the stadium, but as members of the National Commodore Club. And while he is a fan of all sports, Jack admits that he is particularly fond of football.

"For years I've wanted Vanderbilt to have a successful football program and, frankly, that takes money. It takes money for facilities and to support the kind of staff that's needed to attract SEC caliber talent," he says. "We've got great programs going in baseball and basketball and we can get there in football," he added. "I think those who can, should contribute," he adds.

With a son on the team, Jack has seen firsthand the kind of support that Vanderbilt athletes receive from the staff. And while he knew that his son was undertaking a big commitment, he didn't realize just how busy he would be.

"They practice all week and then they stay at a hotel on Friday nights. They have the game on Saturday, and of course they're worn out Saturday night. Then it's back to practice on Sunday. They pay their dues for sure," he says.

Jack also believes that a successful athletics program will have a positive impact on academics.



"I believe that better athletics at a school like Vanderbilt will breed an enthusiasm that will lead to better academics. I think that the overall experience at a university is greatly enhanced by a high quality athletic program. We're headed in the right direction and with a little more money raised we can get the things done that will lead us to the next level in football," Jack says.

If you'd like to know more about the National Commodore Club, please call 615/322-4114 or visit [www.vucommodores.com](http://www.vucommodores.com).

## Turners Encourage Others to Join Parents Leadership Committee

Thomas Turner grew up—and still lives—in Baton Rouge, La., and describes himself as a “pure LSU Tiger fan.” But that doesn’t stop him from admitting that if he had it to do it all over again, Vanderbilt might be his first choice in universities.

“I just think it’s a magical place,” Thomas says. “Where else do you have two hospitals, a graduate school, a medical school, all the other advanced degrees plus the undergraduate facilities, all on one 300 acre campus. We think that’s just amazing.”

Thomas and his wife, Sari, are members of the Parents Leadership Committee. Their daughter, Sydney, is a member of the Class of 2010. They are firm believers of giving back to Vanderbilt and created the Turner Family Scholarship in appreciation of all the school has done for their daughter.

“Our daughter was selected from among many thousands who applied for just a very few spots,” he says. “All the parents know that Vanderbilt is an incredible facility with an incredible faculty and an offers an incredible opportunity. We just feel fortunate to be able to give back to this school and help it to continue to grow.”

According to Thomas, there is a legacy of philanthropic giving at Vanderbilt.

“Just look at the name of the school and history of all the successful people who have supported it. I think it’s important to follow suit and give back when you can.”



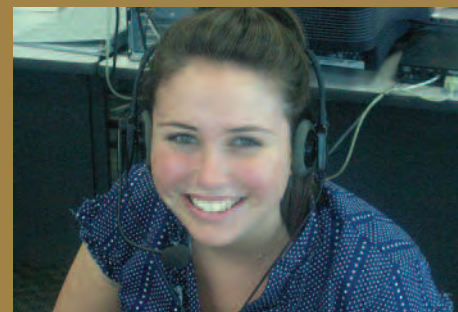
## Perots Chair Grandparents Campaign

Margot and Ross Perot have enthusiastically agreed to once again chair the Grandparents Campaign for the 2008–2009 academic year. Hill Perot, Class of 2009, is a history major in the College of Arts and Science. A second grandchild, Ross Mulford, entered this fall with the Class of 2012. As leaders of the Grandparents Campaign, the Perots would like to encourage all grandparents to support Vanderbilt.

## 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 407727, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37235-7727
- Credit card gifts may be made on our secure Web site at [www.vanderbilt.edu/giveonline](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/giveonline).
- For specific instructions on making a gift of stock to Vanderbilt please call 615-322-4987 or email [stock-gifts@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stock-gifts@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.



## Students Calling for Vanderbilt

Meg Miller is a rising senior from Long Island, NY. She is a special education/deaf education and comprehensive disorders major who completed a study abroad program in Dublin, Ire. last fall. She is also a member of Kappa Delta sorority. Meg has worked for the Calling Center since September 2006.

## Key Dates:

**November 22–30**  
Thanksgiving holiday

**December 9**  
Classes end

**December 10–18**  
Reading days and examinations

**December 19–January 6**  
Winter Break

**January 7**  
Classes begin

**February 28**  
Residence Halls close at 9 a.m.

**February 28–March 8**  
Spring Break

**March 8**  
Residence Halls open at 9 a.m.

**April 21**  
Spring semester classes end

**April 22–30**  
Examinations and reading days

**May 7**  
Senior Day

**May 8**  
Commencement

**May 9**  
Residence Halls close at 1 p.m.

## Key Links:

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

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

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

**Housing and Residence Life**  
[www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd/main/index.php](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd/main/index.php)

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

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

**Vanderbilt Visions**  
<http://commons.vanderbilt.edu/visions/>

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

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

**SGA Shuttle Service**  
<http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg>

**University Calendar**  
<http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu/>

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
PARENTS & FAMILY PROGRAMS  
PMB 401627  
2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Nashville, TN 37240-1627

Non-Profit Mail  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Nashville, TN  
Permit No. 4452

