



NEW PROVOST SUSAN WENTE MOVES FORWARD ON ACADEMIC STRATEGIC PLAN

Susan Wente has always been keenly aware of the impact other people who go the extra mile can have on one's life. It's a lesson she learned early in her career and one that she keeps front and center in her newest role as Vanderbilt's provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Wente has responsibility for academic programs, student affairs, housing, admissions and financial aid, and research. Additionally, she is tasked with moving Vanderbilt's Academic Strategic Plan forward—a process she began even before her appointment as provost, when she was tapped to co-chair the executive committee that developed the plan.

The Academic Strategic Plan will guide university investments in faculty recruitment, capital planning, academic programs and philanthropic priorities during the next decade.

One of the four central themes of the strategic plan focuses on the undergraduate residential experience. Immersive learning experiences and continued focus on the Opportunity Vanderbilt program and the residential colleges will ensure Vanderbilt's commitment to building a

diverse intellectual community, to access and to lifelong learning. Other central themes of the plan include trans-institutional programs, healthcare solutions and education technologies.

The university-wide planning process included students, faculty, alumni and parents, many of whom have already offered positive feedback on the plan. "One of the things that always impressed me about the university is that they're always looking to invest in the future," says Richard Kim, who chairs the Parents Leadership Committee along with his wife Terri. "This university isn't sitting on its laurels. It's very ambitious and very aggressive in terms of trying to better itself. That to me is very attractive, and I think the strategic plan is part of that."

The strategic plan now enters into the action and impact phases.

"As a co-chair of our strategic planning process, Susan has had great influence on Vanderbilt's plan for the future," said Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos. "Now I anticipate with relish her leadership as provost in bringing the plan to fruition."

Visit vanderbilt.edu/strategicplan to learn more.

Parents
and Family
Programs

THE VANDERBILT COMMUNITY IS FULL OF FASCINATING PEOPLE.
MEET FOUR OF THEM HERE.

spotlight



Jim Lovensheimer and Buster

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: JIM LOVENSHEIMER

Soon after Commencement 2014, Jim Lovensheimer, associate professor of musicology and chair of the Department of Musicology and Ethnomusicology, moved into a spacious new apartment and took on yet another role—faculty director of Moore College. Moore, along with Warren, is Vanderbilt’s newest College Hall. After many weeks of virtually having the building to himself, Lovensheimer is now surrounded by 340 sophomores, juniors and seniors.

“One day I was walking back from a meeting and there were people in the courtyard and activity all around, and it occurred to me that the place was coming alive—it was a very exciting moment,” says Lovensheimer. “It was just an empty space waiting to be a home for all these people, and now that’s what it was becoming. It almost gave me goose bumps.”

Lovensheimer continues to observe the process by which all the students at Moore come together to form a community. Because these are upperclass students who have already found their way at Vanderbilt, the process takes a little longer than at The Commons, which only houses first-year students.

“They understand that a community develops whether you try to make one or not,” he says. “Our goal at Warren and Moore is to facilitate the ongoing growth of an engaged community, and that can’t be forced. It’s happening, just maybe in a more relaxed time frame than we first thought.”

While Lovensheimer likens his new role to “having a full-time job on top of a full-time job,” he enjoys the benefits.

“I have an extraordinary apartment that’s quiet and private, and I have the most wonderful neighbors. They’re these energetic, optimistic, smart, young people that are just wonderful to be around. I couldn’t hope for better neighbors.”



Shawn Albert

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: SHAWN ALBERT

Shawn Albert, Class of 2016, is majoring in molecular and cellular biology as well as medicine, health and society. If that doesn’t keep him busy enough, he is also one of the inaugural head residents of Warren and Moore Colleges and involved in a variety of student organizations.

Shawn is a site leader for Alternative Spring Break and serves as the executive board member in charge of sites and service development for Alternative Winter Break. He is co-president of Vanderbilt’s chapter of Habitat for Humanity, a member of the Office of Active Citizenship and Service Advisory Board and an executive board member of the Multicultural Leadership Council, where he assists with coordinating cultural programs on campus as the special activities co-chair.

His post-graduation aspirations include enrollment within a medical scientist training program, after which he plans to conduct scientific research within the context of clinical care and academic medicine with a dual M.D./Ph.D. degree. Currently, Shawn conducts microbiology research at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

PARENT SPOTLIGHT: DAMIAN BILLY AND MARGARET SZEMPRUCH

Damian Billy and Margaret Szempruch joined the Parents and Family Association Advisory Board before their daughter, Lauren, had even moved into her first-year quarters on The Commons. They’ve been active volunteers ever since and appreciate the benefits and opportunities PAFA offers.

“You get back much more than you put in,” says Damian. “We’ve become good friends with other Vanderbilt parents from across the United States who we otherwise would probably have never met. We share our common experience of having our children away at a challenging time.”

Since Lauren, Class of 2015, is their third child, the couple have had lots of experience with colleges. Vanderbilt has impressed them from the beginning.

“I found it interesting that this university actually asks you to be engaged,” Margaret says. “It’s a good lesson for us and for our children that if you ask, a lot of times you get more than you ever expected.”

Damian and Margaret have volunteered at Move-in Day, Family Weekend’s registration desk, parent panels, the “18 Again” event and the student/parent networking program, Soiree at Sarratt, where students learn about different careers.

“As a logistics and supply chain manager for Procter & Gamble, I was asked to provide my perspective as part of a parent panel during Family Weekend,” says Margaret. “I always enjoy interacting with the students and other parents. The students are always so appreciative of everything!”

With so many activities on campus and across the country, the couple would like to see more parents taking part.

“You don’t have to be on the board to be involved. Just look around, pick out something and sign up,” Margaret says. “It’s a great way to spend a little more time with your kid and to get to know other parents.”



Damian Billy, Lauren Billy and Margaret Szempruch



WAYS TO GIVE

For your convenience, Vanderbilt provides a number of ways for parents and grandparents to support their students' schools. Specific information is available online at giving.vanderbilt.edu.



- Gifts, pledges and pledge payments may be mailed to Vanderbilt Parents and Grandparents Campaign, Gift and Donor Services, PMB 407727, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240-7727.
- Credit card gifts may be made on our secure website at vanderbilt.edu/giveonline.
- For specific instructions on making a gift of stock to Vanderbilt, please call (615) 875-1155 or email 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.

Want to motivate and inspire others? Tell us why you give back to Vanderbilt—we'd love to hear your story. Please share it at vu.edu/whyigive.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

Every student at Vanderbilt benefits from the enthusiastic support of our parent volunteers. You offer guidance and support to new parents at Move-in Day. During Family Weekend, you share your career advice and expertise with our students. You welcome the newest members of the Vanderbilt family into your home at Summer Send-off parties. Throughout the year, you make our university better.

Move-In and Family Weekend Volunteers

Adela Achtman
Sam Agger
Anna and James Alfieri
Diana and Vic Apple
Christina Armstrong
Tyra Banks
Aimee Bell
Damian Billy and Margaret Szempruch
Shelly Blair
Rich and Cheri Bout
Lisa and Jim Boyette
Susan and David Burke
Angela Charles
Michael and Karen Clavin
Peter Clifton
Kim and Robert Clutsam
Cathy and Paul Coffman
Shirley Davis
Sherrie Eisenman
Donald and Victoria Entwistle
Cathy Fullan
Melinda Gertz
Khushwinder Gill
Sheryl Godsey
Susan and Len Grecco
Lisa and Brendan Gresham
Katherine and Brandon Guest

Harriette and Randy Hansell
Emily and Thom Hillsman
Teresa and Jim Hillsman
Jacqueline Hinds
Kate and Jeff Johnston-Legg
Wendy Jordan
Chris Karle
Janet Kassouf and Larry Quan
Lynn and Walt Kunau
Shelly Lehman
Sharon Lyttle
Gary McClure
Victa and Ramon McCray
Amy Moore
Karen and Mike Mundy
Carla Musarra-Leonard
Louise and Bobby Reed
Ted Rudman
Colette Scott
Adrienne Scurtu
Tammy and Curtis Serafin
Lisa and Andy Shinar
Dawn and Brad Smith
Sharon and Mark Spears
John and Jodi Stende
Charlotte and Mark Strickland
Andrea Struijk
Susan Taylor
Pierre and Mary Ann Theriault

Susan and Mitch Thompson
Jacquie and Thomas Travaglini
Carol and Kin Watkins
Lorena Wilson
Kay and George Winckel
Colleen Wortley
Chenhua Yang
Fei Yang
Summer Send-Off Hosts
Rinda and Chris Baker
Alma, AR
Nelson and Kimberly Bean
Birmingham, AL
Rich and Cheri Bout
Chattanooga, TN
Catherine and Cam Bowman
Savannah, GA
Jennie and Dick Carlson
Minneapolis-Saint Paul, MN
Poppy and Rob Clements
Jacksonville, FL
Albert and Karen Cohen
Palm Beach, FL
Noel and Betsy Estopinal
Huntsville, AL
Larry Fox
Tulsa, OK
Theodore and Kathleen Gill
Mobile, AL
Martin and Megan Gregor
Indianapolis, IN
Bill and Victoria Hanlon
San Diego, CA

Bill and Elizabeth Hawkins
Nashville, TN
Michael and Lisa Heim
Houston, TX
Teresa and Jim Hillsman
Philadelphia, PA
Chris and Laura Hodes
Kansas City, MO
Keith and Susan Hoogland
Chicago, IL
Doug and Lisa Kline
Boston, MA
Walt and Lynn Kunau
Louisville, KY
Kim and Eric Leinweber
Scottsdale, AZ
Jodi and Steve Mahon
Cincinnati, OH
Hall and Kathleen Martin
Washington D.C.
Mark & Patti Mays
San Antonio, TX
Michael and Stephanie Podolak
Denver, CO
Sarah and James Shelton
Los Angeles, CA
Mary Margaret and Lloyd Stamy
Pittsburgh, PA
Heather and Will Vise
Jackson, MS
Hannah and Hadley Wilson
Charlotte, NC
Bruce and Nancy Zimmerman
Austin, TX

KIMS TO CHAIR PARENTS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Terri and Richard Kim's son, Brandon, visited more than 20 universities around the country when deciding which college was right for him, but only one—Vanderbilt—felt perfect the moment he stepped on campus. That first impression has only grown stronger over the past five years.

“Brandon wanted a school that was going to grow, look toward the future and continue to evolve with a modern vision,” says Terri. “Some schools just have a recipe that they think works and they don't change. They're not looking toward the future thinking they have to change or if it's even a possibility.”

Vanderbilt's drive to evolve and improve is one of the reasons the Kims agreed to chair the Parents Leadership Committee.

“We started our involvement with PLC when Brandon was a freshman,” says

Richard. “We found the meetings tremendously helpful in better understanding the university. Vanderbilt has been the absolute best thing that's happened to Brandon. We feel a real debt of gratitude and have taken this opportunity to give back.”

The PLC meets over Family Weekend each fall. At the most recent meeting, Provost Susan Wente led a panel discussion focusing on student leadership development in the Martha Rivers Ingram Commons and in the new Moore and Warren colleges. Panelists included Dr. Kyla Terhune, faculty head of Hank Ingram House; Associate Professor Jim Lovensheimer, faculty director of Moore College; and student head residents of both Hank Ingram House and Moore College.

“The speeches they give are just so enlightening and incredibly



Richard and Terri Kim

informative,” says Terri. “The opportunity to hear senior administration and high-level faculty and the chancellor is a gift to us. I feel like this alone helps other parents realize that their child is in such a great place. They're getting more than just a good education, they're getting a top education in the world.”

WHAT IS THE PLC?

The Parents Leadership Committee (PLC) is composed of parent donors who provide important support to parent fundraising efforts. Committee members act as advocates for Vanderbilt University in their home communities, as mentors and connectors to other parents, and as generous donors by making leadership annual gifts to the university in the following ranges:

- Cornelius Vanderbilt—gifts of \$25,000 or more
- Dean's List—gifts of \$10,000 to \$24,999
- Benefactor—gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999

We remain grateful for the vital support the PLC, which is currently 224 families strong, continues to show. As well, any gift to Vanderbilt—whether unrestricted or endowed—is counted in our overall parent giving program.



SUCCESS OF PARENT CHALLENGE

June 30, 2014, saw the successful conclusion of the Parent Challenge.

In all, 3,428 parents made gifts totaling more than \$18.9 million. This surpassed the challenge goal of 3,000 parent donors and represented an increase in parent giving participation by 25 percent over the previous year.

By meeting the challenge, our parent community also helped secure a \$200,000 gift from the anonymous parent donors who issued the challenge. The \$200,000 challenge gift was divided among the four undergraduate schools to help enhance the undergraduate experience. Through this outstanding support, Vanderbilt parents once again showed the tremendous involvement of our parent community.





Cara Tuttle Bell

PROJECT SAFE PROTECTS ALL

Project Safe is a university-wide center committed to preventing sexual assault as well as other forms of power-based personal violence. In July, the university expanded Project Safe into a freestanding center located at 304 West Side Row. It previously was a program housed under the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center.

"Part of the rationale is that this is not just a women's issue," explains Cara Tuttle Bell, the director of Project Safe. "Housing it within the Women's Center inadvertently may have relayed that women-only message or deterred male victims from seeking our services."

"Now Project Safe is a central, visible hub for everyone in the Vanderbilt community to get information, resources and support," she says.

When asked what parents should know about power-based personal violence, Tuttle Bell doesn't hesitate. "Underreporting

incidents is a serious national issue. If a school reports nothing, then that's a problem. At Vanderbilt, we want to create an environment where people feel comfortable coming forward."

To this end, the center has a hotline, (615) 322-SAFE (7233), which is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In addition to supporting victims of power-based personal violence, the center also focuses on training students, faculty and staff in bystander intervention and sexual assault prevention. Currently, Project Safe is working with the Interfraternity Council at Vanderbilt to train all new Greek members in the Green Dot program. This national program emphasizes the power of peer intervention in violence prevention. More than 160 residential advisers were trained in this program over the summer, and the center also offers similar opportunities for the Vanderbilt community throughout the year.

Through these efforts Project Safe seeks to engage the entire campus community in actively fostering a culture that rejects violence.

"So far," says Tuttle Bell, "we have been overwhelmed by the positive response to our services."



It's never too late to celebrate a championship season! People are still talking about Vanderbilt's dramatic win over Virginia in the College World Series last June. The 2015 season will be here soon—the first pitch is Friday, February 13.



Parents gathered in Chicago on November 11 to assemble student care packages.

VANDERBILT CARE PACKAGE PARTIES

Final exams are stressful! Each year, parents all over the country come together to create care packages for their students to help them through the busy time. It's a casual, fun way to socialize with other Vanderbilt parents while doing something nice for your student. The Parents and Family Programs Office supports parents who would like to host these parties in their regions.

Thank you to the following parents who hosted parties this fall:

Shon Dwyer—Detroit, MI
Liz Fanlo—San Francisco, CA
Lisa Horn—St. Louis, MO
Kathy Merry—Richmond, VA
Jodi Miller—Los Angeles, CA
Suzanne Morgan—Philadelphia, PA
Wendy Perlin and Laura Rice—Chicago, IL

If you would like to host a care package party this spring, please contact our office at (877) 887-2736 or email parents@vanderbilt.edu.

Save the date

FAMILY WEEKEND 2015

September 18-20

IT'S A FUN-FILLED WEEKEND THAT'S PERFECT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.
Get a true taste of your student's life at Vanderbilt—meet new friends, visit with administrators and network with other parents. Learn more at www.vanderbilt.edu/familyweekend.



KEY DATES

February 28

Residence halls close at 9 a.m.

February 28–March 9

Spring Break holiday

March 8

Residence halls open at 9 a.m.

April 20

Last day of classes

April 21–30

Reading days and examinations

May 2

Residence halls close for all students except graduating seniors at 9 a.m.

May 6–8

Commencement

May 9

Residence halls close at 1 p.m.



VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY

**Vanderbilt University
Parents & Family Programs**

PMB 401627

2301 Vanderbilt Place

Nashville, TN 37240-1627

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage

PAID

Mailer's Choice
37210

KEY LINKS

Academic Calendar

registrar.vanderbilt.edu/calendar

Athletics

vucommodores.com

Bookstore

vanderbiltbookstore.com

Commencement

vanderbilt.edu/commencement

Dean of Students

vanderbilt.edu/deanofstudents

First-year Orientation

commonplace.vanderbilt.edu

Greek Life

vanderbilt.edu/greek_life

Housing and Residential Life

vanderbilt.edu/resed

Student Health Center

vanderbilt.edu/student_health

University Calendar

calendar.vanderbilt.edu

Parent Helpline: (877) 887-2736 | Email: parents@vanderbilt.edu

Parents & Family Programs: Vanderbilt.edu/families

Parents and Grandparents Campaign: Vanderbilt.edu/pagcampaign

NEWS FOR VANDERBILT PARENTS AND FAMILIES | WINTER 2015

