OACS October Newsletter

Welcome to the OACS Monthly Newsletter!

Each month the Active Citizenship & Service Newsletter will feature upcoming service events, immersion programs, trans-institutional partnerships, and learning opportunities from our office, our student organizations, and our community partners. Stay tuned in to OACS as your resource for community service at Vanderbilt!

Vanderbilt Internship Experience in Washington – applications available online!

The Vanderbilt Internship Experience in Washington (VIEW) provides students with 8-week public service internships with leading agencies and congressional offices in D.C. over the summer. VIEW 2015 will be June 6 - August 1. Applications are due Thursday, November 13. We will host information sessions to provide more detail and answer questions. Each session will last about 30 minutes. They are scheduled:

Tuesday, October 28 - 5:00 p.m. – Rand 311

Thursday, October 30 - 12:30 p.m. – Rand 304

Tuesday, November 4 - 12:30 p.m. – Rand 304
For more information and to apply, visit the website!

Nichols Humanitarian Fund – applications available online!

Applications for the Nichols Humanitarian Fund service awards are now available! The Application Form will be available until **November 17th, 2014 at midnight**.

The Fund enables students to volunteer for domestic or international humanitarian service opportunities by making support available for educational, travel, and living expenses during their time of service. The fund distributes awards based on merit and need to Vanderbilt students to pay the expenses of their humanitarian activities.

The application and more information is currently available on the Nichols Humanitarian Fund website or visit the application directly here. If you have any questions about the Nichols Humanitarian Fund or the award application process, please contact Erika Larson in Vanderbilt University’s Office of Active Citizenship and Service at erika.l.larson@vanderbilt.edu

Fall Weekend of Service

In remembrance of September 11th, the Office of Active Citizenship and Service hosted the Fall Weekend of Service in which students, faculty, and staff volunteered at service projects around Nashville. The Weekend of Service took place Friday, September 19th thru Monday, September 22nd and involved a variety of important service organizations. This year, over 300 volunteers contributed over 800 hours of service in the Nashville community. What an accomplishment for our students, faculty, and staff! To view photos from the Fall Weekend of Service, please visit the OACS Website!
International Day of Peace

On September 21st, community member and peace advocate Linda Ragsdale worked alongside OACS staff member Erika Larson, inspiring us all to think more intentionally about the relationship between the 9/11 Weekend of Service and the International Day of Peace. For the first time, OACS extended the Fall Weekend of Service activities to visibly and proactively advocate for peace by requesting participation from various Vanderbilt offices and departments in a social media campaign for peace. This campaign encouraged participants to make a conscious effort to adopt and promote a daily peace action to inspire Vanderbilt’s campus and the world. OACS thanks all of the DOS departments, The Humphrey Fellowship Program and The Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center for their participation and support throughout this campaign.
Student Spotlight: Stevie Friesth

Stevie Friesth, a senior in the College of Arts and Science, is double majoring in English and Spanish-Portuguese and is pursuing the honors program in English. Upon her graduation in May of 2015, Stevie plans to attend law school and then seek a career in law.

Stevie is the President of Begin with Books: a Vanderbilt student service organization that seeks to instill a love of reading in people of all ages. Begin with Books also works to make the community a more literate place through volunteering, fundraising, and advocacy. As the President, Stevie organizes and manages meetings, events, and book drives and acts as a liaison between the YMCA and student volunteers to set up tutoring opportunities. Under her direction, Begin with Books has raised over 1,000 books for the Worldwide Book Drive and has grown from a group of four to 35 student volunteers. That’s why Stevie is our spotlight student.

You are awesome Stevie!!!

Serve in Nashville

There are many worthwhile organizations operating in and around Nashville where dedicated people may volunteer their time. The Office of Active Citizenship and Service strongly urges all Vanderbilt students and employees to serve in a capacity that will be meaningful.
and impactful to the community. We often find the best parts of ourselves through helping others. To see a calendar of upcoming events where you can get involved, check out our webpage.

**Community Partner Spotlight: Project C.U.R.E.**

Project C.U.R.E. ([Commission on Urgent Relief and Equipment](#)) was founded in 1987 by James Jackson, who was working as an international economic consultant in developing countries when his work put him face to face with the needs of the sick and dying. During a trip to Brazil, Dr. Jackson visited a small clinic near Rio de Janeiro, where he learned that patients were often turned away due to a lack of basic medical supplies. Jackson was moved to action, making a promise to the clinic doctor that he would help provide relief to the people there.

Dr. Jackson returned to his home in Colorado, and with the assistance of friends in the medical industry collected $250,000 of medical supplies in his garage in just 30 days. From its humble beginnings in Colorado, Project C.U.R.E. has expanded to many other cities across the United States, including Nashville. Project C.U.R.E. is an industry leader in developing ways to provide high quality donated medical supplies and equipment to resource-limited communities across the globe. Project C.U.R.E. also offers numerous domestic and international volunteer opportunities. Since its founding, Project C.U.R.E. has reached patients, families and children in 130 countries.

Today, Project C.U.R.E.'s work and mission are more important than ever, helping to bridge staggering health resource gaps in the developing world by empowering doctors and nurses with the tools they need to treat disease, deliver vaccines, perform life-changing surgeries and ensure safe childbirth. Through the compassion of Project C.U.R.E.'s supporters, many hospitals, rural clinics and community health centers all over the world are able to offer critical medical services to their most vulnerable patients, especially women and young...
children. Thanks to the dedication of thousands of volunteers nationwide, two to three cargo containers of life-saving aid leave Project C.U.R.E.’s warehouses every week.

Those interested in volunteering should contact Lindsey Moore at 615-837-7575 or nashville@projectcure.org

**National Coming Out Week**

OACS was proud to support our friends in The Office of LGBTQI Life surrounding National Coming Out Week. This important event ran October 1 - 11 and carried the theme “You Do You”. This theme was selected to encourage everyone to feel empowered and proud of the identities they hold. To check out what’s happening in LGBTQI Life right now, visit their [website](#).

**World on Wednesdays**

Helping Girls Succeed in School in Rural Mauritania

Presented by Ousmane Bâ, Vanderbilt Peabody Humphrey Fellow

October 22nd, 12:10 P.M., SLC Lower Level Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

Cultural stigmas in Africa assign girls and boys different roles and levels of status in their social environments, which in turn has negative impacts on girls’ opportunities
for learning. Parents with limited economic resources choose to invest in education for their sons instead of for their daughters; they see a girl’s future in marriage and motherhood and thus believe that spending money to send her to school would be a gamble or even a waste. Hence, in the majority of the households in rural areas, young girls are frequently seen doing chores while young boys review their lessons or play games. Join Ousmane Bâ, a Mauritanian educator and current Humphrey Fellow, as he describes the major challenges to education for girls in his country and offers strategies that may give hope for more equitable learning. Lunch is provided.

Volunteers Around the World

The Martha O'Bryan World Cup

Volunteers Around the World is hosting the Martha O’Bryan World Cup which uses the game of soccer to make an impact in the lives of middle school students at the Martha O’Bryan Center.

Preliminary planning occurring now. Physical Training and Tournament will take place in the Spring (time commitment varies). They are looking for volunteer team leaders and team members.

For more information:

click here

Alternative Winter Break – Wait List Applications Due

This year, Alternative Winter Break is sending 154 students to 13 sites, serving various communities in much-needed ways from December 14th through December 21st. AWB has already completed their application processes and placed participants, but in case you forgot to apply, they are offering the opportunity to apply for placement on their wait list. Sometimes things come up and participants drop, and AWB wants to fill these positions so as many students can enjoy a service trip as possible. To apply, please fill
out the brief Google Form application below.

**AWB Participant Wait List Application**

See the application for contact info for AWBoard members if you have any questions!

![AWB Group Photo]

**Habitat for Humanity**

Sign up for this year's Commodore Trot - Habitat for Humanity's annual 5K race - which will be held on Wednesday, October 29th at 4:30 pm at the Rec Center. Tickets are only $15 and can be purchased with cash, check, or on the card, both on the wall and at the box office starting October 15th. Participants will receive a sweet tank and costumes are encouraged - the winner of a costume contest will receive a $100 visa gift card. Come support Habitat for Humanity!

![Habitat for Humanity Logo]

**Volunteers for Smiles**

Vanderbilt Volunteers for Smiles is recruiting students to volunteer at Morningside of Belmont: an assisted living residence. Morningside of Belmont is within walking distance from campus, and each volunteer session is approximately 2 hours. Fun activities include Wii games, solving puzzles, conversing with the residents, and musical performances. Volunteers for Smiles is also recruiting for several committed students to become leaders in this organization next year.
If interested, please contact
Ni Mummareddy (n.mummareddy@vanderbilt.edu) or Kirtan Patel
(kirtan.d.patel@vanderbilt.edu).

Relay for Life

Vanderbilt Relay For Life will be held Saturday, Oct. 25, from noon to midnight on Vanderbilt University’s Alumni Lawn. Participants are encouraged to sign up online at relay.org/vandy and fundraise independently and with their team to help the Vanderbilt chapter of the organization reach its goal of $90,000 for the event. A $10 donation for admission to the event will provide the opportunity to walk with cancer survivors and participating teams. The event will feature music and dance performances from local and student artists, a climbing wall, eating competitions, on-site fundraisers, as well as tons of free food from restaurants like McDougal's, SATCO, and Krispy Kreme to name a few. We hope to see you there!

2015 Declared The International Year of Evaluation

The International Year of Evaluation, or EvalYear, will be underway in 2015! EvalYear will bring together diverse stakeholders into a movement designed to
mobilize the energies and enhance the synergy of existing
and new monitoring and evaluation initiatives at
international and national levels. Implementing the
guiding principles of inclusion, innovation, and strategic
partnership, EvalYear will harness international citizen’s
growing engagement in monitoring and evaluation, their
demands, and their push for transparency, accountability,
change and justice. For more information about this
exciting development see here and here. OACS
encourages our student body to think critically about
evaluation at local, national, and international levels and
how it can be a force for change in our society.