Welcome back if you are returning to campus for the upcoming school year! For others who have remained here throughout the summer, we’re glad you have braved the heat with us! With temperatures holding steady in the high 90s and 100s, remember to be especially aware of your energy consumption at home and at work. Being a wise energy consumer can save you money and reduce peak energy demands! We have lots of exciting news to share with you this month. As a reminder, please become a fan of our new SustainVU Facebook page and get up-to-the-minute sustainability news and join our discussions. We wish you a sustainable start to your school year!

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Vanderbilt Farmers’ Market – Thursdays through October 28

Mark your calendars! Pick up some fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, meat, and cheese on your way home from work at the weekly Vanderbilt Farmers’ Market each Thursday from 3-6 pm on the Medical Center Plaza. Read more... Not sure if fresh, local produce is for you? Read about Libby Gruner’s experience with fruits and vegetables from a CSA.

4th Annual Nashville Dragon Boat & River Festival – August 14

Join the Cumberland River Compact and the Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association for the 4th Annual Dragon Boat Races and River Festival at Riverfront Park on Saturday, August 14! The event aims to raise
awareness and promote the health of the Cumberland River and will feature several performances by the Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville. Read more…

21st Avenue South Roadscape Project Meeting – August 15

The community is invited to a presentation and public meeting concerning the 21st Avenue South roadscape improvement project in Hillsboro Village on Sunday, August 15, at 3 pm at the Belmont United Methodist Church Community Center. The Metro Public Works project involves landscaping improvements within Hillsboro Village, at the intersection of Magnolia Boulevard and 21st Avenue South, and the right-of-way in front of St. Bernard Park. Read more…

Buffalo Canoe Float & Clean Up – August 21

Join Lightning 100’s Team Green for their annual float trip and clean-up down the Buffalo River on Saturday, August 21, leaving from Crazy Horse Canoe in Waynesboro, Tennessee. While floating, participants will help to keep the Buffalo River beautiful by picking up trash along the shoreline. The trip costs $5 for Team Green members and $15 for non-members. Read more…

Green Move-In for First-Year Students – August 21

On Saturday, August 21, 1,600 first-year students will be welcomed into

Energy conservation urged during heat wave

Throughout August, temperatures are predicted to remain into the high 90s and 100s. VU Plant Operations and VUMC Facility Services are asking the Vanderbilt community to help reduce energy consumption. With over 23,000 employees and 12,000 students, Vanderbilt is one of the largest energy consumers in Middle Tennessee. Here are a few actions you can take to help:

–Moderate thermostats settings to 76-78° F, and remember to adjust thermostats in classrooms and office spaces when unoccupied. Dress for the hot weather so you can remain comfortable in more moderate temperatures.

–Close window shades or blinds during the hottest part of the day to keep heat out and cool air in.

–Turn off lights in your work space and in common areas, such as kitchens, bathrooms, break rooms, classrooms, and conference rooms, when you leave (even if only for a short period of time) and especially at the end of the day.

–Turn off office equipment, such as computers, printers, copiers and scanners, when you leave for the day. Otherwise, activate sleep modes and energy-saving settings. Visit the SustainVU website for instructions.

–Close fume hood sashes when not in use.

Students moving onto Vanderbilt University’s campus recycle tons of packing materials

Move-in weekend at Vanderbilt can generate a lot of waste. Cardboard boxes, plastic bags and covers, and Styrofoam packing materials from 1,600 first-year students start to add up quickly. In an effort to improve the environmental impact of Move-In each year, recycling of plastic film will be offered for the first time as a complement to the cardboard and Styrofoam recycling programs in existence.
the Vanderbilt community as they move-in to the Commons residence halls! In an effort to lessen the environmental impact of this weekend, recycling of plastic film and bags, cardboard, and Styrofoam will be offered. Water stations will also be set up throughout the Commons in lieu of distributing water bottles to families and students. Read more...

USGBC Middle TN Chapter Meeting: LEED and Universities Panel Discussion – August 27

Join the USGBC on Friday, August 27 from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Adventure Science Center for a panel discussion on universities and the LEED rating system. Panelists include: Dr. Andrea George of Vanderbilt University, Dodd Galbreath of Lipscomb University, and Joe Whitefield of Middle Tennessee State University. Read more...

Farming: A Bells Bend Tradition – August 28

Join the Bells Bend staff and Friends of Bells Bend to learn about farming and its historical roots in the community on Saturday, August 28 from 9:30-11:30 am at the Bells Bend Outdoor Center. The program is open to participants of all ages. Read more...

Field of Greens Fund now accepting applications

The Community Food Advocates and local food retailers, farmers, businesses, agencies, and individual food advocates helped to establish the Field of Greens Fund in June 2010. Initial funding will be used for flood relief and recovery efforts; however the fund is intended to serve in the future as a source of financial support for farmers’ needs to rebuild, expand, and grow sustainable and organic farms in Middle Tennessee, Southern Kentucky, and Northern Alabama. The Fund is now accepting applications, and will continue to do so through August 27, 2010. Learn more about the Field of Greens Fund and application guidelines and review.

Take the Game-Day Express to Tennessee Titans home games

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) will offer Music City Star Service to Riverfront Station for Tennessee Titans home games for the 2010 regular season! Season tickets and single-game tickets for the Game-Day Express may be purchased in advance online or on the train the day of the game. Season tickets are available for $110 and single-game tickets are available in advance for $15 or the day of the game for $20. Parking is free at all of the outlying stations, and passengers are welcome to tailgate at outlying train stations and on the train prior to the game. Small coolers may also be brought onboard and left on the train upon arrival at the station. Read the full Game-Day Express press release.

For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management
Office at sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu or (615) 322-2057.