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**SustainVU**  
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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

### 10K Tree Day – March 1

Join Tennessee Environmental Council members, partners and volunteers on March 1 from 9am - 1pm as they come together to plant more than 10,000 trees in one day at various locations in Middle Tennessee! Read more and register [here](#).

### “Engage Green” Rain Barrel Workshop – March 5

Join Urban Green Lab in cohort with Team Green Adventures and Cumberland River Compact on March 5 at 6pm for their 4th Engage Green Workshop! You'll learn tips and tricks for saving water and money as well as learn the benefits of collecting rainwater at home. You'll have the option of taking a rain barrel home for \$40 after you've learned to make your

Congratulations, Vanderbilt, for being named the TN Non-Profit Recycler of the Year!! You can read more below about this fantastic honor recognizing all of our recycling efforts across campus and the Med Center – we salute you! We would also like to congratulate The School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt for winning this basketball season's "Greenest Group on Campus" competition and also the "Harmony House", which scored a spot in this year's Solar Decathlon. Way to go!

Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the [SustainVU website](#) and [Facebook page](#). Have a wonderful and sustainable March, everyone!

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**Vanderbilt named Recycler of the Year**

own! RSVP and read more [here](#).

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### **The Modern Environmental Law Practice with Raymond Ludwiszewski – March 10**

The Vanderbilt Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review and the Energy, Environment, and Land Use Program will be hosting Raymond Ludwiszewski on March 10 from 12pm – 1pm in Hyatt Room 144, located in the Vanderbilt Law School. Mr. Ludwiszewski will give a brief history of his career and offer his views on how environmental law practice is changing, where it is going, and how he would position himself if he were seeking to advance in the field. Read more [here](#).

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### **Vanderbilt EES Seminar Series – March 12, 14, 21, 28**

Join Vanderbilt's Department of Earth and Environmental Science (EES) as they welcome topic experts to speak on a wide variety of environmental subjects throughout the year. Seminars are held in SC6740 at 3:10pm unless otherwise noted. Click [here](#) for more information about March's speakers.

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### **Nashville Green Drinks— March 19**

On Wednesday, March 19 at 6pm, participate in Nashville Green Drinks, an organic, casual, self-organized meet up of like-minded professionals with a focus on sustainability.

Nashville Green Drinks will take place at Village Pub (1308 McGavock Pike).

Last month, Vanderbilt University was recognized by the [Tennessee Recycling Coalition](#) (TRC)



as the Non-Profit Recycler of the Year and also received the Recycling Video of the Year in the higher education category. The Recycler of the Year award recognizes Vanderbilt's significant achievements in recycling, including doubling the amount of recycling to 6 million pounds in 2013 from 3 million pounds in 2011. The Recycling Video of the Year was awarded for "[Recycling Makes Sense!](#)", which was produced in 2012 as a joint effort between Vanderbilt's Tongue 'n' Cheek improvisation comedy troupe and Vanderbilt's Sustainability and Environmental Management Office (SEMO) to promote recycling to VU students in campus residence halls. Read more [here](#).

### **School for Science and Math named 'greenest group on campus'**

The [School for Science and Math at Vanderbilt](#) was recently named winner of the 2014 Vanderbilt



Basketball Sustainability Competition. The SSMV, a program of the Center for Science Outreach, celebrated its title of "greenest group on campus" at the Vanderbilt vs. Texas A&M basketball game Feb. 15 with a catered hospitality event, complimentary basketball tickets and on-court recognition during the game. The students and staff at the SSMV were recognized for their awareness of and involvement in broader sustainability initiatives at Vanderbilt, such as the Commons Cup. The SSMV has been integral in determining the points for the sustainability portion of the Commons Cup each month for the past four years. Additionally, SSMV seniors are currently analyzing the impact that the 2013 Green Fund projects have made on campus energy savings. During the students' time on Vanderbilt's campus, they learn about many Vanderbilt sustainability projects, such as the biodiesel initiative, the VU/MWS Renewable Energy Showcase and VU's LEED certification of campus buildings. Read more [here](#).

### **Nashville team's 'Harmony House' scores a spot in international Solar Decathlon**

## SPEAR presents “Climate Connections” – March 20

Join Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility (SPEAR) on March 20 from 5pm – 7pm in Sarratt Cinema for “Climate Connections”, a TEDx-style event. Environmental experts and panel discussions will spark meaningful discussion about the intersection of sustainability and other important topics such as entrepreneurship, food and faith. Read more [here](#).

## World Water Day – March 22

2014 World Water Day, observed March 22, brings attention to the water-energy nexus, particularly addressing inequities for the ‘bottom billion’ who live in slums and impoverished rural areas and survive without access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, sufficient food and energy services. Water and energy are closely interlinked and interdependent. Energy generation and transmission requires utilization of water resources, particularly for hydroelectric, nuclear, and thermal energy sources. Conversely, about 8% of the global energy generation is used for pumping, treating and transporting water to various consumers. Read more [here](#).

## The Development of Computer Earth System Models: Climate Change in the 20th and 21st Century – March 27

On March 27 at 4:10 pm in Jacobs Believed in Me Auditorium in



Nashville, has been selected to compete in the [Solar Decathlon 2015](#), a U.S. Department of Energy event that challenges students to design and build a functioning, energy-efficient, solar-powered house. The team’s conceptual design – Harmony House – forges a connection between Southern living and modern green technologies. Drawing from a variety of classes, students in construction management, interior design, electrical, mechanical and civil engineering will be involved in the planning, designing and building processes, which will lead to constructing a home that is greater than 600 square feet but less than 1,000 square feet in size. The home will be built on the Vanderbilt campus. Read more [here](#).

## Tennessee Representative debates Bill Nye “The Science Guy” on climate change

Falling into the category of things we never thought we would see happen, Tennessee’s own Representative Marsha Blackburn engaged in a climate change debate with Bill Nye “The Science Guy” on Meet the Press on February 16. Read more about this interesting pairing in the [Tennessean](#), the [Washington Post](#) or [USA Today](#).



## Young alumna’s passions fuel sustainable solutions globally

Leslie Labruto, a 2011 graduate from Vanderbilt’s School of Engineering, past SPEAR President, and current Young Alumni Trustee of the Board of Trust, shows just how many ways a young civil environmental engineer can accommodate both her heart’s leaning and her tangible talents – in as many places as possible. After graduating, Leslie’s work at the [Clinton Foundation](#) on the [Climate Change Initiative](#) (CCI) helped to create clean energy solutions for countries across Africa and small island nations. Read more about Leslie’s work [here](#).



## ChE senior enters final round of national

Featheringill Hall, American climate scientist Warren M. Washington will speak on “The Development of Computer Earth System Models: Climate Change in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. A reception will follow. Read more [here](#).

### “How to Build a Forest” – March 28 – 29

March 28 at 12pm through March 29 at 11:15pm, you are invited to visit Neely Auditorium on VU’s campus to view “How to Build a Forest”. Over the course of eight hours, the artists, assisted by Vanderbilt students, will build a fantastic and beautiful forest in Neely Auditorium and then dismantle it. Audience members are free to come in, observe, and walk through the forest at any point during the performance. “How to Build a Forest” was initially inspired by the loss of old growth forest in Hurricane Katrina and examines the connections between people and the fragile natural world. For more information, click [here](#).



### undergraduate research competition

Mark Panu, a senior in chemical and biomolecular engineering, captured the first-place award in the Undergraduate Students in Technical Research (USTR)



Competition among NSBE’s collegiate chapters in Region 3 at its November meeting, moving his paper into national competition. Panu is interested in solving practical engineering problems, particularly relating to environmental issues, and specifically to oil and gas industries, and to sustainable energy advances. He is currently focusing his research solid-state lighting (SSL, which provides an energy-efficient alternative to incandescent lighting. Read more about Panu [here](#).

### VU Power Plant to Convert to All Natural Gas – FAQs available



The VU Power Plant Conversion has broken ground and construction is moving along well. Very exciting! If you have questions about the VU Power Plant conversion to all natural gas, visit [SustainVU](#) to read FAQs about the conversion and stay up-to-date with the construction progress! The conversion will replace the coal-fired boilers with natural gas boilers while retaining the same power generation capacity over the next three years.



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

