Move-in Day is August 21 for first-year students

Move-in Day is one of the most exciting days of the year at Vanderbilt but can also be a bit stressful. To make move-in as easy and quick as possible, students are assigned specific move-in times between 7 a.m. and noon. Times will be included in the room assignment letters mailed about August 1. The move-in date of August 21 is non-negotiable, so please make your travel plans accordingly.

Students and their families arriving on campus to move in will be directed to a staging area where students will receive the keys to their rooms. Vanderbilt police will escort vehicles from the staging area to a parking lot near the student’s assigned building. The Move Crew—student volunteers identified by their distinctive T-shirts—will help unload the vehicles. Once everything is unloaded, vehicles will immediately be directed to a designated long-term parking area so that the next student can unload. Then, students, their families and the Move Crew will move the belongings into student’s assigned room.

August in Nashville is typically hot and humid, and moving is hard work. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfortable shoes. Plenty of cool water will be on hand.

Family Weekend set for October 8–10

Family Weekend is the perfect time for students, parents, grandparents and siblings to reconnect. Many fun and exciting events are planned, including an SEC football matchup between the ’Dores and Eastern Michigan. Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet with Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos as well as various deans and faculty. The weekend also allows for plenty of free time to get to know Vanderbilt’s beautiful campus.

A tentative schedule is available on the Parents & Family Programs website at www.vanderbilt.edu/familyweekend. It will be updated regularly. Football tickets will be available through Family Weekend online registration in early August. A comprehensive printed schedule will be mailed in early August. See you in October!
Students encouraged to provide missing person information

The Office of the University Registrar welcomes all new students to the university. We provide many services to all Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff. The reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in 2008 required Vanderbilt to establish a missing student notification policy and procedures for students living on campus housing. One requirement of the act is to give students the option to provide a confidential contact to campus police to use if the student is officially determined to be missing. The registrar’s office has recently implemented a “missing person and emergency contact” application.

All students are encouraged to fill out the application by logging in to Your Enrollment Services (YES) and clicking on the envelope icon to report the name, address and up to three phone numbers of their missing person contact as well as an emergency contact. This information can be critical if a student is missing or is involved in an emergency. Students may provide this important information as soon as they receive their VUnet ID and password.

Want to get involved?

Parents are invited to get involved in the following areas:

- First-year mentoring committee
- Regional parent receptions
- Regional parent receptions
- Regional parent receptions
- Regional parent receptions
- Communications
- Communications
- Communications
- Communications
- Communications
- Communications
- Admissions
- Admissions
- Admissions
- Admissions
- Admissions
- Admissions

How to volunteer?

Go to the Parents & Family Programs website at www.vanderbilt.edu/families, click on “volunteer opportunities” on the left side of screen and fill out the online participation form.

Be a parent ambassador for study abroad

The Global Education Office (GEO) is looking for parents of students who have studied abroad with Vanderbilt programs to be a part of our new parent ambassador program.

Parents of prospective study-abroad students have many questions about the programs, safety and security issues and how to help their student have a wonderful semester. Experienced parents are a great resource to answer these questions.

Parents interested in the ambassador program should send an email to geo@vanderbilt.edu with their name and email information along with their student’s name and study abroad location.

International film series provides insight, understanding

International Lens, a film series with a global perspective, uses film to promote conversation among the Vanderbilt and Nashville communities. The series offers free screenings two to three times a week of films that showcase a variety of genres, topics and cultures.

A Vanderbilt faculty member introduces each film and then leads a post-screening discussion. This extra dialogue and exchange about the film creates opportunities for the audience to interact with faculty outside of the classroom. Several films have been presented by the respective film’s director, providing a truly unique opportunity for growth and understanding. This spring, the Grammy-winning documentary Sam Cooke: Legend was presented by Vanderbilt Witter in Residence Peter Guralnick, who wrote the film and was recently inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame. Also this spring, the Vanderbilt community had the privilege to watch a first public screening of Velódromo, Alberto Fuguet, an acclaimed Chilean author and visiting professor for the Center for Latin American Studies, работы. Additionally, this spring, the Vanderbilt community had the opportunity to watch a first public screening of Velódromo, Alberto Fuguet, an acclaimed Chilean author and visiting professor for the Center for Latin American Studies.

International Lens, which began in spring 2008, was named Best Film Series in 2009 by the Nashville Scene. The series is a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students and academic departments, centers and programs. The Office of Arts and Creative Engagement and International Student and Scholar Services coordinate the program. The film schedule is available at www.vanderbilt.edu/internationallens.

Academic advising center gets students off to good start

The new CASPAR center is a friendly place for first-year and sophomore students. The advisers in the College of Arts and Science Pre-major Academic Advising Resource Center (CASPAR) work with all first-year and sophomore students in the college to help them understand Vanderbilt’s academic rules and regulations. “Our goal is to help students make informed decisions that will contribute to their academic success at Vanderbilt,” says CASPAR Director Patricia Armstrong.

Advisers work with students to:

- select courses to meet requirements for AXLE, the college’s core curriculum, and their major;
- seek out information about preprofessional majors (such as premedical or prelaw);
- learn more about majors and minors in Arts and Science and Vanderbilt’s other undergraduate colleges; and
- get academic help when needed.

First-year students are assigned to an adviser before they register for classes in June and stay paired with their adviser until declaring a major in the sophomore year. Advisers typically meet with students up to three times in the fall and spring and are available for additional meetings.

Students and parents with questions are encouraged to contact Armstrong at patricia.armstrong@vanderbilt.edu or (615) 343-0071.

Nancy and Eddie Foster, parents of Kate, Peabody Class of 2011, and Amy Abernathy, mother of Emily, Peabody Class of 2011, mingle at the Memphis parent reception.

Carmen Falty, mother of Wyrter, Arts and Science Class of 2011, smiles with Parents & Family Programs Director Suzanne Thigpen at the Memphis parent reception.
Student spotlight: Dallas Jessup

Vanderbilt sophomore Dallas Jessup already has a resume that many would envy.

Her high school community service project has grown into a worldwide nonprofit called Just Yell Fire with a message to protect young women against sexual assault, predators and human trafficking. "The Vanderbilt faculty and administration encourage us to live high-impact lives," Jessup says.

Jessup, a communication studies and political science double major, founded Just Yell Fire in 2006. The organization teaches young women ages 11 to 19 personal safety awareness and street-fighting skills to help them avoid and get out of attack situations. Jessup, an expert marital artist, has been named a CNN Hero.

This spring, she testified about her project during Congressional hearings on human rights. Helping her prepare were M.L. Sundoo, a senior lecturer in communications studies; Mark Dalhouse, director of the Office of Active Citizenship and Service; and Christina West, assistant vice chancellor for federal relations.

"If you make self defense, personal rights awareness and danger avoidance a mandatory part of health class and PE every year for every teen girl—within a few years you will have the most powerful generation of young women in history," Jessup said during the hearings.

Faculty spotlight: Winger-Bearskin and the art of performance

Seeing art in unexpected places and in unexpected ways is a specialty of Amelia Winger-Bearskin, assistant professor of studio art. She teaches time-based art—which cannot be captured as a still image.

In one recent class, students used portable media such as laptops and cell phones to create attention-getting events in the virtual world and on campus. The project culminated with a dance competition between two students dressed as superheroes that was broadcast via laptop from Vanderbilt to 15 cities around the world.

Winger-Bearskin sees this type of art as a way of broadening the perspectives of her students.

"I'm interested in bringing a broader audience into the art world," she said. "The great thing about the Internet and video is that you can reach people who would never think about going into a museum."

She also hopes that no matter what careers her students pursue, that they will take a little of what they learned in her class with them.

"Whether they work in art or business or medicine, I hope I've given them the tools to always ask questions about why things are done in a certain way and why they do things in a certain way. I want them to be active participants in their world," she says.

Students are the stars in Vandy-in-Hollywood

Chad Gervich, BA’96, knew from an early age that he wanted to work in television and film. Now he’s helping Vanderbilt students pursue similar dreams. Gervich, who is currently working on The Wanda Sykes Show, created Vandy-in-Hollywood, a summer internship program that helps students gain real world experience in Hollywood.

Rich Hull, BA’92, a 16-year veteran of the film and television business, was one of the first people Gervich turned to for help in launching Vandy-in-Hollywood.

"Chad called me and said he wanted two things," Hull says. "He wanted my help in getting the program started, and he wanted my company to host an intern. I agreed to both."

"We’re looking for people who can be incredibly specific about their professional goals and what they want to do," Gervich says. "The interns who are chosen are the ones who come in and say, ‘I want to be a television writer on a half-hour comedy like The Simpsons’ or ‘My goal is to be a studio executive developing small, character-driven movies like Precious.’"

Gervich and Hull work to find an intern’s dream job, but there are no guarantees. What is assured, though, is that the students will work long hours for no compensation and must pay all their own expenses. The payoff comes in receiving college credit and having a beefed-up resume with bona-fide work experience plus sterling references from some of Hollywood’s biggest names.

Interested students should contact Tiffany Franklin at the Vanderbilt Career Center, (615) 322-2750.

Recovery program helps students succeed

The beginning of the school year confronts students with a barrage of questions, which range from how will I get to class by myself and how will I find my way around campus to how can I fit in and still be myself? Students with chronic health issues have more questions—what if the symptoms flare up again or I have a relapse? Will I be the only one on campus with my condition?

The same holds true for students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addictions.

To provide support and a safe place for students in recovery, the Dean of Students sponsors Vanderbilt Recovery Support (VRS). A relatively new addition to campus services, VRS offers a weekly student-led support group and a designated alcohol-and drug-free place on campus where VRS members can gather. VRS participants have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of recovery-safe programs, activities and events.

Students and parents can get more information about VRS or other alcohol- and drug-related services on campus in several ways:

• recovering@vanderbilt.edu (confidential email)
• Alcohol and drug abuse prevention: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/alcohol
• Substance abuse counseling: http://www.gustavus.edu/student_health/mental-health-services/alcohol-and-drug-counseling-services
• Student health and wellness: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/healthycareers
• Psychological & Counseling Center: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ccc
A message from John and Cammie Rice, 2009–10 Parents Campaign chairs

Cammie and I have taken our responsibility for chairing this year’s Parents Campaign very seriously. This fiscal year has not been without its challenges and successes, and we would like to acknowledge the role every parent plays in the Parents Campaign for Vanderbilt. Parents are a generous constituency, helping to cover the disparity between tuition and the cost of a Vanderbilt education. Parents have given nearly $5.3 million in gifts and more than $5.75 million in new pledges this year. As of May 31, parents have given more than $18.1 million to the Shape the Future campaign. Parent donors are unique because they help ensure a world-class education for every Vanderbilt student, not just their own. By helping to enrich the Vanderbilt community, parents are sculpting our future leaders and scholars.

We want to recognize the Parents Leadership Committee (PLC), a critical group of committed and dynamic parent donors. We had hoped to reach 200 members this year but have surpassed that goal with a record-breaking 206 members. PLC membership has grown nearly $1 million this year, and we are grateful for their support and involvement.

We look forward to turning over this year’s campaign to Mark and Patti Mays, and we know they will continue to work towards a successful Parents Campaign. We have truly enjoyed every year as Parents Campaign chairs. It has been exciting and a meaningful way to be involved with an institution that means so much to our son Tanner. Thank you for your support.

Spencer Kravitz and his wife, Rhonda Greenstein-Kravitz, of Manhasset Hills, N.Y., have always taught their children the importance of public service. From an early age, Evan, BA’09, and Ariel, BA’10, were attending civic meetings with their mother.

“I would take them in their little Ninja Turtle sleeping bags and they’d go play and fall asleep in the corner,” Rhonda says. “Today they know it’s their obligation and responsibility to be civic-minded.”

To remind their children of their good fortune, the Kravitz family established the Ariel Morgan Kravitz and Evan Jared Kravitz Scholarship which will be awarded to a College of Arts and Science student whose parents work in public service.

Rhonda, an assistant attorney general in New York, has always worked in the public sector.

“I have a lot of friends who pursued their passion to work in public service,” Rhonda says. “Now they’re faced with the challenge of sending their kids to school because their remuneration pales in comparison with the private sector. You get other rewards in public service—great rewards—but you don’t get financial rewards.”

With both children at Vanderbilt, the couple took every opportunity to be involved, including membership in both the Parents and Family Association and the Parents Leadership Committee.

“Vanderbilt wasn’t just an education for our children, it was an education for us,” Rhonda says. “We met and spoke with people from all over and really became a family.”

The idea of creating a scholarship was one that the couple thought about for several years. One factor in their decision was Vanderbilt’s expanded financial aid program that eliminates need-based undergraduate student loans.

“I was very impressed by that,” says Spencer, who manages a small hedge fund. “Not having to worry about student loans may keep a great student at Vanderbilt instead of settling for another institution. It gives them the freedom to choose.”

“This isn’t a decision that we came to lightly,” Rhonda says. “We’re of more modest means than the typical philanthropist who endows scholarships, but we’re both very lucky and were able to complete our education without any student loans. My father was a concentration camp survivor and came here with nothing, but he and my mom made sure that I had that freedom of education. What greater gift can you give somebody?”

Scholarship provides gift of an education

Carmy Prentice, Class of 2012, is the first recipient of the Margretta H. Wikert and Cody M. Wikert Scholarship, which was established by a $2.4 million gift from Jim and Andrea Wikert in honor of their twins.

By Carly Prentice

My story is not unique. I have met other students with stories about the generosity of Vanderbilt parents, grandparents, alumni and friends. My father, a chaplain in the U.S. Army, has served two tours in Afghanistan. With two sisters, I knew I would need to pay for most of my college. I was stunned to learn that I had received a scholarship to Vanderbilt.

My freshman year was love at first sight. The challenging academic atmosphere was balanced with the diverse social atmosphere. In 2009 I met the donors of my scholarship. They told me it was for students who have lost a parent in military service or with a parent who has served in the military. My father’s service to his country had helped make my education possible.

I am grateful to Vanderbilt for teaching me about academics, being a global citizen and about generosity and opportunity. Someone once said: ‘He who influences the thoughts of his times, influences all the times that follow. He has made his impress on eternity.’ This is exactly what parent donors like the Wikerts are doing. Generous parent contributions help make Vanderbilt the school that it is.

Mays to chair Parents Leadership Committee

When Mark Mays, BA’95, and his future wife, Patti, BS’86, met at Vanderbilt, they had no idea what a large role the school would play their futures. Today their son, Ryan, Class of 2013, is studying engineering, and the couple will serve as co-chairs of the 2010-2011 Parents Leadership Committee (PLC). The Mays agree that a campus made up of students from all backgrounds will make the university stronger. Their goal is to increase membership in the PLC. The committee meets on campus twice a year and works to educate fellow Vanderbilt parents about the importance of supporting the university.

“Vanderbilt has always been very important to our family,” Patti says. “We want to encourage other parents to join the committee. Together we can help make sure that talented students have the same Vanderbilt experience we did.”

The San Antonio couple is impressed with the changes they see at Vanderbilt.

“Because of The Commons experience, there’s a much stronger connection among the students, administration and faculty now,” Patti says. “Plus, Chancellor Zegennis is very visible and really interacts and connects with the students.”

“We cherish our memories of Vanderbilt and the friends we made here,” Mark says. “I hope that Ryan feels the same way 20 years from now.”
Vanderbilt University
Parents & Family Programs
PMB 401627
2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37240-1627