Vanderbilt says yes to YES

Parents who remember struggling to plan their class schedules a couple of decades ago will be amazed by Vanderbilt’s new enrollment system, known as YES. Launched in spring 2010, Your Enrollment Services (YES) is a new way for students to manage their academic records and schedules. Students first used the system when registering for fall 2010 classes.

These enrollment tools replace OASIS, the previous online class registration system, and include a course catalog, schedule and calendar.

With YES, students benefit from an enhanced class search, a complete course catalog and a planner. Students are able to search for and select classes and to monitor their enrolling, wait listing and dropping or adding classes. The planner allows students to arrange a tentative schedule for each semester. Students also have access to comprehensive training tools to help familiarize them with the new system.

YES also bridges the gap between students and their advisers. Advisers can see students’ information in the same screens as their advisees and have access to academic records and any available degree audit information.

The next phase of YES will roll out in the summer 2011 with additional student account information, a new degree audit function and additional academic information. The system is located at http://yes.vanderbilt.edu.
Become a fan of Vanderbilt Parents & Family Programs on Facebook

Learn about upcoming campus events, read the latest Vanderbilt news and engage in discussions with Vanderbilt staff and other parents on the Vanderbilt Parents Facebook page. The page averages more than 170 visits per week from parents just like you who want to stay informed. To view the new Facebook page, visit the Parents & Family Programs website at www.vanderbilt.edu/families and click on the Facebook icon.

Great Performances at Vanderbilt delivers 36 years of unforgettable performing arts

Great Performances at Vanderbilt, Nashville’s longest running performing arts series, recently announced its 36th season. The Vanderbilt series has hosted contemporary performing arts from around the world and is recognized internationally for its dance presentations. Vanderbilt’s Parent & Family Programs office recently teamed up with the Vanderbilt Student Athlete Advisory Committee to promote upcoming Great Performances events.

Upcoming performances include:

- 2b Theatre Company, Invisible Atom
  Friday, February 25
  Canada’s 2b Theatre tells the story of fortune and misfortune in a tale that covers everything from economics to physics.

- Tango Buenos Aires, Fire and Passion
  Thursday, March 17
  One of Argentina’s great cultural exports, Tango Buenos Aires offers one of the most authentic and uncompromising tango forms around.

- Afro Cuban All Stars
  Friday, April 1
  Following in the vein of Cuban legends such as the Buena Vista Social Club, the group has become one of today’s most successful orchestras.

- Trisha Brown Dance Company, Pygmalion
  Friday, April 8
  The iconic choreographer celebrates the company’s 40th anniversary in love and magic with this performance based on Ovid’s Metamorphoses.

For details visit www.vanderbilt.edu/greatperformances.

The Commons celebrates three years

On August 21 Vanderbilt welcomed the new first-year students and their families to The Commons. This is the third class to begin undergraduate student life in a neighborhood that Vanderbilt professors also call home.

The Commons is a residential living and learning community for all first-year students. Through educational and social events, music, community service, celebrations, meals, conversations and unpredictable encounters, residents of The Commons connect with each other, as well as upperclass undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and administrators from across Vanderbilt.

Thanks to the living arrangements, students now know more professors outside the classroom and can become more comfortable in approaching faculty. The generation that networks on Facebook networks here too—from Vanderbilt Visions seminars to student study groups to intramural sports teams. Conversations range from light and fun to meaningful and poignant, whether at dinner in the faculty head’s apartment or a late-night discussion on the floor.

A new tradition began this year with The Commons Reading. Mountain climber Greg Mortenson visited in September to discuss Three Cups of Tea, his best-selling book about finding his life’s purpose building schools in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Jarvis tapped to lead Parents office

Amy Jarvis has been named executive director of the Parents and Grandparents Campaign and Parents & Family Programs. Jarvis brings 22 years of Vanderbilt experience to her new position. Most recently, she served as executive director of regional development in Vanderbilt’s Office of Development and Alumni Relations. She also held positions in the office of annual giving (now the Vanderbilt Fund), the law school and in corporate and foundation relations.

In her new role, Jarvis will serve as a vital link between parents and the university.

“I look forward to working closely with our parents and grandparents,” Jarvis says. “They provide crucial resources through their philanthropic giving and provide insightful, valuable feedback to Vanderbilt’s administration.”

During her career, Jarvis has seen Vanderbilt reach new levels of excellence, from the caliber of the students and outstanding faculty to physical enhancements such as The Commons.

“I want every parent to know that their children are here at a truly exceptional time,” she says. “Having the opportunity to interact with you and your children during this period of their lives is a great privilege.”
Facility Spotlight: Carolyn Huebl, performer and teacher

Ask Carolyn Huebl, assistant professor of violin at the Blair School of Music, if she prefers teaching or performing and you'll find that it's a difficult question. “It’s really fascinating how much one influences the other,” Huebl says. “The more I perform, the more I can bring to my students in terms of learning new repertoire. The more I teach, the more I discover about my own playing.”

Huebl performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra when she was only 17 and has entertained audiences across the United States as well as in Canada and Argentina. She is a former member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and currently performs with Blair’s Blakemore Trio. She has been on faculty at Blair for nine years and every year is more impressed with the school. “It’s amazing how quickly our reputation is spreading, considering the fact that most of the schools we compete against have been around lots longer,” Huebl says. “The standard is very high and the students push each other. Blair is competitive, but at its core, it’s a very supportive place.”

While attending a music conservatory, Huebl received her liberal arts education at an affiliated university. She appreciates everything Vanderbilt offers her students on one campus. “Our students have their Blair community, but they also have this whole campus filled with world-renowned professors,” she says. “They can make friends with students in different areas and they’re exposed to all these different perspectives. It’s just the best of both worlds.”

Seamens leads by example

Patrick Seamens, Class of 2013, has been named the 2010 Chancellor Alexander Heard Outstanding Community Servant. The award acknowledges Seamens’ work within the Greek system, his assistance in area homeless shelters and his efforts abroad with the Manna Project International.

Seamens, who is double-majoring in political science and philosophy, spent his last two spring breaks on Manna Project trips, most recently leading a group on a community service expedition to Costa Rica. The organization places young volunteers in developing international communities and provides them with hands-on learning and service opportunities.

“Vanderbilt’s Greek system was founded with an emphasis on personal responsibility and a responsibility to the greater community,” said Seamens, a member of Sigma Chi. “I hope to instill this belief in Vanderbilt’s newest Greeks.”

Seamens’ belief in responsibility is echoed through his participation in the Vanderbilt University Honor Council and his leadership as president of the Interfraternity Council.

“I’m thankful for the opportunity Vanderbilt has given me to make a positive impact in Nashville and for the willingness of all my fellow student leaders to support these efforts,” Seamens says.

Women’s Center undergoing renovation

In June, renovation began on the Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center and the Franklin building. Built in 1886 as one of six original university residence halls, the Franklin building will maintain its historic charm through the renovation. Primary improvements include an external stairway and elevator linking the first and second floors, which had separate external entrances.

“The renovated Women’s Center will be cheery with warm gathering areas and enhanced programming space,” says Nora Spencer, Women’s Center director. Tom Bauer and Garry Askey of Bauer Askey Architects designed the new space which features a multipurpose room, kitchen, lounge area and improved office space. Wider hallways and wheelchair-friendly restrooms also enhance accessibility.

Part of the Office of the Dean of Students, the Women’s Center continues to offer programs and services from its temporary location on Kensington Avenue until December, when it returns to West Side Row.
Parents assume leadership role

The Parents Leadership Committee (PLC) helps ensure that every Vanderbilt student receives a superior education. Last year PLC members raised $6 million in gifts to support student scholarships, programming and unrestricted funds. The committee also provides Vanderbilt’s administration with important feedback from the parental perspective.

The committee meets with senior university administrators and faculty twice a year—during Family Weekend in the fall and at Parents & Family Leadership Weekend in the spring.

Membership responsibilities include giving at one of the following levels:

- Cornelius Vanderbilt—$25,000 or more
- Chancellor’s Council—$10,000 to $24,999
- Dean’s List—$5,000 to $9,999

Other responsibilities include:

- hosting regional Summer Send-off Parties and Vanderbilt and You events, and attendance at special gatherings on campus and in the community;
- building relationships between Vanderbilt parents and the university, and promoting the university to friends and fellow parents;
- providing university administrators with valuable insight into the Vanderbilt undergraduate experience;
- participating in the annual Thank-A-Thon; and
- assisting Vanderbilt in providing internships and networking opportunities for Vanderbilt students and recent graduates.

For more information on joining the PLC, please contact Amy Jarvis or Rebekah Rohrbach in the Parents & Grandparents Campaign Office at (615) 343-3120.

Central Library renovations add and enhance study space

Vanderbilt’s Central Library has undergone a $6 million interior renovation that addresses 21st-century teaching and research needs for students and faculty and enhances the experiences of community visitors.

“Scholarship has changed dramatically in the 70 years since construction of the Central Library,” says Richard McCarty, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “The information revolution completely transformed the way faculty members teach, the way students learn and the way faculty and students conduct research.” He noted that the look of Vanderbilt’s largest library building has stayed much the same since World War II, except for the addition of the L. Fort Flowers Wing in 1969.

“With these changes, we provide improved study spaces which our students helped design,” says Connie Vinita Dowell, dean of libraries. “In addition, we will create new intellectual opportunities with an active program of readings, lectures, exhibits and a wide range of collaborations involving all areas of our campus.”

The renovation involved almost 5,000 square feet of existing space. Two new multipurpose group study areas that can be used for library instruction classes, study sessions and special events are being added along with more public workstations. The lobby’s four help desks have been consolidated to provide a single service point for library users. A cafe with an outdoor patio is also in the works.

The renovation began last spring on the library’s eighth floor. In May, work began on the second and fourth floors. Construction on the lobby, reference room, computer commons and second-floor breezeway is due. Work on the cafe and community room will be completed in the winter.

Senior Class Fund Committee aims high

Building on last year’s success, the 2011 Senior Class Fund Committee has set a goal of 50 percent participation from the senior class.

“The Class of 2011 hopes to begin a tradition of competition among successive senior classes with each trying to top the other,” says Zach Pflugraff, 2011 Senior Class Fund chair. “Participating in the Senior Class Fund marks the first step in our transition from students to alumni.”

The Senior Class Fund is a collection of individual gifts made by graduating seniors to the part of Vanderbilt that has meant the most to them, such as their school, department or favorite student organization. This semester, students will be involved in a number of events that raise awareness about the importance of giving back.

“Building a culture of philanthropy at Vanderbilt is our ultimate goal,” says Christopher Sottolano, staff advisor for Senior Class Fund. “Our student volunteers will educate their classmates about the importance of supporting the university and we hope that parents will talk to their students about philanthropy as well.”

Learn more about the Senior Class Fund at www.vanderbilt.edu/seniorclassfund.
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For more information, please contact:

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