Emergency preparedness at Vanderbilt

Vanderbilt is enhancing AlertVU, the university's emergency notification system for students, faculty and staff this winter.

The university continues to improve its notification systems with the goal of providing the Vanderbilt community with accurate and timely information in the event of an emergency that poses an imminent threat or danger to the university, medical center and Vanderbilt Health 100 Oaks campuses.

AlertVU is designed to send rapid messages to multiple delivery points—cell phone (voice or text), land line phone or email account.

Currently Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff must subscribe or opt-in to the service. One of the changes planned for this fall is that all active Vanderbilt email addresses will automatically be included in AlertVU as a baseline of contact information for Vanderbilt community members in the event of an emergency. Students, faculty and staff will continue to be able to specify additional contact methods by which they would like to receive emergency notifications.

Information entered in the system is private and will not be shared. There is no charge to receive AlertVU messages. However, if subscribers choose to receive text messages, their wireless carrier may charge to receive them depending upon the subscriber's cell phone plan.

Vanderbilt community members are encouraged to sign-up for AlertVU at vanderbilt.edu/alertvu.

Limited to members of the Vanderbilt community, AlertVU requires a valid Vanderbilt email address and a password of the subscriber's choosing. However, subscribers may list loved ones' phone numbers as one of their alternative phone numbers so that they too can receive emergency alerts.

AlertVU is just one of Vanderbilt's emergency notification tools; other tools, which include security notices, mass emails, social media and tornado sirens will also be used when warranted.

For more information regarding emergency preparedness at Vanderbilt and AlertVU, visit emergency.vanderbilt.edu.

Key dates

November 17
Residence halls close at 9 a.m.

November 17–25
Thanksgiving holiday

November 25
Residence halls open at 9 a.m.

December 6
Classes end

December 7–15
Reading days and examinations

December 16
Residence halls close at 9 a.m.

December 15–January 7
Winter break

January 4
Residence halls open at noon

January 4–6 and 11–13
Greek Life recruitment

January 7
Classes begin

March 2
Residence halls close at 9 a.m.

March 2–10
Spring break

March 10
Residence halls open at 9 a.m.
Anchor Link: Connecting students to campus life

This fall Vanderbilt launched Anchor Link, a system that helps students become engaged on campus and manage their experiences outside the classroom. Vanderbilt students now have a central location where they can find information about student organizations, campus events and university programs.

Anchor Link allows students to express interest in various campus organizations and then receive recommendations for groups and events based on their interests. In addition, the system automatically creates a resume of a student’s co-curricular involvement including organization involvement, leadership positions, attendance at campus programs connected to learning outcomes, and community service hours logged. The co-curricular resume can be an exceptional tool for students to use when applying for internships, scholarship programs, campus awards or employment.

Student organizations are also using Anchor Link to manage their groups, recruit new members, publicize events, track attendance at programs using electronic card readers, send emails and text messages to members, and keep records of their organization’s activities.

All students can create a profile and gain full access to the system using their VUnet ID and password. Parents can view the public features of the site at anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu.

VISAGE enhances the Vanderbilt experience

Vanderbilt’s Initiative for Scholarship and Global Engagement (VISAGE), is a yearlong program that involves a study abroad service learning experience bookended by two semesters of academic exploration, civic engagement and critical reflection. VISAGE builds on existing relationships between Vanderbilt and local and global community partners and universities. The continued involvement VISAGE provides strengthens those partnerships.

The program is comprised of first- to third-year students who enroll in a spring foundation course on a topic of regional significance, followed by a summer service or field-based project abroad and ending with a fall research-based seminar.

After participating in the program, students are equipped not only with a strong academic foundation, but one of a unique global experience that they can integrate into their academic experience at Vanderbilt as well as engage in further service opportunities in the Nashville community.

Faculty play a key role in this program, serving as directors who develop the topics and lead the programs overseas. Previous sites and themes have included Australia (sustainable water resource development), Guatemala (health, development and culture), Nicaragua (family, community and social justice), Northern Ireland (sustainable building design) and South Africa (community and youth development).

For 2012-2013 students can participate in programs in Costa Rica (tourism and corporate social responsibility) and Russia (History and culture). For more information, visit vanderbilt.edu/geo.

New campus leaders fill key roles

Three exceptional individuals have accepted new roles at Vanderbilt.

Catherine Fuchs, BA’78, MD’82, has been named director of the Psychological and Counseling Center. Mark Forrester is university chaplain and director of the Office of Religious Life and Clive Mentzel is now director of the Office of Active Citizenship and Service.

As an alumna, Fuchs knows Vanderbilt and its students better than most, and feels especially equipped to handle their needs.

“It is critical that the counseling center address the counseling and psychiatric needs of the students in a manner that engages them,” she says. “I look forward to enhancing our clinical care and the opportunity to collaborate with the medical center.”

Mentzel comes to Vanderbilt via Johannesburg and London where he championed the diversity of religious life that seeks expression through loving community.

I want to promote the value of service and active citizenship” Mentzel says. “Vanderbilt students want to make a significant and sustainable difference in the world through service—they’re commitment is just breathtaking.”

Forrester assumed his new role after serving 18 years as the United Methodist campus minister and director of the Wesley/Canterbury Fellowship at St. Augustine’s Chapel on Greek Row.

“I am excited to engage such an academically strong student body and to champion the diversity of religious life that seeks expression through devotion, service and solidarity,” he says. “Vanderbilt students seem to be here not only to attain a degree, but to make a difference in the surrounding community.”

To learn more, visit these websites: vanderbilt.edu/pcc (counseling center); vanderbilt.edu/oacs (active citizenship); vanderbilt.edu/religiouslife.

We would like to thank the following past and current parents who hosted Summer Send-Off parties this year.

Daniel and Joanne Aronson
Walter and Nel Belt
Daryl and Louellen Berger
Jon and Lili Billings
Jim and Carol Bowen
Robert and Amy Brodsky
Rob and Debra Bush
Rob and Poppie Clements
John and Susan Crowe
David and Martha Elliott
Noel and Betsy Estopinal
Chuck and Lora Farkas
Bill and Karen Fesmire
John and Laura Foster
Curis and Beth Harrell
Karen and Wynn Harrison
Greg and Tracey Iglehart
Dennis and Linda Kovach
Walt and Lynn Kunau
Bill and Barbi Macon
Steven and Jodi Mahon
Mike McGee and Olga Castellanos
Patrick and Suzanne McGee
John and Julia Morris
Gary and Cecilia Peters
Octavio and Judy Portu
Harold and Diane Smethills
Mark and Charlotte Stinchlak
George and Patti White
Faculty spotlight: Carrie Masten

Carrie Masten, assistant professor of psychology at the Peabody College of Education and Human Development, is only 10 years older than most of her students, but with the rapid advances in technology, she sometimes feels much older. In her classes on social and personality development, she sees the differences firsthand.

"Technology has had a huge impact on the way children's social relationships develop," Masten says. "Teenagers still spend time together, but the interaction doesn't end when they're apart—they're in contact all the time. This surge in technology has created a real generation gap in only a few years."

Masten points out that in the past, parents and their children often had similar experiences growing up. However, social media outlets such as Facebook provide children with experiences that parents never went through. The more parents understand this, the better they'll understand their children.

"I think a lot of parents worry about all the negative things that can happen online," Masten says. "But social media can be a great outlet for kids who are shy or have trouble communicating face-to-face."

Because of their small size, Masten's classes are highly interactive.

"I have them do peer reviews of research articles to learn the research publication process," she says. "That way, they understand where the information actually comes from instead of me teaching them facts from their textbooks. It really, really makes teaching a lot more fun."

Student spotlight: David Head

David Head, Class of 2015, is the new president of the Vanderbilt Programming Board and will put his organizational skills to the test in the upcoming year as he helps manage several campus-wide events including IMPACT, the Rites of Spring Music Festival and Homecoming.

"The Programming Board's success is due to the dedication of our nearly one hundred members," Head says. "Their work ensures a better experience for Vanderbilt's entire student body."

Before assuming the role of president, Head served as co-chairman of the Speakers Committee, one of the Programming Board's seven constituent committees. In that capacity, he managed the IMPACT Symposium, an annual student-led lecture. The three-day symposium tackled the future of American foreign policy with lectures by Senator Lamar Alexander, Wesley Clark, Jon Huntsman, Bill Richardsson and Vicente Fox.

Head is majoring in economics and history, carries a 3.8 GPA and has previously served as chief of staff for the Student Government Association and as president of the Microfinance Club. He has also been a VUceptor and an economics teaching assistant.

Texas Connections networking event

The Center for Student Professional Development, formerly the Vanderbilt Career Center, in partnership with the Office of Alumni Relations and Parents and Family Programs office, recently hosted Texas Connections, a professional networking event for more than 40 Texas students and their parents.

Vanderbilt alumni and parents shared real-world advice with students and answered questions during the two-hour roundtable event at the Briar Club in Houston. Panelists included analysts, entrepreneurs, managers and CEOs. They represented a mix of companies including Southwest Airlines, Diamond Offshore Drilling, Conoco Phillips, Linda Dalton Marketing, KPMG and TOS Advisors.

While students participated in roundtable discussions, parents had an opportunity to meet with center director Cindy Funk who announced the center's name change and shared the vision for the future of the center. She also discussed center services and recruiting opportunities available to Vanderbilt students.

"Texas Connections and similar events afford students the opportunity to add to their network and build professional development skills, which will help them discover and secure future opportunities," said Funk.

Parents, students and panelists regrouped during the last hour to make introductions and continue networking conversations. All attendees enthusiastically expressed an interest in seeing the event continue in 2013.

Give them keys to our car!

Cutting costs for your student isn’t always easy, but here’s one suggestion well worth your consideration—leave the car at home. With Zipcar, your Commodore will only pay for a car by the hour or by the day (gas and insurance is included). They’ll never hit you up for extra gas or insurance money again. Just make sure you only need to be 18 to join and when you sign them up for just $25 they’ll get $35 in driving credit to try Zipcar out. What’re you waiting for?

Learn more at zipcar.com/vanderbilt.

Texas Connections networking event

A very special thanks to our panel experts:

Linda Dalton
Larry Dickerson
Tommy Jackson
Ricardo Nazario
Ken Penny
Elizabeth Robinson
Roger Rodek
Luke Stone

Zipcar: what makes us work

California culture with Tennessee culture.

The opportunity to represent Vanderbilt and Nashville, parents and active volunteers Olga Castellanos and Mike McGee embrace it.

Instead of being intimidated by the distance between their homes, the couple decided to move to Nashville, parents and active volunteers Olga Castellanos and Mike McGee embrace it.

"The programming board’s success is due to the involvement of our students," Masten says. "Our involvement gives them the opportunity to represent California culture with Tennessee culture.

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Harrells to chair Parents Leadership Committee

The Parents and Grandparents Campaign is pleased that Beth and Curtis Harrell of Houston will be leading the Parents Leadership Committee this year. The Harrells are parents to Connor, Class of 2013, and Clay, Class of 2016. The decision to assume the role came easily to the couple.

“We’re just thrilled to be a part of the Vanderbilt family and to help out any way we can,” Beth says. “Vanderbilt really is a family and you just don’t see that very often in a university—it was a very easy decision for us to do this.”

The Harrells feel especially compelled to give because their oldest son, Connor, is on an athletic scholarship.

“The best thing about Connor playing baseball is that it gives us a built-in excuse to come visit,” Curtis says. “Watching him play there has been a wonderful experience. We are so grateful for the opportunities he has been provided, and have a strong sense of gratitude and appreciation—we can’t return that gift, but we can certainly give back through service and support. Our desire is to see the continued growth of the PLC as it becomes a more significant fundraising source for Vanderbilt.”

The Harrells’ younger son Clay is a first-year student in the engineering school. “Now that we have Clay there too, Nashville has become our home away from home,” Beth says.

Beth and Curtis have been members of the PLC since Connor started at Vanderbilt, and encourage other parents to take advantage of the opportunities it offers.

“From the first meeting I was impressed by the size of the parent turnout and the commitment the committee made to educational programs for its members.” Curtis says. “The meetings are a great way to develop relationships with other parents. We can talk with one another and share our diverse perspectives.”

After spending more than three years on the committee, the Harrells are even more aware of its importance.

“I never thought that I would have the opportunity to make an impact on someone’s life—to really change someone’s world,” Beth says. “I’m happy to help another child have the same wonderful Vanderbilt experience that my children have had.”

New multipurpose facility to serve entire Vanderbilt community

From one end of campus to another, cranes, bulldozers and hard hats are familiar sights. There’s a building boom going on at Vanderbilt. One of the most ambitious projects is the new 299,000 square foot multipurpose facility. The projected completion date is August 2014.

As an expansion of the current on-campus recreation center located next to the outdoor track, the facility is a commitment to a university-wide vision for wellness and community and to Vanderbilt athletics. The facility will enhance the football program as well as the soccer, track and cross country teams—and others—yet the impact of the facility will extend far across the university. This place is for everyone.

Major components of the project include a 120-yard turf field, NCAA-standard indoor track, bowling lanes and a gym. Also planned are a lifting and weight room, long jump center, meeting rooms and squash courts. Cardiovascular exercise capacity on campus will double as a result of this project.

The project, which is being funded by a combination of philanthropy and university investment, moves toward the trend on many college campuses of combined recreation facilities that serve students, faculty and staff.

The multipurpose facility is expected to have some impact on the local community as well as it will increase the capacity for some of Vanderbilt’s popular summer camps for children used by the Vanderbilt and Nashville communities. There will also be limited rental opportunities for the Nashville community, such as the hosting of major indoor high school track meets.

Naming opportunities are available for the facility. For more information, please contact Mark Carter, executive director of the National Commodore Club and athletics development, at (615) 322-4114 or mark.carter@vanderbilt.edu.

CRedit card gifts may be made on our secure website at vanderbilt.edu/giveonline.

For specific instructions on making a gift of stock to Vanderbilt, please call (615) 322-4987 or email stockgifts@vanderbilt.edu.

To make an anonymous gift, tell the Parents and Grandparents Campaign Office of the request—(615) 343-3120—and it will be processed accordingly.

If you’re considering a planned gift such as a charitable gift annuity or bequest, please contact Anthony Barclay in the Office of Planned Giving at (615) 343-3113.

For your convenience, Vanderbilt provides a number of ways for parents, grandparents, alumni and friends to make gifts. Specific information is available online at giving.vanderbilt.edu.

• Gifts, pledges and pledge payments may be mailed to Vanderbilt Parents and Grandparents Campaign, Gift Processing Office, PMB 407725, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240.

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