A new vision for Rand and Sarratt

With the new partnership between Vanderbilt and Barnes & Noble, the university bookstore has moved to West End Avenue. The question then became—what to do with the former home of the bookstore, 28,000 square feet of prime real estate in the heart of campus?

A planning committee representing the Dean of Students, Vanderbilt Dining, Campus Planning and Construction, Vanderbilt Student Government, Multicultural Leadership Council and other student organizations explored options for the space. More than 1,300 responses were gathered from the campus community through social media sites, focus groups, surveys and video testimonials. These responses, along with a feasibility study by Gresham, Smith and Partners, yielded a renovation plan for Sarratt Student Center and Rand Complex.

The plan’s focus is to provide more space for students to gather. The former bookstore space will become a large open flexible area for additional dining seating, student performances and social events. A new store located just off the Rand Terrace will offer basic class supplies and sandwiches, snacks, drinks and more. The top floors of Sarratt and the former bookstore will be connected. The Office of Active Citizenship and Service and the Office of Leadership Development and Intercultural Affairs will move to Rand for better accessibility and visibility. Also in Rand will be practice and performance space for campus arts groups, and meeting space and other resources for more than 300 student organizations.

Construction will be in full swing just after Commencement. The Vanderbilt community can still provide feedback on the renovation by visiting vanderbilt.edu/sarratt, clicking on the “Renovation@VUSarratt” button and then the suggestion box. Updates are available on the website and on Facebook at VUSarratt.

Family Weekend 2012 is October 12–14

Family Weekend is the perfect time for students, parents, grandparents and siblings to reconnect. We have many fun and exciting events planned, including an SEC football matchup between the ’Dores and the University of Florida Gators.

Visit vanderbilt.edu/familyweekend for the tentative schedule. A comprehensive schedule will be available when you arrive. See you in October!
Green Dots—A national movement aimed at reducing and preventing violence—has come to Vanderbilt. As part of the university’s commitment to creating a safe learning environment for all students, the Office of the Dean of Students implemented this proven program that focuses on bystander intervention to reduce personal violence.

That violence may be hitting a girlfriend, stalking a former boyfriend or taking advantage of a student who has had too much to drink. The program teaches bystanders how to recognize these situations and how to speak out against them. The goal is that eventually enough people will speak out to help create a culture change that makes this type of violence less sustainable in the community.

A committee made up of students, faculty and staff has sponsored more than 50 events, equipping more than 5,000 members of the Vanderbilt community with concrete skills to keep themselves and their friends safe. Examples of successful interventions are shown on Vanderbilt’s Green Dot map, which shows where people have intervened to promote safety. You can see the map at vanderbilt.edu/greendots.

While violence on campus is a tough topic, Vanderbilt’s Green Dot program promotes a solution to build a stronger, safer community. For more information, contact the Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center at (615) 322-4843 or womenctr@vanderbilt.edu.

Students mesh academics with real world through OACS programs

The Office of Active Citizenship and Service provides Vanderbilt students with opportunities to bridge their academic studies with real-world experiences throughout the year, with programs in the summer, fall and spring semesters.

During May, the office provides experiential learning programs in several global destinations, including Sri Lanka, Ecuador and Tanzania.

Active Citizenship and Service also coordinates VIEW, the Vanderbilt Internship Program. VIEW is designed for rising sophomores. It provides leadership and professional development programming during the fall semester followed in the spring by semester-long service internship with a Nashville community partner.

The office is also home to more than 60 student-led service organizations that volunteer and advocate for social justice issues. Groups such as Alternative Spring Break, Manna Project International, Habitat Spring Break and Best Buddies Spring Break mobilize more than 500 students every March to participate in a weeklong service experience with their Vanderbilt peers.

To find out more, visit vanderbilt.edu/oacs.

Spirit of Gold marching band delivers excitement

Except for touchdowns, nothing excites the crowd in Vanderbilt Stadium more than a spirited rendition of “Dynamite” performed by the Spirit of Gold marching band. The more than 200 undergraduates who make up the band practice seven hours a week to perfect their music and halftime shows.

Parents get in on the act as well during Family Weekend. Before the football game, band parents rehearse with the band, practicing how to spell “VU” in formation for the halftime show. In 2011, more than 250 parents and family members joined Bruce Channel, the writer of “Hey Baby,” for a halftime sing-along of the popular tune. This fun traditional event is followed by a barbecue tailgate.

Interesting band facts:
- Students hail from 34 states, including Hawaii and Alaska.
- Every academic discipline at Vanderbilt is represented in the band.
- The band currently has 47 music majors.
- Most members have played their instruments for at least six years, and many also participated in their all-state bands.
- Some students have never participated in a marching band before college.

Sport clubs offer real-life lessons along with fitness

Vanderbilt’s Student Recreation Center offers 40 different sport clubs to satisfy a wide variety of interests. Students initially become involved in these programs for the athletic benefits, but physical fitness is not the only advantage.

Sport clubs allow students to experience real-world problems and create solutions. “These clubs offer students the chance to gain knowledge and experience outside of pure athletics,” says Breanna Stein, women’s Ultimate Frisbee president.

Jeff Gitter, president of the running club, has used skills he learned in the classroom to benefit his club. “Implementing theories I learned in my major has helped the club operate better,” says Gitter, a junior in human and organizational development.

Senior Brenden Oliver, president of the ice hockey club, has helped revitalize the team. His efforts have helped bring together “a group of guys who are really dedicated and love to play the game,” he says.

Senior Ginny Boone helped lead the Vanderbilt women’s club soccer team to a victory at nationals. “I learned an incredible amount about finances, travel logistics and the level of organization needed to run a team through this experience,” she said.

Learn more about the sports clubs by visiting vanderbilt.edu/campusrecreation.
Parent Spotlight:
Walt and Lynn Kunau

Walt (BA’80) and Lynn (BA’83) Kunau are a triple threat when it comes to Vanderbilt—they are alumni, parents of a current student and faithful volunteers. Whether it’s helping with Family Weekend, hosting a Summer Send-Off event at their Louisville home or cheering on the Dores at a basketball game, they are 100 percent Vanderbilt.

When they were asked to serve on the Parents and Family Association Advisory Board, they naturally said yes.

“We get to see firsthand what a quality institution Vanderbilt is on all fronts,” Lynn says. “You meet other parents, you see where your child is going to class and you just get a greater appreciation for the school.”

One volunteer activity Walt especially enjoys is interviewing potential students. He’ll continue that activity after his son Dan graduates from the College of Arts and Science this spring. “It keeps me young being around these incredibly bright young people,” he says. “These kids are so talented, and they’re making everybody’s degree worth a lot more.”

Lynn cites the Summer Send-Off parties as some of her favorite events. “All the parents are so excited that their children are going off to such a great place,” she says. “And we’re all a little jealous that we’re not going off to college too.”

Student Spotlight:
Gheremey D. Edwards

Gheremey D. Edwards, Vanderbilt’s 2010–2011 VUcept vice president, was recently selected as one of 10 finalists in Vanderbilt’s Outstanding Senior competition. Through VUcept, the university’s peer mentoring program for first-year students, Edwards has facilitated the personal and academic growth of students on The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt.

“Working with VUcept has helped me fulfill my vision of personal and academic growth,” Edwards says. “VUcept has allowed me to model the changes I want to see.”

Edwards, who is from Memphis, Tenn., is to graduate in May with his self-created interdisciplinary major, business and society. Last summer he received Vanderbilt’s Global Summer Fellowship for academic merit, and he used the $8,000 award to intern and study in Cape Town, South Africa. After graduation he will work with Teach For America in Memphis before pursuing an MBA degree at Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business.

10 tips for Commencement, May 9–11

1. Attire: Layer in light colors. It could be 50 degrees at 7 a.m. and 90 degrees by noon. No heels for the ladies. You’ll sink into Alumni Lawn.

2. Special needs: If your family requires mobility or other assistance, call Disability Services at (615) 322-4705 to discuss parking options, wheelchairs and additional assistance. Services are limited and must be arranged in advance.

3. Photography: We’ll take close-ups of each graduate holding their diploma and shaking hands with the chancellor. Proofs and order information will be sent to your graduate’s permanent address. DVDs of the main ceremony, including undergraduate diploma ceremony, will also be available.

4. Announcements: Order through the Commencement website at vanderbilt.edu/commencement. Orders placed before April 15 will arrive in time for mailing prior to Commencement. Remember, announcements can be sent before or after the event.

5. Housing: Have a last-minute guest and all the hotels are full? Stay at The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt for only $89 a night.

6. Dining: Avoid the crowds and dine on campus. Check the website to order our premium box lunches for just $10.

7. THE PARTY: This outdoor event—featuring America’s best dance band, Liquid Blue—is great for the whole family. It is set for 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 9. Graduates receive one free ticket. Purchase additional tickets at our website for $20.

8. Senior Day speaker: Renowned broadcaster, journalist and writer Tom Brokaw is our 2012 Nichols-Chancellors’ Medal recipient and speaker. The event is set for 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 10, at Memorial Gym. No guest limit, no tickets necessary! Plan to sit with your graduate in seats on the gym floor.

9. Commencement Day seating: No tickets are necessary! Seating is first come, first served. Arrive no later than 8 a.m. Friday to be safe. Saving seats is not allowed due to space constraints.

10. Indoor viewing areas: There are many indoor areas set aside for guests to view Commencement. Stay out of the heat or foul weather but remain close to all the action! Check the maps on the website for locations.

Questions? If you need assistance, call (615) 322-2870 or toll-free at (866) 3VUGRAD, email commencement@vanderbilt.edu or visit vanderbilt.edu/commencement for complete details.

Sign up for Commencement text alerts
at vanderbilt.edu/commencement/text-message to have the latest information sent directly to your cell phone in the event of severe weather.

Follow us on Twitter (@VUgraduation) and Facebook (VanderbiltCommencement) for weekly updates and reminders.
Anonymous donors spark growth with matching gift plan

Thanks to the generosity of anonymous parent donors, the Parents Campaign has almost 50 new donor society members. The anonymous donors created a two-for-one matching gift program—up to $100,000 in matching funds—for parents making their first donor society-level gift.

The generosity didn’t end there—the donors offered another $100,000 in matching funds for parents renewing their donor society-level gifts. We are more than halfway to the renewing members match.

Parent support has always been an essential part of Vanderbilt’s success. As you plan your giving prior to the end of the fiscal year on June 30, we encourage you to support our future leaders and scholars. If you need any assistance, please contact Rebekah Rohrbach or Amy Jarvis in the Parents and Grandparents Campaign Office at (615) 343-3120 or ppcampaign@vanderbilt.edu.

Every gift to the Vanderbilt Parents and Grandparents Campaign helps support the wonderful Vanderbilt community to which we all belong. Thank you for your support.

Customize a planned gift that works for you and for Vanderbilt

As parents and grandparents, you understand the value of a Vanderbilt degree. Students gain so much from being part of Vanderbilt’s stimulating living-learning community, and their world-class education from Vanderbilt opens up doors to many careers. You know that the Vanderbilt experience is worth supporting.

The Planned Giving office at Vanderbilt allows you to make meaningful contributions to the university while still accomplishing personal or family goals. Vanderbilt has excellent alternatives to making outright gifts or pledges. Some planned gifts allow you to make a gift while retaining access to key assets during your lifetime. Other planned gifts offer substantial tax benefits while providing lifetime income for yourself, your spouse, your children or even grandchildren. Whether you’re considering establishing a trust that is invested in Vanderbilt’s endowment or donating a vacation home through a retained life estate, the Planned Giving office is available to answer your questions.

Whatever your family needs or personal goals may be, we can examine your situation and work together with your attorney and financial advisers to customize a gift that works for you and for Vanderbilt. Our goal is to help you support Vanderbilt’s mission while ensuring your family’s financial security.

For more information, please contact Anthony Barclay in the Planned Giving office at (615) 343-3113 or anthony.b Barclay@vanderbilt.edu or visit vanderbilt.edu/plannedgiving.

Examples of planned gifts

- Real estate
- Charitable gift annuity
- Bequest
- Charitable remainder trust
- Charitable lead trust

As a senior, I do not have to leave the school on the city’s western border hustling for dollars—because Opportunity Vanderbilt taught me I can leave dreaming bigger and bigger dreams. I am grateful for those who chose to dream with me.

“A scholarship student says thank you

I love Vanderbilt. Now I am in the last semester of my undergraduate education, and the prophecy of my mother and others is clearly becoming true: It will be over before you know it. As I complete my divinity school applications, I remember my first time going through this process of applying, waiting for decisions and then making my decision.

It seems just yesterday I was making my final university selection. I had narrowed my list down to two—Harvard and Vanderbilt, eliminating several schools that offered full rides. I visited Harvard and toured the campus. Whatever problems I noticed I wrote off with the thought that “It’s Harvard.” But in spite of its fantastic faculty and reputation as one of the foremost education institutions in the world, it was not where I could see myself being crafted into the student and citizen of the world I wished to become.

On the day before I had to make my decision, my mother (my only parent) and I visited Vanderbilt. From the engaging admissions officer to our self-guided tour, we were more than impressed. As we made our way to The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt, I knew that this school would prepare me to engage life according to my passion and my purpose.

During my time at Vanderbilt I made lasting friendships, worked in campus organizations and honed my leadership skills. I am now equipped to make a difference in the world. All this was possible because of the Chancellor’s Scholarship and Opportunity Vanderbilt. Not having to worry about insurmountable loans as my mother single-handedly pushed me through college was a blessing that cannot be captured in words. So I hope this will do: Thank you! For those who support this outstanding venture, I am extremely appreciative.

Thanks to your generosity, I have options after graduation. I do not have to search for jobs based on salary because of some great debt that I owe. Rather, you have freed me to give back and to assist others. You have helped me to help someone else.

Jeremy L. Williams

Way to give

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.
- 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) 322-9987 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 a trust, please contact Anthony Barclay in the Office of Planned Giving at (615) 343-3113.

Parents assume leadership role

The Parents Leadership Committee provides the backbone for a robust Parents Campaign. Last year the PLC members raised $6.8 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 Parents Leadership Weekend in the spring.

Membership responsibilities include giving at one of the following levels:
- Cornellus Vanderbilt—$25,000 or more
- Chancellor’s Council—$10,000 to $24,999
- Director’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 insights into the Vanderbilt undergraduate experience
- Participating in the annual summer “Back to Basics” tour and helping to assist 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 and Grandparents Campaign Office at (615) 343-3120.

Campaign Office at (615) 322-4987 or email ppcampaign@vanderbilt.edu.