Derek Mason joins Vanderbilt family as head football coach

New Head Football Coach Derek Mason may be the new man on campus, but just three months into the job, he’s already made a big impact.

Mason, who previously served as associate head coach and Willie Shaw Director of Defense at Stanford, was the clear choice to be Vanderbilt’s 28th head football coach, after a search that elicited interest from more than 70 applicants.

“Derek Mason is the leader we trust to continue the challenging but exciting work that has elevated the Vanderbilt football program to unprecedented heights,” said Vanderbilt Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos. “He embodies integrity, strategic thinking and a demonstrated commitment to success. He understands the important role that athletics plays in the life of a vibrant university, and that outstanding scholarly pursuits and top-notch sports are integral parts of the Vanderbilt experience. We are thrilled to welcome him to the Vanderbilt community.”

Mason is thrilled to be at Vanderbilt as well. In fact, he didn't want to end up anywhere else. When he interviewed to be the Commodores’ new coach, he was so sure he wanted the position that he packed a black suit and a gold tie.

But his attraction to Vanderbilt wasn’t all about football. It was also about family, academic excellence and a commitment to service.

“This place exudes greatness,” said Mason. “That is important for me to see and important for my wife to see for our children. When you have children and you look at what's important in your life, it is about raising them in an environment that embodies academic excellence, where they can be around student-athletes who give to the community and look to change their community. Where they can find friendships, lasting friendships that mean something.”

The Commodores are coming off back-to-back nine-win seasons and consecutive bowl game victories, and Mason is confident that success will continue when they kick off the 2014 season in August.

“We will win—make no doubts about that,” he said. “I understand what college football is about. It is about winning. You hired a winner for sure.”
ACCESS develops leadership potential

The Office of Student Leadership Development aims to create and sustain a culture of lifelong leadership development, training and education. The office empowers students to become leaders through intentional learning, self-reflection and skill development, and believes in developing visionary, goal-driven and action-oriented student leaders. Exhibiting an awareness of self and others, a student leader at Vanderbilt strives to be Accountable, Collaborative, Communicative, Ethical, Service-oriented and Supportive of all.—ACCESS.

ACCESS serves as the foundation for our programming in the Office of Student Leadership Development. The world needs effective leaders who strive to make positive change. We hope that your students want to be a part of the adventure.

In May 2015, we created a program roster for undergraduate students:

• LEAD (Lead, Engage, Develop) Talks give students the opportunity to improve their speaking and leadership skills by delivering talks of interest to their peers.
• For our rising sophomores and incoming transfer students, we have EVOLVE, a cohort-style personal leadership development experience. EMPOWER will be our outlet to address student organization leadership.
• To complete our group of signature programs we will host Leaders’ Lunch, where experts will engage in an intimate talk and question-and-answer session.

To learn more, please visit us at vanderbilt.edu/leadership.

Resources for students in distress

Most students adjust well to the challenges of college life. However, if a student finds the adjustment difficult or perhaps experiences a personal loss while at Vanderbilt and needs help, several resources are readily available.

The Psychological and Counseling Center offers individual, group, family and child, and couples psychotherapy; vocational testing; ADHD assessment; community outreach; and organizational consultation. Services—which are offered 24 hours a day—are free to students. For more information or to make an appointment, call (615) 322-2571.

The Office of Religious Life seeks to function in an educational capacity to foster a campus community that values and celebrates religious diversity. Chaplains and professional staff are available for support. For more information, call (615) 322-2457.

The Residential Education staff is another valuable resource. Campus residents may call upon their resident advisers and area coordinators for assistance. Additionally, each undergraduate school or college has a designated contact person (listed below) who assists in getting students the support they need.

• College of Arts and Science: Roger Moore, associate dean; (615) 322-2844
• Blair School of Music: Melissa Rose, associate dean; (615) 322-7693
• School of Engineering: Art Overholser, senior associate dean; (615) 343-3773
• Peabody College: Monique Robinson-Wright, assistant dean; (615) 343-6947

For more information, including online resources, please visit vanderbilt.edu/healthycare.

Center for Student Professional Development available all summer

Students have access to services and resources from the Center for Student Professional Development, regardless of where they spend their summer break. Our professional coaches are available via phone, Skype, email or in person to help students explore possibilities, create connections and pursue opportunities.

• Center staff works with students by helping them identify industry clusters where they may have interest. Career assessments are also available for students who need assistance in narrowing their choices.

Students can expand their professional network and connect with Vanderbilt alumni using VUConnect, a global online community of Vanderbilt alumni, and LinkedIn, the world’s largest professional career-oriented social network. Additionally, students are encouraged to take part in Alumni Chapter events across the country where they can create valuable professional relationships and seek career advice from fellow alumni.

• Students can search for jobs and internships using DoreWays, the Center’s online resource for opportunities from top employers; UCAN, a comprehensive internship database with opportunities across the country and around the globe; and a variety of other resources. Our coaches are available to help students develop search strategies, prepare for interviews and negotiate offers.

Students can access these resources online at vanderbilt.edu/career or by calling (615) 322-2750 to schedule a one-on-one appointment.

Creating a safer campus

Vanderbilt University’s Personal Empowerment Through Self Awareness (VU PETSA) is an online tutorial that educates the Vanderbilt campus community about intimate partner violence, sexual assault and stalking. It features videos that deal frankly with power-based violence and takes about 20–30 minutes to complete. In the fall of 2013, all incoming and transfer students were required to complete the VU PETSA training. Learn more at vanderbilt.edu/personalempowerment.

In fall 2014, all undergraduate students will be required to complete the VU PETSA module, and we are exploring adaptations for our graduate and professional school students. The VU PETSA module is one part of a multifaceted approach to violence prevention and education on Vanderbilt’s campus. For more information on violence prevention at Vanderbilt, please visit the Green Dot at Vanderbilt website (vanderbilt.edu/greendot) or contact the Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center at womenctr@vanderbilt.edu.
Student spotlight: Addison Old

Addison Old is completing a semester of student teaching at a Nashville middle school to complete her degree in elementary education. Addison—who received the Mary Crittenden Thomas Bishop Dale Scholarship—has always wanted to be a teacher and is looking forward to finally having her own classroom in the near future.

Beyond that, she is interested in pursuing education policy initiatives, as she believes that every child in our nation deserves a quality education. During her college career, Addison has pursued this interest through an internship with the Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE).

Outside the classroom, Addison is finishing her term as president of Vanderbilt Programming Board (VPB). She has also helped plan major campus events such as VPB Palooza, Homecoming and Rites of Spring. Prior to serving as president, Addison was co-chair of the Homecoming committee—one of seven committees of the VPB.

While she is a native Texan and still loves the Lone Star State, Addison plans to stay in the Nashville area to pursue a teaching career. She is looking forward to the future but also wishes she could spend another four years at Vanderbilt.

Tips for Commencement, May 7–9

By Matthew Redd, director of Commencement

• 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.
• 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 made in advance.
• 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.
• Announcements: Order through the Commencement website at vanderbilt.edu/commencement. Remember, announcements can be sent before or after the event.
• Housing: Have a last-minute guest and all the hotels are full, looking for a budget-friendly option or just don’t want to worry about parking? Stay on campus at The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt for only $99 a night.
• Dining: Avoid the crowds and dine on campus. Check the website for choices including how to order our popular premium box lunches for just $10.
• THE PARTY: This outdoor event—set for 9 p.m. on May 8 and featuring the dynamic, high-energy Memphis Soul Revue—is great for the whole family. Graduates receive one free ticket. Purchase additional tickets on our website for $20.
• Senior Day speaker: The 18th Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Regina Benjamin, is our 2014 Nichols-Chancellor’s Medal recipient and speaker. The event is set for 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 8, at Memorial Gym. There is no guest limit and tickets are not necessary.
• Commencement Day seating: No tickets are necessary! Seating is first-come, first-served. Arrive no later than 8 a.m. on Friday to be safe. Saving seats is not allowed due to space constraints.
• 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.
• Alerts: 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.

Questions? If you need assistance, call (615) 322-2870 or toll-free at (866) 5VUGRAD, email commencement@vanderbilt.edu or visit vanderbilt.edu/commencement for complete details on everything you just read and more.

Faculty Spotlight: Jonathan Metzl, M.D., Ph.D.

With degrees in medicine, poetry and American cultural history, Jonathan Metzl always dreamed of a job that utilized all of his education. Then came the opportunity to be the director of Vanderbilt’s Center for Medicine, Health and Society—a perfect fit. He also holds the Frederick B. Rentschler II Chair. Over the past three years, the program has become one of the most popular on campus.

“We’re unique in that we have thriving undergraduate- and graduate-level degree programs that prepare students not just for medicine, but for a host of other careers that range from public health, to music and the humanities, to law and health care administration,” says Metzl. “The School of Medicine is literally across the street from the School of Public Policy, School of Nursing, and School of Arts and Sciences, and we have for the school is a constant. There’s just a love for Vanderbilt that never changes.”

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Opportunity Vanderbilt makes dreams a reality

When Matt Stein's mom came into his room crying, he assumed the worst. "I had just come home from high school, and my mom brought me this letter from Vanderbilt," Matt recalls.

"I thought it was some terrible news. I hadn't failed a class, but I thought maybe for some reason Vanderbilt had rescinded my acceptance. But it turned out we just got this scholarship out of the blue. It just dropped down on us."

At that time, Matt's family was going through a tough financial period. "My dad had been recently unemployed, so we really didn't know if Vanderbilt was going to be a possibility. I was OK with that, but my parents weren't. They wanted me to go to my dream school."

Today, Opportunity Vanderbilt—the university's initiative to replace undergraduate loans with scholarships and grants—is making Matt's dream a reality. A chemical engineering major, since coming to campus, he's worked at several labs at Vanderbilt and other institutions, helping to conduct research on cancer drugs, structural biology, and the effects of yoga on patients with chronic diseases.

Matt says of these experiences: "I know now that I'm not just being prepared to pass an engineering exam or get a degree. I'm preparing to make a real difference in the world and improve people's lives."

Class of 2014 gives back to Vanderbilt through Senior Class Fund

By the time they walk across the stage at Commencement, the Class of 2014 hopes to have set a Vanderbilt record by achieving 80 percent class participation in Senior Class Fund giving. More than 72 seniors on the Senior Class Fund committee have been encouraging their classmates to start their alumni legacy by making a gift of any size to any area of Vanderbilt by graduation. If the 80 percent participation goal is met, Vanderbilt will boast one of the top senior class giving rates among its peer schools.

Take a look at how Senior Class Fund giving has increased over the past several years. We thank our seniors for giving back to Vanderbilt and starting a tradition of philanthropy!

Ways 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, PMA 40727, 2201 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240-7727.

• 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) 875-1155 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.
Key dates
April 22–May 1
Reading days and examinations
May 3
First-year residence halls close at 9 a.m.
May 7–9
Commencement activities
May 10
Residence halls close at 1 p.m.
May 5–30
Maymester
June 3–July 3
Summer Session I
July 8–August 8
Summer Session II

Contact information
Parent Helpline
(877) 887-2736
Email
parents@vanderbilt.edu
Parents & Family Programs
vanderbilt.edu/families
Parents and Grandparents Campaign
vanderbilt.edu/pagcampaign

Key links
Academic calendar
registrar.vanderbilt.edu/calendar
Athletics
vucommodores.com
Bookstore
vanderbiltbookstore.com
Commencement
vanderbilt.edu/commencement
Dean of Students
vanderbilt.edu/deanofstudents
First-year orientation
commonplace.vanderbilt.edu
Greek Life
vanderbilt.edu/greek_life
Housing & Residential Education
vanderbilt.edu/ResEd
Student Health Center
vanderbilt.edu/student_health
University calendar
calendar.vanderbilt.edu
VSG shuttle service
studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg