Warren and Moore Colleges to open in August

Warren and Moore Colleges, the first two College Halls at Vanderbilt for upperclass undergraduates, are set to open in August 2014. Building on the foundation of The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt, students will be encouraged to develop and contribute their intellectual, social, ethical and personal talents to the fullest. They will connect with each other and the entire Vanderbilt community, including graduate students, faculty, staff and administrators.

Warren and Moore each will feature a faculty director and two graduate fellows living alongside the students. Unique to Warren and Moore, spaces in the colleges are allocated equally between all three class cohorts: one-third each to seniors, juniors and sophomores.

Room assignments for Warren and Moore Colleges for the 2014–2015 academic year will begin Monday, January 6, 2014.

- January 6–12: all students must register online for the housing assignment process
- January 16–22: individuals and groups of two to six students interested in living together in the new colleges must submit a joint ballot indicating interest in the colleges and must rank their top three preferences for room type (single, double, or suite for four, five or six students)
- January 27: students will be notified of the results of the assignment process

Prior to the assignment process, your student(s) will receive detailed information and instructions regarding the process.

Vanderbilt anticipates a thousand or more applications for the 660 available positions. It is important for students to understand that only 220 seniors, 220 juniors and 220 sophomores will be able to live in the new facilities. Parents will be an important resource for helping disappointed students cope—remember to encourage them to engage actively in the remainder of the housing assignment process. All other campus housing will be assigned after Warren and Moore Colleges.

Students will know the outcome of the Warren/Moore process before any other housing deadlines pass. Submitting a ballot for Warren and Moore Colleges does not preclude students from pursuing other campus housing or disadvantage them in any way. It is important for all students to think carefully not only about Warren and Moore Colleges but the many other housing options at Vanderbilt, including Living Learning Communities, apartments, suites, and traditional single and double rooms.

Learn more at:
- vanderbilt.edu/collegehalls
- vanderbilt.edu/living
- vanderbilt.edu/resed
Opening Dores Dinners

Each year, more than 150 students connect with alumni during Opening Dores dinners—informal, family-style events that have become an important tradition among the Vanderbilt Alumni Association’s student-alumni programs (in partnership with the Center for Student Professional Development).

Each dinner is held on campus and is focused on a career interest or academic major such as finance, marketing, green jobs, health care, biomedical engineering, entrepreneurship, consulting, education, writing, publishing and more. All second-, third- and fourth-year students are invited to attend to gain industry knowledge and build community with our alumni volunteers, also in attendance. Students learn to optimize their Vanderbilt experience and understand the global alumni network they can access now and after graduation.

First-year students are invited to Opening Dores dinners in the residence of the dean of The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons. In this setting, they can learn the many options available to those with a Vanderbilt degree.

Tell your student(s) to be on the lookout for email invitations to Opening Dores dinners throughout the academic year!

OACS offers global opportunities

The Office of Active Citizenship and Service (OACS) provides programming that encourages students to engage with the local and global community. The office’s mission is to create a culture for exploration and learning on campus followed by critical reflection and action for the common good. Through service-learning projects, students learn the importance of meaningful contributions to the global community and will gain a greater respect for different cultures and viewpoints.

In 2014, OACS will offer new summer opportunities for Vanderbilt students, including a diverse array of global service projects and internship programs. OACS internship programs facilitate the placement of students in competitive public service internships in government, media, public policy, social justice, education, science, environmental policy and the arts. They create networking opportunities for future internships and jobs. The OACS internship model of professional development, reflective community living and mentorship from leading professionals makes its programs in New York, D.C. and Brussels unique among summer experiences for Vanderbilt students.

OACS’s suite of global service projects provides students with opportunities to engage with critical issues of inequity in a globalized world through community-based service. Beginning in the summer of 2014, accepted students will participate in projects in Ecuador, London, South Africa, Ghana, Morocco and Zanzibar, where they will work in public health, education, environmental conservation, community development, recreation, youth engagement, special education, activism and advocacy. Traveling and sharing experiences with a Vanderbilt cohort provides students with a safe and supportive environment in which to learn about themselves, each other and the world. To learn more about each of the local, national and international service opportunities offered through OACS, visit vanderbilt.edu/oacs.

Thanks to the generosity of anonymous parents, Vanderbilt could have an extra $200,000 by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2014. These generous donors are challenging all parents to make a gift to any area of the university. If 3,000 parents take the challenge, the goal will be met.

“If we reach this goal, we will have exceeded last year’s participation by 10 percent,” says Amy Jarvis, executive director, Parents Campaign and Programs. “This would represent an unprecedented achievement for the Parents Campaign.”

Parents can designate their gift to their child’s school or college, a favorite program or organization, or any other part of Vanderbilt. Gifts must be made by June 30, 2014. To learn about all your giving options, see the “ways to give” article on page 7 or visit giving.vanderbilt.edu.
Student spotlight: Robb King

Robb King serves as president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), which is one of the three Greek councils at Vanderbilt. As president, he oversees eight Greek lettered organizations, ensuring the success of each individual chapter and the council as a whole. In addition to serving as president of the NPHC, King also serves as secretary and treasurer for his fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. He is a student vice president and a member of the Undergraduate Honor Council.

“I love being at Vanderbilt and believe in making the most of every opportunity here on this campus,” King says.

King is a third-year student in the College of Arts and Science majoring in psychology, and he is contemplating a minor in either communication or managerial studies. He hopes to put his education and leadership skills to work in business or higher education administration.

Faculty spotlight: Melissa Skala

Melissa Skala, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, balances her work life between the classroom and the lab. In one, she teaches undergraduates how the body works. In the other, she’s searching for the best ways to treat cancer and other diseases.

“I get really excited about learning new things, and that helps with teaching and research—they feed on the same motivation,” she says. “I wanted to do something with my life that impacted people, and biomedical engineering is a happy medium between keeping my nerdy science skills and helping others.”

Skala is in her fourth year at Vanderbilt and has been continually impressed with her students.

“They are curious and excited about everything I say in class,” she says. “They ask insightful questions—problems I hadn’t considered in my years of teaching. They have a unique perspective because they are learning something for the first time, and this makes my teaching experience dynamic and fun.”

Undergraduates in Skala’s lab share in the progress and discovery.

“They have a lot of useful skills and are genuinely motivated—they even co-author papers,” she says. “I always want to keep them, but I have to let them go to bigger and better things after Vanderbilt.”

Parents become 18 Again! at Fall for the Arts

More than 200 parents and students participated in the 18 Again! experience hosted by the Center for Student Professional Development as part of Family Weekend in September. Retro decor set the stage for parents to step back in time and remember when they were 18.

Participants mapped their professional journeys on the interactive art project Then & Now.

“It was interesting to see the mural created by the parents, where they put what they thought they were going to do with their lives on the left and what they actually ended up doing on the right,” said parent volunteer Brian Abdoo.

“Everyone could see that the actual careers differed from the original expectations, but that they were still satisfying.”

Along with the interactive art project, parents spun the “wheel of questions,” which prompted engaging discussions as they reflected on past experiences and shared stories of failure, transition and success with their students, other parents and staff from the Center for Student Professional Development.

“This type of sharing between parents and students is enlightening for both parties,” says Anne Reed, who provides first-year experience support for the center. “Parents are able to reflect on how their professional paths have taken various turns, and first-year students come away understanding that they don’t need to have it all figured out. It reinforces the importance of understanding who you are and how to tell your personal story while being open to new opportunities and change.”

If you missed the 2015 Fall for the Arts event, be sure to join us and become 18 Again! next year during Family Weekend 2014, set for September 12-14.

Save the date: Family Weekend is September 12-14, 2014!

Family Weekend is the perfect time for students, parents, grandparents and siblings to reconnect. We have many fun and exciting events planned including a football matchup between the Dores and the UMass Minutemen. You’ll also have the opportunity to meet with various deans, administrators and faculty, and there will be plenty of time to stroll across our beautiful campus and soak up the Vanderbilt atmosphere.

See you in September!

Family Weekend 2013 by the numbers:

- 4,709 total registered attendees
- 3,129 adults
- 1,448 students
- 182 children 12 and under
- 53 percent of attendees were parents of first-year students
- 1,400 alumni attendees
- 66 percent alumni attendees were parents
- 8 percent of attendees were commuters
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Vanderbilt parents who hosted Summer Send-off parties this summer:

- Daniel and Joanne Aronson
- Mark and Sandra Bennett
- Jim and Lisa Boyette
- Perry and Liz Brandt
- Billy Ray and Maria Caldwell
- John and Pauline Cella
- Rob and Poppy Clements
- Albert and Karen Cohen
- Heather Daniel
- Noel and Betsy Estopinal
- Bruce and Bridgett Evans
- Michael and Beth Fisher
- John and Marilyn Foust
- Dan and Debra Friedkin
- Martin and Megan Gregor
- Bill and Victoria Harlon
- Wynn and Karen Harrison
- Tom and Carolin Hinds
- Jay and Michaela Hoag
- Charlie and Jenny Marsh
- Michael and Stephanie Podolak
- Octavio and Jody Portu
- Harlan and Alice Prater
- Jeff and Anne Rochelle
- Mark and Jennifer Rubin
- Thomas and Rebecca Tardy
- Greg and Wendy Watchmaker
- Brad and Mary Ann Whitmore
- Hadley and Hannah Wilson

We would like to thank the following past and current Vanderbilt parents who hosted Summer Send-off parties this summer!
Opportunity Vanderbilt benefits all

Thanks to the generosity of parents, alumni and other supporters, more than $165 million has been given so far to the Opportunity Vanderbilt initiative. Opportunity Vanderbilt focuses on growing the undergraduate, need-based scholarship endowment.

Undertaken in 2008, Opportunity Vanderbilt is the largest investment in financial aid in Vanderbilt’s history. It represents the university’s commitment to ensuring access to all eligible students, regardless of their ability to pay. Opportunity Vanderbilt is an ongoing initiative, as Vanderbilt is still far from securing the endowment necessary to meet the full financial aid needs of all talented undergraduates.

Recognizing the value of a Vanderbilt education in their own sons and daughters, many parents have made contributions to support Opportunity Vanderbilt. Visit vu.edu/oppvu to view a new video showcasing the impact of this initiative.

Opportunity Vanderbilt has a remarkable impact in attracting talented students with diverse perspectives that benefit the entire campus community. This impact is also seen nationally—Vanderbilt recently jumped five spots, moving from No. 16 to No. 11, in the “great schools at a great price” ranking in F.S. News & World Report.

Vanderbilt planning for the future

Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos is leading nearly 200 faculty members in a university-wide academic strategic planning process that will articulate the course for Vanderbilt’s future. The executive committee for this process is co-chaired by Susan Wente, Ph.D., associate vice chancellor for research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and John Geer, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Science.

Over the summer and fall, faculty steering committees participated in a series of retreats to develop strategic initiatives and Vanderbilt’s strengths as a leading research university in the 21st century. The steering committees focused on four themes outlined by Chancellor Zeppos:

• Defining the 21st-century undergraduate experience in a research university setting
• Launching new trans-institutional programs that strengthen research, graduate and undergraduate programs
• Leading digital technology development for teaching and discovery
• Developing a comprehensive set of solutions for health care

“Throughout the strategic planning process,” said Chancellor Zeppos, “we will reflect on where we were 10 to 15 years ago, where we are now, and define where we aspire to be as we continue to carve out our distinctive position among America’s top research universities.”

It wasn’t until Jay and Joe Scoby’s fourth child, Nina, started looking at colleges that Vanderbilt appeared on their radar. Now they’re sorry they didn’t know about it sooner.

“We had a counselor who told us that Vanderbilt would be a perfect fit for Nina,” says Jay. “One visit and we were sold. Everything clicked—we loved the beauty of the campus and how friendly everyone was. Plus they offered a nursing program that interested Nina.”

Joe was impressed from the start as well. “Vanderbilt is an inclusive, friendly community, which becomes obvious right away on Move-in Day, as other students and even Chancellor Zeppos are out there helping incoming freshmen move into their dorms,” says Joe.

“The students, faculty and administration are very collaborative and have fun together, which is unique and creates an ideal environment for the students’ personal and academic growth.”

That first impression, plus the positive experience of the past two years, encouraged the Scobys to give back. That’s why they agreed to chair the 2013–2014 Parents Leadership Committee.

“When you have the chance to help a child who is trying to pull themselves up by the bootstraps and make a better life, why wouldn’t you?” says Jay. “Educating more young adults benefits everyone—it’s only positive.”

The Scobys are particularly excited about the recently announced Parent Challenge. If 3,000 parents make a gift to Vanderbilt by the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2014), an anonymous donor will give an additional $200,000.

“Hope is that parents will see this example and want to follow it,” says Jay. “I hope that they’ll feel enough enthusiasm to make a gift so that Vanderbilt can receive all the funds.”

Jay and Joe would like to encourage all parents to be involved and engaged with their children’s school.

“If you just send your kids to college and don’t do anything but go to Family Weekend, you’re going to be out of touch with your child, the administration and the faculty,” says Joe. “Being involved is the best way to get a true Vanderbilt experience, not just for your child, but for yourself.”

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, PMB 407727, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37240-7727.

• Credit card gifts may be made on our secure website at giving.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 your 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**

- **December 14–January 6**: Winter Break
- **January 3**: Residence Halls re-open at noon
- **January 6**: Classes begin
- **March 1**: Residence halls close at 9 a.m.
- **March 1–9**: Spring Break holiday
- **March 9**: Residence halls re-open at 9 a.m.

**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 and Residential Life**: vanderbilt.edu/ResEd
- **Student Health Center**: vanderbilt.edu/student_health
- **University calendar**: calendar.vanderbilt.edu
- **VSG shuttle service**: studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg