Opportunity Vanderbilt makes increased scholarship endowment a priority

In just over a month, the 1,653 new members of the Class of 2013 will arrive on Vanderbilt’s campus, and 5,004 returning sophomores, juniors and seniors will continue their undergraduate education. Together, these students represent every state, hometowns of every size, and a dynamic mix of backgrounds, experiences, interests and passions. The result is Vanderbilt’s unique learning community, one where collaboration is valued, service is a mainstay, and leadership is nurtured.

At Vanderbilt, it is ability, achievement and hard work—not financial circumstances—that determine access to the great education the university offers. To meet that commitment, Vanderbilt inaugurates a bold expansion of financial aid this fall. The university is replacing need-based undergraduate student loans with scholarships and grant assistance. This important step recognizes the tremendous burden that significant debt places on students’ potential career choices and educational dreams.

To sustain this financial aid expansion, Vanderbilt must increase its scholarship endowment. This endeavor, called Opportunity Vanderbilt, is targeting a goal of $100 million in new philanthropic gifts and pledges for undergraduate scholarship endowment. Although gifts to Vanderbilt’s comprehensive Shape the Future campaign have more than doubled the amount of scholarship endowment available at the campaign’s inception, Vanderbilt’s scholarship endowment is not yet at the level of many of its peer institutions. Scholarship gifts to Opportunity Vanderbilt can change that.

Scholarship giving is an investment in the belief that Vanderbilt has a vital role in educating the most talented leaders for the next generation. To do so requires a community of young men and women distinguished in achievement, committed to hard work, eager to learn, and diverse in background, experience and perspective.

Learn more Opportunity Vanderbilt and supporting scholarships at Vanderbilt here: https://giving.vanderbilt.edu/oppvu/. To find out more about making a gift to support undergraduate scholarships, contact Claudia Hazelwood at 615/343-3120 or claudia.hazelwood@vanderbilt.edu.
Family Weekend is the perfect time for students, parents, grandparents and siblings to reconnect. Weekend events include an SEC football matchup between the 'Dores and Ole Miss. You'll also have the opportunity to meet with Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos as well as deans and faculty and still have time to stroll across the beautiful campus and soak up Vanderbilt atmosphere. 

See the schedule at www.vanderbilt.edu/familyweekend and check often for updates. Watch your mailbox for the official brochure. A comprehensive schedule will be available when you arrive. See you in October!

Parents & Family Programs

Want to get more involved? Parent volunteers are needed for the following projects:

- Freshman mentoring committee
- Organize and/or host parent receptions
- Help organize and/or host parent events in your region during the school year
- Develop ideas for more effective communication between Vanderbilt and families
- Assist with on-campus events including Move-in Day and Family Weekend
- Alumni relations

Volunteer opportunities for parents are available for the following programs:

- Admissions
- Alumni relations
- On-campus events committee
- Connect to Vanderbilt online
- University events committee
- Freshman mentoring committee

Parents & Family Programs helps students learn more about life at Vanderbilt through programs and activities with university staff, faculty and upperclass students known as ConnectDores. Remember, Connect to Vanderbilt is mandatory. Vanderbilt expects to welcome its largest transfer class this year, with more than 170 students. ConnectDores will be on hand to help students, is set to begin Saturday, August 22, transfer student move-in day. During Connect to Vanderbilt, new transfer students learn more about life at Vanderbilt through programs and activities with university staff, faculty and upperclass students known as ConnectDores. Remember, Connect to Vanderbilt is mandatory. Vanderbilt expects to welcome its largest transfer class this year, with more than 170 students. ConnectDores will be on hand to help with moving.

Parents and students will receive an orientation packet this summer. Check the Vanderbilt Bookstore Web site to request used books. The storefront needs at least 48 hours to process orders. Books will be available for pick up on Move-in Day at The Commons—just a home or picked up at the bookstore.

Helping students make healthy choices about alcohol use

Because alcohol is common on many college campuses, college students must choose the role that alcohol will play in their lives. Beginning this fall, Vanderbilt will require all first-year students to participate in CollegeAlc, an online, research-based alcohol educational program. CollegeAlc is designed to help college students make the safe, healthy decisions about alcohol and to empower them to be proactive in dealing with peer drinking behavior. While the course is required, students' answers are anonymous. For questions or more information, please contact the Office of Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention at alcohol@vanderbilt.edu.

Vanderbilt Career Center responds to job market with enhanced services

By Cindy Funk and Jim Bellar

A new alumni- and parent-supported job board and increased Web-based resources are the latest offerings from the Vanderbilt Career Center to help prepare students for fall recruiting. The center also offers expanded services for alumni in response to the challenging job market.

Student services

The Career Center developed the Vanderbilt Intern and Professional Network—a secure, Web-based database of job and internship postings and leads—in partnership with the office of Development and Alumni Relations. "We are very excited about our partnership with the center and the opportunity for alumni to help our students at this critical time," says James Stofan, associate vice chancellor of alumni relations.

The network is marketed through alumni and campus publications and is linked to the career center Web site. "This is a great opportunity for the Vanderbilt community, including parents and alumni, to support our students who are struggling this year due to the challenging job market," says Cindy Funk, Vanderbilt Career Center director.

The center helps students prepare for the job market by present-ing information and programming by career cluster instead of academic major. The nine clusters are: 1) public policy, government, law; 2) engineering, information technology; 3) finance, real estate, insurance; 4) consulting, management, human resources, sales; 5) arts, communications, media; 6) education, social services, community organizations; 7) medicine, health; 8) environment, sustainability and 9) undecided.

After students complete a Web-based survey, they are connected to services, including meeting with a coach, signing up for an e-mail forum, taking career assessments, and participating in an industry-specific networking event.

Other resources on the center's Web site will help prepare students for fall recruiting season. Some companies come to campus for networking and informational events soon after classes have begun. Many try to fulfill their hiring needs early in the fall semester. That makes it important for students to prepare this summer by completing their resumes, practicing interview- ing skills and contacting alumni in their target industries.

Alumni services

Alumni who graduated within the last two years can take advantage of the center's coaching and intensive job search skills preparation. All alumni have full access to Optimal Products, a Web-based suite of job search tools used by more than 600 career centers. This products are accessible from the alumni section of the career center Web site and include a resume and cover letter builder, interview practice (which can be recorded and reviewed), and online portfolio and skills assessment. An alumni e-mail address is needed to access these services.

For more information, visit www.vanderbilt.edu/career, or call 615/322-2750.

Connect to Vanderbilt: transfer student orientation

Connect to Vanderbilt, a three-day orientation program for all transfer students, is set to begin Saturday, August 22, transfer student move-in day. During Connect to Vanderbilt, new transfer students learn more about life at Vanderbilt through programs and activities with university staff, faculty and upperclass students known as ConnectDores. Remember, Connect to Vanderbilt is mandatory. Vanderbilt expects to welcome its largest transfer class this year, with more than 170 students. ConnectDores will be on hand to help with moving.

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Service matters at Vanderbilt
In 2008-09 Vanderbilt students invested 68,663 hours of service in the community, gave $5,930 in in-kind gifts, and donated $74,453 to charitable organizations. Their service and donations benefited organizations dealing with child advocacy, AIDS care, affordable housing, education, global health, cancer research, senior citizens, Special Olympics, animal rescue, environmental protection, human rights and college scholarships, among others.

The office of Active Citizenship and Service thanks these students for their tremendous contributions to the local, national and global communities. The 41 service organizations advised by this office provided more than 2,500 students opportunities to serve.

Student spotlight: Wyatt Smith, 2009–2010 student body president
Wyatt Smith, Vanderbilt’s 2009–2010 student body president, was raised on farm in west Alabama. He graduated with a class of 27 students from Pickens Academy in Carrollton, Ala., before coming to Vanderbilt in 2006 as an Ingram Scholar, a scholarship awarded for excellence in academics and community service.

Smith, a rising senior, has a double major in human and organizational development and political science with a minor in economics.

He takes the helm of Vanderbilt’s student government after having served as the organization’s vice president in 2008. “I have found that some of my most fulfilling work has been in service to the university, and I appreciate the opportunity to do even more,” Smith says.

In the past year, Smith led an initiative to create the Global Summer Fellows program, a $250,000 scholarship fund for undergraduates doing summer study abroad. He hopes to build on this success in the coming year. Smith was elected on a platform of improvements to academic life, student services and community engagement, and he plans to increase student involvement in campus government.

“Student government is successful because of our good relationship with administrators and the commitment of our student leaders,” he says. “Vanderbilt allows students to play a real leadership role, and that just helps make the undergraduate experience better for everyone.”

Opportunity Development Center serves Vanderbilt community
The Opportunity Development Center is Vanderbilt’s equal opportunity, affirmative action and disability services office.

Anita Jenious is the center’s interim director.

The center’s disability services program is responsible for coordinating disability support services and monitoring the accessibility of programs, activities and buildings for the Vanderbilt community, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The program’s staff, led by Director Tiffany Taylor, assists with providing reasonable accommodations for students, faculty and staff with disabilities and ensures that Vanderbilt programs and events are accessible to the Vanderbilt community and visitors.

Decisions about reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities are made on an individual basis. On average, the process takes at least two weeks to complete; however, if the student’s documentation does not meet all of the requirements listed from the documentation guidelines, the process will be delayed. Students should request disability accommodations from the disability services program as soon as a need has been identified.

For more information about our services, please call 615/322-4705 or visit vanderbilt.edu/odc/da_about.html.

The office is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Central time Monday-Friday.

Vanderbilt travel options for 2009
“On’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.”—Henry Miller

The Vanderbilt Travel Program takes parents, alumni and friends of Vanderbilt to exotic destinations, historic sites and culturally rich environs. Vanderbilt professors provide unique educational insight that makes each journey memorable.

These trips are value-packed and unique to Vanderbilt. Special opportunities—which often include meeting Vanderbilt alumni and students abroad or visiting faculty anthropological digs—connect travelers with Vanderbilt’s global network.

Several trips are still open for 2009, including a spectacular journey to the Patagonia region of South America. It’s not too early to plan a 2010 vacation either. Travel to exciting locations such as Antarctica, Egypt, Australia, Morocco and China. To learn more, visit the Vanderbilt Travel Program at www.vanderbilt.edu/alumni/travel, e-mail alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu or call 615/322-2929, ext. 1.

Save money on travel
Consider booking your travel via Vanderbilt’s travel portal which provides information and discounts to you on flights, hotels, ground transportation, and more! Vanderbilt students, parents, visitors, friends and alumni can save money on travel at http://www.campustravel.com/vanderbiltvisitors.

Discounts are embedded where available, so no codes are necessary.

You might especially note the greatly discounted student rates available on Student Universe found on the left navigation panel under Flights. Then select International Consolidators. They make reservations easy and inexpensive. Even though a reservation is made in the student’s name, payment can be made with the parent’s credit card.

This service is available to parents, alumni and friends of Vanderbilt.

Wrights co-chair advisory board
Tommy and Tracey Wright of Boone, N.C., have always worked in academia, and they are currently at Appalachian State University. Their campus experience made the couple a natural choice to head the Parents and Family Association advisory board for the 2009-2011 term. The Wright’s daughter, Jayma Holt, Class of 2011, is majoring in medicine, health and society in the College of Arts and Science.

The Wrights have already identified concrete goals they hope to attain in the next year.

“We want to talk to all board members and create a ‘talent bank,’” Tommy says. “We want to find out what skill sets and resources they could offer to the board and to Vanderbilt and the students.” They also hope to strengthen relationships between the board and the career center.

The Wrights encourage more parents to get involved.

“We are in constant need of volunteers,” Tracey says. “From helping out on Move-in Day to hosting events, parental involvement is critical. The more parents know about Vanderbilt’s resources, the better they can direct their children if a need arises.”

Anita Jenious, interim director

Wyatt Smith

The Parents & Family Programs office is pleased to announce that Parents & Family Association advisory board members David and Karen Branding have been selected as first-year parent liaisons to The Commons. David and Karen of Libertyville, Ill., have two students studying at Vanderbilt’s College of Arts and Science—Tracy, Class of 2010, and Lisa, Class of 2012. David and Karen will work closely with The Commons staff and the parent advisory board to share feedback and information.

Brandings named parent liaisons

Tommy and Tracey Wright, with their daughter Jayma Holt, plan to create a talent bank for the advisory board.

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This service is available to parents, alumni and friends of Vanderbilt.
Bill and Betty Thompson: Vanderbilt’s California connection

As alumni, parents, donors and leaders, Bill (BA’77) and Betty (BA’77) Thompson, of Orinda, Calif., have a unique perspective of Vanderbilt that spans more than 30 years. Today, Bill credits the school with giving him the tools necessary for success—he is managing director of Credit Suisse First Boston in San Francisco.

Both Bill and Betty acknowledge that Vanderbilt had a huge influence on their lives, and they’re seeing the same positive results in their children, Ross (BA’08) and Kelly, Class of 2010. Because of these experiences, the couple created the Thompson Family Scholarship.

“Our association with Vanderbilt was the basis for a lot of our happiness and success,” Bill says. “To give up a little piece of that for someone else is our responsibility, particularly in times like we’re experiencing today. It’s a very focused and direct way to give a student who wouldn’t otherwise be able to experience what our family has experienced, the opportunity to come to Vanderbilt.”

“As we grow older, we realize how lucky we were to experience Vanderbilt,” Betty says. “It’s just one way we can try to give someone else the experience that our kids are lucky enough to have.”

The Thompsons are also two of Vanderbilt’s foremost ambassadors on the West Coast. When they moved to the area in 1986, they were surprised to discover that Vanderbilt was not very well known.

“We were stunned at how little Californians knew about Vanderbilt,” Bill says. “Top students in this area typically either stayed in-state or opted for the Ivy League.”

“We thought it was important to promote the school,” Betty says. “Now I get more than 40 calls a year from families wanting to talk about Vanderbilt because they’ve heard such incredible things from us and from our children.”

Betty and Bill never pressured their children on their choices of college, but one visit each was all it took to make them Commodores.

“They both said they wouldn’t go to Vanderbilt, and they both ended up applying for early admission,” Betty says. “Now they say they were influenced by all the stories they heard from us and from seeing how much we benefited from our Vanderbilt experience. But our youngest daughter, Morgan, says she is definitely not following the family to Vanderbilt.”

The Thompsons believe that parental involvement, whether through the Parents and Family Advisory Board or the Parent’s Leadership Committee, is important.

“Move-In Day is a fun way to volunteer,” Betty says. “Also, it’s great when current parents can meet with the parents of incoming freshmen—it gives them contact with someone who has already had the same experiences.”

Betty also has some advice for other parents: “Savor the years, because they’ll be graduating before you know it.”

Christine Orlowski

Christine Orlowski makes the most of her scholarship

Like many Peabody students, Christine Orlowski, Class of 2010, is eager to make her mark on the world after graduation. The Centennial, Colo., native believes her education will allow her to do just that.

“At Peabody the professors aren’t just teaching us facts and figures,” Christine says. “They really want us to get involved in the community, and they’re really eager to help us change the world.”

Christine has been pleased with the practical aspects of her education, and her child development training can be easily applied to real-world situations.

“I have been really involved in the research labs and it’s given me a lot of great experience that I can use later on—especially in psychology,” she says. Christine will be interning this fall, gaining even more hands-on experience with a social services agency in Nashville.

Christine is the recipient of a Peabody Appreciation Scholarship—the result of gifts from anonymous donors. The generosity of those donors has made a real impression on her.

“I may not know who provided my scholarship, but I am deeply grateful. I hope that someday down the road I can provide the same kindness to someone else.”

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 at http://giving.vanderbilt.edu.

• Gifts, pledges and pledge payments may be mailed to Vanderbilt Parents and Grandparents Campaign, Gift Processing Office, PMB 40727, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, Nashville, TN 37235-7727.

• Credit card gifts may be made on our secure Web site at www.vanderbilt.edu/giveonline.

• For specific instructions on making a stock gift to Vanderbilt, please call 615/322-4987 or e-mail stockgifts@vanderbilt.edu.

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

Giving Facts

• The Parents Leadership Committee had a record-breaking year with the participation of 195 members, including 57 new members. Committee members have generously given $4.5 million in gifts to Vanderbilt.

• 1,603 parents and grandparents have supported the Parents and Grandparents Campaign, and their generosity has totaled $5.9 million in gifts and $7.7 million in new pledges.

• Your generosity has continually placed the Parents and Grandparents Campaign as one of the top-ranked programs among private research universities. Our latest ranking is No. 12. Thank you for supporting the campaign and Vanderbilt.

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Gift lists total $100,000, through May 1, 2009.

Parents and Grandparents Campaign enriches programs

The Parents and Grandparents Campaign enriches and enhances the high quality programs and services Vanderbilt offers its students by focusing on fund-raising for each undergraduate school. Over the last five years, parents and grandparents have been extremely generous, giving more than $41 million. Each gift increases Vanderbilt’s margin of excellence and makes a vital difference to the university and all its students.

Parents and grandparents are in a unique position to see first hand the positive effects that Vanderbilt has on students. With each passing semester, you see new levels of maturity and confidence in your student.

Every gift, regardless of size, matters to Vanderbilt. Tuition dollars cover only a portion of a Vanderbilt education. The university depends on the generosity of alumni, parents, grandparents, foundations, corporations and friends to help provide a world-class education to today’s students and tomorrow’s leaders.

For more information, please contact Claudia Hazelwood or Rebekah Rohrbach in the Parents and Grandparents Campaign Office at 615/343-3120, pag.campaign@vanderbilt.edu or visit www.vanderbilt.edu/pagcampaign.
Key Dates:

July 31, midnight
Deadline for all students to waive student health insurance coverage

August 1
First-year students should begin receiving housing assignments

August 1
Deadline for students to pay charges without a late payment fee

August 22
First-year student Move-In Day begins at 7 a.m.
Transfer student Move-In Day begins at noon

August 23
Residences halls open at 9 a.m.
for upperclassmen

August 26
Fall classes begin

September 7
Labor Day (classes are in session)

October 2–4
Family Weekend

October 14–17
Homecoming and Reunion activities

October 22–23
Fall break

November 21–29 (Saturday–Sunday)
Thanksgiving holiday

December 10
Classes end

December 11–19
Reading days and examinations

December 20–January 12
Winter break

January 13
Classes begin

Key links:

Parents & Family Programs
www.vanderbilt.edu/families

Parents and Grandparents Campaign
www.vanderbilt.edu/pagcampaign

Dean of Students
www.vanderbilt.edu/deanofstudents

Housing and Residence Life
www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd

Student Health
www.vanderbilt.edu/student_health

Athletics
www.vucommodores.com

First-year Orientation
http://commonplace.vanderbilt.edu

Greek life
www.vanderbilt.edu/greek_life

Bookstore
www.vanderbiltbookstore.com

VSG Shuttle service
http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsg

University Calendar
http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu