Vanderbilt Greek community changes with the times

Vanderbilt’s Greek community has been an important part of the university’s traditions and history since its founding more than 150 years ago. Today, more than 2,500 students are members of the 36 chapters found on campus. As Vanderbilt has evolved, so has the Greek community.

A recent task force made suggestions to fraternity recruitment practices to provide greater opportunities for potential members and improve the Greek community as a whole.

Some of the most notable changes include: an increase in the GPA eligibility requirement from a 2.3 to a 2.5; required community service hours for potential members; implementation of a formalized process to conclude the recruitment process in January; significant fines for specific violations of Interfraternity Council policy; creation of need-based scholarships for members’ dues; and a greater emphasis on positive public relations for the fraternity community. Additional changes are being developed and will be implemented throughout the 2009–2010 academic year.

The university has encouraged the involvement of students, alumni, parents, national organizations and university administrators in developing these changes.

For more information about the Greek community or updates on the planned changes, please visit www.vanderbilt.edu/greek_life.

Members of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity serve the community in Vanderbilt’s annual Rake-a-Thon, which raises money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.
Stalcup joins Vanderbilt as vice chancellor for development and alumni relations

Susie Stalcup, former chief fundraising officer for Columbia University Medical Center, assumed the role of vice chancellor for development and alumni relations at Vanderbilt in January. Her appointment followed a nationwide search.

As vice president for development at Columbia in New York City since 2004, Stalcup led all aspects of CUMC's $1 billion capital campaign, which met its goal two and half years before the scheduled December 2011 conclusion.

Currently Stalcup is leading the $1.75 billion Shape the Future campaign, which is scheduled to conclude in 2010. She also oversees development and alumni relations activities throughout Vanderbilt, including the medical center and all schools and programs in the university.

"I am very impressed with Vanderbilt's bold vision and the collegial, dynamic leadership team," Stalcup says. "I am pleased to be partnering with the administration, faculty, development team, Board of Trust, alumni and students in the furtherance of Vanderbilt's ambitious, strategic initiatives. This is a wonderful opportunity."

Jeffrey Baker, chair of the search committee, vice chancellor for health affairs, and dean of the Vanderbilt School of Medicine says, "Susie reflects our culture, and as a professional she creatively projects our impact as a leading research university across the globe."

Plain talk about student misconduct by Daniel Swinton, Director Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

The Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity addresses student conduct issues such as alcohol abuse, cheating or lying. Its procedures are designed to provide students with a fair hearing and a just decision. Most parents will never have contact with the office, but if you do, you may have some questions.

Parents often ask what they can do to help their student in these situations, and our suggestion is to be a support person. As a parent, I understand the urge to try to "handle" the situation by taking a more active role—picking up the phone or writing an e-mail. However, a cornerstone of the conduct process is that each student is responsible for his or her own conduct. Learning to take responsibility for their actions and developing self-confidence and self-reliance happens best when students take a principal role in representing themselves in the conduct process.

Possible outcomes range from disciplinary probation to expulsion in the most serious cases. A student may appeal the office's decision.

Possible outcomes range from disciplinary probation to expulsion in the most serious cases.

Vanderbilt appoints first library dean

Connie Vinita Dowell, MLS’79, became the first dean of Vanderbilt’s Jean and Alexander Heard Library in March. She brings three decades of academic library experience and has held two senior leadership positions.

She shares her thoughts on the importance of libraries below.

Q. You’ve said that Vanderbilt’s generosity paved the way for your entire career.

A. Vanderbilt awarded me a fellowship for my graduate studies, which made my career possible. As you can imagine, I understand as well as anyone on campus what Vanderbilt’s new expanded-aid program (eliminating need-based loans for undergraduates) will mean to each student.

Q. You are the first dean of libraries. Tell us your thoughts on being “the first” in this important role.

A. Vanderbilt’s senior leadership clearly recognizes the importance of libraries and information for our future. The change in my position’s title is only one indication. Being the first woman in this role at Vanderbilt is just one of several aspects that made this appointment a special honor.

Q. What do you see ahead for the Heard Library?

A. Our chancellor has challenged us to envision a destination library, and I know we will. My purpose here is to help plan the best possible library for our great university—building on our strengths and capturing the idea and great energy that make Vanderbilt the remarkable place that it is.

First, I look forward to hearing from all those who use the libraries and all those who care about Vanderbilt. Also, our libraries need to be ready to meet the rapidly changing needs of students and faculty. Our libraries already offer remarkable electronic resources and have several innovative projects which I want to see receive the attention that they deserve.

Of course, the current economic climate is a concern to libraries and universities along with everyone else. I am confident our community will support us because they recognize the profound importance of a great library system to a world-class university.

Q. What is the status of planning for the expansion and renovation of the library?

A. Vanderbilt's senior leadership clearly recognizes the importance of libraries and information for our future. The change in my position's title is only one indication. Being the first woman in this role at Vanderbilt is just one of several aspects that made this appointment a special honor.

Q. Vanderbilt strives to provide an optimal living and learning environment for the entire campus community. The student conduct system applies to all Vanderbilt students and student organizations.

To find out more, review our Web site, www.vanderbilt.edu/studentconducteducation, and the student handbook.
Parent volunteers make a difference

We would like to thank the following parents who hosted a Summer Send-off Party and helped with Move-in Day!

Linda and Robert Allenhead
Paulaite and Lee Von Allen
Mark Arons
Ann Barlow
Colleen Blakes
Greer and Patty Bogle
Karen and David Branding
Shawn and David Brevard
Steve and Gail Brookshire
Milt Capito
Felicia Carter
Mary Beth Christian
Joseph and Kathy Colletta
Nancy and Carlos Dalence
Jim and Cindy Davidson
Christopher and Robin Deissler
Laura and Mark Dumes
Kurt Eger and Robin Farber
Carmen Foley
Georgianas Fortier
Linda Herron
Ami and Bob Hill
Jim and Glenda Hooker
Diane Houseman-Abbo
 Sue Jackson
Jeff Kaplan
Lynn and Walt Kunau
Molly and Kenneth Lawrence
Jack Leister and Debbie Shenton
Esther Lopez
Eye McClure
Christina and Luke McCann
Lisa and Bob McLaughlin
Bill and Beth Meador
Tom Merritt
Harold and Nancy Morrison
Cathy and Oscar Munoz
Jennifer Nichols
Lisa O’Deen
Connie and Terry Palmberg
Courtney and Scott Pastrick
Lubly Patterson
Sharon Robertson
Tina and Bruce Ross
Melissa Sadoff
Bobby and Steve Schulman
Sterry and Tom Skains
Kathe Smiley
Dorothy and Miles Snowden
Betty and Stephen Sterrett
Jack and Carol Stokes
Pat and Jim Waring
Patti White
Theresa Wigginton
Wanda and Dixon Witherspoon
Tracey and Tommy Wright
Vivek Yelbrushh
Ann Zgorksi

Vanderbilt's Panhellenic community was founded on a tradition of community service. Caroline Dickens, Class of 2010, aims to continue that tradition during her tenure as president of Vanderbilt's Panhellenic executive board. She began her leadership within the Greek community as the board’s programming director in February 2008 before being elected president in November 2008.

“Panhellenic is filled with talented women and great resources,” she says. “It’s our responsibility to lend a hand, especially where children are concerned.”

Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center names director

Nora Spencer has been named director of the Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center. She will also continue as director for the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Life.

In the summer of 2008 the women’s center joined the Office of the Dean of Students, a move that enhances its resources and expands its reach across campus. Currently the center coordinates a number of campuswide programs including Gender Matters, Project Safe and Vandy Moms. A structural reorganization of the center’s mission is anticipated within the year.

The Margaret Cuninggim Women’s Center was founded in 1978 and named in honor of Margaret Cuninggim, the last administrator to serve as dean of women at Vanderbilt and the first woman to serve as dean of student services. It is housed in Franklin House on West Side Row. For more information, please visit www.vanderbilt.edu/womenscenter, or call (615) 322-4843.

A focus on service

Caroline Dickens, Class of 2010, president of Panhellenic executive board

Panhellenic’s involvement with the Murrell School, a center for students with severe behavioral issues and other special needs, has spearheaded projects Safe and Vandy Moms. A structural reorganization of the center’s mission is anticipated within the year.

“It’s important to remember the principles upon which the Greek community was founded,” she says. “I want to promote these values within Vanderbilt and the broader Nashville community.”

Nora Spencer, new director of women’s center

SustainVU: Creating a greener Vanderbilt

SustainVU, Vanderbilt’s environmental initiative, encourages students to be proactive in protecting the environment. Students and their families were introduced to SustainVU during Move-in Days for fall semester.

At previous Move-ins, close to 20,000 bottles of water were consumed. This year SustainVU and the Office of Housing and Residential Education provided water coolers with environmentally friendly paper cups instead. Student volunteers worked with plant operations employees to recycle moving boxes and molded Styrofoam.

With nearly 6,000 students living on campus, small actions can make a big difference to the environment. Students are encouraged to:

• use natural light as much as possible and turn off the lights when leaving a room;
• turn on thermostats at 75 in warm weather months and 68-70 when it’s cold outside;
• turn off electronic devices when not in use;
• activate the energy-saving settings on computers, printers and laptops;
• choose Energy Star electronics;
• wash full loads of laundry in cold water;
• take efficient showers;
• turn off the water when brushing teeth; and
• write water leaks and dripping faucets to resident advisors.

Students in SPEAR (Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility) formed the Cardboard Crew for Move-in Day, recycling 7½ tons of cardboard and two moving vans full of Styrofoam.

Next Step at Vanderbilt: Breaking barriers and making strides for students with intellectual disabilities

Next Step at Vanderbilt, a joint undertaking of the Kennedy Center and Vanderbilt University, is Tennessee’s first college-level educational program for students with intellectual disabilities. Vanderbilt is the first top 20 university to take on this initiative, and the pilot program is set to begin in January 2010 with eight students.

The Next Step students will participate in Vanderbilt classes, learn about career development internships, practice independent living skills, and join social activities throughout the campus during the two-year, nondegree program.

This program exemplifies Vanderbilt’s commitment to ethnic, geographical and economic diversity. For more information please visit http://NextStep.vanderbilt.edu.

Family Weekend 2009—by the numbers

Family Weekend 2009 had more than 5,100 attendees, a 46 percent jump over last year’s total, split evenly between families of first-year and upperclass students. Arts and Science had by far the largest number of families attending with 62 percent, Engineering and Peabody each made up another 18 percent, and Blair accounted for 2 percent of the attendees.

SustainVU, Vanderbilt's environmental initiative, encourages students to be proactive in protecting the environment. Students and their families were introduced to SustainVU during Move-in Days for fall semester.

At previous Move-ins, close to 20,000 bottles of water were consumed. This year SustainVU and the Office of Housing and Residential Education provided water coolers with environmentally friendly paper cups instead. Student volunteers worked with plant operations employees to recycle moving boxes and molded Styrofoam.

With nearly 6,000 students living on campus, small actions can make a big difference to the environment. Students are encouraged to:

• use natural light as much as possible and turn off the lights when leaving a room;
• set thermostats at 75 in warm weather months and 68-70 when it’s cold outside;
• turn off electronic devices when not in use;
• activate the energy-saving settings on computers, printers and laptops;
• choose Energy Star electronics;
• wash full loads of laundry in cold water;
• take efficient showers;
• turn off the water when brushing teeth; and
• write water leaks and dripping faucets to resident advisors.

Students in SPEAR (Students Promoting Environmental Awareness and Responsibility) formed the Cardboard Crew for Move-in Day, recycling 7½ tons of cardboard and two moving vans full of Styrofoam.

Next Step at Vanderbilt: Breaking barriers and making strides for students with intellectual disabilities

Next Step at Vanderbilt, a joint undertaking of the Kennedy Center and Vanderbilt University, is Tennessee’s first college-level educational program for students with intellectual disabilities. Vanderbilt is the first top 20 university to take on this initiative, and the pilot program is set to begin in January 2010 with eight students.

The Next Step students will participate in Vanderbilt classes, learn about career development internships, practice independent living skills, and join social activities throughout the campus during the two-year, nondegree program.

This program exemplifies Vanderbilt’s commitment to ethnic, geographical and economic diversity. For more information please visit http://NextStep.vanderbilt.edu.

Family Weekend 2009—by the numbers

Family Weekend 2009 had more than 5,100 attendees, a 46 percent jump over last year’s total, split evenly between families of first-year and upperclass students. Arts and Science had by far the largest number of families attending with 62 percent, Engineering and Peabody each made up another 18 percent, and Blair accounted for 2 percent of the attendees.
Henges honored to chair Grandparents Campaign

Vanderbilt's Office of Planned Giving allows you to make a meaningful contribution to the university and accomplish your personal or family goals. Whether your goal is to endow a family scholarship with a bequest through your will (or retirement plan) or to create a plan that can provide lifetime income for yourself, your spouse, your children or even grandchildren, our office is here to assist you.

Our planned giving professionals can examine your particular situation and work with your attorney and/or financial advisors to help you find a way to support Vanderbilt's mission while ensuring your family's financial security. No situation is alike, so we are here to tailor a plan that fits your situation.

As a parent or grandparent, you recognize the value of a Vanderbilt education. Your gifts to Vanderbilt support your student’s education and the many activities that enrich life on campus.

For more information, please contact Mollie McCormick in the Planned Giving office at (615) 343-5115 or mollie.mccormick@vanderbilt.edu, or visit www.vanderbilt.edu/parents/giving.planned.
Key Dates

November 21
Residence halls close at 9 a.m.

November 21–29
Thanksgiving holiday

November 29
Residence halls reopen at 9 a.m.

December 10
Classes end

December 11–19
Reading days and final examinations

December 20
Residence halls close at 9 a.m.

December 20–January 9
Winter break

January 9
Residence halls reopen at noon

January 11–17
Greek Life recruitment

January 13
Classes begin

March 6
Residence halls close at 9 a.m.

March 6–14
Spring break

March 14
Residence halls open at 9 a.m.

March 17
Founders Day

April 27
Classes end

April 28–May 6
Reading days and final examinations

May 14
Commencement

Key links

Parents & Family Programs
www.vanderbilt.edu/families

Parents and Grandparents Campaign
www.vanderbilt.edu/pgcampaign

Dean of Students
www.vanderbilt.edu/deansoftudents

Housing and Residence Life
www.vanderbilt.edu/ResEd

Student Health
www.vanderbilt.edu/student_health

Athletics
www.vanderbilt Commodores.com

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

Greek Life
www.vanderbilt.edu/greek_life

Bookstore
www.vanderbilt bookstore.com

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

University Calendar
http://calendar.vanderbilt.edu

Vanderbilt University
Parents & Family Programs
PMB 401627
2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37240-1627

Non-Profit Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, TN
Permit No. 4452