

Dear Curb Scholar Alumni,

My name is Joshua Moore and I am the 2019-2020 Curb Center Creative Writing Fellow. Over the last year working at the center, one of the things I've come to appreciate most about the center is how everyone related to the Curb Center is encouraged to explore and cultivate their own unique creative and entrepreneurial vision.



The Curb Scholars at Hatch Show Print

Since your graduation from Vanderbilt, the Curb Center has continued to work with the Vanderbilt, local, and national communities to advance its mission through its graduate Public Scholars, Nashville's Racial Equity & Arts Leadership (REAL) partnership, the Africatown (Mobile, AL) community, and research on the impact of music in the autism population through the VUMC Music Cognition Lab, to highlight just a few of the projects receiving ongoing support. We believe you, the Curb Scholar alumni, play an integral role in what we do, and where we are headed.

This year I've had the pleasure of working with Christine Claffey, the center's Program Coordinator, and Wilna Taylor, the new Assistant Director at the Curb Center, and to facilitate the Curb Scholars programming. This experience has allowed me to see



Curb Scholar T-Shirt logo designed by Jacob Schroeder

firsthand how this group brings their creative energy and ideas to everything they do.

How does one plan programming for an entire year? It begins with a theme, and last spring the scholars choose *"Drawing on Our Strengths"* to guide this year's activities. It's a theme which capitalizes on each member's individual abilities while making use of the campus and community resources available to us all.

The Curb Scholars still meet every Monday afternoon, just like we did when you were part of the program, and we still offer unique workshops, speakers, field trips, and hands-on experiences designed so that every participant can explore and identify their individual and group strengths.

JOIN TODAY!

Curb Center Alumni Network

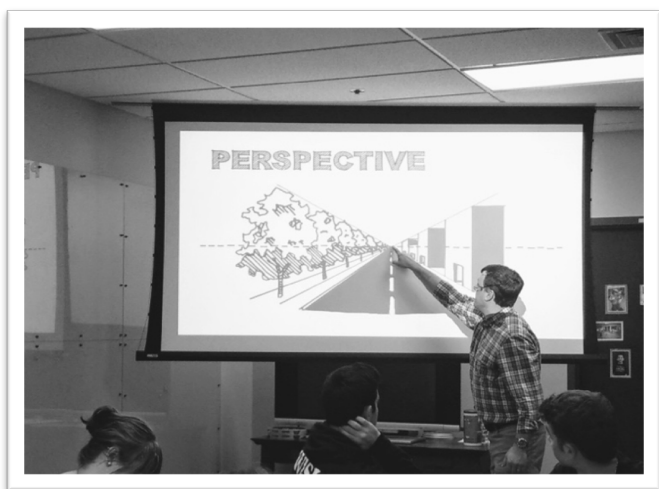
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/curbcenter/alumni-network/>

The 2019-2020 Curb Scholar programming was designed so each experience would build upon the one before. *Drawing: In Pen & Ink*, one of the first workshops offered, was given by **Blake Gore**, Director of Learning Experience Design at Owen School of Management and an artist and illustrator in his own right. Blake creates sustainable small art and was able to share his own talents with the scholars while elaborating on the fundamentals of design thinking as a way of enabling each scholar to develop a toolkit for their future creative enterprises. Subsequent workshops centered on *Resume Preparation for the Real World*, *Social Arts Practice & Design Thinking*, *Frist Arts Engagement*, and *Story Telling and Listening*.



The scholars at The River House in Poydras, LA

with the Preservation Jazz Hall house band, learned to cook regional specialties including jambalaya, shrimp etouffee, and pralines, explored how to make a parade float at Mardi Gras World, investigated the extensive and private world-class art collections of Dorian Bennett and Jeanne Nathan, wielded blowtorches to create iron sculpture in the studio of Luis Colmenares, watched renowned photographer Josephine Scabo demonstrate her development process from start to finish to create a photograph for the group, were taught about the history and impact of Voodoo in the region, led a Second Line Parade through the Bywater area, contributed to the cacophony of sounds at the artists-led Music Box garden, and spent two very muddy and very fun evenings listening to bands at the annual Voodoo Festival.



Pen & Ink Perspective

Our scholars asked us to provide more opportunities for them to explore the surrounding neighborhood and region. We drew upon our rich local arts scene to create posters at *Hatch Show Print*, try to gain our freedom at *The Escape Room*, cook and paint at *Dabble*, explore Nashville's role in the Civil Rights Movement at *Woolworth's on 5th*, and design tattoos at *One Drop Ink Tattoo Studio*.

Perhaps the best visit of all occurred in October 2019, when the scholars took part in their *New Orleans Immersive Culture & Community field trip* over fall break. Designed with input from the scholars themselves, and working with Jeanne Nathan (Executive Director of Creative Alliance of New Orleans: CANO) the students had a lengthy discussion



*Left: Traditional shotgun House in Bywater, LA
Right: 'The Woman' by Josephine Scabo*

January 2020 saw the opening of *The Form of Reform*, the Curb Center's newest art installation, featuring the art and writings of death row prisoners, who self-identify as insiders, at Tennessee's Riverbend Maximum Security Institution. The scholars took part in a writing exchange with the men, posing five simple questions, such as 'what is justice?' and 'what does forgiveness look like?' to facilitate a back-and-forth writing dialogue with the insiders.

The show also provided the Curb Scholars with the opportunity to view *'Remand'*, a film about the Ugandan criminal justice system by Revolution Films founder and executive producer Randy Brewer. The screening was followed by a Q&A, and an opportunity to tour Revolution and spend time learning about the local and national film industry with Randy.



Revolution Films Field Trip

We believe each scholar, past or present is a uniquely creative individual, and so this year it has been my pleasure to write individualized "scholar spotlights" which focus on highlighting the contributions of our Curb Scholars to the Vanderbilt and local communities. We featured portraits of rising senior Sydney Juda, a new graduate Harrison Thomas, rising sophomore Berkeley Kendrick, and rising senior Brett Koolik. You can read more about their passions and accomplishments by visiting the *Curb Scholar Spotlights* page on our website.

When many of you were scholars Elizabeth Meadows oversaw the program. We are thrilled for Elizabeth, who recently transitioned to her new role as Associate Director of Vanderbilt's Robert Penn Warren Center.

The work Elizabeth began is continuing under the leadership of our new Assistant Director, Wilna Taylor. Wilna is bringing her passion for film and acting to her skills as an administrator to enrich the scholars' educational and interpersonal experiences. In her short tenure she has made a number of positive additions to the Curb Scholar program, including focusing on five programming pillars: Art Making, Art Presenting, Art Research, Social Practice Art, and Community Engagement Through the Arts.

Wilna is also working to create an active *Curb Scholar Alumni Network* which this, the first *Curb Scholar Alumni Newsletter*, plays a role. Her goal is to create an active community of past scholars who are willing to connect with each other and with the current Scholars for creative partnerships going forward.

As a way of building these bridges between past and present scholars we presented the inaugural *Alumni Film Panel*, featuring Harvey Burrell, Sam Boyette and Drew Sanchez, who spoke about their work in the film industry and saw samples of each presenter's work, while learning about the multiple avenues available to work in the film industry.

We hope the Network will allow you to reconnect with the Curb Center and with each other. *Are you interested in joining?* Would you like to play an active role in the group? Or be willing to serve as a mentor or internship resource? Perhaps you'd like to share what you do with our active scholars in the future? Check out the *Curb Alumni web page* and consider sending us an email so we can learn about what you've been up to since graduation from Vanderbilt.

Finally, speaking of graduation, we are thrilled to *CONGRATULATE our newest Curb Scholar Alumni*: Riley Beal, Miranda Cross, Clay Leddin, Sophia Lee, and Harrison Thomas. They are moving on to their next adventure and we wish them the all the best on the journey ahead.

Here's hoping your own journey continues to be anchored by creativity in everything you do.

The Curb Center