



Pride and Solidarity

Dear Vanderbilt community,

Last weekend, on Sept. 18 and 19, the LGBTQIA+ and allied communities celebrated Pride in Nashville. Although we typically celebrate Pride in June to commemorate the anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising—which began on June 28, 1969—this year's festival was rescheduled due to COVID restrictions. Though the weather and the current state of the pandemic made the festivities a challenge, it didn't stop us from honoring our community. Pride is both a celebration and a protest, as it offers us a safe place to be free, to be unabashedly ourselves and to come together as a unified yet remarkably diverse community in solidarity and joy.

Pride always makes me reflect on what I am most proud of, both as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and as the [new interim director of the Office for LGBTQI Life](#). I am proud to be a part of a community that values authenticity, uniqueness, compassion and care for one another. I am proud of our creativity and the beauty and passion we bring to the world. I am proud of our resilience and how we have come together to support one another through crises, discrimination and injustice time and time again. Most importantly, I am proud that we represent the gamut of humanity. We are not only LGBTQIA+, we are also Black, Latinx, indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander, disabled, veterans, neurodiverse, Muslim, and at the same time parents, siblings, caretakers and spouses. We are a dynamic, intersectional community, and I am honored to share space with some truly incredible people.

I will carry this pride into [LGBT History Month](#), which we observe every October to celebrate and teach the history of the LGBTQIA+ community. Started by Missouri high school teacher Rodney Wilson in 1994, LGBT History Month offers an opportunity to provide role models, build community and honor the contributions of the remarkably diverse LGBTQIA+ community, notably the only community worldwide that is not taught its history in many homes, schools and religious institutions. Throughout October, I hope you'll take part in some of the many programs and events across campus that celebrate our LGBTQIA+ history, including our National Coming Out Day festivities coming up on Oct. 12, culminating with a keynote by Feminista Jones.

I hope to see you out there. Stay proud.

Sincerely,

Brianna Nesbitt

Assistant Director of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Interim Director for LGBTQI Life



Black appointed to vice provost role

G.L. Black has been named vice provost for student affairs and dean of students, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs C. Cybele Raver has announced. [Read More +](#)



Vanderbilt welcomes diverse new faculty with enhanced orientation

The university celebrated the arrival of a diverse group of more than 100 esteemed scholars from many institutions and areas of expertise at the start of the school year. [Read More +](#)



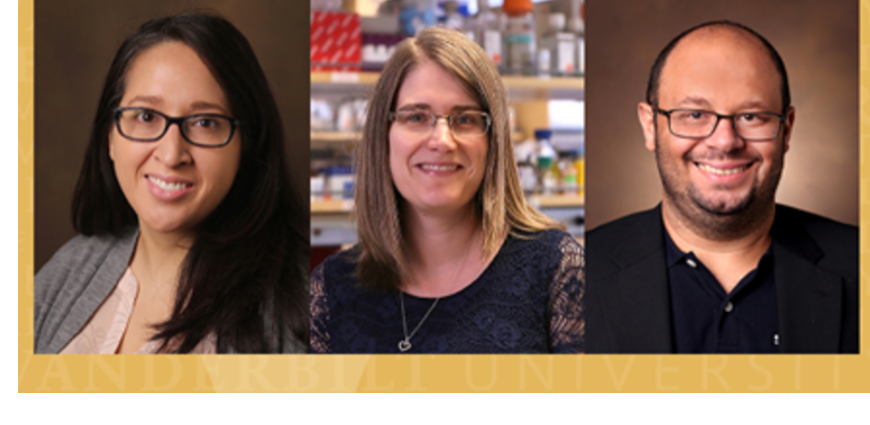
Moira Poe named executive director of undergraduate admissions

Moira Poe, a highly respected admissions leader with a passion for increasing higher education accessibility and affordability for scholars of diverse backgrounds and experiences, has been named executive director of undergraduate admissions. [Read More +](#)



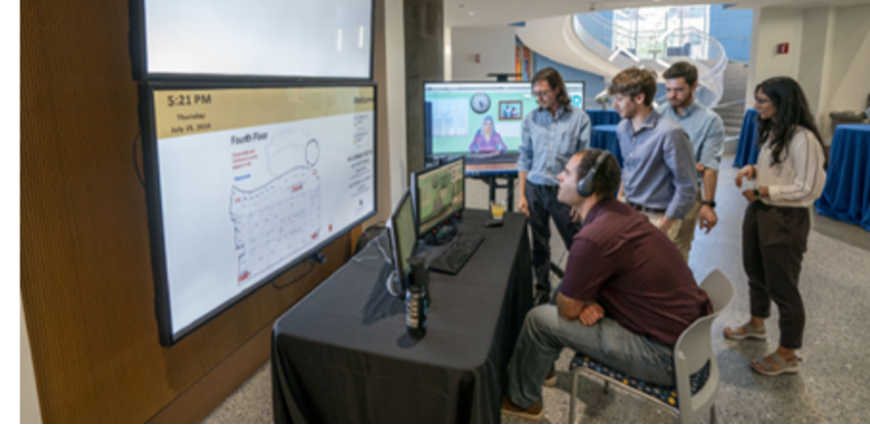
Vanderbilt professor gives talk on equity in evaluation for POTUS executive office

Velma McBride Murry, professor of education and human development and health policy, was recently invited to present her research on equity in evaluation for the Office of Management and Budget at the White House. [Read More +](#)



Basic Sciences welcomes new IMSD leadership

Digna R. Velez Edwards, Julie Rhoades (Sterling) and Henrique Serezani comprise the new leadership team for the Vanderbilt School of Medicine Basic Sciences' Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity. IMSD recruits and supports biomedical trainees from backgrounds underrepresented in science during their graduate careers. [Read More +](#)



Frist Center for Autism and Innovation recognized with 2021 Edward M. Kennedy Community Service Award

Under the leadership of Keivan Stassun, founding director of the Frist Center for Autism and Innovation, the center has been recognized by the American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity for its innovations in engineering research related to autism and the value of neurodiversity in the workplace. [Read More +](#)



Fall Staff Assembly to be held Nov. 2; staff award nominations now open

The Fall Staff Assembly and staff awards are part of the semiannual effort to celebrate staff excellence and recognize the many contributions of university staff to Vanderbilt's mission. This year's Fall Staff Assembly is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 2. Award nominations, which are submitted online, are open through Thursday, Sept. 30. [Read More +](#)



Faculty and staff invited to join inaugural Military and Veterans Group

Vanderbilt launched a Military and Veterans Employee Affinity Group on Sept. 2. This EAG is open to all faculty, staff and postdoctoral scholars. To get involved, contact Alyssa Aloyo at alyssa.aloyo@vanderbilt.edu.

Get Connected: Upcoming Events

[9/15-10/15: Hispanic Heritage Month Events](#)

[9/27: An evening with front-line activist Tara Houska](#)

[10/1: Other African Diasporas](#)

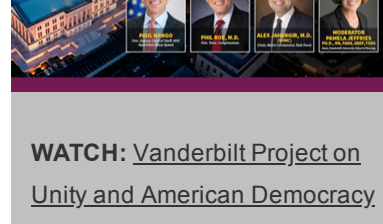
[10/5: Save the date: 20th Annual Levi Watkins, Jr. M.D. Lecture](#)

[10/8: 'Dores in Dialogue - A conversation about the history of Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

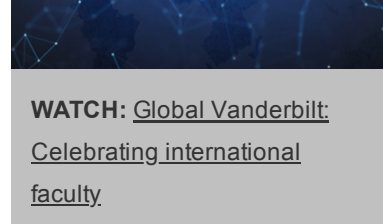
[Vanderbilt Farmers' Market is back on Thursdays through Oct. 28](#)

[Apply for Meharry-Vanderbilt CERC mini-grants through Oct. 29](#)

Continuing the Conversation



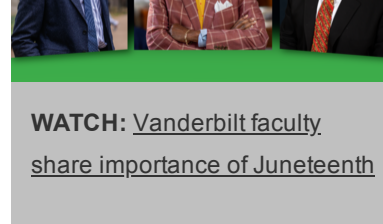
WATCH: [Vanderbilt Project on Unity and American Democracy and VUMC present 'Vaccine Hesitancy: The Politics of Public Health in Tennessee'](#)



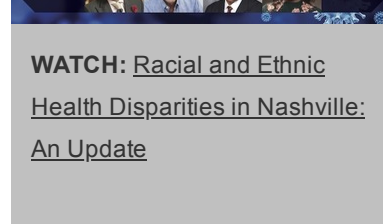
WATCH: [Global Vanderbilt: Celebrating international faculty](#)



WATCH: [Vanderbilt leaders honor Rep. John Lewis and civil rights history of Nashville](#)



WATCH: [Vanderbilt faculty share importance of Juneteenth](#)



WATCH: [Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities in Nashville: An Update](#)

'DORES IN DIALOGUE

WATCH: ['Dores in Dialogue: A Conversation on Bostock v. Clayton County and the Rise of Anti-LGBTQIA+ Legislation](#)

Resources

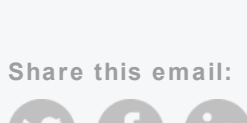
Heritage Month

Workshops

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