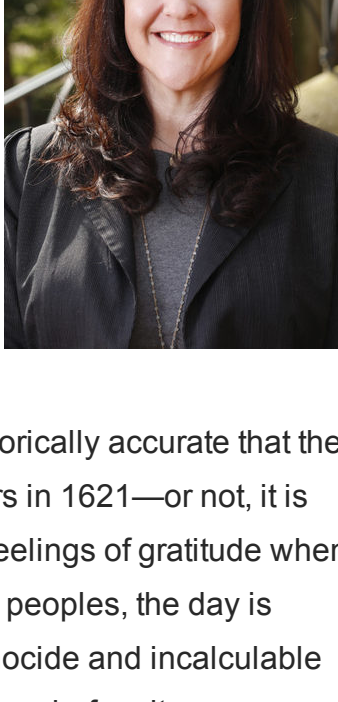




Native American Heritage Month

Dear Vanderbilt community,

Thanksgiving means many things to many people and communities, not all of which are positive. As a woman of both indigenous and European ancestry, “Thanksgiving” causes me to reflect more on what it means to be both Native and a member of the dominant structure, as well as the impact this problematic myth has on our citizenry, both my ancestors and future generations. While it may be historically accurate that the Wampanoag shared an autumn feast with early settlers in 1621—or not, it is somewhat debated—the day does not readily evoke feelings of gratitude when seen through Native American eyes. For many Native peoples, the day is reflective of a larger history based in colonization, genocide and incalculable atrocities against the people who occupied this land long before it was “discovered.”



As we break this week to rest, relax and recharge ourselves, I encourage you to reflect on the true origins of the day, as well as the fact that November is also [Native American Heritage Month](#)—certainly not by accident. Take this opportunity to honor Native Americans by supporting and lifting up Native voices and cultures. Listen to native people talk about [their own reflections on Thanksgiving](#) and the impact settlement has had on them. Bring up the problematic history of this day while sitting around the table with family. Dive into some Native American historical writings, perhaps [Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz's An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](#) or [Not a Nation of Immigrants: Settler Colonialism, White Supremacy, and a History of Erasure and Exclusion](#). Support indigenous artisans and business owners by [buying native goods](#). Learn more about local native tribes and activities through the [Native American Indian Association of Tennessee \(NAIATN\)](#)...even donate if you feel led! Celebrate the unique, rich and diverse cultures and traditions of Native peoples as much and as often as possible.

While the origins of the Thanksgiving tradition may be triggering for many Native people, I do find beauty in the idea of carving out time for intentional gratitude and spending time with family and friends over a shared meal. This day can be both a day of mourning and of giving thanks, so I do take time to offer gratitude and celebration, which is very Native, in my opinion. I am grateful for my family—related and chosen. I am grateful for the wisdom of those around me and those who came before me. I am grateful for those who are fighting daily to advocate for indigenous rights and freedoms. I am grateful for a time to rest, but also to reimagine how this world can be more just and equitable. And in the words of Paula Peters, I am grateful that “We are the land, the land is us, and We Are Still Here.”

In gratitude and solidarity,

Linzie M. Treadway, Ph.D.

Director of Executive Projects, Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



Vanderbilt celebrates Native American Heritage Month

The Student Center for Social Justice and Identity held a series of events all November long in honor of Native American Heritage Month. Activities included game nights, discussions on identity, community gatherings and so much more. [Read More+](#)



Panel shared experiences on allyship and what it means to be an ally

Dr. André L. Churchwell, vice chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion and chief diversity officer, hosted a panel of Vanderbilt faculty, students and alumni on Nov. 10 to discuss meaningful allyship. [Watch Here+](#)



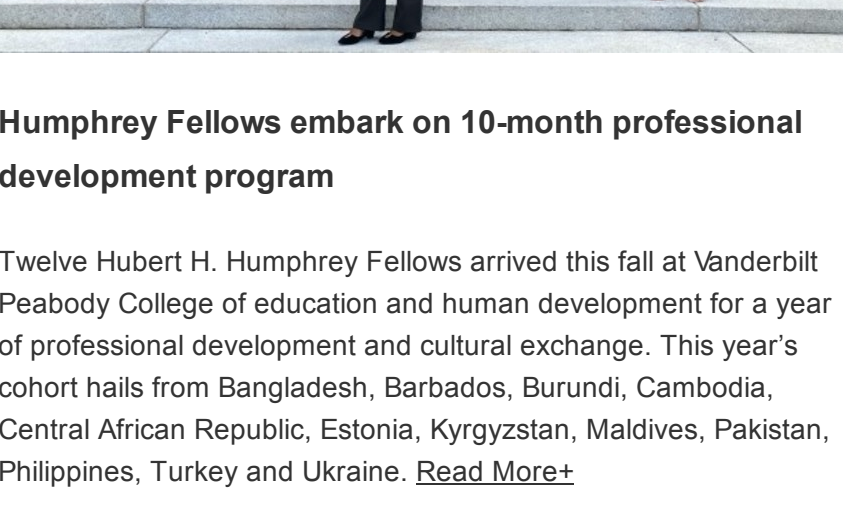
Vanderbilt and Nashville community hosts annual Transgender Day of Remembrance

The Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the Office of LGBTQI Life collaborated with community activists and partners to host Nashville's annual Transgender Day of Remembrance service on Tuesday, Nov. 16. The in-person and virtual event honored the lives taken by anti-transgender violence in Tennessee and nationwide. [Watch Here+](#)



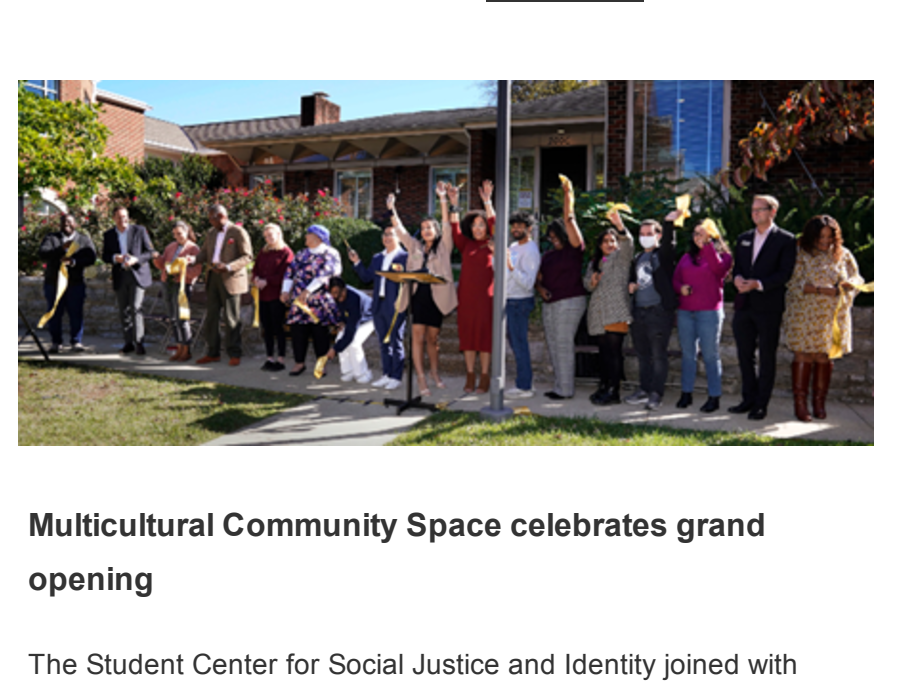
Churchwell discusses health equity with American Heart Association, receives honor from NAACP

Dr. André L. Churchwell recently represented Vanderbilt at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions national conference, where he shared his expertise as a physician and as the university's vice chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion and chief diversity officer. [Read More+](#)



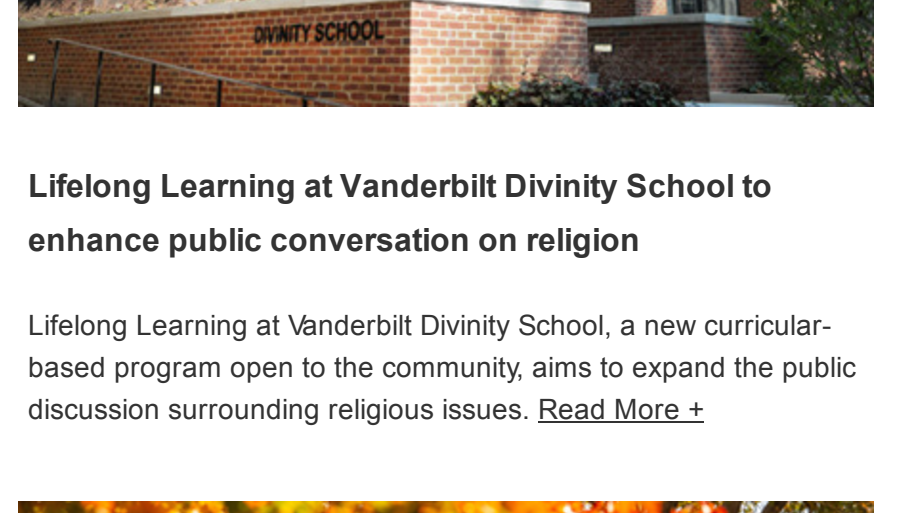
Storytelling initiatives help promote civil discourse across campus

Vanderbilt has launched multiple avenues to practice and teach civil discourse, with the goal of preparing students to have difficult but constructive conversations in an increasingly polarized time. [Read More+](#)



Vanderbilt celebrates International Education Week

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), the Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and numerous campus partners collaborated to offer 22 events during International Education Week from Nov. 15-19. IEW is an annual opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. [Read More+](#)



Humphrey Fellows embark on 10-month professional development program

Twelve Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows arrived this fall at Vanderbilt Peabody College of education and human development for a year of professional development and cultural exchange. This year's cohort hails from Bangladesh, Barbados, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Pakistan, Philippines, Turkey and Ukraine. [Read More+](#)



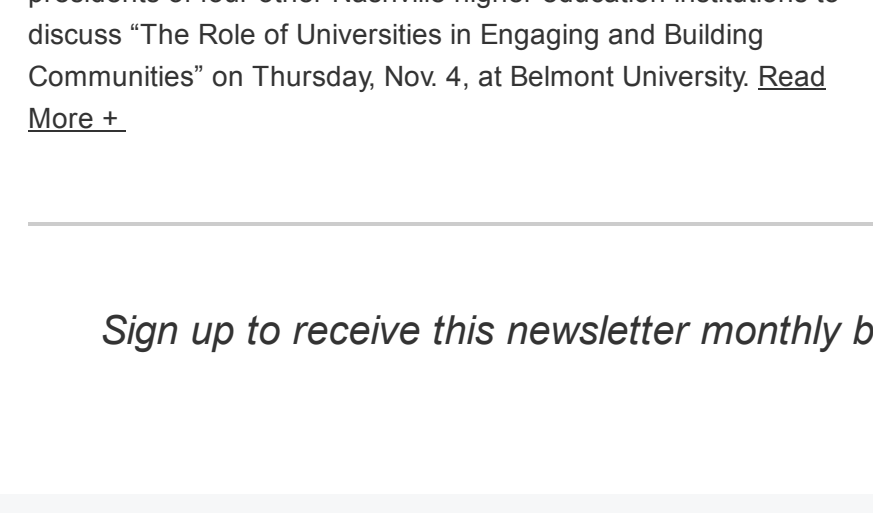
Search launched for next university librarian

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs C. Cybele Raver has appointed a committee to conduct a national search for the next university librarian. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Vanessa Beasley and School of Medicine Basic Sciences Dean Lawrence Marnett will co-chair the committee. [Read More+](#)



Multicultural Community Space celebrates grand opening

The Student Center for Social Justice and Identity joined with campus and community partners to host a grand opening Oct. 27 of the Multicultural Community Space, an exciting new venue created for students in more than 30 student organizations that are part of the Multicultural Leadership Council or are supported by SCSJI. [Read More +](#)



Lifelong Learning at Vanderbilt Divinity School to enhance public conversation on religion

Lifelong Learning at Vanderbilt Divinity School, a new curricular-based program open to the community, aims to enhance the public discussion surrounding religious issues. [Read More +](#)

Listening sessions lead to changes in student handbook

The Vanderbilt student handbook has been revised to include new policies regarding student discrimination and online harassment following a series of listening sessions among university leaders and students, faculty and identity groups. [Read More +](#)

Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion launches additional Employee Affinity Groups; upcoming events for existing groups announced

The Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion will launch additional Employee Affinity Groups in the coming weeks and months as part of an ongoing initiative to support university employees. Employee Affinity Groups are employee-led and -facilitated groups formed around interests, backgrounds, identities and common bonds. [Read More +](#)

Veterans celebrated at breakfast event Nov. 11, Salute to Service game Nov. 13

Military veterans on campus were celebrated at a breakfast reception on Thursday, Nov. 11, and at the annual Salute to Service football game on Saturday, Nov. 13, just two of the ways Vanderbilt University commemorated Veterans Day 2021. [Read More +](#)

Chancellor Daniel Diermeier joins panel of Nashville university presidents Nov. 4

Vanderbilt University Chancellor Daniel Diermeier joined the presidents of four other Nashville higher education institutions to discuss “The Role of Universities in Engaging and Building Communities” on Thursday, Nov. 4, at Belmont University. [Read More +](#)

Get Connected: Upcoming Events

[11/29 - Indigenous Employee Affinity Group interest meeting](#)

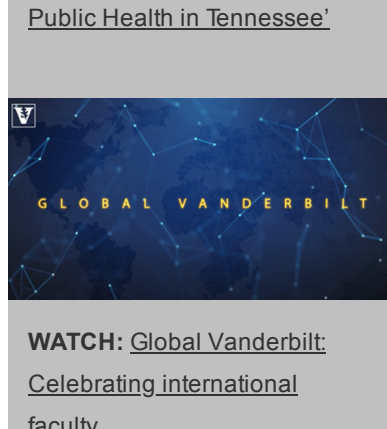
[11/30 - Fall Disability Speak-Out Event](#)

[12/2 - Kwanzaa Dean's Dinner with The Black Cultural Center](#)

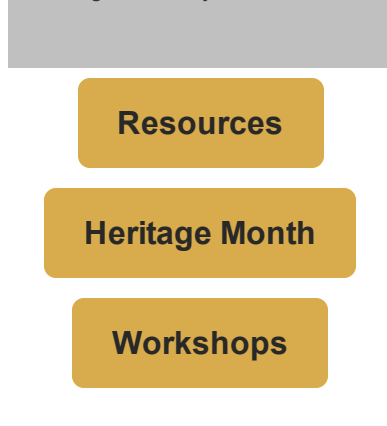
[12/9 - LAVA Alumni Check in with Brianna Nesbitt](#)

[For employees and staff - Access televideo counseling services](#)

Continuing the Conversation



[WATCH: Author Sasha Issenberg discusses tumultuous legal fight for same-sex marriage in America](#)



[WATCH: 'Vanderbilt Project on Unity and American Democracy' hosts immigration panel](#)

'DORES DIALOGUE

[WATCH: 'Dores in Dialogue: A Conversation About the History of Hispanic Heritage Month](#)



[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](#)

Resources

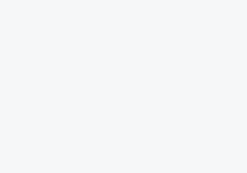
Heritage Month

Workshops

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