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OACS News

Thank you from OACS



OACS extends a warm thank you to all the student service organizations affiliated with our office! The 2016/17 academic year saw approximately 80 service orgs expand their reach in/around Nashville, and OACS was proud to advise these students as they critically engaged with meaningful projects impacting thousands of people. This year saw 3,916 students enrolled in one of the service organizations OACS advises. This represents 58% of the undergraduate student body (an increase of 4% from last year). To learn more about the service orgs advised through OACS, please visit the [website](#).

OACS also thanks the 60+ students who applied to join a Fall 2017 Local OACS DIVE Project. The overwhelming enthusiasm for our three topic areas (affordable housing, food waste, and the experience of displaced persons) is a testament to the dedicated and compassionate nature of our student body. OACS staff is excited to implement these design-thinking, service-learning programs while engaging with Nashville communities. You can learn more about Local OACS DIVE [here](#).

Congratulations to the Class of '17

OACS is pleased to share the following articles highlighting graduating seniors [Lauren Pak](#) and [Melissa De La Torre](#), both of whom have worked closely with our office over the years. We send our congratulations to Melissa, Lauren, and the entire class of 2017!



OACS celebrated our four global service cohorts last Sunday the 23rd with our final seminar and a party in the Rand Skylight Lounge. Dr. Mitchell Korn from the Blair School of Music delivered the keynote lecture and Mr. and Mrs. Nichols were on hand to meet the 2017 recipients of the [Nichols Humanitarian Fund](#). We now say *bon voyage* to these 55 students as they begin the immersive component of their programs. You can learn more about Global OACS [here](#) and begin thinking about applying for the 2017/18 programs.

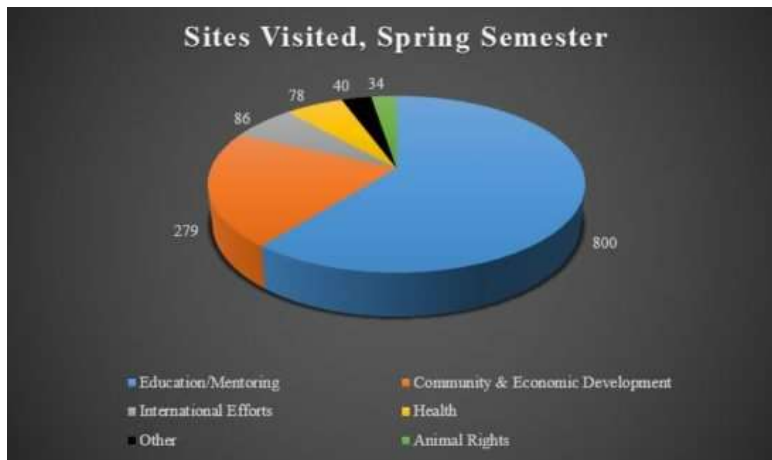
VIEW



Congressman Jim Cooper shared with students enrolled in the Vanderbilt Internship Experience in Washington, D.C. (VIEW) program on April 18th about his career journey in public service. VIEW students were also able to ask the Congressman questions about how to prepare for a summer internship in D.C., books he recommends future public servants read, how the landscape of public service is changing, and more. We are very grateful for Congressman Cooper's continued support of the VIEW program!

Immediately following Congressman Cooper's talk, current VIEW students had the opportunity to hear from members of the 2015 and 2016 cohorts about the summer portion of their VIEW experiences. Former VIEW students shared about how to navigate the city, build meaningful relationships, and stand out as an intern in D.C. Many thanks to Liz Menard, Mary Marshal Anderson, Crystal Liu, Emma Stewart, Olivia Solow-Niederman, and Kevin Munoz for sharing your experiences with the VIEW 2017 cohort – we appreciate you!

OACS Vehicle Statistics



The students using OACS service vehicles have again made a substantial impact this semester. As vehicle usage statistics come in, we see that 122 students made a vehicle reservation this spring, contributing 3,564 hours of service in/around Nashville. More than 1,300 reservations were logged from January 2nd – April 25th, with education/mentoring representing the most common service area. OACS thanks our students for using these vehicles so efficiently and encourages the campus to discover how you can take advantage of the [OACS service vehicle program](#).

William Aaron Pathfinder Award Winner: Kelly Perry



Congratulations to Kelly Perry, the 2017 recipient of the William Aaron Pathfinder Award! Kelly has been a leader in service at Vanderbilt since her arrival. She is the president of VU Circle K International, a member of the OACS Student Advisory Board, a participant in Alternative Spring Break, and a recipient of the Nichols Humanitarian Fund. Kelly founded the Our Village, Our Family project for rural women in Chiang Mai, Thailand to receive medical treatment in the form of mammogram screenings. She is also Vice President of the Multicultural Leadership Council and VUcept, and is a staff writer for The Vanderbilt Review. Kelly is studying for her degrees in Creative Writing, Neuroscience, and Medicine, Health & Society.

The William Aaron Pathfinder Award recognizes juniors and seniors whose uncommon community service efforts and leadership skills demonstrate vision, creativity, and innovation. Named in recognition of William Aaron (Class of '89), whose own path finding led to the creation of the Office of Volunteer Activities—now the Office of Active Citizenship and Service—this award celebrates Vanderbilt University's extraordinary history of service to the community.

Thank You Melissa Looby!



After a two year Assistantship in OACS, Melissa Looby will complete her M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration next month. OACS extends a huge thank you to Melissa for her dedication and tireless work in our office, around our campus, and in the communities of Nashville. A brief, incomplete listing of the work Melissa accomplished includes the development and implementation of the Cultivating Roots Program, coordinating the Weekend of Service, advising seven student service organizations, crafting the Nichols Humanitarian Fund's annual report, and leading Vanderbilt's submission to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Melissa, from everyone at OACS, we thank you!



More than 65 students attended the first annual OACS Service and Civic Engagement Lecture with keynote speaker Donovan Livingston on April 10th. Donovan Livingston is an award-winning educator, spoken word poet, and public speaker. In 2016, his [Harvard Graduate School of Education convocation address "Lift Off"](#) went viral, reaching over thirteen million views and prompting Hillary Clinton to praise, "It's young graduates like [Livingston] who make it clear that America's best days are still ahead." Since his pivotal speech, Livingston has been featured on CNN, NPR, BBC, Good Morning America, and in news outlets across Europe, Australia, India, and South Africa. OACS extends a warm thank you to Mr. Livingston and all who were in attendance.

Student Spotlight: Chelsea Jones



As the semester is nearing its end, I think about all the wonderful seniors who will be graduating this May. I know I shouldn't be sad, but when you have contact with someone literally every day, it's tough to see them go. One of those brilliant seniors who I will be sad to see leave is Chelsea Jones. Chelsea has been coming to OACS her whole Vanderbilt career, and she is one student I will really miss. Before she leaves Vanderbilt for good, I asked her to meet with me for an interview at Three Brothers Coffee on West End.

Holly – Tell me a little about yourself.

Chelsea – I grew up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina and I have two little sisters. One of my sisters is a sophomore at the University of Richmond and the other is a senior in high school debating where she will be going to school. My dad is a mortgage broker and my mom is a teacher.

Holly – What drew you to Vanderbilt?

Chelsea – I came to one of the Black and Gold Days for my birthday trip the summer before my senior year. I really liked the student panel, the idea of the

Commons community, and the feel that it created. I love country music, so Nashville was a draw. I also wanted a good academic school with sports that I could get behind.

Holly – What is your favorite sport?

Chelsea – Baseball, I love baseball. Since I have been at Vanderbilt, we won the National Championship. So that's pretty cool.

Holly – That is awesome! So tell me a little about your major?

Chelsea – I am an MHS and Econ double major. In high school I just really liked health and public policy. I didn't know what I wanted to get into when I came to Vanderbilt, but I thought MHS would be a good start. I took some classes and the new curriculum allows you to pick a class of concentration, so I picked health policy with an economic concentration, took an Econ class to fulfill one of those requirements, and fell in love with how intuitive it was. It was so cool to discover a passion that I didn't even know I had because I had never taken an Econ class before. So I pursued that as my second venture.

I'm also a Sociology minor. I like taking Sociology classes and learning about social issues and what motivates people. It just makes sense. It's things that you really don't think about.

Holly – What do you plan on doing after graduation?

Chelsea – I will be moving to Kansas City in August to pursue a career in Health Care IT Consulting.

Holly – That's exciting! I know you do a lot of volunteering because you use the OACS cars quite a bit. Can you tell me a little about that part of your life?

Chelsea – I started my sophomore year with the after school program (TAP), mentoring and helping children with their homework. I just did that once a week, and then in my junior year I worked at a non-profit through the nursing school called Communities and Students Together for Learning-Enhanced Service (CASTLES). We have several teams that do afterschool programs in underserved areas in Nashville, and also community engagement workshops they are basically community kitchens where we come up with a healthy recipe. We go into the community and teach them about the recipe and its benefits, then cook it for them and enjoy the meal together.

Junior year I was on the community kitchen team. I really developed a passion for working with that community and I love working with kids. I wanted to get involved and last spring I started working at the South Nashville Family Resource

Center in the after school program. Last year I did that once a week, helping the students who were falling behind, and really giving them that one-on-one attention that they needed to get caught up. I enjoyed it, so this year I am the project coordinator of that after school site. I go three days a week for about three hours a day, help them with their homework, and give them social and emotional support if they need it. There is also a health and wellness aspect to our program. We call it SPARK. It is a curriculum with United Way. It is basically games and physical activities that get the kids up and moving. The Nashville Food Project provides healthy snacks every week.

Holly – That sounds like a wonderful program! What are your plans this summer? I remember you saying that you were still going to work with an afterschool program.

Chelsea – Yes, in high school I was in a program that provided mentors to college-bound students. Part of this program was community service involvement in after school activities that could boost your resume. There was also an academic component to the program. One thing that I found when I was applying to colleges was that the mentors knew a lot about North Carolina schools but not a whole lot about top institutions outside of the state. So in applying to Vanderbilt, I was kind of on my own. My mom helped me a lot but there wasn't a lot of professional support for that. This summer I am hoping to volunteer with that organization and provide assistance and guidance to the high schoolers who are in the same situation that I was in a few years ago. I want to be able to support them through that process.

Holly – I know you are going to be a huge asset to that program this summer! What are some other hobbies that you like?

Chelsea – One of my other favorite things is I am the president of Moore College Council. I do a lot of programming in the college halls, and once a month I cook brunch for my residence hall. I love cooking! Cooking for a group of 50 people is a lot of fun for me. I don't get to do it very often but I really enjoy that.

Holly – What got you interested in cooking? When did you discover your passion?

Chelsea – I am a health nerd! I like putting a healthy spin on some of the things my mom used to cook. I find that really intriguing. My sisters and I will make brownies with black beans or cookies with chickpeas instead of flour.

Holly – How are brownies with black beans?

Chelsea – It's kind of interesting (laughs). You can taste the difference. I don't think some people would like them, but you can throw some chocolate in there and a scoop of ice cream, and then I think they are really good. Cutting sugar and that sort of thing got me interested in cooking.

Holly – That sounds interesting! I will have to try it! I always end the interview with a goofy question, so your question is *if you could be any animal, what would it be and why?*

Chelsea – A dolphin. I grew up swimming and that was my life, 24/7. I have never been one to really explore the ocean, just because I prefer to stay in a pool where I can see the bottom. So if I was a dolphin I could see what's out there.

Chelsea, thank you so much for taking the time to meet with me! You are such a joy to be around and we are going to miss you when you graduate! Please do stay in touch and I look forward to seeing what incredible things you do in your future!

Student Service

Special Olympics

Calling all students who are interested in Special Olympics!

Allison Tearney '18 will be hosting an open discussion about the possibility of starting a chapter of Special Olympics at Vanderbilt on Thursday, April 27th at 4:00 PM in the OACS Lounge. All interested students are welcome to attend. Please direct any questions that you have to [Abby Jarvis](#).

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation



FOR CROHN'S & COLITIS

The Tennessee Chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation is looking for volunteers to help with their annual Take Steps for Crohn's & Colitis, scheduled for June 3rd at the Centennial Park Bandshell. Volunteers are needed to help set-up and tear-down the event, as well as work at different areas throughout the event. Take Steps is the largest fundraising event for the Crohn's & Colitis

Foundation, whose mission is to cure Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and to improve the quality of life of children and adults affected by these diseases. For more information contact Kim at 615-356-0444 x 1 or kkaplan2@crohnscolitisfoundation.org.

Community News



Apply to work at the Wond'ry
now hiring Student Ambassadors for Fall 2017

Gain professional development
Manage projects for the Wond'ry
Network with innovators and entrepreneurs
Help shape the newest entity on campus

Apply online at thewondry.com

Innovation Center Undergraduate/Graduate Ambassador Program

Objective: The Undergraduate/Graduate Innovation Center Ambassador Program is a cross-school, interdisciplinary collection of students eager to be involved in the maker culture of Vanderbilt's Innovation Center. It is comprised of students with a passion to extend their learning beyond the classroom and an excitement to contribute to the Center itself. The Ambassador Program will enable students to pursue their innovative endeavors while also equipping them with the skills and resources to be successful. Moreover, the Ambassadors will serve as advocates for the Innovation Center on campus and provide additional oversight, logistics, and assistance with Innovation Center events and day-to-day activities. To that end, the Ambassadors will spend time working in the Innovation Center, assisting with the MakerSpaces, helping to execute internal and external programming, and ultimately contributing a team project to improve or add to the Center.

The Ambassadors for the Vanderbilt Innovation Center will perform operational and programming duties for the Center. In particular, the Ambassadors will perform complex duties, to include:

- › Assisting the Program Manager and Program Coordinator with day-to-day operations as well as the formulation and execution of long term projects and initiatives
- › Assisting in identifying, organizing, and helping to oversee the students, faculty, and VU organizations that desire to connect with and work within the Innovation Center
- › Helping to organize and oversee the execution and operation of Innovation and Entrepreneurial-related events (both organically developed and sponsored by third parties) held at the Innovation Center including, but not limited to, speaker series, seminars, hackathons, business plan competitions and other related entrepreneurial endeavors
- › Assistance in the creation of Innovation and Entrepreneurship programming within the Innovation Center
- › Assisting with the planning, launch, and day-to-day oversight of the Innovation Center and related MakerSpaces
- › Other duties as assigned by the Program Manager, Program Coordinator, and Executive Director

Basic Qualifications:

This position requires that the Ambassador is a currently enrolled Vanderbilt undergraduate/graduate student.

Preferred skills, experience and education:

- › The qualified candidate will be positive, energetic, and have a motivated entrepreneurial attitude
- › The qualified candidate will be extremely well organized and have excellent time management skills.
- › The qualified candidate will have exceptional interpersonal skills, and be able to interact fluidly with the many different individuals and organizations that will contact and work with the Center.
- › The qualified candidate will be proactive and always willing to accept delegation.

- The qualified candidate will have a demonstrated interest in innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The qualified candidate will have demonstrated experience leading and managing teams and projects to successful completion/outcomes
- The qualified candidate will be proficient in office software tools (e.g., Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint), and other software tools for communication, analysis and office operations.
- The qualified candidate will be flexible in their job expectations and schedule in an office that is on the cutting edge of innovation.

Time Commitment:

Ambassadors will be expected to commit a minimum of 10 hours per week to the Innovation Center.

Compensation:

The role will be compensated on an hourly basis or for class credit and in-line with standard Vanderbilt University policies.

The Contributor

Each week our editorial team strives to put together a creative, engaging and relevant newspaper that our vendors will be proud to sell. The work can be hard, but it is always worth it when we watch our vendors grow their microbusinesses, reach sales goals and get into housing.

We are looking for a summer intern who is interested in pursuing a career in journalism, has writing experience and is ready to jump in for a hands-on experience at a newspaper.

The internship isn't limited to copy editing; we encourage our interns to dig into what's going on in Nashville and produce content for us. We've had interns write cover stories. The intern will walk away with a portfolio of work that could include hard news, features and entertainment.

If you, or someone you know, could be a great addition to The Contributor's editorial team, please contact amelia@thecontributor.org.

Finally, please do not hesitate to reach out with any story ideas.

Thank you for your support of The Contributor!

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