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OACS News



About DIVE

DIVE is an exciting new program with both curricular and co-curricular components that will teach human-centered design thinking to students so that they may solve complex, real-world problems, develop critical thinking skills, and work in multidisciplinary teams during an immersive, mentored project. DIVE is

not just for undergraduate students; through the DIVE Boot Camps, students, faculty and staff may explore human-centered design and learn the five steps of design thinking, including: empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test. DIVE will launch in Fall 2017.

Why DIVE?

DIVE is the project chosen as the university's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP is a critical element of Vanderbilt's SACS-COC reaffirmation of accreditation; its purpose is to advance student learning through a clearly defined plan of action. In 2007, Vanderbilt's QEP was the first-year Vanderbilt Visions curriculum. Beginning in 2017, Vanderbilt's QEP will be the DIVE program.

What is OACS Doing to Support DIVE?

OACS is currently preparing a portfolio of co-curricular projects to be launched at the end of the semester, so be on the lookout for that. The OACS co-curricular DIVE process will look something like the following:

Undergraduate students will complete a DIVE [Boot Camp](#) early during the co-curricular project of their choice. This will enable them to understand and apply human-centered design methodology.

Besides projects available through OACS, undergraduate students may have the opportunity to partner with a variety of campus offices, including the [Wond'ry](#), the [Curb Center](#), and the [Jean and Alexander Heard Library](#).

In OACS, it is envisaged that students will work in multidisciplinary project teams over the course of the fall semester, to attack and develop real-world policy and other solutions to pressing local needs identified by the mayor's office. The themes OACS has chosen include:

The lived experiences of refugees in Nashville;

Glass recycling;

Gentrification; and

Food waste

At the end of the academic year, students will participate in a university-wide showcase to present their work.

Want to Know More?

Please visit the [DIVE website](#) and watch the new DIVE video!

Please follow @VandyDIVE on our social media accounts, including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Email dive@vanderbilt.edu for more information or with questions.

Spread the word about DIVE far and wide! It's critical that the Vanderbilt community know that DIVE is the university's new QEP!

Sign up for the first [DIVE Boot Camp](#) taking place on March 25th from 11AM – 4PM at the Wond'ry. Enrollment will be capped at 40 participants, so students, faculty, and staff should sign up now! Email dive@vanderbilt.edu to sign up.

To learn more about participating in a DIVE co-curricular project, please email dive@vanderbilt.edu or oacs@vanderbilt.edu.

Visit by Dr. Randy Stoecker

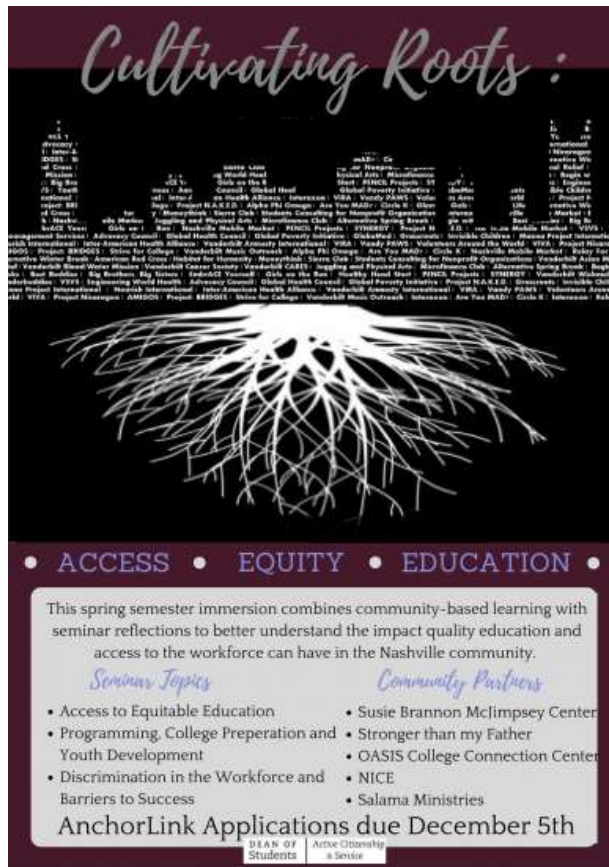


OACS hosted a presentation and discussion in the Black Cultural Center's auditorium on February 8th by Randy Stoecker, Professor of Community and Environmental Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The talk was attended by approximately 20 undergraduate and graduate students and involved a stimulating discussion of service learning, focused on Dr. Stoecker's research and criticism of the short-term service model. Senior and Ingram Scholar Lauren Pak moderated the conversation. OACS thanks Dr. Stoecker for taking the time to meet with Vanderbilt students and also thanks our partners in the BCC for hosting the event.

REDEFINE
 SERVING LOCALLY, CONNECTING GLOBALLY
Spring Semester 2017
 OACS, ISSS & the Nashville Food Project
 invite you to explore the meaning of service
 Applications due December 16th
 Seminars and service begin January
www.vanderbilt.edu/oacs

DEAN OF Students Active Citizenship & Service
 DEAN OF Students International Student & Scholar Services

The 16 members of the [Redefine](#) cohort have come together several times this semester to engage in critical dialogue about service in the United States and abroad, specifically focusing on the challenges of food insecurity and homelessness. Partners at The Nashville Food Project, Open Table Nashville, and Trinity United Methodist Church have led seminars and helped immerse students in service to Nashville community members. Redefine’s recent seminar featured a panel discussion led by a returned Peace Corps Volunteer, several Humphrey Fellows, and an OACS Global Service participant that was designed to help students understand the represented programs, learn about the lived experiences of these volunteers, and engage with perspectives on the positive and negative aspects of serving internationally.



The [Cultivating Roots: Access to Equitable Education and the Workforce](#) program is underway. The Meaningful Service Institute occurred on January 14th and provided the cohort with the basic foundations of healthy community engagement pedagogy, discussions on power and privilege dynamics, and a powerful privilege chain activity and debrief. Each of the 12 cohort participants are working with one of five community partners each week. The first seminar on February 10th featured a guest speaker from the Tennessee Department of Education and a representative from Metro Nashville Public Schools. The seminar focused on the historical context of equitable education in the United States and what the state of equitable education in Nashville looks like to students and families today.

OACS How To

How to rent an OACS vehicle

- Join OACS on Anchor Link by searching for OACS, clicking the OACS link, then clicking join.

- Wait a couple of days for your membership to update in the system, then go to:

<https://emscampus.ea.vanderbilt.edu/VirtualEMS/>

and logon. Once you are logged on, go to the “reservations” tab and click “OACS Vehicle Requests”. Once you’ve clicked that you can filter the days and times you need a vehicle.

How to reserve conference room 304

Email reservations@vanderbilt.edu

Let them know the date and time you need the conference room and they will check the booking system to see if the room is available.

National Campaign Conference



Olivia Solow-Niederman and Emma Stewart served as the 2017 Ambassadors at the annual Harvard National Campaign conference February 3rd – 5th. College students from 28 schools across the country convened at Harvard Kennedy School’s Institute of Politics’ (IOP) National Campaign for Political and Civic Engagement Conference to identify what young Americans see as the root causes of national divisiveness and create community-based action plans to Reconnect America. Meagan Smith, OACS Program Coordinator, also attended the conference as the Vanderbilt University advisor. Olivia and Emma will be developing a civic engagement project based on what they learned at the

conference and are very much looking forward to inspiring others to engage in these critical conversations.

Student Spotlight: McKenzie Scott



McKenzie Scott is one of the many amazing students who uses OACS vehicles to do her weekly service. McKenzie is a student that I really look forward to seeing because she is just a sweetheart who has a servant's heart. I wanted to get to know her a little better, and what better way than inviting her out to coffee and interviewing her for the Spotlight article.

I hope you enjoy it!

Holly Jones – So tell me a little about your background, because I have no idea where you are from. Brothers or sisters?

McKenzie Scott – I am from right outside of Chicago. It's a suburb called Barrington. It's like 30 minutes outside the city and it's in the northwest. I have lived there my whole life and my parents still live there. I am the youngest of three. I have an older sister who is 24 and lives in downtown Chicago. I have an older brother who is 40 and lives in Charlotte, North Carolina with his wife and my two nephews. My brother's wife is actually pregnant, so I will have another nephew soon. She is due in July. This will make the third boy, so I think they are a little nervous (laughs).

Jones – You mentioned you lived in Chicago, so what made you choose Vanderbilt?

Scott – When I was looking at colleges I knew I wanted to be an education major. I naturally looked at colleges that had really good education programs, and I knew Peabody is a very good education program. I also knew that I didn't want to go to a school that is super close to home, and I wanted to get away from the cold. Midwestern weather is the worst. I found Peabody and I found Vanderbilt and I just thought *wow, this looks like a really great place*. I came down and visited, and I fell in love with it. I knew this was the place for me. I was so happy when I received the acceptance letter because I didn't think I was going to make it in. Every day I am thankful that I get to come here. It is just such a great place. Vanderbilt is really difficult, but I know I am really lucky that I get to go here.

Jones – I'm so happy for you! What made you pick an education major?

Scott – My mom is a teacher. She retired shortly after I was born and she always did tutoring around our house. Teaching was something I grew up around. Once I got older I realized that I really enjoy working with kids. In high school I did a lot with kids. I was a nanny to a family for five years and then I coached soccer for the youth organization in my town. During my junior and senior years of high school I was an aid at a preschool in my hometown, and I just loved it. I knew teaching is what I wanted to do.

Jones – Did you start Big Brothers Big Sisters when you came to Vanderbilt or is that something you did in high school too?

Scott – I know it's a program that is all around the country, but I never heard of it before I came to Vanderbilt. They definitely didn't have it at my high school. When I was walking around the org fair freshman year I knew I wanted to get involved with things that let me work with children, so I ended up talking to the president of Big Brother and Big Sisters. She told me all about it and I thought it sounded really cool. When I knew that's what I wanted to do, I went through an interview process to be matched with my Little. I got matched with my first Little and he was so wonderful. He and I had a great relationship. You get to see them once a week for an hour at their school. My Little and I would play games, draw, sometimes play outside if the weather was nice, and it was just a nice bonding relationship. My first Little Brother moved at the end of last year to another school that doesn't have Big Brother and Big Sisters. Our match had to close, which was unfortunate and really sad because I didn't know that he had moved. Once school started, I got a call saying that he didn't go there anymore.

I had to wait for a while, but then I was re-matched with my current Little Brother. He is in third grade and I see him on Tuesday afternoons. He is more active than my last Little Brother and he likes to play in the gym a lot. Yesterday we made our own obstacle course, which was a lot of fun. He also likes to draw, so for Christmas he and I wrote a book together. He wrote most of it and I put it together and had him do the illustrations. I think he really enjoyed that. I got our book laminated at Campus Copy and I tied it with a ribbon and gave it to him. His reading levels are low, so I think this was a good way to get him involved in reading and make it fun. I got this idea from one of my classes about exploring children's literature. We had to make and write our own children's book at the end of the semester, so the book we created together was the book I turned in for my class. After my professor was done grading it, I gave it to my Little. My Match Specialist spoke to his mom and she really liked it, so I thought it was a good experience.

Jones – I'm glad to hear that! Are there any other service projects you do besides Big Brothers Big Sisters? Do you have time for other things?

Scott – I volunteer with the Nashville Dolphins program. All education majors are required to take a special education introductory course during freshman year, so I took that last spring. You are required to do 15 hours of service with special needs kids and there is a whole list of things you can do. After looking over the list I decided I wanted to volunteer with the Nashville Dolphins. Nashville Dolphins teach disabled kids how to swim, and I did that all last semester. I loved it so I kept up with it. I volunteer once a week at Centennial Sportsplex, and I just walk over and stay for two hours. They have four 30 minute sessions, so you get to work with four different kids each day. You teach them how to swim and it is so fun. The pool is heated so you aren't freezing the whole time. The kids are so excited and I can tell they love it. I think it's a nice break for their parents too. The sessions are free and anyone can sign up. I have worked with a 3 month old, a 12 year old, and anywhere in between. You get a range of experiences. The excitement when they are able to do something on their own – there is nothing like it. It's really neat to know that I helped them learn something and that I am a part of that experience for them. I know I will have a lot of those experiences once I enter my field.

Jones – Yes, you most definitely will have a lot of those experiences. What are your plans for the future?

Scott – I am double majoring in elementary education and child studies. When I graduate, the plan is to teach for a few years. I'm trying to minor in HOD so that I can do the education policy track, but I don't know if I have enough room in my

schedule because I want to go abroad. Either way, I want to teach for a few years. Then I'm thinking about going back to school and getting my Master's in something I haven't quite decided yet. It will be something to help me get into education policy because I love to be in the classroom with kids. I also think our education system needs a lot of reform. I think it would be really cool to get on that side of it. That is tentative, because I could start teaching, decide that I don't want to leave, and be totally fine with where I am.

Jones – So what's one thing that you would like to tell the OACS newsletter readers?

Scott – I would just encourage people to volunteer because there is something for everyone. I find volunteer opportunities where I can work with kids, but there are also different activities that you can do. If you love animals, you could go work at a rescue shelter. Just taking the time to give back is really important, and if you find something that you love to do it's not even work, it's fun. For me personally, I don't log my hours or anything like that to say that I volunteered 100 hours this year. I feel like this school can get really competitive and people can use it as something to talk about on their resume, but if you find something it can have a big impact on you as a person, and it's amazing. You want to find something where you don't feel like you have to log your hours, because you want to do it.

Jones – If you could have one super power what would it be?

Scott – I think I would do time travel because I have always been really interested in history. To go back and see how things were and how they happened would be awesome. I am in a social studies practicum right now, and we are talking a lot about teaching kids the big picture. When you are teaching a lesson on things that have happened in the past, we need to teach the importance of connecting it to today and why it matters. A lot of the time when you're teaching social studies to kids they're like *why am I learning this? This happened so long ago, and I don't care*. So it is important to make that connection, and we want them to know this is why you are learning. I think it would be really cool to go back in time, see all those things, meet people that I have read about in books, and see those connections firsthand.

Mckenzie, thank you so much for taking the time to meet with me. You are such a special person with a heart of gold. Thank you for all that you do in our local community. I can't wait to hear of all the great things you do in your future! You will touch so many lives with your art of teaching!

Student Service

EmbrACE



Order a midterm care package for your friends from EmbrACE! Packages will vary slightly, but items things will include smarties, nerds, fruit roll-ups, lifesaver gummies, chocolate, Emergen-C, mints, bubble wrap, post-it notes, and more! We're asking for a \$5 donation if you would like for us to deliver to your friends' doors, or \$4 if you prefer to pick them up on Rand Wall. All proceeds will go towards our event at the end of the semester for the middle school girls we mentor.

Click [here](#) to order a care package!

Talk To Me



Join us for our annual Talk to Me (not-so) Mini Week! This four-day series is aimed at fostering community among members of our campus by bonding over each other's similarities while learning about, appreciating, and celebrating one another's differences. We are excited to offer you the opportunity to have conversations and meet new people, to listen to each other's stories, to learn to balance our inter-sectional identities, and to imagine what our "ideal world" may look like. Check the [Facebook Event](#) for detailed descriptions of each day's events. Oh, and did we mention we'll be having FREE FOOD?!!

Community News

Protection of Minors Policies

When planning to interact with minors during your event or program, student organizations should focus on training, supervision, and tracking attendance.

Training

All undergraduate and graduate/professional students enrolled at Vanderbilt are required to complete the Protection of Minors online training on or after July 1st of the current academic year. In order to have events that involve minors, all members of your roster will need to have completed this training*. To determine if your roster is in compliance, you can contact your POM Advisor for a list of your current members and their training dates. Individuals are also able to see

their own training status by visiting
<https://webapp.mis.vanderbilt.edu/pomcc/index>.

Supervision

Given the level of responsibility that comes with interacting with minors, unless otherwise approved by the Office of Student Accountability*, student organizations must work with a third party organization or parents/guardians to provide supervision for the duration of an event or program. If working with a third party organization, student organizations will need to submit a signed Third Party Compliance Agreement (Appendix A of the “POM Student Org. Leader Packet”).

Tracking Attendance

Be sure to keep a record of who attended your event or program by either having attendees swipe their Commodore Card or by having a member of your organization upload attendance information in Anchor Link.

**Organizations who have been approved by the Office of Student Accountability to operate events where there is no third-party organization or parental/guardian supervision and the minors are supervised by Vanderbilt students or personnel will need to meet additional compliance requirements including background checks for each member of their roster and submission of Parent/Guardian Agreements.*

For a copy of the POM Student Org. Leader Packet and more information about the Protection of Minors policy and how it relates to your student organization, please visit <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/studentaccountability/pom>

and/or contact doscompliance@vanderbilt.edu.

GiGi's Playhouse

GiGi's Playhouse is a non-profit achievement center that provides free therapeutic-based, educational, and career development programs and family events to individuals with Down syndrome from diagnosis through adulthood, to their families, and the community. We are 98% volunteer-run and we depend on awesome volunteers and donors to fulfill our mission of changing the way the world sees Down syndrome. We recently moved, and are now located in Cool Springs at 1724 Carothers Parkway, Suite 400, Brentwood, TN 37027. You can check out our website [HERE](#), Facebook page [HERE](#), and Instagram [HERE](#). Our group therapeutic-based and one-on-one educational tutoring programs are

completely FREE to participants and families and are in very high demand. We are always working to expand our pool of trained tutors and group therapeutic-based program volunteers. This is a great opportunity for college students to gain experience, give back, and complete service hour requirements! One-on-one tutors receive materials, guidance, and training on the GiGi's tutoring curriculum. Group program volunteers provide assistance to program participants under the direction of a Program Leader and/or Program Coordinator.

For those interested in getting involved, group program volunteers can register [HERE](#), and one-on-one tutors can register [HERE](#).

Global Health & Innovation Conference

The [schedule](#) has just been announced for the [Global Health & Innovation Conference at Yale](#), April 22nd-23rd.

With more than 2,000 participants and 300 presentations and panels, the Global Health & Innovation Conference is the world's largest and leading global health and social entrepreneurship conference. [Register by February 28th for a highly reduced registration rate.](#)

Interested students may still submit an abstract in the [Social Impact Pitch category](#). Students may also be interested in the [Innovation Prize](#). February 28th is the final 250-word abstract submission deadline. There is also a terrific [GHIC experience video](#).

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