

Office of Active Citizenship & Service

2011- 2012 Annual Report

Office of the Dean of Students

OVERVIEW OF OFFICE

The Office of Active Citizenship & Service (OACS) works to empower students and student service organizations to experience community and leadership development through pursuit of service and volunteerism, issues awareness, civic participation, education, activism, and advocacy. The growing number of local, national, and global experiential learning opportunities offered by OACS provides cultural empathy, immersion, and personal and professional growth.

CORE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- **Advise student service organizations** to promote effective and beneficial engagement in service and active citizenship
- **Provide volunteer opportunities** for students, faculty, & staff
 - **Build partnerships** with agencies and organizations across Middle Tennessee **to maintain consistent opportunities for the Vanderbilt community to meet local needs**
- **Offer service programming** at a local, national, and global level
 - Provide unique **experiential living-learning communities in Nashville, Washington, DC, and around the world**
- **Encourage active citizenship** through voter registration and involvement in political processes
- **Incorporate leadership & professional development** into a range of service opportunities

HIGHLIGHTS OF GENERAL ACTIVITIES

- Received award from the *President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll* "**With Distinction.**" This is the 3rd year Vanderbilt has received the award, and the 1st year that it has received the classification "With Distinction."
- **57 Partnering organizations and Service Sites in the 9/11 Weekend of Service**
 - The number of service projects offered in 2011 *increased 20% from 2010*, and 1,051 members of the Vanderbilt community participated
- Hosted the second Iowa Caucus Rolling Seminar from Dec. 31st, 2011-Jan. 4th, 2012
 - 19 students and 2 staff members participated
- Coordinated the second annual MLK Weekend of Service
 - The number of projects nearly **doubled** from 2011
 - **100%** of the leaders surveyed indicated that they wanted to participate next year
- Approximately **4,020 volunteers** participated in student service organization activities and/or events
- **\$142,248 recorded dollars in donations** given by students and their related fundraising efforts
- **109,448 recorded hours of service** & volunteerism by students

- More than **50 students** applied for the PREP Program for the upcoming 2012-2013 academic year
- **Vanderbilt Emergency Relief Coalition** Established
- Worked with over **200 community partners** in the Middle-Tennessee area

HIGHLIGHTS BY CONTENT AREA

Student Service Organizations

- Approximately 4,020 student participated in service organization activities and/or events
- \$8,165 Gifts-in-Kind donated to partnering organizations
- \$142,248 recorded dollars in donations given by students and their related fundraising efforts
- Over 25 consistent faculty partners working with various student service organizations
- 109,448 recorded hours of service & volunteerism by students
- Worked with over 200 community partners in the Middle-Tennessee area

Volunteerism, Service, & Active Citizenship

- **CommonVU Service Fair**
 - Introduced the 1,600 First-Year students to service organizations, opportunities to volunteer, and 9/11 commemorative events during the OACS 9/11 Service Fair held at the Commons on August 23rd, 2011
- **9/11 Weekend of Service**
 - Commemorated the 10th Anniversary of the September 11th Attacks
 - Worked toward honoring and respecting our nation through the lens of service, organizing volunteer opportunities to respond to this moment in history with acts aimed at the betterment and progress of our society
 - 1051 participating students, faculty, and staff
 - 57 Partnering organizations and service sites
 - Friday, Sept. 9th – Sept. 11th, 2011
- **Established the Emergency Relief Coalition at Vanderbilt**
 - VSG Resolution passed in September: “Representatives from key organizations will be utilized...to connect and unify student organizations and the Vanderbilt community to create a school-wide effort to aid those in need in times of tragedy.”
- **Fall Break Rolling Seminars Continue**
 - Focused on mountain top removal
 - Took 18 students on the Second-Annual Eco-Rolling Seminar
 - 3 faculty/staff members also participated

- **Hosted The Commons Voter Registration Drive**
 - 372 First-Year students decided to register to vote
 - Murray House won the competition, with 49% of the house having completed the voter registration process
- **Held Commemoration of the 220th Anniversary of the Bill of Rights**
 - Formal dinner in the Board of Trust Room for 110 Vanderbilt and Nashville community attendees with special guest John Seigenthaler, founder of the First Amendment Center
 - Worked with Dean of Students, The Vanderbilt Political Review, VSG, and First Amendment Center
- **“Writing for the President & Interpreting the News”**
 - Panel discussion featuring fascinating guest attendees
 - Featured guests included: David Halperin, former Clinton White House speechwriter; John McConnell, former Bush White House speechwriter; Sam Feist, CNN Washington Bureau Chief
 - Over 135 attendees
- **Iowa Caucus Rolling Seminar**
 - Opportunity for students to observe and participate in democracy in action. Students volunteered on candidate’s campaigns, attended rallies and events, and debated important political issues with peers
 - December 31st, 2011- January 4th, 2012
 - 19 students and 2 staff members participated
 - 11 females, 10 males
 - 93% of students answered “very much” in response to the degree that the Iowa Caucus Rolling Seminar helped students engage in conversation with others who were different than themselves in terms of ideas, beliefs, values, and/or experiences
 - Quote from student: *“It allowed me to compare and contrast the primary format to the caucus format. As a DC native, I am used to entering the polls with my head down-no eye contact. And if you are campaigning for a candidate, you do not talk to your opponents supporters- you stand far away from them and do not talk to them. The caucus was very different people talked to each other and even our opponents campaigners spoke to us. It was shocking to me-but helped me realize that perhaps the element of discussion is really what makes democracy.”*
- **MLK Weekend of Service**
 - Second time this weekend of service was offered
 - January 13th-15th, 2012
 - Collaborated with Hands on Nashville to create projects and organize volunteer recruitment
 - 294 participating students, faculty, and staff
 - 27 Partnering organizations and service sites

- **Politics and Civility**
 - March 12th, 2012
 - Discussion with Artur Davis, visiting fellow at the Harvard Institute of Politics
 - Engaged, discussed, and explored the relationship between ethics and politics for the 2012 election
 - Partnered with Vanderbilt Political Science Department and Vanderbilt Political Review
- **Maymester in DC**
 - US History 292: US Politics and Leadership
 - 7 students registered for the course
 - Explored the upcoming 2012 presidential election
 - Connected students with top diplomats, elected officials, journalists, and policy-makers
 - Partnered with College of Arts and Sciences and VU Office of Federal Relations

Experiential Learning Opportunities

- **Manna Project International at Vanderbilt's Thanksgiving Service Trip**
 - 13 students traveled to La Ceiba, Honduras to serve at a local orphanage, Helping Honduras Kids, which cares for children who have been abandoned and/or neglected
 - Continued into the now 6th Year of the partnership
- **Alternative Winter Break Service Trips**
 - Alternative Winter Break successfully completed its 6th year of traveling service trips. This year ten service projects took place, up from the six sites from 2011's cohort. AWB had 55 Vanderbilt students participate in the week of service collectively providing over 1,593 hours of service to address a wide array of community needs across the country. \$1,300 in donations was also raised by students to benefit several AWB site partners.
- **Alternative Spring Break Service Trips**
 - 37 project sites
 - 436 participants
 - 26th year at Vanderbilt
 - 3,168 hours of service total
- **Best Buddies Spring Break Trips**
 - 2 project sites in Charleston and St. Louis
 - 27 participants
- **Habitat for Humanity Spring Break Trips**
 - 3 project sites to North Carolina, Louisiana, and Florida
 - 32 total participants

- **The Ecuador Project**
 - 12 students traveled to Quito, Ecuador in May for a month of service and personal, professional, and cultural development
 - Contributed 1,920 total hours of service
 - Attended 7 two-hour seminars during the spring semester to introduce students to the culture of Ecuador
 - 3rd year Ecuador Project has been offered
- **The Sri Lanka Project**
 - 8 students traveled to Moratuwa, Sri Lanka in May to teach English as a second language to high school students while immersing themselves in the culture of the tropical island of Sri Lanka
 - Contributed 1,280 total hours of service
 - Attended 6 two-hour seminars during the spring semester to introduce students to the culture of Sri Lanka
 - 2nd year Sri Lanka Project has been offered
- **The Zanzibar Project**
 - 11 students traveled to Zanzibar, Tanzania in May to teach English and engage in local culture
 - Contributed 1,760 total hours of service
 - Attended 6 two-hour seminars during the spring semester to introduce students to Zanzibar's culture
 - 5th year Zanzibar project has been offered

Leadership & Professional Development

- **Service Leaders Conference**
 - Held on August 22nd, 2011
 - Approximately 85 service leaders participated in OACS leadership training seminar for service organizations
- **The PREP Program**
 - 29 students graduated the year-long PREP Program, successfully completing the minimum requirement of 60 hours at their service-internship
 - 15 students registered their internship for credit, successfully completing a minimum of 75 hours at their service-internship. This is 6 more students than 2010-2011
 - 5 students volunteered over 100 hours of service at their internship
 - The students contributed 2,304 total hours of service to Nashville non-profits
 - Students also completed 8 journal reflections and 3 reflection dinners
 - Please see appendix for more information and for a table of internship placements

- **VIEW Program (Vanderbilt Internship Experience in Washington)**
 - 24 Students selected out of 52 applicants (46% acceptance rate)
 - 16 Female, 8 Male in 2012 Cohort
 - Program Dates will be June 2nd – July 18th, 2012
 - Please see appendix for more information and for internship placements

Utilization of OACS Resources

By the Numbers:

In the months of January, February, March, and April 2012:

New applications for driver certification with OACS vehicles	265
Completed video viewings for driver certification	160
Calls fielded by the office	537
Total Recorded Service Hours (by car usage)	4264
Room Reservation by students	826
Vehicle Utilization: Total Hours	
• Tan Windstar	581
• Saturn	679
• Camry	720
• Uplander	727
• Focus	763
• Taurus	805

APPENDIX

PREP PROGRAM

The PREP Program is a collaboration between the Office of Active Citizenship and Service (OACS) and the Office of Leadership Development and Intercultural Affairs (LDIA). During the fall semester, students attend training seminars about leadership, diversity, and social justice issues. In the spring semester, students complete service internships that engage and address these issues

Service Internships- Spring 2012

The following is a table of PREP Community Partner Service-Internship Placements and the number of student interns at each agency:

Name of Non-Profit Agency	# of Student Interns
ACLU	3
American Red Cross	5
Center for Latin American Studies	1
Community Health Charities	1
Conexion Americas	1
Exchange Club Family Center	1
FeastTogether	1
Girls on the Run	4
Green and Healthy Communities	1
Gun Free Dining Tennessee	1
Madison Equity	1
Martha O'Bryan Center	1
Mental Health America of Middle Tennessee	3
Nashville Cares	1
Nations Ministry Center	4
Office of Senator Lamar Alexander	1
Rebuilding Together Nashville	3
Sports 4 All	1
Tennessee Environmental Council	1
TN Secretary of State Office	1
Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health	3

THE VIEW PROGRAM

Student Demographics of 2012 VIEW Cohort	
White	71%
Students of Color	29%
Female	67%
Male	33%
Financial Aid Request	54%
Junior, 2013	46%
Sophomore, 2014	50%
First-Year, 2015	4%

VIEW Student Placement June-July 2012	
NAME	Placement
Mohamed Al-Hendy	Freedom House
Claire Barbagallo	Newseum
Shelby Begany	The Livingston Group
Jessica Brunelle	Representative Connie Mack
Evan Curran	Vanderbilt Office of Federal Relations
Miranda Diebel	Embassy of Kuwait
Katie Flint	Representative Stabenow
Matt Genova	Data Quality Campaign
Nathan Honaker	Representative Luetkemeyer
Cassie Johnson	Red Cross: Blood Services Marketing
Brett Kaup	Stein, Mitchell, & Muse LLP
Maryclaire Manard	CNN
Isaiah Marcano	Council on Hemispheric Affairs
Andrew Martin	Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development
Yasmin Matthew	Congressman Reyes
Brian O'Bannon	Willkie, Farr, & Gallagher
Ellen O'Brien	AIA Legacy/ The Octagon Museum
Addison Old	Urban Education Leaders Internship Program
Monica Retka	Women for Women

Allie Scalf	NPR - Kojo Nnamdi Show
Mary Shen	Center for American Progress
Hannah Sills	Senator Alexander
Meghana Sthanam	National Coalition for the Homeless