Office of Active Citizenship and Service

Student Driven | Community Centered

OACS Alumni Newsletter

[october 2017]

www.vanderbilt.edu/oacs

Alumni Welcome



Kelly Perry, class of 2018

I am only a human being – a daughter, sister, lifelong scholar, and an aspiring public health servant – but empathy and service extend beyond my own expiration date on this earth. I embrace my own intersectionality and multiculturalism, but service weaves my identity in with others in a manner no other can replicate. It exists in the strong hug Auntie Rachel gave me when we parted at Missionvale Care Center in Port Elizabeth on the OACS Global Service Abroad journey to South Africa. It exists in the smile the man with AIDS gave to me at Soweto, a township in Johannesburg. It exists in the sticky rice the rural Tambon Chumpoo women in Chiang Mai, Thailand provided for me when I left for college. The Office of Active Citizenship and Service (OACS) is built on these principles, and it fills me with immense pride and joy to belong to a university that holds the highest human values at its core. I serve on the OACS Student Advisory Board and see firsthand how the director and staff at OACS are committed to steering the office in a direction that most effectively reflects the needs of its students and broader Nashville community. The office is like family to me, and it is my hope that as many students as possible can be touched by OACS and its mission. I would not have been able to enroll in the OACS Global Service Program in South Africa if it had not been for OACS financial aid and the Nichols Humanitarian Fund. Many students face financial barriers that prevent them from experiencing service transnationally. Please consider donating to ease these barriers if you are able, so that more students, regardless of their financial situation, are able to join a global community of individuals committed to enacting positive change.

To learn more about OACS programs and to donate visit www.vanderbilt.edu/oacs



Join fellow alumni dedicated to community service, activism, and advocacy in the 2nd annual OACS Alumni Reception drop-in during Homecoming Weekend! Learn about ways in which Vanderbilt students are engaging locally and globally with critical questions of justice and equity and immersing in sustainable solutions to social issues through service.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

OACS Alumni Reception

OCTOBER 6, 2017 | 3:00-5:00 SARRATT | RAND 305

Light Refreshments will be served.

Questions? Email oacs@vanderbilt.edu.



With an emerging focus on experiential learning through Immersion Vanderbilt, OACS is leading the way on campus with our Local OACS DIVE (Design as an Immersive Vanderbilt Experience) programs currently thematized around affordable housing and food waste in Nashville. Local OACS DIVE programs provide students a unique opportunity to work together with local non-profit organizations to address community-identified challenges in innovative ways using the processes of Human-Centered Design in conjunction with ethical service principles.

This Fall Local OACS DIVE programs have officially launched! Students are partnered with local nonprofits to learn about issues surrounding affordable housing and food justice/food waste in Nashville. Each cohort will volunteer with a partner agency and design a project to address these issues.

Dive in at https://www.vanderbilt.edu/oacs/service-programs/dive/ for more information.







Did you know...?
OACS has an Alumni Network on LinkedIn!

We want to connect with you! The OACS Alumni LinkedIn page serves as the social media hub for alumni seeking opportunities to engage and connect. With weekly updates of information and articles relevant to community engagement and action, the LinkedIn page provides alumni with an opportunity to network around service and active citizenship. Alumni can connect with each other and OACS staff as professional resources.

Join the "Office of Active Citizenship & Service Alumni Network" group on LinkedIn today!



This summer, students traveled to South Africa, Morocco, Ecuador, and London as cohort participants in the 2017 OACS Global Service Programs. OACS Global Service Programs challenge students to question their perspectives and roles in the shared human experience through pre-service curriculum, intensive service, post-service skills application, and continuous reflection.



"I think the best way to move forward is to make sure that I spend everyday integrating the lessons Missionvale taught me into my life, my studies, my travels, my service, and my future career goals. I may not be able to stay and serve in Missionvale for the rest of my life, but that does not mean I can't dedicate my life to serving in the ways I was taught there. Thank you, Missionvale, for everything – for letting me serve, grow, and love in your community."

-Marisa, South Africa Cohort

"Through lectures at the CCCL and conversations with my host family and weekend tour guides, I feel I have learned and absorbed so much about the culture, politics, religion, and the way of life in Morocco... What I do have is a newfound understanding of the vast amount of work to be done for migrants and refugees around the world. About how migration, racism, globalization, education, and poverty are intersectional and compounding problems. About how important we each are in the fight for equality and opportunity for all – no matter how small our part may seem.."

-Emma. Morocco Cohort



Vanderbilt University Office of Active Citizenship & Service www.vanderbilt.edu/oacs
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