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VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY



SustainVU

Growing Responsibly



March 2018

Transit seems to be on everyone's mind in Nashville these days, and campus conversations have been no different! Have you attended one of the monthly transit forums hosted on campus this semester? There are two more chances to hear from local transit experts and researchers, and ask questions! Congratulations to Vanderbilt Campus Dining who was recently named the "Greenest Group on Campus" – we love that we can all partake in their delicious sustainable meals! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the SustainVU [website](#), Instagram, Twitter, and [Facebook](#) page. We wish you a green start to spring!



**Vanderbilt University and
Vanderbilt University Medical
Center announce support for
mayor's transit initiative**

**First Friday LEED
Webinar:
Environmental
Performance of
Building Products –
March 2**

Join communities in the South for the First Friday LEED Webinar education series. In this webinar, you will learn how to understand what is an Environmental Products Declaration (EPD) for the purpose of LEED® v4 MR Credit Building Product Disclosure and Optimization. More information [here](#).

Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center jointly announced their official support for Mayor Megan Barry's efforts to expand Nashville's transit options. "We must match our collective ambitions for the future of Nashville with investments in our future prosperity," said Vanderbilt



University Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos. "A more connected Nashville through expanded transit benefits us all. Now is the time to ensure all members of the Nashville community have full access to the opportunities our vibrant city has to offer."

"The development of sustainable, flexible transportation options that promote a healthy, accessible environment for all is a centerpiece of our land use planning efforts," Zeppos said. "When taken together, Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center are the region's largest private employer. As such, we have an obligation, but also a tremendous opportunity, to have a positive impact on transportation in Nashville. The time to act, for all of us, is now." Read more [here](#).



Nashville Selected for International Autonomous Vehicles Initiative



Nashville is one of 10 cities worldwide chosen for an autonomous vehicles initiative launched by

Bloomberg Philanthropies in New York and the Washington, D.C.-based Aspen Institute. Other selected cities include Austin, Buenos Aires, Helsinki, London, Los Angeles, Paris, São Paulo, Tel Aviv, and Washington D.C.

The program, called the Bloomberg Aspen Initiative on Cities and Autonomous Vehicles, gives Nashville

Talking Trees, People, and Nashville: Urban Forestry in the City – March 8

Join Tennessee State University professor Dr. De'Etra Young to discuss the ecosystem functions provided by urban trees. This panel discussion, taking place at the Cumberland River Compact at 12 pm, will look at how Nashville is managing its urban forestry. More information [here](#).

ELPAR Symposium– March 12

Join Professor Blake Hudson of the Houston Law Center to discuss his article "Relative Adminstrability, Conservatives, and Environmental Regulatory Reform." Hosted by [the Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review \(ELPAR\)](#), [Energy and Law Environment Society](#), and [the Energy Environment and Land Use](#) program, the talk will discuss the merits of environmental reform through line drawing, rather than federal government programs. The event will be held from 12-1 pm in Flynn Auditorium at the

an edge in self-driving advances by supplying access to data and coaching from urban planners and other experts. Read more [here](#).



TennSMART Public-Private Intelligent Mobility Consortium Launched

A group of 20 entities across the state recently launched the



[TennSMART Consortium](#) to accelerate the development and deployment of intelligent mobility innovations in Tennessee. Research and development by the Consortium is focused on the following:

- Connected and automated vehicles
- Electric vehicles
- Cybersecurity
- Freight efficiency
- Multimodal commuting

Founding members of the TennSMART consortium include Bridgestone Americas, Cummins Filtration, Inc., DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, FedEx Corporation, GRIDSMART Technologies, Inc., Local Motors, Lyft, Miovision, Nissan North America, ORNL, Stantec Consulting Services Inc., TDEC, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, TDOT, Tennessee Tech University, TVA, Top Five Inc., the University of Memphis, the University of Tennessee, and Vanderbilt University. Read more about TennSMART [here](#).



Vanderbilt experts showcase research at second transit forum

Vanderbilt Law School. More information [here](#).

Vanderbilt Transit Forum – March 13

Vanderbilt’s [Office of Community, Neighborhood and Government Relations](#) and the [Vanderbilt Center for Transportation and Operational Resiliency \(VECTOR\)](#) will host a lunch-and-learn event on campus Tuesday, March 13, discussing Nashville’s proposed transit plan. The event is scheduled from 11:30 am-1 pm in the Student Life Center Ballroom. More information [here](#).

Book Discussion Event: The Water Will Come — Sustainability as Nashville Grows – February 10

Participate in a discussion of the NY Times bestselling book “The Water Will Come”. Learn about sustainability challenges and opportunities in Nashville and around the world with a water focus. Arrive early to avoid interrupting the event. This event will take place from 2-4 pm at the Richland Park



Approximately 110 students, faculty, staff and community members attended the second transit forum presented by Vanderbilt this semester.

The forum featured a panel of Vanderbilt professors sharing research that brought further context to [Nashville's proposed transit plan](#). The panel included [Abhishek Dubey](#), assistant professor of computer science and of computer engineering; [Alejandro Molnar](#), assistant professor of economics; [J.B. Ruhl](#), David Daniels Allen Distinguished Chair of Law; and [Daniel Work](#), associate professor of civil and environmental engineering. [Vice Chancellor for Administration Eric Kopstain](#), who is leading the university's [FutureVU](#) land use planning initiative, was also in attendance. The next forum in the series is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. March 13 at the Student Life Center.



Campus Dining wins 2018 Basketball “Greenest Group on Campus” award

Vanderbilt [Campus Dining](#) was named winner of the Greenest Group on Campus award for the 2018 Vanderbilt Basketball Sustainability Competition at the Vanderbilt vs. Missouri February 27 game.



This competition, presented by [Waste Management, Inc.](#), the Vanderbilt [Sustainability and Environmental Management Office](#) (SEMO), and [VU Athletics](#), invited all Vanderbilt groups, teams, departments, classes and campus organizations to compete for the title by detailing what sustainable actions their group routinely implement.

Vanderbilt Campus Dining recently implemented a composting program in partnership with Vanderbilt Facilities to reduce food waste and helped Vanderbilt

Branch Library. More information [here](#).

Nashville's Mass Transit Plan: Is it Good for the Environment? – March 15

The Cumberland River Compact is hosting a panel of speakers from Southern Environmental Law Center, Cumberland Region Tomorrow, and the office of Mayor Megan Barry to discuss the environmental and sustainability implications of the proposed Nashville Mass Transit Plan. The event will be held at 12 pm at the Cumberland River Compact. More information [here](#).

‘Tales of an Ecotourist: What Travel to Wild Places Can Teach Us about Climate Change’ – March 15

Join Rollins College professor and Vanderbilt alum Mike Gunter in a reading of his book at Vanderbilt Barnes and Noble at 7 pm. Tales of an Ecotourist teaches its readers about the lived experience of climate change. More information [here](#).

become a member of the [Menus of Change University Research Collaboration](#).



**Climate Connections
with Dr. Michael Mann
– March 20**

Dr. Michael Mann of Penn State will discuss the dangers of climate change denial in the Student Life Center at 6:30 pm. The event is free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by [SPEAR](#), [FutureVU](#), [SustainVU](#) and the VU program for Environmental and Sustainability Studies. More information to come.

For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit the SustainVU website at www.vanderbilt.edu/sustainvu or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office at sustainvu@vanderbilt.edu or (615) 322-2057.

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