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We hope everyone had a great holiday break! We were thankful that the last month was filled with sustainability events – both Al Gore’s lecture and the Fleming Yard re-dedication were fantastic! With the next set of holidays coming up, think about how you can reduce waste during big meals and those holiday gatherings by checking out our Holiday Greening Guide and the stories below, and please don’t forget to power down your areas before leaving for the long break! Additional information about the stories and events included in this newsletter are available on the FutureVU Sustainability [website](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) page. We hope you have a wonderful, sustainable holiday season!

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VSG Clothing Donation Collection – December 2-8

Donate your gently used clothes for Vanderbilt Student Government’s first-ever popup thrift shop event! Collection bins will be in Lewis, Blakemore, Branscomb, EBI, Kissam, and Hank December 2nd through 8th. These collected clothes will then be used for the pop-up January 17th and 18th from 11 am-4 pm in Sarratt 216/220 where students will be able to thrift free of charge!

Little, Pinker and Zimmer to discuss global challenges at Chancellor's Lecture

A cognitive psychologist and two investigative writers—all of whom are noted for their deep focus on the future of our planet—will come together for a Chancellor's Lecture Series event at Vanderbilt University on Dec. 3.



[Amanda Little](#), [Steven Pinker](#) and [Carl Zimmer](#) will sit down with moderator [Jon Meacham](#) to consider “2020 and Beyond: Tackling Global Issues in the Decades to Come.” The panelists will offer their informed perspectives on ways to solve the world’s most pressing future problems.

Little is a writer-in-residence in the Department of English, where she teaches investigative journalism and creative nonfiction. She is the author of *The Fate of Food: What We'll Eat in a Bigger, Hotter, Smarter World*, which explores the challenges ahead to feeding nine billion people sustainably and equitably in the future. Little devoted five years to traveling through a dozen countries to interview farmers, scientists, activists and engineers in search of answers from those on the front lines of food science, agriculture and climate change. Read the full article [here](#).

Division of Administration issues FutureVU progress report



Recycling, composting, using a reusable water bottle, taking alternative Sustainable building and landscape projects, safety and accessibility improvements and transportation and mobility accomplishments are just a few of the many achievements outlined in the first FutureVU progress report, released online by the Division of Administration.

Chancellor's Lecture Series: 2020 and Beyond: Tackling Global Issues in the Decades to Come – December 3

Join Amanda Little, Steven Pinker and Carl Zimmer as they sit down with moderator Jon Meacham to consider “2020 and Beyond: Tackling Global Issues in the Decades to Come.” The panelists will offer their informed perspectives on ways to solve the world’s most pressing future problems. Interim Chancellor and Provost Susan R. Wentz will host the discussion, which begins at 6:30 p.m. in Langford Auditorium. Learn more [here](#).

Holiday Wreath-Making Workshop – December 3

Come join Flora Plant Shop for a holiday wreath-making workshop with Kelly Horn of Echoes of Eden Floral Design. Each participant will be creating their own unique holiday wreath using dried florals and grasses. Dried florals are a sustainable and beautiful way to make wreaths. Dried floral wreaths can last year-round! The workshop will

The report provides an overview of FutureVU efforts across Vanderbilt's campus during the 2018-19 academic year. "As we continue the momentum of our FutureVU efforts, we want to ensure the Vanderbilt community is aware of the work being done to develop our campus at every level to support our students, faculty and staff while also upholding the university's mission and values," Vice Chancellor for Administration Eric Kopstain said.

Highlights of the report include:

- The completion of transformative campus renovation projects, including Fleming Yard, the School of Nursing, E. Bronson Ingram College, the Divinity School and the Annette and Irwin Eskind Family Biomedical Library and Learning Center;
- Increased campus green space including transformation of the West End Neighborhood;
- Efforts in stormwater management including an increase in canopy and bio-retention units;
- The announcement of the university's long-term sustainability strategy.... Read more [here](#).

Al Gore leads off 24 Hours of Reality climate crisis events at Vanderbilt

During former Vice President Al Gore's presentation at Vanderbilt University on the global climate crisis and solutions, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate said he remains optimistic about policy change—given not only the economics of renewable energy but also the determination he has observed in "the voices, the hearts and the eyes" of today's young people.



The Nov. 20 presentation—part of a worldwide event called "24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action," led by Gore and The Climate Reality Project, which he founded and

be held at Flora Plant Shop from 6-8 pm. Learn more [here](#).

Organic Gardening-Saving Seeds and Planning for Winter – December 6

Join Warner Parks for a discussion about how to prepare your organic garden for winter, save and preserve seeds, and plan next year's garden. Bring your questions and expertise to this interactive program all about growing a garden organically. This event will take place on December 6th, 10-11 am at Warner Park. RSVP [here](#).

EES Seminar: Malu Jorge – December 6

Join Vanderbilt assistant professor Malu Jorge for a special Earth and Environmental Studies Seminar in Buttrick 102 at 3:10pm. Jorge studies how large mammals choose the habitats they use and how human activities (e.g. land-use and land-cover changes) affect their long-term persistence. More information [here](#).

chairs—was in partnership with the [Vanderbilt Chancellor's Lecture Series](#). Gore said the event at Langford Auditorium was the flagship presentation of approximately 1,700 events around the world and all 50 U.S. states over a 24-hour period. Read more [here](#).

On Deck: The newly redesigned Fleming Yard



The newly redesigned Fleming Yard, located between Alumni Lawn and Sarratt Student Center, greeted students, faculty and staff as they returned to campus in August for the start of the academic year. The

reimagined space is the result of a collaboration among staff in the Division of Administration; Professor of the Practice of Civil and Environmental Engineering [Lori Troxel](#), MS'90, PhD'94; and students in Troxel's class on sustainable design, who made it the focus of their DIVE (Design as an Immersive Vanderbilt Experience) project. Read the full article [here](#).

Vanderbilt experts say the future of urban transportation relies not on one solution, but on many

To understand the current dismal state of transportation in many U.S. cities—if not around the world—one could do worse than to look at the events that unfolded in Nashville more than a year ago, around the first week of May 2018.



On the first day of that month, local voters torpedoed Let's Move Nashville, an ambitious \$5.8 billion, multidecade proposal to upgrade the city's public transit network. Developed in response to the city's swift growth and accompanying traffic headaches, Let's Move rivaled the scope and budget of big-ticket transit

Engage Green: Zero Waste Gifts – December 13

Join for December's Engage Green at Tennessee Brew Works from 6-8 pm. They'll be chatting sustainable holiday gift-giving with Erin Hendrickson, Nashville's minimalist dietitian. Farmgirl turned nutritionist and freelance writer, Hendrickson advocates for creating less waste and living minimally and sustainably. Find out why "less is more" this holiday season and how to practice zero-waste gift giving. More information [here](#).

Porter Flea – December 13-14

Looking for creative, handmade gifts this holiday season? Find something for everyone on your list with goods from hundreds of local/regional makers at Porter Flea. The semi-annual market features modern handmade goods from the area's most talented designers. Hours and more information [here](#).

VSG Pop-Up Thrift Store – January 17-18

remodels in expanding cities like Portland, Oregon, and Austin, Texas. It combined rapid bus lines with more than 26 miles of light rail and new areas for pedestrians and cyclists. The network centered on a 1.8-mile underground tunnel beneath downtown.

Read the full article [here](#).

Students will be able to shop this free thrift shop held by VSG from 11am-4pm in Sarratt 216. Clothing available in the pop-up thrift shop was donated by the student body at the end of the fall semester.

For more information on any of these stories, events and more, visit vanderbilt.edu/sustainability or contact the Sustainability and Environmental Management Office at futurevusustainability@vanderbilt.edu or 615-322-4551.

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