



Empowering women for 30 years!

Women's

January 2009, Volume 31, Issue 4

The monthly newsletter of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center



What the Obama Administration Could Mean to Women's Issues

In 2009, we will welcome in a new administration and for those involved in social justice and women's rights, it could mean a renewed government commitment to these issues. Women's groups across the nation are looking to the Obama administration to make good on numerous campaign promises. Let's take a moment to review a few of the issues important to women and their families.

Wage equity

Although this issue is often viewed as strictly a women's issue, an estimated 37 million people are living below the poverty line, a staggering 14 million of those are women, 13 million are children. Women, especially working mothers, continue to face pay discrimination. According to MomsRising.org, an organization of moms working to bring about legislation that is family-friendly, studies show that "non-mothers earn 10 percent less than their male counterparts; mothers earn 27 percent less; and single mothers earn between 34 percent and 44 percent less. The wage gap is a direct reflection of bias against working mothers." In addition, when statistics consistently show that the average women with the same job and experience makes 76 cents to a man's dollars, the loss of pay over a lifetime can add up to thousands, even millions. When we factor in race, the National Committee on Pay Equity (www.pay-equity.org) surmises that "median earnings for women of color are generally even lower, and all showed percentage drops in the last" *continued on page 3*

THE MARGARET CUNINGGIM
WOMEN'S CENTER AND PROJECT SAFE
PRESENT THE 2008-2009 V-DAY
COLLEGE CAMPAIGN PRODUCTION OF

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

The Vagina Monologues is an award-winning play written by Eve Ensler and is made up of a variety of monologues read by a varying number of women. Eve Ensler wrote the first draft of *The Vagina Monologues* in 1996 following interviews she conducted with 200 women about their views on sex, relationships, and violence against women.

Sarratt Cinema
February 12, 14 & 15 @ 7 p.m.

Project Safe
Preventing Violence Against Women

For more information, please contact
vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu or call 122-1333

You May be a Cyberstalker if....

by Kacy Silverstein
co-director, Project Safe

After my last article ranting about our culture's general apathy regarding the Violence Against Women movement, I promised my co-workers that I would stick to less controversial topics. Okay, I know I made that promise, but I just can't help myself on this one. Have you logged on to Facebook lately? Some of you are probably texting your friends, skimming this article, and checking your Facebook profile right now. Others are calling your college-age children or nieces and nephews to ask, "What's Facebook?" Well, let me spare you the embarrassment of that phone call and tell you that Facebook is

the most popular social networking tool on the internet (I suggest you "google" it). Facebook offers a number of wonderful features, but it also plays into the desires of an information-obsessed culture. So you may be thinking, "well, if you don't put your information out the internet than this will not even be an issue." I understand the sentiment, but the reality is that we live in a culture where Facebook reigns and information is flowing. We also live in a culture where incidents of cyberstalking are on the rise and the line between information seeking and stalking has begun to blur. So here is my rant for this article: It is a scary world where it is socially accepted as normal that we know the relationship status, *continued on page 3*

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Visit our website!
www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

Dr. Patricia Helland is named Interim Director of the Women's Center

In November, Patricia A. Helland, assistant dean and director of Strategic Initiatives in the Dean of Student's Office, was named interim director of the Women's Center, following the departure of long-time director, Dr. Linda Manning, in October. Ms. Helland is familiar with the mission of the Women's Center, and has been an active participant in a number of its programs over the years.



In an announcement to the Vanderbilt campus in MyVU, Provost Richard McCarty spoke of Helland's work in the Dean of Students Office, saying that she "has been a key contributor to that Office's efforts to enhance campus life for our students."

Pat Helland came to Vanderbilt as a student in 1996, completed a Ph.D. in leadership and policy studies at Peabody College, and began working in the Dean of Students Office in 2002. She undertakes this new assignment while maintaining many of her commitments in the Office of the Dean of Students. The Women's Center staff extends a warm welcome to Pat and hope that she will enjoy the many activities of the Women's Center this academic year.

A search committee is currently being formed that will conduct a search for a new director of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center.



Women's VU is published monthly August through May at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

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Deadline for newsletter: Submissions are due on the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Women's Center seeks nominations for Werthan and Muliebrity Awards

SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR THE MULIEBRITY PRIZE NOW!

The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center is currently seeking nominations for the **Muliebrity Prize** given annually to recognize achievements by and in support of women at Vanderbilt University. The Muliebrity Prize honors an undergraduate student who demonstrates leadership in activities that contribute to the achievements, interests and goals of women and girls, or that promote equity. Self-nominations are encouraged, as well as nominations by faculty, staff, advisors, friends and peers. The award will be announced at the annual Magnolia Awards Dinner (early April 2008), where the honoree will be presented with a cash award of \$250 and an honorary certificate. You can request a nomination packet by email or download a packet from the Magnolia Awards website: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/leadership/magnolia3>. Packets may not be available on the website until January 2009.

Deadline: If you know someone who is deserving of this recognition, please submit your nomination by **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2009**.

For more information about the Muliebrity Prize or to request a nomination packet please contact: stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu or call (615) 322-6518.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE MARY JANE WERTHAN AWARD ARE DUE FEBRUARY 27!

The **Mary Jane Werthan Award** is given annually to honor an individual who has contributed to the advancement of women at Vanderbilt on a systemic level. It is named in honor of Mary Jane Werthan, the first woman member of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust. The award will be presented during the annual Margaret Cuninggim Lecture in the spring. Please contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu for more info or to nominate someone.

Past honorees have included Dr. Virginia Shepard (2008), Dr. Sharon Shields, Professor of the Practice of Human and Organizational Development (2007); Rebecca Spires, Assistant Director of the Wellness Program (2006), Barbara Clinton, Director, Center for Health Services (2005), Dr. Alison Piepmeier, Women's Studies (2004), Dr. Ronnie Steinberg, Women's Studies (2003), Gay Welch, University Chaplain (2001), Gary F. Jensen, Professor of Sociology (1997).

Deadline: Nominations should be sent in the form of a letter to Stacy Nunnally. Nominations will be accepted via email, mail or in person. Any supporting materials should also be included. The letter and accompanying materials should be received by

February 27, 2009. Nominations may be sent via email to stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu. Send nominations via mail to: Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Box 351513, Station B, Nashville, TN 37235.

year.” According to their reports, earnings for African American, Asian and Latina women were even lower than Caucasian women. This is a loss of pay that might ensure that a child has health insurance or a chance at a college education. This is a loss of pay that would raise millions out of poverty, into homes, and a chance at a better life.

When the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the 5-4 decision on the *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company* case, in which Lilly Ledbetter was denied the right to sue to recover lost wages due to years of pay inequity, President-Elect Obama was part of a bipartisan group of senators that introduced the Fair Pay Restoration Act as a way to overturn this decision. We can only hope that the Obama administration will continue to focus on pay equity as an issue vital to the economic welfare of all women and their families.

A vital part of the equation on pay equity has to do with expanding sick days for low-wage workers. Currently three out of four low-wage workers, again many of them women, receive very little or no sick days. That's right--no paid sick leave! What is a working mom to do when her child is sick? The Obama administration is promising to introduce legislation to guarantee seven paid sick days for working families. It is a small consolation, but a hopeful one.

Universal healthcare

Statistics now show that over 47 million Americans are not covered by basic health insurance. Since many of these uninsured are single moms and their children, it is imperative that the Obama administration move forward with legislation that will make health insurance available and affordable for everyone.

Protecting women's reproductive rights

Although Barack Obama realizes that abortion is often a divisive issue, he opposes any constitutional amendment to overturn this landmark decision. What remains vital to this issue is the language surrounding choice in this country. Women's groups continue to strive to make the point that a women's choice is a private one, between the patient and her doctor, and that her reproductive choices--motherhood, adoption or abortion--should be protected and respected under the law.

Prevention of violence against women

This particular issue is an important one to the Women's Center and we acknowledge Vice-President Joe Biden's strong support and authorship of the original Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) legislation. According to Obama's website, "approximately 1,400 women a year – four every day – die in the United States as a result of domestic violence. And 132,000 women report that they have been victims of a rape or attempted rape, and it is estimated that an even greater number have been raped, but do not report it." It is vital that this legislation continues to receive support in the years to come.

Although this is only a short list of the many economic and health issues relating to women and families, it is our sincere hope that President-Elect Obama can unite a country eager for change—in its governance, in our care for one another, and in our standing in the world.

submitted by Misa Culley, editor, Women's VU



the daily activities, and the future plans of all 400 people in our "friend network." If we live in a culture where we venture into the virtual lives of others on a regular basis, what makes us different from the cyberstalkers we loathe? If *Facebook* has made stalking both normal and commonplace, is it time to re-examine what we consider normal?

Two years ago the social revolution known as *Facebook* unveiled a new feature that sent facebook users into a frenzy. The news feed—a feature that allows users to get a snapshot view of their friend's latest friend requests, relationship changes, group joinings, picture uploads—was frowned on by *Facebook* devotees as "stalkerish." College users denounced the feature, *Facebook* offered some optional privacy features, and the uproar quieted. The *Facebook* news feed has given new meaning to the idea that news travels fast, especially when news travels across virtual networks viewed by millions and millions of people. *Facebook*, and other virtual networks like it, have given page six of *The New York Times* a run for its money on the gossip front and really, who needs to buy a newspaper when you can simply log in to find out who is dating or who has broken up or who has posted their status as "it's complicated?" In fact, users are logging in at alarming rates multiple times a day, so much so that the term "facebook stalking" has affectionately been coined to describe those users who repeatedly check other users' profiles.

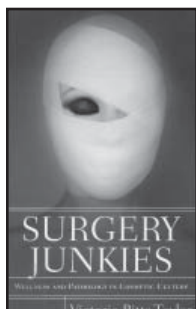
Does stalking even exist anymore in a culture where private information is circulated like advertisements on the World Wide Web? Are we all cyberstalkers in training?

But "*Facebook* stalking" is harmless. I mean, what's wrong with having the latest information about a person at your disposal 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Well, nothing if you live in a culture like this one where CNN streams news feeds to our blackberries and iphones, text messaging rules the day, and GPS trackers are built in to almost every portable electronic device. We live in an information-obsessed culture that has taken the colloquial notion of privacy and thrown it out the window. But is "*Facebook* stalking" really harmless? Is knowing incredible amounts of information about "friends" you may have never met really normal? Does stalking even exist anymore in a culture where private information is circulated like advertisements on the World Wide Web? Are we all cyberstalkers in training?

Well, stalking does exist and while the debate may still be out concerning whether "*Facebook* stalking" is harmless, the reality is that such terms distort our understanding of stalking and its very real impact. You see, if checking your friend's *Facebook* profiles 25 times a day and calling that behavior "*Facebook* stalking" becomes the norm, then stalking becomes normal and that is a very dangerous slippery slope. What's missing from the pop culture concept of "*Facebook* stalking" is the very real power and control used by a stalker to intimidate and harass his/her victim. Or maybe it is not missing, but just minimized. *Facebook* and other sites like it offer users connectivity, but also the ability to delve into the lives of others under the veil of internet anonymity. It offers all of us the tools necessary to "stalk" and in some way it gives us permission and makes the behavior acceptable. If *Facebook* offers a virtual mirror to the real world, I can't help but wonder how many of us are rationalizing, minimizing, or just laughing off stalking.



Women's Center Library acquires three new books on body image



In Victoria Pitts-Taylor's recent volume, *Surgery Junkies: Wellness and Pathology in Cosmetic Culture* (Rutgers University Press, 2007), she examines what "institutions, cultural and political interests, writers and scholars, doctors and lawyers say about cosmetic surgery patients. It is their discourses that I want to interpret and deconstruct." The author, an associate professor of sociology at Queens College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York, is not critiquing cosmetic surgery itself, but is studying how others understand it.

"Surgery junkies" are patients who undergo multiple cosmetic surgeries and who appear to be addicted to them. Many doctors try to avoid treating such patients, who often show symptoms of Body Dysmorphic Disorder. Individuals with this mental disorder obsess over real or imagined imperfections in their appearance. Women who are unhappy with the outcome of their multiple surgeries sometimes sue their surgeons.

One chapter is devoted to the treatment of cosmetic surgery in popular culture, particularly on television shows such as *Extreme Makeover*. While cosmetic surgery is becoming more common among men, the writer focuses mainly on women, as they still undergo the majority of procedures. Pitts-Taylor also discusses how feminists tend to view surgery designed to enhance women's appearance. Most feminists are opposed to such surgery and consider that women who elect to have cosmetic surgery are the victims of patriarchy and of a culture obsessed with female beauty.

While doing the research for this volume the writer decided to have cosmetic surgery herself; she underwent a rhinoplasty. Initially she wanted to see what it was like to be a patient and she analyzed the responses of the five surgeons she consulted. She also became attracted to the idea of improving her appearance. Many of her students, friends and peers were surprised and critical that such a decision had been made by someone they considered to be a feminist. Some assumed that the experience of undergoing the surgery was part of the research for her book. Having discovered that Pitts-Taylor had undergone plastic surgery herself, other women seemed much more willing to open up to her about their experiences and attitudes.

Author Valerie Frankel's latest book, *Thin is the New Happy* (St. Martin's Press, 2008), is a frank, lighthearted, and humorous memoir of her lifelong battle with weight, dieting and body image, yet carries a serious message. At the age of 41, the writer decided it was time to break the family tradition and not pass on the dieting addiction to her own two daughters. They would be loved and valued, no matter what size clothes they wore.

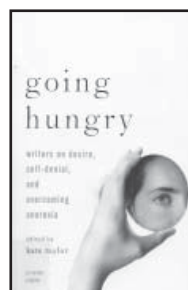


The writer's grandmother was obsessed with appearance and her slender mother, Judy, always believed that girls and women should be thin. Judy put her daughter on her first diet when the girl was 11 and weighed 100 pounds. Valerie had already been teased mercilessly about her weight by her peers at school. She lost 12 pounds and noticed the positive reactions she received from

everyone around her. She was hooked and for the next 30 years was a chronic dieter.

This book chronicles the writer's ups and downs as she grew up, became a successful writer, and a wife and mother. When she was in her 20s she worked for a couple of years for the magazine, *Mademoiselle*, where she found that eating disorders were a problem for most of the staff members as well as for the models posing for the magazine.

When Frankel resolved to give up dieting she decided that the solution was to eat sensibly, to become and to stay fit and to love her body. She feels that any woman "could melt down to her genetically predetermined true weight by (1) stopping dieting today, (2) silencing her negative inner voice, (3) forgiving everyone who'd contributed to her forming a bad body image, and (4) working out four times a week."



As a college student Kate Taylor was hospitalized due to her anorexia, which had been an issue for her since childhood. She is the editor of *Going Hungry: Writers on Desire, Self-Denial, and Overcoming Anorexia* (Anchor, 2008), which includes contributions from 18 others who have suffered from anorexia. During her hospitalization the writer noticed that many of her fellow eating disordered patients were not the stereotypical affluent white girls and young women. They represented most age groups and many ethnic backgrounds; many were not from wealthy families and some were male.

Taylor, a journalist, traces the history of the diagnosis of eating disorders and tries to understand what causes anorexia; she decides that the causes are multiple. She has "come to view anorexia, like hysteria, as a deeply ambivalent response to social expectations," while the contributors to this volume present a variety of different reasons. Some consider that anorexia is a group experience or that anorexics are often copying friends. The writer believes that "the kind of person who develops anorexia is driven equally by a desire to be accepted and a desire to feel special and distinct, a hunger for praise and a hunger for self-expression."

The 18 contributors come from a wide variety of backgrounds and are of different ages. Two are men, one of whom uses a pseudonym for this work; he is a much-published journalist who does not want his disordered eating to become public. Among the essayists are the well-known writers Joyce Maynard, Louise Glück and Francine du Plessix Gray. Gray, who was born in 1930, grew up in an era when few had heard of anorexia. The tall writer discusses how she spent many years dieting to reach or remain at her goal weight of 114 pounds. As a teenager she had started dieting mainly to please her fashion-conscious mother, a well-known hat designer. As an older woman in recovery she realized how hard it was to alter a lifetime habit of denying herself food while understanding she had an obligation to remain healthy.

In the Library



Barbara Clarke
Women's Center
Librarian



January 2009

denotes Project Safe programming



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm IMAGE, 4pm Peer Ed, 8pm	7	8 Vandy Moms: 11:30am-12:30pm Vanderbilt Feminists, 6pm	9	10
11	12 Book Group, 5:15pm-6:15pm	13 Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm Peer Ed, 8pm	14	15 Vanderbilt Feminists, 6pm	16	17
18	19	20 Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm Peer Ed, 8pm	21	22 Vandy Moms: 11:30am-12:30pm Roe v. Wade 36th Anniversary event, 4-5:30pm Vanderbilt Feminists, 6pm	23	24
25	26 Celebrating Choice, Celebrating Motherhood, 6pm	27 Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm Peer Ed, 8pm	28	29 Vanderbilt Feminists, 6pm	30	31
<p>For details and descriptions of each group, please refer to page 6. Unless specified, most groups meet at the Women's Center.</p>						



Save the Date!

ROE V. WADE 36th ANNIVERSARY EVENT JAN 22

(See page 6 for more details.)

Gender Matters of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center will collaborate with Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee to respect and in honor of the 36th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. **Please join us for a Public Awareness Gathering on January 22nd from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on West End Avenue in front of Centennial Park.** In the 34 years since this major Supreme Court decision, we will reiterate its impact and explore its continued necessity now and in the future for women and families in Tennessee and across the nation. (Feel free to make your own signs to have at the event.)

Date: January 22, 2008; 4:00—5:30 p.m.

Location: West End Avenue in front of Centennial Park

For more information, contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

CELEBRATING CHOICE; CELEBRATING MOTHERHOOD

This event will celebrate choice—*reproductive choice*—in the United States and here at Vanderbilt. So often we get stuck in the political debate that surrounds choice. While there is merit in this debate, it takes away from the much-needed support of the reproductive choices women make on our campus and around the country. Currently there are 3 legal options women have when facing an unplanned pregnancy: 1) motherhood; 2) adoption; 3) abortion. At this event we will look at all three options and what we can do as a community to support the choices women make. This event will be co-sponsored by Students for Life, the Vanderbilt Feminists and the newly formed chapter of Finished Up.

Date: January 26, 2009 6:00 p.m.

Location: Student Life Center Ballroom, Vanderbilt

For more information: stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

(Events listed chronologically and include events, programs, and series for which the Women's Center is solely responsible or for which we are a major sponsor or collaborator.)

January is National Stalking Awareness Month. Be sure to check out Project Safe's posters and statistics posted around campus.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMEMORATIVE SERIES

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Series was established in 1985 at Vanderbilt University as a celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Held each January, the lectures and events of the Series serve to educate the Vanderbilt and Nashville communities on Dr. King's historic achievements and his enduring influence. In honoring Dr. King, Vanderbilt University affirms its own commitment to the goals of peace and racial justice to which Dr. King dedicated his life. The 2009 series, entitled *Prophets, Politics, and Patriotism* will feature keynote speaker Charles McDew, Chairman, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) 1961–1964. For more information, please check the MLK Series website www.vanderbilt.edu/mlk/index for announcements, events and locations. The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center is an annual sponsor of the series.

Date: January 13th to 31st, 2009.

Join us at the key note speech and candlelight vigil on Monday, January 19th at 6 p.m. at Benton Chapel.

ROE V. WADE 36th ANNIVERSARY EVENT JAN 22

Gender Matters of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center will collaborate with Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee to respect and honor the 36th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. **Please join us for a Public Awareness Gathering on January 22nd from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on West End Avenue in front of Centennial Park.** We will have information and signs to help create awareness about the *Roe v. Wade* anniversary and its importance to women's reproductive healthcare and justice in America. In the 34 years since this major Supreme Court decision, we will reiterate its impact and explore its continued necessity now and in the future for women and families in Tennessee and across the nation. (Feel free to make your own signs to have at the event.) *For those attending, you will receive free admission to Cocktails for a Cause (non-alcoholic beverages available for those under 21) at The Mad Platter in Germantown. Admission is usually \$25. You will receive 2 drinks and light snacks for free if you also attend the awareness event at Centennial Park.*

Date: January 22, 2008; 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Location: West End Avenue in front of Centennial Park
For more information, contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

CELEBRATING CHOICE, CELEBRATING MOTHERHOOD

This event will celebrate choice—*reproductive choice*—in the United States and here at Vanderbilt. So often we get stuck in

the political debate that surrounds choice. While there is merit in this debate, it takes away from the much-needed support of the reproductive choices women make on our campus and around the country. Currently there are 3 legal options women have when facing an unplanned pregnancy: 1) motherhood; 2) adoption; 3) abortion. At this event we will look at all three options and what we can do as a community to support the choices women make. This event will be co-sponsored by Students for Life, the Vanderbilt Feminists and the newly formed chapter of Finished Up.

Date: January 26, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Student Life Center Ballroom, Vanderbilt
For more information: stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

VANDERBILT OR COMMUNITY EVENTS, SERIES AND PROGRAMS

(Events listed by dates and are included here to help promote the events for our Vanderbilt and community partners. The Women's Center is not an official sponsor or collaborator for these events listed.)

BOOK GROUP

Meets the second Monday of each month; 5:15–6:15 p.m.

What/Who: The book group is open to new members at all times and is for anyone who loves to read.

Where: The Gallery at the Women's Center, Vanderbilt
January 12: *The Girls Who Went Away: The Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades Before Roe v. Wade* by Ann Fessler, led by Rita Hall
For more information, contact Jane Du Bose at jdubose@bellsouth.net or Carmen Gherman at cggherman@yahoo.com.

CREATIVE LIFE PLANNING GROUP

Meets every Tuesday; 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

What/Who: A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Free and open to everyone and is usually attended by women between 40 and 90 years of age.

Where: The Gallery at the Women's Center; Vanderbilt
For more information, call 322-4843.

IMAGE GROUP

Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 4 p.m.

Who: Free and open to any students interested in these issues.

What: IMAGE is an organization dedicated to supporting positive body and self-image issues in the Vanderbilt community. It provides a forum for interested community members to advocate the adoption of healthy body-image concepts and the reduction of eating disorders.

Where: Sarratt 208

For more information, contact images@vanderbilt.edu.

L.I.F.E. (Lessons Inspiring Female Empowerment)


Please email us to get any meeting dates and times

Who/What: L.I.F.E. is group dedicated to mentoring young girls and women on a

continued on page 7

variety of issues important to them. This group works with a group of teen girls in the Nashville community covering topics such as economic empowerment, girls' and women's health, self-esteem, leadership and more. Free and open to any students interested in these issues.

Where: The Gallery at the Women's Center; Vanderbilt
For more information, contact ashley.n.walker@vanderbilt.edu or thelifeproject@vanderbilt.edu

 **EVERY 2 MINUTES** (formerly Men Promoting a Solution)

Meets every other Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.

Who/What: A group of men dedicated to creating awareness about violent crimes against women and eliminating those crimes through social change.

Where: Sarratt 363

For more information, contact tom.rosen@vanderbilt.edu or bryan.adams@vanderbilt.edu

 **PEER EDUCATORS OF PROJECT SAFE**

Meets every Tuesday, 8:00-9:00

Who/What: Peer Educators are students trained to facilitate workshops that promote discussion and encourage understanding of violence against women.

Where: The Gallery at the Women's Center; Vanderbilt
For more information, contact justine.e.chess@vanderbilt.edu or katy.adams@vanderbilt.edu

 **SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets weekly

What/Who: A support group for women who are survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. This group meets weekly at a confidential location; all information shared is kept confidential. For more information, contact kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu or 322-3774.

VANDERBILT FEMINISTS

Meets every Thursday, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Who/What: A student group concerned about women's issues on campus, and promoting equality between genders. Open to all students of any gender.

Where: The Gallery at the Women's Center; Vanderbilt
For more information, contact erica.d.santiago@vanderbilt.edu or amy.l.gillard@vanderbilt.edu

VANDY MOMS

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

What/Who: Open to all mothers of any age, partnered or single. This is a fun support network that provides advocacy for moms in the Vanderbilt and larger communities and provides programming to inform, empower and enrich.

Where: The Gallery at the Women's Center; Vanderbilt
For more information, contact misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu or call 343-4367.

"Every 2 Minutes" (formerly MPAS) Seeks to Change Men's Attitudes toward Violence Against Women

The group formerly known as MPAS, or Men Promoting a Solution, has changed its name to Every 2 Minutes. The new name reflects the startling fact that a woman is assaulted in America every two minutes.

While the name may be new, nothing has changed with the

"Every 2 Minutes"

mission. All members will strive to create awareness about and eliminating violent crimes against women. They will continue to educate men on campus on how to stop violence against women and sponsor events to further the cause of putting an end to assault. The name change has brought on a publicity drive and two leaders will most likely attend a conference for men's groups in Washington, D.C. in January. For more information about joining this group, please contact tom.rosen@vanderbilt.edu or bryan.adams@vanderbilt.edu

Project Safe will offer two support groups for Vanderbilt students, faculty, and staff beginning in January 2009

Vanderbilt Faculty & Staff Support Group

What: A confidential support group for female Vanderbilt Faculty & Staff members who have been impacted by violence against women (dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault). Faculty & Staff are welcome to attend at their leisure. No commitment required.

When: 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. beginning January 14th and occurring weekly

Where: Confidential, on-campus location

For more information, contact Vicky Basra at 322-1333 or by email at vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu

Vanderbilt Student Support Group

What: a confidential support group for Vanderbilt undergraduate and graduate students who have been impacted by violence against women (dating/domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault). Students are welcome to attend at their leisure. No commitment required.

When: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. beginning January 14th and occurring weekly

Where: Confidential, on-campus location

For more information, contact Kacy Silverstein at 322-3774 or by email at kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu

Community Events and Volunteer Opportunities

NASHVILLE NOW (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN) meets the 4th Monday of the month at the First Unitarian Universalist Church located at 1808 Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, 37215. Each meeting is from 6:30-8:30pm and features networking and refreshments. These meetings are open to members, friends and those seeking more information. For additional details, contact cynthianashnow@aol.com or 615-269-7141.

Nashville CABLE meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For more information, contact nashvillecable.org

Political Strategist, Donna Brazile, to speak at 2009 Leadership Summit, February 5-7, 2009 at Tulane University in New Orleans

This February 5-7, 2009, Tulane University in New Orleans will host the 2009 Leadership Summit called *Power Lines: Women Transform the Grid*. The summit will feature prominent women such as former Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco, political strategist Donna Brazile, and independent filmmaker Therese Shechter. This second biannual summit takes an interdisciplinary look at the various paths women might take to enter traditional sites of power and leadership. Organized by the Newcomb College Institute, the summit will take place over

two days, February 5-7. **The registration deadline is January 23, 2009.** To reserve a space, complete the registration online at the Institute's website, www.newcomb.tulane.edu. Inquiries can be sent to edwomen@tulane.edu

Fight the winter doldrums with music!

Fight the winter doldrums by catching a concert at the Blair School of Music. Their year-long music series features celebrated artists from around the world as well as local artists. **Most concerts are free and open to the public**, with a few exceptions. Here's an example of what is offered this January:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2009

Steve and Judy Turner Recital Hall; 8:00 p.m.

BLAIR SIGNATURE SERIES - Vanderbilt Voices

Jonathan Retzlaff, lyric baritone; Jennifer McGuire, piano;

Joshua McGuire, guitar; Amy Jarman, soprano

Join us for an evening of song, highlighting the works of Henry Purcell, Charles Griffes, Francis Poulenc and William Bolcom, with duets from the opera and musical theatre repertoire.

Check out the January offerings at the Blair School of Music at www.vanderbilt.edu/Blair/calevents/



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In an effort to save resources, *Women's VU* is now available for viewing on our website: www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter

- Go Green!** If you are interested in receiving *Women's VU* by e-mail, please contact jeana.carlock@vanderbilt.edu.

A paper copy of *Women's VU* is also available and sent free, by request, to all members of the Vanderbilt community.

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For all other mailing list changes, please contact jeana.carlock@vanderbilt.edu

Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

Vanderbilt University
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