Vanderbilt's student media groups move to a converged newsroom model

With the launch of InsideVandy.com this August, Vanderbilt's student media groups will invite the world to watch a bold experiment in collaboration.

The combination of technological advances and shifts in consumers' habits that are dramatically changing the world's media prompted a semester long study by VSC student leaders this past spring. The result was a plan to reinvent Vanderbilt's media into a converged model.

This fall The Vanderbilt Hustler, Commodore, Versus and The Vanderbilt Review will share facilities and staff members. While continuing to produce their unique publications, these groups along with WRVU and Vanderbilt Television will contribute to the new Vanderbilt media supersite, InsideVandy.com.

Members of Vanderbilt's extended community, especially alumni, will all have the opportunity to create accounts on the converged site to contribute material and join in the Vandy conversation.

"Media is changing and now VSC is, too," said A&S senior Anne Malinee, who was selected to serve as InsideVandy's inaugural director. "I'm excited to be a part of the transformation.

"I want the site to be something that will really excite students and become everyone's homepage and preferred source of information about life 'in the bubble,'" she said.
friends from the tunnel

Revisit student media memories during Homecoming/Reunion Weekend

by Ann Marie Deer Owens, Class of ’76

Vanderbilt’s 2006 Reunion and Homecoming Weekend is set for the weekend of October 20-21. I would like to encourage all returning alumni who worked in student media to join us for a tour of the current student media offices on Friday (Oct. 20) at 1:30 p.m.

I do have terrific memories of preparing and broadcasting an hourly news update three times a week on WRVU during my senior year (1973-’74). Sometimes I would be so exhausted after student teaching journalism at McGavock High School, I would take a brief nap before hurrying over to WRVU. I had the Monday-Wednesday-Friday afternoon shift. In addition to typing and reading the UPI wire for the hourly newscast, everyone in the WRVU news department was expected to go out in the field occasionally and actually record sound for stories. I remember that we would record these over and over.

I also had a brief stint as an arts reporter for the Vanderbilt Hustler. I thoroughly enjoyed getting free passes to movies and local plays so that I could write reviews. I also learned the perils of trying to talk with a prominent speaker who was coming to campus but who would not commit to a sit-down interview. Famed writer, critic and alumna Cleanth Brooks would only agree to talk with me as he was leaving a Friends of the Library dinner, and I wasn’t invited to cover the speech. Brooks took my questions for barely two minutes, and, as you might expect, my story didn’t meet the editor’s expectations.

While I can laugh now about my steep learning curve as a student journalist, I continue to be grateful for these collegiate experiences. They helped tremendously as I began working in radio news in Nashville after college. I also worked part-time as a television reporter and was named Tennessee Associated Press radio news in Nashville after college. I also worked part-time as a column…

building the foundation

high school press association update...

The Tennessee High School Press Association is transferring its archives of awards, records and student achievements to Vanderbilt after spending the last 60 years under the authority of the University of Tennessee’s College of Communications.

Vanderbilt Student Communications will now direct THSPA after four years of successful growth by its own organization, the Middle Tennessee Scholastic Press Association. MTSPA, which was created by VSC Director Chris Carroll in 2002, will be folded into the THSPA to form one organization that will keep its records, which date back to the 1940s.

“I think it’s a source of pride for Vanderbilt that now the university is home to the Tennessee High School Press Association,” Carroll said.

H.L. Hall, who has been involved with student journalism for nearly 40 years as a high school teacher in Missouri and is nationally recognized in the field, will serve as executive director of the new THSPA. He served in a similar capacity for the last three years with the MTSPA.

Under Hall’s direction, attendance for the association’s annual student media workshop has increased each year, topping more than 600 students last spring. The workshop is conducted on campus during Vanderbilt’s spring break.

For the most recent workshop, the THSPA membership had grown to 50 schools and 74 members, with each competing category – such as newspaper, yearbook or broadcast – counting as a separate membership. That number should increase now that the organization represents the entire state as the THSPA.

“I’m excited because it’s a 60-year-old organization that we can continue to operate here at Vanderbilt,” Hall said. “Because it’s a more centralized location than Knoxville, hopefully we’ll pick up some members that we haven’t had before.”

MTSPA goes state-wide as THSPA

The Tennessee High School Press Association moves to Vanderbilt University

The National Scholastic Press Association established the H.L. Hall Fellowship for Yearbook Advisers in 1996, which awards a $500 fellowship to a qualifying teacher for a credit-bearing university or college-based summer course in advising student media. Hall, who will use a VSC office in the Sarratt Student Center, also is the author of four journalism books that are used in high school classrooms across the country.

“He’s a marquee player. Everybody in scholastic journalism knows who H.L. Hall is,” Carroll said. “He’s a frequent facilitator of consulting and workshops. He’s always traveling – the busiest retired guy you’ve ever met.”

The THSPA’s new website is already up and running at www.tennpress.org, where lists of award winners, tips for advisers and other information are available. Schools or individuals interested in signing up for next year’s workshop, scheduled for March 6, 2007, can log on to register their choice from approximately 40 sessions.

Hall also would like to eventually offer regional workshops in cities such as Chattanooga, Memphis and Knoxville through the THSPA.

“I think that would grow our membership even more, if we could offer them services in their area,” Hall said. “That’s something I hope we can do in the future.”

By Todd Vessel, Vanderbilt News Service

bright star student honors...

The 2006 Alexander Award winner

The 2006 Alexander Award was given to Robert Proudfoot ’06, who served as editor of Virus magazine for three semesters and worked for the Hustler as senior features writer during the second semester of his senior year. Proudfoot was recognized for his tireless efforts to improve the quality of the design and content of Virus, and while at the Hustler he wrote several front-page stories and investigative pieces, while overseeing a team of reporters.

In memory of Charles F. Alexander (B.A., ’50), the award is given to a student who has achieved distinction in student journalistic projects. The student journalist’s activities must be broad-based and distinguished.
MEDIA LEADERS

The VSC Board of Directors elected the following media leaders for the 2006-07 academic year:

LISA GUD
Commodore
editor-in-chief
A&S, Senior
Atlanta

ANNE MALLINE
insidevandy.com
director
A&S, Senior
Leawood, Kansas

MICHAEL MAID
Orbis
editor-in-chief
A&S, Junior
Roussel, Georgia

JOSEPH HILLS
The Blant
editor-in-chief
A&S, Junior
Tullahoma, Tennessee

ELIZABETH RYAN
The Torch
editor-in-chief
A&S, Senior
Lincoln, Nebraska

ALLISON MALONE
The Vanderbilt Review
editor-in-chief, FA '06
A&S, Senior
Tazewell, Tennessee

BRANDON GEORGE
The Vanderbilt Review
editor-in-chief
A&S, Senior
Cleveland

MICHELLE STUY
VSC-IT
division head
Engineering, Senior
Carmel, Indiana

DOANPHUONG NGUYEN
VTV
station manager
A&S, Senior
Nashville

MICHAEL WARD
Vanderbilt Hustler
editor-in-chief, FA '06
A&S, Senior
Ninomta, Oklahoma

ROSALY REEDY
WRVU
station manager
A&S, Senior
Hoplinton, Massachusetts

Thanks to our outgoing media leaders, seniors

2005-06 MEDIA LEADERS
Kristin Taylor
Commodore, Editor-in-Chief
Timothy M. Bowles
Dira, Editor-in-Chief
Ceaf Lewis
The Blant, Editor-in-Chief
Anne Malline
The Torch, Editor-in-Chief
Vanessa Hao
The Vanderbilt Hustler, Editor-in-Chief (Fall 2005)
Sean Bealinger
The Vanderbilt Hustler, Editor-in-Chief (Spring 2006)
Bridget Cornell
The Vanderbilt Review, Editor-in-Chief
Lindsay Miller
VTV, Station Manager
Robots Proudfot
VTV, Editor-in-Chief (Fall 2005)
Matthew McCarrell
WRVU, Station Manager

2005-06 MEDIA SENIORS
COMMODORE
Joel McIlhan, Kristin Taylor, Jerry Yen, Elham Afshar, Robert Trey Singleton

THE BLANT
Andrew Callaway, Richard Green, Evan Altison, Heather Miller, Greg Champoux, Lee Vanmem, Jason Blatt, Michael Nett

THE TORCH
Brett Buxton, Kelly Spaulding, Scott Freels

THE VANDERBILT HUSTLER
Giselle Khousis, Andrew Luckey, Dan Ross, Kyle Jenks, Nick Gribbins, Brad Hagan, Josh Kaplan, Adam Shurtleff, Ben Sweet, Misha Carroll, Vanessa Hao, Laura Elzein, Michael Will, Keiley Soly, Jacqueline White, Taylor Smith, Jennifer Lee, Robert Proudfoot, Sharon Yacles

VANDERBILT TELEVISION
Lindsay Miller, Kristina Rice, Brad Hughes, Desty Watson, Evan McNeil

VERSUS
Robert Proudfoot, Jamie Bai, Zach Norton, Chris Gentile, Kayla Jones, Lance Thompson, Xin Li, Diara Canning, Blake Freeman, Laura Cai

WRVU
Maureen Rogers, Laura Talmage, Laura Rogers, Nali Palmer, Sam Pettison, Ximena Lee, Andrew Collazo, Stephen Sutton, Ryan Denzer-King

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

2006-07 MEDIA LEADERS

CONGRATULATIONS!
VSC would like to congratulate our graduating seniors and thank them for their countless hours of work within student media at Vanderbilt University.
Best of luck with your new careers!

bright lights an alumni column...

Journalism in the United States is undergoing tough times
by Tracy Wilkinson, Class of ’83

To hear our many critics, newspapers are all but dead. We are increasingly irrelevant. We are losing circulation and advertisers. Young people no longer read newspapers. Partisan reviews from every political stripe find endless fault. We ask too many questions; we don’t ask enough. We fail to forcefully challenge officials; we are unpatriotic in our tough challenging of the official line. And so it goes. We can do no right.

But from my rather privileged perch as a foreign correspondent for one of the largest and most important newspapers in America, I think we do a lot of right. The journalists who go to Iraq (and I, for a brief while, was one of them) are fighting against numerous odds to tell stories of American troops and Iraqi civilians, all living lives of great risk.

And Iraq is only the extreme example. Sure, a lot of bad journalism has been committed in recent years. But the role of challenging governments, big business, the status quo; of demanding explanations; of realizing the positive and negative of the human condition—this is the role of the journalist.

Almost by definition a good journalist, and certainly a good foreign correspondent, must be an independent thinker—an iconoclast. My time as a Vanderbilt “tunnel rat” many years ago gave me that sense of independence, that sense of being something of an outsider. It is the most important tool I took away; however imperfectly: the ability to observe, critically, from a distance, with detachment.

In those days, a quarter-century (1’) ago, we at The Hustler prided ourselves on a kind of seat-of-the-pants operation. It was a different era. There were few women back then in those deliberately untidy offices, no computers, minimal amenities. Come publication deadline (we were twice-a-week back then), we mass-ochastically revelled in all-sighers spent passing page to the pages.

We were outsiders, in many respects, marching to a slightly different drummer from the rest of the Vanderbilt crowd.

An entire generation has transpired since I worked at The Hustler, as I was (painfully) reminded by my recent 25th college reunion. I flew from Rome to attend and was immediately reaeged, once again, by the humor and quick minds of my former colleagues and our faculty adviser of the era, James Leeson. The Hustler brought together an eclectic group of personalities, generally non-conformists, who shared with each other their diverse hobbies and deep thoughts, usually too over much cups of coffee at very odd hours.

A handful of us are still in journalism; others have gone on to other important jobs. I, for one, have had a very lucky career. As I said, I consider myself privileged, though some might question my sanity in making such a characterization. Not long after graduating from Vanderbilt, I started working for the Los Angeles Times and the Peruvian International in Lima, Peru, and then in the last half of the 1980s was stationed in Central America, covering wars in Nicaragua and El Salvador—conflicts in which the U.S. government had a participation that was very formidable, and often clandestine.

Eventually the Los Angeles Times put me to work in Los Angeles for five years, a stint that included coverage of the first Gulf War and the 1992 riots that tore L.A. apart. Finally, they sent me back overseas, and I haven’t looked back. I was in Bosnia and Kosovo for the last half of the Balkan wars, getting shelled in Sarajevo and watching the exhumations of mass graves. Then it was a long tour of duty in Jerusalem, where peace degenerated again into war and suicide bombings and military raids.

Rome, where I have been Los Angeles Times bureau chief since January, 2003, is therefore something of a respite. In addition to Italy and the Vatican, my beat includes Spain, Turkey and Greece, and from time to time I’m still sent back to the Middle East or the Balkans. The funeral last year for Pope John Paul II and the election of his successor—events the like of which had not occurred since I was a junior (OCT’78) at Vanderbilt—were breathtaking experiences.

Ideally, having the eye of the outsider (a non-Catholic covering the Vatican, a non-conformist covering an army) enables the reporter to notice things others might take for granted, or to ask things that might seem obvious, and in the end this means telling a better story. The Hustler laboratory also taught some things about being an underdog, an attitude that is essential for a journalist. It helps you have empathy for victims and outrage at wrongdoing.

And so I’m not completely pessimistic about the future of journalism in the United States. Once again, at newspapers are underdogs.
A glimpse into a few lives that helped shape student media at Vandy

1949

Jerry N. Jordan, Jr., 49, said, 'At the ripe age of 21, I decided to be a Vanderbilt Commodore. I was a co-editor of the 1947 Commodore along with Jane Bandy. That experience came in handy once I got to the University of Texas in 1947-48 after being absent during WWII. I kept copies of all of the Hustler produced in the school years 1947-48, and from now on I have made with my paper copies, and the Hustler has been for me part of the high school year leading up to the Spring Reunion when I became a Commodore. I think it was exceptional the Hustler has been published weekly for 70 years before which were published weekly as part of the high school year leading up to the Spring Reunion. That was a fun task and my last contribution to publications at Vandy.

1951

William A Kennington, B.A. '51, has been getting together with former brothers of the '49-'52 vintage here in the Washington D.C. area for the past 5 years. It has been good to see old friends and former Hustler editor, comes to D.C. once a year from Texas and we use that as a stimulus to get together among other things. The group consists of Bob Mundy, CICOC, USA (ret'd) '49, James W. Truss, professor European Literature (ret'd) '49, Neil Leech, Dupont (ret'd) '49, Proctor McCandlish, FBI (ret'd) '50, Bill Kennington, Commodore 2nd Ed. '50, Tom Moon, B.E. '56, Deputy Director Dept. (retd), Glen Carus, Col, USAF (ret'd) '51, and Bill Kennington, Commodore 2nd Ed. '50, who is planning another gathering from VU. We are indeed, a cosmopolitan group.

Rucky Carter, '51, worked on the yearbook and the student newspaper at Vandy and lived back & forth in Louisville Ky, with Sally Brad [my wife] We have two children and nine grandchildren and my wife Vandy a couple of times a year. Love that bourbon!!'

1956

Mike Wagner, '56, lives with his wife Mary Helen in Nashville. He said, 'As a 1957 graduate I am reluctantly anticipating my 50th reunion next year and hope to drope by the studios to just be awed by the facilities. You have a come a long way from our old NIV setup and I applaud your development and success.'

1961

James V (Vic) Jeffreys, B.E. '61, was a late night DJ at the then WHV, and was on the air from midnight to midnight. I turned on the studio, took requests, met girls!!! After graduation I was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force and served in Germany. After being a Senior Systems Analyst for Dynamic Research Corporation, a branch of SII, did some consulting, teaching, then Sally retired in 2000. I live in Crystal River, Fla., in the winter and New Albany, Ohio, in the summer. I met Sally at a WHV of some great volunteerism in later years, speaking, thinking on my feet and generally looking to the future.

1966

Tom Moon, B.E. '66, MDiv. '99, was a DJ for WHV. He currently resides in Franklin, Tenn., and Vail, Colo. He is a real estate developer and has been doing some consulting, teaching, then fully retired in 2000. I live in Crystal River, Fla., in the winter and New Albany, Ohio, in the summer. I met Sally at a WHV of some great volunteerism in later years, speaking, thinking on my feet and generally looking to the future.

1975

Julie DeWberry Wilson, B.A. '75, worked on the Vanderbilt Hustler for three years (1972-1975). I felt as good as a baker and writing on the on-line weekly column about politics, culture and life at Vandy. I accepted an offer from Newcomer's Channel at WHV, a full-time position and I started working form WHV's south studio on West End Avenue. Won first place in a 1977-1978 writing competition. That was a fun task and my last contribution to publications at Vandy.
court competitions during his graduate study at Vanderbilt. He worked for the Chicago office of Deconet Gesellschaft, a large international engineering consultancy firm. Being in new environments, he met new people and enjoyed new adventures. He also formed new business relationships, often through his work with the former Leslie Brokerhouse, B.A. ’83, and the couple have two teenage daughters. After receiving his bachelor’s, he continued to work full-time for a Chicago-based professional services and communications company, helping manage community outreach projects and writing feature articles for various professional publications. In 2000, he moved to New York City and began working as a communications director for a marketing agency. He currently lives in the city, where he enjoys freelance assignments from local newspapers.

Doug Jennings, B.A. ’00, a former editor of *Versus,* was recently accepted into the international graduate program in media education (master of laws) program at New York University. He will begin the one-year program this fall.

Iby Nasmyth, B.A. ’02, worked as a volunteer editor for the Hustler. He currently works for Jackson Spalding, a marketing communications firm in Atlanta, but will be enrolled in the Master of Arts in Teaching program at University of Evansville this fall, where he will pursue an M.A. degree with a concentration in marketing. Iby and his wife Erin Quins Nasmyth (Peabody) ’05 live in Scandia, Ga.

Jimecy Lumpkin, ’02, was “only in ignorance” when he learned about the importance of typography in graphic design. However, there have been many people and resources that helped him along the way. In 2002, he moved to Nashville to Jacksonville, Fla., to attend law school. I recently graduated, and I’m getting ready to start working as a law clerk for a solo practitioner with a law office in Jacksonville. I think the best advice I could give to those of you graduating this month is to love what you do and to keep working hard. I can’t wait to break into the legal profession and start making a difference in the lives of others.

Jacob Doris, B.A. ’02, *Versus* staff manager 2001-02, program director 2000-01. “I graduated from Emory School of Medicine and am about to begin a psychiatry residency at University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Cara Jackson, B.S. ’92, currently lives in London with her husband and son. She graduated from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law last June and returned to her native England. She is employed by Bullosh Inc. in their Corporate Communications department where she assists the Vice President.”

Tanya Wheeler-Berliner, B.A. ’03, was a writer and designer for Versus during her junior and senior years at Vanderbilt (Layout Editor). After graduation, she attended the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, where she earned a master’s degree in print journalism. After school graduation she joined Lee Wheeler-Berliner (B.S. ’02) and moved to Denver, Colo. I now work as a communications coordinator for a nonprofit in Englewood, Colo., writing, editing, and promoting the agency’s services and events.

Emily Faye Abbott, B.A. ’03, was editor-in-chief of the Hustler and Features Editor of the Commodore Yearbook. She recently graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law and hopes to practice law in her hometown of Chattanooga, Tenn. She is currently being able to attend Vandy football and basketball games on a regular basis. Go Vols!

Jennifer O’Neill, B.A. ’04, lives in Edina, Minn. I will be editing medical student writing in Falls Church, Va., on Sept. 5. I currently am employed by the Minnesota Department of Health. If you have any contact information, we invite you to visit dove2dove.com. Vanderbilt Alumni Relations’ online directory, to look up fellow alumni.

**If you’d like to update Tunnel Vision with your information, please send an email to tunnelvision@vscmedia.org**
Before VSC advisers headed to New York City for a college media conference, they invited area alumni to a get-together at the Madison Club Lounge in the Roosevelt Hotel. Alumni who had participated in student media while at Vandy joined several current students and the advisers for an evening event in Midtown Manhattan on Thursday, March 16.

About 30 people attended, and the alumni represented former staff of the Hustler, Versus magazine and WRVU, from graduating classes ranging from 1971-2004. The student media alumni at the event now work in fields such as online and newspaper journalism, business, advertising, law, website design, city planning, and finance.

Current Vanderbilt students who were in New York for the college media conference mingled with the alumni, who also had a chance to discover other New York-area residents with roots in student media at Vanderbilt. One of the highlights of the evening was when Allen Boyer ('78) and Peggy and Terry Dugan ('81) were surprised to find fellow Versus alum Jim Mion ('79) at the event. The foursome erupted with greetings and then grabbed seats in the lounge to reminisce and catch up with each other.

The VSC staff and current students had such a great time mingling with alumni in New York City in March that we want to visit with alumni during our next college media convention: Oct. 25-29 in St. Louis, Mo. If you live in the St. Louis area and would like to reconnect at a similar event, please give us a holler. Depending on interest from alumni, we’ll organize a get-together while we’re in town. Please contact Chris Carroll at chris.carroll@vanderbilt.edu (615-322-6610) or Paige Clancy at Paige.clancy@vanderbilt.edu (615-322-3483). We hope to see you there.
INTRODUCING VTV NEWS...

NEWS AT 11: An enterprising Vanderbilt junior has started VTV News, a 30-minute weekly news show on campus cable's Channel 6.

Doanphuong Nguyen launched the show on Vanderbilt Television in January and worked with about a dozen student producers to report campus news and weather, along with sports, fashion and entertainment news. Prior to starting VTV News, Nguyen was a reporter for The Bubble, a VTV show featuring Vanderbilt entertainment and news. Her involvement in that program grew her desire to create VTV News.

Nguyen is now a rising junior and was elected station manager in April to serve in the top spot at VTV for the 2006-07 academic year. Her initiative and talent was recognized beyond Vanderbilt when she finished third in the Southeast Journalism Conference’s “Television Reporter: Best in the South” competition. Nguyen also has been nominated for College Broadcasters Inc.’s National Student Production Award, which will be determined in late October.

Jim Hayes, adviser to VTV, said of Nguyen’s computer-generated VTV News set, “Her innovative use of virtual set technology creates the look of a multimillion-dollar news facility in a 10-foot space with a green wall behind it, complete with sofas, stools, news desks and columns.”

CLOSE-UP: VANDY-IN-HOLLYWOOD

Update from Chad Gervich, B.A. ’96

Vanderbilt finally has an official film department and major (APPLAUSE). To help this new program, I’ve been working closely with several Vandy professors (Sam Girgus, Will Akers and Paul Young) to launch an organization called “Vandy-in-Hollywood,” which would provide a network of contacts, job opportunities, internships and relationships for current Vandy students, recent grads and alumni living in Los Angeles and working in entertainment. Although we’re still in our initial stages, VIH should be a terrific program, helping Vandy become a powerful presence in the world of entertainment and entertainment/media education.

While many of the organization’s components will develop over the next several weeks and months, we’ve just completed our first step – the creation of the Vandy-in-Hollywood website. Please check it out. It talks in greater detail about the program and already offers job listings, an alumni directory and numerous links and resources to help Commodores make their way in Hollywood. You can visit the website at: www.vandyinhollywood.com

Elsen returns as editor-in-residence

Bill Elsen, a former editor and recruiter with the Washington Post, returned to campus in February for his second stint as VSC’s editor-in-residence. Elsen, a one-time Vanderbilt student, previously served as editor-in-residence in the fall of 2004, and during both visits he spent many hours with the Hustler staff during production and planning meetings. His observations and suggestions after working with the staff triggered many organizational and procedural changes at the Hustler.

While on campus, Elsen met with several student editors and reporters to discuss the field of journalism and their work in student media. He also spoke at a “Careers in Journalism” session, which was attended by VSC students and other interested Vanderbilt students.

Between the Hustler’s Thursday and Sunday production nights, Elsen joined VSC advisers for a road trip to the University of Mississippi in Oxford for a summit on “Reinventing College Media.” Advisers from other colleges convened at Ole Miss for presentations and discussions about the future of professional journalism and the role college media can and should play in preparing students for the rapidly changing industry.
The enormity of the devastation to the country’s Gulf Coast caused by Hurricane Katrina left many wondering helplessly how to offer any assistance that could make a difference.

The natural connection for Vanderbilt student media was to reach out to educators, starting with its sister schools in New Orleans. Tulane University’s student media operation was dealt a setback when its building was flooded, resulting in the loss of some equipment. Xavier and Dillard Universities suffered near total losses. The student media at these schools joined with Tulane on its campus to attempt continued operation.

In an effort to help, VSC advisers Chris Carroll, Jeff Breaux and Jim Hayes delivered to Tulane in January a donation of 15 Apple computers and a collection of monitors, scanners, printers and other equipment.

Most of the equipment was VSC surplus, while seven of the computers were donated to VSC for Tulane by the Murfreesboro, Tenn., school district.

The direct hit by the Hurricane on Mississippi’s coast caused catastrophic damage, including destroying the Waveland Elementary School. Vanderbilt employee Jim LeFleur, who has family in Waveland, brought the school’s situation to the attention of VSC staff. The school’s condition was so dire that its primary need was monetary donations.

Radio station WRVU stepped up to the challenge and held a one-day benefit sale of surplus CDs on campus. Remaining unsold CDs were offered at an online auction. The result was $1,572 raised to help the school.

“As we face the daily challenges of post Katrina life it is comforting to know that there are people like you who care about those around them,” wrote Donna Torres, Waveland School District program director. “It speaks volumes of your character and caring for your fellow man.”

If you should have interest in supporting student media at Vanderbilt by advertising in the 2007 Commodore Yearbook, please contact George Fisher at 615-322-1884.