



The YEAR

With the 2008-2009 academic year coming to a close, The Vanderbilt Hustler staff decided to compile a list of the most intriguing stories and exciting events that happened in the past year.

From the unbelievable football season to the presidential election and debate in Nashville to the opening of The Commons, check out the year's top stories.



Fall 2008-Spring 2009

Vanderbilt hosts 'College GameDay,' defeats Auburn

Vanderbilt's football season was one of milestones: first national ranking in 21 years, first bowl eligibility in 26 years, first bowl win in 53 years.

But hosting "College GameDay"? Get out of here.

Sure enough, after the 19th-ranked Commodores started out 4-0 and next faced then-No. 13 Auburn in a key interdivisional Southeastern Conference match-up, the popular ESPN crew of Lee Corso, Desmond Howard, Chris Fowler and Kirk Herbstreit descended on Nashville to broadcast live from the Commons for the Oct. 4 tilt.

And Vanderbilt students responded with unprecedented enthusiasm. The crew said the Friday crowd was the best ever, and Saturday morning, students piled in droves with signs, banners and a school spirit nay-sayers said was not possible from the SEC's smallest school for the show's live broadcast.

"The Geeks Shall Inherit the Turf," read one sign, and they did. Commodore Nation was tired of being looked at as purely academic, a team that stood no chance against War Eagle, and Vanderbilt went out and proved Corso wrong that night at Vanderbilt Stadium.

The Vanderbilt defense



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Lee Corso threw the Vanderbilt mascot mask aside before donning an Auburn helmet as he picked the Tigers to win on GameDay. But the Commodores won 14-13 to move to 5-0.

dominated the Tigers for the final three quarters after a rough start, and redshirt junior Mackenzi Adams came off the bench at quarterback to throw two touchdown passes to rally the Commodores to a 14-13 victory, sealed by a dramatic interception

by junior Myron Lewis, to make them 5-0 for the first time since 1943. The fans wouldn't let their heroes leave, and coach Bobby Johnson sent his players back out for a curtain call in a moment no Commodore fan, player or coach will ever forget. ■

Belmont debate brings national attention to Nashville

Presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain faced off at nearby Belmont University for the second presidential debate on Oct. 7.

MSNBC's Tom Brokaw moderated the town-hall-style debate, which brought all sorts of attention to Nashville, from protesters to national media sources to political junkies and more.

While Belmont may have hosted the debate, the excitement overtook Vanderbilt's campus.

Vanderbilt hosted a separate debate for six third-party candidates in Stevenson Center. Professor of Sociology and Management Bruce Barry moderated the debate, in which all of the candidates expressed the belief that the major parties do not represent the majority of Americans.

Before the debate, several



LAUREN KOENIG / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Supporters of the presidential candidates gathered around Belmont's campus before the debate.

leading journalists and experts in political science participated in a panel discussion at the First Amendment Center. The discussion, led by former

Congressman Harold Ford Jr. and John Seigenthaler, addressed the state of the election thus far and participants suggested what they thought the candidates needed to do in the last weeks of the campaign. Participants included Mike Allen of Politico.com, Howard Fineman of Newsweek and

NBC News, Anne Kornblut of The Washington Post, Joe Klein of Time, Mark Halperin of ABC News, John Harwood of NBC and Chris Matthews of MSNBC.

Students watched as motorcades drove down 21st Avenue, walked over to Belmont to join the day's festivities and ended the day watching the debate at several viewing parties, including ones in The Commons Center and the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center. ■

A 'Common' ground for first-years

The inaugural year of The Commons sparked much discussion within the Vanderbilt campus, as the class of 2012 moved into the unique first-year community and the first-ever Commons experience commenced.

The first week's orientation, which began Aug. 16, served to acclimate first-years to college life. VUceptors hosted small group discussions and traditional events such as Commodores in the Community, a service day

intended to connect students with the local Nashville community, and "True Life: I Go to Vanderbilt," where upperclassmen discuss taboo issues such as sexual violence and alcohol.

What was different about this year's orientation program was the special activities that took place at The Commons' 10 houses and the opportunities first-years were given to meet with the faculty and staff of The Commons. These activities were the first of numerous programming events The

Commons hosted as the year progressed and elicited largely positive reactions from first-year students.

"(The Commons' atmosphere) is exactly what I want. From the beginning, you all have the same common ground," said Chavez Scott of Memphis, a first-year student.

Many residents felt the newly created living and learning community provided a helpful means of adjusting and a common space where first-year residents could feel at home. ■



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Expanded financial aid initiative garners praise

The Admissions Office's decision in October to make need-based aid debt-free led to praise from parents, students and politicians alike.

"It's just been unreal the positive feedback we've received," said Dean of Admissions Douglas Christiansen. "Congressmen and senators have been commending us on a national level on our

continued efforts to give access for all students. I've received hundreds and hundreds of e-mails."

Christiansen said admissions offices from comparable schools have also been giving positive feedback.

"It's mostly about access to education and less about competition," he said.



CHRISTIANSSEN



McCARTY

Vanderbilt will be replacing all need-based student loans with grant and scholarship assistance.

All students will be able to benefit from the new financial aid package next year.

"No school has done all of this," said Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Richard McCarty. "Chancellor (Nicholas) Zeppos made this call, and we have risen to his challenge. He is the hero in all of this."

Vanderbilt has also decided

not to impose specified income-level caps in deciding eligibility for the program because middle-income families have largely been neglected in the past, according to officials.

The expanded financial aid package will not affect federal aid, and families can still apply for federal loans in the same way they have in the past. ■

Election season spurs activism on campus

A particularly enthusiastic election season at Vanderbilt led up to the historic election of President Barack Obama in November.

The Election Alliance, a coalition of politically minded student groups, organized a series of non-partisan events to promote voting and election awareness. Their efforts culminated in "Election GameDay," a program aimed at first-time voters at The Commons.

At the event, multiple big screens projected minute-by-minute coverage of election developments. Freedom Sings of the First Amendment Center performed familiar folk and soul tunes. Vanderbilt Dining served platters of American classics like meatloaf, mashed potatoes and apple pie. Students said they felt it was largely a success.

"It is exciting to see

people voting and watching the election returns. It indicates a healthy democracy," said senior Kevin Duong.

"I am impressed with the turnout," said sophomore Eliza Horn. "The young vote is important. This election has challenged ideas of political activism at Vandy."

Additionally, the Vanderbilt Chapter of the Student Association for Voter Empowerment, along with the Election Alliance, helped to register 1,361 students to vote in the election.

The second presidential debate at Belmont University also brought excitement to students. Many ventured near the neighboring campus to watch as reporters, interest groups and politicians swarmed in from all over, creating a veritable media circus. ■

51 students arrested at Sigma Chi event

Fifty-one Vanderbilt students were arrested at an Ocoee River campground early in the morning on Sept. 21 after a Sigma Chi international fraternity event got out of hand.

The students — both members and non-members of the Vanderbilt chapter, including some first-year students — appeared in court on Oct. 22

facing charges of disorderly conduct and underage consumption of alcohol. They were each released on \$1,500 bond, and were charged a further \$50 in fines and \$200 in court fees.

The fraternity and the individual students faced a separate investigation by the university, both from the Interfraternity Council and the Office of Student

Conduct.

The situation arose in September after the students at the campsite began celebrating Vanderbilt football's victory over Ole Miss. Complaints were issued when the students lit firecrackers at 2:30 a.m.

Sheriff Bill Davis of Polk County, Tenn., said the 54 men who were arrested were cooperative and estimated

that most were detained for five hours in order to get booked.

Some men were detained if they were intoxicated and it was unsafe for them to leave.

In the days following the arrest, several fraternity and sorority members wore T-shirts with Sigma Chi's letters on them to show their support for the fraternity. ■

Lil Wayne sold out week before Quake

Tickets for Lil Wayne sold out just under a week before he performed at the annual Commodore Quake, beating Kanye West by one week. Kanye West tickets did not sell out until 3:20 p.m. on the day of the concert.

"We had more people waiting in line this year than (for) Kanye West," said Director of Campus Student Events Dwayne Elliott. "Two tickets are being sold on Craig's List for \$225, so these are the hottest tickets in town right now."

Almost 2,500 tickets were sold on the first day tickets went on sale, as a line of more than 100 students

formed in front of Sarratt Student Center at 10 a.m. that morning. The line snaked all the way around the back of Sarratt and almost reached Buttrick Hall. Some students even camped out in an effort to obtain floor seats.

"We got here at 10 p.m. last night," said sophomore Danielle Naretto on the day tickets went on sale. "We camped out all night and by midnight there were more than 50 people."

There were 1,275 floor seats available for only Vanderbilt students and 8,025 general admission tickets for the concert on Oct. 23. ■



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Students camped outside of Sarratt Student Center from 10 p.m. the night before tickets for Commodore Quake went on sale to get floor seats for the concert featuring Lil Wayne.

The VSC Board of Directors would like to **congratulate** and **thank** the 2008-09 Student Media Leaders of Vanderbilt University:

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02/01/2009

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Don't let your digital photos fade into oblivion. Submit your favorite photos from 2008-09 online at **VanderbiltCommodore.com**, and they could be published in the Scrapbook section of the Commodore yearbook. The Scrapbook section is a unique record of this year at Vandy, created entirely with photos submitted by students like you.

SEND IN ...
pics of you and your friends, interesting shots capturing life on campus, team and organization group photos, images of parties and events



submitted by Laura Calabrese

VanderbiltCommodore.com

If you haven't already ordered your 2009 Commodore yearbook, order online today.

6 arrested in Colas murder case

The fall semester began with sadness when Pierre Colas, a celebrated associate professor of anthropology, was murdered along with his sister in his East Nashville home in August.

Colas and his sister Marie were shot during a robbery at Colas' home. Colas died that day, while his sister, who was visiting from Switzerland, died at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center four days later.

Six suspects were eventually arrested, indicted on murder, robbery, identity theft and forgery charges.

Four of the suspects were charged in August with double criminal homicide after a police investigation led to the discovery of several high-ticket items being purchased from local businesses with Colas' identification. The other two were arrested in February, and according to Metro Police Booking, faced 11 charges and six charges, respectively.

Colas joined the Vanderbilt faculty in 2006 as an associate professor of anthropology and a scholar of classic Mayan culture. He specialized in the ethnography of the Yucatec Maya of Belize and cave archeology projects. He was fluent in six languages and researched hieroglyphic characters as a means of understanding the political and religious structure of Mayan society. Colas earned his Ph.D. at the University of Bonn and the University of Cologne in Germany. ■



COLAS

Internal overturn in administration

Last semester, the administration experienced much overturn — albeit with familiar faces. Of the five positions permanently filled after national searches, four were internal appointments.

By October, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos had approved four major appointments. Carolyn Dever, a former faculty member in the English department who has also been both the associate dean

of graduate education and the executive dean of Arts and Science, was appointed the dean of Arts and Science.

"Carolyn was the top choice of the search committee following an exhaustive national search," said McCarty.

Former Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Beth Fortune was appointed vice chancellor for public affairs, a position that

became vacant when Michael Schoenfeld left for Duke University in June.

Susie Stalcup, the chief fundraising officer for Columbia University Medical Center, was appointed vice chancellor for development and alumni relations.

Additionally, former Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Jeff Balzer was appointed the 11th dean of the School of Medicine. ■



BALZER



DEVER



FORTUNE



STALCUP

Commodores defeat Eagles in Music City Bowl

Vanderbilt knocked off No. 24 Boston College 16-14 at LP Field to win the Music City Bowl on Dec. 31, its first bowl victory since 1955, capping a year where the Commodores seemed to do nothing but set milestones.

Senior kicker and Nashville native Bryant Hahnfeldt put on a show before his hometown crowd, making all three field goals he attempted, including the 45-yard game-winner with less than four minutes to play, and junior cornerback Myron Lewis picked off BC quarterback Dominique Davis with 1:36 left to seal the win.

"It's very exciting as you can see," Lewis said. "For our team, players, coaches, our families, the crowd."

Hahnfeldt's winning kick was right on the money and provided a memorable final boot for Vanderbilt's all-time leading scorer.

"There is no doubt this was the biggest kick of my life," Hahnfeldt said. "It will always have a special place in my mind."

Punter Brett Upson was named the bowl's Most Valuable Player, pinning the Eagles time and time again with effective rugby punts. One of them struck a Boston College player on the thigh for a fumble and Sean Richardson recovered in the end zone for the Commodores' sole touchdown.

After Lewis' pick, redshirt freshman quarterback Larry Smith, making his first career start, kneeled three times and the celebration was on in Nashville.

"I was proud of our football team for hanging in there playing a very fine football team in Boston College," said Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson. "It may not have been the prettiest victory in the world but it is for us now." ■



JAE S. LEE / The Tennessean

Vanderbilt cornerback Myron Lewis (5) celebrates with teammates Casey Hayward (19) and Brent Trice (11) after intercepting Boston College quarterback Dominique Davis to seal the Commodores' 16-14 victory in the Music City Bowl, Vanderbilt's first bowl win since 1955. It was also the third time that season the Commodores defeated a ranked foe, a school record.

Vanderbilt endowment loses \$600 million

Vanderbilt University's endowment suffered a blow this year, shrinking about 16 percent from \$3.5 billion last June to \$2.9 billion due to tough economic times.

In a letter sent to 33,000 members of the Vanderbilt community in late January, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos announced that the school — despite its suffering endowment — was "indeed even stronger financially and bonded

collectively to continue our mission and serve Vanderbilt."

The e-mail came just hours after The Tennessean published an article online describing an overly exaggerated dire economic situation for the university. The article claimed the university had lost \$1 billion in endowment funds, when in reality the amount lost was closer to \$600 million.

The endowment funds about 5 percent of the university's annual operations. Cost-cutting

measures have been adopted by the university, among them a halt to new construction projects and most departments reducing their budgets to preserve cash.

Provost Richard McCarty explained, though, that projects like the College Halls initiative, designed to replace Kissam Quadrangle as early as summer 2010, and the expansion of the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital will be put on hold indefinitely.

The employee benefits and several current construction projects were not affected.

Both McCarty and Vice Chancellor of Public Affairs Beth Fortune stressed that the debt-free initiative, the program implemented to subsidize tuition for students financially unable to attend Vanderbilt announced this fall, will remain a priority.

According to McCarty, Vanderbilt is about halfway to its fundraising goal. ■

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FULBRIGHT RESEARCH GRANT WINNERS

Fulbright research grants provide funding for a year abroad to enable students to pursue projects that will assist them in completing theses and dissertations.



Angela Cowser, PhD Candidate, Ethics

"The Theology and Practice of Poverty Reduction, Reconciliation and Union – Namibia



Danielle Kurin, PhD Candidate, Anthropology

Fulbright Research Grant to Andahuaylas, Peru
"A Bioarchaeological Study of Group Violence in Peruvian History"

FULBRIGHT BINATIONAL BUSINESS GRANT TO MEXICO

The Fulbright Binational Business Grant gives graduates the opportunity to enhance knowledge, expertise, and understanding of post-NAFTA Mexico through a combination of course work in international business or law and an internship project.



Anita Jivani, Organizational Development/Spanish '09

FULBRIGHT ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP GRANTS

The Fulbright ETA program offers teaching assistantship opportunities in 44 countries throughout the world. In addition to teaching English, grantees engage in independent academic and community projects as part of their function as student ambassadors to the region.



Meghana Bhatta, Neuroscience/Spanish '09

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Malaysia



Gabrielle Keenan, Political Science/French '09

French Regional English Teaching Assistantship



Karen Crow, Medicine, Health, Society/Spanish '09

English Teaching Assistantship in Venezuela



Graham MacDonald, Economics '09

English Teaching Assistantship in Indonesia



Jessica Yen, Biology/Mathematics Education '09

English Teaching Assistantship in Taiwan

Ashley Esser, Elementary Education '08 Alumnus

English Teaching Assistantship in Italy

Fulbright Alternate:

Alexander Paxton, Neuroscience/Mathematics '09

"Aboriginal Australians and Public Health Care:
Evaluating Initiatives to Improve Access" – Australia

GATES-CAMBRIDGE SCHOLAR

The University of Cambridge (UK) is one of the top research universities in the world. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, this fellowship provides full-funding for post-graduate study at Cambridge. Competition for this award is keen, with only 37 American Scholars being selected out of a pool of 752 qualified candidates.



Amanda Scott Chemical Engineering/Mathematics '09

will pursue an MPhil in Advanced Chemical Engineering at Cambridge beginning this fall. She will focus her studies on developing processes for biomass conversion and hydrogen production.

National Finalist:

Brittany Rohrman, Physics '09

GOLDWATER SCHOLARS

The Goldwater Foundation is a federally endowed agency in honor of Senator Barry M. Goldwater. It was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students in the fields of mathematics, natural sciences, and engineering. The one and two-year scholarships provide up to \$7,500 per year toward educational expenses.



Rosalynne Korman, Biomedical Engineering '11

plans to pursue a joint MD/Ph.D. in Molecular Biology. She currently works under the direction of Dr. Antonis Rokas in a Comparative Genomics lab researching the evolutionary relationship of fungal allergens. She is also fluent in Russian



Andrew Jallouk, Biomedical Engineering '10

plans to earn an MD/PhD in Biomedical Engineering, with an emphasis on the use of nanotechnology in the development of sensors and instrumentation for early detection and treatment of disease. He works in the lab of Dr. V. Prasad Shastri, designing and conducting experiments to analyze the effect of various formation parameters on the physico-chemical properties of polymeric nanoparticles.

UDALL SCHOLARS

The Morris K. Udall Foundation is an independent federal agency that was created by Congress in 1992 to honor Congressman Udall's legacy of public service. Udall Scholars may apply as sophomores and juniors, and sophomore winners may apply for the scholarship again in their junior year, which is the case with Jeremy, a second time Udall recipient. Scholars will assemble August 5-9, 2009, in Tucson, Arizona, to receive their awards and meet policymakers and community leaders in environmental fields, tribal health care, and governance.



Jeremy Doochin

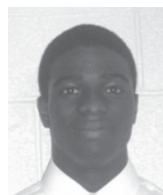
Economic Policy '10



Rebecca Maddox

Environmental Studies/Women's Studies '10

USA TODAY's 2009 All-USA College Academic Honorable Mention Team



Michael Poku, Chemistry/Psychology '09

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The CLS Program is part of the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI), a U.S. government interagency effort to expand dramatically the number of Americans studying and mastering critical need foreign languages. Grantees participate in fully-funded seven to ten week intensive language instruction and cultural enrichment experiences. Study options include Turkish, Russian, Arabic, Hindi, Chinese, Korean, and Persian.

Two Vanderbilt alumni are recipients of Critical Language fellowships:

Hana Chmielewski (Russian/Mathematics '08) advanced Russian

Jeff Benedict (European Studies/History/Music '07) Turkish

AND SPECIAL THANKS TO THE VANDERBILT FACULTY AND LEADERS who have – and continue to – challenge Vanderbilt in the classroom and the community, writing letters of recommendation, guiding the development of research proposals, participating in candidate interviews and making tough decisions about who will receive Vanderbilt's endorsement for an award.

Dr. Patrick Abbot, Ecology/Evolution/Genetics; Dr. Brooke Ackerly, Political Science; Dr. Clint Alexander, Political Science; Dr. Victor Anderson, Divinity School; Dr. Patricia Armstrong, Center for Teaching & French; Dr. Jeremy Atack, Economics & History; Dr. James Auer, Center for US/Japan Studies; Dr. Robert Barsky, French, Italian, English; Dr. Greg Barz, Musicology; Dr. Francille Bergquist, Associate Dean, Arts & Science; Dr. Michael Bess, History; Dr. Jason Borge, Latin American Literature; Dr. David Boyd, Center for Medicine, Health & Society; Dr. Charles Brau, Physics; Dr. Caroline Brett, Research Associate; Ruth Ann Brown, Chief of Staff, Chancellor's Office; Dr. Victoria Burrus, Spanish; Dr. Bruce Carter, Biochemistry/neuroscience; Dr. Vivien Casagrande, Biology; Carolina Castellanos, Latin American Studies; Lorraine Catanzaro, Spanish; Dr. Douglas Christiansen, Enrollment Management; Dr. Cherrie Clark, Managerial Studies; Barbara Clinton, Director, Center for Health Services; Dr. Beth Conklin, Anthropology; Roger Conner, Law School; Elizabeth Covington, Graduate School; Dr. Peter Cummings, Engineering; Dr. Gary Cunningham, Analytical Biochemistry; Dr. Cynthia Cyrus, Associate Dean, Blair; Dr. Mark Dalhouse, Office of Active Citizenship and Service; Dr. Kevin Davis, University Counsel; Dr. Constantine Deliyannis, Astronomy; Dr. Tom Dillehay, Anthropology; Dr. Frank Dobson, Bishop Joseph Johnson Cultural Center; Dr. Elizabeth Dykens, Kennedy Center for Research; Dr. Marshall Eakin, History; Dr. James Epstein, History; Dr. Julia Fesmire, Women & Gender Studies; Dr. Edward Fischer, Director, Center for Latin American Studies; Dr. Edward Friedman, Spanish; Dr. Katherine Friedman, Biology; Katherine Fusco, Writing Studio; Dr. Robert Galloway, Biomedical Engineering; Kyan Garrison, Education; Dr. J. 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Increase in sanctions for Greeks, two colonies closed

In a year that saw a definite increase in the number of sanctions against Greek organizations, two fraternities — Sigma Phi Epsilon and Phi Delta Theta colonies — were closed due to risk management violations and several other charges.

Sigma Phi Epsilon colony was suspended until Aug. 1 after a situation involving an underground pledge in February resulted in nine charges — including underground pledging, an off-campus party, distribution to minors and hazing — being brought against the fraternity.

All of the members have had their membership to the national fraternity

revoked. After Aug. 1, the former members will be eligible to undergo a membership review, and after meeting these requirements, the colony could reorganize and would be on social probation for one year. None of the fraternity members will be allowed to live off campus.

Phi Delta Theta colony was closed by the national fraternity on March 29 after two investigations into charges of hazing and alcohol violations.

During the initial investigation into the hazing charges, the pledge class decided as a group to falsely deny the allegations. After the conclusion of this investigation, evidence of alcohol in

the fraternity's house was presented, a direct violation of Phi Delta Theta's strict dry housing policy.

Of the 17 Interfraternity Council fraternities, 15 were on probation at some point during the spring semester. While the severity of the offenses and lengths of probation have varied, both the numbers of chapters sanctioned as well as the number of incidents reported has increased compared to past years, although the exact numbers were not available. The most common incidents that have occurred have been risk management issues — violations of the alcohol policy, hazing policy and the student code. ■

Women's basketball wins SEC tournament



DANNY JOHNSTONY / AP Photo

Melanie Balcomb and her Vanderbilt players team rejoice after winning the SEC Championship.

Vanderbilt struggled on the road of the Southeastern Conference this year. A neutral floor turned out to be no problem.

The 22nd-ranked Commodores defeated No. 6 Auburn 61-54 in North Little Rock on March 8 to win the SEC Tournament championship, their second title in three years and third since 2004. Senior Christina Wirth again led the scoring attack with 20 points; she was the leading scorer in all three of Vanderbilt's wins and was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

With the victory, Vanderbilt earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, marking its 10th consecutive invitation. The Commodores went on to advance to their second consecutive Sweet 16 and barely missed out on the Elite Eight. A proud coach Melanie

Balcomb said her team embraced the challenge.

"It's been awesome," Balcomb said. "They wanted to take the shots, they wanted to get the rebounds."

As for Wirth, a Senior CLASS All-American, it was her cool demeanor that impressed her coach the most.

"What was so awesome about Tina is she was so relaxed and not just tonight, but the entire tournament," Balcomb said. "It helped her teammates be relaxed and she had a lot of trust in her teammates."

"It was a great team effort," Wirth said. "I couldn't be more proud of my team."

National Defensive Player of the Year Jen Risper held SEC Player of the Year and Auburn's leading scorer DeWanna Bonner to just nine points.

"Just defense, that's all," Risper said. ■

Zeppos announces voluntary pay cut

Following a student-led campaign that asked him to lower his salary, Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos announced he had already decided months prior to take a voluntary pay cut and to offer a \$1 million donation to the school.

The "No Cuts" campaign, which lobbied for the preservation of staff wages, confronted administrators on the steps of Kirkland Hall in March, delivering a letter to the chancellor. The campaign was sponsored by student groups Living Income for Vanderbilt

Employees and Vanderbilt Students of Nonviolence.

In a series of rallies, the organization took up the plight of Vanderbilt's lowest-wage workers in light of the economy's impact on the university. The organization also petitioned and met with students and faculty to examine the situation.

"This rally is a way to come together as a community to express our solidarity with Vanderbilt's lowest wage workers. We want the chancellor to guarantee the

job security of those most vulnerable to this devastating economic climate," said senior Eli Feghali, organizer of the organization.

The campaign asked the administration to ensure that workers will not experience any layoffs, cutbacks, hourly reductions or loss of benefits in the next year as Vanderbilt experiences a budget reduction.

University administrators made no promises but pledged to work with students. ■

Delta Force changes IFC recruitment process

Campus fraternities will be changing the way they recruit new members and interact with the community beginning next year based on the suggestions of the Delta Force.

The student-led task force, comprised of 10 Interfraternity Council men, after months of research and

planning, proposed several changes to the recruitment process and other aspects of fraternity life in April.

Almost all of the changes were accepted after IFC presidents voted on the tenets proposal April 6.

The main theme of the proposed changes was a focus on encouraging

different types of recruitment, including more alcohol-free rush events and a focus on community service. The most notable changes are the move to a formal recruitment process during the first week after winter break, no longer allowing first-year students at winter semi-formals and \$5,000

penalties for violations.

Nearly all of the aspects of the proposal were accepted by the presidents, with the exception of the \$5,000 fine for recruitment during finals.

The task force was formed to address aspects of the recruitment process that had come under increased

scrutiny, most notably the strong presence of alcohol and the current practices of the semester-long informal recruitment system.

President of Lambda Chi Alpha and chair of the Delta Force Jesse DeOms, a junior, recognized that the acceptance of the proposal is only the first step in a longer

process. He said some of the accepted changes will have to be further developed in order to put into practice, and much of this work will come in the fall.

"It doesn't really stop here. Everything we talked about is going to take a lot of work to implement and be sure it's done right," he said. ■

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Students observe the inauguration at home, in Washington

Vanderbilt students marked the inauguration of 44th President Barack Obama this spring both by traveling to Washington and by staying on campus to attend viewing parties and lectures.

At events throughout the week, campus administrators, including Rev. James Lawson, Provost Richard McCarty

and Director of Religious Life Gay Welch, spoke to students about the significance of the historic event.

Several viewing parties, including one held at the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, paired the showing of the televised inauguration events with a short discussion.

Throughout the discussion moderated by Black Student Association officers Courtney Williams and Stephanie Harris, other students expressed their excitement. From racial equality to economic freedom, the stakes are high, students said.

Vanderbilt Dining also joined the inauguration

celebration by showing the Inauguration Ceremony on the televisions in Rand Dining Hall and the Pub at Overcup Oak. Chef James Bistro observed by serving an "all-American" menu including grilled steak, twice-baked potatoes, fried catfish with hush puppies, shrimp and grits, jambalaya, green beans, squash casserole, black-

eyed peas, rice and chili from Obama's personal recipe collection.

Both the Vanderbilt Students for Life group and Vandy Catholic attended the March for Life on Jan. 22. The march, held on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, protests the Supreme Court abortion decisions and petitions Congress for redress. ■

Smith, Murphy won in historic presidential election



ZACH HARDY / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Junior Wyatt Smith and running mate Lori Murphy, a sophomore, were elected the Vanderbilt Student Government president and vice president during a noteworthy election. In an e-mail to the student body, former president Joseph Williams described the election as "historic" due to the highest ever voter turnout.

Seventy percent of the student community voted, significantly more than the 36 percent who voted in last year's election. In addition, a majority of each class voted, including 86 percent of the

senior class. Students, including supporters of both parties, crowded in Sarratt Student Center to hear the results announced Jan. 29.

Smith and Murphy received 62.6 percent of the 4,496 votes that were cast, while opponents junior Fabiani Duarte and sophomore Deno Saclarides received 35.6 percent. Write-in Jim Wiggington received 1.8 percent.

Smith said he was grateful for the assistance and support he received from the Vanderbilt community.

"I am incredibly overjoyed

with this win. I have the most wonderful team working on the campaign and so much support that made this entire process worth it," Smith said following Attorney General Jared Anderson's announcement of the winners.

Duarte expressed happiness over being able to participate in such a significant election.

"(I'm) blessed to be part of the process. It's been an incredible fight and we've shown why VSG matters. Innovation, ideas and experience can galvanize students," Duarte said. ■

Incoming Class of 2013 more competitive than all other classes

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions announced this spring that the admission rate for the Class of 2013 shrunk from 25.3 percent to 18.9 percent this year. The school also saw a historic 19,350 applicants.

The middle 50 percent SAT score range for the class of 2013 is projected to be 1340-1510, up from last year's 1330-1500. The Office of Admissions predicts the percentage of students in the top 10 percent of their graduating classes will rise from 84 percent to 86 percent.

"The value of a Vanderbilt degree is growing exponentially," said Associate Provost for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions Douglas Christiansen. "Vanderbilt is now one of the top-15

most selective schools in the country. This is fabulous news for current students who will be positioned in a better situation in the job search and when applying to graduate school."

All 50 states and 13 U.S. territories and military bases were represented in this year's applicant pool. There was growth in all areas of the country but especially in the Mid-Atlantic, New England, and Midwest regions.

The number of foreign countries represented has increased by 20 in just the past two years, rising from 77 to 97. In addition to international students, the applicant pool also saw an increase in percentages of blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asian Americans. ■

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THE BACK PAGE

Hustler and Versus can be read online at InsideVandy.com

Click the gold Hustler/Versus button at the bottom right of the home page



SUDOKU: To solve, fill in the blanks so the numbers 1-9 appear just once in each horizontal row, vertical column and 3x3 box.

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SOLUTIONS

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Virginia, for one
 - 6 Hindu women's wear
 - 10 Engrossed
 - 14 Enter screen name and password
 - 15 Prayer ending
 - 16 Declare
 - 17 Europe/Asia boundary
 - 18 Mattel products
 - 19 "Piece of _____"
 - 20 Facsimiles
 - 22 Harmony
 - 24 Actor Richard
 - 25 Made
 - 26 Droppings from oaks
 - 29 Beach find
 - 30 Actress Ullmann
 - 31 Tasteless
 - 33 Pack animal
 - 37 _____ up; incapacitated
 - 39 Swung around on a pivot
 - 41 365 days
 - 42 Alpine sound
 - 44 Urge
 - 46 Border
 - 47 Bamboo stalks
 - 49 Prison dwellers
 - 51 Indicate
 - 54 Utah's lily
 - 55 Deteriorates
 - 56 Neaten
 - 60 Rhine feeder
 - 61 Farewell
 - 63 Rumped; disordered
- DOWN**
- 1 Insulting remark
 - 2 Ripped
 - 3 Open
 - 4 Soil turner
 - 5 Navy personnel
 - 6 Chief evil spirit
 - 7 Half of a comedy pair
 - 8 Actor Alejandro
 - 9 Issue a homeowner's policy on
 - 10 Ethnically
 - 11 Sailor's command
 - 12 Sri Lankan tea
 - 13 Current style
 - 21 Throws
 - 23 Actress Carter
 - 25 Bird's word for inexpensive?
 - 26 Friend
 - 27 Florence's aloha
 - 28 Poet who wrote "Letters from Pontus"
 - 29 Tenement locales
 - 32 Unfamiliar
 - 34 Prefix for plane and gram
 - 35 Central
 - 36 Rifles

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