

# Women's VU

The monthly newsletter of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

 VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

August/September 2007, Volume 30, Issue 1

## Economic Privilege: Sharing the Gifts

by Dr. Mary Early-Zald

I am very lucky to be here. Privileged, in fact. I am an extremely fortunate person: I have a Ph.D and am paid well to work for Vanderbilt University and I live in a roomy, nice house in a desirable neighborhood, only minutes from everything I need. In fact, simply by virtue of living in the United States, I receive more financial and educational benefits than I can ever appreciate. It is a gift for me to have the opportunity to write about this "elephant in the room" because I have the benefit of having been on both sides of the social class divide. My gratitude walks side by side with a sense of duty and challenge—it's very difficult for us to think about privilege, let alone talk about it. So, I ask you to join me on the journey, recognizing that it is a hard path, fraught with anxiety, denial, and maybe even some resentment.

Privilege is a gift, given to us for reasons often unknown. Unlike a big box with a bright bow, our gift is often hidden from our view much of the time. We bring this gift with us into every part of our lives—they enrich us and make us stronger, but in an odd reversal, it also traps us. These benefits put us in a box—it affects our views of each other, as our brains put people in boxes from our advantaged standpoint, just as we are biased by our own disadvantages. Simply put, we make assumptions about each other, based on our perceptions of other people's group status. Because of this, as we sit in our boxes of privilege

and *under* privilege, we become aware that gifts can put walls between us. It's lonely in that box, no matter how bright the wrapping might be.

When I discuss the gift of privilege, what do I mean? To me, it means benefiting from the way things are, from the systems in place before my arrival on the scene. It means having my concerns taken seriously, rather than being dismissed as mere political correctness. As the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina taught me, it means having somewhere to go when the storms come. It means having the luxury of ignorance—being affluent means that there are things that I just don't have to think about. And, sadly, it means being able to judge from that place of not knowing, such as when my friends said that the poor citizens of New Orleans should have evacuated when given the opportunity. Privilege means having choices that underprivileged people just don't have.

Privilege is complex and relative. Think about the times you have been lucky—if you've benefited from your group membership, whether it's based on socioeconomic status, education, skin color, age, ability status, sexual orientation, gender, religion, or other group membership. Think about the times you've felt left out because of where your family lived, when your clothes weren't "good" enough, when you didn't have "enough" education, your job wasn't "good" enough or you were unemployed, or you couldn't afford to go out, join a group, or give more

*continued on page 3*

### Imagine...

...as a child that you don't get a chance to share your day with your single parent because she is exhausted from working two jobs.

...waking up one day, suddenly a single parent with half of your family income gone.

...that you have to file bankruptcy, after ending your marital relationship leaves you with the entire responsibility for the mortgage and house because the government doesn't recognize your partnership.

...making the painful choice between spending enough time with your child and working to provide a life for that child.

...as a child having to eat simple things like tomato soup made with water as your mother stands watching, going hungry because your father didn't pay child support.

...trying to conduct the business of your life without reliable access to transportation. Without a phone. Without a place to sleep.

### INSIDE

- 2 How Does Gender Matter to You?; Project Safe
- 4 In the Library
- 5 August/September Calendar
- 7 Gender Matters and Project Safe Upcoming Events
- 8 Announcements and Volunteer Opportunities

For more info, please see our website: [www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter)

## How Does Gender Matter to You?

At the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center at Vanderbilt, we strive to increase awareness of the influence that gender has in our lives. We believe that ideas about gender impact personal happiness and fulfillment, interpersonal relationships, educational and workplace environments and the culture as a whole. Greater awareness encourages healthier and more conscious living and fuels action for social and political change within society.

The Gender Matters program engages the Vanderbilt and Nashville communities through a wide variety of lectures, workshops, groups and special programming to increase awareness and understanding of gender-related issues and to promote gender equity. Please join us for programs and events this year around the topics of women's health; political engagement; economic empowerment and non-traditional careers for women.

Gender Matters also sponsors several student, staff, faculty and community groups. These groups include the Vandy Moms, Vanderbilt Feminists, book groups and more.

Each month you will find Gender Matters events, lectures, series, workshops and group meetings listed in the calendar section of the website. In addition we send out a weekly email to those who request to be on email list and keep the website up to date. Please add your name to the newsletter and/ or email distribution list so we can let you know about all of our events. You can also find the Gender Matters program on MySpace and on Facebook as both a Vanderbilt network member and group.



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

**Campus Address:** 316 West Side Row  
Franklin Building  
**Mailing address:** 2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Box 351513, Station B  
Nashville, TN 37235-1513

**Phone:** (615) 322-4843; **Fax:** (615) 343-0940.

**E-mail address:** [womenctr@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:womenctr@vanderbilt.edu)

**Visit our website at:** [www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter)

Linda Manning, director  
Vicky Basra, director, Project Safe  
Kacy Silverstein, associate director, Project Safe  
Stacy Nunnally, director, Gender Matters  
Barbara Clarke, librarian  
Jeana Carlock, administrative assistant  
Misa Culley, editor (direct line 343-4367)

This is a copyrighted publication. Articles may be reproduced with permission of the editor. Letters to the editor are welcome. Send them to the above address or e-mail the editor at [misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu).

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

## Project Safe

Project Safe is Vanderbilt University's prevention and response service regarding issues of sexual assault/ rape, dating/ domestic violence, and stalking. Our philosophy stems from the feminist notion that all human beings should be able to make their own informed choices regarding ownership over their bodies. Project Safe works to raise awareness regarding perpetrators of violence against women and men, including cultural institutions, myths, and stereotypes. Our focus is to expand women's and men's awareness concerning issues of feminism and violence through campus and community discussions, lectures, and student groups. We speak out against what we deem as forms of objectification of women, targeting organizations and institutions that intentionally exploit women in this culture. While we are the primary office working toward preventing and reducing violence against women and men on the Vanderbilt campus, we work hand in hand with many other offices, departments, and student organizations. We hope that our program and its mission encourages open discussion among students, faculty, and staff and we invite you to visit us at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center and learn more about what we do!

- **Advocacy:** Project Safe provides 24/7 crisis intervention, support groups for survivors, medical, legal, and academic advocacy, referrals for long term counseling, and support for family and friends of survivors.
- **Education & Outreach:** Project Safe offers over 70 programs each academic year and oversees two student organizations aimed at raising awareness of violence against women in the Vanderbilt community. Such programs include: Take Back the Night, Hand in Hand Training, Peer Educators of Project Safe, and Men Promoting a Solution.
- **24/7 Crisis Line:** Project Safe offers a 24 hour/7 day a week crisis line for survivors of violence against women. To contact the crisis line, please call: (615) 936-7273

### For more information, please contact:

Vicky Basra: (615) 322-1333; [vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu)  
Kacy Silverstein (615) 322-3774;  
[kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu);



## Economic Privilege: Sharing the gifts

*continued from page 1*

to a cause. Putting aside financial and educational status, think about if you have felt left out due to other aspects of your identity, whether it was based on your skin color, national identity, age, ability status, sexual orientation, religion, gender, or other group membership. You probably have been on both sides of the privilege line as well as I have, so you know how complicated this is. I was economically underprivileged, but born at the right time. I'm also white, healthy, able-bodied, heterosexual, married, and I inherited intellectual and other gifts which are valued by my culture.

Beyond group membership, experiences can disadvantage us as well. Our daughter was born extremely prematurely, and while we have overcome the significant financial costs from her early days, the emotional cost is still with us. I consider parents of full-term children to be lucky in a way that we never will be. And on the other hand, the setting in which we have faced this trauma affects our particular experience of it: racial, financial, and geographic forces shaped the quality of our health care, our families' ability to visit and support us, our ability to provide our daughter with an enriched environment, and so, our lives. To be explicit, our expensive, high-quality health insurance provided at low cost by my employer literally saved her life.

It's been interesting for me to realize that my Nashville friends have known me only in my current, comfortable position. However, my story is that much more charmed because it starts in relative economic hardship and because it provides an important context for my words and it illuminates much about the two sides of economic privilege.

I was born to a lower middle-class family. My mother was the only individual of her generation from both sides of our family to graduate from college. My parents worked in clerical jobs which afforded us survival, but not much more. With one brief exception, we lived in rental housing, so I grew up believing that all homeowners were wealthy. We crafted gift wrap and Christmas decorations from paper, we ate a lot of Tuna Helper, we received most of our gifts purchased from garage sales, and we ran through sprinklers rather than paying to swim in a public pool. Eating out at McDonalds or a diner, or seeing a movie in the theater, were all luxuries which I remember well, because of their rarity. Some times were particularly hard and at one point, we qualified for food stamps. My parents shielded us from whatever stresses they faced to keep food on the table and the lights on. But I remember acutely the emotional pain of being socially left out in school because I couldn't afford the fashionable clothes or anything else that was "cool." It hurt being excluded. I remember being invited to my first slumber party for one of the popular girls, and being teased because I couldn't afford a sleeping bag.

As I finished high school, my family had no money for my brothers and me to attend college. If it weren't for financial aid, I never would have had the opportunity to pursue a higher

education. College choice was not so much about the best school as it was about where I could qualify for Pell Grants and scholarships. Later, as a young adult in the mid 1980s I worked full time and lived very cheaply, while I applied to graduate school. I was grateful that I could even consider graduate school (and in fact, it was going to graduate school which changed my financial fortunes dramatically). Because I could only afford to take the Graduate Record Exam once, my scores were strong, but lower than that of other students and so I entered graduate school lucky to be supported by assistantships which required that I work, in addition to fulfilling expectations in coursework, research, and clinical experiences. This affected the grades I received and the level of my understanding of research, which interfered with later chances to get "free money" or service-free fellowships. So, privilege begets privilege, as the same goes for under privilege.

And then, the social toll appeared as well: You see, some people just couldn't understand how I could be a serious, intellectual student and enjoy the activities I inherited from my lower-middle class family, including popular music, television, and spectator sports

(especially football!). I found myself once again on the outside of social circles because of my financial background, even though my academic credentials proved that I belonged there.

My experience brings emotional baggage, painful memories, and great gifts. Because of my history, I still can never assume or rest assured that there is a financial safety net, something that many who were born into more affluent families, like my husband, take for granted. At times, I have felt ashamed of my family's financial legacy, but, I tell my story with pride: I am proud of my parents' resilience, survival skills, and determination to love and support their family. I am grateful for what this experience has given me—appreciation of the gifts life brings, confidence and skills to make it through challenging times, and even more crucial, the compassion for others who are excluded. My memories of being on the outside have fueled my passion for anti-oppression work and I feel called to speak out about privilege to others whose gifts are valued. It speaks to my own psychological baggage that I can still be surprised when people see me as economically privileged. But to acknowledge that I am so is to admit that I benefit from this gift, to be grateful, and to do my best to minimize the negative impact of my power.

So, why should we do anything about this? After all, in spite of my childhood pledge to be a "great rich person"—meaning that I would give away much of what I have, it is fear which keeps me from fully living up to that ideal. It's scary to think seriously of letting go, even a little, of the comfort I enjoy. Why should I move out of my comfort zone? The most obvious answer would be that it's important to me to give to those less fortunate than myself. We can debate all

---

*We need to notice all the different kinds of gifts which people bring to the welcome table—if we ignore those whose gifts are harder to see, aren't we the ones missing out on what can be learned?*

---

*continued on page 4*

## Everything you ever wanted to know about the Women's Center Library, but were afraid to ask...

On the first floor of our building is the library, which includes over 4,200 books on women's issues, gender, feminism and allied subjects. Our volumes are listed on the Heard Library's online ACORN catalog. The titles in our collection can be easily identified: the owning library is listed as VU-CENTERS and the location is given as WMCTR. The library is open on weekdays year-round from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

With the exception of a small reference collection (books listed as WMCTR-REF) all our books can be checked out by students, staff, faculty and alumni/ae. Books circulate for four weeks and may be renewed online or by calling 343-4849. Our DVDs and videotapes also circulate for four weeks.

We subscribe to about 20 journals, most of which we index by subject. A printout of this index is available in the library. The journals do not circulate but articles may be photocopied. Among our current subscriptions are: *Bust*; *Media Report to Women*; *European Journal of Women's Studies*; *Ms.*; *Race, Gender & Class*; *Women's Studies International Forum*; *Signs*; and *Psychology of Women Quarterly*.

Arranged in drawers by subject are thousands of newspaper and magazine clippings, as well as newsletters, pamphlets, and brochures on a wide variety of topics related to women. This material does not circulate but may be photocopied in the library.

————— The Library is open on weekdays from 8:30am to 5pm —————

### **Economic Privilege: Sharing the gifts**

*continued from page 1*

day about the factors which influence financial inequality in our community, but the fundamental question raised by wiser people than me is "Is it OK?" No, it's not OK—it bothers me to my core, because classism is a social illness with tragic results. The second reason to change is that it hurts all of us, including those of us who benefit financially from the institutions and structures in place. As I said at the beginning, classism and privilege puts a wall between us. I see this as I grapple with asking my financially struggling friends to go out and do something with me—can they afford it? Will they feel comfortable responding honestly, or can I offer to share the expense? Can I complain about the big and little hassles in my life without sounding like a whiner? Also, holding on to my economic privilege fosters my own fear and renders me vulnerable to institutions which capitalize on it. Moreover, the ignorance of privilege stunts my growth—intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally. I need to think, feel, speak, and act differently from my privileged place because it's the right thing to do and the cost on all levels is just too great.

So then, what do we do? Feel guilty? Since our advantages stem from systems of unequal power, over which we have little control, this seems pointless and unproductive. In Timothy

*Among the many new books received over the summer are:*

- Barry, Kathleen Morgan. *Femininity in Flight: A History of Flight Attendants* (Duke University Press, 2007).
- Martin, Courtney E. *Perfect Girls, Starving Daughters: The Frightening New Normalcy of Hating Your Body* (Free Press, 2007).
- Stern, Shayla Thiel. *Instant Identity: Adolescent Girls and the World of Instant Messaging* (Peter Lang, 2007).
- Lee, Hermione. *Edith Wharton* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2007).
- Stepp, Laura Sessions. *Unhooked: How Young Women Pursue Sex, Delay Love and Lose at Both* (Riverhead Books, 2007).
- Brekus, Catherine A. (ed.). *The Religious History of American Women: Reimagining the Past* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007).
- Walker, Rebecca. *Baby Love: Choosing Motherhood After a Lifetime of Ambivalence* (Riverhead Books, 2007).

*In the Library*



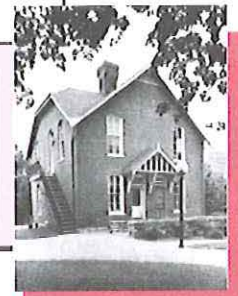
Barbara Clarke  
Women's Center  
Librarian

Miller's book, *How to Want What You Have*, he discusses the principles of attention, gratitude, and compassion, and I believe that these are crucial bases for action. We need to live in the precious present, paying attention to our experiences and those of others—we need to listen to the stories and concerns of those who are less fortunate than we are. We need to notice all the different kinds of gifts which people bring to the welcome table—if we ignore those whose gifts are harder to see, aren't we the ones missing out on what can be learned? If we pay attention, this leads us naturally to gratitude—the appreciation for all that we have received and experience on a daily basis. If we can recognize that in the interconnected web of existence, it is our experience of pain and fear which fuels our compassion. Whether the oppression is obvious or subtle, individual or institutional, we can speak up and do something whenever we see the opportunity. We can donate money to organizations which work to improve the lives of disadvantaged members of the community. We can use our benefits to set others free to experience their own gifts and in doing so, we can walk humbly in freedom as well.

*Mary Early-Zald, Ph.D is the Assistant Director and Program Coordinator of the Neuroscience Graduate Program. An active member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church, she originally wrote and delivered these words as a sermon. Mary is also a member of Vandy Moms here at the Women's Center.*

# August/September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13 <i>Book Group</i> 5:15pm-6:15pm	14 <i>Creative Life Planning Group,</i> 11:30am-1:00pm	15	16	17	18
19	20 <i>Dissertation Writers Group, 3:30-4:30pm</i>	21 <i>Creative Life Planning Group,</i> 11:30am-1:00pm	22	23 <i>Vandy Moms:</i> 11:30am-12:30pm	24	25
26	27	28 <i>Creative Life Planning Group,</i> 11:30am-1:00pm	29	30	31	1 September
2	3 <i>Dissertation Writers Group, 3:30-4:30pm</i>	4 <i>Creative Life Planning Group,</i> 11:30am-1:00pm	5	6 <i>Making Connections</i> 5:45pm-6:45pm	7	8
9	10 <i>Book Group</i> 5:15pm-6:15pm	11 <i>Creative Life Planning Group,</i> 11:30am-1:00pm	12	13 <i>Vandy Moms:</i> 11:30am-12:30pm <i>Making Connections</i> 5:45pm-6:45pm	14	15
16	17	18 <i>Creative Life Planning Group,</i> 11:30am-1:00pm	19	20 <i>Making Connections</i> 5:45pm-6:45pm	21	22
23	24	25 <i>Creative Life Planning Group,</i> 11:30am-1:00pm	26	27 <i>Making Connections</i> 5:45pm-6:45pm	28	29
30	<p>For details and descriptions of each group, please refer to page 6. Unless otherwise indicated, all groups and events are open to the public and are held at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center at 316 West Side Row on Vanderbilt University's campus.</p>					



# August/September 2007 Calendar of Events

## REGULAR GROUPS AND MEETINGS

*(Groups are listed alphabetically and are all sponsored or co-sponsored by the women's center. Unless otherwise indicated, all groups and events are open to the public and are held at the Margaret Cumingim Women's Center at 316 West Side Row on Vanderbilt University's campus.)*

### 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. **For more information,** contact Jane Du Bose at [jdubose@bellsouth.net](mailto:jdubose@bellsouth.net) or Carmen Gherman at [cggherman@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

**For more information,** call 322-4843.

### DISSERTATION WRITERS GROUP

Meets every other Monday; 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Please email us to check when the group will get started for Fall semester.

**Who/What:** This support group meets every week to provide women Ph.D candidates with objective reactions and fresh perspectives, as well as a place to unwind during the dissertation writing process. It is for women in any stage of the dissertation writing process.

**For more information,** contact [stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu).

### IMAGE GROUP

Meets every week. Please email us to check when the group will get started for Fall semester.

**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 110; Vanderbilt University

**For more information,** contact [stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu).

### L.I.F.E.: Lessons Inspiring Female Empowerment

Meets every week. Please email us to check when the group will get started for Fall semester.

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

**What:** L.I.F.E is group dedicated to mentoring young girls and women on a variety of issues important to them. This group will work with a group of teen girls in the Nashville community exploring topics such as economic empowerment, girls and women's health, self-esteem, leadership and more.

**For more information,** contact [ashley.walker@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ashley.walker@vanderbilt.edu).

### MAKING CONNECTIONS

Meets every week. Please email us to check when the group will get started.

**Who:** Free and open to anyone with an interest in these issues.

**What:** A discussion group to learn about making closer connections with others, your body, and most importantly, yourself. Topics may include body image, intimate relationships, self confidence, managing anxiety and stress and many others. The group is facilitated by Dr. Fishel and is completely confidential. **For more information,** contact [pamela.ingram@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:pamela.ingram@vanderbilt.edu) or 615-343-3561.



### MEN PROMOTING A SOLUTION

Meets every other week. Please email us to check when the group will get started for Fall semester.

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

**Where:** Sarratt 114; Vanderbilt University

**For more information,** contact [brian.adams@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:brian.adams@vanderbilt.edu)



### PEER EDUCATORS OF PROJECT SAFE

Meets every week. Please email us to check when the group will get started for Fall semester.

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

**For more information,** contact [kathleen.e.adams@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kathleen.e.adams@vanderbilt.edu)

### SUPPORT GROUP



**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 time and location; all information shared is kept confidential.

**For more information,** contact [kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu) or 322-3774.

### VANDERBILT FEMINISTS (VANDY FEMS)

Meets every week. Please email us to check when the group will get started for Fall semester.

**Who:** Open to all students of any gender.

**What:** A student group concerned about women's issues on campus, and promoting equality between genders.

**For more information,** contact [ali.sevilla@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ali.sevilla@vanderbilt.edu).

### VANDY MOMS

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the 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. It also provides programming to inform, empower and enrich. *On Aug. 23rd, we'll host Kaye Schneider from MNPS who will address schools of choice/magnet schools. On September 13th, Rowena Aldridge from the Blair costume shop will share ideas for easy Halloween costumes for kids.* **For more information,** contact [misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu) or call 343-4367.

## Gender Matters! Save the Date!

### **Women in Academe Series: *Building a relationship with your advisor***

Session will cover communication and relationship building with your advisor. This will include gender and cultural differences that may arise. Information and resources will be available at session.

**Date:** Friday, October 5th; 12:10 – 1:30 pm

**Location:** Warren Center for the Humanities; Vanderbilt University

For more information, please contact [stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu). RSVPs are appreciated, but not required.

### **Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center *Homecoming and Reunion Open House***

**Date:** October 12, 2007; 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** The Gallery at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center; Vanderbilt University

For more information on attending, please contact [stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu).

### **WALK AS ONE**

An event sponsored by CommunityNashville (formerly NCCJ-MT). The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center is excited to be a collaborative partner for this walk that promotes unity in the community and encourages students, staff and faculty to form teams to join us at the walk. As an added bonus, the walk immediately precedes the kick-off of the Celebration of Cultures sponsored by Scarritt Bennett and Metro Parks. You can walk as an individual or as a team.

**Date:** October 6, 2007; Registration opens at 8 a.m. and the walk begins at 9:00 a.m.

**Location:** Centennial Park (close to the airplane and train in the park)

To register a team or individual or for more information about the event, please visit [www.communitynashville.org](http://www.communitynashville.org). On campus, you can contact [stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu).

**Fashion for Everybody:** A Fashion Show and Concert to benefit the Eating Disorders Coalition of Tennessee

**Date:** October 14, 2007; 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Country Music Hall of Fame

For more information on attending or sponsoring the event, contact Shelli Yoder at (615) 831-9838 or visit the coalition's website at [www.edct.net](http://www.edct.net).

### **LOVE YOUR BODY DAY**

Love Your Body Day 2007 is October 17th. Come visit the IMAGE student group and Vandy Fems on the Wall at Rand that day to learn more and help us celebrate!

**Date:** October 17, 2007

**Location:** Pick up information from the IMAGE student group and the Vandy Fems on the Wall at Rand. For more information contact [stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu). For more information about the national "Love Your Body Day" event, visit the website: <http://loveyourbody.nowfoundation.org/>.

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month!

### SAVE THE DATES!

**October 1 Purple Ribbon Campaign**  
Wear a purple ribbon to show your support for ending domestic violence. Ribbons will be available throughout the month.

**October 10 Womyn with Wings**  
Womyn with Wings, a choreo-poem, addresses many topics including female mutilation in Africa, rape and breast cancer from a unique perspective of empowerment and healing. Infused with humor, "Womyn with Wings" uses a poignant tale of friendship and poetic vignettes in James Chapmyn Spoken Word's hallmark fashion to empower and entertain audiences of both sexes and all races. It is a must see for all.

**October 16-17 Clothesline Project**  
Women and men impacted by violence are encouraged to express their emotions by decorating a shirt.

**October 16-17 These Hands Don't Hurt**  
A display where individuals can paint or trace their hands on a large canvas to signify a commitment to non-violence.

**October 24 World on Wednesdays**

**October 24-30 Silent Witness Exhibit**  
A display of life-sized red wooden silhouettes representing women killed as a result of domestic violence in Davidson County. They will be displayed at various offices on campus.

**October 29 Take Back the Night March**  
A March to End Violence Against Women  
Monday October 29, 2007  
Olin Field; 7:15 p.m.

For more information on any of these programs, please contact:  
[vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu) or  
[kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu)



### **H**as your voice been silenced by the violence in your life?

Project Safe offers safe and confidential support groups for female students impacted by:  
Dating/domestic violence  
Sexual assault  
Stalking

**Start Date:** Tuesday, September 4th  
**Time:** 8:00–9:30 pm  
**Location:** Confidential  
Groups will be held every Tuesday

For more information and group location, please contact:  
Vicky Basra 322-1333  
Kacy Silverstein 322-3774

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## NASHVILLE NOW (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN)

meets the 4th Monday of the month at the Nashville Peace and Justice Center behind Scarritt Bennett at 7 p.m. This meeting is open to members, friends and those seeking more information. For more information, contact CynthiaNashNOW@aol.com or 269-7141.

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

## SAVE THE DATE!

### WHET CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 4-5, 2007

The 2007 Annual Women in Higher Education in Tennessee (WHET) Conference will be held on the campus of Tennessee State University on October 4-5, 2007. The theme of this year's conference is "Navigating Your Career Path: Successful Strategies for Reaching Your Goals." As always, students, faculty, staff, and administrators in higher education are invited to participate in the annual conference. For more information contact Tracey Carter, President-Elect, WHET, at (615) 963-7494 or via email at tcarter@tnstate.edu.

## TAKE BACK THE NIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the **Take Back the Night** event sponsored by Project Safe on **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Volunteers are needed to help with logistics on the evening of the event including set-up, clean-up and other duties throughout the event. To sign up to volunteer for this event, contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu. For more details about Take Back the Night or other Project Safe programs, contact vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu or kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu.

## FOURTH ANNUAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT FOR WOMEN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The **Fourth Annual Economic Summit for Women** needs volunteers to help with greeting, registration and more at the event during the day on October 22nd. Volunteers are able to attend the summit at a lower discounted price of \$30 (regular price is \$80) which includes continental breakfast, lunch, 2 breaks and summit conference. To find out more about volunteering or to sign up as a volunteer, contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu. For more information about the summit, visit [www.tnwomensummit.org](http://www.tnwomensummit.org). Make October 22nd a day devoted to supporting women.



Printed on recycled paper

Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action

### Women's VU mailing list

*Women's VU is sent free, on request, to all Vanderbilt students and to faculty and staff at a campus address. Subscriptions are available to off-campus readers for a suggested donation of \$10 per year. Please include your check, payable to Vanderbilt University, with your subscription.*

- Please send my free subscription to a campus address. (Student subscriptions are free to any address.)
- Please send my subscription to an off-campus address. Donation is enclosed.
- Please correct my name on your mailing list.
- Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Staff (Dept.) \_\_\_\_\_

Student

Faculty  Administrator

Other

Mail to the Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Box 351513 Station B, Nashville, TN 37235

### Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

Vanderbilt University  
Box 351513, Station B  
2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Nashville, TN 37235

