



New Beginnings

For many of us, the end of one year and beginning of another is a time for self-reflection and hopeful predictions. Contemplating what I've learned, who means the most to me and how far I've come each year encourages me to think about the possibilities of what comes next. Though years of a pandemic and other recent global events have expanded my imagination, I could not have guessed the extremes life would throw at me during my first semester at Vanderbilt in the Office of LGBTQI Life.



From the attacks on VUMC's transgender health program while we honored LGBTQI History Month to co-organizing the 2022 Nashville Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience vigil just days before the Club Q shooting, I felt the law of gravity that "what goes up must come down" applied to emotional highs as well. Weekly, my office would hear news story after story about dozens of protests and threats targeting drag shows and hundreds of anti-LGBTQ state bills proposed across the U.S. With each event that should have stopped us in our tracks, we pushed forward. Momentum built as Vanderbilt's LGBTQI folks and their allies came together to make the community feel supported and safe through big actions and small

gestures throughout the term. The hundreds of students who visited the K.C. Potter Center, came out for an event and/or attended a workshop filled me with such hope for the future and fueled me forward.

As this new year begins to gain speed, it is my hope that we never underestimate the impact our actions have on those around us, and appreciate what others do for us. It is only through the momentum of community care that individuals can effect meaningful change.

Sincerely,

Katja Tetzlaff M.S.

Program Coordinator, Office of LGBTQI Life



Get Connected:

Upcoming Events

[1/10: 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Lecture, sponsored by Vanderbilt School of Nursing](#)

[1/14: 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Joint Day of Service](#)

[1/16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — classes cancelled](#)

2023 Commemorative MLK Event

Emmy Award–winning journalist and author Byron Pitts, co-host of ABC’s *Nightline*, will be the keynote speaker for Vanderbilt University’s 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemorative event. This year’s topic is “It Starts with Me: Cultivating a Beloved Community Mindset to Transform Unjust Systems.” Please register in advance to attend the in-person event or to watch online.

[Read More +](#)

Continuing the Conversation



"Dores in Dialogue"

[WATCH: 'Dores in Dialogue: A conversation on the economic cost of injustice](#)

McLean, Friedman earn associate provost roles

Two veteran faculty members, highly regarded for their administrative leadership within their respective departments and their deep commitment to research and student development, have been appointed associate provosts at Vanderbilt University.

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Alumni Spotlight



[Extracurricular experiences shaped alumnus from Syria's career in interfaith diversity.](#)



[Resources](#)

[Heritage Month](#)

[Workshops](#)

VU joins STEMM Opportunity Alliance; provost attends White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs C. Cybele Raver represented Vanderbilt at the White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence in Washington, D.C., Dec. 12. The summit marked the launch of the STEMM Opportunity Alliance. [Read More](#)

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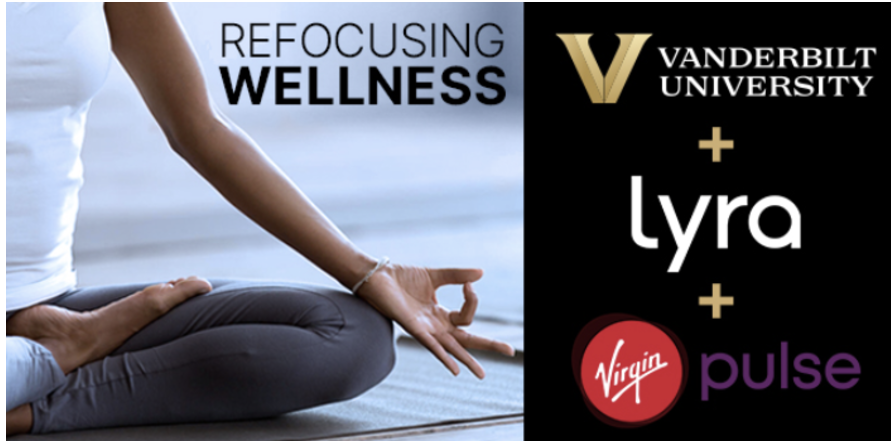
Connect With Us





City to enhance public parking options in January, increase enforcement in Vanderbilt neighborhoods

The Nashville Department of Transportation will install new electronic meters and mobile payment options and will expand enforcement of meters, residential parking permits and other parking violations beginning Jan. 1, 2023. Please be sure you are not parking in an area marked for residential parking permits only, as you will be ticketed accordingly. [Read More +](#)



Reminder: New employee wellness and mental health programs start January 2023

Vanderbilt University is transitioning to new wellness and mental health programs for its employees in January 2023. The new programs, which are part of a wider investment in the health of faculty, staff and postdocs, will expand service offerings and make resources available to employees' families. [Read More +](#)

BANNED BOOK INITIATIVE

Resources



Join us for any of the following reading groups. Facilitators will reach out closer to the group's start with information about accessing the books and the logistics of the meetings.

Sponsored by:


If you have questions, feel free to reach out to lgbtqi@vanderbilt.edu or any of the other participating offices.

Vanderbilt to launch Banned Book Initiative

Recent policies and legislation across the U.S. have made the reading and teaching of banned books even more difficult in K–12 classrooms and libraries. To help the Vanderbilt and Nashville communities navigate these changes, offices across Vanderbilt—including Peabody College’s Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Department of Teaching and Learning, the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, LGBTQI Life, Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries and the Student Center for Social Justice and Identity—have collaborated on a Banned Books Initiative featuring a series of events, including reading groups, offered throughout the academic year. [Read More +](#)



Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Vanderbilt University awarded \$1.1M as part of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s IE3 initiative

Vanderbilt University was awarded a grant by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Inclusive Excellence Community to improve

outcomes and persistence in STEM among underrepresented students. [Read More +](#)



Faculty and staff awarded internal funds to spark Vanderbilt–NMAAM collaborations

The Office of the Provost has awarded four inaugural Arts, Discovery and Innovation grants to support faculty and staff research collaborations with the National Museum of African American Music. [Read More +](#)

OUT IN FRONT CONFERENCE Roots of Resilience: COMMUNITY CARE IN THE QUEER SOUTH

2023 OUT in Front Conference: Roots of Resilience: Community Care in the Queer South

OUT in Front LGBTQI and Ally Student Leadership Conference is a conference wherein student leaders, graduate students, staff and faculty have the chance to meet and network with peers from across the United States to share resources, develop leadership skills and foster a strong community of LGBTQ2S+ and allied leaders.

[Read More +](#)



Latinx employee affinity group

The Latinx employee affinity group provides enriching opportunities for faculty, post-docs and staff at Vanderbilt that identify as Latina, Latino, Latinx, Latine or Hispanic and allies of the community to connect and share their experiences. We welcome you to become a member of the Latinx EAG by completing the form linked and stay connected by joining our Latinx EAG Teams group. We are planning meetups including the Nashville Symphony's Latin Fiesta! and food truck adventures at the Nashville Farmer's Market. [Read More +](#)



STEM role models inspire future scientists through storytelling

A group of Vanderbilt students with diverse majors joined their creative forces for an immersive writing challenge: Take sophisticated science, technology, engineering and math topics and make them compelling for fourth graders. How did they do it? Through storytelling. [Read More +](#)

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