Vanderbilt adds volleyball as a varsity sport

Enabled by the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s (NCAA) recognition of women’s volleyball as a revenue sport, Vanderbilt has expanded its roster of varsity programs to include volleyball, giving the university its 17th varsity sport.

The new program is the result of a collaboration between the Office of Athletics and Recreation and the Office of the Provost, which led to a partnership with Tennessee Valley University (TVU) in Cookeville, Tenn., to form the TVU-Nashville Knights women’s volleyball program.

Staff WAVE Council seeking new members

The Staff WAVE Council, with the mission of fostering an environment of equity, opportunity, fulfillment and personal growth, is seeking new members.

Established in January 2019, Staff WAVE works to empower all women at Vanderbilt University. Nominations are being accepted through May 7.

Neurodiversity Inspired Science and Engineering graduate trainee program

Applications are open through June 15 for the Neurodiversity Inspired Science and Engineering (NEISE) graduate trainee program.

Inspired Science and Engineering graduate trainee program. The NEISE program engages students across STEM disciplines in the development of devices that support neurodiverse individuals, and/or that are at the human-technology frontier (FW-HTF) approaches and strategies of ensuring that these devices are developed and implemented in a way that supports, empowers and/or celebrates neurodiverse people.

Emilie M. Townes to conclude deanship of Vanderbilt

Emilie Townes, who has led the reenvisioning of theological education at Vanderbilt Divinity School since 2016, will conclude her deanship of the university’s ninth chancellor on June 30, 2023.

Townes will return to the seminary’s long-time home in Nashville’s South End, which will be renamed in her honor.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

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AAPI Heritage Month invites us to really see the many different strands of our heritages that shape and empower us today. What’s more, we continue to renew our vision—sometimes this way of seeing erasure sterilized our heritages’ unique gifts and concealed these contributions to American history by going undocumented, undertaught or ignored. It left us feeling disconnected from our histories, past and present.

Thankfully, with the coming advent of Vanderbilt’s Asian American Studies Program, we are positioned to have this program bring the stories of our AAPI elders into the academic eye as they contribute to such fortunes that helped launch universities including Vanderbilt; the idea is that this academic study contributes to the understanding and appreciation of our contributions.

As a mixed-raced Filipina who was born in the Philippines, I have had quite an experience with erasure and manipulation of the ‘otherness’ of my heritage. When we think of our heritage, we often think of the people who came before us, those who laid the foundation of the cultures we now call AAPI.

This is often the way this way of seeing is perpetuated. What is the story I get to tell about my heritage? Sometimes this way of seeing is perpetuated as a way to disempower or marginalize me or my people. As an Asian American woman, I have been asked to prove myself, the right of others to understand my place, or to change my identity to fit into the same box I’m so often asked to dismantle.

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Unfortunately, my story isn’t uncommon. Every time I give workshops at AAPI Heritage Month events, I ask the audience members to share their stories. They tell me of experiences of culture clash, family conflicts, the difficulty of understanding the cultural traditions of others, the struggle to find ways to assimilate, the never ending quest to find my own way and to find a sense of belonging.

I often ask them to think of the stories they’ve heard generations ago—when people were brought here against their will, when they were forced to strip away their cultures and adopt others, when they were put in the wrong places to work and helped build a country that couldn’t onOptionsItemSelected itself.

The Rev. James Lawson returned to Vanderbilt University for the keynote: Poet and author Yusef Komunyakaa shares thoughtful reflection on the importance of AAPI History Month at the 2022 Spring Faculty Assembly Commemorative Event.

Staff WAVE Council seeks new members. Image of the Staff WAVE Council. Vanderbilt University. Photo credit: Staff WAVE Council. Vanderbilt University. 1 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, TN 37235-0001. Connect to Us. Email: Staff.WAVE@Vanderbilt.edu. Phone: 615-322-5123. Website: staffwave@vanderbilt.edu. For other Staff WAVE Council members. Women’s Work-Life

Staff WAVE Council 2022 Spring Faculty Assembly Commemorative Event. The Staff WAVE Council is seeking new members. Image of the Staff WAVE Council. Vanderbilt University. Photo credit: Staff WAVE Council. Vanderbilt University. 1 Vanderbilt Plaza, Nashville, TN 37235-0001. Connect to Us. Email: Staff.WAVE@Vanderbilt.edu. Phone: 615-322-5123. Website: staffwave@vanderbilt.edu. For other Staff WAVE Council members. Women’s Work-Life

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