



May 2021 Newsletter

Next Steps at Vanderbilt Events

**All events will be virtual until further notice.*

2021 Online Information Session Dates:

Monday, June 14, 2021 (5:00 - 6:30 p.m.)

2021 - 2022 Open House Dates:

Thursday, August 5th (2:30 – 4:00 p.m.)

Monday, October 4th (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

Thursday, January 6th (2:30 – 4:00 p.m.)

Monday, March 28th (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)

College Night Dates:

Thursday, November 11th (5:00 – 6:30 p.m.)

Thursday, May 19th (5:00 – 6:30 p.m.)

[Click here to learn more about these events](#)

Student Spotlight

Cat Bernstein, Office Assistant

This past semester, Rachel Sarubbi, class of 2024, was enrolled in a VU course, The History of Fashion. In this class, students learn about the history of western fashion and beyond with an emphasis on how clothing styles reflect prominent artistic ideas and ideals of each period. Rachel enjoys this class because she likes drawing and being creative. She sees herself doing this as a job because she enjoys sketching out dresses that she imagines in her head.

Rachel's final project for this course was a compilation of over 20 of her period drawings from classical works of art like the one above. Her unique way of interpreting the paintings is beautiful and captivating. The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center is planning a future exhibit of these drawings for the lobby of One Magnolia Circle on the Peabody Campus.



Alumni Update

Steven Greiner, Alumni Coordinator and Recruitment Assistant

Sean Druffel graduated from Next Steps at Vanderbilt in 2014. He is now on his 5th year working in the Athletic Dining Facility at Vanderbilt. He works in the dish room and helps with clean up. He likes his coworkers and the athletes who come to the dining hall.

He is also highly active as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Restore. He has regularly volunteered in the store since high school. He won the Hands-on Nashville Strobel Award for volunteers because of his involvement with Habitat for Humanity. He likes to help stock the store, price items, and assist customers loading their purchases in the vehicles.

In his spare time, he loves sports and helps with the athletic teams at Father Ryan High School. Sean plays tennis with Special Olympics and likes to play on Sundays as well.

2020 - 2021 Reflection

Silver Linings to the 2020-2021 Academic Year

No doubt this past 14 months has been challenging in ways none of us could have imagined, and we welcome the signs of a more normal way of life. However; I think it is important to pause and note some of the silver linings that "life during a pandemic" brought to Next Steps. Everyone has learned to be proficient with the 21st century skills needed for virtual meetings. It has been exciting to watch students use Chat Boxes and texting more to improve their communication skills. Some are speaking up in class settings more this way. We are ready to take advantage of these new skills as students, employees, and as friends and family members. Many of taken advantage of new opportunities through online means than they would not have otherwise. A good example of this is the significant increase in the number of new Ambassadors, peer mentors, that joined Next Steps this year. Staying strong during this past year has provided everyone with a demonstration of our resilience and our ability to adapt. We are very proud of our students, families, and staff.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021

Our six graduates are deserving of our admiration and praise. They have completed a senior year that looked very different from what they had planned with winning attitudes and strength. They tackled course work, work experiences, and social engagement activities and came out with flying colors. They completed meaningful independent studies of their choosing and are more prepared for life after college. To our class of 2021, we thank you for choosing Vanderbilt and Next Steps and we look forward to hearing from you frequently as your journey continues.

Returning to In-Person Classes for Fall 2021

We are thrilled to announce that Next Steps at Vanderbilt will return to in-person classes this fall. We will be joined by a prepared, diverse group of freshmen. Next Steps is also proud to announce that we are piloting our first residential opportunity this fall. Four students

enrolled through Next Steps and two graduate students will share a lovely house on the Scarritt Bennett Center campus. We have much to look forward to for the 2021-2022 academic year.

-Tammy Day, Director, Next Steps at Vanderbilt

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