

March 2021 Newsletter

Next Steps at Vanderbilt Events

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

Online Information Sessions

Please join us for an Online Information Session! During these virtual events, prospective students, parents, and guests will learn about classes, internships, social opportunities, and more. Once you register for an Online Information Session, you will be sent a link to join. Please come with questions as you will be able to type your questions into the chat box.

2021 Online Information Session Dates:

Thursday, March 25, 2021 (2:30 - 4:00 p.m.)

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

Click here to register for an event






Misson to Mars

Cat Bernstein, Office Assistant

Students were invited to attend four science discussions lead by VSVS (Vanderbilt Students for Science) students about the recent Mars Rover. One of the students participating in this is Andrew Lloyd (class of 2021). Andrew finds the Mars Rover interesting because he likes that "the rover is loud and it will send a lot of information back to earth about Mars." One of the leaders of VSVS is Alexis Hollingsworth. She got involved with Next Steps a few semesters ago through VSVS. Alexis says that this club is a great way to learn science and meet other Vanderbilt students. The Mars Rover has been a great lesson topic ‘because we have been able to learn about it in real time as it gets ready to land, and because there have been so many scientific breakthroughs for technology, we use on earth which originally came from the space program.” Alexis enjoys being involved with Next Steps for the past two years and enjoys getting to know the students.

One Big Step for Diversity and Inclusion

Cat Bernstein, Office Assistant

Alexis Hollingsworth shared her thoughts on the new advocacy work being done with VSG.12 students enrolled through Next Steps have now become a part of the Vanderbilt Student Government. It has been on the VSG’s mind to get Next Steps students on board for quite a bit of time. The Diversity and Inclusion chair member explained that there were not enough intellectually diverse voices in the committee as required to properly fight for their community's initiatives at Vanderbilt. Fortunately, they were able to make this change within a year's time! Given, this semester was incredibly difficult for all organizations on campus due to unforeseen circumstances, so there are quite a few disparities from “normal” trajectories of VSG Committees such as less interaction, not-optimized efficiency for initiative planning, shallower relationships (fully Zoom), etc.

"Nevertheless, the addition of Next Steps students to VSG was almost like adding salt to a cooked meal. Their perspectives, stories, and experiences not only benefit the D&I committee but a variety of other committees along with other branches of VSG. Voicing their struggles such as exclusion from the larger Vanderbilt community, exclusion from the VSG student-wide emails, exclusion from access to certain resources, the list goes on, has been immensely helpful in creating a more inclusive environment at Vanderbilt for students of all neurodiversity. VSG and the students enrolled through Next Steps on the VSG council are excited to see what becomes of this new partnership."

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