



March 2018 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Open House -

Monday, June 4, 2018 (5:00 - 6:30 p.m.)
Thursday, July 26, 2018 (5:00 - 6:30 p.m.)
Thursday, September 6, 2018 (2:30 - 4:00 p.m.)
Thursday, November 15, 2018 (2:30 - 4:00 p.m.)

College Nights -

Thursday, April 5, 2018 (5:30 - 7:00 p.m.)
Thursday, October 11, 2018 (5:30 - 7:00 p.m.)

Student Council for Exceptional Children Panel

Featuring Next Steps Students and Ambassadors
Friday, April 13 (12:30 PM - 1:30 PM) - Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, 241 One Magnolia Circle

End of Year Celebration:
Saturday, April 28 (4:00 PM - 6:00 PM)

NSSI Dates:
Sunday, June 17, 2018 - Friday, June 22, 2018

[Register for Open House](#)

Campus Life and Connections! VU Class Feature:



Students in the Next Steps program are actively seeking to explore different academic and career interests. Many times, in addition to their internships and extracurricular activities, students find new interests in the classroom. Andrew Lloyd, freshman, has done just that by expanding upon his passion for music and the piano. This semester, Andrew enrolled in the VU Class, "The Blues," offered by the Blair School of Music and taught by Professor Robert Fry. The class studies famous Blues artist such as Ma Rainey and Robert Johnson, emphasizing important topics like the relation of blues to African American poetry and fiction.

Andrew decided to take this VU class because he has always liked music and musicians like Chuck Berry. As a piano player himself, one of Andrew's favorite parts has been studying the musical structure and meaning of the lyrics behind every artist. He has discovered he really likes Blues music, something he didn't know before.

"I have learned about many more artists that sing Blues, like Johnny Cash, Bonnie Raitt, and the Beatles. I have learned that I really like Blues music." - Andrew

Andrew has adapted what he has learned in his classes to his personal piano composition.

"I play the piano a little differently now. I try to play like Little Richard. I listen to Blues music and try to play like that."

Andrew has faced adversity at times like everyone does, citing the heavy workload of listening to Blues music that Professor Fry assigns. However, Andrew has taken the time and effort to overcome those challenges and has learned even more in the process. He is excited to continue learning and exploring in the second half of the semester in his "The Blues" class.



Exploring Careers: Next Steps Internships

We are half way through the semester now, which also represents the halfway mark for our student's many unique and diverse internships. Chloe Young, freshman, worked with the Vanderbilt Spirit Squad this semester in their first inclusive internship. Chloe worked with the Squad at women and men's basketball games, assisting with pre-game preparations and in-game events. Chloe has been tasked with various responsibilities including picking up and tossing t-shirts during timeouts, collecting the pizzas to give away during the game, positioning the signs and other equipment for the cheer and dance team, and helping out with the mascot, Mr. C. During her pre-game preparations, Chloe has been involved with the marketing team creating flyers, advertising the games, and promoting fan spirit.

"My favorite part of the internship so far is getting to help the spirit squad because I really like working with people, and I especially liked helping Mr. C out." Chloe said.

With an outgoing and naturally supportive personality, Chloe hopes to pursue goals and career paths that would allow her to engage with diverse groups of people and make a difference as a leader in her community. Her supervisor, Danielle Eckert remarked, "We enjoyed having Chloe around. She made the last half of basketball season really special."



NEXT STEPS ALUMNI INTERVIEW:

Sean Druffel graduated Next Steps at Vanderbilt in April 2015. Sean is being a finalist nominee for the Direct Service Volunteer award for Habitat for Humanity. The direct service award recognizes individuals who have contributed significant volunteer time, energy, and/or resources to help an agency's constituents.

"We are just so proud of Sean and the effort he has put into his role as a volunteer. It is great to see the community recognizing his contribution to the workplace." - Tammy Day, Next Steps Director

Recently moved?

If so, please contact us at 615-322-3978 or email us at nexsteps@vanderbilt.edu so we can update your information and keep you informed.



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