

## **Heather Connelly Lefkowitz**

Vanderbilt University  
Peabody College #90  
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### **CURRENT APPOINTMENT**

*Lecturer, Human & Organizational Development, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University*

### **AREAS OF INTEREST**

Contextual learning in higher education, ethics and community engagement, reflective practices in contextual learning, theological writing, storytelling for social change, creative practices in teaching (creative writing, theater and improvisation, storytelling, design thinking), Critical Response Process.

### **EDUCATION**

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN  
2011. Master of Divinity.  
Senior project: *Disaster as Revelation: A Theological Examination*

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN  
1990. Bachelor of Arts, History.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Communication Training Consulting, Nashville, TN; *founder, 2012-present*. Design and facilitate customized workshops using theater and improv, storytelling, and design thinking in corporate, nonprofit, and higher education settings for leadership development, professional development, and communication skills training.

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN; *Adjunct Instructor, Human and Organizational Development, 2015-2016*. Facilitated the HOD Capstone Internship seminar.

ALIAS Chamber Ensemble, Nashville, TN; *Part-time executive director, 2015-2016*. Led the organization's achievement of its mission and financial objectives.

Vanderbilt Career Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN; *Assistant Director and Career Coach, 2013-2015; 2016*. Coached hundreds of students and recent graduates to explore, pursue and engage in professional opportunities. Methods included formal and informal assessments, classroom presentations, experiential learning opportunities, locating internship and full-time opportunities through resume assistance, and offering interviewing techniques and feedback.

Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, TN; *Interim Director of Admissions, May 2013-October 2013*. Counseled incoming students on transitions, financial aid, vocational goals, and adjustment to campus life and collaborated on multi-year grant creating new resources for vocational development and financial aid management.

The Curb Center at Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN; *Administrative and Program Manager, 2003-2008, 2011-2013*. Designed and managed extensive programming for arts policy research center focused on understanding how creative lives are supported and on the careers of artists.

Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA; *Administrator 1999-2003*. Managed all aspects of large graduate fellowship program.

Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Schools, Nashville, TN; *Elementary educator 1993-1998*. Developed creative lesson plans, instructed diverse body of students across a wide curriculum.

## **HONORS, AFFILIATIONS & TRAINING**

*Critical Response Process*: Selected as one of 10 participants in 2022 Critical Response Process Certification Program. Will work towards certification in CRP with a cohort in 2022, directed by Macarthur Fellow Liz Lerman and John Borstel.

*Restorative Practices*: Completed “Restorative Practices for Educators” and “Restorative Justice Conferencing”, International Institute for Restorative Practices (2021).

Pair of the Year, 2017 VUceptor Awards. This award recognizes a VUceptor pair who excelled in demonstrating an outstanding faculty-student partnership in all aspects of the Visions program.

*Improv and Acting Training* – Completed courses in improv at the Second City (Chicago, 2011), the Annoyance Theater (Chicago, 2012), and Music City Improv (Nashville, 2012). Completed Meisner course of study at Actors Bridge Ensemble (Nashville, 2016).

*Science Communication* – Completed Summer Institute at Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, Stony Brook University (2014) – trained in using improvisation, media training, and exercises in helping scientists distill their message and communicate effectively.

Nella May Overby Memorial Award for Field Education, Vanderbilt Divinity School (2011).

#### Memberships:

American Academy of Religion  
Association of Practical Theology

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

2007. *Engaging Art: The Next Great Transformation of America's Cultural Life*, co-edited by Bill Ivey and Steven Tepper. New York: Routledge Press. Served as a contributing editor for the project.

#### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

2021. Liberating Structures community learning series, "Critical Response Process and Liberating Structures." Online, April.

2019. North House Student Presentation, Vanderbilt University. "Storytelling for Growth." Nashville, February.

2019. Department of Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds, Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "Learning as Adults: Identity at Play" with Dr. Reed Omary, MD. Nashville, January.

2016-2019. Curb Center at Vanderbilt. "Improvisation for Creativity: A Workshop for Incoming Students." Nashville, August.

2018. Columbia State Community College. "Giving and Receiving Feedback." Franklin, TN, May.

2018. Actors Bridge Ensemble. "Shifting Your Career Mindset." Nashville, January.

2017. Columbia State Community College. "Storytelling as Power for Individuals and Organizations." Clifton, TN, December.

2017. Department of Radiology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "Improvisation and Empathy: Creative Strategies for Connecting "Beyond Words"" with Vali Forrister. Nashville, May.

2017. National Career Development Association. "Shifting to a Growth Mindset: Using Creative Practices in Teaching and Coaching" with Kristen Tompkins (proposal accepted). Orlando, June.

2017. Arts and Business Council Work Creative program. "Giving and Receiving Feedback: Lessons from Artists." Nashville, January and April.

2016. Vanderbilt EVOLVE Student Leadership Program. "Being Present and Having Presence: Communication for Leadership." Nashville, September.

2016. International Conference on Learning and Administration in Higher Education. "Five Ways to Model the Growth Mindset in the Classroom" with Kristen Tompkins. Nashville, June.

2016. Vanderbilt VIEW program, Office of Active Citizenship & Service. "Storytelling for Professional Development." Nashville, March.

2016. HOD 1250, Department of Human and Organizational Development, Vanderbilt University. "Working Without a Script: Career Planning Skills for a Lifetime." Nashville, March.

2016, 2015, 2014. Pastoral Care class, Vanderbilt Divinity School. "Improv and Pastoral Care." Nashville, September 2016, January 2016, October 2015, January 2014.

2015. TedXVanderbiltUniversity. "Working Without a Script: Improvising Your Career." Nashville, November.

2015. Margaret Cunningham Women's Center at Vanderbilt's Professional Development Series. "Storytelling as Power." Nashville, October.

2015. National Career Development Association. "Campus as Laboratory: Breaking Down Silos" (proposal accepted). Denver, July.

2015. International Conference on Learning and Administration in Higher Education. "How to Take a Creativity Time Out in the Classroom" with Kristen Tompkins. Nashville, May.

2015. SPEAR Student Group, Vanderbilt University. "Communicating Complex Ideas." Nashville, March.

2015. Political Science Senior Seminar, Vanderbilt University. "Communicating Complex Ideas: Creative Strategies for Presenting." Nashville, March.

2015. Center for Student Professional Development at Vanderbilt University. “Design Thinking for Professional Development.” Nashville, February.

2015. Peabody College Graduate School Career Day Keynote, Vanderbilt University. “Reframing Networking: Forming Meaningful Connections.” Nashville, January.

2014. “Storytelling for Professional Development.” Presentation to HOD 1400, October.

2014. Vanderbilt University Undergraduate Research Fair. “Presenting Your Research in Non-Academic Contexts.” Nashville, September.

2014. Center for Student Professional Development at Vanderbilt University. “Train the Trainer: Using Improv for Professional Communication.” Nashville, September.

2014. National Association of Colleges and Employers. “Connecting with Students Using Informal Assessments” with Dorrie Presson. San Antonio, June.

## **TEACHING**

### Courses taught:

HOD 1001	Commons iSeminar: Can I Laugh Now?	2019
HOD 2400	Talent Management & Organizational Fit	2016-2022
HOD 3870	Practicum in Human Development	2015-2022
HOD 4950	Internship	2015-2022
HOD 4951	Advanced Seminar	2015-2022
HOD 4952	Self Directed Learning	2015-2022
HOD 4953	Senior Project	2015-2022

### Advising:

Currently advising 38 undergraduate students, including 9 freshmen.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Director of Undergraduate Advising for HOD (from 2021)

## **SERVICE**

### Department:

Lefkowitz

HOD Self-Study Committee, Member (2018-2019)  
HOD Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Member (2017-2020)  
HOD DOVE committee, Member and Chair (from 2020)  
HOD EDI Workgroup, leader (from 2020)

School:

Peabody College Standing Academic Standards and Procedures Committee of Faculty Council, Member (from 2016)  
Peabody Faculty Council, at-large representative (2019-2021)  
Peabody Faculty Council Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Committee, chair (2019-2022)  
Peabody Faculty Council, ad hoc committee for Peabody Faculty Survey on the Fall 2020 Teaching and Scholarship Experience

University:

Medical Innovation Development Program, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Advisory Council (member, from 2019)  
Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University, Community Advisory Council (from 2019)  
Nichols Humanitarian Fund, reviewer (2018-19)  
Commons Reading Committee (2018)  
Faculty VUceptor (2017-2019)  
Steering committee, PREVAIL Women's Leadership Conference, Vanderbilt University (2015)  
Honor Council, Vanderbilt Divinity School (2009-11; Chair, 2010-11)  
Chair, Office of Women's Concerns, Vanderbilt Divinity School (2010-11)  
Chair, Antoinette Brown Lecture, Vanderbilt Divinity School (2011)

Community:

Chair, Board of Directors, Actors Bridge Ensemble (from 2020)  
Co-producer, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, Actors Bridge Ensemble (2022)  
Co-producer, *Kodachrome*. Actors Bridge Ensemble (2019)  
Writer and Performer, *Frozen Moment: A Reckoning* (devised theater piece in response to #metoo). Actors Bridge Studio (2018)  
Cast, *The Vagina Monologues*. Actors Bridge Ensemble (from 2018)  
Communications co-chair, Meigs Magnet Middle School PTO (2018-2020)  
Member, Board of Directors, Actors Bridge Ensemble (from 2017)  
Chair, Marketing Committee, Actors Bridge Ensemble (2019-2020)  
Board of Directors, Unscripted (2017-2019)  
Contributing artist, Arts & Business Council Work Creative Program (2017-2019)  
Friends of Richland Park Library, Vice President (2015-2017)  
Mentor, Belle Bennett House at Scarritt-Bennett (2015)  
Sylvan Park Paideia School, PTO volunteer (2012-2016))

Woman to Woman - Steering committee member for mentoring program (2011-12)  
Center for Nonprofit Management, selection committee for Team Building Award in the  
2011 Salute to Excellence (2011)  
Volunteer, Crisis Line at Family and Children's Service for field education at Vanderbilt  
Divinity School (2010)  
Student Chaplain, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt (2010-2011)