Speak freely.

That’s all that we ask. Then the magic happens. Stories unfold, dreams are revealed, and the Vanderbilt experience comes to life.

Meet the people who know this university best, from our world-renowned faculty to our accomplished alumni. Hear students from all walks of life talk of quests for knowledge and originality, and the impact that four, short years can have.

Questions? Ask.

admissions.vanderbilt.edu

Balance means having friends from different backgrounds and cultures.
As a university where expression is an integral part of intellect, passions ignite pursuits in the classroom that often continue into boardrooms. "Why" is replaced by "why not," as Vanderbilt students discover the world of possibilities that is theirs for the asking.

Our student-to-faculty ratio of 8:1 gives each student access to faculty members of prominence in every area of academic study. But rather than reside in ivory towers, our professors reach out to all students. It’s not unheard of for first-year students and faculty to hold impromptu roundtable discussions at The Ingram Commons, or for a professor to offer advice or encouragement far beyond office hours or even graduation.

The search for greater understanding creates a dialogue that continues to transform dreams into reality.

Questions? Ask. admissions.vanderbilt.edu

96% of graduating seniors are satisfied with the quality of teaching.

"Vanderbilt stresses the ability to learn and grow inside the classroom and outside the classroom. There’s something for everyone at Vanderbilt, and the spirited, intellectual, welcoming student body makes it easy to call Vanderbilt home."

Lisa Ganz ’13
Rye Brook, NY
“Can we afford it?” That one question has an astounding impact on where a student will go to school. Pros and cons are weighed, sleep is lost, and final decisions are often made based on the answer. Vanderbilt has long valued the opportunities that an education offers outstanding students as well as the benefits that future generations will receive. We believe that when barriers to a Vanderbilt education can be reduced or eliminated, every student benefits from a learning community that includes talented, qualified individuals from all backgrounds. We make three important commitments in support of this goal:

• Since talent and promise recognize no social, cultural, economic, or geographic boundaries, our admissions process is need-blind.
• Vanderbilt will meet 100% of a family’s demonstrated financial need for all admitted U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens.
• Financial aid awards do not include loans. Instead of offering need-based loans to undergraduate students, Vanderbilt offers additional grant assistance.

We individually review 100% of the need-based financial aid applications from students and commit to meeting 100% of each admitted student’s demonstrated financial need without including need-based loans.

More than half of all Vanderbilt graduates complete internships in fields from finance to entertainment, government, and education.

Questions? Ask. vanderbilt.edu/financialaid
I read in a college handbook once that Vanderbilt is called ‘Feng Shui University,’ because it’s all about balance.”

**One on One**

Roark Luskin

Roark Luskin knows her way around the country’s top schools. While still in high school, she spent many hours on Stanford University’s campus and realized early on that she was looking for more than lectures and libraries.

“I read in a college handbook once that Vanderbilt is called ‘Feng Shui University,’ because it’s all about balance. Vanderbilt does a really good job of emphasizing that social aspects are as important as academics here. You can learn from your peers at any time, not just in the classroom.”

“Vanderbilt Visions, which I experienced as a freshman and then led as a VUceptor in my sophomore year, pairs new students with a faculty member and an upperclassman VUceptor throughout the first semester. They meet once a week for about fifty minutes. I think this illustrates one of the best aspects of Vanderbilt—the faculty/student interaction. We are a top-twenty research university with amazing professor accessibility. I have professors that I genuinely look to as mentors.”

“Alternative Spring Break is also very popular. A third of Vanderbilt students will have participated in ASB before graduating, and it’s amazing that this university has such dedication to service. My sophomore year I worked at the Carolina Tiger Rescue in North Carolina. They rescue tigers from people who attempt to own exotic pets. It was a fantastic experience. I loved doing manual labor, cleaning the habitats for the tigers, and connecting with the earth. It truly was an amazing week.”

As a tour guide, introducing prospective students to Vanderbilt comes with its own surprises. “I think it’s great that people here cheer for tours. They’re like, ‘Come to Vandy. Vanderbilt’s the best.’ That just reveals how excited people are to be here and honestly, that’s something that sold me. When I walked on this campus, I just kind of felt it. You know I got this sense of community, this pride, that they were willing to shout at a tour group that no one knew. I felt comfortable here, and it was one of those light bulb moments.”

See what else is possible at admissions.vanderbilt.edu

I loved that by February there was such a comfort level among the entire class, that I almost sure I could recognize anyone in my class by face. Lauren Leonard ‘13, Peabody College

Three weeks after
“I read the bones, and the bones tell me a story of the individual and the community in which he or she lived.”

Unlike popular portrayals of archaeological work, anthropological bioarchaeologists like assistant professor Tiffiny Tung make discoveries in the laboratory as well as at the dig site.

Employing DNA analysis, CAT scans, X-rays, radiocarbon dating, and strontium isotope testing, these archaeological specialists can build a detailed portrait of a person’s life from preserved remains. Anthropological bioarchaeologists then compile the data from a number of individual cases to assemble a picture of the larger population, as Professor Tung is currently doing with the Wari culture, a pre-Incan civilization that lived in the Andes about 1,400 years ago.

“I’m going at it from a multitude of ways, so I’m collaborating with folks at the med center in DNA reconstruction, earth and environmental sciences for isotope reconstruction to reconstruct dietary patterns and climate as well, so it’s really interdisciplinary. We bring in students from anthropology, biology, earth and environmental sciences.”

“I go to Peru every summer with about ten students, including a couple of undergraduate students with the help of the VUSR (Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program), where we work from the morning to four in the afternoon when we’re in the lab.”

“Students start linking the articles they’ve been reading with what they’ve heard in class. When they understand the process of testing ideas and creating a narrative and reconstructing the past, you can kind of see the light bulb go off and then they start coming up with other questions. ‘Why did these groups modify their skulls in this way and others didn’t? Were they trying to express differences in social identity? Is that like today—how some groups will do tattoos and body piercings and other groups don’t? It’s really nice when students start making those connections.”

From the field to the classroom, Professor Tung understands the importance of community and the individuals whose stories have yet to be told.
New town. New classes. New friends. New adventures. There is a lot to comprehend during your first semester no matter where you go to school. To help with the transition, Vanderbilt has designed a living experience exclusively for our first-year students—the Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt. On one of the most historic parts of Vanderbilt’s campus, ten Houses surround a main dining and meeting hall. Seven of the buildings comprise the largest collection of LEED-certified green buildings in Tennessee and one of the largest in the southeastern United States, but what’s truly revolutionary is what goes on inside those walls.

With residences for faculty who serve as Heads of House and a home for the Dean of The Ingram Commons and his family on site, The Ingram Commons offers first-year students more opportunities to meet with each other, with professors, and with academic, public, and cultural leaders from around the world. The lines between inside and outside the classroom, between curricular and extracurricular activities, become less obvious as students become more proactive learners and participants in life at The Ingram Commons and beyond.

Learn more about the first-year experience at commons.vanderbilt.edu

Commons Seminars are enhanced learning opportunities open to all first-year students. Topics explored recently included:
- Web 2.0, Cyber Security and Society
- Non-Profit Organizations and Serving as a Board Member
- Modern Cities and Disease Epidemics
- Provoking Creative Conversations
- Community Organizing in Nashville
- Three Matinees, Dinners, and Conversation

“My Ingram Commons experience has been an amazing exposure to different individuals and ideas. The environment of The Ingram Commons is one of my favorite parts of college. The first-year residential experience gives you a chance to learn valuable life lessons that you will take with you for the rest of your life.”

Brian Craddock ’13
Chapel Hill, NC

“Commons Seminars are fantastic. I’ve learned a lot about current events, cultural issues, and more. It’s an amazing opportunity.”

Allison Strickland ’13
Sewanee, TN

“It’s a unifying experience that brings you together with some of the brightest, most diverse, and truest friends you’ll ever have.”

Catherine Muller ’12
Tucker, GA

Marcio Bahia
Senior Lecturer of Portuguese

Adam Meyer ’12
Atlanta, GA

Samantha Lacey ’11
Chicago, IL

Find out what else we have to say at admissions.vanderbilt.edu.
Faculty head of Crawford House, Paul Lim, knows first-hand about the benefits of having a faculty mentor living with students. He spent his undergraduate years in the residential colleges at Yale, where he also was a student-athlete, playing second base on the varsity baseball team.

As an associate professor with tenure in the Divinity School and an emerging authority on the theology and history of seventeenth-century English Protestantism, Lim is completing a second major book with support from the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. and Vanderbilt University Research Scholars Grants. A historian at the Divinity School and affiliate faculty member in the history department, Lim was also recently named a Henry Luce III Fellow in Theology for 2011/12. Y et even with those accomplishments, Lim lists being a Faculty Head of Crawford House, Paul Lim, knows first-hand about the benefits of having a faculty mentor living with students. He spent his undergraduate years in the residential colleges at Yale, where he also was a student-athlete, playing second base on the varsity baseball team.

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For Professor Lim and wife, Micky, their decision to be a Head of House family on The Ingram Commons had a lot to do with their five-year-old son, Christian, and what it would be like for him to grow up on a college campus. During one of Crawford House’s weekly Coffee Hours in the family’s Head of House apartment, Micky chatted with students, Christian high-fived his college-aged housemates, and Paul guided a first-year classics major through her religion class term paper.

While Lim rarely gets to interact with first-year students as a professor in the Divinity School, being a Head of House responsible for 150 students always adds new challenges and opportunities to his faculty roles. Whether it’s writing letters of recommendation or sitting down for lunch with the Crawford House Council, Professor Lim is quick to point out that the Head of House experience has been enriching. “There are a number of different hats I wear around the House, and each one makes for a more fulfilling life.”

Get to know us better. commons.vanderbilt.edu

ONE ON ONE

Paul Lim

Why Vanderbilt? It’s because of the balance here.

With outstanding academics, student organizations, a great social life, and Nashville, learning to balance it all is great preparation for life after college.

Vanderbilt Community Creed

Individuals who join the Vanderbilt University community embark on a lifelong journey toward greater intellectual enlightenment and personal growth. Those who aspire to this purpose share an obligation to honor the principles that define Vanderbilt. The University’s enduring tradition of excellence is preserved when the community is united by a common set of values:

- **Scholarship** is the pursuit of knowledge in an environment of academic freedom. Members of our community engage in a partnership of learning in which the exploration of ideas is encouraged and protected.
- **Honesty** is a commitment to refrain from lying, cheating, and stealing. Recognizing that dishonesty undermines community trust, stifles the spirit of scholarship, and threatens a safe environment, we expect ourselves to be truthful in academic endeavors, in relationships with others, and in pursuit of personal development.
- ** Civility** is the genuine respect for the rights of others. We value constructive disagreement and are mindful of the potential impact of our words and actions.
- **Accountability** is taking responsibility for our actions and their consequences. We accept the duty to actively participate in the decisions that affect our academic and personal lives, and we honor our commitments to ourselves and to others.
In a world dominated by automated voice commands, texts, and emails, Vanderbilt’s Office of Financial Aid and Undergraduate Scholarships takes a decidedly old-school approach—straight talk from real human beings.

Helping keep it personal is financial aid officer Chanell Thomas, a Vanderbilt graduate who wields her easy charm as skillfully as her calculator. "When they first see the sticker price, families are usually in shock, but our expanded aid program is making a huge difference in our affordability."

The first step, according to Thomas, is for parents to research where their family contribution will come from. "In deciding financial aid awards, we use federal methodology for federal grants and loans and institutional methodology for Vanderbilt scholarships and grants for the bulk of our financial aid packages. That's why it's so important to get all applications in for Vanderbilt."

And while a letter of admission is cause for celebration, it is the financial aid award that often generates the most calls. "Families have so many questions, so customer service is key. You develop a relationship with parents that continues throughout those undergraduate years. It's a very personal relationship, because we have to get very personal. You're giving us specific information about your income, your assets, your family, so you really have to trust us."

"Then there are the life-changing events that leave students needing additional financial assistance, things that you don't want to talk about with a total stranger so we try to put you at ease as early as possible. We work very hard to maintain that personal connection."

The work can be demanding and the calls may seem non-stop, but the rewards can be just as plentiful. "The other day I had a parent call me and say, 'Thank you, you made my child's dream come true!' That not only made me smile, it made me realize just how much of a difference we can make."

Questions? Ask. vanderbilt.edu/financialaid

"The other day I had a parent call me and say, ‘Thank you, you made my child’s dream come true!’”

Chanell Thomas
Financial Aid Officer

Everyone on campus wants to be there.

Elise Haupt '12, College of Arts and Science
“Development for both infants and college students is a dynamic process shaped by experiences.”

Amy Needham
Professor of Psychology and Human Development, Peabody College

Professor Needham’s primary focus is on infant development, but she also takes note of her undergraduate students’ growth as they take on responsibility for research and are involved in the process at all levels. And while her overarching goals are to understand the contributions of perceptual-motor learning on cognitive development during the first two years of life, the insights she gains from interaction with undergraduate students can be just as impactful.

“I am truly inspired when my students learn to articulate how and why the issues, concepts, and ideas encountered in the history of music have value in their everyday lives—as musicians, students, responsible citizens, and thinking and sensitive human beings.”

The Grove Music Dictionary defines musicology as the “scholarly study of music,” and Professor Lowe more than fulfills the definition, contributing articles and reviews to numerous journals and books, authoring Pleasure and Meaning in the Classical Symphony which was released in 2007, and serving as guest editor and contributor for a special Haydn issue of the Journal of Musicology in 2010. And when students are asked, energetic and enthusiastic are two of the most popular adjectives used to describe Professor Lowe.

“I want to thank the students for their patience and hard work. They have contributed immeasurably to the overall mood of the campus.”

Andrew J. Sennett ’12, College of Arts and Science

Lisa S. Gras"
Choose
Personally.

Colleges and Majors

College of Arts and Science
- African American and Diaspora Studies
- American Studies
- Anthropology
- Art
- Asian Studies
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilization
- Classical Languages
- Classics
- Communication of Science and Technology
- Communication Studies
- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology
- Economics
- Economics and History
- English
- English and History
- Film Studies
- French
- French and European Studies
- German
- German and European Studies
- History
- History of Art
- Italian and European Studies
- Jewish Studies
- Latin American Studies
- Mathematics
- Medicine, Health and Society
- Modern European Studies
- Molecular and Cellular Biology
- Neuroscience
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Policy Studies
- Religious Studies
- Russian
- Russian and European Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Spanish and European Studies
- Spanish and Portuguese
- Spanish, Portuguese, and European Studies
- Theatre
- Women's and Gender Studies

Blair School of Music
- Composition/Theory
- Musical Arts
- Musical Arts/Teacher Education
- Performance

School of Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering Science
- Environmental Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

Peabody College
- Child Development
- Child Studies
- Cognitive Studies
- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Education
- Human and Organizational Development

Explore our majors at
vanderbilt.edu/academics/disciplines

Combined B.A./M.A. Programs
- Available through all four undergraduate schools
- Students earn both undergraduate and master's degrees in five years.
- Admission is selective and students typically apply in their junior year.
- Find out more about each school's combined program options at vanderbilt.edu/catalogs/undergrad or the school's website:
  - Arts and Science at.vanderbilt.edu
  - Blair School of Music at blair.vanderbilt.edu
  - School of Engineering at engineering.vanderbilt.edu
  - Peabody College at peabody.vanderbilt.edu

Combined B.A./B.S. and Master of Science in Nursing
- Available through either the College of Arts and Science or Peabody College.
- Students earn an undergraduate and master's degrees in approximately five years.
- Typically students apply early in their junior year.
- Find out more at nursing.vanderbilt.edu.

Combined Programs for Blair Students
- Blair School of Music Teacher Licensure Program
  - Students earn B.Mus. with Blair and M.Ed. with Peabody College in five years.
  - Participants apply for continuation in the program in their junior year.
  - Emphasizes available on music performance, music theory, and music literature and history

3+2 Bachelor of Music/ MBA Blair-to-Owen Program
- Students earn B.Mus. and MBA in five years.
- Students must apply for admission to the Owen School during junior year.
- Acceptance is extremely competitive and requires advanced standing in undergraduate courses.
Just outside Vanderbilt’s classrooms, research labs, and residence halls, trees planted by past chancellors and a massive oak that predates the American Revolution tower over winding paths and open onto spacious lawns. Kirkland Hall’s clock tower chimes the hour across 330 spectacular acres, a national arboretum that is also home to architectural treasures spanning from our university’s earliest days to the eco-friendly Houses of The Ingram Commons.

The organic design of the Vanderbilt campus flows around the newly renovated Central Library, Rand Dining Hall, residences, and lecture halls to the classic symmetry of the Peabody section of campus, where all first-year students live, with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center nearby. Just beyond the medical center, Blair School of Music serves as the gateway to a section of campus centered on student life, including the athletic fields, Ingram Studio Arts Center, Student Rec Center, Greek Row, and Alumni Lawn.

In the heart of the city, an oasis has grown for over a century, embracing the past and welcoming the future as eagerly as a breath of fresh air.

Explore for yourself.

admissions.vanderbilt.edu
Nate Marshall '12

“Outside of class, I do a lot of community service. One thing I started doing here that I do back home in Chicago is conducting writing workshops for inner city high schools.”

Growing up on the South Side of Chicago, Nate Marshall is quick to admit that Vanderbilt wasn’t on his radar in the beginning of his college search.

“I was actually applying to another school and they had a question on their application about what professors are you looking forward to studying with here, so I started doing it for all my schools, including Vanderbilt, and I was like, ‘Wow, these are actually people I want to work with and learn from.’ I submitted an application, came down to visit, and really liked it, so here I stand.”

Nate began writing poetry in grammar school and continues writing to this day. His work was published in the anthology “The Spoken Word Revolution: Redux.” He placed as the top individual teen poet in Chicago’s Louder Than a Bomb Poetry Festival and went on to perform at the Brave New Voices national youth poetry slam featured on HBO.

Nate released his latest book of poetry, Unconditional Love, in 2010 using a portion of the proceeds to set up a scholarship for young men of color in Chicago who utilize creative ways to transcend the violence that surrounds their everyday lives.

“Outside of class, I do a lot of community service. One thing I started doing here that I do back home in Chicago is conducting writing workshops for inner city high schools. At first, the kids are kind of like, ‘I don’t know about this,’ but they always end up responding really well to it.

Aside from that, I’m also in a fraternity. I’m active in the Black Students Alliance. I’m active with the MOSAIC committee for multicultural recruitment. I still find time to write, to go to open mic spots in Nashville and perform. I work with Vanderbilt Spoken Word, I try to keep busy.”

“How do I balance? I’m addicted to my iCal. I constantly write to-do lists. I have to make schedules for myself and regulate that way, but it’s fun. You know, I definitely stay busy, but everything I do I care about. Everything I invest my time in, I try to make sure it’s a worthy investment of time. And personally, I think you find this with a lot of Vanderbilt students. We’re just kind of happier busy. You know, we juggle better with more balls in the air.”

“When I first got in, my mom had serious reservations. She kept saying, ‘I’ve never heard of this school. I don’t know anything about it.’ But then she came down to move me in, and now she’s a big fan of Vanderbilt. She loves it. She’s been down here like three or four times just since I’ve been in school.”

Outside of class, I do a lot of community service. One thing I started doing here that I do back home in Chicago is conducting writing workshops for inner city high schools. →

Nate Marshall '12

“Outside of class, I do a lot of community service. One thing I started doing here that I do back home in Chicago is conducting writing workshops for inner city high schools.”

Nate Marshall '12

Follow Nate’s blog at admissions.vanderbilt.edu/vandybloggers
For centuries, Nashville has drawn people from all walks of life with its generous hospitality and endless diversity. It’s true that this city has never been short of musicians and songwriters, but most students are surprised that of the more than two hundred places to see a live show in town, less than one-third play strictly country.

Take a trip to the heart of the city and you’ll find a grand symphony hall sharing a downtown street with the Country Music Hall of Fame. Art galleries showcase exhibitions from Cairo, Paris, and beyond. NFL and NHL teams play within the shadow of downtown skyscrapers. And while Nashville has never been a city to shy away from the spotlight, it is filled with quiet getaways and spectacular natural beauty.

As an educational, entertainment, and healthcare hub and major relocation destination for national and international corporations, students find internships in government, industry, and local schools along with an easygoing atmosphere that makes it easy to call Nashville home.

Explore Nashville at vanderbilt.edu/nashville
First-year students lead the team onto the field before the first home game, a VU tradition.

As members of the legendary Southeastern Conference (SEC), Vanderbilt’s ten women’s and six men’s varsity teams face opponents known for their strength and competitiveness. True to Vanderbilt form, it’s a serious pursuit of excellence balanced by a healthy GPA, where Commodores consistently dominate the SEC in making the Dean’s List and having the highest graduation rates. For the fourth consecutive year, the grade point average for all 325 Vanderbilt student athletes surpassed 3.0. Vanderbilt has also achieved a student-athlete graduation success rate of 94% over the last six years, number 1 in the SEC and far above the national average of 78%.

But even if you’ve never been to a game before, there’s an undeniable excitement that fills the air when the Commodores take the field, court, or track. From 12th Man Tailgate to the singing of the alma mater after each home game, win or lose, you can’t help but be swept up in the tradition and enthusiasm of Commodore athletics.

Whether you are in the stands or on the sidelines, there’s a whole other side to college life waiting to be discovered once you challenge yourself to push beyond your comfort zone and see why it’s good to be gold.

See what else there is to cheer about at vucommodores.com

“I love singing the Alma Mater at the end of football and basketball games. My favorite part is at the end when we shout ‘CONQUER AND PREVAIL!’ while fist-pumping.”

Kelly Quindlen ’11
Alpharetta, GA
Vanderbilt’s Global Education Office is the first stop for students ready to explore the world, learn a new language, and immerse themselves in another culture. Partnerships with universities in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, and the Americas have created 100 direct-credit programs of study and research in 32 countries. Some students take it a step further through the Vanderbilt Initiative for Scholarship and Global Engagement (VISAGE), tackling problems that affect nature and humankind alike.

Ecotourism in Costa Rica; education and social cohesion in South Africa; community, family and social justice in Nicaragua, and access to healthcare in Guatemala, the students in the VISAGE program have undertaken these and other vastly different topics through research and service learning during a semester of study at Vanderbilt followed by a summer trip abroad.

GEO also tracks student travel that isn’t related to our study abroad programs (such as students traveling overseas to do independent research or group trips like Alternative Spring Break). Alternative Spring Break (ASB) began at Vanderbilt in 1987 and is currently the largest completely student-run organization on campus. ASB can now be found at college campuses across the U.S. sending volunteers around the country and the world throughout the year.

Four Vanderbilt seniors formed the non-profit Manna Project International (MPI) in the summer of 2003. Every year since, Manna volunteers have initiated new programs that reach out to communities in the U.S., Nicaragua, and Ecuador. Today, MPI is a volunteer-driven, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of twelve university campus chapters, and a growing base of volunteer alumni. MPI’s university chapters also serve communities near their campuses through local programs in addition to promoting international sites by sending volunteers during spring break and summer.

Get complete details on Vanderbilt’s study abroad and service programs at vanderbilt.edu/geo

“Every day, I saw, heard, ate, did something new, and my openness to the unfamiliar has expanded exponentially.”

Paul Dab ’11
Study Abroad, Vienna, Austria

Internationally speaking.

France which made me realize that music is universal and exists everywhere. The connections I made are going to be really

Keegan Fellow Mozambique

Study Abroad South Africa

Study Abroad New Zealand

VISAGE Dominican Republic

VISAGE Australia

Study Abroad New Zealand

VISAGE Australia
Jeremy Chua has plenty of insight into academics at Vanderbilt as a triple major—declaring English and history, communication studies, and global business strategies, a self-designed, interdisciplinary major. “Basically you can do whatever you want in terms of academics. My majors cover a lot of the things that I’m interested in, like politics, sociology, and the creative arts. That’s why I’m doing the English and history program, where I get to write a lot. You can take any kinds of combinations, not just within a school, but within other schools as well. So if you are in the College of Arts and Science, you can take classes in the engineering school. I took a class called Engineering Management; we studied organizations and how people behave and that was quite interesting.”

When asked about his future plans, Jeremy is quick to answer not just about what he will be pursuing after graduation but over the summer as well. “I am going to Vietnam this summer, working with Grey Group as an advertising intern. I’m looking forward to it, because it’s also in a brand new country for me, another brand new experience. I intend to go to business school, maybe one or two years after graduation, but I want to work a bit first.”

“It’s the interactions you have with the faculty, with your fellow colleagues, the things that you talk about, that form the experience, and that in itself more than educates you.”

Jeremy Chua ’12
We won’t lie to you. Studying, research, and other work take up a great deal of our students’ days and nights, but when it comes to downtime, Vanderbilt students can be very creative.

Can’t decide between our 350+ student organizations, even though there is everything from academic major societies to sports clubs? Start your own. Our students do it all the time. There are more than 30 service organizations on campus that are helping out in town, across the country, and around the world. In fact, 3/4 of our students have participated in volunteer service before graduation. Students also control and run multiple media outlets online, on the air, and on newsstands, sharing updates, views, and laughs on a daily basis.

You can climb, swim, run, and more at The Rec, the health and wellness hub for students. Make new friends, learn a new language, take the stage, or head out to Alumni Lawn and shake off pre-finals stress at our annual Rites of Spring concert.

Achieving the perfect balance between the academic commitments and numerous opportunities of Vanderbilt life is as easy as it is natural, a valuable lesson that serves our students well for years to come.

You can find out more about student life and culture at admissions.vanderbilt.edu.

Every freshman signs a list vowing his/her honesty academically, and that list hangs in Sarratt as a constant reminder.

Talk about adding balance to your life at admissions.vanderbilt.edu

“Commodores never have a dull moment!”

Noah Haviv ‘13
Eilat, Israel
When Chikai Ohazama graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Engineering, the world stretched in front of him. Today the world stretches before everyone, thanks to Google Earth and Ohazama, the former biomedical engineering major who helped develop it.

Ohazama, BE ’94, used engineering, geographic information system (GIS) technology, 3-D mapping, and imagery skills to develop an application that would literally enable people to see the world in new ways. That project became Google Earth.

Rather than deeming Google Earth’s success as a dividing point in his life’s timeline, however, the 37-year-old considers it simply a point on a road map. That road map has taken him from studying biomedical engineering to research in 3-D ultrasound visualization to developing Internet technology—and all driven by ideas that interest him.

“I guess the simple answer is that I want to work on stuff I’m excited about,” says Ohazama, product manager for Google Earth.

The technology that made Google Earth, originally called Earth Viewer, possible was only just starting to evolve when he began working on its development, Ohazama says. Opportunity came when 3-D technology became widely available on laptop and home computers. “Giving people an experience they had never had before was tempting. And so was the technical challenge.”

Growing up in Florida, Ohazama came to Vanderbilt because it was one of the few schools where he could earn an undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering. “When I was an undergrad, my mindset was that I would be a professor,” he says. “I would do some research, I would get my Ph.D., and then be a professor at a university. I never anticipated I would be working in Silicon Valley.”

Ohazama joined Silicon Graphics in 1998. Two years later, he co-founded Keyhole Inc., where he worked on combining geospatial data and 3-D graphics. When Google acquired Keyhole in 2004, Ohazama was part of the deal. Now as a director of product management, Ohazama leads the revenue generating efforts for Google Maps and Earth, as well as manages the global high-resolution imagery database and the systems that organize all the geographic information of the world.

Ohazama continues to work on projects he’s excited about, both at Google Earth and in his personal life. The one-time biomedical engineering student is a musician, as well, with his efforts available on iTunes. He has written for theater and documentary films and produced a couple of albums. He even took time to return to Vanderbilt in February 2011 to speak on “A Brief History of Google Earth: A Personal and Professional Journey.”

The Internet technology guru is quick to say hard work and persistence always pay off. But if he has any real advice for others who hope to follow his trajectory to success, it’s simply this: “Do what you love. Know what excites you, stay true to what you want, and keep your eyes open to opportunities.”

TonI GAUTHIER
Considered that architecture could be a political statement or an expression of creativity.