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4 Vanderbilt Hustler editor in chief removed from position



Jarred Amato was removed from his position as editor in chief of The Vanderbilt Hustler following a decision by the Vanderbilt Student Communications Board on Feb. 27.

The board suspended him on Feb. 18 as it investigated his role in printing false results of the

"Who's Now?" competition.

"This was a really difficult decision," said Bruce Barry, chair of the VSC board and professor of management and sociology. "Acting in the role of publisher, the board has to put its highest priority on preserving the integrity of the enterprise."

Other board members agreed on the difficulty of the decision.

"I think that Jarred was in a really tough position. He put us in a tough position," said board Member-At-Large Allison Smith. "(But) we kept coming back to ethics and good journalism and that

he willfully violated that. No one was happy (with the decision)."

Barry emphasized the board's decision as one of maintaining the standard to which student media is held.

"Our intention is less to punish the editor than it is to signal the importance

of unfettered honesty and integrity in Vanderbilt media, and that led us to make this decision," he said.

Managing Editor Elizabeth Middlebrooks assumed the role of editor in chief for the remainder of the spring semester. ■



CHRIS PHARE / The Vanderbilt Hustler



BRETT KAMINSKY / The Vanderbilt Hustler



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Senior Shan Foster poured in a game-high 32 points in the Commodores' 72-69 victory over Tennessee. Vanderbilt fans were encouraged to wear white to support the Dores in February's home game.

5 Foster, crowd white out Vols

The Dores brought March Madness to Memorial Gym a couple weeks early, beating then-No. 1 Tennessee 72-69 in mid February.

"If the crowd comes out like that every single game, then we'll never lose at home," said senior Shan Foster, who scored a game- and season-high 32 points in the upset.

Coach Kevin Stallings, who showed his appreciation by saluting the student section before the game, agreed with his star senior.

"Our place was electric tonight. It's one of the best places in college basketball on game night, and our crowd was absolutely unbelievable."

The game marked the fourth straight top-ranked opponent knocked off in Memorial Gym.

Headlines the next day proclaimed Foster the hero of the game.

"Shan's a terrific player. It's phenomenal that he scored 32 on 13 shots with their defense. He was our life support there for a while, and he deserves this," Stallings said. "He's a special, special kid."

Sophomore guard Jermaine Beal, who chipped in 17 points and zero turnovers against Tennessee's stingy defense, was also in awe of Foster's big night.

"As a point guard, I love watching Shan when he's on. I always tell him to shoot it in practice and games. I don't even care if it's a bad shot, I just want to see him shooting it." ■



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6 Students attacked in alleged anti-gay hate crime

The Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity and the juvenile court system investigated an alleged anti-gay hate crime that occurred on campus on Sept. 9.

An undergraduate student and a graduate of the Divinity School, both male, alleged their affectionate behavior drew anti-gay comments and slurs from another undergraduate, later identified as sophomore Robert Gutierrez, and a non-student as they ordered food from the Carmichael Towers West Quinzos.

The Vanderbilt Hustler will not release the victims' names for their protection.

The graduate walked over to the suspects and asked if there was a problem, according to the Vanderbilt University Police Department incident report.

The suspects became argumentative and told the alumnus to "get out of (their) face," the report read.

When the couple left Towers West they were accosted by the two suspects in what "appeared to be a premeditated, unprovoked attack," said Dean of Students Mark Bandas.

The police report narrative does not mention the anti-gay language used in Quinzos, but it does indicate suspicion of a hate crime.

Gutierrez, because he was only 17, was served a juvenile misdemeanor citation with a court date for assault in addition to a "long suspension" Gutierrez said he received from the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. Gutierrez also said he believed his punishment was "harsher than it needs to be." ■

7 Foster named SEC, AP player of the year

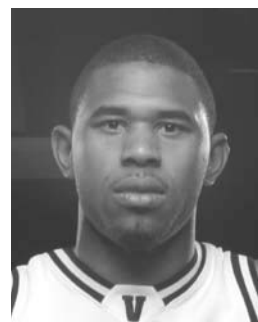
Senior wing Shan Foster became the fourth Vanderbilt player and the second consecutive Commodore to win the SEC Player of the Year Award in a vote done by the league's 12 coaches in early March and was named the Associated Press Player of the Year for the SEC the following week Vanderbilt News Service reported.

He joined Commodore

great Dan Langhi as the only Vanderbilt player to win the award from both the media and the coaches.

The awards cap a remarkable season for Foster, during which he became the all-time leading scorer for the Commodores, surpassing former Commodore great Matt Freije, as well as the all-time leader in 3-pointers made and attempted.

Foster, who was named the SEC Player of the Week a record four times in 2007-08, posted the most 20-point games in the league in the regular season (17) and has the highest single-game output in the SEC season after pouring in 42 points in a win over Mississippi State on March 5. ■



FOSTER

8 Bennett forgoes senior season, declares for the NFL draft

The Southeastern Conference's all-time leader in receptions will not be adding to his record next fall. Earl Bennett announced he would forgo his senior season to enter the 2008 NFL Draft at a press conference Jan. 10. It was the end of a long decision-making process for Bennett, who consulted many close to him.

"After thinking for weeks and weeks about the situation, talking with my family, talking with my coaches, my friends and close relatives, mainly talking to God to guide me through this process ... I decided to skip my senior year and make myself eligible for the NFL Draft," Bennett said. "There

is no other place I would've rather been these three years. I just thank coach Johnson and his staff for continuing to recruit me even when I was committed to Kentucky, and I thank them for allowing me the chance to come in and help this program and continue to build on it."

Bennett had an extremely productive career for Vanderbilt, finishing with 236 career receptions, 2,852 yards and 20 touchdowns. In 2007, the Biltetnikoff Trophy semifinalist caught 70 passes for 830 yards and had five touchdowns to earn first-team All-SEC honors. ■



OLIVER WOLFE / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Wide receiver Earl Bennett will forgo his senior season to become eligible for the NFL Draft. He leads the SEC in receptions and has an impressive record as a Commodore.

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NEIL BRAKE / VU Media Relations

By fall 2008, Kissam Quadrangle will receive over \$1.3 million for renovations, including new carpet, laundry facilities and a Varsity Market.

9 Kissam gets a makeover; upperclassmen prepare to move in (again)

Kissam Quadrangle has a reputation for being one of the least desirable places to live on campus, but all that may change with the improvements to the buildings scheduled to take place over the summer.

Upgrades and renovations include new carpet in all buildings, new laundry facilities in Kissam Hall, plasma TVs and a Varsity Market in Hemingway Hall.

The modifications will total more than \$1.3 million.

Some changes have gradually taken place in the buildings since it was determined upperclassmen would reside there, said Vanderbilt Student Government President Joseph Williams.

"While Kissam Quad will be (demolished) in the future, several years of upperclassmen will be

living in Kissam," Williams said, "and those residence halls in their current state are simply not quality upperclassman living."

Most students said they felt the renovations were long overdue.

"It doesn't feel like Kissam is falling apart, it is falling apart," said Micah Walker, who lived in Dyer Hall.

There is also a sense among some of those living

there next year that the renovations will not make Kissam that much more appealing.

"It seems like the renovations are just being put in to distract us from the fact that we're still living in Kissam," said freshman Nathan Wallace, who will be living in Kissam next year. ■

10 An un-Common class: Acceptance rate reaches 23 percent with nearly 31 percent increase in applications

In late March, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions sent out admission decision letters to what they refer to as a "truly historic" class of applicants, who, according to the Vanderbilt Admissions blog, "featured an amazing depth of personal and scholastic excellence — energy, passion, leadership and commitment to a range of ideals."

As of mailing day, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions had received 16,875 applications, up 30.7 percent from the 12,911 applications they received last year.

In a year of historically low admissions rates, as The New York Times reported, Vanderbilt's acceptance rate also dropped

— from 35.7 percent last year to 23 percent this year.

Of the admitted students, the average class rank was in the top 3.7 percent of their class; 92 percent of the students admitted were ranked in the top 90 percent. The middle 50 percent of SAT scores for the admitted students was 1380 to 1540 and the middle 50 percent for the ACT was 31 to 34.

Admissions for students of color increased from 27 percent last year to 30 percent this year, and both applications and admissions from students in the Northeast, Southwest and West Coast increased. International applicants were considerably more interested in Vanderbilt as well — up to 739 this year from 444 last year. ■

11 Campaigning for change: Students spend winter break, second semester raising election awareness

As the nation heads into one of its most momentous presidential elections, 59 students directly experienced the first-in-the-nation Iowa caucus as part of Election Alliance '08, trading a traditional New Year's celebration for a countdown party in Branscomb Quad before a 12-hour bus trip to Iowa, political movies and all.

Many students left the caucuses optimistic about the impact they could make as college students.

"The rally totally changed my mind about the power of the younger generation," said sophomore Tanmoy Saha, a volunteer for Obama. "I had been skeptical about them getting out to vote, but everyone at the event was



STEPHANIE FREEMAN / Photo provided



JUDY WANG / The Vanderbilt Hustler

crazy about him."

The week was only the beginning of Election Alliance's work on campus. The group sponsored a mock caucus at Vanderbilt and helped students register for Super Tuesday.

Several political figures made their way to Nashville in the month of January and first week of February

leading up to the largest election day before the Democratic and Republican conventions to try to win the local vote. Republicans Mike Huckabee, Mitt Romney and John McCain as well as the entire Clinton family — Bill, Hillary and Chelsea — all made an appearance in Music City. Tennessee went to Clinton and Huckabee. ■

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12 Vanderbilt students rally for 'Jena 6'



ELIZABETH MIDDLEBROOKS / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Vanderbilt and Fisk students and staff gathered along West End Avenue on Sept. 20 to support the "Jena 6." Students were met with both support and opposition from the community as they spent the day on the sidewalk holding sign in support of the black students.

More than 200 students turned out in support of the "Jena 6" on Sept. 20, toting signs that declared "Racism still exists" and "Free the Jena 6."

"People out here are dedicated to this cause," said Are You MAD? founder Hamida Labi. "They've done all they had to do, school-wise, and come right back out here to show their support."

A group of Vanderbilt and Fisk students coordinated the rally in support of the "Jena 6," a group of black

high school students in Jena, La., who were facing trial for attempted murder or assault after a 2006 fight with a white student. Protestors call the charges and trial unfair due to the "racism (that) is alive and well" in Jena, according to an informational flier.

Rallies took place around the country in support of the six teens, drawing more than 10,000 protestors to Jena, La.

Several cars honked their horns to show support, and the group of students

received several donations of money, water and pizza.

But the afternoon did not pass without controversy.

"A car, a truck, drove by and threw out a bunch of cards in front of the group of students," said junior Charles Stanley Jr. "The students went over to see what the cards were and they were KKK business cards. Also, a few guys with Swastika tattoos drove by and recorded us with their phones and gave us the thumbs down." ■

13 Schoenfeld leaves Vanderbilt for Duke

After 12 years in Nashville, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs Mike Schoenfeld will leave Vanderbilt for Duke University at the end of the academic year, he announced in early February.

Schoenfeld, Vanderbilt's chief communications, government and community relations officer and spokesman, will hold a similar position at Duke as vice president for public affairs and government relations.

"I have been presented with probably the biggest challenge of my career,"

Schoenfeld said. "(The position at Duke) is the only professional job for which I would leave Vanderbilt. ... It is very difficult, if not agonizing, to leave Vanderbilt. My family and I love this city, and we always will."

Schoenfeld said he originally declined Duke's offer.

"But as I spent more time with the people there and looked at the whole range of things Duke is doing and their eagerness to have a public affairs program that is digital and global, the more exciting the

opportunity became," he said.

He called the move "a very exciting and almost natural successor"

to his position at Vanderbilt.

"(The position at Duke is) an opportunity to build another great program on a great foundation," he said. "Twelve years is a long time to do what I've been doing, and given the transition in leadership here it's a good time (for change)." ■



SCHOENFELD

14 University moves forward in creating GLBT equality

Vanderbilt is moving forward in making the campus more welcoming for all students regardless of their gender identity or expression in response to efforts made by students and a report issued by a GLBTQI Student Issues Committee.

There will be "five immediate key action steps," Dean of Students Mark Bandas wrote in a press release: opening an Office for GLBT Life; hiring a director of GLBT life; working with various campus groups, especially

admissions offices and The Commons, to "ensure that members of the GLBT community understand that they are welcomed and valued members of our community"; moving to amend the non-discrimination policy to include gender identity and expression; and continuing to investigate additional recommendations made by the GLBTQI Student Issues Committee.

"Inclusion is the foundation of an academic community," Bandas said. "We can best

reap the benefits of the challenges of difference in an environment based upon mutual respect and appreciation."

The changes will make Vanderbilt the first school in Tennessee and the Southeastern Conference to add "gender identity or expression" in its non-discrimination policy.

"We've been reluctant," said senior Nick Wells, president and founder of Human Rights Campaign at Vanderbilt. "Now we can really be a leader in Tennessee and the SEC." ■

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15 Faculty prepare to head houses on Commons

Ten faculty members will greet the Class of 2012 as neighbors when the freshmen move into the houses on The Commons.

Chancellor Nick Zeppos said in an e-mail to faculty members that he chose these 10 heads of house, to "serve as mentors to students living on Vanderbilt's campus-within-a-campus for first-year students and residential faculty."

"The Commons is more than a new campus," Zeppos said. "It is an idea, a philosophy of education and human potential."

The faculty heads of house went through a rigorous selection process that included applications and numerous interviews. A search committee chaired by Dean of The Commons Frank Wcislo received approximately 30 applications. Zeppos gave final approval of the 10 appointees.

Sharon Shields, a professor in the practice of human and organizational development, jumped at the opportunity to become head of house.

"It has been a dream of mine to be a faculty-in-residence at the university level for a long time," Shields said. "This is a chance for both faculty and students to work together to build something unique." ■

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Hank Ingram Jr. House

Mark Dalhouse
East House

Frank Dobson
Gillette House

Chalene Helmuth
Sutherland House

Paul Lim
Crawford House

Tiffany Patterson
Stambaugh House

Ron Schrimpf
Memorial House

Sharon Shields
Murray House

Frank Wcislo
Will reside with his family in the Dean's Residence as dean of The Commons.

16 Vanderbilt football beats then-No. 6 South Carolina



MARY ANN CHASTAIN / Associated Press

Vanderbilt tailback Jeff Jennings runs the ball against South Carolina in the Dores' victory over the Gamecocks on Oct. 20. Vandy upset the then-No. 6 team with a final score of 17-6.

A week after losing a homecoming heartbreaker to Georgia, Vanderbilt (then 4-3, 2-3 Southeastern Conference) took out its frustrations in a big way on Oct. 20, knocking off sixth-ranked South Carolina 17-6.

The Commodores' first victory against a team ranked No. 6 or higher in 70 years left them just two wins away from becoming bowl eligible with five games to go.

Quarterback Mackenzi Adams lead the team in his first career start amid the quarterback controversy with Chris Nickson. Adams tossed two first-quarter touchdowns and led the team in rushing with 84

yards, displaying a versatile skill set.

However, the Dores came up short once again, finishing the season 5-7.

Senior offensive tackle Chris Williams chose to define his successful-yet-maddening Vanderbilt career in one word: almost. "Missed opportunities, man," Williams said, following Vanderbilt's depressing 31-17 home loss to Wake Forest. "We didn't get it done when we needed to, and that's kind of the story of my career — almost. Almost. We miss field goals by this much; we fumble; we get sacked. We shoot ourselves in the foot any way possible. It's frustrating." ■

17 JuicyCampus.com stirs discussion, gossip on campus

JuicyCampus.com entered the lives of almost every student this year — some more than others.

The new form of gossip thrives on anonymity and the power of the Internet.

Throughout second semester, students and faculty "squeezed the juice" out of the popular Web site through facilitated discussions.

"We are a community, and if we are treating each other like this, we are dividing the community," said junior Joann Lee. "We wanted to talk (about) and work through these issues that we have."

One event was structured around posts taken from the Web site that were read and discussed among several groups facilitated by leaders



from various student organizations. Students were able to vent their frustrations and think of actions that could be taken to negate the effects on campus.

"As we promote civility as a core value of our community, we must realize that the destructive material posted on JuicyCampus is malicious and cruel, permanently harming our community internally and externally," said then-Vanderbilt Student Government President-Elect Joseph Williams.

Dean of Students Mark Bandas became concerned when personal attacks were made and supported student organizations in their efforts to stymie the site.

"What I value about Vanderbilt is the community, and to make (it) function you have to act in an awareness of other people, and you have to weave into that awareness respect, consideration and circumspection," Bandas said. ■

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18 Versus publishes weekly magazine

The Hustler racks were refilled each Thursday — but it wasn't with The Hustler.

Versus Magazine, the former once-a-semester publication, printed weekly in the second semester. Editor in Chief Darcy Newell said she had the idea for a weekly magazine after seeing a "lack of depth in arts and entertainment" in Vanderbilt Student Communications Inc. publications.

"Versus will be a weekly publication specializing in entertainment and culture," Newell said. "We will have four sections: the feature, music, culture and fiction."

The feature would be the theme for the issue, Newell said.

"Some of the features are set, like the Oscars, but a lot of them are fluid," said Managing Editor Chris Gearing. "They will be about what

our writers want to talk about or what is going on at the time."

Many of Versus' specialties continued to be produced in the reconstructed magazine and on the Web.

"Versus has always had strong photo essays," Newell said, "but we had to sacrifice the glossy paper. Because of that, we are going to focus on creating them for our online readership with InsideVandy."

Both Gearing and Newell said they hoped the refocused Versus will have more success and an increased readership.

"I also saw a lack of focus on arts and culture and weekly analysis of it," Gearing said. "I think this is an exciting opportunity to give Versus the chance to rebirth into something successful." ■

19 Williams and Smith win VSG presidential election

Joseph Williams and Wyatt Smith won the Vanderbilt Student Government presidential elections in early February, becoming the second VSG team to lead the student body.

"Unbelievable," Williams said after the results were announced. "Wyatt's been here before, but I've been zero for two in the last two elections. I guess this was the one to win."

About 36 percent of the undergraduate population voted in the election, which is the second in school history after Interhall and the Student Government Association merged to form VSG in 2007. Seniors Cara Bilotta and Perry Gragg won the election last spring.

The percentage by which Williams and Smith beat candidates Jared Anderson and Courtney Holliday is not being released, according to attorney general Andrew Gossett.

"It's amazing," Smith said. "Whenever you're in an election like this, you never know what is going to happen. Everyone has



MIRON KLIMKOWSKI / Submitted photo
Students elected junior Joseph Williams and sophomore Wyatt Smith to lead VSG for 2008-09.

such a strong base."

Both Williams and Smith emphasized their intention to begin acting immediately.

"Tomorrow we go to work," Smith said. "There's a lot to be done."

They stressed that they intended to capitalize on this period of transition, which both dubbed "the honeymoon session."

"Things are already started," Williams said. "Now is the time to push. We're ready to start. We're ready to put the students' voice out there." ■

20 Rain, long lines greet students for Rites



NIKKY OKORO / The Vanderbilt Hustler
Nashville natives Old Crow Medicine Show performed at Rites of Spring to a raucous crowd, who cheered for the band despite long lines and inclement weather.

Neither hours of rain nor hour-long lines could prevent thousands of students from turning out for Rites of Spring. But it could make them pretty upset.

"Sometimes things are out of your control," said co-chair of Vanderbilt Programming Board's Music Group Dave Silverstein. "We spend every minute this year planning this festival down to the smallest details, but you can't plan the weather."

Despite Friday's long, cold rain, the show continued, according to Silverstein, "without a hitch."

"We were impressed with how many people stayed," Silverstein said. "By no means did the crowd reflect the base ticket sales, but many stood through the rain, which shows how invested the

student body is in the festival."

But students were less than pleased by the long lines that greeted them on Saturday night.

"The lines were ridiculously long," said freshman Jackie Kaplan. "We waited for more than half an hour and were seriously considering leaving."

Silverstein agrees that lines were a problem, but he did not offer a reason for this year's especially long wait.

"Every year Rites gets larger and becomes more of a grand event," he said, "so we have to find ways to handle the increasing crowds."

This year's Rites featured, among others, Cupid, Colbie Caillet and Spoon on Friday night, and Old Crow Medicine Show, Fiest and Lil Jon on Saturday. ■

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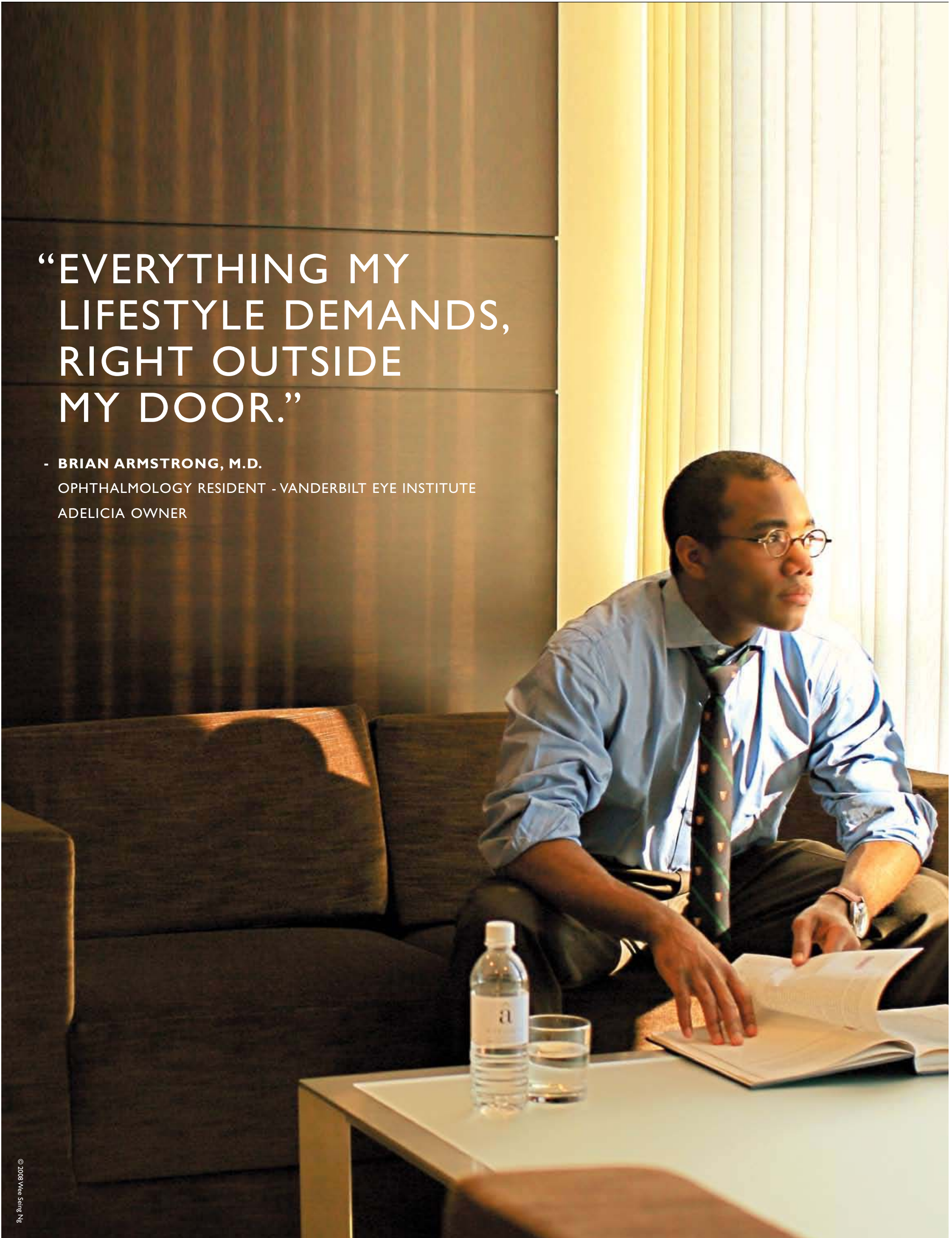
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