



# Women's VU

The monthly newsletter of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

April 2007, Volume 29, Issue 9

## JOIN PROJECT SAFE'S ANNUAL "SPEAK OUT"

"Speak Out" gives the community a chance to raise their voice against sexual violence at Vanderbilt, in Nashville, and around the world.

Friday, April 6th, 12-1 p.m.  
Rand Terrace at Vanderbilt

### *The Healing Journey: Surviving Violence Against Women*

This symposium explores the impact of violence against women in our culture and different paths of healing from such abuse. Sessions include healing through art, music, storytelling, poetry, movement/yoga, and activism. This event is free and open to the public.

Thursday, April 5th,  
10am-4:30 pm, Sarratt  
Student Ctr, Vanderbilt

For more info, please contact:  
kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu  
or call 322-3774

## Is Ignorance an Acceptable Answer...?

By Vicky Basra and Kacy Silverstein

The other day I was working at my desk when Kacy called over to me from her office, sounding exasperated and overwhelmed. She was reading an article from *The New York Times* about a rape case in which the defendant testified that he did not know that it was considered rape to have sex with a woman who was drunk (to the point of incapacitation). After a few moments of despair and deep breathing I began to really think about the work we are doing as advocates in this movement and asked myself the question: What more do we need to do to educate men? After further discussion with Kacy, I phoned my husband, a lawyer, to ask if I had somehow missed the amendment to our legal system that would allow ignorance to be accepted as justification for committing a crime? Luckily, the law does not accept ignorance as an excuse. So, when Kacy and I were asked to write an article for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we thought that

spreading some useful knowledge on the subject of sexual assault might not be a bad idea.



As advocates on a college campus, we often hear statements similar to the perpetrator's in the above story used as a way of excusing sexual assault behavior. But the reality is perpetrators are not the only ones who use ignorance to excuse accountability for their own behavior. As bystanders, members of a campus community, and human beings, we also rely on our own ignorance of sexual assault to deny accountability to the perpetrators of such crimes. We rationalize sexual assault as a "mistake" or a "bad night" by believing that "the victim shouldn't have had so much to drink" and rarely stop to think about the perpetrator's actions. We rarely ask, why did he choose, and it is a choice, to have sex with someone who was incapacitated? Why did he choose to

*continued on page 3*

## Nashville Skies Opens Possibilities for Girls

By Dr David James, Director  
Fisk-Vanderbilt NASA Planetarium & Roadshow

Under the flag of Fisk and Vanderbilt universities, *Nashville Skies* is an outreach program designed to provide a physics and astronomy experience to school-age students in and around the Nashville area. The program specifically caters to schools and community centers where science education might be lacking. By involving Fisk and Vanderbilt undergraduate and graduate students, especially women and minorities, to participate in the program, we are actively promoting the philosophy of "it takes a village to

raise a child." By observing women and minority students in strong role model positions as scientists in academia and public service, our aim is to inspire the students of today to be America's next generation of scientists. Naturally, those Fisk and Vanderbilt students involved in our outreach program, many of



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For more info, please see our website: [www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/WomensCenter)

## Kudos to our graduating students!

**Project Safe and the Women's Center Staff** would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of our graduating students! **Emily Baunach, Reagan Bush, Tim Lonergan, and Jeff Benedict** have given countless hours and incredible support to the Women's Center over the past four years. We are excited to see them accept their diplomas in May.



**Vanessa Valdes**, an amazing individual, staff member, and mentor receives her doctoral degree this May. Vanessa has worked tirelessly to support Project Safe in fulfilling its mission.

Congratulations also go out to **Sara Dean** and **Taylor Davis** and all the graduating Vandy Fems. Sara and Taylor are co-presidents of the group and have been great leaders for the Vanderbilt feminist movement.

While we are sad to see all of these wonderful, passionate students leave Vanderbilt, we are thankful for the ways in which they have touched our lives and left this campus a better place. As Dr. Seuss so appropriately said, "Oh, the places you'll go..." We hope they are all incredible!

**Women's VU** is published monthly August through May at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

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**Deadline for newsletter:** Submissions are due on the 1st of the month preceding publication.

## Nashville Skies opens possibilities for girls

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whom are female and/or from minority backgrounds, also reap an enormous pedagogical benefit.

Our Fisk-Vanderbilt Physics & Astronomy Roadshow consists primarily of a portable, inflatable StarLab planetarium from which we can project images and representations of the local night sky onto its interior. This outreach component of our program is centered around taking this mobile planetarium to schools, community centers and public educational institutions in and around Nashville, as well as across Tennessee. The portable StarLab can accommodate 20-25 students during the presentation of one demonstration/show.



The primary educational concepts of the roadshow are to introduce the participants to basic yet fundamental principles governing the sun-earth-moon system, the planets, and the stars in our galaxy. Our mission goal is to introduce physics and astronomy to school-aged children and the community while developing formal long-term partnerships with community centers such as local YMCA institutes, Vanderbilt's Dyer Observatory and Nashville's own Adventure Science Center.

In addition, our planetarium outreach program directly responds to the challenges of the National Science Foundation's People and Ideas strategic goals. Our program is designed for a broad-based targeted public understanding of science (physics and astronomy) which includes awareness and training for other education providers such as school teachers and community leaders. In terms of meeting regional, state and national education needs, the planetarium presentations are directly tied to the space science component of elementary, middle and high school curricula. By concentrating on the nature and intrinsic physics governing the galaxy, stars and planets, we are able to introduce and reinforce concepts such as mass, gravity, temperature, composition and the nature of light. In many instances, we schedule school visits to coincide with a particular class or grade's coverage of space science during the school term. In this way, we can maximize our impact using a practical reinforcement method for their book learning and classroom activities.

***Incredibly, over 38% (4000 people) of our Roadshow visitors during this timeframe are from minority backgrounds, and 5150 are female.***  
—Dr. David James

In the two and a half years since its inception, the program has so far been an outstanding success! For instance, the Fisk-Vanderbilt Astronomy Roadshow has visited some 50 schools, community centers and Vanderbilt's Dyer Observatory, for a combined total of 430 planetarium shows, comprising some 10,500 participants (mostly K-12 students, but includes in-service training for approximately 100 elementary and middle school teachers). We now have in place strong and on-going links with several magnet schools in the Nashville metropolitan area which we visit on a semester by semester basis, to be continued into the coming years. The Roadshow has also achieved an extremely broad and important impact by reaching traditionally poorly served sections of the community. Incredibly, over 38% (4000 people) of our Roadshow visitors during this timeframe are from minority backgrounds, and 5150 are females.

If you, or someone who you know in the education or public service community, would like to request a visit by the Roadshow planetarium, please visit Dyer Observatory's website ([www.dyer.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.dyer.vanderbilt.edu)) and click on the Fisk & Vanderbilt Astronomy Roadshow link, or send an email to [david.j.james@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:david.j.james@vanderbilt.edu)



# Is Ignorance an Acceptable Answer...?

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commit a crime? What we are trying to say with this article is that ignorance, contrary to popular opinion, is not bliss. No, ignorance about sexual assault, what constitutes it, and who should be held accountable, only perpetrates sexual assault myths, excuses perpetrators, and blames victims.

**Welcome to Sexual Assault 101.** Let's start close to home. Project Safe defines sexual assault as *any physical contact of a sexual nature in the absence of clear, knowing, and voluntary consent.*

An individual cannot consent who is:

- incapacitated by any drug or intoxicant
- who has been purposely compelled by force, threat of force, or deception
- who is unaware that the act is being committed
- whose ability to consent or resist is obviously impaired because of mental or physical condition
- who is coerced by supervisory or disciplinary authority.

**Lesson #1:** The issue of what constitutes consent is often riddled with controversy on college campuses and in the national media. Consent is only valid when given in the absence of any of the above circumstances. When one person enters the home of another without consent, without hesitation, we consider this a crime. On the other hand, when someone has sex with another person without their consent, we call it a "misunderstanding" and hesitate to see the crime involved.

Vanderbilt University's Student Handbook defines rape under the Sexual Misconduct section and states,

*It is a serious violation of University policy to engage in sexual conduct or activity without the consent of the other person. Consent may*

*be withdrawn at any time, without regard to the activity that preceded the withdrawal of consent. Sexual misconduct includes, but is not limited to, actual or attempted rape and sexual battery. A student who violates this policy can be prosecuted in the courts of this state and, in addition, may be suspended or expelled from the University for the first offense.*

**Lesson #2:** Each individual has the right to change their mind regarding consent at any point during sexual contact. Both individuals have the right, as outlined in University policy, to withdraw consent at any point in time.

Vanderbilt's policy goes on to define rape as:

*...sexual penetration, no matter how slight, of the genital, anal, and/or oral openings of the person by any part of the student's body or by the use of an object, without the person's consent or against the person's will where the person*

*a. is forced or has reasonable fear that the accuser or another will be injured if the accuser does not submit to the act;*

*b. is incapable of giving consent or is prevented from resisting due to physical or mental incapacity, which includes, but is not limited to, the influence of drugs including alcohol; or*

*c. suffers from a mental or physical disability.*

**Lesson #3:** Vanderbilt defines incapacitation as physical or mental incapacity. Such incapacity can be the result of alcohol or other drugs. Most experts agree that alcohol is the number one date rape drug used intentionally by a perpetrator to incapacitate a victim. There is no universal standard for measuring incapacitation, as individuals are affected differently by alcohol consumption. Therefore, Project Safe recommends abstaining from sexual activity with anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In addition, Vanderbilt's policy clearly states that intoxication or incapacitation on the part of the perpetrator of sexual assault does not excuse the crime.

Vanderbilt's policy defines sexual battery as:

*...intentionally touching the person's intimate parts (primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttock, or breast) without or against the person's consent. This touching is either directly on the body part or on the clothing covering that body part. It is also sexual battery if the person is forced to touch the intimate areas of another individual.*

Traveling outside the "Vandy Bubble," we see that Tennessee state law is quite similar to Vanderbilt policy. Tennessee State Law defines rape as:

*Sexual penetration, no matter how slight, of the genital, anal, and/or oral openings of the victim by any part of the perpetrator's body or by use of an object, without the victim's consent or against the victim's will.*

Tennessee State Law defines sexual battery as:

*Intentionally touching the victim's intimate parts (primarily genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttock, or breast) without the victim's consent.*

While for many of you this article is simply a review of Vanderbilt policy and state law, for others it might have a deeper impact. You may feel more aware now, you may feel more equipped to talk about these issues with others or even support a friend, and you may be questioning experiences in your own past. The most important lesson we can offer is that Project Safe (322-1333 or 322-3774) is always available to support victims of sexual crimes and other forms of violence. If this article leaves you with more questions than answers, if you feel angry or outraged, if you want to take a stand against violence, come share your voice at Project Safe's annual "Speak Out Against Violence."



## Neither Angels and Demons; Fixing the Maternity System



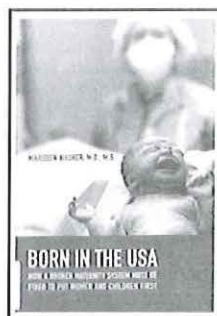
For over thirty years Kathleen Ferraro has worked to combat violence against women and for many years she has also worked with women who are both criminals and victims of violence. In *Neither Angels Nor Demons: Women, Crime and Victimization* (Northeastern University Press, 2006) her goal is “to explore the connections between victimization and offending from the perspective of women charged with crimes.”

She adds that “The complex emotions, thoughts, and experiences of women are in sharp contrast to simplistic, ahistorical categories that dominate discussions within academic, criminal justice, and activist communities.” She understands that women who harm others are neither angels nor demons and she does not try to excuse the harm that some women inflict on other people.

For this volume Ferraro, a professor of sociology at Northern Arizona University, focuses on forty-five female criminal offenders. About half of them killed or tried to kill intimate partners who abused them while the others were charged with various crimes in connection with their battering. The writer has frequently testified in both civil and criminal courts as an expert witness on the effects of battering on women.

Many selections from the women’s interviews are included in this volume and they illustrate the complexity of the women’s situations. Most of the women were working-class white women, though the group included Native American, Latina and African-American women. Almost none of the women studied had wanted to kill their partners and they showed grief, remorse and sorrow. They attacked the men when they felt that they or their children were in imminent danger. The only cases that were premeditated were three in which women arranged for others to kill their partners. All of the men involved exhibited great jealousy and possessiveness, and held patriarchal ideas about gender roles, male entitlement and women’s untrustworthiness.

There is a clear connection between women who experience sexual, physical and psychological abuse and those who commit crimes against others. In the narratives in this book we see that many of the women have had traumatic lives filled with tragedy and loss. Many had either lost parents or did not have close ties with them and began romantic relationships at a young age. The offending women do not consider themselves to be demons as their actions were provoked and were usually in self-defense. The writer, thinking not only of the women offenders, but also of their victims, families and communities, hopes that her work will help to transform what she sees as a punitive environment to one in which there is greater legal and community understanding of and support for women who attack their intimate partners.



Marsden Wagner’s *Born in the USA: How a Broken Maternity System Must be Fixed to Put Mothers and Infants First* (University of California Press, 2006) is a startling

look at the reality of childbirth in the United States. Wagner spent many years working in obstetrics, neonatology and perinatal epidemiology and was formerly Director of Women’s and Children’s Health for the World Health Organization. Some very disturbing trends in American obstetrics prompted this book. He feels that “by embracing a medical model of birth and allowing obstetricians control of our maternity care, we Americans have accepted health care for women and babies that is not only below standard for wealthy countries but often amounts to neglect and abuse.”

Wagner is particularly upset with the practice of inducing childbirth with Cytotec, a drug not only not approved by the manufacturer or the FDA for this purpose but one which is actually contraindicated for pregnant women. Since the 1990s it has been common for obstetricians to prescribe this drug, mainly for the convenience of doctors and usually not because there is any medical need for it. Too often the use of Cytotec leads to uterine hyperstimulation and sometimes to uterine rupture. The latter frequently results in the death of the mother and the delivery of a dead or brain-damaged infant.

Wagner also discusses the high incidence of episiotomies and of Cesarean sections, and the link between the use of Cytotec and C-sections. He also shows how the administration of Cytotec can lead to amniotic fluid embolism, which often causes maternal death. Women are usually not consulted about what treatment they want and are often virtually forced to endure procedures to which they are opposed and do not actually need.

The writer considers that pregnancy and childbirth are not diseases and that normal childbirth does not need to take place in hospitals, where obstetricians show up at the last minute to take charge of deliveries. Women should be in control of childbirth. Wagner illustrates how it is safer, more pleasant and more natural for women with low-risk pregnancies to have trained midwives deliver their babies either at home or in non-hospital facilities. Most other Western nations have much lower rates of maternal and infant deaths and in all of these countries midwives are the main birth attendants.

There has been tremendous opposition by obstetricians to the use of midwives and nurse-midwives in the United States; obstetricians insist on retaining control

*In the Library*



Barbara Clarke  
Women's Center  
Librarian

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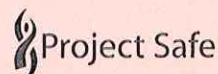
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <i>Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm</i>  <i>Vandy Fems, 7pm</i>	4	5 <i>Making Connections 5:45pm-6:45pm</i>  <i>The Healing Journey, 10am-4:30pm</i>  <i>IMAGE group; 5pm</i>	6 <i>Project Safe Annual SpeakOut 12noon-1pm</i>	7
8	9 <i>Dissertation Writers Group, 3:30-4:30pm</i>  <i>Book Group, 5:15pm-6:15pm</i>  <i>MPAS, 8pm, Sarratt 114</i>	10 <i>Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm</i>  <i>Vandy Fems, 7pm</i>	11 <i>Peer Ed, 7pm</i>	12 <i>Vandy Moms: 11:30am-12:30pm</i>  <i>"Mock Rape Trial" 6pm, Sarratt Cinema</i>  <i>IMAGE Group; 5pm</i>	13	14
15	16	17 <i>Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm</i>  <i>Vandy Fems, 7pm</i>  <i>Pay Equity Gala, Schulman Ctr, 6pm</i>	18 <i>Peer Ed, 7pm</i>	19 <i>Making Connections 5:45pm-6:45pm</i>  <i>IMAGE group; 5pm</i>	20 <i>Women in Academe: Motherhood in the Academy; 12:10pm-1:30pm; Sarratt 112</i>	21
22	23 <i>Dissertation Writers Group, 3:30-4:30pm</i>  <i>MPAS, 8pm, Sarratt 114</i>	24 <i>Creative Life Planning Group, 11:30am-1:00pm</i>	25	26 <i>Vandy Moms 11:30am-12:30pm</i>  <i>Making Connections 5:45pm-6:45pm</i>	27	28
29	30 <i>Dissertation Writers Group, 3:30-4:30pm</i>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>For details and descriptions of each group, please refer to page 6.</b> Unless otherwise indicated, all groups and events are open to the public and are held at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center at 316 West Side Row on Vanderbilt University's campus.</p> </div>		

## Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

### *The Healing Journey: Surviving Violence Against Women*

Project Safe will present an all-day symposium on the healing journey, which will feature keynote speakers, Professor Charlotte Pierce-Baker and Professor Houston Baker. Sessions will include healing through music, art, poetry, yoga, and activism. The symposium will also include a special student session on how one can support friends and family through the trauma of violence. For more information on this special event, please contact [kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu)

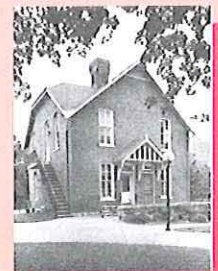
**Thursday, April 5, 2007**  
Sarratt Student Center,  
Function Room  
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



### **PAY EQUITY GALA**

April 24, 2007 marks Equal Pay Day in this country. This is the day on which women's earnings will match men's earnings from the previous fiscal year. In other words, it takes women four months longer to earn the same salary as their male counterparts. In order to raise awareness about the wage gap, we are hosting our second annual Pay Equity Gala, featuring live entertainment and a silent auction to raise funds for the nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, United for a Fair Economy, which helps build social movements for greater equality, and a keynote speaker who will discuss the topic of gender- and race-related wage inequities.

**April 17th; Ben Schulman Ctr, 6-8pm**  
For more info, please contact [taylor.l.davis@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:taylor.l.davis@vanderbilt.edu) or [stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu)



# April 2007 Calendar of Events

## EVENTS, SERIES AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

(Events listed by dates) *April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.*

### THE HEALING JOURNEY: SURVIVING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SYMPOSIUM

This symposium, sponsored by Women & Gender Studies, Project Safe, and the Vanderbilt Police Department explores the impact of violence against women in our culture and different paths of healing from such abuse. Keynote speakers include Dr. Charlotte Pierce-Baker and Dr. Houston Baker. Afternoon breakout sessions focus on healing through art, music, storytelling, poetry, movement/yoga, and activism. This event is free and open to the public.

**Date:** Thursday, April 5th, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Sarratt Student Center, Function Room

For more information or to reserve a space, please contact kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu or call 322-1333.

### ANNUAL "SPEAK OUT" TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual Assault Awareness Month, observed in April, is the month dedicated to making a concerted effort to raise awareness of sexual violence and promote its prevention. The annual "Speak Out" on the Vanderbilt Campus gives this community a chance to raise their voice against sexual violence at Vanderbilt, in Nashville, and around the world.

**Date:** Friday, April 6th, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Rand Terrace on Vanderbilt Campus

For more information, please contact vicky.basra@vanderbilt.edu or call 322-1333 kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu or call 322-3774

### "MOCK RAPE TRIAL"

Vandy Fems and Project Safe are sponsoring the semi-annual "mock rape trial" portrayed by members of the Vanderbilt Feminists depicting an alleged rape between two University students. This student-produced play presents a fictitious rape trial, and students from organizations around campus will serve as jurors. A discussion about the trial will follow.

**Date:** Thursday, April 12th, 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Sarratt Cinema in Sarratt Student Center

For more information, please contact aimee.e.casey@vanderbilt.edu

### PAY EQUITY GALA

April 24, 2007 marks Equal Pay Day in this country. This is the day on which women's earnings will match men's earnings from the previous fiscal year. In other words, it takes women four months longer to earn the same salary as their male counterparts. In order to raise awareness about the wage gap, we are hosting our second annual Pay Equity Gala this spring. The Vandy Fems will host the Pay Equity Gala, featuring live entertainment, a silent auction to raise funds for the nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, United for a Fair Economy, which helps build social movements for greater equality, and a keynote speaker who will discuss the topic of gender- and race-related wage inequities. In 2005, the most recent year for which data is available, women continued to earn only 77 cents on the dollar to their male counterparts. To match men's earnings for 2005, women have to work from January 2006 to April 2007— an extra four months. Please help us to raise awareness about this injustice and take the necessary steps to close the wage gap. With your help, we hope "equal pay for equal work" will soon become a reality for all persons in this country. Gender Matters (of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center) is proud to co-sponsor this important event with the Vanderbilt Feminists.

**Date:** April 17th; 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Ben Schulman Center for Jewish Life

For more information, please contact taylor.l.davis@vanderbilt.edu or stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

### "HOW DOES GENDER MATTER TO YOU?"

#### EXPLORING GENDER MATTERS AT VANDERBILT AND IN THE COMMUNITY

The Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center strives to increase awareness of the influence that gender has in our lives. We believe that ideas about gender impact personal happiness and fulfillment, interpersonal relationships, educational and workplace environments and the culture as a whole. Greater awareness encourages healthier and more conscious living and fuels action for social and political change within society. In fact, one of our programming departments is called "Gender Matters." So we really need and want to know how gender matters to you. Help us by completing this quick and anonymous survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=131753241230>. We will report the responses back to the Vanderbilt community and utilize the information to create connections, programs and events.

**Date:** March and April 2007

For more information, please contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu

#### COMMUNITY MEETING: ECONOMIC ISSUES FACING WOMEN (Montgomery County, TN)

The Tennessee Economic Council on Women is holding community meetings or "listening tours" across Tennessee's counties to have a conversation with women about what they determine as the most critical economic issues they face in their region. This information will be collected, compiled and used to enhance the Status of Women in Tennessee report. Data will also be used to make recommendations to local and state legislators, community groups and individuals so that positive change can be made on these critical issues. The Gender Matters program (of the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center) is partnering with the TN Economic Council on Women to facilitate these meetings and compile the data for the Greater Nashville Development District (10 counties around the Metro-Nashville/ Davidson County Area).

**Date:** Two dates to be scheduled in April. Please see our website and list serv emails for dates.

**Location:** TBA in Montgomery County, TN. Please see our website and list serv emails for locations.

For more information, please contact stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu.

## REGULAR GROUPS AND MEETINGS

(Groups listed by alphabetically)

### BOOK GROUP

**April 9th; 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.** (Meets the 2nd Monday of each month)

**What/Who:** The book group is open to new members at all times and is for anyone who loves to read. In April, the group will be discussing *The Truth about the Drug Companies: How They Deceive Us and What to Do About It* by Marcia Angell.

For more information, contact Jane Du Bose at [jdubose@bellsouth.net](mailto:jdubose@bellsouth.net) or Carmen Gherman at [cggherman@yahoo.com](mailto:cggherman@yahoo.com).

### CREATIVE LIFE PLANNING GROUP

**April 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th; 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** (Meets every Tuesday.)

**What/Who:** A group for all dedicated to living life intentionally and creatively. Free and open to everyone and is usually attended by women between 40 and 90 years of age.

**Where:** The Gallery at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center; For more information, call 322-4843.

### DISSERTATION WRITERS GROUP

**April 9th and 23rd; 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.** (Meets every other Monday.)

**Who/What:** This support group meets every week

to provide women Ph.D. candidates with objective *continued on page 7*

## April Calendar

*continued from page 6*

reactions and fresh perspectives, as well as a place to unwind during the dissertation writing process. It is for women in any stage of the dissertation-writing process.

**Where:** The Gallery at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center; For more information, contact [rorly.dicker@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:rorly.dicker@vanderbilt.edu).

### IMAGE GROUP

**April 5th, 12th, 19th; 5:00 p.m.** (Meets every Thursday)

**Who/What:** IMAGE is an organization dedicated to supporting positive body and self-image issues in the Vanderbilt community. It provides a forum for interested community members to advocate the adoption of healthy body-image concepts and the reduction of eating disorders. Free and open to any students interested in these issues.

**Where:** Sarratt 110

For more information, contact [reagan.m.bush@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:reagan.m.bush@vanderbilt.edu).

### MAKING CONNECTIONS

**April 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th; 5:45 – 6:45 p.m.** (Meets every Thursday.)

**Who:** Free and open to anyone with an interest in these issues.

**What:** A discussion group to learn about making closer connections with others, your body, and most importantly, yourself. Topics may include body image, intimate relationships, self confidence, managing anxiety and stress and many others. The group is facilitated by Dr. Fishel-Ingram and is completely confidential.

**Where:** The Gallery at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center  
For more information, contact [pamela.ingram@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:pamela.ingram@vanderbilt.edu) or 615-343-3561.



### MEN PROMOTING A SOLUTION (MPAS)

**April 9th and 23rd; 8:00 p.m.** (Meets every other Monday)

**Who/What:** A group of men dedicated to creating awareness about violent crimes against women and eliminating those crimes through social change.

**Where:** Sarratt 114; Vanderbilt University

For more info, contact [Tim Lonergan \(t.c.lonergan@vanderbilt.edu\)](mailto:Tim.Lonergan@vanderbilt.edu)



### PEER EDUCATORS OF PROJECT SAFE

**April 4th, 11th, 18th; 7:00 p.m.** (Meets every Wednesday.)

**Who/What:** Peer Educators are students trained to facilitate workshops that promote discussion and encourage understanding of violence against women.

**Where:** The Gallery at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center; Vanderbilt University

For more information, contact [reagan.m.bush@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:reagan.m.bush@vanderbilt.edu).

### SISTAHS READING SISTAHS

This group is looking for one or more individuals to lead/coordinate the group. The group typically met on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

**What:** A book group for everyone interested in reading African-American women authors. The group is currently recruiting members for the group and needs one or two women to coordinate the group.

**Who:** This group is free and open to everyone!

**Where:** The Gallery at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center; Vanderbilt University

For more information, contact [stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:stacy.nunnally@vanderbilt.edu).



### SUPPORT GROUP

**What/Who:** A support group for women who are survivors of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. This group meets weekly at a confidential time and location; all information shared is kept confidential. For more information, contact [kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:kacy.silverstein@vanderbilt.edu) or 322-3774.

### VANDERBILT FEMINISTS (VANDY FEMS)

**April 3rd, 10th, 17th; 7:00 p.m.** (Meets every Tuesday.)

**Who/What:** Open to all students of any gender. A student group concerned about women's issues on campus, and promoting equality between genders.

**Where:** The Gallery at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center; For more information, contact [sarah.c.dean@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sarah.c.dean@vanderbilt.edu) or [taylor.l.davis@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:taylor.l.davis@vanderbilt.edu).

### VANDY MOMS

**April 12th and 26th; 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** (Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.)

**What/Who:** Open to all mothers of any age, partnered or single. This is a fun support network that provides advocacy for moms in the Vanderbilt and larger communities. It also provides programming to inform, empower and enrich. On April 12th, the Vandy Moms will host Ms. Cheap (Mary Hance) of *The Tennessean*, sharing her tips for free child-friendly activities for the summer.

**Where:** The Gallery at the Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center; For more information, contact [misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:misa.culley@vanderbilt.edu) or call 343-4367.

### SAVE THE DATE! WHET CONFERENCE OCTOBER 4-5, 2007

The 2007 Annual Women in Higher Education in Tennessee (WHET) Conference will be held on the campus of Tennessee State University on October 4-5, 2007. The theme of this year's conference is "Navigating Your Career Path: Successful Strategies for Reaching Your Goals." As always, students, faculty, staff, and administrators in higher education are invited to participate in the annual conference. For more information contact Tracey Carter, President-Elect, WHET, at (615) 963-7494 or via email at [tcarter@tnstate.edu](mailto:tcarter@tnstate.edu).

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## In the Library

*continued from page 4*

over childbirth. Over the years there have been many attempts by doctors to make it illegal for midwives to deliver babies and obstetricians have tried to discourage women from using midwives. Not only do doctors lose lucrative business to midwives but they are unhappy about statistics showing that low-risk births have more successful outcomes when the babies are delivered by midwives. Obstetricians, who have traditionally been male, also tend to look down on nurses and midwives, who have usually been female.

Wagner has particularly harsh criticism for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, which seems much more interested in protecting the rights and interests of its members than in improving the health of American women and infants. Due to the frequency of lawsuits brought against obstetricians, and the consequent increases in insurance rates, most doctors are practicing defensive medicine. They claim that by inducing labor with drugs and by performing Cesarean sections, they can prove that they were doing everything that they could to ensure successful deliveries. The writer feels that "that doctor is not practicing medicine. He is practicing fear and greed."

The infant mortality rate in this country is higher than it is in forty-one other countries and American women are seventy percent more likely to die in childbirth than are European women. Wagner devotes the last chapter to suggestions for monitoring obstetric practices and for making childbirth safer, more rewarding and less traumatic for American women.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NASHVILLE NOW (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN)** meets the 4th Monday of the month at the Nashville Peace and Justice Center behind Scarritt Bennett at 7 p.m. This meeting is open to members, friends and those seeking more information. For more information, contact CynthiaNashNOW@aol.com or 269-7141.

The next **Nashville CABLE** meeting will be April 11 (2nd Wednesday of each month) from 11:30am-1:00pm. For more information, contact nashvillecable.org

As **Nashville CABLE** continues to support women in their attainment of professional excellence we are pleased to provide the CABLE scholarship to active CABLE members. The scholarship is designed to make continued membership available to CABLE members with limited financial resources. The scholarship committee will determine the one-time scholarship award based on (1) financial need and (2) recipient's participation in CABLE. The scholarship committee will meet and award scholarships quarterly. Applications must be received by the following dates for consideration: **April 1, July 1, and October 1, 2007**. All scholarship applications will be held in the strictest confidence. Applicants will be considered without regard to race, gender, religion, national origin, physical disability, or age. To apply, please mail your completed scholarship application, together with a cover letter, to Scholarship Committee, c/o CABLE, P.O. Box 23148, Nashville, TN 37203.

## GET HELP WITH YOUR TAXES!

If you have a household income of less than \$40,000, you qualify to get your taxes done for free at one of Nashville's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. Trained volunteers will prepare your taxes

and e-file them, free of charge. VITA volunteers make certain you are receiving all applicable refunds, including the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit. Refunds are available within 7 to 10 days with e-filing and direct deposit. The city's newest VITA site is located near the Vanderbilt campus in the Edgehill neighborhood at the Easley Community Center (1000 Edgehill Avenue). The Vanderbilt-Edgehill site is open January 20th thru April 14th on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. To find out about other VITA site locations or for more information, dial 211. The Vanderbilt-Edgehill VITA site is sponsored in part by the Nashville Wealth Building Alliance and Vanderbilt's Office of Community, Neighborhood and Government Relations.

## ACCELERATOR™: VANDERBILT SUMMER BUSINESS INSTITUTE

What is your next step? How will you use this summer to further your career? For a select number of you, the Accelerator™-Vanderbilt Summer Business Institute at the Owen Graduate School of Management may be the answer. Approaching the third year of this uniquely successful program, Accelerator offers the kind of hands-on, real-world experience that will complement your undergraduate education with the specific, practical skills you need to earn the job you want and hit the ground running.

**Dates: Saturday, May 26 through Sunday, June 24, 2007**

**Location: Owen Graduate School of Management**

For more information, please contact [accelerator@owen.vanderbilt.edu](mailto:accelerator@owen.vanderbilt.edu) or (615) 343-6291. In addition, visit the Accelerator section at [www.owen.vanderbilt.edu](http://www.owen.vanderbilt.edu) for a deeper connection to the rich program curriculum and past student experiences, as well as to review admissions and application materials and deadlines.



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- Other

Mail to the Women's Center, Vanderbilt University, Box 351513 Station B, Nashville, TN 37235

## Margaret Cuninggim Women's Center

Vanderbilt University  
Box 351513, Station B  
2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Nashville, TN 37235

