

The Occupational Health Clinic The Vanderbilt Child and Family Center

Health Plus Work/Life Connections - EAP

Connection

Providing programs that support the health and productivity of Vanderbilt's most valuable asset... YOU!

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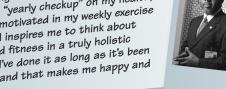
Go for the Gold inspires faculty and staff to lead healthy lifestyles

Over 18,000 faculty and staff participated in the Go for the Gold program in Go for Gold 2012. Health *Plus* staff are regularly hearing personal stories of how the program changed a life or helped someone to identify a health risk they were not

previously aware of. Each year, before the October 31 deadline you will make the choice to complete the Go for the Gold steps. Take a minute to reflect on the value you place on your health and the personal commitment you have made to have the best health possible. Read why some faculty and staff choose to do Go for the Gold each year.



Pam Schneller, Blair School of Music Participating in Go for the Gold gives me a personal "yearly checkup" on my health, keeps me motivated in my weekly exercise plans, and inspires me to think about health and fitness in a truly holistic manner. I've done it as long as it's been available and that makes me happy and proud!





Jerry Fife, The Division of Administration I use Go for the Gold each year as a barometer and reminder of how I'm doing regarding my personal health and what I could do to improve my



Cynthia Paschal, Biomedical Engineering I participate in Go for the Gold for many reasons. One is that I always benefit from reminders about taking better care of myself through better exercise, nutrition, stress management, safety, rest, and more. Knowing what to do doesn't always translate into doing what I need to do. A little encouragement such as that which I receive through GFTG really helps!

Visit

http://healthplus.vanderbilt.edu and click the link to Go for the Gold to read Quick Facts about Go for the Gold; or to check your Health Plan Account balance online, log into www.bcbs.com/ members/vanderbilt or www.aetna.com.

Complete Go for the Gold by October 31, 2012, at http://healthplus.vanderbilt.edu.



Freddie Easley,

Facilities and Operations I participate in Go for the Gold every year and encourage my staff to do so. It benefits me as a manager because it helps my team to learn more about their health, and the benefit of the financial part is great, too.

Kenny Moore,

The Peabody Commons Center Go for the Gold isn't just a valuable program to faculty and staff. It inspires one to not settle for good, but rather pursue greatness. Just as the Olympians go for gold, we too want to achieve the highest level of performance in our lives. Go for the Gold pushes us and the benefits abound for us and those that care about us.

Steve Caldwell,

Dean of Students Office With Go for the Gold, the University has provided us the information, the framework to track our progress, and real incentive to live more healthy. It is up to us to flip the switch and make it happen.

Mark Your Calendar

October 1 Start! Challenge 4 Begins

October 6 Heart Walk

October 10 Health Fair at Student Life Center

October 11 Health Fair at One Hundred Oaks

October 17 – 18 Flulapalooza

October 31 Go for the Gold and Open

Enrollment DEADLINE

November 12 Hold the Stuffing Begins

November 15 The Great American Smokeout



Susan Hernandez. BSN, MBA, BN

Chief Nursing Officer, Associate Hospital Director-Patient Care Services, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, Executive Sponsor of the Nurse Wellness Committee and Health Plus Wellness Commodore

Leading by example

Vanderbilt Leaders Making Wellness a Priority

What is your favorite fall outdoor activity?

Walking and running in Percy Warner Park with my husband and friends. I also love to attend football games.

Who is your support team when you have had a bad day?

Husband, parents, and friends they are a great reminder of how blessed I am!

This Thanksgiving, what will you be most thankful for?

The support of family and friends, my health and the health of others, and my job.

What is your favorite guilty pleasure?

Singing and performing in a nursing musical! OK... so I was only able to do that a few times... I really enjoy shopping for treats for others.

Describe your perfect "last supper."

Cheese plate, beef tenderloin, gouda mashed potatoes, and a fresh salad made by someone else! I would want to eat it at a beautifully decorated table and share it with my closest friends and family.

vanderbilt news

Back by popular demand! It's Flulapalooza!



Last year over 14,000 people were vaccinated for influenza at the first annual

Flulapalooza event. It was such a huge success that Vanderbilt University and Medical Center faculty, staff, students, and volunteers will once again have the opportunity to be a part of the exciting Flulapalooza event and help us beat last year's participation! "We initially planned Flulapalooza as a one-time event, but the response was overwhelming. This is the way people want to get their flu shots each year — easy, efficient, and enjoyable. So Flulapalooza is back by popular demand!" explains Melanie Swift, MD, Director of the Occupational Health Clinic.

Where: Tent between Light Hall and VA Acre Building

When: Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012, 6 a.m. – 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Who can attend: Vanderbilt University and Medical Center faculty, staff, students, and volunteers (family members are not included in this event).

For maximum efficiency please wear short sleeves and present your Vanderbilt ID badge. Supervisors, please stagger your staff participation.

Occupational Health will offer a variety of additional locations and times for those faculty and staff that are unable to attend Flulapalooza.

Find details at http://occupationalhealth.vanderbilt.edu.

Remember, the FLU ends with U!



Human Resources



VANDERBILT

Fall Happenings

The Vanderbilt Community Giving Campaign is October
 1 - November 9. Your donations help nonprofit agencies in Middle Tennessee tackle domestic violence, hunger, job training, and more. See www.vanderbilt.edu/vanderbilt-gives.

Work/Life Connections-EAP

The Counseling Corner



Q: Dear Counselor,

In the past few weeks, I have been feeling sad and irritable. I am not sleeping well and I feel stressed, but I don't know of anything that is specifically bothering me. I eat a balanced diet and I work at a desk most of the day. I don't want to take medication. What could I try to feel better?

Feeling Low?

A: Dear Feeling Low,

You're describing some symptoms that are related to depression. Depression can have a variety of symptoms such as: sadness, irritability, feelings of hopelessness or helplessness, fatigue, loss of interest, decreased concentration, and changes in sleeping and eating patterns. Chronic stress over a long period can make one vulnerable to depression.

Try exercise. Studies show that people who exercise regularly benefit with a positive boost in mood. Exercise can help your body release endorphins, natural chemicals that can help you feel increased energy and well-being. You can walk, dance, swim, bike, jog, or join a yoga class. You can also combine social activities with exercise like participating in the Heart Walk, Race for the Cure, the Walk to End Alzheimer's, or countless other worthwhile activities.

Hopefully, this will have a positive impact on your mood. If you would like further recommendations based upon your specific situation, Work/Life Connections-EAP is a free resource for Vanderbilt employees and their spouses and same sex domestic partners. For a confidential, appointment just call **936-1327**.

Stephanie Dean, LPC, Assistant Manager Work/Life Connections-EAP Counselor

- Come see us at the Vanderbilt Benefits and Health Fair on October 10 – 11. We will be on hand to answer your Open Enrollment and benefits questions. Medical, dental, vision, retirement, and disability representatives also will be available.
- Open Enrollment for 2013 benefits is October 17 31.
 All benefits-eligible employees need to enroll! See
 hr.vanderbilt.edu/oe for details and an event calendar.



2011 participants Dominique Herrington (on left) with her daughter Caroline.

Gilda's Gang half marathon training program begins

Make your dream to run or walk the Country Music Half Marathon on April 28, 2013, a reality. Join Health *Plus* as we partner with Gilda's Club of Nashville to offer a 16-week comprehensive training program designed to help you reach your goal. Joining Gilda's Gang is a great way to get fit and give back to men, women, and children in our community who are affected by cancer.

"Having never participated in any sort of distance race or fundraiser, but desperately knowing I needed to change my lifestyle, I challenged myself by joining Gilda's Gang. I had so much fun, from the daily training sessions at Dayani, to the weekly distance trainings on Saturday with other Gilda's Gang members and coaches. Six weeks into the training, my daughter Caroline, decided I was having too much fun so she would drive up from Huntsville each Saturday morning and off to Gilda's we would go," said Dominique Herrington, an employee at the Vanderbilt Bill Wilkerson Center's Pi Beta Phi Rehabilitation Institute.

The program includes:

- A personalized training schedule for all levels (run, run/walk, and walk).
- Free access to Vanderbilt Dayani Center, including pool, indoor track, and classes.
- Mentors to help coach and guide you with individual fundraising.
- Team technical shirt, plus incentive gifts for achieving fundraising targets.
- A post-race celebration with massage, entertainment, and team awards.
- Much, much more!

Learn more at http://healthplus.vanderbilt.edu or come to one of the no-obligation information sessions that will be offered in December and early January at Vanderbilt locations announced soon on the Health *Plus* Website.

Sponsored by Health *Plus*, Vanderbilt Dayani Center, and the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center.

To prevent backaches while raking leaves, don't stand in one place when you rake.

Move your feet and legs as you rake to minimize bending and twisting your back.

Keeping it fun and safe

Ask a child his favorite holiday, and chances are Halloween will rank in the top three or four.

And why not? They get to dress up as their favorite character, stay out long after the street lights have come on, and get free candy from as many people as possible.

It's the stuff of legend and unfortunately, a possible precursor to an eventful appointment with the dentist.

"While dental injuries or illnesses do happen on Halloween, we normally catch problems weeks or even months later when children are brought in for their regular check-ups," said Tony Bare, DMD, and assistant professor of Dentistry at Vanderbilt. "But we can protect their long-term dental health by limiting sugary snacks and encouraging good brushing habits," he said.

Here are a few other tips to keep Halloween a happy, healthy experience for all:

- Discuss your expectations with your child before trickor-treating. Lay the ground rules for how much candy can be eaten that night and in succeeding days.
- Keep all candy in the kitchen and out of your child's bedroom.
- Try to avoid sticky and hard candy that can more easily lead to tooth decay.
- Make sure your child brushes at least twice a day, particularly after eating sugary snacks on Halloween.
- Encourage a life-time of good brushing and flossing habits by serving as a good example in your home.
- See your dentist twice a year for regular cleanings and check-ups.

For more information, call the Vanderbilt Dental Clinic at **615-322-2193**.

Vanderbilt observes American Diabetes Month in November

The American Diabetes Association conducts activities and encourages involvement across the country each November to educate the general public about diabetes and its serious complications. Throughout the month, the Vanderbilt Diabetes Center (VDC) will sponsor activities and partner with Health *Plus* to increase awareness about the seriousness of diabetes.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

November 10 — 2012 ADA Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes at Centennial Park, 8 a.m.

November 14 — 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Diabetes Research Day at Student Life Center.

November 14 — World Diabetes Day This year's theme: Diabetes Education & Prevention.

November 12 – 16 — Glucose (Blood Sugar) Screenings for faculty/staff at Hold the Stuffing events.

Diabetes At-A-Glance

Diabetes, or a high level of blood glucose is a serious chronic health problem that can affect children or adults. Type 1 diabetes requires insulin to control the blood sugar because the body cannot produce its own insulin. Type 2 diabetes requires diabetes medications or insulin therapy to control blood sugar. The number of people with Type 2 diabetes is on the rise — fueled largely by the increase in obesity. However, diabetes prevention and management are proven, possible, and powerful.

WARNING SIGNS

- · Increased thirst
- Urinating frequently
- · Blurry vision
- Feeling tired
- Losing weight without trying
- Sores that are slow to heal
- Losing feeling or tingling in the feet

For additional information contact the Vanderbilt Diabetes Center (http://www.vanderbiltdiabetes.org).

Health n

Keep the holiday weight gain on hold with Hold the Stuffing!

Health *Plus* invites you to control holiday weight gain by joining the yearly Hold the Stuffing challenge to maintain weight from Thanksgiving through the new year. A total of 1,015 people completed the program in 2011 and 982 people lost or maintained their weight, with an average weight loss of 2.94 pounds!

To participate, simply weigh in at one of the Hold the Stuffing weigh-in stations the week before Thanksgiving (November 12-17) and the week after New Year's (January, 2013). If you maintain your weight (Okay, you can gain up to two pounds.) you will be entered into a drawing for great prizes to be given away.

Vanderbilt off-site locations: Call Health *Plus* at **343-8943** to receive a "Do Your Own Hold the Stuffing" tool kit and stay connected to the fun.

• Monday, November 12

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. *Light Hall, North Lobby 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Peabody Library, Room 202

• Tuesday, November 13

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Baker Building, Lobby

• Wednesday, November 14

7 a.m. – 1 p.m. Courtyard Café,

Dining Room

11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Godchaux Hall Nursing Annex

Room 165

• Thursday, November 15

7 a.m. – noon *Preston Research Building, Lobby

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Crystal Terrace, Room 201

• Friday, November 16

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Monroe-Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt,

Room 2104

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. *One Hundred Oaks, Room 26119

• Monday – Friday, November 12 – 16

5 a.m. – 9 p.m. Health *Plus*, Kensington Garage

• Saturday, November 17

8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Health *Plus*, Kensington Garage

*These locations will offer a non-fasting glucose (blood sugar) screening in partnership with the Vanderbilt Diabetes Center.

Health and Wellness Connection

Newsletter Editor: Stacey K. Kendrick, MS, Coordinator of Health Promotion, Faculty/Staff Health & Wellness

Contact

stacey.k.kendrick@vanderbilt.edu or 322-6689. "To feel 'fit as a fiddle,' you must tone down your middle."

— Unknown

ews you can use

Active at any size

Being overweight can make exercising more challenging, but if you're using extra pounds as an excuse not to get moving, tell yourself, "I can do it. I will do it."

Getting-started pointers

- **Invest in quality athletic shoes** with arch support and cushioning.
- Wear comfortable clothing.
- Include strength training; but to benefit your overall fitness and your heart, combine strength training with aerobic training (walking, swimming, or aqua aerobics).
- Avoid high-impact exercise when starting out. Jumping and running can put pressure on joints and could cause pain in the joints or supporting tissue. Work up to higher impact movement once you're stronger and your body is used to exercise. Health *Plus* offers a variety of group fitness classes that are low-impact, such as water aerobics, NIA, and Zumba. Check the Health *Plus* group fitness schedule for classes, times, and locations that work for you at http://healthplus.vanderbilt.edu.

Consult with your health-care provider before starting any new exercise program.

This easy and delicious soup is hearty enough to be a main dish meal and perfect for fall nights. Make extra and eat it all week!

Eating-Well Recipe

Corn and Potato Chowder

- 1 medium potato, peeled and diced small (about 2 cups diced)
- 2½ cups water
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1½ cups minced onion
- 1½ tsp. salt (or to taste)
- 1 medium stalk celery, finely minced
- 1 small red bell pepper, finely minced
- 5 cups (approximately 4 to 5 cobs worth) fresh sweet corn or you can use frozen
- pepper to taste
- 1 cup skim milk, at room temperature

Place the potatoes and water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, lower to a simmer, cover, and cook until the potatoes are tender. Set aside.

Melt butter in a kettle or Dutch oven. Add onion and salt, and cook over medium-low heat, stirring. After 5 minutes, add celery. Five minutes later add the cooked potatoes with all their liquid, the red bell pepper, corn, and a few shakes of pepper. Stir well, cover, and reduce heat. Cook for about 5 minutes longer.

Using a blender or food processor, purée about half the solids (about 2 to 3 cups) in some of the soup's own liquid. Return this to the pot, and let it rest until serving time. Stir in the milk about 10 minutes before serving time. Don't cook the soup any further just heat it until it's hot enough to eat. Serve immediately.

Tip: Serve this soup with a piece of crusty whole-grain bread and a small salad and you have a heart-healthy meal in no time.

Spice up seasoning staples

If your idea of adding flavor to vegetables involves salt, pepper, and butter, try branching out. Using herbs and spices can take a vegetable dish from ordinary to extraordinary with little, if any, extra effort. And your vegetables will be healthier, too.

Herbs: (fresh or dried) — Be careful not to overdo it on dried herbs. They are more concentrated than the fresh form and can easily overpower vegetable flavor.

- Oregano Basil Parsley Thyme
- Rosemary Chervil Tarragon
- Coriander Cumin Dill Ginger
- Lemongrass Garlic (Technically it's not an herb; it's a vegetable like an onion.)

Spices:

- Cinnamon Nutmeg Cloves
- Turmeric Curry

Listen to a Wellcast titled *The Health Benefits of Cooking with Herbs* on the Health *Plus* Website at

http://healthplus.vanderbilt.edu_



View a video of this recipe and others in the Health *Plus* Healthy Kitchen Cooking Video Library at http:// healthplus.vanderbilt.edu. take car

OUT FROM UNDER DEBT

Getting back on track

If you're digging out of a difficult situation that left you with sizable debt, emptied your emergency fund, or shrank your savings account, you need to pay off the debt or replenish your rainy-day fund. But how?

- **1.** Write down and tally all expenses so you know how much you spent during the emergency situation.
- 2. Label the extra expenses as "debt to self."
- **3.** Take the "debt to self" total and divide by 12 to figure out whether you can pay off the debt (if you used your credit card) or replenish your emergency fund in a year's time.
- **4.** If you can handle the monthly payment, add it to your budget and begin paying it. If you can pay more, do it.
- **5.** If you can't pay it back within a year, what monthly payment is realistic? Could you modify your budget to cut expenses in other areas so that you can use that money to pay off the debt or rebuild the fund?

Vanderbilt University Credit Union offers debt consolidation loans up to \$10,000, with rates as low as 6.75%, plus the payment can be done through payroll deduction.

For more information visit our Website www.VanderbiltCU.org, or call us at 615-936-0300 for more information.

"When you find yourself stressed, ask yourself one question:

Will this matter five years from now? If yes, then do something about the situation.

If no, then let it go."

— Catherine Pulsifer



Debit Card vs. Credit Card

Debit cards are becoming more widely used as an alternative to credit cards. There are advantages and disadvantages for each card type.

- Debit cards are useful for routine and small purchases, but not so much for major purchases or buying items online.
- Credit cards can be handy for buying things when your bank account balance is low or to take advantage of a no-interest grace period.
- Michael Bittle of the Vanderbilt Credit Union points out that "Many people do not realize that debit cards are not the same as a credit card, just attached to your checking account. Debit cards are very difficult to use to rent a car or book a hotel room, and caution must be used with debit cards for online purchases as fraud protection is a concern."

Reviewed and commented on by: Michael W Bittle, CEO, Vanderbilt University Credit Union

family health

Occupational Health Clinic TALK:

AGENCIES ARE SOUNDING THE ALARM ON THE RISKS OF HEALTH CARE WORKER FATIGUE

With Pat Kinman, MSN, RN, CS, Occupational Health Clinic Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Manager

Health care institutions are getting some of the attention previously reserved for the transportation industry regarding the impact of worker fatigue on safety. We can all agree that being alert while providing health care is just as critical as when someone is piloting a plane or driving a commercial truck.

In 2011 the Joint Commission published a sentinel event alert directing institutions to review policies and procedures for addressing health care staff fatigue and its impact on patient safety.

An expert team was brought together at Vanderbilt to review this issue. Several current projects were identified:

- *VandyWorks* scheduling system sends alerts to area managers when certain "over scheduling" criteria are met.
- **SBAR** The patient handoff communications process provides a structure to reduce the effect of fatigue on safety.
- The Take a Break Campaign ensures that staff rest during their shift.

The committee continues to develop plans to enhance measures we have and create others. One product coming soon is a new online training about worker fatigue designed by Work/Life Connections-EAP.

Here are a few evidenced-based ideas for things that individuals can do:

- After a night shift, wear sunglasses to avoid the sun so you can go to sleep more easily went you get home.
- **Keep the same sleep schedule** even when not at work and aim for 7 to 8 hours of sleep each night.
- If you don't go to sleep after 20 minutes of lying in bed, get up and try yoga, a bath, or reading.
- · Be aware of impending sleepiness.
- **Develop strategies** to immediately counteract that sleepy feeling.
 - Use caffeine 30 minutes before a shift, or just during a drowsy period.
 - Spend a few minutes in a well-lit room.
 - Engage someone in a conversation or do some physical activity, such as stretching.

I hope that you are ready to answer the alarm and take steps to help us fight fatigue in the workplace. The benefits we will see are increased safety and health for ourselves and our patients.

Being there for someone with breast cancer

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Here are a few dos and don'ts to keep in mind if you'd like to help a co-worker, friend, or loved one who is battling the disease.

DO

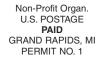
- Admit you might not know just what to say. Let the person know you're there for her or him nonetheless. Say you're willing to do anything needed, even if it's just listening.
- Ask about family and activities anything that brings the person joy.
- **Invite the person to lunch,** a funny movie, or to go shopping.
- Talk about the cancer with her or him (if the person wants). Follow the person's lead. You'll be able to tell in no time what she or he needs by simply listening.

DON'T

- Tell the person you know someone who just died or recently had a scare.
- Drop out of sight or stay away.
- Say you know how she or he feels (unless you've also gone through a similar experience).

Social worker Cindy Tinker points out that "Everyone's support system is different and we approach it on a case-by-case basis. Some may need an advocate at medical appointments, some may need transportation, and others may need a professional to talk with for emotional and mental support. Needs will be different for each person, and can also change from day to day. It takes a team approach to access what each person dealing with a cancer diagnosis needs in order to help them."

Reviewed and commented on by: Cindy Tinker, LMSW, Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center Clinical Social Worker





Vanderbilt Health & Wellness Vanderbilt University 2201 25th Ave. South Nashville, TN 37240



upcoming events

Babies and You

Health *Plus* offers this workplace prenatal health promotion program to full-time Vanderbilt employees, spouses, and dependents. The program encourages early and consistent prenatal care and provides monthly educational opportunities. An incentive is offered to those who register in their first trimester, attend at least three of the monthly classes, and go to all prenatal provider visits.

UPCOMING CLASSES FOR BABIES AND YOU:

October 18, noon to 1 p.m. Men Have Babies, Too

A panel discussion with experienced Dads Location: Light Hall, Room 415

November 15, noon to 1 p.m.
Breastfeeding, A Positive Choice
Carol Huber, RN, BS, IBCLC,
Lactation Consultant, NICU
Location: Light Hall, Room 415

For more information or to register online, visit http://healthplus.vanderbilt.edu.

Health Plus Group Fitness News to Know...

- Enjoy the fall weather with Walking Wednesdays Join Health *Plus* Group Fitness Coordinator Lori Cowan as she leads a 30-minute walk every Wednesday through November 7. Meet Lori at the Medical Center North shuttle drop off at noon 12:30 p.m., rain or shine (if it rains we walk in the tunnels).
- Check out the new fall quarter group fitness schedule on the Health *Plus* Website at http://healthplus.vanderbilt.edu, or pick up a copy at Health *Plus*.

All classes are available at no charge to Vanderbilt part-time and full-time faculty and staff that complete their Health Risk Assessment annually. Unless otherwise indicated, all classes are held at Health *Plus* and there is no need to sign up for classes except for the Wednesday 5:15 p.m. Zumba class. For this class ONLY, participants must call **343-8943** to sign up for a spot.

For details, call Group Fitness Coordinator Lori Cowan at 343-8943, or contact her at lori.l.cowan@vanderbilt.edu.

The Life Phase Series

The Health *Plus* Life Phase Series is a monthly lunch and learn that provides faculty and staff with a variety of interesting topics that help support life outside of work. The class is offered the third Thursday of each month from noon – 1 p.m. Feel free to bring your lunch.

October 18

Raising Responsible Teens

Medical Center East, Room 8380B Presenter: Rebekah Walker, LCSW, therapist and licensed clinical social worker

November 15 Better-for-You Holiday Desserts

Light Hall, Room 431

Presenter: Stacey Kendrick, MS, health educator and Health *Plus* Coordinator of Health Promotion

Health and Wellness Director: Mary Yarbrough, MD, MPH
Department Managers: