

**TURNER FAMILY CENTER FOR
SOCIAL VENTURES**

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



**REGISTRATION IS COMING UP!
HAVE YOU APPLIED TO PROJECT
PYRAMID YET?**

**Applications close tonight at
MIDNIGHT!**



TURNER FAMILY CENTER FOR SOCIAL VENTURES





ABOUT US

Continuing a long-standing partnership with Vanderbilt University, in 2015, the Turner Family Foundation committed \$1.2M over a 5-year period to establish the Turner Family Center for Social Ventures (TFC) and to help it grow as a leading, student-led organization that leverages market-based solutions to alleviate poverty. For five years, the TFC has designed and grown specific programs and experiences for students to cultivate their leadership and ability to create social change through a business lens.

Housed at the Owen Graduate School of Management, the TFC was created as a hub for interdisciplinary graduate student resources, fellowship, collaboration, and partnership—across multiple graduate schools—further promoting responsible business practices and shaping diverse future leaders of our domestic and international communities.

The Turner Family Center for Social Ventures is an interdisciplinary, graduate student-led organization committed to developing socially and environmentally conscious leaders and doers. We prepare our students to drive systemic, impactful change through market-driven forces and enterprise. We provide resources and opportunities to leverage and combine the individual strengths of Vanderbilt University graduate students, faculty, and business partners.

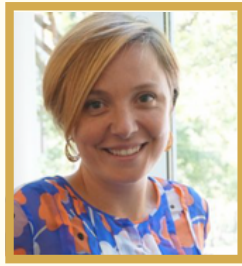
**STUDENT-LED.
UNIVERSITY-SUPPORTED.
GLOBALLY-CHARGED.**



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outgoing chair LETTER

CALI LIVINGSTONE,
OWEN '20

Dear TFC Family,

As our Center's fifth year draws to a close, I could not be more proud of the accomplishments of the 2019-2020 TFC student leaders or more inspired by the possibilities already in the works for the upcoming year. The end of this academic year has thrust our TFC community into a world of uncertainty as we negotiate rebuilding Nashville from severe weather events, reemerging as contributing citizens after COVID-19, and understanding our role in institutions that negate or perpetuate inequality. At the TFC, our mission is to build future leaders that are ready to lean in into the complexity of the unknown.

Our accomplishments through TFC programming this year have reinforced this certainty: Our students are ready and willing to drive systemic, inclusive, impactful change to build a better future. The TFC's immediate response to the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting rescinded student summer internships was to activate our network of partners seeking the talent and abilities of TFC students. To date, we have connected more than 40 students with meaningful summer project work as a result – including our local partner, Extra Good, researching how Covid-19 has affected medical recovery supply chain. To name a few other highlights from this academic year:

- Our flagship TFC Summit expanded its audience to include participants from more than 10 states and 12 universities in conversations about building ecosystems for impact.
- Through the Hult Prize competition, three students designed Joop, a company that directs recycled cloth to make school uniforms. They won the regional Hult Prize competition in Melbourne, advancing to the global accelerator to compete for the final \$1 million Hult Prize.
- In partnership with 100% Owen, our service and philanthropy club, we placed 25 MBAs on Nashville nonprofit boards.

While these are just some of our headline accomplishments, our real work comes from the daily interactions with students that visit during our lunch & learns, community engagement events, and TFC office hours. Students bring us the tough questions they are grappling with to learn how to make the biggest contribution throughout their careers.

I have felt so honored to lead this organization this year. It has pushed me to think creatively, problem solve, and rapidly adjust to evolving situations. The TFC community brought color, diverse perspectives, and life-long friends into my graduate experience. A special thank you to my board and committee members for their hard work. We wish good luck to our incoming board and the classes ahead. We can't wait to see what they will accomplish!

Sincerely,

Cali

Incoming Board Members

Hannah Turnbull (MBA '21), Executive Chair
Sambit Kar (MBA '21), Project Pyramid
Erin Campbell (MBA '21), Impact Investing
Anna Linn Currie (M.Ed. '21), Branding & Marketing
Katie Foster (M.Ed. '21), Summit
Ryan Lojo (MBA. '21), Startup & Social Entrepreneurship
Lauren Mitchell (MPH '21), Special Projects & Consulting
Harry Smith (MBA '21), Co-Academics & Experience
Daniel Cortez (MBA '21), Co-Academics & Experience

incoming chair LETTER

TFC Community,

HANNAH TURNBULL, OWEN '21

This past year has been challenging. When we choose to pursue higher education, we accept the challenges and difficulties that come along with bettering ourselves, gaining perspectives, and making major life and career moves. We find the people and the causes to keep us marching towards our goals, and remain steadfast to those when the waters get murkier. Each of us has been challenged in new ways over the past few months, and the TFC has been both an anchor and a guiding light. A place to understand the implications of a global pandemic on magnifying social problems, and an outlet to create positive change.

Even with an atypical board transition and close to the academic year, our team was hard at work figuring out how to support each other and our mission without knowing what's next. We are considering ways to alter and expand our programming to reach more students and community members, to continue meaningful and impactful conversations - even if we can't be in the same room. We are focused on our opportunities to include more diverse audiences and to plan for and beyond times of social distancing. We are building on a strong foundation and have a team that's already showed a willingness to roll up their sleeves, adjust, and get to work. I am grateful to be surrounded by people who see the opportunities to have a positive social impact and are willing to accept more challenges, especially amidst a global pandemic, and I am hopeful for what's to come.

With gratitude,

Hannah



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

At the heart of the TFC is our desire to create more leaders with impact and influence. Our student programming board leads all of our work as a center, supported by student committees. Together, they are responsible for strategizing and executing TFC programs and initiatives throughout the year. From panel discussions to case competitions to experiential immersion treks, these learning experiences would not be possible without the dedication of these students.

TFC Board 2019-2020

Cali Livingstone (MBA '20), Chair
Seth Staugler (MBA '20), Vice Chair
Nasser Mallouky (MBA '20), Project Pyramid
Lindsay Edwards (M.Ed. '20), Partnerships
Rabo Garba (MBA '20), Impact Investing
Hana Bacaj (M.A. '20), Hult
Zahraa Yousif (M.Ed. '20), Summit

Carolyn Williams (MBA '20), Social Enterprise Consulting
Lauren Schmidt (M.Ed. '20), Branding & Marketing
Mallory Hall (MBA '20), Academics & Experience
Karlene Kuhn (JD '22), Treks
Erin Campbell (MBA '21), Community Cafe
Ryan Lojo (MBA '21), Alumni Engagement

Owen Cafe Mural

You'll see this snippet of art throughout the Annual Report from the mural design that TFC students' created and painted in Owen's Cafe this school year - one more mark of the Center's desire to connect, create, and collaborate.



**With special
thanks to the
37+ student
committee
members who
envisioned and
executed the
2019-20 year's
programming!**

TFC GROWTH & PROGRESS

As always, the TFC is committed to building interdisciplinary experiences for students. Over the course of this year, we continued improving upon programs for students to engage and grow, while developing new initiatives and partnerships for students to develop as socially and environmentally conscious leaders & doers.

1,050+
STUDENTS INVOLVED

8

SCHOOLS ENGAGED

10+

PROGRAMS OFFERED

75+

PARTNERS ENGAGED

NEW INITIATIVES:

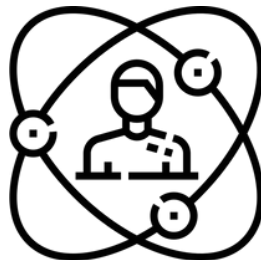
- New TFC Board Positions:
 - Impact Investing Chair
 - Partnerships Chair
 - Alumni Engagement Chair
 - Cafe & Community Chair
- Corner to Corner entrepreneurship partnership
- VU University Innovation Fellows chapter
- Owen Board Fellows
- Remora - Owen Marketing Clinic
- Accelerator Global Immersion - Guatemala & VU Athletics Partnership
- Friends of the TFC Alumni Network

You'll see we've organized our Annual Report by the following program focus areas:



EDUCATION

Structured learning experiences



EXPERIENCE

Hands-on immersion



CAREERS

Career development and advising

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CONSULTING



"The SEC program was great, and I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity. I experienced a lot of growth and learning about social enterprises in general, but also further understanding what it means to do that work and what some of the unique barriers are that affect social enterprises" - 2020 SEC Participant

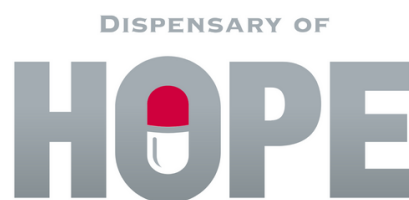
Our Social Enterprise Consulting (SEC) teams excelled this year, supporting 2 local clients to explore significant opportunities for growth and revenue generation.

2020 SEC Partners:


Dispensary of Hope - a Nashville-based medical surplus recovery organization, within Ascension Health, distributes donated pharmaceutical medications to a national network of safety net clinics and hospitals

Harvest Hands - a South Nashville-focused nonprofit that started Humphreys Street as a social enterprise to employ teens to roast and sell coffee and soaps through the operation of a cafe and wholesale business

Two student teams supported each client. 15 students representing five of Vanderbilt's graduate schools brought to the projects a wealth of questions, knowledge, and tools in economic development, business, public health, education policy, sciences, and leadership. Guest speakers facilitated workshops on consulting frameworks, the social business model canvas, approaches to research and impact evaluation, and presenting to clients.



15 students
2 partners
4 teams



**"I WANTED TO LEARN ABOUT OTHER
WAYS TO TACKLE THE ISSUES THAT
ARE TORMENTING THE WORLD,
AND THAT IS WHEN I FOUND MYSELF
AT THE DOOR OF THE TFC."**

*- Hana Bacaj, Hult Chair 2019-2020,
M.A. Economic Development 2020*

IMPACT INVESTING

The TFC focused on impact investing and finance as a key focus area this year, led by chair, Rabo Garba (MBA '20).

MIINT

This was the TFC and VU's second year to participate in MIINT, the MBA Impact Investing Network & Training (MIINT) - an experiential lab that gives students at business and graduate schools a hands-on education in impact investing. MIINT is a partnership of the Wharton School's Social Impact Initiative and Bridges Impact Foundation to train the next generation of leaders to "think like an impact investor" with the opportunity to source, diligence, and present early stage impact investment ideas to an expert judging committee.

This year, the TFC sponsored two MIINT teams, with students representing three VU graduate schools, studying law, business, finance, and economic development.

We also held a finance-focused panel at the TFC Summit to highlighting several VU alumni and partners who are working to expand impact investing and social finance.



- 2020 - PROJECT PYRAMID

Initiated in 2006, Project Pyramid is a Vanderbilt University interdisciplinary, student-led program that uses in-classroom and hands-on learning experiences to meaningfully engage with socially-conscious organizations across the globe. Students consult with partner organizations seeking to establish market-driven solutions that help fulfill their missions. This year, our teams worked with partners in three countries: Guatemala, Mexico, and Nigeria, and while current events of Covid-19 altered the course of some of these projects, students found innovative ways to collaborate with our global partners. In its fourteenth year, the Project Pyramid course was co-led by Professor Bart Victor and TFC Director, Mario Avila, and shaped by a passionate group of students.



GUATEMALA



IMPACT HUB

The Impact Hub team was tasked to work with the Nashville Mayor's Office for Economic and Community Development to create a plan to engage economically disenfranchised populations of Nashville in entrepreneurship, and to generate a proposal for a business co-working space and support services for these communities.

SOLES4SOULS

Working with Nashville-based social enterprise, Soles4Souls, which turns unwanted shoes and clothing into opportunity, this team explored opportunities at the intersection of education and entrepreneurship with the goal of creating jobs and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty.

PRIMEROS PASOS

Primeros Pasos is a non-profit clinic, founded by Vanderbilt alumnus Brent Savoie, that seeks to improve the quality of life of rural communities in Guatemala through integrated health education programs and access to medical service. The team explored the feasibility of the clinic implementing a Chronic Care Follow-Up Program through cross-market analysis.



HANES GREEN COFFEE CONSULTING

The Hanes Green Coffee Consulting Group headed down to Guatemala to explore the coffee landscape and corporate social responsibility efforts in the industry. With their Nashville-based client, they used time in-country to fact find and gain a better understanding of the Guatemalan coffee industry.

MEXICO

ABEJA REYNA

Working with Mass Challenge winner, Abeja Reyna, an organic beauty line supporting bees and Mexican beekeepers, the team learned about the company's rich story and recent expansion. They conducted market research to explore next steps to support the company's growth strategy.



MASS CHALLENGE

The MassChallenge team worked to develop a needs assessment tool for the startups seeking to work with MassChallenge Mexico. Headquartered in the US, MassChallenge strengthens the global innovation ecosystem by accelerating high-potential startups across all industries, from anywhere in the world for zero-equity taken.

NIGERIA

ASPIRE

Despite not having the opportunity to travel to work alongside the client in Lagos, the Aspire team was able to modify their project to support their alternative energy client. The project focused on creating marketing materials for the "Installer Collective" initiative to educate the public about sustainable energy and environmental and health benefits of using new diesel energy generators - with the goal of attracting community organizers, interested individuals, and potential investors. Our second Nigeria team discontinued their healthcare project after spring break to support other teams given the challenges of Covid-19 and distance consulting.



SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Owen Graduate School of Management
Peabody College & Humphrey Fellows
Graduate School
Law School
School of Nursing
School of Medicine
Divinity School

38

INTERDISCIPLINARY
STUDENTS

7

CONSULTING TEAMS



EMERGING IMPACT LEADERS

Designed for first year graduate students from across disciplines who are eager to engage with the concepts of embedding social mission within business practices, the Emerging Impact Leaders creates community and conversation. Through peer-to-peer learning, workshops and discussions, EIL fellows came together to hone their vocational aspirations, explore potential careers, and understand best practices for creating social change through the market.

Monthly sessions highlighted the work of professionals and organizations seeking to blend social mission with different business models. Students identified their personal values, reflected on their professions' challenges, and further explored their professional goals together.

"I learned so much from the program as a whole. I am truly rethinking my future plans in order to incorporate as much social impact in every decision and action I make. I know that impact can be so broad, and each one of us can make it part of our communities." - 2019-2020 EIL Participant

This year's cohort:

Raphael Abayateye (MPH '21)
 Caroline Erickson (MD '22)
 Nelson Graham (MBA '21)
 Yasmina Haddad (M.Ed. '21)
 Sonila Hasaj (M.A. '21)
 Karlene Kuhn (JD '22)
 Patricia Moore (JD '21)
 Areesha Najam (M.A. '21)
 Kareim Oliphant (JD '21)
 Jenny Sanford (MSN '21)
 Brianna Stephens (M.Div. '21)
 Hannah Turnbull (MBA '21)
 Kaitlyn Wilson (MBA '21)

13
 Students

7
 Cohort Discussions

7
 Graduate Schools
 Represented

• HULT PRIZE •

The Hult Prize is an international case competition dedicated to launching the world's next wave of social entrepreneurs. For the fifth year, the TFC hosted Vanderbilt's Hult Competition, and teams pitched solutions and innovative ideas for sustainable start-up enterprises to address climate change.

2020 HULT CHALLENGE:
Build a startup that has a positive impact on our planet with every dollar earned



This year, the Vanderbilt student team, Joop, advanced from our 2019 Vanderbilt Hult Competition to the Melbourne Hult Prize Regional Summit - and won first place! Moving forward in the Hult Prize Competition, they are one of 50 team global teams competing for Hult's \$1M in seed funding for their venture that focuses on sustainability in the fashion industry - focused on school uniforms.

Team members include:

Kelly Chang (B.A. '22)

Benjamin Wong (B.S. '22)

Jake Silver (B.S. '22)



**HULT
PRIZE**

“

“Exactly a year ago, we would not have known that we would be in the process of bringing a start-up to life today. Though there were many opportunities for us to quit and give up, our unconventional approach, determination, and grit are what keeps us going each and every day.”

”

- Ben Wong, B.A. '22,
Joop Co-Founder & CMO



EXPERIENCE

SUMMIT 20

JAN 31 & FEB 1

GROWING TOGETHER



featuring speakers from:

Simien EcoTrek
Clayton Christensen Institute
Center for Public Research &
Leadership - Columbia University
Dalberg
Brown Advisory
Chestnut Catalyst & Chattanooga
Renaissance Fund
Calvert Impact Capital
Launch Tennessee
UNICEF
The Well Coffeehouse
Hawkins Partners & the Nashville
Innovation Project
Millions of Conversations
Teach for All
Boys & Girls Clubs of America

With the theme of “Growing Together,” the fifth annual Social Ventures Summit convened innovative and ambitious practitioners to:

- challenge common entrepreneurial approaches
- expand their networks
- foster a culture of engagement

Our students created a space to unite alumni, partners, and current students seeking to create large-scale impact in communities locally and globally.

Summit Sessions included:

01

**CREATING
ECOSYSTEMS OF
SUPPORT**

04

**CAPITAL
FOR GOOD**

02

**ACCELERATING
GROWTH IN
SOCIAL VENTURES**

05

**SOCIAL IMPACT
CAREERS**

03

**DESIGN
THINKING**

06

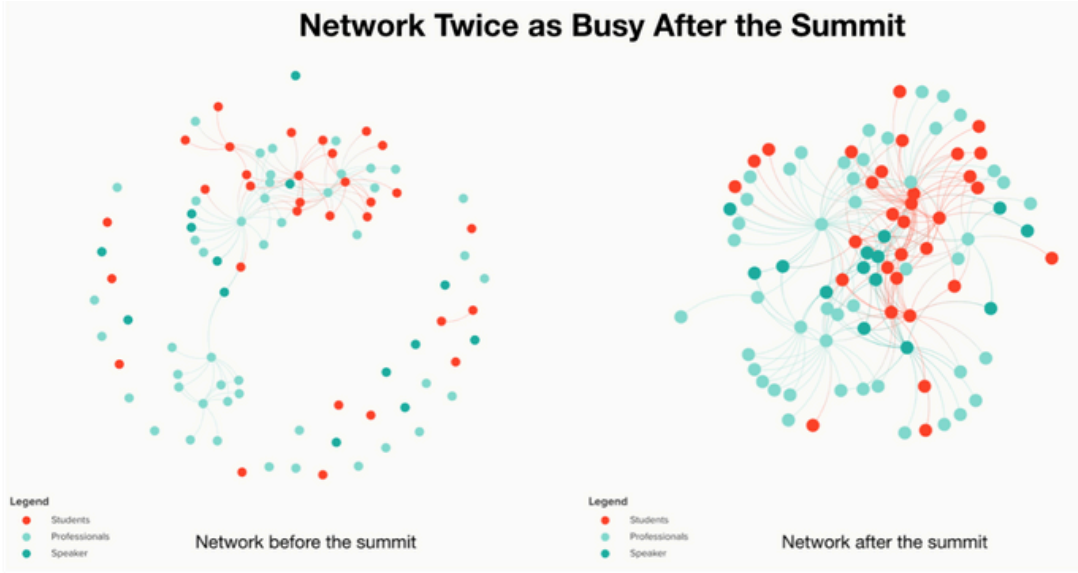
**INSPIRATIONAL
VENTURES**

This year's TFC Social Ventures Summit, planned and led by our TFC Social Ventures Summit Committee under the leadership of Zahraa Yousif (M.Ed. LOP '20), gathered 120+ participants from 12 universities across 7 states and 20 cross-sector speakers & moderators. The goal, as with each annual summit, is to create more connections among attendees, facilitating deeper conversations and thoughtful questions. The ecosystem map below demonstrates the resulting network growth and connectivity:



120+
PARTICIPANTS

15+
PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS





NASHVILLE IMMERSION TREK

THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN NASHVILLE

TFC Treks are student-led experiential learning trips with interdisciplinary groups of Vanderbilt graduate students. The goal of these experiences is to connect students with a variety of cross-sector approaches to social entrepreneurship and impact in different U.S. communities.

This year, the TFC led the “The Immigrant Experience in Nashville” focused on Nashville's vibrant international cultures, the city's New American communities, and the organizations committed to serving them.

On November 1, 2019, **10 graduate students** from across disciplines (Nursing, Business, Law, Community Development, Anthropology, and Education) learned about how individuals, nonprofits, and social service agencies have come together to play an important role in the immigrant experience. They visited Nashville's most diverse zip code, heard from those who have transitioned to life in Nashville, and learned from the local organizations creating solutions and access for Nashville's newest residents and business owners.

10 students 5 Nashville Partners

We are very grateful to our partners for opening their doors to us!

Nations in our Neighborhood

Conexión Américas

Justice for our Neighbors (JFON)

TN Immigrant & Refugee Rights

Coalition (TIRRC)

**Nashville International Center for
Empowerment (NICE)**

“It was truly eye-opening for our students to see the intricate network of agencies addressing the needs - and opportunities - of New American communities in Nashville. Students learned from immigrant-led movements and organizations about the wealth of diversity in Nashville and the Southeast.”

- Kathleen Fuchs Hritz, TFC Assistant Director &
Member of Nashville Mayor's New American Advisory Council



EXPERIENCE





STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

THEIR TFC PATHS: GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STUDENT LEADERS



Lauren Schmidt

SEPT 2018

- Attended TFC Social & Info Session
- Joined Academic & Student Experience committee
- Joined TFC Emerging Impact Leaders Fellowship

FEB 2019

- Selected for TFC Leadership as the Branding & Communications Chair
- Facilitated Impact Series Discussion: Gender Equity & Women's Empowerment Panel

MARCH 2019

- Partnered with Net Impact for Impact Week events, including Sustainability Lunch & Learn
- Attended Board Retreat, began transition and onboarding

SUMMER 2019

- Began marketing and engagement research to refine the TFC mission statement
- Prepped for grad school orientations to recruit new students to the TFC



Rabo Garba

APRIL 2018

- First meeting with TFC Student Leaders during the Owen MBA Discover Weekend
- Expressed interest in TFC and impact investing

SEPT 2018

- Tapped to consider creating a team to compete in MIINT, impact investing competition
- Spent the next month finding students to go on this journey

NOV 2018

- Attended the MIINT Impact Investing Career Trek in Washington, D.C.
- Gained valuable insight on the entire impact investing spectrum

APRIL 2019

- Represented Vanderbilt at the MIINT Finals in Philadelphia
- Selected as TFC's first Impact Investing Chair for 2019-2020 Board



EXPERIENCE



Our students' growth and development over the span of their time as leaders in the TFC is an ongoing process. Here are featured students who consistently engaged with the TFC and served as leaders. Though they are headed in different directions post-graduation, their paths to and through the TFC overlapped, and we can't wait to see where their paths beyond Vanderbilt lead.

SEPT 2019

- Streamlined processes for marketing TFC programs
- Identified committee (Roberto and Julia)
- Applied for Project Pyramid
- Mapped out Social Impact Certificate with Megan Skaggs, TFC GA

OCT 2019

- Accepted to Project Pyramid
- Pitched TFC Mission statement renewal to Alumni Advisory Board & presented Social Impact Certificate to TFC Leadership

MARCH 2020

- Accepted into PP with team Impact Hub
- Continued Independent Study with Mario & work with Owen careers
- Traveled to Guatemala with Project Pyramid
- Onboarded incoming board members

"I learned so much about myself and how I interact with others. It was my first time managing a team and spearheading large innovative projects."

SUMMER 2019

- Spent the summer in New York working for a clean energy startup
- Used TFC network and MIINT contacts to learn about the impact investing space

OCT 2019

- Created a multi-disciplinary committee to explore various aspects of impact investing
- Launched year two of MIINT with two Vanderbilt TFC teams

FEB 2020

- Hosted impact investing panel sessions for the 2020 TFC Summit
- Speakers came from connections made during MIINT Trek and SOCAP Conference and alumni
- Started to focus on ESG investing potential at Owen

"My time in the TFC has shown me that this change will require collaboration between investors, employers, customers, and other stakeholders."

Owen Student Organizations

This year, Owen's Net Impact chapter and the 100% Owen service and philanthropy club officially came under the umbrella of the TFC. These long-standing partnerships naturally align with the TFC, given Net Impact's focus on sustainability and corporate social responsibility, and 100% Owen's focus on engaging students with the Nashville nonprofit community.



100% OWEN LAUNCHES BOARD FELLOWS

In fall 2019, Owen officially launched the Board Fellows program, placing Owen MBA students as non-voting board members of Nashville area nonprofits. In the program's first year, 25 first year MBA students were selected to serve with 24 nonprofit boards. Board Fellowships will equip students to learn and engage as community leaders and business leaders, prepared for board service and leadership in their careers and communities. This program would not be possible without the support of our nonprofit partners who are seeking to invest in students' leadership development and student leaders, 100% Owen President Mallory Hall (MBA '20) and Board Fellows VP, Kaitlyn Wilson (MBA '21)

25
STUDENTS



24
PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS



Accelerator Global Immersion: Social Enterprise in Emerging Markets

In December 2019, the TFC partnered with the Vanderbilt Accelerator Program for an immersive program in Antigua, Guatemala focused on Social Enterprise and Business in Emerging Markets. Thirteen undergraduate students engaged directly with businesses and organizations across the social impact continuum, ranging from pure commercial enterprise to an operational charity.

Directed by Accelerator Director, Greg Harvey, and TFC Director, Mario Avila, the program was made possible through coordination from Elliot Dawes (M.Ed. '19), with support from Megan Skaggs (M.Ed./M.A. '21) and Jax Collins (MTS '20) and the following partners:

Vanderbilt's Center for Latin American Studies

Pomona Impact

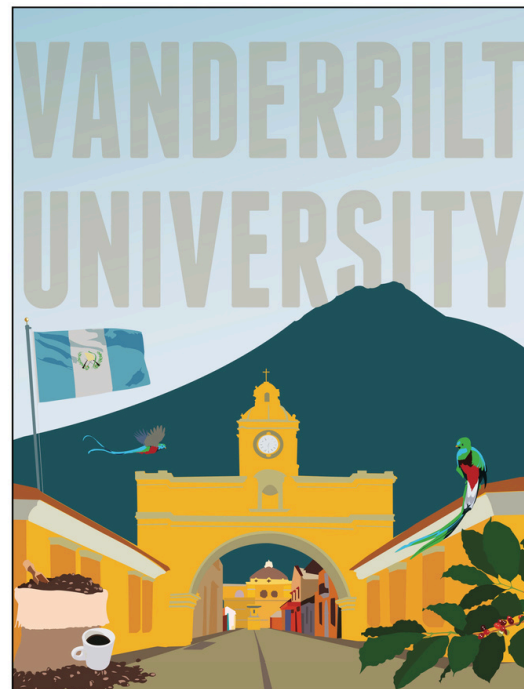
De la Gente Coffee

Ecofiltro

Casa Herrera - University of Texas - Austin

Vanderbilt Athletics

Instructors: Julio Martinez, Mario Avila



Accelerator® Global Immersion

Entrepreneurship & Social Impact
Dec 15-21, 2019 • Antigua, Guatemala



13

STUDENTS

6

GLOBAL PARTNERS

1

WEEK



Summer 2019 student athlete interns, Kayla Eason ('21), Kenny Hebert ('20), Braden Kopp ('20), helped envision programming focused on students' professional development with Accelerator & the TFC

"One thing I learned that I can apply to my work are the models the Guatemalan social enterprises use to operate. As we learned, the enterprises successfully treat the poorer classes as consumers and allow a transaction to occur, instead of simply giving them a hand-out."

- William Takes '22,
Global Immersion participant



CAREERS



COVID-19 Response



In March 2020, during the week of our spring break, a devastating tornado came through Nashville and Tennessee. Only a week later, the Covid-19 pandemic shifted the world completely. Vanderbilt moved to virtual learning and safer-at-home orders changed the last quarter of our school year completely.

As we came together (virtually) to strategize plans for the remainder of this academic year and summer, we sought to respond to the needs of our students and wider community. TFC leaders activated their network of like-minded individuals in Nashville, across the US and the world to identify opportunities to connect students seeking career opportunities – summer and full-time – with meaningful work, while supporting our community members in the midst of these rapid changes. Our commitment to innovation and connection remains steadfast in uncertain times.

"We thrive on having deep and meaningful conversations about how we can contribute to humanity, locally and globally, and how we can act. We are strongest when we work together, and I know a lot of us want to get to work."

-From a note from Hannah & Cali, incoming and outgoing chairs, March 2020



**BART
VICTOR**

**Cal Turner
Professor
of Moral
Leadership**

**Faculty
Director,
Turner
Family
Center**

LETTER FROM BART

Social scientists often look to unplanned and unexpected events to learn about human behavior. I remember a number of years back, Frank Smith* compared absenteeism during a snowstorm to observe employee commitment. It was a simple but powerful way to observe what about people and work and workplaces made a difference when it was suddenly harder to get to the job. Well this pandemic is as unplanned and unexpected as any event I've ever experienced, so I've been thinking, what is there to learn about the people and work of the TFC?

In the midst of the Project Pyramid travel and the middle of the programming, learning, and leading of the TFC, the world shifted on its axis. Everyone had to react and decide what to do. In the time since the onset, I have been awed by the resilience, creativity, and caring that this community has demonstrated. While nothing went as hoped for, the effort to do what mattered continued and even increased. What I saw was an extraordinary persistence and commitment of the students and staff of the TFC. Like Frank Smith had observed from the snowstorm, this was not the case everywhere across places and programs that would compare to the TFC in important ways. So the question I asked was: why the difference?

A good social scientist would first consider the simplest explanations. Being in the Business School, simple explanations usually include some clear cost or benefit. And such explanations are powerful. We see people everyday in these times risk their lives because the costs of losing their jobs or their businesses is so great. Costs to families, to hoped-for futures, to shelter and sustenance bring people out. For others, who deserve our respect and admiration, the immediacy of duty and caring drew them to the risk and not away. These explanations are good, but the TFC case needs something more. What we do is important yes, but not urgent. There was some direct cost or lost benefit that would have accompanied the choice to not continue the work, but I am not sure these were sufficient motivation. I reflected back to what got all this started some 14 years ago. A group of otherwise typical MBA students heard Mohammed Yunus tell of his practice of microlending and they were inspired.

In this story I think they found the possibility of another purpose for their ambition. While all of them wanted to continue their journeys to job and career, they found in this story that they wanted more. This is where it gets a little complicated. After hearing Dr. Yunus's story, they came to my office looking for help in learning how they could do more with their professional lives. I believe that the more that they wanted was shared purpose with others who could do them no good but to share purpose. Dr. Yunus had reached out his hand to those starving women in Bangladesh not to give, but to join in venture. He did so with people who others might have seen as simply needy. He saw that they, like him, wanted to be agents in creating a better future. I think these students heard in his story that the purpose of their ambition was not only like what others distant and less fortunate dreamed, but that they were in a profound way linked. **The work of the students in the TFC began as the challenge to learn better how to share their ambitions to create a better world.**

I think the TFC continues to be a response to the desire for "more" from life. The "more" that is found not in common interest, but in shared interest. The "more" that is found not in sympathy but in community. I think this is an important part of why the work continued in spite of all that has happened of late. My hypothesis and my hope is that the unique drive that created, grew, and continues in the TFC is what will be its unique future. We are all in this together.

With gratitude,

Bart

*Smith, Frank J (1977) "Work attitudes as predictors of attendance on a specific day." Journal of Applied Psychology, 62:16-19

TFC ALUMNI UPDATES

This year, the TFC leadership placed emphasis on connecting current students with our growing alumni network.

Here's what we've been building:



01

Established a first year board position for Alumni Engagement to facilitate communication with our growing alumni network. Ryan Lojo (MBA '21) developed strategy and led initiatives this year to connect alumni with the Center and current students.

02

Welcomed three new alumni members to our TFC Advisory Board: Matt Inbusch ('16), Rachel Taplinger ('14), and Pete Lavorini ('16)

03

Connected our alumni on and off campus as they continued to utilize learnings from their time at the TFC in their careers post-graduation. We enjoyed hosting lunch & learns, guest speaker sessions, and Summit workshops with alumni throughout the school year.

04

Launched and continued to build the "Friends of the TFC" alumni network, stay tuned for 2020 announcements!

"When I joined the board of the TFC, I was awed by these student and alumni stories. These personal histories are what have laid the foundation of the organization we have today. They energized me, and this is why I am thrilled to set the strategy for how our past students connect and engage with each other and with current students."

- Ryan Lojo, MBA '21
first year board member

STAFF LETTER

TFC Family,

Five years ago, the Turner Family Foundation and Cal Turner, Jr. entrusted our students and our Center with a gift and a responsibility to create opportunities for students to learn, create, and lead. For the past five years, we've seen students bring their curiosity and questions, further explore their passions and professions, and connect with others who seek the same - everyday. As we conclude the fifth school year of the TFC (and fourteenth year of Project Pyramid!), we reflect back on the hard work of five student boards, five years of building programs and an important legacy - on campus and in students' lives.

The energy and momentum of the TFC has been fueled by strong relationships and common curiosity. That is why, each day, student teams filter in and out of the Think Tank', Mario never finishes a meeting on time, Bart comes through on a routine morning walk at approximately 9:49AM each day, students emerge around the corner looking for snacks or Kathleen and Megan, and groups congregate in the TFC lounge before and after their classes and meetings.

It has not been lost on us that the space of the TFC - physical and figurative - is key to the community and curiosity it cultivates. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on community and gatherings, that opportunity to gather is a gift that we will continue to create and cherish - even if it means innovating and changing plans, enduring more screen time, and meeting virtually - all while celebrating that what our students have created over these past five years can thrive beyond the confines of campus.

Graduates of the class of 2020 - since the pandemic prevented us from celebrating you here in person, we raise our glasses to you and salute what you have accomplished at Vanderbilt - and what you will accomplish ahead. We thank you for the ways that you have made one another and each of us better and for the ways you brought your full selves to work and wonder at what we can accomplish together. As you go forth, continue to create spaces for yourself and others to strive for more, to ask bigger questions, and inspire and lead great change.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Mario, Kathleen, Megan, & Esther



Mario Avila
Founding Director



Kathleen Fuchs Hritz
Assistant Director



Megan Skaggs
Graduate Associate



Esther Yoon
Undergraduate Associate

TFC Partners

Abeya Reyna
ABLE
Advantage Health - Nigeria
Ashoka
Aspire - Nigeria
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Calvert Impact Capital
Casa Herrera - University of Texas
Center for Latin American Studies - Vanderbilt University
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Clayton Christensen Institute
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The Change Agency
Conexión Américas
Corner to Corner
Dalberg
De la Gente Coffee
Dispensary of Hope
Ecofiltro
Extra Good
Hanes Green Coffee
Harvest Hands CDC & Humphreys Street Coffee
HBCUvc
Hult Prize International
Impact Hub - Antigua, Guatemala
Launch Tennessee
LendLease
Lipscomb University - Business As Mission Program
Mass Challenge
Medical Innovators Development Program
MIINT MBA Impact Investing Network & Training Program
Millions of Conversations
Nashville Food Waste Initiative
Nashville Innovation Project
Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE)
Nashville Office of the Mayor
Nations in Our Neighborhood
Owen Leadership Development Program
Persist Nashville
Pomona Impact
Primeros Pasos
Schneider Electric
Simien Eco Trek
Soles4Souls
Teach for All
TN Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC)
TN Justice for Our Neighbors (J-FON)
Trap Garden

Turner Family Foundation
UNICEF - Office of Innovation
University Innovation Fellows
Vanderbilt Accelerator
Vanderbilt Athletics
Vanderbilt Center for Latin American Studies
Vanderbilt Sustainability & Energy Management Office
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The Wond'ry - Vanderbilt Innovation Center

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Special Olympics
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Tennessee Solar Energy Association
Urban Green Lab
Valor Collegiate Academies
Women In Technology Tennessee (WiTT)
YWCA of Middle Tennessee







*To those who have supported us and partnered with
us - thank you for another great year!*

Turner Family Center for Social Ventures

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Vanderbilt University

Owen Graduate School of Management

Nashville, Tennessee

