



TURNER FAMILY
CENTER FOR SOCIAL VENTURES



2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

DEVELOPING
SOCIALY AND
ENVIRONMENTALLY
CONSCIOUS
LEADERS AND DOERS



The Turner Family Center for Social Ventures is an interdisciplinary, graduate student-led organization committed to developing socially and environmentally conscious leaders and doers.

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The Turner Family Center for Social Ventures (TFC) was created as a hub for graduate student resources, fellowship, collaboration, and partnership—across all graduate schools—to promote responsible business practices and shape future leaders of our domestic and international communities.

The Center prepares students to drive systemic, impactful change through market-driven forces and enterprise by providing resources and opportunities to leverage and combine the individual strengths of Vanderbilt University graduate students, faculty, and business partners.

Established in 2015 through a generous gift from the Cal Turner Family Foundation, the TFC and the Owen Graduate School of Management are grateful to steward a renewed five-year gift from the Foundation for Vanderbilt graduate students to grow and lead as moral and ethical leaders in their professions and lives.



LETTER FROM 2021-2022 TFC EXECUTIVE CHAIR



To my TFC family and friends,

I find it wildly difficult to write this letter. Staring at this blank page for weeks has not brought me the closure or comfort that I am seeking, because it means that I am writing the end of a beautiful story, a chapter that I am not ready to close. The choice to spend my time with the Turner Family Center is one of the best decisions I made at Vanderbilt, and in my life. However, I have realized the story of this Center is not solely my tale to tell, and that it is nowhere near the end of the greater story.

Our 2021-22 TFC board leaders were faced with a truly unique moment in the Center's history: the unknown. In academia, everything feels predictable, laid out for you, steps to check off and goals to set. When we took on our roles, we were handed the opportunity to bring back a culture that we had not truly felt, due to the pandemic and distancing during our first year at Vanderbilt and a largely virtual TFC experience. To be and build a community was my new task, one of uncertainty and responsibility to others that I did not take lightly. As I reflect now at the end, I believe I understand why we were chosen for our roles: to be writers of a great, hopeful chapter in the TFC story.

Our board had a chemistry that immediately made us friends, a bond that we used as a tool throughout the year to engage and build community. Our greatest success lies in our shared purpose of growing friendships, learning together, and including others to find curiosity here. We spent our time well. We focused on people, bringing in diverse minds and delivering top-quality competitions and programs that built relationships with our Nashville community and international partners. The TFC is a great equalizer; anyone who chooses to spend their time in service to others, in studying systems of empowering the impoverished, and in seeking a place filled with diverse opinions and backgrounds will find a home here. I certainly did.

The incoming 2022-2023 Board is uniquely different from ours - our departing team's intentional design and final gift. They are strategic, nonconforming, filled with a strong mix of introverts and extroverts, creative writers, financial thinkers, and most of all, students who got to experience the warm glow of the TFC community all of this past year. They are the harbingers of growth that this Center needs to construct its next phase, and they will take the bricks we dusted off and continue to build something beautiful.

I close this letter with the beginning and ending lines from O'Shaughnessy's poem Ode:

We are the music makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams,
Wandering by lone sea-breakers,
And sitting by desolate streams;
World-losers and world-forsakers
On whom the pale moon gleams:
Yet we are the movers and shakers
Of the world for ever, it seems.

Great hail! we cry to the comers
From the dazzling unknown shore;
Bring us hither your sun and your summers;
And renew our world as of yore;
You shall teach us your song's new numbers,
And things that we dreamed not before:
Yea, in spite of a dreamer who slumbers,
And a singer who sings no more.

It has been an honor to lead this Center's movers and shakers, and I humbly pass its burning torch of community and empathy to the joyful 'comers' of 2022-2023.

Forever onwards,

Ariane Willson

M.Ed. Leadership & Organizational Performance '22

LETTER FROM TFC STAFF & FACULTY

TFC Community,

In many ways, we'd describe this school year as a year 'in between'. In the fall, we returned to campus after an academic year with a fully virtual TFC experience. We returned, but to a temporary home on campus, during Owen's significant building renovation project. We returned to gatherings with students and relationships that had been almost fully forged on Zoom. Though we are accustomed to the constant movement of students each year, a particular not-quite-settled state was felt all over campus, not to forget that it was felt globally in workplaces and in our communities. (We also found ourselves in the middle in personal ways, too - Mario had undertaken home renovations of his own, Kathleen was in school finishing up Owen's EMBA program.)



But for our students, there is no 'middle' in their time at the TFC. When they pick up their student ID, they are squarely in a distinct chapter in their lives at Vanderbilt. They don't choose or mark the years of their studies around capital campaigns and building projects or pandemics. To the best of their abilities and circumstances, they get to be fully present in Nashville to study, reflect, and grow. Most often, they are in a new city, or even country, to explore both the road that led them here and the paths available to them beyond - and the TFC is a cherished place where those roads intersect. You'll hear of this profound time and sense of presence in Ariane and Trey's letters - the spirit and awareness that they are writing the story of the TFC for a distinct chapter in the Center's history, that coincides with the full chapter of their lives as students at Vanderbilt. This presence is felt in the ways that students invest in consulting projects and pitch competitions, but also in relationships that are formative to their development as leaders seeking social impact.



This year was also special because we welcomed Brian McCann as Faculty Director, upon the retirement of our Founding Faculty Director, Bart Victor. Brian's leadership is reflective of his interests in strategic management, critical thinking, and decision making. He asks challenging questions of each of us to ensure mission alignment within the Center and thoughtful execution of the ways in which we host, educate, and develop students as change agents at the TFC.



We eagerly await opening the TFC in its new home in an updated Owen building this fall. We look forward to unpacking after two years of 'in-betweens', but all the more, to the inspiring and difficult conversations ahead that we'll have about business' power and potential to address the world's challenges and our communities' needs, and to the momentum and action that will follow.

Thank you, partners, for joining us as we welcome and walk with students in the middle of their paths that cross through our doorways and into community and industry. And thank you, in particular, to the students for inviting us to share in your learning and contributions in your chapter at the Center.



With deep gratitude,

Mario Avila, Founding Director

Brian McCann, Faculty Director

Kathleen Hritz, Assistant Director

Handwritten signature of Mario Avila in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Brian T. McCann in black ink.

Handwritten signature of Kathleen Hritz in black ink.

2021-2022 Student Staff:

Audrey Josephson-Day '23 (M.Ed. Community Development & Action)

Niccolo Roditti '22 (M.Ed. Community Development & Action)

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

This fall, the TFC returned to in-person and socially-distanced programming after a year and a half of fully virtual student engagement. Students launched and led the first Social Enterprise Pitch Competition, hosted Lunch & Learns and Workshops with themes determined by student interest. Students engaged beyond campus once again with Immersions, and consulting projects through Project Pyramid and Social Enterprise Consulting. New and returning students from 8 graduate schools at Vanderbilt formed teams and enduring friendships in their shared pursuit of leadership with impact.

60+
PARTNERS

These experiential learning opportunities would not be possible without the resources and engagement of our partners and friends.

"I feel so strongly that my time with the TFC grew me as a person, as a student, and as a leader... I will be able to take so much of what I've learned within this organization out into the world, and push forward the TFC mission - even when I'm no longer an official leader of it. There are so few organizations that matter beyond just the confines of a campus - and the TFC really transverses that to create long-lasting change in the lives of both individuals and communities. What more could you ever hope to gain than that? This has been a gift to me!"

-TARYN MCCOY, MSN/MTS '22,
PROJECT PYRAMID CHAIR 2021-22



TFC EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021-22

Ariane Willson (Peabody LOP M.Ed '22) - Executive Chair
Hunter Bingham (Owen MBA '22) - Impact Investing
Caitlin Chin (Owen MBA '22) - Summit
Read Ezell (Owen MBA '22) - Special Projects & Consulting
Sumit Kar (Owen MBA '23) - Alumni Engagement
Bobby Kelley (Owen MBA '23) - Immersions
Taryn McCoy (Divinity & Nursing MTS/MSN '22) - Project Pyramid
Tim Satterthwaite (LOP M.Ed. '22) - Academics & Experiences
Vedanti Shah (Owen MBA '22) - Social Start-Ups
Maria Sheridan (Medicine MPH '22) - Branding & Marketing
Trey Suddeth (Owen MBA '23) - Immersions





Visit to Brands of Puerto Rico

PROJECT PYRAMID

Since 2006, Project Pyramid has engaged interdisciplinary graduate students from Vanderbilt University in classroom and experiential learning to meaningfully engage with socially-conscious organizations across the globe that are establishing market-driven solutions to fulfill their missions. This year, our student teams worked with partners in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Due to pandemic-related travel restrictions, rather than visiting their clients directly, students traveled to Guatemala and Puerto Rico for in-country immersions to learn about the social impact ecosystems and the realities of social entrepreneurship. Mario Avila and Brian McCann co-taught the Project Pyramid course this spring, and integrated new cases and guest lecturers to guide student learning and discussions.

2022 Partners:

- Conacado (Dominican Republic)
- De la Gente (Guatemala)
- Pomona Impact (Guatemala)
- Nudge Impact (Massey) (Trinidad & Tobago)
- Yspaniola (Dominican Republic)

“There is a whole community of social entrepreneurs in Antigua, Guatemala. It was invigorating and so enlightening to see their passion, their collaboration, and their impact.”

- TIM SATTERTHWAITE, M.ED. '22, PROJECT PYRAMID PARTICIPANT 2022

Visit to Coffee Farm with De La Gente Coffee





"LEARNING IN A CLASSROOM CAN ONLY GO SO FAR, IN ORDER TO TRULY UNDERSTAND ISSUES AT HAND, YOU MUST BE ON THE GROUND."

- MARIA SHERIDAN, MPH '22, PROJECT PYRAMID PARTICIPANT 2022

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CONSULTING

Social Enterprise Consulting (SEC) provides graduate and professional students at Vanderbilt an opportunity to gain real consulting experience while learning about and contributing to Nashville's social enterprise landscape.

This year, SEC brought teams of students from across the university together on projects with five local Nashville-based social enterprises. Combining their multidisciplinary backgrounds - including Economics, Engineering, Divinity, Business, and Leadership Development - and with expert guidance from Nashville-based partner, John Bazley, a Senior Project Manager with Dalberg Global Development Advisors - these teams worked with social entrepreneurs from across Nashville to grow and deliver impact in our community. They crafted business-focused recommendations for opportunities facing the partner organizations:

- The Compost Company processes organic waste from Nashville businesses into compost
- Dismas House offers housing, job training, and other resources to recently incarcerated men
- PeerKnect runs tech platform to help children with special needs and their families access services and community
- Voces de Nashville is a women-owned cooperative that trains workers, mothers, and other Latina community leaders to teach Spanish classes around our city
- Wonder Worm Farm produces worm compost as a sustainable and organic alternative to chemical fertilizers (pictured below)

"SEC was an incredibly valuable experience that was challenging and rewarding on many different levels ... Even the opportunity of forming something structured through ambiguity was valuable."

- MBA Student, Social Enterprise Consulting Participant





SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PITCH COMPETITION

This fall, students developed and ran a pitch competition for interdisciplinary graduate student teams to create innovative ideas for sustainable start-up enterprises focused locally on workforce development. In this ever-changing global environment, the challenge encouraged students to explore their local Nashville context and seek solutions to a real social problem.

The Challenge: To create a positive impact by generating 500 jobs in Nashville (or the Middle Tennessee region) by 2024

Graduate student teams came together to envision, build, and pitch an idea to unlock potential for impactful job creation within the Nashville economy and ecosystem, ranging from tech and education to sustainability-focused enterprises.

The winning team, Libby Crowe (MBA '23), Alyssa Patel (MBA '23) and Parker Willmon (PhD Biomedical Engineering '25), pitched a recycling company, Molded, that would turn plastic waste into 3D printer filament and 3D printed products while employing formerly incarcerated individuals.



IMPACT INVESTING & MIINT

At the TFC, students focus on the potential of finance to bring about positive change and to help scale innovative business models. Vanderbilt TFC students competed in the Turner MIINT (MBA Impact Investing Network & Training) program through the Bridges Impact Foundation and Wharton's Social Impact Initiative.

This year's Turner MIINT team representing Vanderbilt included Dasha (Dariia) Berezenska (MBA '23), Campbell Goodman (MBA '23), Sumit Kar (MBA '23), Caleb Petersen (MBA '23), and Ethan Tang (MSF '22). Equipped with impact investing coursework, these interdisciplinary students embraced the full process of sourcing companies and pitching for funding for a mission-driven company called Ring On, a company dedicated to prevention of human-trafficking through innovative ring-shaped GPS tracker product that allows parents to protect their children. Students worked directly with the founder and applied the skills they learned in MIINT to walk the path of impact investors.

“AS STUDENTS, WE GOT TO PUT ON OUR “INVESTOR HATS” AND TRY OUR HAND AT SOURCING, UNDERWRITING, AND PITCHING EARLY-STAGE SOCIAL ENTERPRISES.”

- CALEB PETERSEN, MBA '23, MIINT PARTICIPANT



SOCIAL IMPACT CERTIFICATE

The Social Impact Certificate is an academic and experiential learning credential that recognizes students' pursuit of leadership skills and an understanding of social enterprise during their time at Vanderbilt and the TFC. The certificate is open to Vanderbilt graduate students of all disciplines with the goal of focusing individual student's engagement with TFC and social impact programming through hands-on learning. This year, 8 graduate students completed the certificate, representing 5 VU graduate schools and 8 distinct degree paths.

Niccolo Roditti (M.Ed. Community Development & Action '22), TFC graduate associate for the Certificate for the past two years, developed and shaped the certificate pathway and experience for students to fully leverage their time at Vanderbilt to integrate social impact into their studies, experiences, careers, and leadership. Niccolo's Master's capstone focused on how students can learn and lead with the principles of social entrepreneurship, channeled directly into their work with students at the Center.

IMMERSIONS & WORKSHOPS

After a full school year of imagination-requiring Zoom sessions and virtual interactions, students were eager to connect on campus and beyond. In the fall, TFC students headed to South Nashville to explore organizations along Nashville's Murfreesboro Road corridor. Students met with leaders and innovators in cross-sector organizations, including Harvest Hands & Humphreys Street Coffee, Wonder Worm Farms, and Trevecca Urban Farm at Trevecca Nazarene University.

When the pandemic tempered Immersion travel, students shifted to a virtual immersion with professionals in Denver to learn about innovation in affordable housing and social impact finance. Thanks to Owen alumnus, Ed Briscoe, of Weave Finance, and to partners from Simple Homes and Denver's Urban Land Conservancy for sharing their context, challenges, and innovative solutions.

For on-campus learning opportunities, faculty Turner Chairs and TFC campus partners, Lauren Rogal, of the Vanderbilt Law School, and Jeorg Rieger, Vanderbilt Divinity School, along with Rosemarie Henkel-Rieger led workshops in their areas of expertise in social enterprise and social movements for TFC students this school year.



Visits to Harvest Hands and Trevecca Urban Farm





OWEN BOARD FELLOWS

At Owen, the TFC supports Owen's Net Impact chapter and the 100% Owen service and philanthropy club. Net Impact's focus on sustainability and corporate social responsibility and 100% Owen's focus on the Nashville nonprofit community expand the TFC's network and reach for students pursuing social impact.

The Owen Board Fellows Program places MBA students as non-voting board members on Nashville area nonprofit boards. The experience equips students to learn and engage as community leaders as well as business leaders, prepared for board service in their careers and communities. This year, Board Fellows welcomed its third and largest cohort (Class of 2023). Dedicated nonprofit partners share a board seat and meaningful project work to invest in students' development as both professionals and community leaders.

MBA Class of 2022 Cohort - 30 Board Fellows, 28 Nonprofit Partners

MBA Class of 2023 Cohort - 32 Board Fellows, 30 Nonprofit Partners

"I gained a much stronger understanding of board leadership from multiple angles. The combination of formal programming and hands on application allowed me to experience board leadership with training wheels, and provided the foundation for what I hope will be many years to come of board and community involvement."

- OWEN BOARD FELLOW, MBA '22

TFC ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

The TFC alumni network grows each year and current students value the opportunity to learn from Vanderbilt graduates and other professionals across industries and sectors. In December 2021, Nashville-area TFC alumni gathered for a happy hour for an opportunity to reconnect and continue their TFC conversations around personal impact and harnessing business for good in their careers, particularly in such unique times.

This year, a special thanks to the alumni whose terms with the Center's Advisory Board have come to a close: Matt Inbusch (Chair), International Paper, Sustainability (Chair, Owen MBA '16)
Rachel Taplinger, Maybelline, Sustainability (Owen MBA '14)
Pete Lavorini, OneGoal, Strategy (Owen MBA '16)

Current Members: Shani Dowell (Founder & CEO, Possip) and Courtney Watson (Co-Founder Chestnut Catalyst Group, Owen '04)

Incoming Members: Grace Fletcher De Niar (MPH/M.A. '17, Verily), Hattie Duplechain (M.Ed. '16, The Innovation Space), Ryan Lojo (MBA '21, Simon-Kucher & Partners)

LETTER FROM INCOMING CHAIR 2022-23



TFC Family,

I entered the TFC Executive Board chair role this spring in a season of raw excitement in the organization. Students were giddy as we were able to spend more time together collaborating and to begin planning for larger events after a necessarily cautious two years.

My first interaction with the TFC was hearing glowing remarks from former board members, including the ever-enthusiastic Maria Sheridan, outgoing board member and now Master of Public Health alumna. As she spoke about the Center and the TFC's impact on her path, I was immediately struck by the effortlessness with which she connected her passion for public health into social ventures and connected that to business (and my context). I loved the idea that we can build toward a greater purpose beyond the disciplines that drew us to graduate school, in my case, to business school. This fall, I signed up to help lead the Immersions team alongside my Owen classmate, Bobby Kelley, and we set out to learn about what goes into planning and processes behind the scenes. I loved seeing the demand from students to learn about organizations and leaders off campus delivering meaningful impact through unique business models, and to really apply classroom learning to these approaches as consultants and colleagues. As a leader within the organization in my first year, I also saw firsthand the balance between responding to student desires and adapting our planning processes from one school year to the next.

In this year ahead, my intention is to bring more students into the TFC fold from across schools at Vanderbilt and to ensure that our leadership is well-equipped, transparent and clear with our plans for the TFC. We know who we are as a Center and as leaders, we have clarified our objectives - now our job as a board is to eliminate barriers for others to enter and let the inspired students contribute to and benefit from the great things we create together!

We're focusing on scaling up the energy that our previous year's board successfully harnessed. We have the established presence on Vanderbilt's campus, diversity of voices on our team, and foundational resources ready for greater engagement across the university. It's an exciting challenge that the board and I are eager to play a part in cultivating the Center's next chapter.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trey Suddeth', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Trey Suddeth, MBA '23

INCOMING EXECUTIVE BOARD 2022-23

Executive Chair – Trey Suddeth (MBA '23)

Academics & Experiences – Connor Jackson (M.Ed. Leadership & Organizational Performance '23)

Alumni Engagement – Sumit Kar (MBA '23)

Branding & Marketing – Will Husted (M.Ed. Higher Education Administration '23)

Immersions – Bobby Kelley (MBA '23)

Impact Investing – Dasha Berezenska (MBA '23)

Project Pyramid – Rocío Posada-Castañeda (MPH '23)

Social Startups – Parker Willmon (PhD Biomedical Engineering '25)

Special Projects & Consulting – Will Radney (MBA '23)

Summit – Ergisa Bejkollari (M.A. Economic Development '23)

PARTNERS & FRIENDS



Bongo Java
Cafe Momentum
Center for Latin American & Latinx Studies at
Vanderbilt
Ecofiltro
Flint Global
The Housing Fund
Humphreys Street Coffee & Harvest Hands
LUCI
Ring On
Silverline Strategic Partners
Simple Homes
Thistle Farms
Trevecca Urban Farm
Turner MIINT (MBA Impact Investing Network
& Training with Bridges Impact Foundation &
Wharton Social Impact Initiative)
Urban Land Conservancy - Denver
Vanderbilt Athletics
Vanderbilt Humphrey Fellows
Vanderbilt Credit Union
Weave Finance
WeFunder
Wonder Worm Farm
The Wond'ry at Vanderbilt

Social Enterprise Consulting Partners 2022

John Bazley, Dalberg
The Compost Company
Dismas House
PeerKnect
Wonder Worm Farm
Voces de Nashville

Project Pyramid Partners 2022

Conacado (Dominican Republic)
De la Gente (Guatemala)
Pomona Impact (Guatemala)
Nudge Impact (Massey) (Trinidad & Tobago)
Yspaniola (Dominican Republic)

Owen Board Fellows Partners

AbleVoices
Alive Hospice
Book'em
Community Resource Center
Day 7
End Slavery Tennessee
FiftyForward
The F.I.N.D. Design
Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee
Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee
Hands On Nashville
Harpeth Conservancy
The Heimerdinger Foundation
HopeKids of Middle Tennessee
Interfaith Dental
Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Tennessee-
Alabama
Make A Wish Middle Tennessee
Martha O'Bryan Center
Nashville Ballet
Nashville in Harmony
Nashville Symphony
Nurture the Next
Operation Stand Down Tennessee
PENCIL
Retrieving Independence
Second Harvest Food Bank
Sexual Assault Center
Special Olympics of Tennessee
Springboard Landings
Tennessee Youth Symphony
Urban Green Lab
Vanderbilt Credit Union
WiTT (Women in Technology of Tennessee)
Youth Villages
YWCA of Middle Tennessee

