

Unrestricted gifts meet critical needs

Unrestricted gifts help Vanderbilt students have a fuller academic experience. These gifts—which are not earmarked for a specific purpose—can be used immediately by the undergraduate school deans for any purpose.

In the past, deans have tapped these funds to pay for laboratory and classroom equipment, guest lectureships, special programs and seminars, and much more.

These gifts from parents, grandparents and alumni allow students to explore their potential and become our next generation of leaders.

For example, the School of Engineering uses unrestricted funds in its Senior Design Seminar that encourages the different areas of engineering to collaborate on problem solving.

The College of Arts and Science used unrestricted dollars to recruit and retain faculty.

Annual unrestricted support is a high priority for the Blair School of Music because of the flexibility those funds afford.

Unrestricted gifts to Peabody—ranked the No. 1 graduate school for education for the past three years—help fill immediate needs such as student scholarships, internships and technology support.

For more information on unrestricted giving and supporting your Vanderbilt student's school, please contact Amy Jarvis or Rebekah Rohrbach in the Parents & Grandparents Campaign at (615) 343-3120 or pag.campaign@vanderbilt.edu.



2009 graduate's life honored with scholarship fund

If a man's worth is reflected in the eyes and actions of his friends and colleagues, then Kyser Miree's too short lifetime was beyond measure. Beginning this fall, an incoming Vanderbilt engineering student will be the first recipient of the Christopher Kyser Miree Scholarship, established in 2010 to honor his memory and his legacy as a student leader and friend.



Kyser Miree

Kyser, a 2009 mechanical engineering graduate, started in his first job with Chevron Corp. He moved to Mobile, Ala., to begin his career. In April 2010, he was killed during a home robbery attempt. Four men have been indicted on capital murder charges. Miree's friends, friends' parents, fraternity brothers and many others sprang into action to create and fund this new scholarship.

"The support Kyser's gotten from his friends and friends' families has been really magnificent," says his father, Ben. "From overflowing the church at the memorial service, to the letters and things on a number of levels that they've done—just because they adored Kyser."

Members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, where Kyser was president his senior year, were the first to rally the troops. Working with Vanderbilt, they were able to raise enough money in short order to reach the \$100,000 threshold necessary to fund a scholarship. Funding continues with bequests and pledges.

Kyser's mother, Kathryn, attended Homecoming this year and was overwhelmed by the wealth of support she experienced. "It really surprised me, the sort of breadth of this participation, especially from the kids that are so young. I work in the area of development. I'm a consultant to charities of all kinds all over the country," she says. "What is unusual here is that some of these kids contributing are still in school and many just got out of school. I've rarely seen such broad-based participation. ...The sense of community we saw there really filled our hearts."

"Kyser thrived at Vanderbilt," she adds. "I think it would give him a lot of pleasure—and it certainly gives us a lot of pleasure—that this scholarship is going to help many other engineering students chase their dreams like he did."