Family Weekend: Friday, September 12, 2014

The sixth annual Soirée at Sarratt provided students with the opportunity to connect with professionals in various industries and occupations from across the country. At this signature Family Weekend event, Vanderbilt parents shared their professional experiences and the unique culture of their regions in small group sessions. The fun-filled event also featured food, music and time for networking!

Helping your child achieve your career goals: What Every Parent Should Know!

Overview:
Leaders from the Center and the Psychological and Counseling Center, along with two current students, discussed parental involvement in students’ career planning. This new event was created to help parents navigate the balance of helping their children make productive career-related decisions while supporting them in becoming independent decision-makers.

Highlights:
• New event was very popular!
• Standing room only crowd of more than 90 participants filled the room to capacity
• 47 parents signed up to continue engagement with the Center

18 Again!

Overview:
More than 200 parents and students participated in the 18 Again! booth hosted by the Center as part of Family Weekend. Special activities and the booth’s retro décor provided an environment for parents to step back in time and remember when they were 18.

Participants mapped their professional journeys on the interactive art project “Then & Now.” Parents also spin the “wheel of questions,” which prompted engaging discussions as they reflected on past experiences and shared stories of failure, transition and success with their students, other parents and staff from the Center.

Highlights:
• More than 200 participants
• 21 parents signed up to continue engagement with the Center

Information Booth

Overview:
As part of registration and check-in for Vanderbilt’s Family Weekend 2014, various departments presented at information tables in the Student Life Center. Staff and peer coaches were available at the Center for Student Professional Development booth to answer questions from parents and students. Approximately 200 parents visited the booth to gain a greater understanding of Center services.

Regional Breakdowns:
Students successfully connected with parents from four geographic regions during Soirée at Sarratt, representing a variety of industries and professional paths, from startups to PN firms to investment banking.

The companies represented by parents included:
• Merrill Lynch
• Federal Bureau of Investigation
• Microsoft
• Fifth Third Bank
• John Carroll University
• Navy Wounded Warrior

Northeast Region

Midwestern Region

Southern Region

Western Region

Parent Survey Results:
At the conclusion of the event, parents were asked to complete a short survey. They rated the various aspects of Soirée at Sarratt as Above Average, with 100 percent of respondents indicating they would participate in a future event.

Ease and convenience of event logistics: 94%
Ability of Students to Connect and Network: 76%
Quality of Student Participation: 87%
Organization of Rooms by Region: 93%