This semester has been one of many firsts and many greats:

- **ONLINE SIGN-UP**
- **465 VOLUNTEERS**
- **12 SCHOOLS + 2 AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS**
- **COMMUNITY & CAMPUS EVENTS**

### 9/11 Service Day

This event took place on September 10, 2010 at Head Magnet School in Nashville. We ran 11 experiments as part of an afterschool science carnival for the students. As a leader for the Dippin’ Dots experiment, Carolyn Foley noted that “every student waited patiently in line for a chance to make ice cream with liquid nitrogen. Even the teachers wanted a chance”!

Other activities included Shrinky Dink Cells, & Worm Polymers. The day was a great success and many new faces joined VSVS after the experience.

### Best Buddies Carnival

On April 22, 2010, VSVS was invited to participate at the Best Buddies Carnival at the Rec. Center. The Carnival featured booths sponsored by student organizations, music, inflatable gyms, food, and fun. At the VSVS booth, Vanderbilt students and their buddies were able to make green slime and play with magic sand and water. VSVS hopes to entertain more kids at the Carnival next year!
**Children’s Hospital Initiatives: New Beginnings**

VSVS has started a branch in the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital taking VSVS lessons to sick children. This year we are working with the Hospital’s School Program, which is designed to tutor kids to help them keep up with their schoolwork while they are out. In addition to the School Program’s tutoring services, VSVS is supplementing the science material with fun and relevant experiments. Through our partnership with the School Program, we have been invited to participate in other fairs, such as We Care for Kids Day. Future VSVS-ers can get involved by signing up to be volunteers in the Children’s Hospital and applying to be on this team after 2 semesters of VSVS. – Jessica Aviles

-A word from Tina Woods with the Hospital: “The addition of the VSVS members and their experiments to the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital School Program has been phenomenal. Parents have shared their appreciation for the academic enrichment their children have received, and patients always want to know the details about each new experiment. Thanks for all the pleasure and academic support you share with our patients!”

**The Aspirnaut Program:**

This program was started by Drs. Billy and Julie Hudson for students in rural Arkansas high schools. A group of students are selected to do research at Vanderbilt for 6 to 8 weeks. Each student works with a mentor in the lab and is expected to put together a presentation and make a poster presenting the research that they have been doing. This program gives high school students a chance to get legitimate lab research experience and hopefully sparks greater interest for these students in the sciences. –Ziad Aboulmouna

VSVS has a special involvement in the Aspirnaut Program thanks to SKYPE! Volunteers wanting to get more involved in VSVS have the opportunity to teach special STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) VSVS lessons via SKYPE to students in rural Arkansas. Vanderbilt students committed to reaching out to other communities have already had great success teaching Aspirnaut students, and the opportunity will continue this semester. Let us know if you are interested!

**VSVS Lessons on ASB2010**

VSVS is known to serve the Nashville community, but the organization is not bound by the city limits. Last March, VSVS went to Dallas, TX, on “You’ve Got a Friend,” to Brownsville, TX, on “That’s Why God Made Mexico,” and to White Oak, TN on "Follow Me" Alternative Spring Break Sites. In White Oak, 9th grade students in a physical science class at Jellico High School enjoyed learning about polymers and making slime. They were thrilled to have a break from their science book and see science in action!

“Thank you to Pat and VSVS for allowing ASB to bring the excitement of science to students outside the Nashville region.”

- Brittany Cowfer, ASB
Looking Ahead: Spring 2010

- VSVS is hoping to start teaching lessons at Nashville School for the Blind and with the LEAPS afterschool program.

- We will be collaborating with other Vanderbilt organizations and the Commons in the Edgehill Initiative to address the social issues, including education, in our neighboring Edgehill community.

- VSVS Outreach has partnered with Best Buddies, VCH, ASB, Manna, and Dance Marathon.

- Board Applications will be out in March.

- Finally, JANUARY 21st will be the LAST day to sign up for spring volunteering! Mark this on your calendars now!

Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital: We Care for Kids Day

This event took place on October 3rd, 2010 at the VCH. We Care for Kids Day was a celebration of both patients and families served within the hospital and in our community. Vanderbilt departments and community organizations, like VSVS, provided interactive, educational activities for children at the event. Because VSVS sends groups to the VCH on a weekly basis, it is important for us to also provide opportunities for all children at the VCH to enjoy our experiments!

For questions about VSVS or to find out more ways to get involved, contact us:

http://studentorgs.vanderbilt.edu/vsvs

I'm very impressed with how we've expanded a lot of our outreach this semester to work with other organizations and departments across campus. VSVS has become a resource for not only student groups but also for teaching initiatives within graduate schools on campus.

– Lina Aboulmouna, Co-President

As Vanderbilt students, we have discovered our passion for science. VSVS is an opportunity for us to help the next generation find theirs.

– Jason Wen, Co-President