



GROWING IN ALL DIRECTIONS

**ALUMNI NEWS
DIETETIC INTERNSHIP**

**VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL
CENTER**

February 2023



Greetings

As we settle into 2023, there are many changes (aka growth spurts) happening!

- *January – new Light Hall classroom space for internship
- *February - 200+ Alumni in our networking community
- *April – accepting our 1st MEd/DI class of 20
- *June – graduating our 1st class of 18 interns

On a personal note, I will be leaving Vanderbilt in April for some new adventures (aka retirement)! Training the future of our profession has been “*my dream job!*” And following the career adventures of graduates has been the “*icing on the cake*” for me!

I’m grateful to Cynthia Broadhurst Facemire; who said “you’re hired” 25 years ago. And for Elizabeth Wolff Robinson who provided the opportunity for me to move from Educational Coordinator to Internship Director when she retired in 2019!

It is with great excitement that I announce the new Director for the Dietetic Internship Program at Vanderbilt: Sarah Ferguson, MPH, RDN, LDN. Sarah is a 2014 VUMC Dietetic Internship graduate. She will transition from her current role as Educational Coordinator for the Dietetic Internship to program director on April 7 at 3:59 pm!

Warm Regards, *Dianne*



Hello,

It's truly an honor to be stepping into the Program Director role! First, I'd like to express my gratitude to the prior program faculty members, preceptors, and alumni who worked together to build this pre-eminent supervised practice program for training future dietitians. It's my goal to continue to drive the program's success amidst the persistently changing education and healthcare environments. I'm committed to carrying our program legacy forward, to positively influencing our profession, and to improving the health of the greater Nashville area and beyond.

A little bit about me: I'm originally from Ohio, studied at Indiana University, and have been a Nashville resident since 2013. I completed my master's in public health nutrition while working full-time and have enjoyed various roles as a dietitian at VUMC since graduating from the Vanderbilt Dietetic Internship. I choose to view life through a lens of gratitude, and I find joy connecting with others. I recharge by reading and spending time outside.

As someone who is relationally driven, I'm eager to establish connections with a broader network of program alumni. I consider myself fortunate to be able to continue the meaningful relationships I've developed with our current program staff and intern class, our preceptors, and our stakeholders within VUMC and the Nashville community. As a life-long learner, I'm excited for the many opportunities for growth that I know this role will bring and I look forward to growing together as an alumni community!

I'm thrilled to share that Kerri Baxter will be continuing in her role as the Clinical Educational Coordinator. Kerri has been working at VUMC since 2015 serving as an inpatient preceptor and group leader before joining the Dietetic Internship Faculty Team as the Educational Coordinator overseeing Disease Management Rotations in 2019. Kerri drives our program forward with her clinical expertise, dedication to high quality work, adaptability, and application of best practice approaches for educating interns.

Our program is now recruiting for an Educational Coordinator, overseeing the Health Promotion rotations, who will partner with Kerri in designing and facilitating intern training experiences. We are seeking applicants with graduate degrees who are innovative and collaborative, and who have experience in program management and process improvement.

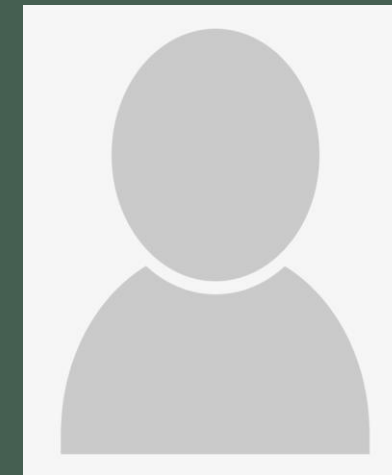
If you are passionate about education, relationship building, and mentoring the future of our profession, please email [me](#). If you have a colleague who would be interested, please invite them to reach out to me as well. Thank you for your part in helping to build our dynamic team. I look forward to connecting with potential candidates and discussing this opportunity further!



Sarah Ferguson, MPH, RDN, LDN
Incoming Program Director



Kerri Baxter, MS, RDN, LDN, CNSC
Educational Coordinator
Disease Management



Pending
Educational Coordinator
Health Promotion

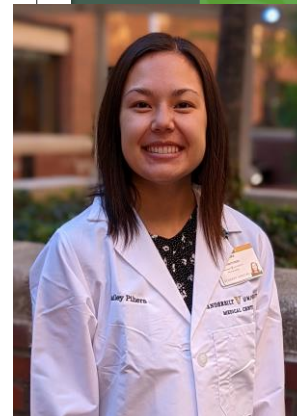
Bronwyn Cortez, MS

"I was honored when I found out I received the scholarship. I truly appreciate the support from the Vanderbilt community and alumni network. This scholarship was based on finding my voice and how I can act as an advocate for diversity in the field of nutrition and for my potential patients. This is exactly why I came to Vanderbilt. I am so lucky to work with and learn from everyone at Vanderbilt. My preceptors and coordinators are helping me along this journey to grow, find my voice, and learn how I can advocate for anything and anyone relating to diversity and inclusion."



Bailey Pihera

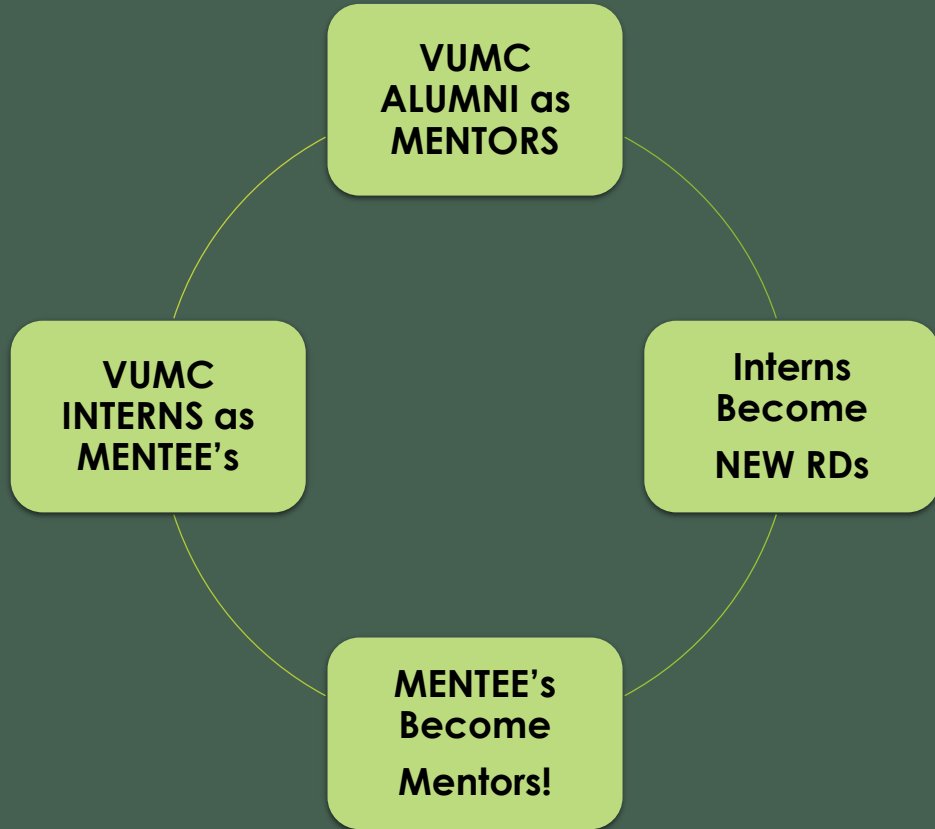
"I am so honored and thankful to the alumni network for this generous contribution and encouragement to minorities in the field. My time at Vanderbilt has been such a valuable experience and it is evident that the Vanderbilt family is taking an active role in supporting and bringing awareness to diversity. I am excited to be a part of making a change for the next generation of professionals. Thank you!"



**2023
Scholarship
Recipients:
Funded by
Generous Gifts
from the
Alumni**

THE GROWING CYCLE

Updates from the Mentee's



Julia Latoff

My experience with the mentor program has exceeded my expectations. Emily has been so helpful and a great resource to guide me through the internship towards the start of my career. We have talked about areas of the field I am interested in, how/where/when to look for a job, licensure, resume tips, and more. Meeting once per month feels like just the right amount.

MENTOR: Emily Gardner, MS,RDN, LDN

Destiny Lee

Meeting with Rachel has been helpful in learning skills I could acquire to benefit in future jobs. Not only have these meetings been focused on topics about my future, but ones about my present as well. She has given me great advice about beginning and finishing my internship rotations each week to maximize my learning. I enjoyed hearing about her experiences from her time here and what she learned as well."

Mentor: Rachel Keller, MS, RDN, LDN

Abbie Stasior

My monthly meetings with Julia Carlson are great! I have a long-term goal of opening a mega wellness center helping people develop a non-diet, intuitive eating approach. Julia has helped me brainstorm ideas for how to jumpstart this. She has also helped me brainstorm ideas for finding in-person clients and establishing referral sources. These sessions with Julia have been very valuable to plan for my future career post-internship!

Mentor: Julia Carlson, RDN, LDN

Bronwyn Cortez

I loved having a connection with an RD that was not necessarily a preceptor. I have learned so much from her about the field. She has given me advice and perspective about things I probably could not have learned in a normal rotation. I am also so grateful she lives in Nashville, as we have been able to meet in person! And I was introduced to a great coffee shop thanks to her!

Mentor: Rebekah Miller, MS, RDN,LDN

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- Visit the VUMC Dietetic Internship website

<https://www.vumc.org/dietetic-internship/dietetic-internship-vumc>

- If your classmates are missing from the alumni directory, please share the survey link with them. We will add their information to the VUMC Alumni Network. You may open the survey in your browser by clicking the following [Survey Link](#)

Future issues of the Vanderbilt Alumni News will be posted in the Alumni Section of the VUMC Dietetic Internship Website. You will receive an email notification when the quarterly newsletter is available on the website!