

## **Fred Russell-Grantland Rice Scholarship in Sports Journalism, 2024–2025**



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Economics, Spanish  
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"My family and I are so grateful for the generosity of this scholarship. It has not only lifted an immense financial burden but also led to incredible opportunities like being hired by the New York Mets as a creative content intern."

### **Tell us about some of the extracurricular or community service activities in which you participate.**

As a sports director for VandyRadio, I helped launch the VandyRadio Sports program this semester. We have had an incredible start to the program, introducing live student broadcasts for the first time in Vanderbilt football history. I had the opportunity to broadcast Vanderbilt's historic win versus Alabama, a moment I will never forget. On top of VandyRadio Sports, I am a staff writer for the sports section of the Vanderbilt Hustler. I have written an article which was a preview of Vanderbilt vs. California Golden Bears men's basketball. I also run a sustainable water delivery business within Vanderbilt dorms called "Hydrodore." Through a comprehensive marketing campaign, I've grown the company by 150% since taking over.

### **What has been your favorite course thus far and why was it your favorite? What did you take away from that course?**

My favorite course so far has been Intro to Filmmaking. After producing podcasts for the New York Mets this past summer, I came back to school with a desire to put my editing skills to the test and work on creative projects. This class has given me the resources and a community to create, and I have loved every second of it. My favorite project so far was a documentary on my intramural flag football team that came out hilarious. I look forward to taking an editing class next semester and leveling up my skills.

### **Which faculty or staff member has made a significant impact on you? How have they influenced your development?**

Lori Catanzaro was my professor for a course titled Spanish and the Global Economy, and she has served as an incredible mentor during my time at Vanderbilt. On top of making the classroom a fun and engaging space, her compassion and genuine interest in the goals of her students make her stand out. She went out of her way to help me succeed in a class where I was one of the only non-native Spanish speakers. After my experience in her class, I am dedicated to majoring in Spanish and becoming fully fluent in the language.

**A cornerstone of the Vanderbilt community is overcoming challenges through collaborative discovery. Describe a time when you solved a problem or learned something new through collaboration.**

Running "Hydrodore" has been very problematic at times. We dealt with severe supply shortages in the first month of school which led to unorganized installations to start the year. Over the first month of school, I spent 20 hours a week lugging 45-pound water jugs and 50-pound towers around campus. Doing over 100 installations would have been completely impossible by myself. Even though they were paid, the help of great friends made this overwhelming task a lot more manageable.

**What type of Immersion experience are you planning? What led you to choose this project?**

I plan to take advantage of the Immersion Vanderbilt experience by creating a video project related to a grand physical challenge or travel journey. After going on a road trip through Oregon the week before school began, I have my heart set on traveling as much as possible. I would love to set a seemingly impossible goal, whether it is biking cross-country or climbing a mountain, and document the entire journey creatively.