

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



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Economics, Mathematics  
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“Thank you for your generosity in allowing me to grow at Vanderbilt and fulfill my life's passions. I carry your kindness and charity with me in all my endeavors and will continue to do so for the rest of my life.”

### **Where do you live at Vanderbilt and how does it enhance your student experience?**

I currently live in Nicolas S. Zeppos College, one of the newest residence colleges on campus. The best part is the college's location and complete amenities, which allow me to succeed in all my endeavors. Living in Zeppos College provides me with the quality of living experience necessary for a busy upper-division student. I genuinely enjoy living at Zeppos College for these reasons.

### **How does Vanderbilt's motto, "Dare to Grow," resonate with your educational journey?**

As a curious person, I am always looking for growth within myself and my educational journey, so I carry Vanderbilt's "Dare to Grow" motto daily. Recently, I added a mathematics major to my academic focus here because I wanted to enhance my quantitative abilities and learn how to connect them to my passions in the world. As someone consistently drawn towards humanities for most of my life, seeing the world through this different lens is refreshing and elevating. I am also working on an honors economic thesis that will allow me to explore all my educational passions and fuse them together fully.

### **What is your major (and minor, if applicable), and what led you to that choice?**

As stated above, I added mathematics to my course load in addition to already being an economics major. What I love about having two is how, together, they explore the world's functions and events in a grounded way that blends quantitative and qualitative ideas. Because of my passion for athletics, I especially enjoy understanding the constant events within that industry through my training in economics and mathematics as well as my business minor. These two majors gave me the tools to explore and explain the world around me, which led me to choose them.

**Tell us about an experience that stands out to you as one of your favorite examples of what Vanderbilt means to you.**

Like most students would say, this fall's home win against Alabama is the culmination of my Vanderbilt experience and will be the main occurrence covering my time here in Nashville. Because of my role with athletics, I was in the press box for most of the game preparing to write the Associated Press style recap, yet because of the spectacular circumstances, my boss allowed me to rush the field in celebration with my fellow students and friends. Doing what I love with the people I love is exactly what I was looking for in Vanderbilt, and on that night, it delivered ten times over.

**What career path do you want to pursue, and how has your Vanderbilt education prepared you for your future?**

I look forward to finding a career that blends my love of markets and the real world with this passion for community and athletics. Vanderbilt has perfectly set me up with the skills and connections and instilled a level of confidence necessary to seek out this career effectively through courses and real-world experience. I have filled in the outline of the complete Vanderbilt student I dreamt of when I first stepped on campus, and that fulfillment is a direct result of the faculty and student body that make this place special.

**What has this scholarship support empowered you to do that you otherwise wouldn't have been able to do?**

This scholarship has allowed me to immerse myself in the world of collegiate athletics by working within Vanderbilt's athletic department. I have met so many inspiring people, had countless experiences working within the industry at events here at Vanderbilt and throughout the greater collegiate athletics community, refined my professional skills, and been able to look inward to discover my true passions along the way. Without this scholarship support, I would not have been given this incredible experience.