



CODY STOTHERS (center) has been awarded early acceptance to the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He is pictured with Dr. Billy Hudson and Dr. Julie Hudson. Stothers is a graduate of Sheridan High School and an Aspirnaut student.

Stothers accepted to Vanderbilt Univer. School of Medicine

Cody Stothers, a Sheridan High School graduate, has been awarded early acceptance to the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, which is ranked as one of the top 15 medical schools in the United States.

Stothers, a Vanderbilt University junior and Aspirnaut student, is the grandson of Frances Taylor of Sheridan and a 2010 distinguished honor graduate from Sheridan High School. He was one of the seven recipients out of 130 applicants to be selected for this prestigious honor. He is double majoring in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Philosophy, and Stothers ranks in the top 10 percent of his class.

"Vanderbilt's School of Medicine accepts only one of every 50-60 applicants. Cody's acceptance into this very competitive program is recognition of his remarkable academic achievements, basic science research, mentorship to other rural students, and character," said Julie Hudson, assistant vice chancellor for Health Affairs at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and executive director of Aspirnaut.

The Early Acceptance Program was constructed to permit Vanderbilt students an opportunity to take academic risks and/or perform scholarly work in their remaining time as an undergraduate student instead of focusing on medical school applications and taking the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).

"It is really a fantastic opportunity to be selected early for a spot in such an esteemed medical school. This will not only allow me some assurance with my plans going forward, but will also allow me the opportunity to focus on doing research and volunteering with the Aspirnaut program," said Stothers.

Stothers' intention is to spend his remaining undergraduate years heavily involved in the Aspirnaut program, which partners the experiential and content expertise of Vanderbilt University with rural K-12 schools. The goal is to increase science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) achievement and increase the number of rural students entering the STEM workforce. His participation will include curriculum development, science outreach via videoconferencing, and mentoring high school students in the summer research internship program.

Stothers will continue to work in Dr. Billy Hudson's

lab at Vanderbilt conducting research for a possible cure to Goodpastures disease, an autoimmune disease that attacks the kidneys and lungs.

Stothers has conducted research in the Hudson lab during four summers through the Aspirnaut summer research program and during the school year as a student worker and hopes to have his research findings published in a top-tier scientific journal.

"The milestones we've achieved in just the last few years in the lab are astounding and I hope that I can help contribute to even more success over the next two years," said Stothers.

Outside of his laboratory, school and Aspirnaut work, Stothers has also been active in other organizations on campus. He serves as team captain for the Debate Team, is a board member of Vanderbilt Student Volunteers for Science, and is a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta medical honors society.

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine is ranked 14th out of 126 accredited medical schools according to U.S News & World Report. Vanderbilt

School of Medicine is ranked No. 10 among U.S. medical schools for funding from the National Institutes of Health. The School of Medicine claims two Nobel laureates: Earl W. Sutherland Jr., in 1971, for his discovery of the metabolic regulating compound cyclic AMP, and Stanley Cohen, in 1986, for his discovery with a colleague of epidermal growth factor.

Researchers from across the U.S. and abroad ranked Vanderbilt the 5th best place in the U.S. to work in science, according to a 2006 survey conducted by The Scientist magazine. In 2009, Vanderbilt University landed on Fortune magazine's "Fortune 100" list of best U.S. companies to work for - the first academic institution to do so.

The Aspirnaut Program is a partnership between Vanderbilt University and rural K-12 schools to help recruit and develop the STEM workforce necessary for the 21st century. Billy Hudson, Ph.D., a professor of Medicine, Pathology and Biochemistry at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, along with his wife Julie Hudson, M.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs for Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and brother, Johnny Hudson, and sister, Ann Kincl, co-founded the Aspirnaut program in 2006.