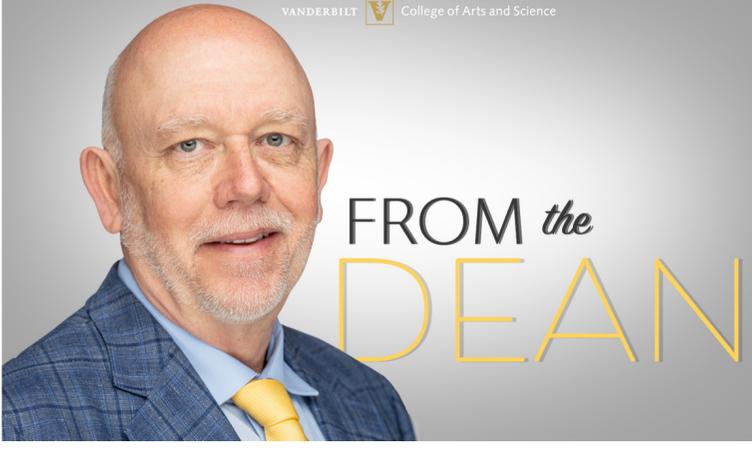


# A&S Explorer

August 2021



After navigating the challenges of a global pandemic, the beginning of a new academic year brings hope and promise for what we can accomplish together. In this month's letter, Dean Geer shares how the A&S community plans to continue pursuing our mission of learning, discovery, and service during the 2021-2022 academic year to solve the most pressing problems facing society.

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## Spotlight: Welcome Back!



### Hopes for a New Academic Year

As we begin the fall semester, A&S faculty and students reflect on the trials of the last year and look ahead with promise to the year ahead.

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## Featured Stories



[Vanderbilt honors James Lawson with new institute on nonviolent movements](#)



[Pre-election polls in 2020 had the largest errors in 40 years](#)



[Researchers derive new cancer therapies to decrease the risk of heart damage](#)



[The buzz on Vanderbilt's bees](#)

[MORE NEWS](#)

## In the Media

**Inverse:** [The future of cosmology is 239,000 million miles away - but closer than ever](#)

(Karan Jani, research assistant professor of physics and astronomy, quoted)

**National Geographic:** [Ice Age mammoth's life story reconstructed in stunning detail](#)

(Larisa DeSantis, associate professor of earth and environmental sciences, quoted)

**WYNC:** [Iconic at 50: Marvin Gaye's 'What's Going On'](#)

(Emily Lordi, professor of English, interviewed)

**New York Times:** [Afghanistan, Vietnam and the Limits of American Power](#)

(Jefferson Cowie, James G. Stahlman Chair in American History, quoted)

**PBS:** [On LGBTQ+ Equal Pay Day, the U.S. still doesn't know the size of the wage gap](#)

(Christopher Carpenter, E. Bronson Ingram Chair and professor of economics, quoted)

**Smithsonian Magazine:** [Human Remains From the Chilean Desert Reveal Its First Farmers Fought to the Death](#)

(Tiffany Tung, professor of anthropology, quoted)

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## Snapshot



(Liz Chagnon/Vanderbilt University)

### Welcome Back, Students!

This month, the College of Arts and Science welcomed students back to campus, and we are thrilled to be able to engage, inspire, and learn with them in our classrooms again this fall.

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