Dear Arts and Science community,

As you wrap up undergraduate studies, I am struck by how much you have accomplished in such a short time. While your college years are just beginning, you are already making a difference in the world.

First and foremost, I want to commend you on your dedication to intellectual development. Whether you are majoring in the sciences, arts, or humanities, you have shown a commitment to learning and inquiry. You have explored various fields of study, challenging yourself to think creatively, question analytically, and embrace new ideas. Your curiosity and passion have led you to take courses in subjects that you love, allowing you to find your passion and create a path to a meaningful life.

Second, I want to acknowledge your commitment to making a difference in the world. As you move on to graduate school, professional careers, or other paths, you will apply the knowledge and skills you have gained at Vanderbilt to solve pressing problems from different perspectives. Whether you are working in healthcare, technology, business, or any other field, you will use your A&S education to make a positive impact on society.

I make this claim because one thing is certain: the best laid plans will not always go according to plan. Your career paths will not always be as linear as you may have imagined. Careers will take unexpected (and exciting) twists and turns, as Interests will shift. Pursue your passion, not just a career

With these two points in mind, I have one piece of advice for all A&S students: Don’t be afraid to change your major, explore new opportunities, and take risks. This is the time to try new things, to challenge yourself, and to learn from your mistakes. With a world-class liberal arts education, A&S will give you the tools to succeed in any career path.

As you continue your journey, I encourage you to stay connected to Vanderbilt. The arts and sciences community is a close-knit group, and we are proud to see our graduates go on to new and exciting adventures. Whether you are working in corporate innovation, consulting, or the arts, you will always be part of the Vanderbilt family.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the arts and sciences. I am proud of you and wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,
[Signature]

Andrew Harwell
A&S junior awarded prestigious Udall Scholarship

Keivan Stassun, NASA’s TESS mission to discover new worlds will use a

deputy principal investigator on NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite

Lauren Gaydosh

Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.