

# A&S Explorer

November 2019

## Highlight: Army ROTC



### Veterans Day 2019

Vanderbilt University has a long tradition of supporting military service dating from 1918, when Chancellor Kirkland brought ROTC onto campus to encourage discipline and citizenship among students. This Veterans Day, we honor A&S alumnus Army Major General William Hickman, BA'83, Cadet Jake Peevy, BA'20, and all those in the Vanderbilt community worldwide who have continued this proud history by serving our country.



Vanderbilt has enjoyed an incredible upward trajectory in recent years. Our student body has grown increasingly talented and increasingly diverse. With these changes, however, come new challenges. How can we best support students who have different needs and expectations than they did just a decade ago? In this month's letter, Dean Geer explores how the College is thinking about these issues.

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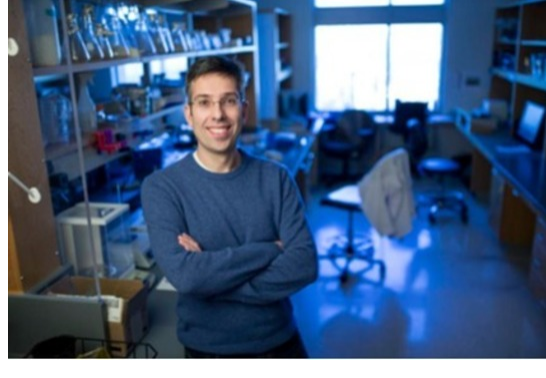
## Featured Stories



[Chemistry professor David Cliffl to lead \\$850K EPA grant on neurotoxins](#)



[Support for democracy in a slump across Americas, according to LAPOP survey](#)



[Biological Sciences professor Antonis Rokas to lead budding cross-disciplinary collaboration on evolutionary studies](#)



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## Faculty Spotlight



Steven Townsend, whose research on human milk could one day help all babies get their best start in life, is also a committed mentor devoted to helping students get the best start on their careers. His journey from first-generation college student to top scholar in his field helps him nurture students into great chemists and great people.

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## In the Media

**Time:** [Climate change is likely to devastate the global food supply. But there's still reason to be hopeful](#)

(Amanda Little, writer-in-residence in English, authored)

**Chemical and Engineering News:** [Talented 12](#)

(Steve Townsend, assistant professor of chemistry, featured)

**Time:** [The impeachment inquiry is about more than Donald Trump — it's about who we are as Americans](#)

(Jon Meacham, Carolyn T. and Robert M. Rogers Chair in American Presidency and distinguished visiting professor of political science, authored)

**The Conversation:** [Complex birdsongs help biologists piece together the evolution of lifelong learning](#)

(Nicole Creanza, assistant professor of biological sciences, and Ph.D. students Cristine Robinson and Kate Snyder, authored)

**Salon:** [Partisan divide creates different Americas, separate lives](#)

(Robert Talisse, W. Alton Jones Professor of Philosophy, authored)

**The Atlantic:** [How ancient DNA can help recast colonial history](#)

(Jada Benn Torres, associate professor of anthropology, quoted)

## Snapshot: Bill Haslam



Former Tennessee governor Bill Haslam chats with a group of students before their American Government: Presidential Leadership class begins in Wilson Hall. Haslam co-teaches the political science class with renowned presidential historian Jon Meacham and John Geer, the Ginny and Conner Searcy Dean of the College of Arts and Science.

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