

Dear A&S Community,

The local and national uprisings of the past week remind us in a stark and painful way that racial violence and injustice remain deep fissures in our society. As President Bendapudi said in her recent social media post, “the declaration that Black Lives Matter is a rallying cry, a plea and an exhortation to acknowledge that black lives matter, too.” It is an undeniable reality that black and brown people live daily with a disproportionate risk of violence and death. This has been a reality in our nation for over 400 years--and it is not acceptable. We can do better. We must do better. We in the College of Arts & Sciences are committed to caring for one another, and now is the time to be our best selves. The recent killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Ahmaud Arbery have re-opened deep wounds and many are hurting, angry, and frustrated. I hope you will join me in the struggle to dismantle white supremacy and to create a world where racial justice prevails and where black lives matter. For concrete ways you can become engaged, see the [recent statement from UofL's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Directors](#).

Sincerely,
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Pronouns: he, him, his