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## Letter from the Dean

Gregory J. Weidemann

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## Letter from the Dean

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Providing opportunities for students to apply what they learn to real-world situations is a priority in the 14 diverse undergraduate majors of Bumpers College. One of the ways we do this is to encourage students to conduct a scholarly project in cooperation with a faculty mentor. This is the basic model for graduate studies, but we extend it to undergraduate studies, as well.

Many such projects are designed to meet the requirements of an honors thesis in the Bumper College Honors Program. Whether in the Honors Program or not, students who take advantage of such opportunities find that it brings into sharper focus principles they have learned. The Discovery journal provides a reporting outlet for our student scholars and scientists. It does not supersede publication elsewhere, but it does provide a forum for students and faculty to share their results and findings in a citable publication.

We encourage student research by awarding undergraduate research grants, including the Carroll Walls Undergraduate Research Fellowship with a stipend of \$1,000. Our students also have been very competitive for research and travel grants awarded by the UA Honors College and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

The articles in this seventh annual volume of Discovery are on topics that relate to environmental issues, food safety, and agricultural production and processing technology. They include an energy-efficient rice drying method, managing plant nutrients for optimum crop production and to prevent runoff of nutrients and sediment, using grain by-products for livestock feed, propagating blackberry plant cuttings, preventing pathogen growth on food products, weed control in cotton, and a study of the effectiveness of government incentive programs to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from agricultural land.

We are proud to present these articles as examples of the research accomplishments of our undergraduate students. I heartily congratulate the student authors on their accomplishments and extend thanks to their faculty mentors and to the editors who reviewed their manuscripts. Thanks also to the Honors Committee for providing the structure that enables our students to enhance their educational experience and provide a very tangible service to society in the process.



*Gregory J. Weidemann*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'G. J. Weidemann'.

Gregory J. Weidemann, Dean  
and Associate Vice President for Agriculture