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Letter from the Dean

Lalit R. Verma

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Letter from the Dean

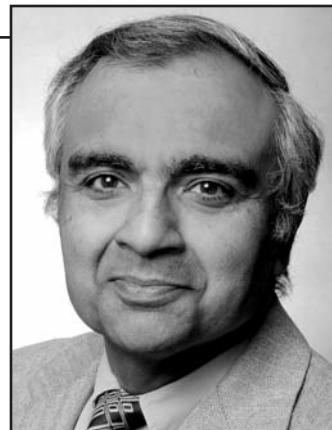
The Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences provides many opportunities for undergraduate students to engage in learning experiences beyond regular course work. Conducting quantitative/qualitative research projects with faculty mentors is one of those opportunities. Some sixty faculty members presently serve as mentors to students to assist them with research and creative projects. Most, but not all, such projects are designed to meet the requirements of an honors thesis in the Bumpers College Honors Program. Whether in the Honors Program or not, students who take advantage of such opportunities hone their intellectual capacities in a supportive, collaborative research environment that can lead to lifetime-long collegial, professional relationships.

The Bumpers College encourages student research by awarding undergraduate research grants, including the Carroll Walls Undergraduate Research Fellowship, which provides grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. We awarded 10 Undergraduate Research Grants in fall 2007.

DISCOVERY serves to showcase the research accomplishments of Bumpers College student scientists and allows them to participate fully in the process of shepherding their own research from project design through data collection to journal publication.

The 13 articles in this ninth annual volume of *DISCOVERY* include issues in food safety, nutraceuticals, rice, cover crops, animal husbandry, and forages. Topics also include environmental and quality-of-life issues such as watershed-based monitoring, phytoremediation of contaminated soils, and community-based gerontology research. We are proud to present these articles as examples of the research accomplishments of our undergraduate students.

I congratulate the student authors on their accomplishments and extend thanks to their faculty mentors and to the editors who reviewed their manuscripts. The UA Division of Agriculture, University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station commendably provides funding for research, and Dr. Milo J. Shult, Vice President for Agriculture, generously supports students who participate in various competitions in their disciplines. Thanks are also extended to the Honors Committee for providing a structured program that encourages our students to enhance their academic and professional credentials.



Lalit R. Verma

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lalit R. Verma", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lalit R. Verma, Interim Dean and
Associate Vice President—Academic Programs