Letter from the Dean

Gregory J. Weidemann

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The *Discovery* undergraduate journal is one of the ways that the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences encourages students to engage in learning experiences beyond the classroom. The student authors are reporting on the results of research projects they have conducted with faculty mentors.

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.

Many undergraduate research projects are designed to meet the requirements of an honors thesis in the Bumpers College Honors Program. Our Honors Committee provides a structure that enables our students to enhance their educational experience and provide a very tangible service to society in the process.

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.

Gregory J. Weidemann, Dean