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## Letter from the Dean

Gregory J. Weidemann

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## Letter from the Dean

The University of Arkansas continues to make remarkable progress towards our goal of being recognized as a nationally competitive, student-centered research university serving Arkansas and the world. The Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences and the UofA System's statewide Division of Agriculture provide a rich research and scholarly environment for all who enroll in our college.

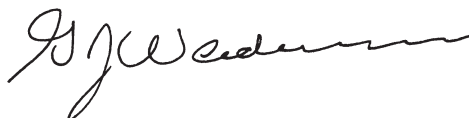
The opportunity students have to work directly with renowned faculty in a research environment helps them prepare to enter the work force after graduation or to continue their education in graduate school. Some 60 faculty members presently serve as mentors to students engaged in research projects that address real-world problems. Most, but not all, student research 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 research opportunities gain scientific and professional skills that can strengthen their contributions to society. Conducting a research project and authoring the results add value to their university education and enrich their educational experience.

Bumpers College encourages student research by awarding undergraduate research grants, including the Carroll Walls Undergraduate Research Fellowship, which provides a grant of \$1,000. We awarded 14 Undergraduate Research Grants in Fall 2004.

*DISCOVERY* is a dedicated journal for our student scientists that documents their research efforts and outcomes. Being published in *DISCOVERY* does not supersede publication elsewhere; this journal provides a forum for students and faculty to share their methods and findings in a citable publication.

The six articles in this sixth annual volume of *DISCOVERY* explore research and production issues in food science, animal science, tomato cultivation, rice milling, and the soybean industry. 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 a structured program that encourages our students to pursue the scientific method in service to society.



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



*Gregory J. Weidemann*