

# Discovery, The Student Journal of Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences

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## Letter from the Dean

Gregory J. Weidemann

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## Letter from the Dean

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Undergraduate students in the Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences are being educated to seek solutions to today's societal and food production challenges by applying proper scientific method and research protocols. Public support of higher education enables students to pursue research projects—both quantitative and qualitative—with their faculty mentors. Sixty faculty members presently serve as mentors to students to assist them with their research agendas. 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 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.



*Gregory J. Weidemann*

The 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 9 Undergraduate Research Grants in the fall of 2003.

*DISCOVERY* provides a reporting outlet for our student scientists that empowers them to bring the research process to fruition. Being published in *DISCOVERY* does not supersede publication elsewhere; this journal provides a forum for students and faculty to share their results and findings in a citable publication.

The 17 articles in this fifth annual volume of *DISCOVERY* cover a wide range of topics. They explore production issues in rice, soybean, swine, poultry, silage, green beans, and blackberries. Topics also include research on wetlands, soils, cognitive processes, and academic performance. 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 step up to today's challenges.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory J. Weidemann".

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