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Letter from the Dean

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Letter from the Dean

The vision of the University of Arkansas as a nationally competitive, student-centered research university serving Arkansas and the world is realized in the Discovery journal, which publishes reports on research and creative projects by undergraduate students in the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences.

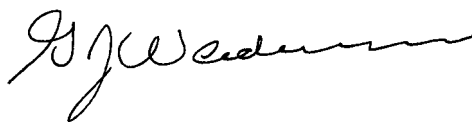
In Bumpers College, “student-centered” means, among other things, abundant opportunities for students to work with faculty mentors on research and creative projects. The College provides research grants specifically for student projects. Most of the articles in this issue are on projects that are part off a U of A Division of Agriculture research program, which may involve a team of faculty scientists, graduate students, and in some cases undergraduate students.

Anyone with an interest in Bumpers College has heard before, and will hear again, about the synergy from the linkage of Division of Agriculture research and extension programs with the academic programs of the College. Our classroom professors are also scientists who conduct Division of Agriculture research on issues that are important to Arkansas and the world. This publication is just one manifestation of that synergy.

These student scientists learn the scientific method by practicing it. They review the literature in their discipline to determine if a void in knowledge or understanding exists that they might help fill. They design experiments to collect objective data, or they establish a protocol for subjective observations that provide a basis for informed analysis. They interpret and explain the significance of their findings and observations.

Many of the student authors are in the Bumpers College Honors Program. They find that engaging in scholarly activities beyond the normal course work helps bring into sharper focus principles they learn in class.

Each of these articles represents a large investment of time and energy by the students and by their faculty mentors. It is time and energy well spent. Our college, our university, our state and our world are well served by these contributions to the various scientific and academic disciplines represented.



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



Gregory J. Weidemann