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Letter from the Faculty Editor

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Letter from the Faculty Editor

This represents the third year that I have had the honor of serving as editor of this publication, and what a year it has been. I continue to be impressed with the broad scope of projects that students are conducting in the Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture, Food and Life Sciences, in conjunction with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station. But also impressive is the amount of perseverance and grit that was demonstrated this year by the students and their mentors as they continued to advance these research and creative projects through an unprecedented year of upheaval.

The students and faculty who are publishing these articles were also navigating the sudden change to remote learning in the spring of 2020 and the continued anxiety and turmoil of hybrid learning in the fall. Research labs were shut down completely or were operating but with very limited staffing and rules, which restricted undergraduate student access. Conferences, where students and faculty would have traveled to present their research findings, were canceled or accomplished virtually. Meetings with committees were done remotely, and it would have been very easy for these projects to be abandoned.

But that was not the case. All the faculty represented in these pages continued to take on this extra responsibility of mentoring these undergraduate students even though many were modifying courses and adapting to new teaching methods that they never imagined using. This publication signifies untold hours of commitment on the faculty's part: reviewing proposals, assisting with data collection, going through statistical analyses, and finally reading and rereading manuscripts. Their time and dedication to the students are deeply appreciated. It is this, in conjunction with each student's desire to persevere and accomplish these projects, that gives us this publication and the opportunity to discover the results of that work.



Beth Kegley
Faculty Editor

Beth Kegley, Faculty Editor, Discovery Journal and
Professor, Department of Animal Science

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth B. Kegley".