

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

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Volume 19

Article 4

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Fall 2018

## A Message from the Department Head of Horticulture and Food Science

Discovery Editors

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### Recommended Citation

Editors, Discovery (2018) "A Message from the Department Head of Horticulture and Food Science," *Discovery, The Student Journal of Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences*. University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. 19:4-4.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/discoverymag/vol19/iss1/4>

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## A Message from the Department Head of Horticulture and Food Science

As Department Head for Horticulture and Interim Department Head for Food Science, I get to see the interdisciplinary nature and research that happens between these two departments from both sides. The research articles about blackberries by Dunteman et. al. and peaches/nectarines by Siebenmorgen et. al. published in this issue of *Discovery* exemplify the collaboration between the two department's faculty and students. It also highlights experiences that students can gain at an off-campus research station.

Students at research stations can study a wide range of subjects. For instance, at the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture's Fruit Research Station at Clarksville, students have the opportunity to be involved in fruit breeding directly or indirectly through projects in the areas of sensory science, postharvest physiology, and fruit production techniques among many other research topics.

Both Aubrey's and Mary's projects, although very different in the scope of their research, will lead to improved cultivars of blackberries, peaches and nectarines and ultimately consumer enjoyment of the fruit. These studies highlight the intersection of horticulture and food science and the broad range of experiences that come from interdisciplinary research.

Collaborations such as these give students a broad view of cultivar improvement leading to a greater understanding of the food system. In addition, the students get to interact with faculty across disciplines with mentoring from a group of faculty also enriching their experiences and knowledge. In summary, these two research experiences highlight the potential of many research experiences that students can enjoy across Bumpers College.



*Wayne Mackay*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne A. Mackay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne Mackay, Professor and Department Head, Horticulture; Interim Department Head Food Science.