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Letter from the Dean

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Letter from the Dean

In my role as Senior Associate Vice President for Agriculture–Research and Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, I’m well aware of the significant research taking place across the state involving AAES, the U of A, the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, and the UA System Division of Agriculture.

I have seen the valuable role Bumpers College students play in much of that research, but since becoming interim Dean of the college in July 2022, I now see even more examples of the impact our students can, will, and do have.

Our students can choose from a wide variety of careers in which they can make significant contributions impacting large numbers of people.

Research allows our students, guided by their faculty mentors, opportunities to ask questions, gather data, answer questions, and solve problems.

This year’s issue of *Discovery*, our undergraduate research journal which allows students to publish their work in a citable publication, includes projects across nine majors and disciplines.

You will see projects and findings from the areas of apparel merchandising and product development in our School of Human Environmental Sciences; agricultural education, communications and technology (agricultural communications); animal science; environmental, soil and water science; and poultry science.

It is inspiring to see the various issues students choose to investigate, and the conclusions they reach as they answer questions and propose solutions.

We are here to serve the people of Arkansas, the entire country and the world, and you will see our students in fact doing that with the issues they address.

This issue of *Discovery* highlights the efforts of just a few of our students and their expert faculty mentors. Our faculty work with them to produce what you see because they care about students and their development, as well as the research and its impact.

We encourage undergraduate research by awarding undergraduate research grants. Our students compete for research and travel grants awarded by the University of Arkansas Honors College and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education SURF grants program.

Projects may be designed to meet requirements for an honors project in the Bumpers College Honors Program. One of our goals is to prepare students to be responsible leaders with strong communication skills and problem-solving abilities. You have results of studies highlighting and exemplifying those qualities in our student researchers and future leaders.

Congratulations to the student authors on completing these projects. Thank you to the faculty mentors and editors who worked with them to make this collection possible. As a college, we are pleased and proud to present this collection as a service to them and our readers.

Jean-François Meullenet, Interim Dean
Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences



Jean-François Meullenet
Interim Dean