

EDITORIAL

Letter from the President, Dr. France A. Córdoba



This, the inaugural issue of JPUR, showcases the results of just a few of more than 2,000 undergraduate research projects that take place across the Purdue University system each year. Within these pages you will find new discoveries in the fields of aerospace engineering, food safety, virology, atmospheric sciences, biomedicine, soil

chemistry, and educational policy. Undergraduate students, under the supervision of faculty mentors, have conducted the work that has led to these discoveries. These students have formulated hypotheses, devised ways to test them, and documented the results. In the process they have wrestled with real world problems where the issues are often gray and most solutions are not final.

We often hear from graduating students that the opportunity to do undergraduate research was one of the most rewarding aspects of their careers at Purdue. We also hear from employers that the problem-solving skills that Purdue students bring to the workplace are one reason why our graduates are some of the most employable in the nation. In this issue, you will also find interviews from successful leaders (one a senior academic, the other a NASA astronaut), who reflect on why it is so important to experience research early in one's career.

Even the most important research will have little impact unless it is communicated. Thus, this journal also serves to educate our best students about the publication process. The editorial and design team are students from the College of Liberal Arts who have worked with authors to help them articulate their results as clearly as possible. The Faculty Advisory Board has guided this work as well as filtering the many proposals received to select a few for publication. Experts in scholarly communication have played a particularly important role. Staff and faculty from Purdue Libraries, Purdue Press, and the Copyright Office have created a professional publishing experience equal to any of the major disciplinary journals.

The first issue of any journal is always an experiment. We hope in future issues to expand coverage to include work in the liberal arts, in business, and from other Purdue schools not fully represented in this issue. We will add more features, and expand the range of material available online. We look forward to receiving your feedback, through our Facebook and Twitter pages, by e-mail and letter. We hope that you find the research presented informative and thought-provoking. And we hope that it inspires you to join us as discovery makers, working for a better world.

Hail Purdue!

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT PURDUE



Read more about student Discovery Makers at Purdue, and their experiences of undergraduate research:
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