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Agricultural Economics
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(2011)*

What have you been doing since the publication of your article in *JPUR*, volume 1?

My first job after graduation was through the Orr Fellowship at Angie's List. Most of my work has been focused within the analytics, product, and technology spheres. After 3.5 years, I moved to hhgregg to explore e-commerce through a retail perspective. Angie's List then recruited me back in January 2016 to be the product manager for analytics. In this role, I am working with software engineers to ensure business owners have the data they need to make the best business decisions possible.

Outside of work, I am heavily involved with kids and student ministries through my church and in missions in Nicaragua. I currently chair a committee that organizes feeding programs for the Nicaragua Resource Network stateside.

How did the research you did as an undergraduate at Purdue impact your current endeavors? What is the value of undergraduate research?

I still use the methods that I learned through undergraduate research today. In the field of analytics and big data, understanding the practical use of statistics is highly important.

How did the faculty mentor relationship impact you during your time at Purdue?

My faculty mentor, Dr. Lawrence DeBoer, provided much needed direction and advice throughout the course of my undergraduate research. When I had a roadblock, he walked me through why that block existed and gave suggestions on how to move forward.



How did the experience of publishing an article in *JPUR* benefit you? What advice would you give to other undergraduates at Purdue who are interested in contributing to the journal?

I was doing undergraduate research before *JPUR* existed, so I already had a long-form research paper completed. Through the publication and the peer review process for *JPUR*, my editor and I were able to take a research paper littered with economic jargon and make it interesting for larger audiences with little or no economic background. We battled between what was essential and what was not necessary for public consumption. In my current career, I battle with what is essential and what is necessary. I would encourage future *JPUR* participants to embrace this back and forth. While it may feel painful to subject matter experts, the back and forth is totally worth it.

What advice would you give to other undergraduates at Purdue who are interested in doing research?

Who likes to learn things that aren't useful? No one! Research allows you to take what you learn in the classroom and apply it to real-world problems. Our world needs people to solve problems, and you can make an impact.

Steiner, J. (2011). Are big schools bad schools? Measuring the effects of the number and size of schools on district costs and student achievement. *Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research*, 1, 46–51. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5703/JPUR.01.1.7>