These Purdue University alumni published articles in volume 2 (2012) of the *Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research* during their time spent completing their baccalaureate degrees. Since graduation, they have moved into successful careers in industry and have pursued further educational opportunities.

**What are your career goals?**

My experiences as a reading tutor have made me realize my passion for teaching English and language arts. My current career goal is to become an English teacher in my county’s public school system so I can introduce research writing methods to middle and high school students.

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

My undergraduate research was a great way for me to take ownership of my college education and to leave Purdue University with my name on more than a degree. I believe it was because of this research and my passion for Purdue history that I was asked to be an editorial assistant for the old Power Plant book. Further, conducting research and learning to write for a broad audience provided valuable skills that I have applied to workplace and interpersonal communication. The value of undergraduate research is found in the network students create through outreach and partnerships in projects. These connections can lead to post-graduation positions and lifelong relationships.

**What have you been doing since the publication of your article in JPUR, volume 2?**

After publication, I had the great opportunity to work as Journal Coordinator for *JPUR*, volume 3. That experience led me to pursue freelance editing for a variety of projects from dissertations to books. The largest of these projects is due to be published this year—a book chronicling the history of Purdue’s old Power Plant that was demolished in 2014 for the new Thomas S. and Harvey D. Wilmeth Active Learning Center. This book has allowed me to continue learning about Purdue’s history as I did in my research article. In addition to freelance editing, since graduation, I have worked as a reading tutor, initially for students with severe reading difficulties and now with adults who read below a sixth-grade level.
How did the faculty mentor relationship impact you during your time at Purdue?

My faculty mentor relationship was crucial to my success at Purdue because of the knowledge imparted to me and the consistency of my faculty mentor’s support. I was able to continually build upon my research goals and progress because of my faculty mentor’s advice and guidance. I took a class with my faculty mentor, Professor Kristina Bross, each of my four years because of the great value she brought to my undergraduate experience.

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?

My ability to communicate with others increased after publishing an article in JPUR. As a journal with a global reach, authors have to convey their specialized findings to a vast audience, which requires skills in communicating technical work more simply. This skill has been beneficial in all areas of my professional and personal life. I recommend all undergraduate research students to pursue publication in JPUR to further these communication skills and to explore the publication process.

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

At times, Purdue can feel like a large university, but conducting research is an excellent way to find a smaller atmosphere where you can take ownership of your education and pursue questions with expert guidance.