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What have you been doing since the publication of your article in *JPUR*, volume 4?

At graduation I was at a crossroads. I had excelled academically and was passionate about anthropology, but I wasn't sure academia was the right path. After delaying plans to attend graduate school, I began working in banking. Eventually I was promoted into roles where I was responsible for implementing change, improving processes, and managing people. Realizing business was a better fit, I completed my MBA and started a leadership development program at PolyOne in Cleveland, Ohio.

What are your career goals?

My career path has evolved significantly over the last five years, so I'm always looking for a new opportunity to grow and have an impact. Right now I want to focus on driving improvements that make people's lives better and strategically position the company for future success. One day I'd like to own my own business.

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

Undergraduate research had a huge impact on my career. Research is so valuable because it encourages you to be curious, take initiative to solve problems, and shine light on new subjects. My current role involves managing improvement projects, which essentially means I'm still doing research to find root causes and creatively solve problems. Having exposure to this as an undergraduate has directly contributed to my career success and satisfaction.



Finally, anthropology isn't the usual precursor to getting an MBA. However, being able to showcase my analytical capabilities through multiple research projects was very helpful in getting accepted and changing career paths.

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

Dr. Buzon was an amazing mentor and someone that I can reach out to today. She is someone that I looked up to throughout my undergraduate career and helped guide me through the project from beginning to end. She also helped me with career questions outside of the project.

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 had originally written my research findings as a thesis over 30 pages and had to work hard to condense that for *JPUR*. Summarizing large amounts of data and succinctly communicating that to wide audiences is a valuable skill to hone, regardless of future career path or industry. It's not always fun,

but you likely need to do multiple drafts, cuts, and revisions. Having your friends and mentors read your drafts is helpful too.

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

Think about what topics interest you and work with your professors/mentors to scope and define the project – this helps keep you on track and ensures project success. Finally, managing your classwork and

project timeline is just as important as the research itself. Generally your homework, tests, and class deliverables are externally driven by professors, and research is a great opportunity to practice setting your own project goals and holding yourself accountable.

Reavis, K. (2014). Skeletal analysis: Investigating senescence in ancient Nubia. *Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research*, 4, 40–47.

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