These Purdue University alumni published articles in volume 5 (2015) 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?**

I strive to work on projects that I believe will improve societal well-being. This overarching ambition lends itself to many career paths and goals. Currently, I’m working on developing my general programming skills in Python and improving my understanding of advanced statistical methods for causal inference and predictive analytics. Eventually, I hope to apply my data science skills to address sustainability issues.

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

Although the day-to-day work of conducting research differs from my work as a data scientist, both are underpinned by similar skills: an ability to ask interesting questions, implement appropriate scientific methods to address those questions, and effectively communicate technical results (sometimes to a non-technical audience). Undergraduate research is obviously a valuable opportunity for those considering graduate school or a career in research, but it is also an amazing opportunity to develop a rich set of transferrable skills applicable to many career paths outside of research.
How did the faculty mentor relationship impact you during your time at Purdue?

When people ask me about my time at Purdue, I always emphasize the incredible relationships I developed with faculty members, including Dr. Venkatesh Merwade (the faculty mentor for the work I co-authored in JPUR) and Dr. Loring Nies (who I worked with as a peer teaching assistant). As an undergraduate, Dr. Merwade and Dr. Nies were instrumental in the development of my critical thinking skills and intellectual confidence. They have both continued to provide mentorship as I’ve navigated career decisions, including my decision to leave my PhD program.

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 doing research?

Publishing in JPUR helped me develop my written communication skills and informed how I later approached writing my first peer reviewed article published in the Journal of Energy Policy. If you’re planning to publish in JPUR, be prepared to write a lot of drafts! Set manageable deadlines for yourself and leave enough time to gather feedback on your writing, both from faculty mentor(s) and people in your target audience (e.g., people in your field) who are unfamiliar with your specific research project.

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

Undergrad is a great time to get involved in research. If you’re considering graduate school, undergraduate research will give you an idea of what to expect from graduate research. Even if you’re not interested in graduate school, the research process will help you develop your critical thinking, technical, and communication skills beyond what you learn in a classroom setting.