



STEPHANIE SCHRAMM

BS, Biological Engineering, Purdue University (2016); MS Environmental Engineering, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana (2019)

What have you been doing since the publication of your article in JPUR, volume 7?

Since publishing in JPUR, I went on to attend graduate school at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana as an NSF graduate research fellow. At University of Illinois, I received my master's degree in environmental engineering while conducting research on metabolic modeling of algae for wastewater treatment applications. I was a coauthor on an algae modeling research paper in *Water Research X* and also was selected to present my research at the Algae Biomass Conference. After graduating, I began working at Jacobs as a wastewater solutions engineer focused on modeling wastewater resource recovery facilities and collection systems.

What are your career goals?

One career goal I have is to collaborate and find solutions with our clients and stakeholders of environmental engineering projects in the community. I love how the water industry is so closely tied to people's everyday lives, and I want to build my career in a way where I get to have interactions with the individuals directly benefiting from the technical projects I am working on. In addition, another career goal I have is to lead and mentor

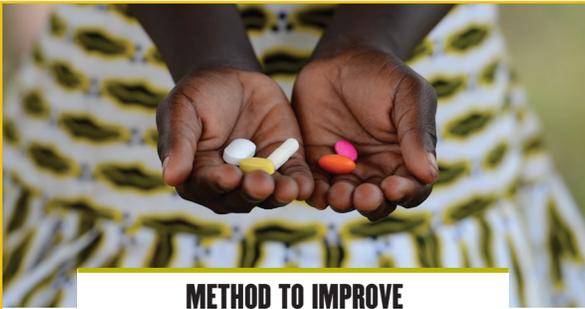
a team. Several technical areas in the water industry excite me, from one water solutions to the use of digital twins in wastewater process modeling. My current technical career goal is to seek out ways that I can stretch into other technical areas and prepare myself for the cross-functional water projects of the future.

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

Undergraduate research allowed me to see firsthand how a research project develops and is executed. I think one of the biggest things I learned from undergraduate research that continues to be relevant in my career today is the ability to embrace change throughout a research project. The direction and goals of a project in the beginning might change or take new forms as the project progresses. It is important to embrace those changes and be able to pivot direction without losing motivation. If research was a straightforward path, it would be a lot less fun!

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

While at Purdue, I had some great professors who took the time to sit down with me and discuss my career plans. I appreciated those conversations so much and they helped lead me down the path I am on today. I have no doubt that building these relationships over multiple years through classes, being an undergraduate teaching assistant, and conducting research projects allowed faculty members to write more holistic letters of recommendation that helped my career.



METHOD TO IMPROVE DRUG SAFETY IN AFRICA:
A Pharmaceutical Learning Module

Student Authors

	<p>Holly Maize is a senior majoring in pharmaceutical sciences. After graduation, Maize plans to continue her education at the Medical College of Wisconsin's School of Pharmacy.</p>		<p>Stephanie Schramm is a 2016 Purdue alumnus with a degree in biological engineering. Currently, Schramm is pursuing a master's degree in environmental engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.</p>
	<p>Michael Mavity is a 2016 Purdue alumnus with degrees in biological engineering and pharmaceutical sciences. Recently, Mavity accepted a position as the sanitation supervisor at the Granite City facility.</p>		<p>Michael Stepanovic is in his second professional year of the Purdue University Doctor of Pharmacy Program. Upon graduation, Stepanovic plans to continue his education by completing a PGY1 and PGY2 pharmacy residency program.</p>
	<p>Jordyn McCord is a 2016 Purdue alumnus with degrees in biological engineering and pharmaceutical sciences. McCord currently works as a scientist for Eli Lilly in the Technical Services Department of Parenteral Manufacturing.</p>		<p>David Wintczak is a fourth-year pharmacy student at Purdue University. After graduation, Wintczak plans to work in either an independent retail pharmacy or in a small community hospital as a clinical pharmacist.</p>

8 Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research: Volume 7, Fall 2017

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?

Publishing in JPUR opened my eyes to the world of academic research. The process and work that goes into publishing is something that I wasn't as familiar with from my undergraduate classes, and JPUR allowed me to learn more about the importance of publishing. I would advise other undergraduates who are interested in contributing to the journal to put the same amount of time and effort into your article as you would into studying for a big exam. It was great to be able to add my JPUR article citation to all of my graduate school applications, and I think it can really stand out to have some published undergraduate research before applying to graduate school.

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

A small but important piece of advice I learned when I was looking to join a research group was to be persistent with the group you are interested in. If you do not hear back from a professor when you send an email, consider

sending it again. Professors have crazy inboxes and sometimes emails can get lost in the shuffle. Also, if it is hard to get a hold of a professor, it is always a great idea to reach out to students already in the research group. A good word from a professor's current students could mean a lot. The first time I reached out to my graduate research professor, he told me that he was not accepting additional students for the upcoming year. I ended up following up and asking if we could speak anyway to get advice about other research groups and opportunities. The conversation went well and I ended up getting an offer to join the group, but if that hadn't been the case I'm sure the follow-up would have led me toward another great opportunity that I would be thanking the professor for too. If a door seems closed, don't feel like you are locked out of that room until you look for a window that you might be able to see another opportunity through.

Maize, H., Mavity, M., McCord, J., Schramm, S., Stepanovic, M., & Wintczak, D. (2017). Method to improve drug safety in Africa: A pharmaceutical learning module. *Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research*, 7, 8–17. <https://doi.org/10.5703/1288284316392>