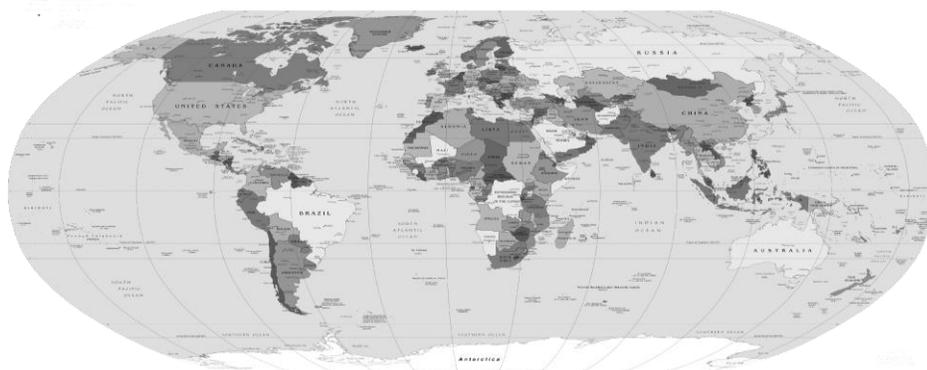


After 10 Years: Returning to the International Connection

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This issue completes AJUR's eleventh year of activity. An important part of this journal's mission is to foster connections among undergraduate scientists, mathematicians, and engineers in all parts of the world. But in saying this is important, we should not mistake how hard a goal it is to make real.

Science is an international endeavor done by an increasingly international body of researchers, but many of the resources for doing science remain in the developed countries. Students in developing countries often do scientific research under burdens that can only engender admiration when the research is done well.

Of course, these are conditions that many of us know—again since the research collective is so international in its body scientific. What can AJUR realistically do to improve the situation?

AJUR can highlight good undergraduate research, wherever it occurs. It is surely useful for beginning researchers to see what other undergraduates are researching in other countries. And a spotlight on student research at any university, wherever the location, is positive notoriety.

AJUR can help undergraduate researchers outside the US see the American college system for what it is: very

large, highly distributed in locale, and quite variegated in educational emphasis. The variety of liberal arts colleges where good undergraduate science is done is remarkable, and public universities and colleges are equally engaged. American under-graduate research shines from these institutions at least as well as from the large research-intensive universities that are more familiar, in name at least, to those outside the US.

AJUR can provide undergraduate researchers, both inside and outside the US, with a degree of validation that only comes with dispassionate reviews and open publication. This may be more important to researchers outside the developed world where research accomplishments are harder fought. This issue brings a paper from a student outside the US, one of several we have published over the years from undergraduate researchers in India..

Over the past eleven years—over 40 issues—a bit more than 20 percent of AJUR's published papers have come from outside the U.S. Where? Austria, South Africa, Nigeria, Iran, India, and many other countries. The journal has been enriched by these papers, and undergraduates in the U.S. have have been well educated about undergraduate research activities around the world.