

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### American Journal of Undergraduate Research Impact Factor

I received an email the other day inquiring whether the American Journal of Undergraduate Research has an impact factor. I responded, “Mostly the impact on undergraduate student lives.” I often hear amazing stories from subject editors and students who published in AJUR on how the publication changed their lives. We all remember how challenging it was to publish our first paper, right? That is why AJUR is here and we are here — to facilitate the publication process for undergraduates. Our entire editorial team, me included, find it deeply satisfying to offer students the opportunity to publish their first article. In the process we hope to teach them how to do it well by holding them to a high standard, thus preparing them for their future careers.

In April of 2014, the editorial team of AJUR made some changes to how the journal is run. Previously, our journal published only science-based articles. The new team decided to expand the scope of the journal. We now accept work and reviews in all disciplines, including the arts and humanities, if they demonstrate sufficient novelty, scholarship, and contribution to their field. The new editorial team is committed to undergraduate authors, promising to diligently review their submission in a timely manner. The quality control has been strengthened by providing subject editors with additional powers to return articles to authors, even prior to sending them out to reviewers, if necessary. We ask our subject editors to find three faculty reviewers for each article being considered. We also agreed to make all articles more accessible to students and the general public by providing student authors' information and a press summary at the end of each article. We established our new “home” at [www.ajuronline.org](http://www.ajuronline.org) and received the web ISSN number (2375-8732) for our new web site from the Library of Congress. Our print ISSN remained the same, 1536-4585.

Many parts of AJUR remain unchanged. Practically all of the previous subject editors are still with us. In the short scope of just nine months, we found the necessary funding, expanded the editorial team, re-launched the journal and published two issues of AJUR with eleven student articles, three of which were submitted to the new team. We have already accepted our first article for the April 2015 issue, and we have seventeen more papers currently being reviewed. The bottom line is: AJUR is very alive, ticking again with daily activity. We are doing what we are meant to do and doing it well — reviewing and publishing articles written by undergraduate students in a national, peer-reviewed journal. My sincere thanks go to our hard-working editors, who make all of this possible. I also would like to thank the mentors, who devote so much of their time as guides of students, leading them to their bright future. We hope you will continue to enjoy this publication.

— Dr. Kestutis G. Bendinskas