

1. Publishing Undergraduate Research

There is no doubt that publishing a paper is a tremendous thrill for an undergraduate student. However the process of writing a paper is of significant value, as they will see the structure of a paper from the abstract to the conclusion. Of course if the paper becomes published then the experience is even better, but putting together a well-written paper is a considerable accomplishment.

Since undergraduate research experiences often provide a window into our profession, it is beneficial for to students in all stages of the process from the first draft of the paper to the final version that appears in print.

- Help students formalize their results and put them into written form
- Emphasize that the presentation of the paper is equally as important as results.
- Involve students in the decision where to submit the paper.
- Share the referee reports with the students and include them in the revision process.
- If the paper is rejected then discuss alternative places for submission.
- If the paper is accepted emphasize the need for carefully proofreading the galley proofs and eliminating any typographical errors.

This presentation also included a discussion of venues to publish undergraduate research, which have been reviewed in Issue 2 of this column.

2. Maintaining an Undergraduate Research Program during the academic year

Undergraduate research thrives in the summer when students can devote their full attention to their projects. However momentum is often slowed during the academic year when students (and faculty) are juggling a full schedule of courses. However there are some measures that can be taken to provide undergraduate research experiences during the academic year.

- Have students start / continue a research project as part of an independent study course.
- Some colleges and universities have implemented undergraduate research courses where students can start or complete projects. These courses can include presentations at an MAA Section Meeting or Undergraduate Research Conference.
- Undergraduate research projects started during the summer can become stellar senior theses / capstone projects.