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The Importance of Undergraduate Research

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Universities are exciting places where new discoveries are made everyday. Students at KU discover new talents, new passions, and new things about the world around us, like a new language, or the practices of a different culture. Perhaps the most exciting thing that students at KU learn is that—at a research-intensive university like KU—you can make new discoveries in your chosen field.

The primary goal of research-intensive universities like KU is not to conduct massive amounts of research; much more research occurs at national and private laboratories, and at research institutes than at any university. The primary goal of research-intensive universities like KU is to teach you how to *do* research, and—more importantly—to inspire in you a passion for discovery. In other words, a research-intensive university like KU does not make new discoveries, it makes those who make the new discoveries.

In this edition of the *Journal of Undergraduate Research* you can sample some of the creative and scholarly work, as well as read about some of the discoveries made by undergraduate students in a variety of fields at KU. These discoveries and the *Journal* would not be possible without the help and support of the faculty mentors, the members of the Editorial Board, and the KU Honors program, which provided financial and institutional support. For all of those efforts, we thank you.

You can find the electronic edition of this publication, along with information regarding subsequent issues online at <http://web.ku.edu/~kujur/>.

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