



# An Opportunity for Undergraduates to Publish in a Peer Reviewed Journal: The Journal of Young Investigators



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## Introduction and Objectives

### Introduction:

The Journal of Young Investigators (JYI) was founded in 1997 by a group of undergraduate students in order to provide undergraduates with an opportunity to publish. JYI is an international web based journal accepting undergraduate-authored original manuscripts and reviews from all STEM disciplines. The journal accepts works which are of high scientific quality, yet lack the volume of data collected over many years that would be required for publication in a professional journal. Additionally, JYI charges no publication fees and all papers are open access, enabling students without access to funding sources to publish with us and view all of our papers.

Finally, the journal's staff consists entirely of undergraduate volunteers, enabling students to gain first-hand experience in the peer-review and publishing process. There are multiple ways in which professionals can contribute to JYI's mission of expanding opportunities for undergraduate publishing, including mentoring current staff members, donating to the organization, and advertising JYI to others.

### Objectives:

Several barriers can prevent undergraduate students from publishing their research, including limited time for data collection and analysis, lack of funding for publishing fees, and poor understanding of the publishing process. The Journal of Young Investigators helps students to overcome these barriers by accepting manuscripts with smaller quantities of data, publishing open-access with no publication fees, and providing valuable exposure to the processes of peer review and scholarly publishing. Professionals in the publishing industry can help to promote the mission of the Journal of Young Investigators through mentoring our staff, sponsorship, and advertising on our website.

## Journal History

**February 1997:** Five undergraduate students from Swarthmore College, Duke University, and Brown University become the founding members of the Journal of Young Investigators (JYI). Later they become JYI's first Board of Directors.

**June 1997:** The Board of Directors meets to form the journal's Mission Statement.

**August 1997:** JYI receives funding from Duke University, Swarthmore College, and Glaxo Wellcome, Inc.

**October 1997:** *Science* magazine commits to an advisory role in helping the newly-established JYI to get off the ground.

**January 1998:** JYI launches its website, [www.jyi.org](http://www.jyi.org).

**Fall 1998:** The journal receives a grant from the National Science Foundation.

**December 1998:** The first issue of JYI is published.

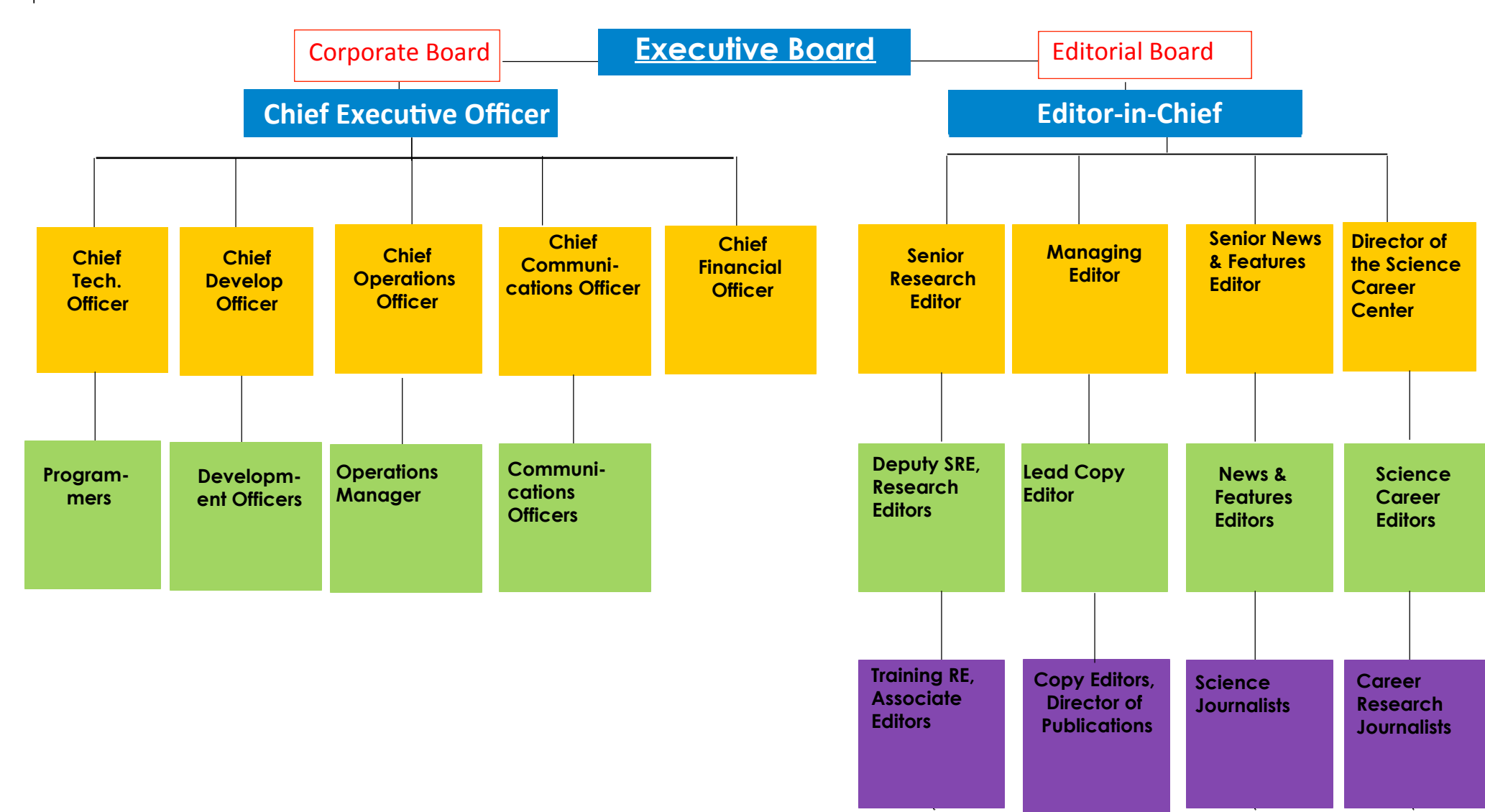
**Fall 2004:** Move to Wordpress site

**April 2015:** The first issue of Best of JYI, our annual printed highlights edition, is published.

**December 2017:** New Squarespace JYI website launched

## Journal Structure

Below is a diagram showing the structure of our journal from a departmental perspective.



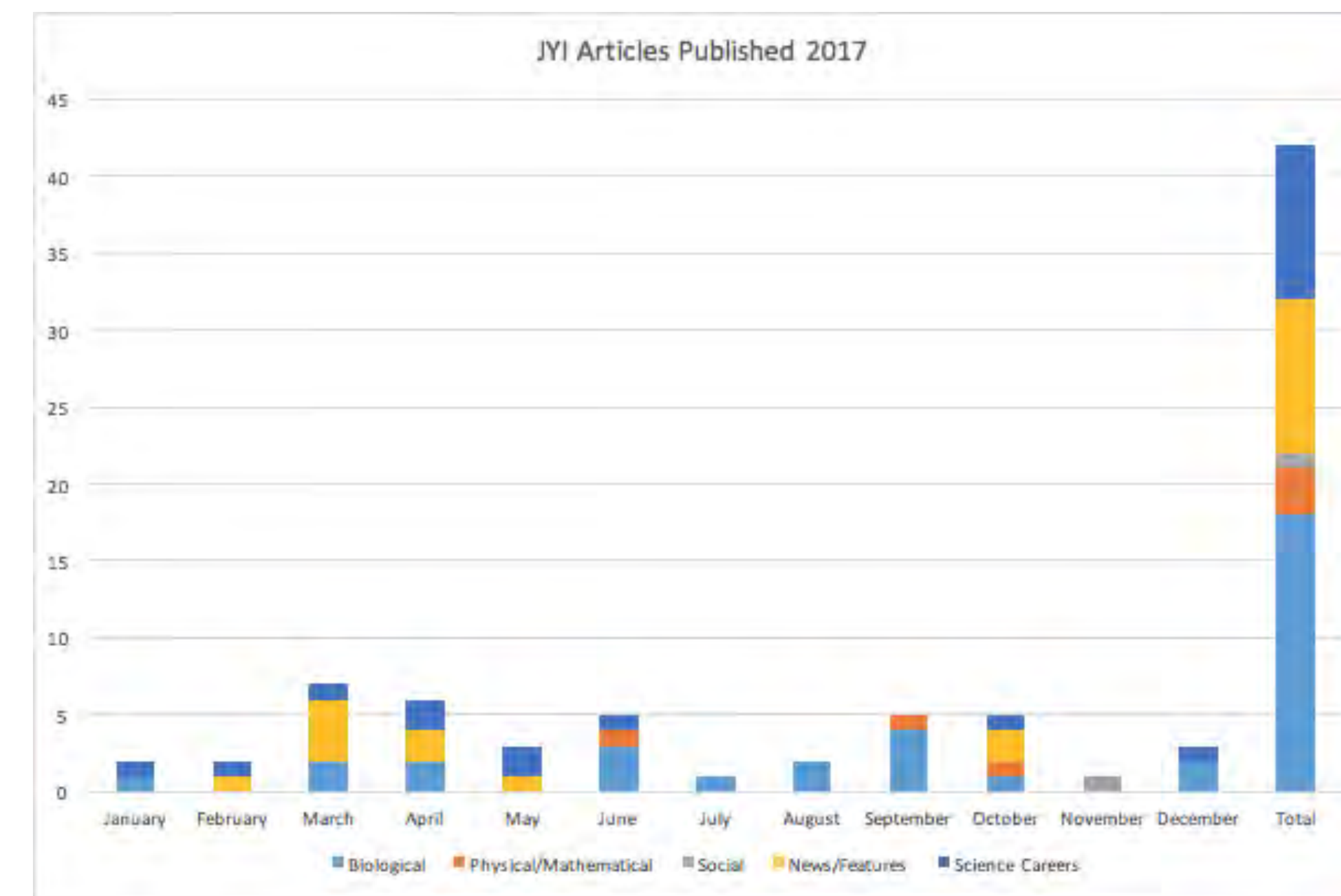
Today, JYI executive board members and staff come from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, and more. We are keen to increase our international presence and give undergraduates around the world experience in a peer-review publication process.

- We currently have 10 executive board members, 62 staff members, and 9 Board of Directors members (BOD)

## Our Results

### Publications:

- The figure below summarize our publications in 2017 by content area.



- As shown above, in 2017, JYI published 22 research articles and 21 news & careers articles.

### JYI Website:

- From 2016 to 2017, the JYI website had 378,000 views.
- On average, users visit approximately 2 website pages/session. In 2018, we have had 67,964 total page views.
- We update our website content on a monthly-basis, loading new publications and other resources for undergraduates interested in research.

### JYI Subscribers Lists:

- Our JYI subscriber lists aim to keep past authors, potential future authors, and interested undergraduates posted on JYI updates
- In 2017, JYI had 1,800 unique members on our ListServ email service and 472 subscribers
- We receive between 3-5 new subscribers to our service each day

### JYI Author and Staff Satisfaction

- JYI implements a series of author and staff member satisfaction ratings which measure their happiness with the JYI peer-review process and management
- In 2017, authors rated an average of 4.2 satisfaction on a 5 point Likert scale
- In 2017, JYI staff rated an average of 4.3 satisfaction on a 5 point Likert scale

### JYI Social Media

- We currently manage Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Reddit accounts
- Social media is used to promote new website content, increase the number of submissions, and advertise newly published manuscripts.
- We currently have 116,000 Facebook followers and 500 Twitter followers

### JYI Finances

- In 2017, JYI spent a total of \$17,000 on operating and promotional costs
- This includes advertisements, promotional materials, conference fees, and more
- JYI aims to spend between \$15,000 and \$17,000 each year

### Research Papers Published

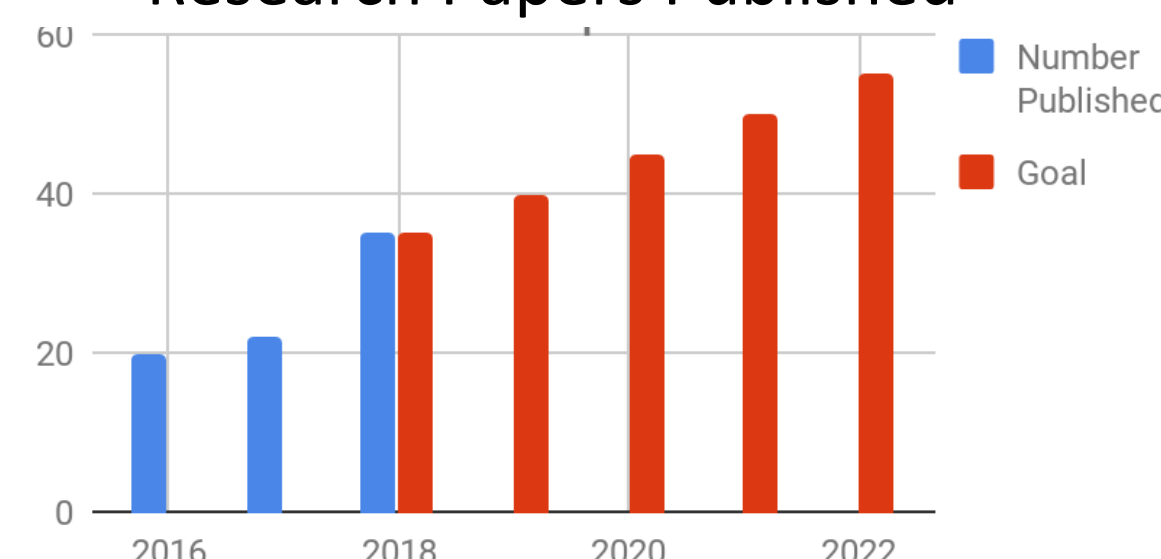
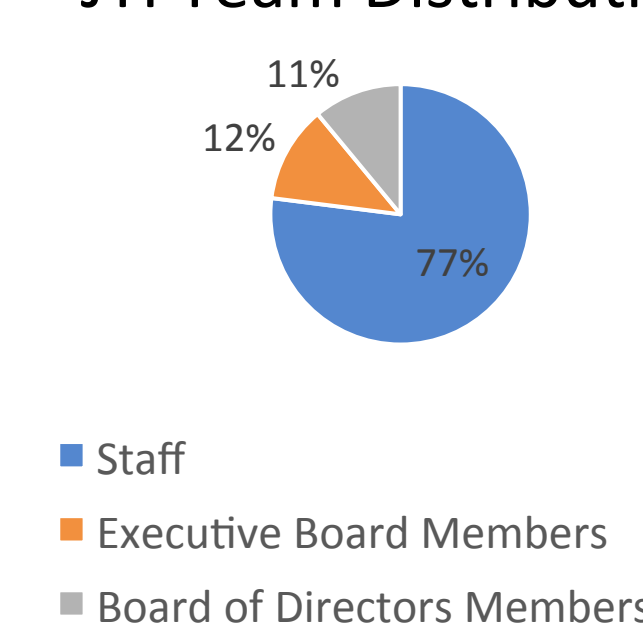


Fig 1: Shows the current number of research papers published by JYI and our future goals in publications.

### JYI Team Distribution



### Website Views – Google Analytics

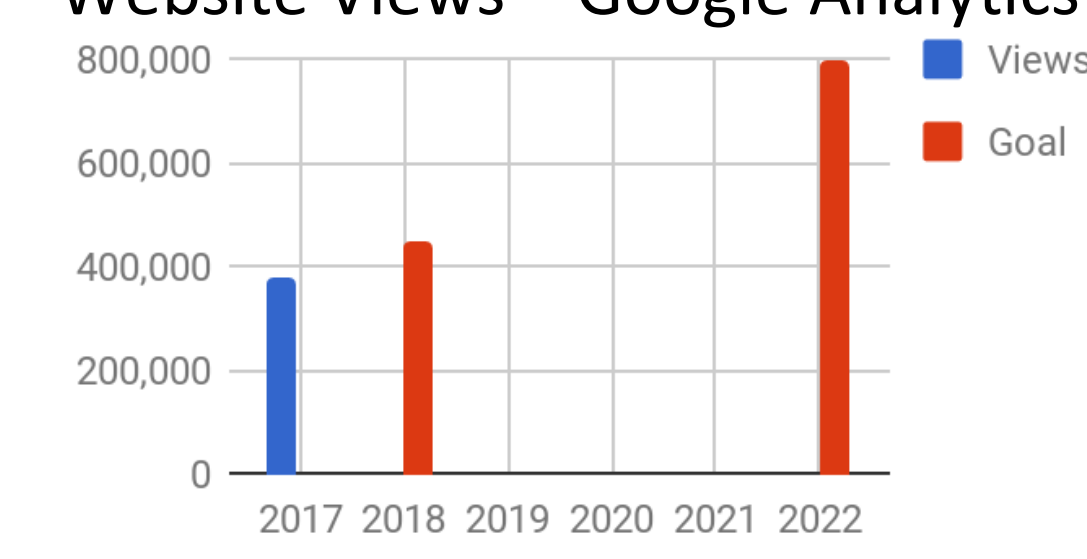
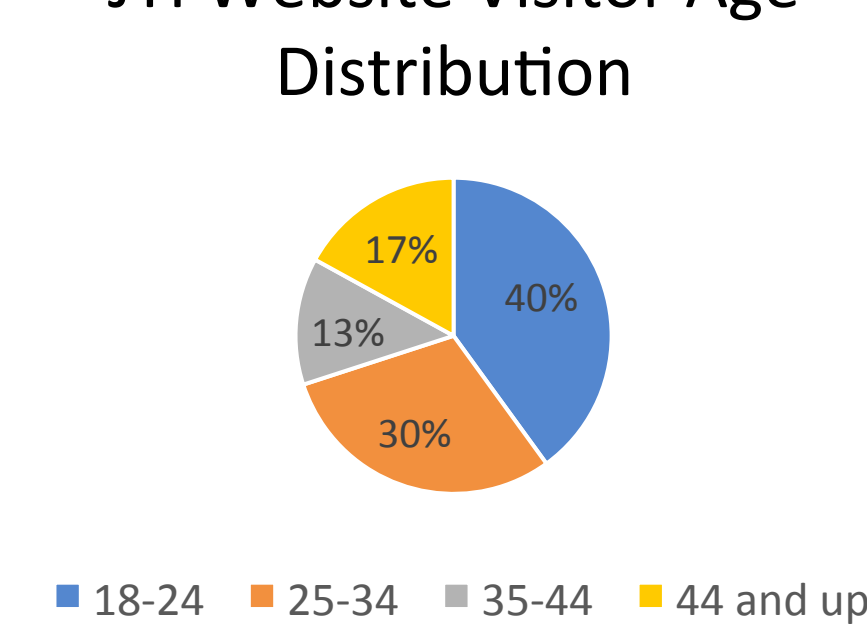


Fig 2: Shows the current website views and future goals for the JYI website.

### JYI Website Visitor Age Distribution



## New JYI Efforts and Future Goals

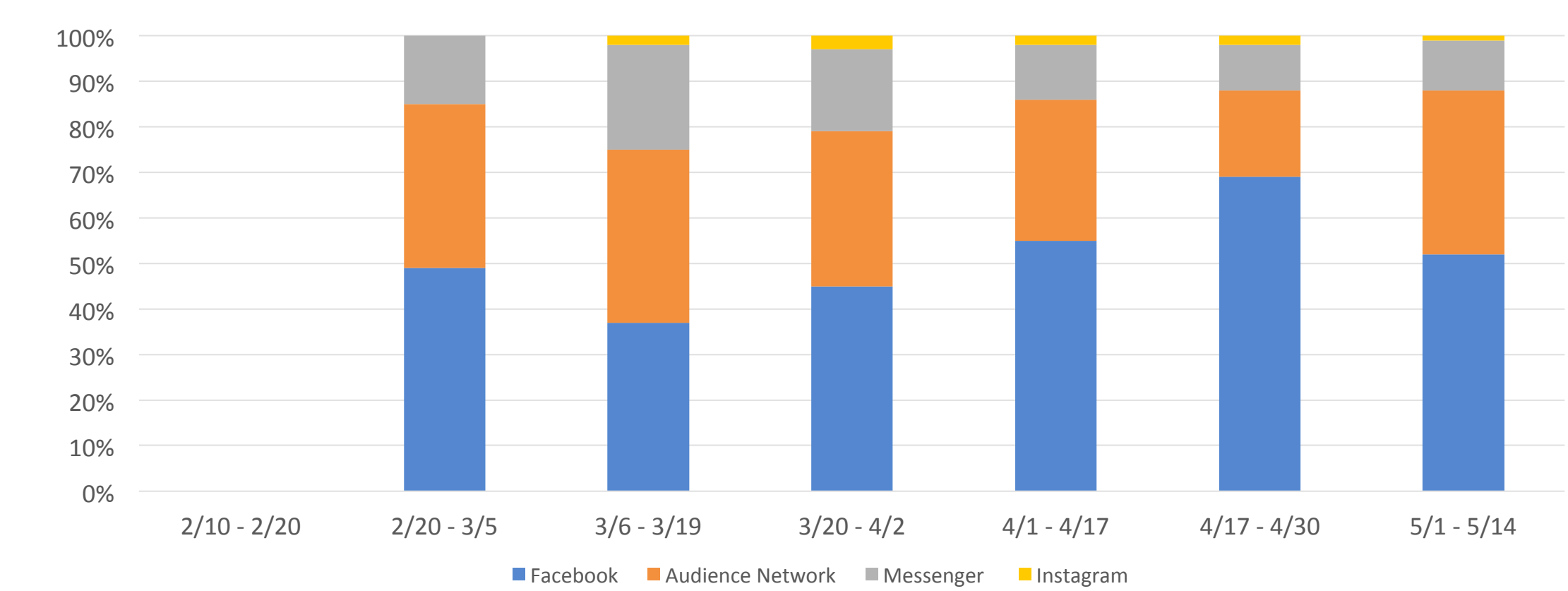
### New JYI Efforts:

- JYI Blog:** Publishes articles on a monthly basis about science news, the journey/experience of JYI members, and tips to undergraduates interested in academia
- Facebook Ads/Boosted Posts:** Along with our presence on Facebook, JYI utilizes Facebook Ads to increase our online presence and views on our website. Facebook ads utilizes Facebook itself and a network of connected apps to promote JYI.
- Best of JYI:** Highlights a list of the best JYI manuscripts voted on by JYI staff and executive board members.
- BOD Newsletters:** Each month, the Board of Directors write a newsletter to all JYI staff, executive board, and subscribers with advice on navigating their undergraduate degree and preparing for a career in academics
- Indexing:** All JYI manuscripts are currently indexed on EBSCO. We are currently working on being indexed in Google Scholar and Web of Science.

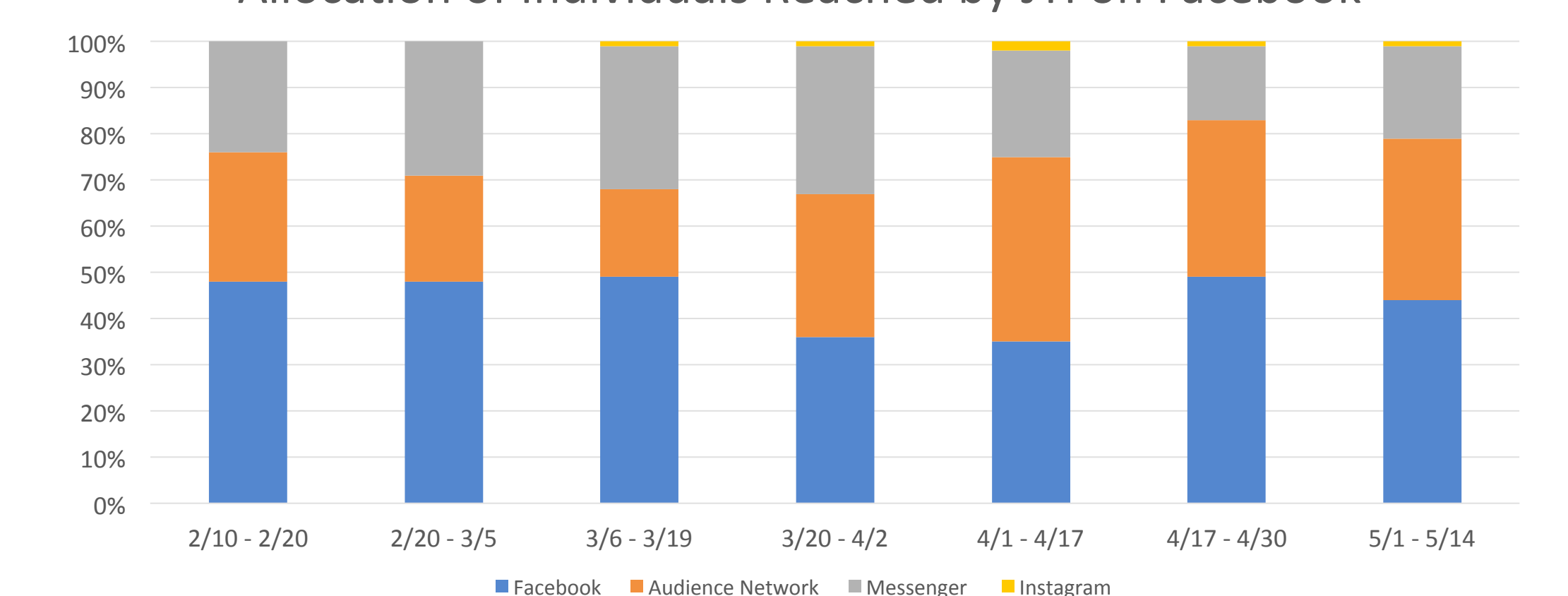
### JYI Five Year Goals

- Increase the number of research articles and news & career articles published annually to 55 and 70 respectively
- Increase the number of website views to 800,000 per year
- Increase the number of JYI subscribers to 1,500
- Increase the satisfaction response rate to 75% and a score of 4.5 out of 5

### Allocation of Link Clicks to JYI Website



### Allocation of Individuals Reached by JYI on Facebook



## Ways to Promote and Benefit JYI

### Mentor current staff members.

JYI's staff includes dozens of undergraduate volunteers all over the world. You can help to mentor these students by teaching them about your own experience in the world of academic publishing, providing them with exposure to a career path that is seldom mentioned by universities. Mentoring commitments can range from a one-time discussion to a long-term relationship with individual students.

### Donate to our organization.

Our journal operates on a nonprofit basis and does not charge any fees to publish in our journal or access papers. As a result, we are funded entirely through grants, donations, and sponsorships. In addition to direct donations, organizations can contribute as sponsors by purchasing ad-space on our website. If your company may be interested in contributing to our mission, visit <https://www.jyi.org/join/sponsor-us/>.

### Advertise JYI to others.

Many students and advisors are still unaware that JYI exists as a pathway to publication. Mentioning our journal to fellow researchers or to other organization who may be interested in partnering with us is a huge help toward our mission. To promote our posts on social media, follow @jyjjournal on Facebook, Twitter, or Reddit.

## Contact

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## JYI Website

[www.jyi.org](http://www.jyi.org)

## JYI Blog

[www.jyi.org/blog](http://www.jyi.org/blog)