

Editorial

It seems like a lifetime has passed since I first became involved with the Young Scientists Journal. In early 2006 myself and several other interested students met in one of the physics laboratories of The King's School Canterbury with our head of science (Christina Astin) and a stranger. This stranger turned out to be Ghazwan Butrous, the proverbial 'man with a plan'. Ghazwan's idea was simple, young scientists across the world should be able to come together, share their work, discuss ideas, and make friends. At the time there were many magazines for young people interested in science, but these were all written by adults. Ghazwan wanted an organisation which published articles by young scientists for young scientists, a phrase we still use as our strap line today.

It took about six months to put together the first issue, meeting every Thursday at 2pm we carefully edited the articles, formatted pictures and designed the first draft of the website. The publication of the first issue was an important milestone for us; and a strong sense of achievement was felt by the team for a job well done. At the time I naively felt that in a few years we would be rubbing shoulders with the likes of Nature and Science.

It quickly became apparent that the path to greatness is not a smooth one; we have had to weather all kinds of problems, with hindsight it would be easy to say that things could have been done better, blame could be assigned and frustrations vented. Yet this would be missing the bigger picture that the Young Scientists Journal still exists. Not only does it exist but it has grown from a small group at The King's School Canterbury, to a multinational group of like-minded individuals all striving towards a common goal. We have survived because the core idea survives, even during the darkest days when everything looked like it might fall apart; I never questioned the core principle of connecting young scientists around the world.

The Young Scientists Journal has yet to become the one of the great journals of science, but it still has great potential, many great ideas take years to become a reality, and it is only through dedication and careful nurturing that we will achieve our goals. I would like to thank all the people who have stuck by the Young Scientists Journal over the years, all the authors, editors, advisors and especially Ghazwan and Christina, for we could not have come this far without you.

As I turned 21 this year, I must hand over the reins of the Young Scientists Journal to a younger generation; I have great confidence in Pamela Barraza Flores, and I wish her and the team the best of luck as they take the Young Scientists Journal to new heights. They have however, not got rid of me completely as I will now join the International Advisory Board and continue to assist the editorial team in any way I can.

If you have had the perseverance to read this far, I would like to reward you with a pearl of wisdom shared with me at the beginning of my journey with the Young Scientist Journal. "Nobody is truly old, while they are still doing research." I have yet to amass the necessary years to vouch for this personally, but from all the fascinating people I have met on my journey so far, there is certainly a correlation between people who love their research and love life. I am now perusing a career in science, and if you are reading this you may be considering it to. I would strongly encourage you to stick with it, it may not always be easy, but the first time you discover something that nobody has ever found before, you will understand what all the effort is for.



Malcolm Morgan
Editor

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