

Austin Dabbs



Research Project(s):

- Entrepreneurship Competitions
- MAXI Competition

Research Mentor(s):

- Dr. Silvana Chambers
- Dr. Laura Anderson
- Prof. Paula Morris
- Dr. Kirsten Passyn

Conference(s):

-Entrepreneurship competitions:
“Invest in my Idea” Poster
Competition; Gull Cage; Bernstein
Award Competition.

-DMAW/EF MAXI Competition

Award(s):

- “Invest in my Idea” Top 15 \$1,000
Award
- Gull Cage \$2,500 Award
- MAXI, 1st Place Cash Award

Major(s): Finance & Chemistry

Minor(s): History

Career Goals: I am particularly interested in chemicals in the brain and how they interact with neurons to create excesses or deficiencies resulting in obsessive compulsive disorder. I believe there must be a difference between general anxiety disorder and OCD, yet the drugs used to treat them are often the same. I would love to work at a research university and help my students find the opportunities that my professors at Salisbury have helped me with.

How has engaging in undergraduate research impacted your academic success?

Engaging in creative activities in the Perdue School showed me what the world of business was like long before I was out of college. It helped me narrow down my interests until I learned what I wanted to do with my life. The MAXI competition impacted my academic success by teaching me the depth of understanding one must apply when creating a new, inventive idea. Working with Professor Morris of the Marketing Department and my group provided a thorough educational experience, and the competition itself gave me a networking opportunity that courses alone cannot offer. I recommend it to anyone who wants to get involved in Perdue, especially those with any interest in marketing. Another view of the business world was through my work experience at the Business Economic and Community Outreach Network (Beacon), located in the Perdue School, and alongside the administration as a Student Business Leader (SBL). Beacon is a project-based economic consulting firm, and so my work was mainly in preliminary research. My biggest project was on a report for the Community Outreach Addictions Team in which my co-workers and I built off a Beacon document to report on the state of addiction in Wicomico County. The report was ultimately used to request more funding from the state to fight the opioid epidemic in Wicomico County. As an SBL, I worked with some very talented students at a range of activities. Our work ranged from teaching fellow business students about academic advising to communicating with the general student body through emails. As an SBL I was able to learn and make mistakes within a friendlier environment than the post-college workforce.

How has Salisbury University helped you to achieve your academic and professional goals?

I attribute about half of my education at college to the additional opportunities offered at Salisbury University. I believe that I would not have found my interest in science had I not experimented with the business world as a Student Business Leader and with the competitions I have participated in. They have given me a chance to grow and test my “soft skills”. The opportunity to work as a Student Business Leader alongside the Perdue administration taught me a little about what corporate culture is like. I was able to apply that when deciding what I saw as my career goals. Professor Paula Morris and Dr. Kirsten Passyn of the Marketing Department gave me a chance to put to work the critical thinking and research skills I learned through the Honors College and my internship at Beacon. My professors Laura Anderson of the Information Sciences Department and Silvana Chambers of Economics and Finance both helped me put together my business plan and showed me the value of creating a well-researched report from scratch while preparing it for presentation.