



AUSTIN DONNER

BS in Food Science from  
Purdue University (2011)

### What have you been doing since the publication of your article in JPUR, volume 1?

I currently work as a quality product manager for General Mills in Cincinnati, Ohio. I have been involved in numerous projects, including Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) management, organic program compliance, sanitary design principles, sensory program management, and plant usage reduction. I received certification as a Food Safety System Program Manager.

### What are your career goals?

In the next five to ten years, I would like to be quality manager at a General Mills manufacturing facility. After that, I would like to become a quality director.

### How did the research you did as an undergraduate at Purdue impact your current endeavors? What is the value of undergraduate research?

I cannot stress enough the value that undergraduate research had on my success in industry. To be able to complete research while maintaining a strong GPA is a difficult thing to do, and it will allow you to develop a strong work ethic and perseverance as you move into a career. Undergraduate research also is really helpful when you are interviewing for jobs, because you have something you can talk about that is technical and oftentimes on the forefront of innovation.

### How did the faculty mentor relationship impact you during your time at Purdue?

Having someone who is your advocate is very important. When you have a strong relationship with a mentor, he or she can help point you in the right direction to make networking connections.



### How did the experience of publishing an article in JPUR benefit you? What advice would you give to other undergraduates at Purdue who are interested in contributing to the journal?

The really cool thing about being published is that it is forever. You can always claim to be a published author for a reputable journal. By becoming published, you are showing that you are capable and smart enough to speak and write on a technical subject. These are the types of things that companies are looking for in candidates.

### What advice would you give to other undergraduates at Purdue who are interested in doing research?

Get out of your comfort zone and jump into undergraduate research. You don't need to have a 4.0 GPA to do research, and you don't need a 4.0 to get a great job. You need to be smart, personable, and self-motivating. Never be afraid to fail—that's how we learn and grow.

Donner, A. (2011). Investigation of in-package ozonation: The effectiveness of ozone to inactivate *Salmonella enteritidis* on raw, shell eggs. *Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research*, 1, 10–15. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5703/JPUR.01.1.2>