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A significant source of gratification for Sarah from her undergraduate experience was starting her own food CPG business. Balancing being a full time student and getting a new business off the ground has been difficult, but it has also been rewarding along the way. Sarah has had hands-on experience with the food industry that students can't learn in a classroom, but she has also expanded her knowledge to many cross-functional areas outside food science. Sarah has developed personal and professional skills and feels that she has become a much better person because of this business. Despite the long and stressful hours, hearing from the families who have been directly impacted by her products and her mission has given this all a purpose, and that is Sarah's greatest point of pride.

Last summer, Sarah and a student-led team won the IFTSA & Mars Product Development Competition. This is one of the largest food product development competitions for students, and the team was selected as one of the top six teams to participate at the national finals. They took a product concept and marketed, validated, and produced an innovative and trendy product that was presented to a panel of judges. This experience is also what really shaped Sarah's passion for entrepreneurship and led her to take the path that she is on today.

Another proud component of Sarah's undergraduate experiences is that she served as a peer mentor for both her Scholars program and the Food Science department. Sarah decided to pursue a career in food science because she wanted to help people, and the peer mentor program has been a great way for her to do that.

Sarah's academic accomplishments include: Dean's List | Wilbur Waight Canaga Memorial Fund Scholarship | The Wayne E. and Mildred K. Smith Endowment Fund | The I & K Distributors Scholarship Fund | The Lloyd L. Mambourg Agriculture Student Support Endowment Fund | The Velvet Ice Cream Company & Dager Family Scholarship in Food Science & Technology | The Bert W. Martin Fund | The Shelby County Alumni Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Sarah plans to graduate May 2019 with a BS in Food Science and Technology and become an R&D technician/scientist for a food company in Columbus. Her goal is to grow her business in addition to working a full-time job. Growing her food business has become a recent dream job of hers, and while the road to get there will be challenging, Sarah is excited to see where that adventure takes her.

Sarah selected Valente Alvarez as her mentor. Sarah says, "Dr. Valente Alvarez has a vast array of knowledge in the food industry, especially with commercializing products. He has been a tremendous resource. Dr. Alvarez has helped my partner and I with any questions we have had when it comes to starting and running our business, and he has always gone out of his way to meet with us in person and let us pick his brain. He is just a genuinely good person and I am so grateful for his willingness to speak to me about school, work, and life."

