

# John R. di Stefano

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## EDUCATION

**M.S. Life Sciences- Food Science and Technology Major**  
**Virginia Tech**, Blacksburg, VA.  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
GPA: 4.00  
Anticipated Graduation: Spring 2017

**B.S. Biological Sciences- Microbiology/Immunology Concentration**  
**Virginia Tech**, Blacksburg, VA.  
GPA: 3.86  
Dean's List, 4 Semesters  
Graduated May, 2015

## EXPERIENCE

**Laboratory Technician**, Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, Commonwealth of Virginia, Richmond, VA, May- August 2016

- Summer internship program for the Department of General Services
- Project: Enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* PCR Screen in Food Matrices
- Intricate involvement in validation project development and execution
- Hands-on multiplex PCR kit development for customer samples
- Working knowledge of Good Laboratory Practices & ISO 17025 Accreditation

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Food Science and Technology Department,  
Major Advisor: Dr. Renee Boyer, Virginia Tech, May 2015- present

- Microbial assessment of produce sold in North Carolina and Virginia farmer's markets
- Isolation of pathogens from food samples using enrichment and selective media
- Evaluate antimicrobial resistance of environmental *Salmonella* Newport isolates
- Train and mentor undergraduate research assistants
- Assist in teaching Food Microbiology Laboratory course

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Food Science and Technology Department,  
Advisor: Dr. Renee Boyer, Virginia Tech, May 2014- May 2015

- Microbiological sampling of produce
- Qualitative observational data collection
- Use multiplex-PCR to screen samples for foodborne pathogens
- Screen microorganisms for antibiotic resistance

## ORGANIZATIONS

**International Association for Food Protection**, Student Member, 2015-2016  
**Graduate Student Assembly**, Delegate for Food Science Dept., August 2015  
**Juice HACCP Certified**, FDA, May 2014

## AWARDS

**STARS Scholarship Recipient** – Southeast Produce Council, 2016-2017  
**Tyson Foods (Formerly Hillshire Brands) Funds for Excellence Award Recipient** –  
**Graduate Research Poster Competition**, Food Science & Technology Dept., April 2016  
**Hillshire Brands Funds for Excellence Award Recipient** – **Undergraduate Research Poster Competition**, Food Science & Technology Dept., April 2015

## PUBLICATIONS

Pollard, S., R. Boyer, B. Chapman, **J. di Stefano**, T. Archibald, M. A. Ponder, and S. Rideout. 2016. Identification of Risk Food Safety Practices at Southwest Virginia Farmers' Markets. *Food Protection Trends*. 36: 168-175.