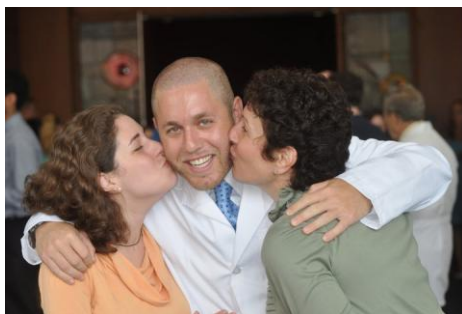


Aaron Schatz ('08)

B.S. ISAT with a Biotechnology concentration with Honors Minor in Biology Pre-Med



Aaron, at his White Coat Ceremony,
with Andrea (sister) and Barbara (mother)

What does Aaron say about his experiences, past and present?

At James Madison University, I was very active in the community. I worked as a Resident Assistant my sophomore year at Wampler Hall, participated in Madison PRIDE as well as the CHOICES programs at JMU. Integrated Science and Technology was a wonderful choice for me; this major allowed me to pursue interests in multiple fields that interested me. The faculty and staff were second to none, working alongside them as Vice President of the ISAT Honors Society was truly an honor. I also worked as a Teaching Assistant for an introductory level biotechnology laboratory for three semesters where I helped students understand the general applicable concepts of biology and technology. Interacting with people was something that I really enjoyed, which ultimately helped me decide to enter the field of medicine. I completed my honors thesis on the topic of alternative fuels, specifically cellulosic ethanol. The idea was to use the properties of both a fungus and a yeast to break down cellulose into its basic sugar monomers and then ferment ethanol from those sugars, respectively. This project taught me how to harness the knowledge that is available in the research field and apply that knowledge to design new, innovative projects. Currently, a significant amount of government funding is being applied to perfect this technique and ease the United States' demand on foreign oil. During my years I spent at JMU I gained priceless knowledge in many different aspects of life, and I felt that sharing my experience with others could help them obtain the chance to receive the same opportunities I did at James Madison University.

After graduating from JMU in 2008, I enrolled at VCU in a one year certificate program in Physiology. After completing this program, I took my MCAT and was hired into a research position for the next 15 months. I worked in the field of neurosciences, focusing on the regenerative capacities of the olfactory system, hoping to apply this knowledge to central nervous system injury and repair. In the Fall of 2010, I matriculated into the Medical College of Virginia at VCU and became a proud member of the class of 2014. At VCU, I remain very active in the community. As Vice President of the class of 2014, I stay on top of current events at VCU and around the world in the medical field. In my (limited) spare time, I volunteer when I can; most recently I have been tutoring students at one of the inner city high schools in math and science.

The educational and general life experiences that I gained at James Madison University were vital in helping me to become the person I am today; for that I am forever in debt.