

VITA

John Lowell Koontz was born in Fairfax, VA and graduated from Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, VA in 1996. John began his undergraduate work at Virginia Tech in the fall of 1996 and during this time he served as Vice-President of the Food Science Club and as the Club's website developer. He also served as co-editor of an industry newsletter for the Virginia Food Processors Association. During the summers of 1999 and 2000, John interned at Pepsi Cola Research and Development Center in Valhalla, NY where he worked with the Microbiology Team and the Flavored Carbonated Soft Drinks Team. He received his Bachelor's degree in Food Science and Technology from Virginia Tech in May 2000 and was named the Outstanding Senior in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

John began his Master's program at Virginia Tech in the fall of 2000. He has been a student member of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) and the American Chemical Society (ACS). From 2001-2002, John served as the Information Systems Chair for the Student Association of IFT and redesigned the organization's website. He will always be a true Hokie fan!