JJ NDUBUISI

I am a Spanish major and I’m happy to be minoring in Biology and Music. I play the saxophone and have played the alto and soprano in the Duke wind symphony and the baritone as part of a saxophone quartet here.

DISTINCTION PROJECT:
I am writing an honors thesis through the Department of Romance Studies. My study is an approach to syntactic variation looking at data from grammar forums online. I’m interested in discussing the incorporation of linguistic variation understanding in advanced courses to shed light on the intricacies of linguistic structures in Spanish.

ADVICE:
I would just say that they should just try to make use of any opportunity to enjoy and create music with other students. The music department’s many resources are so easily accessible, the musicians at Duke are brilliant, and the possibilities for collective exploration and collaboration allow you to experience much of what music is all about.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:
One of my favorite classes was Verena’s instrumental conducting class. Having been a drum major for my marching band in high school, conducting was something that I loved, and I was really able to take my conducting to another level through the class. Getting the opportunity to conduct excellent musicians in a wind symphony and an orchestra was an immense privilege that wouldn’t have been possible at many other schools. The class also prepared me to be able to effectively lead rehearsals and serve as a conductor for the polka band that played during the wind symphony’s Viennese Ball.

AFTER DUKE:
I am planning to attend dental school! After graduation, I will be back at home in Marietta, GA to work and be with family during my gap year.

PRIMARY FACULTY:
I have mostly been working with Dr. Susan Fancher, the amazing saxophone instructor here at Duke. I’ve worked with Dr. Fancher during saxophone lessons, saxophone quartet coachings, and practice for my saxophone-guitar chamber music duo.

BIDDLE HIGHLIGHTS:
Since freshman year, the Biddle Music Building has been a place where I’ve made so many great memories. Living in a dorm right next to the music building (and being a typical Duke student with a crazy schedule), I was used to go to a practice room around 2 or 3 am to practice my saxophone before I went to sleep for the night. The funny thing is that there were always at least one or two other piano players, violinists, or other students practicing at that time as well. My favorite group is one of the wind symphony’s dance performers at our annual Viennese Ball fundraiser.