

PRESS RELEASE

JOSEPH GRYBOSKI NAMED 2023 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio— Joseph R. Gryboski of Floyd’s Knob, Indiana, has been named a 2023 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

“The Distinguished Senior Award is the most prestigious undergraduate award in CFAES and honors top graduating seniors on the Ohio State Columbus campus,” said Ann Christy, CFAES professor and associate dean for academic programs. “The 25 award recipients exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.”

Gryboski, an animal sciences major in the Department of Animal Sciences, was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that he personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

Being named a Distinguished Senior is something of a dream come true for the Floyd County resident.

“Freshman year, I wrote down my goals and the first thing I wrote down was ‘Become a CFAES Distinguished Senior,’ ” he said. “This award represents all of the hours of scheduling and attending classes, meeting with advisors, writing scholarship applications, studying for exams, planning events, helping residents, and everything else in between. This accomplishment is the culmination of four years of very hard work, and I am immensely proud to receive it.”

The honors student is completing an Honors Undergraduate Research Project in conjunction with associate professor of animal science Kelly George and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Gryboski is working to better understand the effect of environmental changes on giraffe by analyzing hair cortisol through a less invasive procedure of collection. “Joe’s research accomplishments will expand our understanding of hair cortisol collection in this species and assist the Zoo in evidence-based management decisions,” said research advisor George. “His work will serve as an example for other undergraduate students and be incorporated into future classroom teaching and discussion.”

Since his sophomore year, Gryboski also worked as a resident advisor in Nosker House dorm where a number of CFAES students live and learn together. “This experience has helped me develop the skills of responsibility, leadership, and compassion,” he said. “It has been a challenge at times, but I had to properly manage my schedule to be available for my residents.”

According to his animal science nominators, Gryboski has had a positive impact on many students throughout Ohio State. As president of the CFAES Student Council, he worked to make CFAES more inclusive and accepting providing diversity and inclusion programming, spearheaded safety improvements to help off-campus students, created Fall Flannel Fest as a way of showcasing the work being done at Waterman Agricultural and Natural

Resources Laboratory, increased representation for all CFAES departments and schools, and worked with CFAES Dean Cathann Kress to increase study opportunities across all campus locations. As someone who has lost family members and friends to suicide, he was also a vocal advocate for mental health resources and suicide prevention trainings.

Gryboski also served as student manager intern for the Ohio State Women's Basketball team during its 2021-2022 Big Ten championship season. "I assisted with recruiting operations, prepared statistical analysis of practices and games, and helped to prepare and execute home and away game logistics," he said. "I always think of how special that entire season was when I wear my championship ring."

After graduation, Gryboski will start a project management position at Epic Systems, a healthcare software company, and move to their headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin. "I am looking forward to the challenge of moving to a new city, traveling for work, liaising with hospitals around the world, and developing myself professionally," he said.

A reception for the Distinguished Senior Award recipients and their families was held on Wednesday, March 22, hosted by Ann Christy and Cathann A. Kress, vice president for agricultural administration and CFAES dean. Meet the 25 outstanding students and learn more about each via a YouTube video release at go.osu.edu/CFAES2023DSA.

In autumn 2022, there were 2,248 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing bachelor of science degrees in 22 majors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at go.osu.edu/B4V2.



Joseph R. Gryboski

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ANIMAL SCIENCES - NUTRITION

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES

Photo available by sending a request to flood.13@osu.edu

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