

## PRESS RELEASE

# AIRIANNA MCGUIRE NAMED 2023 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Airianna P. McGuire of Mansfield, Ohio, 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.”

McGuire, a forestry, fisheries and wildlife major in the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR), was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

The first-generation college student from Richland County worked in the aquaculture research lab which she called her most valuable learning experience. “I truly discovered my passion for science and for research. I learned so much about fish, genetics, nutrition, husbandry, and other scientific methods,” she said. “I even assisted in larval rearing, which was a very demanding but rewarding process. Fish have to be fed about every two hours!”

McGuire’s most enjoyable experience was “taking all the outdoor classes in SENR. Since I work in a lab, field work is somewhat novel to me,” she said. “Taking classes like stream ecology, aquatic methods, and fish taxonomy provided me with a lot of skills, but it was also really fun to catch fish in the field. I loved seeing all the different species, and learning how to identify them.”

She served as the president and treasurer of TerrAqua, a water science-focused student organization. “We worked on a lot of really exciting things such as field trips for students, water quality monitoring training, acquiring speakers to talk about environmental careers, and a lot more,” she said.

According to her SENR nominator, McGuire capitalized on her college opportunities with the Second-year Transformational Experience (STEP) program. They wrote, “Airianna wrote her STEP proposal in 2020 and received admission to the Iceland Study Abroad Program 2022, but the program was cancelled due to COVID. She was determined to use her STEP funding, so she wrote another proposal and used the funding to attend the World Aquaculture Society Conference in San Diego. She was able to participate and network with aquaculture professionals and was exposed to various topics of research that were new to her.”

McGuire said that her greatest sense of accomplishment came from being in the SENR honors program and working on her research for the past year. “I am developing my undergraduate honors thesis on investigating the early embryonic development of zebrafish and fish chromosome manipulation,” she said. “It’s been a very rewarding experience that I am very proud of.”

After graduation, McGuire plans to start graduate school in fall of 2024. “During the gap, I am hoping to work at a zebrafish facility, since I have a lot of zebrafish experience and my research is focused on them,” she 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](https://go.osu.edu/CFAES2023DSA).

“Honoring the 25 recipients for their excellence will be a highlight for us this spring. These students have excelled and most certainly will continue to thrive in their future careers,” said Christy.

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](https://go.osu.edu/B4V2).



## Airianna P. McGuire

MANSFIELD, OH

FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE - HONORS

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES

Photo available by sending a request to [flood.13@osu.edu](mailto:flood.13@osu.edu)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

#### WRITER(S)

Sherrie R. Whaley  
[whaley.3@osu.edu](mailto:whaley.3@osu.edu)  
614-582-6111

#### SOURCE(S):

R. Warren Flood  
[flood.13@osu.edu](mailto:flood.13@osu.edu)  
614-247-6624

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### 2023 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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100 Agricultural Administration  
2120 Fyffe Road | Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-6891 | [students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu](https://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu)