

PRESS RELEASE

ALLISON SANDERS NAMED 2023 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Allison R. Sanders of Springfield, 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.”

Sanders is an animal sciences major with an animal biosciences specialization in the Department of Animal Sciences. She was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

After receiving an associate of science degree at Clark State Community College, she transferred to Ohio State and animal sciences. Sanders admitted, “Coming from an urban background, my path to ruminant nutrition has been unconventional; however, my time and experiences at Ohio State have helped me discover the fields I am most passionate about: animals, research, and the nutritional health of the next generation.”

Her passion for research started as a Clark County middle schooler when she began competing in science fairs across Ohio. According to her animal sciences nominator, Mariette Benage, “Allison came to us by way of the Global Impact STEM Academy, which is an urban STEM school that focuses on food, fiber, and fuel to create innovative solutions to the world’s greatest problems. A naturally curious person, she chose to get engaged in research after her first year, working as an intern on the CFAES Wooster campus where she was involved in a ruminant nutrition project that was published in the *Journal of Meat Science*.”

Sanders also pursued a summer research program at the University of Missouri where she worked on two beef cattle nutrition projects and then conducted her final undergraduate research project at Ohio State with animal scientist Jeffery Firkins. “I spent the last several months assisting with a dual flow continuous culture study, simulating a cow’s rumen in a glass jar to better understand rumen microbiology, and thus, how to feed dairy cows more efficiently,” she said.

Her research experiences gave her the confidence to participate in co-curricular competitions such as the Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge where her team placed in the top three in state and regional competitions,

Sander’s extracurricular activities were varied and included membership and often leadership positions in Animal Science Community Alliance, Collegiate 4-H at OSU, CFAES Ambassador, CFAES Peer Mentor, OSU

Dairy Challenge Team, CFAES Learning Community, and BuckeyeThon. “She was also named to the SPHINX Senior Class Honorary (reserved for Ohio State’s top 24 seniors) which represents the top 1% at The Ohio State University,” Benage said. “Allison was also deeply engaged in Buckeyes In Your Corner, an animal sciences initiative that focuses on the mental health of our Buckeye family.”

After graduation, Sanders plans to pursue a graduate degree in animal nutrition, focusing on dairy cow nutrition. She then hopes to become a dairy nutritionist and/or work as a researcher in the dairy industry through a company’s research and development department.

Additionally, she will continue working with youth education programs, especially in urban communities through OSU Extension to teach children and families more about not only the dairy industry, but also where their food comes from.

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.

“Honoring the 25 recipients for their excellence was 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.



Allison R. Sanders

SPRINGFIELD, OH

ANIMAL SCIENCES - ANIMAL BIOSCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES

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

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