

PRESS RELEASE

HANNAH M. LARGEN NAMED 2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Hannah M. Largen of Rocky Mount, Virginia, has been named a 2024 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 23 award recipients exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.”

Largen is an animal sciences major specializing in animal biosciences 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.

She identified her most rewarding student experience as founding the Pilot Dogs Club at Ohio State. Pilot Dogs is a nonprofit that works to raise and train guide dogs for people who are blind or visually impaired. Since 2022, Largen was involved in the training of two dogs and led the Pilot Dogs Club.

“Watching the dogs improve as I work with them is an extremely rewarding experience. It is all the more rewarding when I consider the important role these dogs will serve in the lives of people who need them most,” she said. “I also get to see the joy that student volunteers get from training their dogs. I am excited to see how the club grows in the future.”

Largen completed two internships: one at Ohio State’s equine facility and a second at Mill Mountain Zoo, Roanoke, Virginia. The zoo internship taught her skills such as exotic animal safety, diet preparation, and disease management, while the equine internship exposed her to experiences such as the birthing process for mares and foals, collecting semen and artificially inseminating mares, and monitoring follicles in mares through ultrasound with the purpose of rebreeding.

“The equine reproduction internship was my most valuable learning experience. I worked to ensure the health of gestating mares, monitor the birthing process, work with new foals, and rebreed through artificial insemination,” she said. “I returned to the horse barn to complete my own research project in human-animal interactions and serve as an on-call foaling attendant. This learning experience helped me discover a new passion for horses and their health and welfare.”

Largen’s extracurricular activities included leadership positions in the Human-Animal Interactions Club, the Pilot Dogs Club, Ohio State Equine Club, and membership in the Pre-Veterinary Medical Association.

She worked closely with mentor Kim Cole, professor of animal sciences and Ohio State University Extension equine specialist. “She instilled a passion for the health and welfare of horses and for the importance of

research in the field of animal sciences,” Largen said. She received a first-place award after presenting her findings at the CFAES Undergraduate Research Forum.

After graduation, Largen plans to attend veterinary school to pursue a doctorate in veterinary medicine and then work in small animal and equine medicine.

A reception for the Distinguished Senior Award recipients and their families was held on Thursday, April 4, hosted by Ann Christy and Cathann A. Kress, Ohio State vice president for agricultural administration and CFAES dean. Meet the 23 outstanding students and learn more about each via a YouTube video release at go.osu.edu/CFAES2024DSA.

“Honoring the award 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 2023, there were 2,224 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees in 21 majors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at go.osu.edu/B4V2.



Hannah M. Largen

ROCKY MOUNT, VA

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

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