

PRESS RELEASE

REGINA LOAYZA NAMED 2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Regina Loayza of New Albany, Ohio, 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.”

Loayza is an environmental policy and decision making major in the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR). She was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

In 2023, she was recognized with the national Udall Foundation Scholarship for Environmental Studies, which recognizes outstanding students involved in leadership, service, and careers related to the environment, and awards \$7,000 toward undergraduate expenses.

On the dean’s list each semester, Loayza held leadership positions in Ohio State’s Undergraduate Student Government, the Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, and the Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS). “I spearheaded efforts to expand the association by successfully integrating four incoming universities into the Big Ten Conference in 2024,” she said.

The Franklin County resident completed an internship with the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry in Washington, D.C. “Immersed in the heart of policymaking, I gained an intimate understanding of the dynamics and negotiations that shape legislation,” she said. “Witnessing the intersection of politics and law firsthand reaffirmed my interest in pursuing a legal career, particularly in areas related to environmental policy and advocacy.”

Originally from Lima, Peru, Loayza is vehement about justice and has engaged in a variety of advocacy experiences as an undergraduate. “I’m passionate about climate and social justice, creating a more sustainable world, and ensuring those historically farthest from justice are closest to the solution process,” she said.

Loayza gained diverse work experiences beyond her internships. She worked part time as a law office legal intern where she facilitated asylum and temporary protected status applications and conducted client calls. She also worked with the Columbus City Council, collaborating on resolutions benefiting immigrants and refugees.

Additionally, she served as a student assistant in the CFAES Rattan Lal Center for Carbon Management and Sequestration, contributing to lab operations and educational material preparation. “I worked as an assistant

2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

Academic Programs

100 Agricultural Administration
2120 Fyffe Road | Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-6891 | students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu

farmer at lecturer Chris Ratcliff’s farm, employing regenerative agriculture techniques to cultivate crops,” she said. “It was my first deep dive into manual labor and the intricacies of sustainable agriculture. Working with my hands to cultivate and harvest crops was a transformative experience that gave me a profound appreciation for the hard work behind the food we often take for granted.”

After graduation, Loayza plans to attend law school to specialize in environmental law.

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.



Regina Loayza

NEW ALBANY, OH

Environmental Policy and Decision Making - Policy and Governance

School of Environment and Natural Resources

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WRITER(S):

Sherrie R. Whaley
whaley.3@osu.edu
614-292-2137

SOURCE(S):

R. Warren Flood
flood.13@osu.edu
614-247-6624