

PRESS RELEASE

CAMERON P. MCCURDY NAMED 2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Cameron P. “Cam” McCurdy of Cochranton, Pennsylvania, 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.”

McCurdy is an animal sciences major specializing in animal biosciences in the Department of Animal Sciences (ANSC). He was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that he personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

The Butler County resident completed two internships: one with Animal General Hospital of Cranberry, Pennsylvania, and a second with professor of animal sciences Kichoon Lee. “As a veterinary technician at Animal General, I was given the opportunity to assist in many different kinds of surgery. Additionally, I drew blood, placed catheters, filled prescriptions, took x-rays, and got to sit in on appointments to observe the doctor and how they interact with the patient and the owner,” he said.

As an assistant in Lee’s research lab, McCurdy not only helped others with data collection, but he also lived at the poultry barn and managed the husbandry for birds used in the research program. “During this internship, I was also given my own project to collect data on investigating the differences in eggshell characteristics between MSTN knockout quail and non-gene-edited wild-type quail,” he said.

McCurdy’s extracurricular activities included leadership roles in the Poultry Science Club and the Animal Science Community Alliance. He is also helped lead an after-school science club at Cristo Rey High School in Columbus, a private school for very low-income, high achieving minority students. “This was rewarding because I got the chance to make high school students excited about science,” he said.

According to Mariette Benage, animal sciences student success coordinator, “One quality that separates Cam from his peers is his investment in helping others reach their full potential. He has a natural ability to teach and relate to others. He shed light on the importance of agriculture in their lives and inspired a new generation of scientists. His energetic mentorship to the students is amazing, providing more than just a science lesson as he invests himself in their interests and dreams, and works to empower them to achieve goals.”

On the dean’s list each semester he has managed a perfect 4.0 GPA. After graduation, McCurdy hopes to attend veterinary school and has applied to Ohio State, Colorado State University, and the University of Pennsylvania. “I am not sure what kind of veterinarian I want to become yet, but I am leaning towards

a poultry veterinarian,” he said. “I would also enjoy being a small animal veterinarian or an exotic avian veterinarian.”

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.



Cameron P. McCurdy

COCHRANTON, PA

Animal Sciences - Animal Biosciences

Department of Animal Sciences

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