

Press Release

March 7, 2019

Jenkins Named 2019 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Mary Jenkins of Saint Paris, Ohio has been named a 2019 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

“The Distinguished Senior Award is the most prestigious undergraduate award in CFAES, recognizing the top graduating seniors from each of the academic units on the Columbus campus,” said Steven Neal, CFAES professor and associate dean for academic programs.

Jenkins, an agricultural communication major from Champaign County, Ohio, will be honored at an on-campus awards dinner on March 27 where all 25 distinguished CFAES seniors will be recognized.

The CFAES Distinguished Senior Award honors academic, disciplinary and professional excellence.

“One of the hallmarks of our College is an emphasis on student success, and it is heartwarming to see it exemplified through the accomplishments of our students,” Neal said. “Recipients are our future innovators and leaders who have already made an impact within the academic environment at this university and beyond.”

Jenkins has taken advantage of many opportunities while at Ohio State, where she has made an impact both inside and outside of the classroom. Working with with a group of classmates, she created a public relations campaign for Stratford Ecological Center in Delaware, Ohio, to revamp its donor program, the Friends of Stratford. The campaign will impact the organization's fundraising efforts for years to come.

Jenkins spent two years as a University Ambassador, providing tours of the Ohio State campus and helping students to visualize their future at Ohio State. She also served as a recruitment host with Ohio State's Office of Undergraduate Admissions. For two seasons, she visited with recruits on football Saturdays, hearing their stories and sharing some of her favorite things about being a Buckeye and a CFAES student.

Jenkins spent six weeks in São Paulo, Brazil with Alpha Zeta Partners where she learned the global influence of the United States, but also that Brazil is a very competitive agricultural country.

“Because agriculture is a global industry, it is very important that students of agriculture find ways to learn more about the world around them,” she said. “CFAES has a multitude of opportunities for students to experience a different culture and country.”

She hopes that her minor in Spanish “can help me communicate the importance of agriculture to a wider group around the world. I hope to use this knowledge and skill to find new ways to communicate across cultural lines.”

Distinguished Senior Award



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES

Jenkins credits a summer internship with the Ohio Pork Council with helping her realize the importance of thinking as a consumer when communicating about agriculture.

“I learned to create graphics and images that show the basics of pork production and shine a light on the care of these animals,” she said. “My goal is to be the most effective communicator, whether that be through verbal or written communication.”

After graduation, Jenkins plans to move to Orlando, Florida to participate in the Disney College Program at the Walt Disney World Resort. She hopes to transfer to a communications or public relations role within Disney Parks and Resorts. Her professional goal is to work within a communications or public relations department for a large organization, whether it be in agriculture or another industry, she said.

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Electronic files of head shot for this individual award recipients may be secured by making an email request to Warren Flood at flood.13@osu.edu.