

Press Release

March 11, 2019

Linares named 2019 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Julia Linares of Chicago Ridge, Illinois, 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 associate dean and director of academic programs.

Linares, an environmental policy and decision making major from Cook County, 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."

Kristi Lekies, associate professor in the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) and one of Linares' nominators, wrote, "Julia is an exceptional student in the School of Environment and Natural Resources. She enrolled in a data analysis course that I teach, worked with me on an educational outreach program for high school adolescents with special needs, and assisted with one of my research projects on the development of environmental attitudes."

A first-generation college student, Linares will complete her degree in just three years and has made the most of the educational opportunities available to her. For example, she sought out prospective research projects to get involved with.

"Julia inquired about opportunities to work with me on a research study. She expressed her desire to apply what she had learned in class and to further her knowledge of research, statistics, and software programs," Lekies noted. "Although the work was detail-oriented and tedious at times, we completed a data analysis project, and Julia was enthusiastic about learning and grateful for the experience. She is an outstanding role model for other students."

Currently, Linares is assisting with telephone data collection for a national survey of U.S. county governments under the direction of SENR rural sociologist Linda Lobao. Linares will help write the study report and will highlight key findings of the project at the Rural Sociological Society conference in Richmond, Virginia.

Distinguished Senior Award



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

CFAES

Linares' academic achievements are particularly noteworthy given the many activities she has been involved with. She was a member of the Ohio State women's rowing team for one year, worked at the 18th Avenue Library, was an Environmental and Natural Resources (ENR) Scholar, volunteered with numerous environmental service projects, created and implemented several innovative educational programs, and is current president of the STEM Pre-Law Society.

As a member of ENR Scholars, Linares organized an event for her peers that focused on sustainable fashion. She coordinated speakers from Global Gifts for a presentation to educate others on environmental concerns related to clothing and consumption. She continued to raise awareness of these topics by creating and leading a student organization on campus called Fair Fashion. Additionally, she partnered with another student organization, Defend Our Future, to organize a successful used clothing drive.

After graduation, Linares hopes to work in federal environmental compliance and regulation, then attend law school to specialize in environmental law and potential programs examining localized water system stresses in urban and rural areas.

Writer:

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

Source:

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

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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.