

Press Release

March 7, 2019

Schuster Named 2019 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Sarah Schuster of Deerfield, Wisconsin 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.

Schuster, an agribusiness and applied economics major, 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."

Schuster has shared her passion for agriculture in Wisconsin, Brazil, and Washington, D.C., all while maintaining a high grade point average and being very involved on campus, according to her nominator, Brian Roe, associate chair and undergraduate studies leader in the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics.

"Sarah has met the academic challenges of her agribusiness and applied economics major and animal science minor, gaining A or A- grades in all of her classes, and receiving dean's list honors every semester," Roe wrote.

She has also been part of or served in a leadership role for Buckeye Dairy Club, Collegiate 4-H, Ohio Collegiate Cattle Association, Alpha Zeta Partners, and CFAES Peer Mentors.

Schuster was selected to join Alpha Zeta Partners and participated in the six-week education abroad experience in Brazil. Upon return from Brazil, she traveled to Washington, D.C. to serve as a round table facilitator at the National 4-H Conference. While there, she worked with 18 high school 4-H participants on how to share their stories and passion for agriculture with the Agricultural Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Wisconsin native has served as a CFAES Peer Mentor for two years and has made it her mission to help first-year students find their place on campus, so they do not experience the transition challenges that she encountered as a freshman.

Her leadership abilities have shown through in her involvement with the Buckeye Dairy Club and her internship with Sassy Cow Creamery in Columbus, Wisconsin. As vice

Distinguished Senior Award



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president of Buckeye Dairy Club and chair of its Buckeye Royal, Schuster organized a university-wide dairy showmanship competition where participants, many of whom had no experience with livestock, went to the university farm and halter broke a heifer.

At Sassy Cow Creamery, she engaged with customers about their dairy-based products and shared her love of agriculture with students on school tours. In her role as an agriculture advocate, she embraced the opportunity to debunk common misconceptions about the dairy industry and shared the benefits that milk has to offer, while also answering questions and concerns from consumers.

After graduation, Schuster will return to her home state to begin a graduate program in life sciences communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since she will be close to her family farm, she is planning to expand the agritourism outreach initiatives of the farm and educate the surrounding community about the importance of agriculture.

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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.