

Press Release

March 13, 2019

Smith Named 2019 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Joseph Smith of Columbus, 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 associate dean and director of academic programs.

Smith, from Franklin County, Ohio, is a double major in food, agricultural and biological engineering and Mandarin Chinese. He 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."

"Smith is a scholar-athlete who embodies the CFAES mission through his academic excellence, application of engineering for human good, advocacy for diversity, and service to others," wrote his nominator, Jay Martin, professor of ecological engineering in the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (FABE).

"As a double major who is also dual-enrolled in FABE's master's program, a honors student, and Morrill Scholar, he has an impressive record of pursuing academic rigor," Martin noted. Smith is also a member of the men's varsity gymnastics team, where he specializes on the high bar and has been named a Big Ten Champion and Varsity "O" member.

Smith has been engaged in undergraduate research and has already begun his graduate education. He will receive his bachelor's degree in Spring 2019 with three honors distinctions: honors research distinction, honors contract, and Latin honors.

"Beyond his research in ecological engineering, (Smith) has sought to use his education to help others," wrote Martin. "His senior capstone design project is working to mitigate flooding along the Olentangy Trail, which could greatly benefit the local community. He studied abroad in Wuhan, China in the summer of 2018 and hopes to use his engineering skills to help others and build international relations."

Smith has dedicated much of his time at Ohio State as an advocate for diversity and inclusion through involvement as a Morrill Scholar. Using his major in Mandarin Chinese, he worked with international students to help them with their transition to campus.

Distinguished Senior Award



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

CFAES

He also regularly volunteers with the Special Olympics, Epsilon Tau Pi fraternity of Eagle Scouts, and the Second and Seven Foundation, where student athletes read to second graders around Columbus. His passion for volunteerism and engineering came together when he led a Buck-I-Serv trip to Pinellas County, Florida where applied his knowledge to design ocean bank stabilizers and erosion mitigation devices. Buck-I-Serv is Ohio State's alternative break program.

After graduation, Smith will attend graduate school at Ohio State to earn master's degrees in FABE and Mandarin Chinese. He hopes to use his engineering skills to help others abroad and plans to return to China to work, with an ultimate goal of becoming a professor.

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.