



JULIA M. LINARES

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Environmental Policy and Decision Making - Pre-Law

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A point of pride for Julia from her OSU undergraduate education occurred at orientation. During orientation and the touring of the Shoe, it was the first time her father had seen campus, and his excitement exemplified the feelings of Julia's entire family. She was filled with overwhelming emotion. A first-generation college

student, Julia was aware her entire life that her parents worked as hard as they could in order to provide her with opportunities. Being at Ohio State, Julia has fulfilled both her family's and her own dreams.

Last year, Julia had the pleasure of assisting with a tour of OSU's Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park for a class of high school students with special needs. The team organized the tour and crafted a related classroom activity. After working hard to make the day happen, nothing was more rewarding than meeting the students. The students' excitement towards the natural environment will be something Julia hopes to carry with her for the rest of her life. She is forever thankful for this opportunity, as it allowed her to share her environmental passion with a community of people that she cares deeply about.

Julia's academic honors include: Dean's List | Ohio State Scholar-Athlete | National Buckeye Scholarship | Scarlet and Gray Grant | Maximus Scholarship | Kathryn Weisner Scholarship | Barnebey Family Scholarship.

As a freshman at Ohio State, Julia walked onto the Women's Rowing Team as a Novice Coxswain. Never having rowed or coxed before that season, that year proved to be extremely challenging for her. All of the effort of two practices a day, while balancing a full class load, paid off at the Big Ten Championship. The team went on to win, crossing the finish line and forever immortalizing their success into each other's memories. Julia holds that day as one of her most proud moments because after all that work, they wanted to succeed for each other, not just individually.

After graduation, Julia hopes to work within federal environmental compliance, gaining real-life experience in how environmental policies play out in the agency setting. Long-term, she has the goal of obtaining her Juris Doctorate degree with a focus in environmental law. Combining both a strong legal grasp of environmental issues and expertise in localized water systems, Julia hopes to influence future policy that enhances both the natural environment, and the lives of those around these systems.

Julia selected Dr. Kristi Lekies as her mentor. Julia shares: "Dr. Lekies started as my data analysis professor and has transformed into one of the most influential members of my academic career. Dr. Lekies gave me my first look into the researching realm through data entry and we have since developed an academic relationship that I wish every student was able to establish with a faculty member. From working on the wetlands walk to managing data, Dr. Lekies has continually added to my skills and academic experiences. She has unceasingly advocated for my career advancement and academic success. For these reasons, Dr. Lekies deserves to be recognized as someone who reminded me of my capabilities and potential in times when I did not see it myself."

