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Heather cites the benefits of her involvement in the Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest as one of her proudest undergraduate occurrences. Through her involvement in the contest, she was awarded a 1st place and 3rd place as an Individual Animal Welfare Judge. Heather has networked extensively at contests, including befriending Dr. Temple Grandin, with whom she corresponds on occasion. Heather has not only excelled at the contest, but she met many faculty who she hopes to encounter in the future as an animal welfare scientist.

Another proud opportunity Heather shared is that she conducted a case study in Nicaragua about cattle welfare on family farms. She created her own animal welfare audit checklist, interviewed farmers in Spanish, and coordinated farm visits. While there, Heather met with families, listened to their stories, learned how they care for their animals, and stepped away with an appreciation for the sustainability with which they manage their animals.

Heather has achieved academic honors which include: Dean's List | Sphinx Senior Class Honorary | Morrill Scholar with Distinction | Biological Sciences Scholar | Intercollegiate Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest.

Being selected as the Musical Director of the OSU MeshugaNotes A Cappella choir is a "beyond the classroom" involvement Heather refers to as greatly rewarding. After studying music since age six, this role has given Heather the opportunity to apply her knowledge by writing music in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish, then teaching that music to the choir throughout the year. The singers (all OSU students) benefit from this stress outlet, and from the relationships they build over their possible four-year involvement in the choir. Furthermore, the community (including Holocaust survivors, whom are performed for annually) has benefited from the choir's contributions to their religious services and community events.

Heather plans to work for Humane Farm Animal Care for two years after graduation, while obtaining a master's in Animal Welfare, Ethics & Law from the University of Edinburgh. Afterwards, she intends to pursue a PhD in animal welfare and behavior.

Heather selected her mentor as Mariette Benage. About Mariette, Heather says, "Since meeting her at a recruitment event before I enrolled in OSU, Mariette has been, as she would say, 'a rock' in my undergraduate journey. Mariette is always ready to support me in any ways needed, including coming to my choir concerts, proofreading my CV before applying to graduate school, being a sounding board for life challenges, and creating a safe space for me amidst life challenges. Mariette is always smiling and engaged, and she is a positive face to return to during difficult academic semesters. Furthermore, she encouraged me to apply for everything, including this award. If this isn't enough to emphasize Mariette's impact on my undergrad experience, talk to my parents who live six hours away. My parents told me they are grateful for Mariette's presence in my life because they trust I am in good hands and have a strong support system to make it through arguably the most transformational years of my life."

