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When asked to share the experiences from her undergraduate career which she had found the most fulfilling and satisfying, Charis wrote about valuing the community she has created here at Ohio State above everything else. The dear friends she has made through dorms, classes, church, the farm, and more, have all been influential in her life. She feels beyond lucky to be in a department like Plant Pathology, where she has worlds of support and close relationships with many of the professors and students. She believes every single one of her achievements are a result of strong backing. Years into the future she may not remember every student organization she was a part of, or every event they planned, but she will remember the people that made these past four years so special.

Out of Charis' research and internship experiences, she is most proud and thankful for her time at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. Charis won the Karen A. Holbrook grant which fully funded her summer and research. The experience was amazing and has been a major part in helping her decide where she is going this fall, and even where she wants to end up long-term.

Charis has obtained a genuine sense of achievement from the Student Farm and how far they have come in two short years. Quite literally grown from the ground up, from a small crew of three students and some tired soil, it is now a flourishing student group and functioning farm. It was incredible to see young students get excited about compost and exploring alternative forms of agriculture and Charis cannot wait to see how the farm changes and blossoms as time goes on.

Included within Charis' academic achievements are: Dean's List | Will C Hauk Endowment Fund 2018 Grant | Karen A Holbrook Fund 2018 Grant | A.J. Hoffmann Award | Undergraduate Honors Research Scholarship | Sutzbach Memorial Scholarship | Allison Plant Pathology Scholarship | McCoy Leadership Fund.

After graduation, Charis will continue her education in Europe through a European Union sponsored Erasmus Mundus Joint Master of Science degree in Plant Health. The first year will take place in Valencia, Spain, and the second will involve rotations at three agricultural universities across France. Charis is excited for this opportunity to continue learning about plant health internationally, and connect it with her love for languages, warm weather, and great food! After this, Charis hopes to complete a PhD in Plant Pathology at the University of California Davis.

Charis selected Dr. Thomas Mitchell as her mentor. Charis shares, "Dr. Mitchell has been an incredible mentor. Joining his lab my freshman year is the best decision I could have made. He has been so patient with me throughout lab failures and celebrated my successes when I've had them. From advising me on everything from life to graduate school, he has truly been an enormous part of my undergraduate career and I am so, so thankful for his guidance and the incredible support of the entire Plant Pathology Department."