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An amazing experience Joseph points to with pride from his undergraduate career is spending the summer in Wuhan, China. After studying Mandarin Chinese for so many years in high school and college, Joseph was thrilled to spend the summer living and learning in Wuhan. From morning tai chi at the main gate, and using public transportation by himself, to singing KTV (karaoke), and practicing gymnastics at the Chinese Olympic training center, the experience was once in a lifetime.

Included among Joseph's academic achievements are: Morrill Excellence Scholarship | Member of the 2017 Ohio State Homecoming Court | Ohio State Scholar-Athlete Academic All-Big Ten Honoree | Bucket and Dipper Junior Class Honorary | Texnikoi Engineering Honorary | Undergraduate STEM FLAS (foreign language area studies) Fellow | Honors Undergraduate Research Distinction scholarship recipient | Denman Undergraduate Research Forum presenter | Third Place at the 2016 Chinese Bridge Speaking Competition in New York City.

Another undergraduate opportunity which fills Joseph with pride was making the Ohio State gymnastics team. After undergoing an ACL surgery, some doctors said it would be difficult for him to return to his favorite sport. Joseph worked hard in physical therapy, spent countless hours in the gym, and was the only walk-on to make the team that year.

Being a member of the 2017 Homecoming Court enabled Joseph to take part in the weekend celebration in a special way. The traditions night, the parade, and the football game were items Joseph shared when asked to identify truly fulfilling undergraduate experiences. His favorite part of the experience was spending time with his parents and sisters. The weekend was reflective, and Joseph felt so lucky to have such a loving family, and to be a Buckeye.

After graduation, Joseph will finish his BS/MS program in Ecological Engineering, and then will spend a year in China to earn his MA in Mandarin Chinese. Joseph hopes to participate in a Washington D.C. internship program, learning the policies related to his fields of study. Joseph plans to conduct research projects in China, and then eventually become a professor to teach others what he has learned.

While only able to formally select a single mentor to recognize officially during the awards program ceremony, both Dr. Jay Martin and Dr. Ryan Winston are the two individuals that Joseph considers to be his true mentors during his college career. Here is what Joseph had to say about Dr. Martin and Dr. Winston, "I am being co-advised by Drs. Jay Martin and Ryan Winston. They have inspired me and challenged me as an undergraduate researcher since the day I met them. They have agreed to co-advise me as a work towards my MS degree, and they continue to make connections between my research and China. They welcome any questions I have and have taken the time to form a great relationship with me! I am thankful for my mentors. Both Jay and Ryan have had a substantial impact on my learning."