

PRESS RELEASE

AHMAD NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Asaad Ahmad of Columbus, Ohio, has been named a 2020 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University 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 professor and associate dean for academic programs.

Ahmad, a construction systems management major who lives in Franklin County, was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that he personified the award’s attributes of 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.”

Ahmad was nominated for the Distinguished Senior Award by lecturer Anastasia Britt in CFAES’ Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

“Assad Ahmad is well known in our department for his sincerity, work ethic, and seriousness when it comes to his education,” Britt said. “What many don’t know is how he came to be at Ohio State and why he takes his education so seriously. For his perseverance, courage, and inspiring story, Assad is deserving of the CFAES Distinguished Senior Award.”

When he found the construction systems management program at Ohio State, Ahmad knew it would be the program that could get him back into construction—the field he was passionate about. Even though English was not his native language, Ahmad studied as a full-time student while working a full-time job and being a full-time dad. As he explains it, he had to “be the best he could be to prove to his wife and kids that dreams were worth the work.” Most nights he would only get a few hours of sleep, some nights none at all.

2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

While at Ohio State, Ahmad has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA. He made the Dean's List and received the Central Ohio Associated General Construction Scholarship. He was also inducted into Ohio State's chapter of The National Society of Leadership and Success.

This past autumn, he was offered a full-time position (before even completing his degree) at Elford, the largest locally owned central Ohio construction company. As Britt said, "Asaad is an inspiration for overcoming obstacles and pursuing a goal."

After graduation, Ahmad's goal is to work with one of the major engineering construction companies in the country and to ultimately run his own company.

An awards dinner to recognize all 25 CFAES Distinguished Seniors has been canceled due to COVID-19.

"The safety of our community is our top priority," Neal said. "We are deeply sorry the planned celebration will not occur. The commitment and dedication of these students to their undergraduate education will still be recognized with a special award package that will be mailed later this semester."

In autumn 2019, there were 2,486 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing 22 majors and 31 minors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs online by visiting <https://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/>.



ASAAD M. AHMAD

COLUMBUS, OH

CONSTRUCTION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND
BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

Photo available by sending a request to flood.13@osu.edu

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