

## PRESS RELEASE

---

# CONSTANTINO NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—James Constantino of Poughkeepsie, New York, 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.

Constantino, an animal sciences major, 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.”

Among his accomplishments, Constantino was one of only six Ohio State students selected to present their research posters—Constantino’s focused on beef cattle reproduction—at an undergraduate research conference held in November 2019 in Sao Paolo, Brazil. Meetings with Brazilian animal scientists and tours of Brazilian research centers and culture were part of the conference activities, too.

Constantino said his selection to participate in the conference “allowed me to gain additional experience presenting my research poster, and I was exposed to a culture I previously knew little about.”

Also while at CFAES, Constantino was a teaching assistant for the Introductory Animal Sciences Laboratory course and completed internships at the college’s Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory dairy farm and the nonprofit Ohio Wildlife Center wildlife rehabilitation organization.

As philanthropy chair for his fraternity, Delta Sigma Phi, Constantino planned and organized a fundraiser called Dog Days. The annual event, which took place right before finals week and

---

#### 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

allowed students to make donations to relax with dogs, raised more than \$4,000 for the Columbus Humane animal shelter.

Next, Constantino plans to pursue his passion for animals at veterinary school, although he hasn't decided which one to attend yet. He said he hopes to eventually open his own veterinary practice, where he'll practice small animal and exotic medicine.

"James is not only a stellar student, but his work is recognized nationally and internationally," said Constantino's nominator, Joseph Ottobre, a CFAES animal sciences professor, under whom Constantino worked as a teaching assistant.

Constantino is a "very serious and successful student," Ottobre said. "He is mature, responsible, hardworking, and principled. He is eager to contribute to academic and co-curricular endeavors. He has a strong, mature understanding of and interest in science, animals, and fellow humans."

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/>.



## **JAMES V. CONSTANTINO**

**POUGHKEEPSIE, NY**

ANIMAL SCIENCES – ANIMAL BIOSCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES

Photo available by sending a request to [flood.13@osu.edu](mailto:flood.13@osu.edu)

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

#### **WRITER(S)**

Kurt Knebusch  
[knebusch.1@osu.edu](mailto:knebusch.1@osu.edu)  
614-292-2137

#### **SOURCE(S):**

R. Warren Flood  
[flood.13@osu.edu](mailto:flood.13@osu.edu)  
614-247-6624