

PRESS RELEASE

FISHEL NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Simone Fishel, of Dublin, 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.

Fishel, a food science and technology major, was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she 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.”

Fishel had an interest in food science while in middle school, but just didn’t know what to call it, according to Rafael Jimenez-Flores, a professor in the CFAES Department of Food Science and Technology, who nominated her for the Distinguished Senior Award.

“In seventh grade, she gave an informative presentation on caffeine and the effects it has on the human body. In eighth grade, she conducted an experiment on the effects of baking soda levels in chocolate chip cookies,” he said. “Then, during her junior year of high school, Simone discovered a college major called food science. Meeting with food scientists from various companies solidified her conviction that this was the path she was meant to take.”

Once on campus, Fishel learned food science through her classes and undergraduate research. She assisted professor Yael Vodovotz with a project that researched the water uptake in noodles based off the cooking medium including water and starch solutions, cooking time, and surface attributes of the pasta itself.

A student-athlete, Fishel spent three years on the Ohio State Varsity Women’s Rowing Team, devoting 36 hours each week to the sport while also earning Academic All-Big 10 and Scholar Athlete honors. She also helped the team win two B1G Championships.

Although her time was at a premium, Fishel mentored incoming students for three years through the University R-LEAD program, a five-day early arrival program that orients incoming students and provides them with the tools to be successful at Ohio State.

2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

Academic Programs

100 Agricultural Administration
2120 Fyffe Road | Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-6891 | students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Several internships provided Fishel with food industry experience, with her first internship taking her out of her comfort zone. At New Day Farms in Raymond, Ohio, a top-five egg production and processing company, she went from never having held a chicken to drawing blood from their wing veins to ensure good health. She also tested egg quality, cared for birds from chicks to spent hens, and researched and developed a perch for pullets. She also interned as a retail research and development intern at T. Marzetti in Lewis Center, Ohio, and worked part time at Abbott Nutrition in Columbus, Ohio.

In addition to her athletic academic honors, she was on the Ohio State Dean's List for four semesters and received the Provost Scholarship throughout her undergraduate career.

After graduation, Fishel will complete a six-month co-op at Nestlé Gerber, where she will research and develop infant and toddler foods within Nestlé Nutrition. She then plans to apply to a master's program in food science and technology at Ohio State.

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/>.



SIMONE K. FISHEL

DUBLIN, OH

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

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