

PRESS RELEASE

FRYER NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Jenna Fryer of North Syracuse, 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.

Fryer, a food science and technology major from Onondaga County, 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.”

Fryer’s “excellent educational preparation, coupled with the research opportunities and internships that she took advantage of, have given her the background and skills necessary for a successful food science career and to realize the professional goals she has set for herself,” said Yael Vodovotz, professor of food science and technology, who nominated Fryer for the award.

On the college level, Fryer was active in student organizations including the Food Science Club and CFAES Student Council. She was president of Citation Needed, and served as a Food Science Peer Mentor, College Bowl Team Captain, and Experience Ohio State for a Day host.

Fryer conducted undergraduate research for four years while working with Chris Simons, associate professor of sensory science. She worked on projects related to olfaction, engagement, and the impact of the environment. With the results of her research, she participated in the CFAES Undergraduate Research Forum, Ohio State’s Spring Undergraduate Research Forum, and the Ohio Valley Institute of Food Technologists Research Forum, where she placed as a finalist.

Research is also where her greatest sense of accomplishment came from. “Being able to run a study from ideation through reporting results in a final paper to be published required many hours of hard work. But, once I saw the results, it was extremely fulfilling,” Fryer said. “I was able to look in-depth at human perceptions, sense of smell, and the impact these have on food and

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food choices. Through this, I discovered my passion for sensory science and finally figured out ‘what I want to be when I grow up.’”

Fryer completed five internships with several companies including the New Hope Mills, Auburn, New York; Northeast Dairy Suppliers Association, Syracuse, New York.; J.M. Smucker Company, Orrville, Ohio; Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, Florida; and PepsiCo, Barrington, Illinois. She also worked as a part-time researcher for Abbott Labs, Columbus, Ohio.

Her academic honors included the Jill A. Pfister Outstanding First Year Student Award; Phi Tau Sigma Food Science Honor Society; Dean’s List; Ohio State Honors Program; National Buckeye Scholarship; and Ohio State Maximus Scholarship.

After graduation, Fryer plans to attend graduate school, studying food science with a research focus in sensory science.

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/>.



JENNA A. FRYER

NORTH SYRACUSE, NY

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

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