

PRESS RELEASE

KLOPFENSTEIN NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Matthew Klopfenstein of Haviland, 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.

Klopfenstein, a food, agricultural and biological engineering major from Paulding 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.”

Klopfenstein was nominated for the Distinguished Senior Award by Scott Shearer, professor of agricultural engineering and chair of CFAES’ Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (FABE), and Chip Tuson, FABE marketing and communications manager.

“Matthew has been a constant presence of leadership, excellence, and innovation in FABE and has set himself apart as a distinguished senior. He has always been an advocate for the FABE program,” said Tuson. “He served as a CFAES Ambassador, representing FABE and CFAES to prospective students and their families, and served as president of FarmHouse International Fraternity.”

He also led two FABE student organizations: the Ohio State chapter of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) and the Quarter-Scale Tractor (QST) Design Team. He played a key role in hosting 10 peer institutions for the ASABE Midwest Regional Rally and served as QST captain, leading the 2019 team to a top-five placement among 25 teams.

Klopfenstein identified being part of the QST Design Team as his most valuable learning experience. “We design, build, test, market, and compete with a custom-built tractor on an international level. Being on the team challenged me to grow in ways that a textbook, lab, or classroom never could. I grew into a better engineer and leader through my involvement,” he said.

2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

Shearer expects big things from his mentee. “When one looks towards the future of agricultural engineering, Matthew will certainly be a pioneer for innovation in the field. He has taken his engineering coursework seriously, but he also goes above and beyond when it comes to applying that knowledge outside the classroom,” he said. “With his four internships, Matthew has had plenty of real-world experience. He has also worked on a number of independent projects from developing a cookie chip measuring tool to his current capstone project of developing an autonomous grain cart.”

Klopfenstein earned a series of accolades for his hard work. He was named a 2019 New Faces of ASABE Honoree, a national recognition for students studying agricultural or biological engineering across the country. He was on the Dean’s List eight times, inducted into the Sphinx Senior Class Honorary, and named a Jerry Minore Memorial National Wheat Foundation Scholar, an Ohio Soybean Council Scholar, a FarmHouse Scholar, an Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation Scholar, and a Joe-Lesuire Memorial Ag-Credit Scholar.

After graduation, Klopfenstein will begin his engineering career working for CNH Industrial in Burr Ridge, Illinois, as a hydraulic engineer. He hopes to someday innovate and design the next generation of agricultural tractors and implements.

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/>.



MATTHEW R. KLOPFENSTEIN

HAVILAND, OH

FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING -
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND
BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

WRITER(S)

Sherrie R. Whaley
whaley.3@osu.edu
614-292-2137

SOURCE(S):

R. Warren Flood
flood.13@osu.edu
614-247-6624