

PRESS RELEASE

SGAMBATI NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio— Emilia Sgambati of Farmington Hills, Michigan, 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.

Sgambati, an animal sciences 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.”

While at CFAES, Sgambati was “very focused” on preparing for a career in veterinary medicine, said her nominator and research advisor, Maurice Eastridge, CFAES professor of animal sciences.

That preparation included volunteering in the intensive care unit at Ohio State’s veterinary hospital, completing a reproduction internship at Ohio State’s Equine Center, completing Ohio State’s Veterinary Early Commitment Program, and working at Columbus’s Forest Park Veterinary Clinic and CFAES’ Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory dairy farm.

Sgambati was a member of Ohio State’s Pre-Vet Club, Animal Science Community Alliance, and Towers Agricultural Honorary. She also participated in a dairy-focused study abroad trip to Belgium, Germany, and Netherlands.

Her honors research project focused on Jersey calf nutrition, and she also assisted other researchers with projects on horse and fish reproduction.

She said her honors research project gave her a big sense of accomplishment.

“It was a long project that required lots of tweaking and patience,” Sgambati said. “I learned a lot about what goes on in a nutrition study. ... It was a long two years and I’m really proud to have finished it.”

2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

The project was a “rather rigorous trial for an undergraduate,” Eastridge noted. But Sgambati was “very responsible and engaged in learning throughout the animal and laboratory portions of the study,” he said.

Sgambati presented her project at the Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference and Ohio State’s spring undergraduate research forum and is scheduled to present it at the American Dairy Science Association annual meeting.

After graduation, Sgambati hopes to attend veterinary school at Ohio State or Michigan State University, where she’ll pursue large animal medicine with a focus on dairy cattle.

Sgambati is “passionate about learning inside and outside the classroom, and then sharing that knowledge and experience with others as a humble mentor,” Eastridge said. She showed her leadership through “her dedication, work ethic, team spirit, and respectfulness of others,” he said.

Sgambati “has grown from the vast opportunities offered within CFAES and the Department of Animal Sciences,” but at the same time, “has focused on paying it forward,” Eastridge said.

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/>.



EMILIA G. SGAMBATI

FARMINGTON HILLS, MI

ANIMAL SCIENCES – ANIMAL BIOSCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES

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

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