

PRESS RELEASE

STOLLAR NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Marlee Stollar of Marietta, 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.

Stollar, an agricultural communication major from Washington 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.”

In nominating Stollar for the award, CFAES faculty members noted her academic record, undergraduate research experience, undergraduate teaching assistant experience, and involvement in student organizations, including serving as president of Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT).

“Marlee took charge of revamping the annual Farmers Share event, moving the event to Waterman Farm, which allowed ACT to show agriculture in action to students, faculty, and staff from throughout Ohio State’s campus,” said nominator Annie R. Specht, assistant professor of agricultural communication for the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership. “She encouraged diversity and inclusion by inviting other student organizations, such as Cultivating Change, to hold joint meetings.”

Stollar served as co-chair of the CFAES Celebration of Students, leading “The Image” subcommittee for the event and creating a 76-page Memories and Moments book. The opportunity gave her valuable teamwork experience, she said.

The most rewarding experience of her undergraduate career was studying abroad with Alpha Zeta Partners in Brazil. “I learned so much about global agriculture and Brazilian culture,” she

2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

Academic Programs

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COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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said. “The experience also allowed us to attend classes at a Brazilian university, ESALQ at the University of São Paulo. It was both exciting and interesting to see and learn more about the education system in another country.”

Stollar used her communication skills in internships with Local Matters in Columbus, Ohio; Dairy Farmers of America in Medina, Ohio; WCBE 90.5 FM NPR radio in Columbus; and at the district office of Congressman Bill Johnson in Marietta, Ohio.

After graduation, Stollar plans to pursue a master’s degree in agricultural communication and eventually work for an agriculturally related nonprofit organization or for Extension community development.

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/>.



MARLEE E. STOLLAR

MARIETTA, OH

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATION

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATION,
EDUCATION, AND LEADERSHIP

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

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