

## PRESS RELEASE

# TRAPANI NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Lauren Trapani of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, 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.

Trapani, an environment, economy, development and sustainability (EEDS) major from York 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.”

Nominators Bryan Lower, associate professor in CFAES’ School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR), and Ella Weaver, instructional aide associate in SENR, wrote, “Lauren responds well to adversity and challenges and enjoys solving problems. She is independent, self-motivated, and takes leadership roles in class and in helping out our students whenever needed.”

Trapani worked as an SENR student instructional assistant (SIA) for seven semesters and served as a senior mentor for more than 20 SIAs who help teach ENR2100, the Introduction to Environmental Science class. “Students are constantly telling Dr. Lower how helpful, caring, and instrumental Lauren is to their success in ENR2100,” Weaver wrote.

Trapani calls her work as an SIA her most rewarding experience during college. “I really enjoyed helping students of all ages and backgrounds with their projects over the course of a semester, and connecting their interests to relevant and crucial sustainability topics. I could not have imagined my experience at Ohio State without this wonderful and rewarding on-campus job.”

She also was part of the leadership team for Net Impact, an Ohio State student organization that explores the intersection between business and sustainability. She worked to develop the chapter, acquire new members, maintain regular attendance, and establish a greater sense of community between general body members.

Trapani completed three internships while at Ohio State. She was selected from a nationwide pool of applicants for the L.L. Bean Summer Internship Program in Freeport, Maine, where she interned as a sustainability and public affairs intern. Additional internships were completed at Vetta Brands in Columbus, Ohio, as a corporate

2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD



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social responsibility intern, and Proctor Farms, London, Ohio, as a farm intern.

She traveled to rural Guatemala as part of an undergraduate research team, working with Brent Sohngen, professor of environmental and resource economics, to collect data about ecotourism projects. The team collected over 1,000 survey responses and presented their findings at the CFAES Undergraduate Research Forum.

Trapani earned several academic honors such as Dean's List, Newcomb Scholar, Office of Energy and Environment Sustainability Scholarship, and an Outdoor Writers of Ohio Scholarship. In addition, she received two grants—one from the Office of International Affairs and an academic enrichment grant from Undergraduate Student Government.

Following graduation, Trapani plans to start her career in the energy, land/ecology preservation, or corporate sustainability sectors with the ultimate goal of completing a master's degree in business administration.

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/>.



## LAUREN J. TRAPANI

OLD ORCHARD BEACH, ME

ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT, AND  
SUSTAINABILITY - SUSTAINABILITY AND BUSINESS

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Photo available by sending a request to [flood.13@osu.edu](mailto:flood.13@osu.edu)

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