

PRESS RELEASE

VAGEDES NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Rose Vagedes of Fort Recovery, 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.

Vagedes, a sustainable plant systems major from Mercer 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.”

Vagedes was nominated by David Barker and Jim Metzger, both professors in CFAES’ Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, who wrote, “Rose Vagedes is an outstanding young woman with exemplary character and energy. She has been active in several clubs, and served as the treasurer and president of the Crops and Soils Club. Rose was also an officer in the Agricultural Education Society, a member of the CFAES learning community, on the CFAES Student Council, and a member of the OSU Weeds Judging and Crop Judging Teams.”

According to Vagedes, her greatest collegiate accomplishment was being chosen as a Greenfield Scholar, an honor given to fewer than 10 undergraduate students worldwide each year who have interest in agronomy, crops, and soil. She was also a recipient of the Wilhelm and Eleanor Beckert Scholarship, the American FFA Degree, and was on the Dean’s List 2016–19.

“Rose ‘gives back’ to the college by volunteering as a host for the CFAES Experience OSU for a Day program. She also joined Gary Pierzynski, CFAES associate dean for research and graduate education, as a student representative for the Congressional Visit Day in Washington D.C.,” Barker and Metzger wrote.

In addition, she volunteered at Columbus’ Metro Early College Middle School as an instructor for its after-school Metro Agriculture Club. “Club members are from various parts of Columbus with minimal exposure to agriculture,” she said. “They participate in a unique experience that many urban students don’t receive. My goal as a mentor is not to influence every student to pursue a career found in CFAES, but rather to help them understand how these sciences make an impact in their everyday lives.”

2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

Vagedes completed a competitive agricultural and natural resource Extension internship with Ohio State's Agricultural Research Experience (ACRE), splitting her time between Mercer, Darke, Auglaize, Miami, and Champaign counties. Additionally she worked as an agronomy sales intern for Helena Agri-Enterprise in Dillsboro, Indiana, and as a Corteva Agriscience crop protection intern in Ohio and Michigan.

In addition to her internships, Vagedes joined a study abroad group to Nicaragua, and saw firsthand the difficulties of agricultural production in a developing country. She also conducted on-campus greenhouse research on the effects of seed treatment on two recombinant inbred corn lines and two commercial corn hybrids as a research assistant with Alex Lindsey, an assistant professor of crop ecophysiology and agronomy.

After graduation, Vagedes will pursue a master's degree at Purdue University with a focus on weed 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/>.



ROSE V. VAGEDES

COLDWATER, OH

SUSTAINABLE PLANT SYSTEMS

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE AND CROP SCIENCE

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

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