

PRESS RELEASE

TARA ALLEN NAMED 2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Tara E. Allen of Mason, Ohio, has been named a 2021 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.

Allen, an environmental science major from Warren 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.”

Among her achievements, Allen has been on the CFAES dean’s list every semester. She also served as treasurer of Towers Agricultural Honorary; helped run the composting program at her dorm; participated in Advocates for Women of the World, a student organization focused on advocating for women’s rights through action and awareness; and was a member of the Ohio State Kendo martial art club.

In 2019, she was awarded a scholarship through Stockholm University that provided travel to Norway to interact with Nobel Prize laureates, participate in discussions regarding climate change and water security, and witness the Nobel Prize award ceremony—something she calls her most valuable learning experience.

Her nominator wrote, “Tara beautifully exemplifies the CFAES mission through academics and scholarship. Besides her service and involvement within the university community, she has demonstrated leadership, communication, and problem-solving through her volunteer opportunities with outside community organizations. She has been an incredible asset to our school, college, and university.”

Allen was involved in several research experiences, although some were cut short due to COVID restrictions. Her primary research experience was working on her honors undergraduate research project and assisting a graduate student with collecting data for her related project. Another research



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2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

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experience involved analyzing soil and water samples for lead content and relating that content to the redlining of neighborhoods.

After graduation, Allen plans to take a gap year. Her hope is that she will be able to travel abroad and teach English in another country. If not, she hopes to continue her current internship at the Warren County Regional Planning Commission in Lebanon.

Her future plans are to attend graduate school and obtain a master's and a PhD in a field related to environmental science. Allen aspires to work in land management and habitat preservation, either conducting academic research or working directly at a government agency such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Bureau of Land Management.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's recognition of the CFAES Distinguished Seniors occurred via a YouTube Premiere video on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. Beginning at 7 p.m., CFAES dean and vice president for agricultural administration, Cathann A. Kress, recognized award recipients on the Ohio State—College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences YouTube channel. View the celebration video at go.osu.edu/CFAES2021DSA.

"Although we could not gather in person, this honor and these 25 students remain an important focus of our college," Neal said. "Their commitment to their education and dedication to their time as a student in CFAES was recognized with the YouTube Premiere video, and via social media and professional networking platforms. A special award package will also be mailed to each top senior.

In autumn 2020, there were 2,457 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing 22 majors and 32 minors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at go.osu.edu/B4V2.



TARA E. ALLEN

MASON, OH

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - HONORS

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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



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