

PRESS RELEASE**BRIAN BUSH NAMED
2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Brian D. Bush of Worthington, 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.

Bush, an environmental science major from Franklin County, was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that he 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.”

Bush identified his most valuable learning experience at Ohio State as doing field research during his freshman year. “It gave me firsthand exposure to the real-world applications of my chosen field of study. Instead of reading in a book about stream ecology or water quality sampling, I was able to see it all in person and build a strong foundation that made all of my higher-level classes that much more rewarding,” he said.

Among his achievements, Bush has been on the CFAES dean’s list; served as vice president of the Sierra Club Student Coalition; was a peer mentor and ambassador for the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR); and an active member of the Mountaineers outdoor adventure club.

He completed an internship with the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, where he was a biomonitoring intern helping with the fish and macroinvertebrate surveys conducted throughout the state to better understand the health of Ohio’s streams and rivers. Bush received the CFAES Internship of the Year Award for his work.

He identified SENR’s Mazeika Sullivan, his advisor and an associate professor and the director of the Wilma H. Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, as an influential part of his college career. Bush has worked with Sullivan in the stream and river ecology lab.

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD****Academic Programs**100 Agricultural Administration
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His nominator, Sullivan, wrote, “Brian is highly deserving of this award. He has a clear interest and passion for environmental stewardship. He has articulated his plan in bridging scientific research, outreach, and education in the Appalachian region, and has taken many steps to acquire the experiences and skills to prepare himself for a career in environmental conservation. He is the exemplar of a dedicated, aspiring young scientist and of a student in SENR and CFAES.”

After graduation, Bush plans to attend graduate school either this fall or the next to continue conducting freshwater ecology research.

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.



BRIAN D. BUSH

WORTHINGTON, OH

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - HONORS

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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