

PRESS RELEASE

RACHAEL CLINE NAMED 2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Rachael Cline of Toronto, 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.

Cline, a sustainable plant systems major from Jefferson 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.”

David Gardner, a professor in the CFAES Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, nominated Cline, praising her for being “extremely intelligent and self-motivated. Rachael has an outstanding mix of experience, gained both as a student at The Ohio State University and through her work experience.”

Last year, one of Cline’s internships was with Everton FC, a soccer club in Liverpool, England. During that internship, she assisted in the management of the Premier League’s first team training area, which included three full-sized natural grass fiber-sand fields.

Along with that internship, Cline completed an internship with the grounds crew at Mapfre Stadium for the Columbus Crew Soccer Club.

Cline considers that internship to be her most valuable learning experience. “This was my first experience affiliated with a professional soccer team and affirmed my passion to follow my career in professional sports turf management,” she wrote.

After graduation, Cline plans to work for Austin FC as the assistant groundskeeper at Saint David’s Performance Center in Austin, Texas. Her long-term goal is to become a sports turf manager in professional soccer.

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.



RACHAEL A. CLINE

TORONTO, OH

SUSTAINABLE PLANT SYSTEMS - TURFGRASS SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE AND CROP SCIENCE

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

WRITER(S)

Alayna DeMartini
demartini.3@osu.edu
614-292-9833

SOURCE(S):

R. Warren Flood
flood.13@osu.edu
614-247-6624



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

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2120 Fyffe Road | Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-6891 | students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu