

**PRESS RELEASE****BRIETTA LATHAM NAMED  
2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Brietta Latham of Thurmont, Maryland, 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.

Latham, an animal sciences major who specializes in animal biosciences, 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, Latham was an executive member of the CFAES Animal Welfare and Behavior Club; was a teaching assistant for the CFAES applied animal biosciences laboratory and small ruminant production course; was co-chair of the CFAES Environment and Natural Resources Scholars program; and participated in research including a parasite resistance study in lambs, a behavior study in penguins, and a study of how goat behavior changes in a pasture environment versus a wooded environment.

Latham completed two manufacturing sciences and technology internships with AstraZeneca in Frederick, Maryland—including winning the summer internship presentation competition her first summer there—and an internship at the University of California, Davis, funded by Ohio State’s Second-year Transformational Experience Program.

“Brietta is an outstanding student with a distinguished work ethic, dedication to academics, generosity towards others, and an openness to fresh points of view,” one of Latham’s nominators wrote. “She has a fine balance of both high intellectual capacity and genuine empathy for others.”

Latham “undoubtedly has the potential for significant scientific contributions to the fields of animal production and genetics, and will be a strong advocate for animal agriculture,” the same nominator wrote.

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD****Academic Programs**100 Agricultural Administration  
2120 Fyffe Road | Columbus, OH 43210614-292-6891 | [students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu](http://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu)

After graduation, Latham plans to pursue a graduate degree either in animal biology with an emphasis in biotechnology at the University of California, Davis, or in molecular biosciences at Washington State University. Her goal is to enter the field of animal biotechnology with a focus on genetic engineering in livestock.

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](https://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](https://go.osu.edu/B4V2).



## **BRIETTA E. LATHAM**

**THURMONT, MD**

ANIMAL SCIENCES - ANIMAL BIOSCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES

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

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