

**PRESS RELEASE****MELINA MALLORY NAMED  
2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Melina Mallory of Playa Del Rey, California, 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.

Mallory, an environmental science major, 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.”

Mallory served as an intern for over two years with the Office of Energy Services and Sustainability at Oho State. Initially, she coordinated logistics and identified and reduced wasteful behaviors on campus, including recycling, and compost and water usage. Her performance led to her current internship as a water sustainability intern. Through this internship, she conducts water audits of buildings to identify and reduce wasteful water practices on campus.

Her third internship was with the Reef Check Foundation. “This job taught me how to educate young students on ocean and reef conservation. It was important for me to learn how to communicate scientific ideas in a way that would best suit my audience,” she said. “It also allowed me to work with reef data from across the globe and helped me learn the best reef sampling techniques and indicators of health.”

Mallory’s many achievements and activities include being on the CFAES dean’s list and being named an Environment and Natural Resources Scholar and a Scarlet, Gray, and Green Sustainability Leadership Award recipient. She has also served as a member of Delta Zeta Sorority’s historian and environmental committee, as TerrAqua Club’s treasurer, and as Ohio State Zero Waste Campaign’s tailgate supervisor. Mallory also competed in Division I varsity fencing for one year.

Her nominator wrote, “Melina has exhibited sustained academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence that has such positive impacts across multiple communities, both within and beyond Ohio

**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)

State. She is a driven, self-motivated leader who has demonstrated such excellence and impact in sustainability efforts on campus. She has beautifully woven her academic career and passion as an environmental science major with on-the-ground, impactful changes towards improved sustainability.”

For three years, Mallory organized Ohio State football game day recycling efforts, educated fans about recycling, and supervised teams of volunteers in recycling bag distribution and fan outreach.

“I got to oversee zero-waste practices in tailgate lots and in the stadium on game days, as well as offer stadium tours from a zero-waste perspective,” she said. “This taught me the social side of sustainability and how to find the best way to interest people in recycling habits they typically do not care for.”

After graduation, she will attend the University of Pennsylvania to pursue a master’s in environmental sciences with a concentration in water resource 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](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).



## MELINA MALLORY

PLAYA DEL REY, CA

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - WATER SCIENCE

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

#### WRITER(S)

Sherrie R. Whaley  
[whaley.3@osu.edu](mailto:whaley.3@osu.edu)  
614-292-2137

#### SOURCE(S):

R. Warren Flood  
[flood.13@osu.edu](mailto:flood.13@osu.edu)  
614-247-6624



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 43210

614-292-6891 | [students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu](https://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu)