

## PRESS RELEASE

# VASHTI TATMAN NAMED 2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Vashti Tatman of Columbus, 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.

Tatman, an entomology 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.”

Among her achievements, Tatman was named to the CFAES dean’s list; was a member of the Chrysalis Undergraduate Club for entomology students; assisted with an extremely successful public open house at Ohio State’s Museum of Biological Diversity; and gained extensive field and research experience working with CFAES faculty members to collect insects, tend lab ant colonies, and study and release parasitoids as a possible way to control stink bugs.

She completed an internship at the Ohio State Insectary in Columbus, during which she learned how to care for and rear multiple insect species, including feeding and watering them and maintaining optimal conditions for them. She cites George Keeney, the insectary’s manager, as her most influential mentor while at CFAES.

Keeney “taught me so much and allowed me to really follow my passion of rearing insects,” Tatman said. “If it weren’t for him, I would have had the dream of starting my own insectary, but I wouldn’t have the knowledge or experience to actually achieve it.”

“He has allowed my dream to become a reality one day.”

Tatman was supported in her studies by an Ohio State-funded Scarlet and Gray Grant.

After graduation, Tatman plans to attend graduate school, working toward a master’s degree and then



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD**

**Academic Programs**

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a doctorate. Her ultimate goal, she said, is to start an insectary at the Columbus Zoo and to travel the world collecting insects, teaching about them, and helping in their conservation.

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).



## VASHTI B. TATMAN

COLUMBUS, OH

ENTOMOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY

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

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