COLUMBUS, Ohio—Cameron White of Washington, Pennsylvania, 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.

White, 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, White was named to the CFAES dean’s list every semester, was a CFAES Peer Mentor for three years, and was named an American Society of Animal Science Undergraduate Scholar. She led recitations for first-year courses in animal sciences and was a teaching assistant for laboratory courses in reproductive physiology and biosciences.

As a two-year member of the CFAES Animal Science Community Alliance (ASCA), White participated in the Science Club that ASCA formed at Cristo Rey Columbus High School, a school for very low-income, high-achieving minority students, and led engaging, hands-on activities for the club’s students.

White completed two summer internships with the CFAES Animal Sciences Undergraduate Research Program, during which she gained experience with lab protocols such as genomic DNA extraction, polymerase chain reaction, cell culturing, and protein assays. She gained animal-handling experience through the program as well, including taking care of quail, weaning and feeding piglets, and learning blood collection techniques for pigs and poultry.

White finds “joy in inspiring the next generation of scientists,” her nominator wrote, adding, “Cameron has a gift for not only being able to understand complex subjects, but also being able to teach them in a way that others can easily understand.”
White’s work at Cristo Rey Columbus High School, the same nominator wrote, “embodies so much of who she is: a leader, a mentor and educator, a servant to those less fortunate, a team player, and a person who wants to make a positive difference in the lives of others and her community.”

White will begin graduate school next year at the University of Illinois, pursuing a master’s degree in animal sciences in the field of swine nutrition, with her ultimate goal being to earn a PhD and become a professor of animal sciences.

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.