

PRESS RELEASE**GAUTAM APTE NAMED
2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Guatam Apte of Shaker Heights, Ohio, has been named a 2022 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 and director of academic programs.

Apte, a forestry, fisheries, and wildlife major from Cuyahoga County, was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that he 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.”

Apte’s passion is ornithology, and he has studied birds in several states in summer work experiences, including last summer as a field technician studying birds in the mountains of Montana.

“I loved the experience of getting to go out and explore such a wild area every day while contributing to research that will help scientists implement habitat management policies to conserve threatened species,” Apte said.

He is a four-year member of Ohio State’s Ornithology Club and served as its research coordinator from 2019 to 2023. He coordinated the Lights Out Buckeyes avian building-collision monitoring program. Volunteers in the program collected data on collisions to show where nighttime lighting might confuse migratory birds.

“We’ve already made some impact on protecting declining species by working with several campus buildings to install collision mitigation measures,” Apte said.

After graduation, Apte plans to do what he has done every summer—study birds.

“I am going to work for the University of Oregon on a study in the Great Basin, based out of central Nevada, conducting surveys for birds in several different mountain ranges,” he said. “After that, I would like to continue working as a seasonal field technician for several years while traveling to different places and working with different species and habitats.”

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD****Academic Programs**100 Agricultural Administration
2120 Fyffe Road | Columbus, OH 43210614-292-6891 | students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu

Due to persisting impacts of the pandemic, celebration of this year's CFAES Distinguished Seniors took place during a by invitation reception at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center on The Ohio State University's Columbus campus on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. At the recognition celebration hosted by CFAES dean and vice president for agricultural administration Cathann A. Kress and associate dean and director of academic programs Steven Neal, recipients were presented with special award packages. A YouTube video recognizing the award recipients on the Ohio State—College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences YouTube channel was also released on that same day. View the recognition video at go.osu.edu/CFAES2022DSA.

While this year's recognition took on a varied format from previous years for the 2022 recipients, Neal said, "We were pleased to be able to acknowledge their commitment to their education and dedication to their time as a student in CFAES by recognizing them with the YouTube video, and via social media and professional networking platforms."

In autumn 2021, there were 2,859 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing 22 majors and 34 minors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at go.osu.edu/B4V2.



GAUTAM A. APTE

SHAKER HEIGHTS, OH

FORESTRY, FISHERIES, AND WILDLIFE - WILDLIFE

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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