

PRESS RELEASE**AVERY BREWER NAMED
2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Avery Brewer of Hudson, 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.

Brewer, a double-major in sustainable plant systems, plant biosciences and philosophy from Summit County, Ohio, 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.”

Brewer has been an active researcher in the Cooperstone lab, where she maintains 52 tomato plants for a senior research thesis with a study that she designed.

“I really appreciate that I’ve gotten the opportunity to be truly involved in the lab,” she said. “I have learned so much about experimental design and the logistics of plant science research in this lab, and I love the interdisciplinary nature of the projects. I’ve been given a lot of independence, and it is really exciting to be able to design my own project.”

She also interned with Corteva Agriscience’s Genome Editing Group in Des Moines, Iowa. “This was my most scientifically technical internship, and it was at a large company, so I really savored the opportunities for intellectual and professional development,” Brewer said.

While scientific research has been the focus of recent internships, Brewer recalls the growth experience in her first internship, as a crew member with the Southwest Conservation Corps.

“I learned so much about myself that summer, and I got the chance to work with amazing people in beautiful places,” she said. “My crew travelled around Colorado to complete projects such as restoring a historic ranger station, building an ADA-accessible trail, creating an OHV reroute on the Rainbow Trail, and cutting a reroute on the famous Continental Divide Trail. In my off time, I lived out of my death trap of a car and traveled around

the state. The work was hard and wonderful and left me with a better understanding of myself and the natural world.”

Brewer is a member of the Pi Alpha Xi horticulture honorary society, and part of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Scholars Program, where she served on the leadership council and coordinated outreach and learning experiences for the scholars program. She was also instrumental in initiating Ohio State’s International Genetically Engineered Machine team, which competes with hundreds of teams around the world in the field of synthetic biology. “We worked on a project involving genetically modifying corn root-colonizing bacteria so that they may fix nitrogen, reducing the need for synthetic fertilizer,” she said. “We also completed education-oriented community service. In October, we traveled to Boston to present at the annual conference, where we earned bronze for our project.”

After graduation in December, Brewer plans to pursue a PhD and is applying to labs involved with crop science, evolutionary biology, and ecology. “Long-term, I hope to work in R&D to make tools for more sustainable and resilient agriculture,” she said.

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.



AVERY M. BREWER

HUDSON, OH

SUSTAINABLE PLANT SYSTEMS - PLANT BIOSCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE AND CROP SCIENCE

2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

WRITER(S)

Mark Allen
mark@markalleneditorial.com
614-961-9666

SOURCE(S):

R. Warren Flood
flood.13@osu.edu
614-247-6624

