

PRESS RELEASE

CAMDEN DEZSE NAMED 2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Camden Dezse of Dublin, 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.

Dezse, an entomology major from Franklin 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.”

As an entomologist, Dezse’s research focus has been on the spread of disease through mosquitoes and other insects. But his focus is also at the human level, and he has decided to pursue a career in medicine.

“I have worked very hard to become educated in my entomological focus through research and internships, but it is difficult to grasp how to be a physician as an undergraduate student,” he said. Through a course offered by The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Dezse spent a semester shadowing a physician specializing in obstetrics and gynecology. While that is not his chosen area, “being able to learn how to interact with patients as a physician was invaluable and has made me further realize that applying entomology to my career as a physician will be rewarding,” he said. “Learning how to effectively communicate and gain trust with individuals during their most vulnerable moments has proved to be helpful in all aspects of my life.”

Dezse also has been a volunteer at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center—Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute, where he said he witnessed heart-rending and sobering moments and also the hope that the hospital provides. “It is truly inspiring to interact with individuals who act so courageously in the face of disease, and it has been a privilege to help patients in any way that I can,” he said. “I am frequently reminded that life is fragile, and that many of us take for granted simple things from our daily life, which has made me value my friends, family, and education even more.”

He plans to put that experience to good work along with his research in insects.

“The eventual goal that I want to realize in life combines my passions of entomology and medicine by becoming a physician or physician-scientist that specializes in the treatment of infectious diseases vectored by insects and other arthropods,” he said, explaining that climate change will make this a more important area for study and treatment.

Dezse has been a member of Chrysalis, Ohio State’s undergraduate entomologist organization since his first year, and this year he was elected its president. He also serves as president of Health Points, the organization for prehealth undergraduate students. During his first year at Ohio State, he was a member of Honors Community Council.

Other volunteer work has included organizing beetle specimens at the C.A. Triplehorn Insect Collection at the Museum of Biological Diversity, serving as a cabin leader at a bereavement camp for children who have lost loved ones, helping visitors to the Grange Insurance Audubon Center, stocking shelves at a food pantry, and teaching Boy Scouts about entomology.

After graduation, Dezse plans to take the Medical College Admission Test with plans to go to medical school. But first, he plans to spend a year in Japan teaching English, and then he plans to travel to Australia to research mass-release programs involving the Wolbachia bacteria.

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.



CAMDEN M. DEZSE

DUBLIN, OH

ENTOMOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY

2021 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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