

PRESS RELEASE**ALISA MANCINI NAMED
2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Alisa Mancini of Girard, 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.

Mancini, an environmental science major from Trumbull County, 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.”

Mancini credits her time at CFAES’ Chadwick Arboretum & Learning Gardens—first for a class and later for an internship—with helping on her path toward a career in ecology.

“As an intern, I worked to ensure the daily maintenance of the arboretum, while also learning about the needs of specific plants, plant identification, and aquaponics,” she said. “These experiences gave me real-world ecosystem restoration training. They provided me with new skill sets and more confidence to pursue a career in restoration. I would not be as prepared as I now am to be an environmental scientist without having spent so much time restoring and maintaining the Chadwick Arboretum.”

Her college experience also was enhanced with Growth International Volunteer Excursions (GIVE), which offers volunteer trips focused on community development. She traveled to Tanzania, where she helped teach English to fifth graders and helped in construction projects.

“I met countless new people, immersed myself in an entirely new country and culture, contributed to worthwhile projects, and learned things about myself that I never expected to learn,” she said. “I learned about what it means to be a global citizen while promoting sustainable community development and making friends on the other side of the world.”

Mancini became an officer in GIVE’s student group at Ohio State, serving as president this year. She took a second GIVE trip to Hawaii, where she worked on ecosystem restoration, invasive species removal, native plant



propagation, seed collections, and beach cleanups.

During spring break 2020, Mancini participated in a Buck-I-SERV trip to St. Petersburg, Florida, where she worked with the Florida Aquatic Preserves to remove invasive plants from nearby islands. Last year, she volunteered at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in animal contact areas.

Mancini has been active in student organizations. As a freshman and sophomore, she was a member of the SUSTAINS (Students Understanding Sustainability and Taking Action to Improve Nature and Society) Learning Community. She is also a member of the Society for Ecological Restoration, where she worked to remove invasive plants from a restoration site near the Olentangy River.

She has been an ambassador on the Student Leadership Board for CFAES' School of Environment and Natural Resources. She was also selected to participate in a class offered by The Ohio State University President Kristina M. Johnson: Pathways to Net Carbon Neutrality, a project-based class focused on developing ways to reduce Ohio State's carbon emissions.

After graduation, Mancini plans to start a career in ecological restoration. After a few years of full-time work experience, she has her eye on a master's degree in environmental studies.

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.



ALISA A. MANCINI

GIRARD, OH

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - HONORS

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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