

**PRESS RELEASE****ELIZABETH OHL NAMED  
2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Elizabeth Ohl of Alexandria, 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.

Ohl, an animal sciences major from Licking 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.”

Ohl says growing up, she thought clinical research involved crisp white lab coats and microscopes. But Ohl learned the real-world importance of animal diseases by traveling to more than 50 county fairs across the Midwest to check exhibition swine and to Columbus-area parks to check white-tailed deer.

“During my travels to sample swine for influenza and white-tailed deer for SARS-CoV-2, I learned the importance of communication, collaboration, education, and outreach in promoting successful academic and research outcomes and maintaining the trust of the public,” Ohl said.

She said her work involved translating research to better inform the agricultural community, “stressing its importance to both the swine industry and the future of public health.”

Ohl has served as an undergraduate research assistant in Ohio State’s Reproductive Physiology Lab. She is a member of the Animal Science Community Alliance, the student leadership team in CFAES’ Department of Animal Sciences. She also serves as president of Towers Agricultural Honorary, which is the oldest honorary society in CFAES. She is a member of Ohio State’s Boxing Club and the Pre-Veterinary Medical Association.

She has been a teaching assistant for animal science classes, and she helps facilitate activities for students in Cristo Rey High School’s Science Club.

While the pandemic took away an opportunity for study abroad, Ohl was able to travel to Hawaii through the Second-Year Transformational Experience Program. She studied human-animal interactions, something she



hopes to continue to focus on in future studies.

After graduation, Ohl plans to work toward a doctorate in veterinary medicine. “I am extremely passionate about the natural environment and intrigued by infectious diseases,” she said, “and upon completion of my DVM, I plan to also pursue a PhD and continue my studies on epidemiology. It is important for veterinarians to serve on the front lines of research and regulation so that we can make intelligent decisions about animal management and prevent future pandemics.”

“My life will be well spent contributing to the growth of human knowledge about infectious diseases, working in congruence with livestock producers, other researchers, and health officials to identify novel viruses in animal populations in an effort to protect the health of humans, animals, and the environment.”

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](https://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](https://go.osu.edu/B4V2).



## **ELIZABETH M. OHL**

**ALEXANDRIA, OH**

ANIMAL SCIENCES - ANIMAL BIOSCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCES

Photo available by sending a request to [flood.13@osu.edu](mailto:flood.13@osu.edu)

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