

PRESS RELEASE

LYDIA TANTALO NAMED 2022 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Lydia Tantalo of Manlius, New York, 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.

Tantalo, a food science and technology major from Onondaga 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.”

Tantalo said an internship in an unfamiliar environment and entirely virtual was a difficult experience that turned into one of her most valuable learning opportunities. She spent the summer with McCormick & Co. as an intern in the supply chain and global procurement department. Despite being a science-focused student dealing with business expectations, Tantalo ended her internship with a job offer.

“This experience taught me that even if you feel like you’ve been thrown in the deep end and you’re out of your element, hard work and confidence will bring you to success,” she said.

It was Tantalo’s third internship after stints at New Hope Mills and Cayuga Milk Ingredients, both in Auburn, New York. During her college career, Tantalo also took a trip to Laos with Growth International Volunteer Excursions.

“Our time in Laos was spent participating in humanitarian and environmental service work, including daily school lessons teaching English and breaking ground on a permaculture plot to transform a jungle floor into a stretch of ditches and mounds that would, by the end of the summer, be thriving with Asian sweet potatoes, pumpkins, lemongrass, and other vegetables to allow the villagers to become more self-reliant,” Tantalo said.

She also works as a student cook in the bakery department at the Culinary Production Kitchen, plays cello, and has been a CFAES Department of Food Science peer mentor for three years.

Tantalo said one of her proudest moments remains her first-year writing program award for outstanding research paper from The Ohio State University Department of English.

“I was worried about succeeding and reaching the same standards that I had held myself to in high school, so to have this successful moment occur my freshman year was a big confidence boost and gave me a great sense of success that I am still grateful for and still feel proud of,” she said.

After graduation, Tantalo plans to work full-time at McCormick & Co. in Baltimore as a quality rotational analyst.

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.



LYDIA G. TANTALO

MANLIUS, NY

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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



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 43210

614-292-6891 | students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu