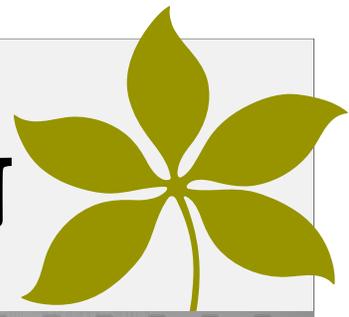


ALUMNI CONNECTION



SPRING/SUMMER 2021

2021 LEE JOHNSTON LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Billy Graham once said, “The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith,” Lee Johnston, the namesake of this award did just that, as an active member of CFAES. A graduate of the School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR), he unfortunately was taken too soon after his graduation.

His legacy lives on through the scholarships given to students in the School of Environment and Natural Resources who are also leaving a legacy of immeasurable character on CFAES and soon the world.

Join us in honoring the Lee Johnston Leadership Award recipients!



Anna Martin, a fourth year studying Environmental Policy and Decision Making. During her time at Ohio State, she has been actively involved with Time for Change Week where she served as President this past year coordinating with 20 student organizations, campus offices and corporate sponsors in order to make this event memorable through a difficult season of unknown obstacles. In addition, Anna has also served on the USG Sustainability Committee, SENR ambassadors, and Peer mentor for incoming and potential students.



Jayson Velazquez is a senior majoring in Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability. Throughout his time at Ohio State Jayson has been at the forefront of the Diversity and Inclusion movement in CFAES. In 2019 he was leading the charge on the first ever Student of Color Dinner for SENR and now serves on the CFAES Student Council as a DEI advocate. Not only does Jayson serve his buckeye community but also his hometown of Paterson, New Jersey. In 2019 Jayson raised money to help provide every student at his middle school alma mater with a backpack full of school supplies.





Ansley Watkins is a senior majoring in Natural Resource Management. During her time at Ohio State Ansley has held many leadership roles. She currently serves as SENR Peer Mentor President and has been the focal point of transitioning the mentoring program to an online format over this past year. She also serves on the CFAES Student Council as a Diversity and Inclusion Committee member and has been one of the prominent student leaders to move for a more diverse and inclusive SENR community.

▶ THE SENR MOTOR POOL

Last year, the School of Environment and Natural Resources decided to add to its transportation fleet with the purchase of two passenger vans. For decades, SENR had transportation needs for field classes, research projects, student organization activities, alumni gatherings, and student recruitment events. Typically, the School would have been forced to rent buses or vans from Ohio State transportation services or go through external vendors to meet its needs.

Thanks to generosity of SENR donors, funds were set aside for the purchase of two passenger vans to facilitate the outdoor field experiences of our students. Thank you for the generosity of our alumni donors and stakeholders.



DIRECTORY

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FOUR SENR STUDENTS NAMED IN OHIO STATE CFAES TOP 25 SENIORS

Credit to Sherrie R. Whaley article on Feb 10, 2021

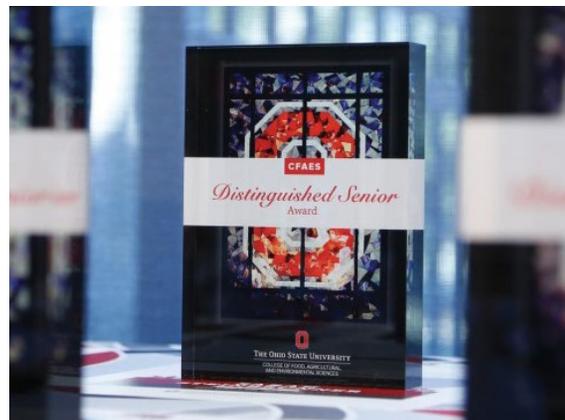
Four SENR undergraduate students named in Ohio State CFAES top 25 seniors:

Tara Allen – majoring in Environmental Science from Mason, Ohio

Brian Bush – majoring in Environmental Science from Columbus, Ohio

Melina Mallory – majoring in Environmental Science from Playa Del Rey, California

Jayson Velazquez – majoring in Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability from Paterson, New Jersey



The 2021 CFAES Distinguished Seniors represent the best of the best and exemplify the CFAES mission.

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Twenty-five seniors have received the most prestigious undergraduate award at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

The Distinguished Senior Award honors top graduating seniors on the Ohio State Columbus campus who exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.

“The 2021 recipients are our future innovators and leaders who have already made an impact within the academic environment at this university and beyond,” said Steven Neal, CFAES professor and associate dean for academic programs.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s recognition of the CFAES Distinguished Seniors occurred on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, via a YouTube Premiere video beginning at 7 p.m. on the Ohio State—College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences YouTube channel. Vice President for Agricultural Administration and CFAES Dean Cathann A. Kress will recognize award recipients during this special event.

“Unfortunately, we will be unable to gather in person, but the safety of our community is our top priority,” Neal said. “However, this honor and these 25 students remain an important focus of our college. Their commitment to their education and dedication to their time as an undergraduate student will still be recognized via social media, professional networking platforms, and the YouTube Premiere video. We invite everyone to view the video on or after April 7.”

In autumn 2020, there were 2,457 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing 22 majors and 32 minors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at go.osu.edu/B4V2.

ANNOUNCING THE RETIREMENT OF MARK GIESE



After nearly 35 years at The Ohio State University, Mark Giese has retired. June 30, 2021 was his last day at Ohio State in his current role.

Mark completed both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the School of Environment and Natural Resources. He began work at Ohio State in 1986 as the first-year natural resources academic advisor for University College where he served through graduate school and beyond.

In 1990, Mark stepped away from Ohio State for a short period of time to take a permanent appointment as a law enforcement ranger for the National Park Service. He returned to the university while maintaining a dual career with both Ohio State and the National Park Service. While maintaining his academic duties with OSU and his protection ranger duties with the National Park Service, Mark also

worked to develop the ranger training partnerships between The Ohio State University, Cuyahoga Community College, Hocking College, Northern Arizona University, the National Park Service and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. He has served as the co-instructor for ENR 4648 for the past 27 years at Ohio State and has also served as an instructor and deputy commander for the National Park Service's Seasonal Law Enforcement Training programs (SLETP).

In 1996, Mark became the School Secretary for the School of Natural Resources. He helped create the SENR Academic Services Team and served as the School's Academic Administrative Officer supervising the SENR undergraduate academic programs and its students. During his tenure, Mark and his academic team helped hundreds of students complete their SENR B.S. degrees. He helped guide the SENR through several curriculum revisions and the conversion from quarters to semester in 2012.

In 2013, Mark became the SENR Advancement and Alumni Engagement Officer and has served in that role for the past eight years. He assisted the ENR Alumni Society (ENRAS) in achieving the OSUAA Scarlet status as an alumni society for the past five years. The highest award given to Ohio State alumni societies and clubs.

Mark is retired from Ohio State effective July 1, but he plans to return to work again for SENR as a co-instructor for ENR 5642 in the Fall Semester and co-instructor for ENR 4648 in the Spring Semester.

SENR and the ENR Alumni Society congratulate Mark on his retirement from Ohio State and look forward to him remaining active with the university as both an Ohio State retiree and SENR Alum!

Congratulations!

THINK ABOUT PHILANTHROPY

by Jera Oliver, SENR Development Officer, CFAES Advancement

Alumni of The Ohio State University share in a number of traditions. One passion that floods the community of graduates each year is the thrill of cheering on our Buckeyes when they hit the field or court (depending on your sport of interest).

Another passion is service. Buckeyes give back all year round. You volunteer in cities throughout the nation and the world. You mentor students and share insights from your career paths to help guide our next generation of leaders. You dedicate time and energy to alumni leadership like joining the board of ENRAS. All of this is critical for sustaining the excellence that Ohio State has delivered upon year after year, decade after decade.

Sustaining Excellence – This is what is made possible by investments of your time, talent and treasure in the mission of the School of Environment and Natural Resources, and Ohio State as a whole.

Through planned giving, you have a powerful opportunity to enhance your current commitment and envelope the mission of Ohio's flagship institution for teaching, research and outreach into your legacy alongside your wishes for your loved ones. Gifts made through your estate ensure that the School has the resources needed to respond to future needs.

In my role, I help alumni see that planned giving does not have to be complicated – and that it is not only reserved for those with great wealth. Making a legacy gift to your area of passion as Ohio State is attainable and can be as simple as adding a designation in your will or trust. Another popular option is a charitable gift annuity that provides guaranteed income for life and substantial tax savings.

Please take a moment to read the [Buckeye Legacy Gift Planning Guide](#) which explains some types of planned gifts and their benefits.

Feel free to email me (oliver.170@osu.edu) or call me (614.688.2488). It is my honor to be a resource as you consider options that best suit your circumstances.

Jera L. Oliver, JD, MPA

Director of Development - SENR

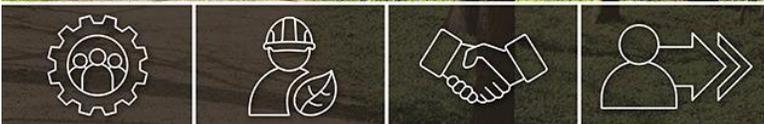
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Office of Advancement
Riverwatch Tower, Suite B100, 364 West Lane Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201



EPN MEETING - JULY 13, 2021

GREENING ENGAGEMENT: PARKS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**Greening Engagement:
Parks and Community Partnerships**



July 13, 2021, 10:00am - 12:15pm

Cost: Free

Location: Zoom Meeting

Contact: Cecil Okotah

614.668.0434

okotah.1@osu.edu

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Program Overview

The mission of Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks is to conserve open spaces, while providing places and opportunities that encourage people to discover and experience nature. Metro Parks features 19 outstanding natural area parks with more than 230 miles of trails and over 27,700 acres of land in seven Central Ohio counties.

SAVE THE DATES

OSU Homecoming – October 8-10, 2021

CFAES FALLFEST – October 9, 2021 at the Nationwide & Farm Bureau 4-H Building - TBA

Reconnect with friends and make new memories, all while getting back to the familiar sights and sounds of fall at Ohio State.



OHIO WOODLAND STEWARDS PROGRAM

Promoting stewardship across the woodlands of Ohio through classes, professional workshops and publications.

Look for upcoming webinars and classes. Starting in July we will start to offer in person classes. <https://woodlandstewards.osu.edu/>



RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM

Donald James Eckert

Dr. Donald James Eckert, professor emeritus and former SENR Assistant Director passed away on January 6, 2021. Dr. Eckert began working for the Department of Agronomy as a graduate research assistant from 1975-1978. He became an assistant professor in the department in June 1978, then an associate professor in July 1987, and a professor in July 1993. Dr. Eckert's work encompassed all three missions of the college – research, teaching, and Extension. He was recognized as a professor emeritus in February 2010.

As part of his work with students, Dr. Eckert advised the Agronomy Club. He built many great relationships with students and colleagues alike. Dr. Eckert served as a research coordinator for a time within the department. Dr. Eckert also served as the associate chair of the Department of Agronomy. After the department was absorbed into what is now known as the School of Environment and Natural Resources, he served as the school's assistant director from 2001 to his retirement in late 2009.

Dr. Eckert was a member of several professional organizations, including the American Society of Agronomy, the Soil Science Society of America, the Crop Science Society of America, the Ohio Academy of Science, and Sigma Xi (The Scientific Research Honor Society).

Dr. Eckert was honored as a researcher of the year in 1992 by the Fluid Fertilizer Foundation, recognized for research he conducted on nitrogen management on corn. Much of his work was peer-reviewed and published in numerous professional journals and Extension publications. He also was an author of the *Ohio Agronomy Guide*, 14th edition.

Dr. Eckert also volunteered at the Ohio Wildlife Center; and his duties there involved caring for raptors, helping children at day camp, and doing outreach activities with animal ambassadors.



IN MEMORIAM

Professor Thomas William Townsend

Professor Thomas Wm. Townsend, retired Associate Professor in Animal Behavior (Ethology) and Wildlife Management from the School of Environment and Natural Resources in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences passed away on January 13, 2021. He served on the faculty from 1971 to 1991. Professor Thomas Townsend taught for 30 years at The Ohio State University. Dr. Townsend also held a joint appointment in The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

In the earlier days of the School of Environment and Natural Resources, Professor Townsend served as one of the lead wildlife faculty members focused on teaching in the undergraduate wildlife management curriculum. Any student majoring in wildlife management had Professor Townsend as a course instructor until his retirement in 1991. Professor Townsend was well established in his instruction for Natural Resources 321, Introduction to Wildlife Management, one of the first courses taken by students in the wildlife management major. He challenged students in this class and worked to enlighten them on the role that wildlife management professionals served. He also taught Natural Resources 662, the Wildlife Methods course. This course served as the capstone for the wildlife management majors and brought together the totality of knowledge and skills needed in wildlife management.

Professor Townsend was an active member of the Wildlife Society, an association for leaders in wildlife science, management and conservation. Professor Townsend served as the faculty advisor for the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society at Ohio State. During his tenure in the School, he counseled and guided this Ohio State student organization to engage at the local, regional and national levels. His mentorship helped the School of Environment and Natural Resources produce some fine student leaders that have gone on to excel as natural resources professionals.

Tom's quick sense of humor was endearing especially to the students he served. He was an Eagle Scout. He enjoyed adventures like canoeing the Boundary Waters, backpacking in many Western states, camping and packing once during an entire summer in Alaska. He also enjoyed bicycling, jogging, gardening, reading and raising his pet dogs.



Ohio[®]

BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER

Alumni who renew their commitment to Ohio State each year by making tax-deductible gifts of \$75 or more to the university program(s) of their choice become Sustaining Members.

www.osu.edu/alumni/membership/become-a-sustaining-member/
or access on
The Ohio State Alumni App

All SENR graduates are members of both the ENR Alumni Society and The Ohio State University Alumni Association.



Environment and
Natural Resources
Alumni Society

Be sure to download the
The Ohio State Alumni App
which will make checking
and keeping your member-
ship up to date an easy task.

HOW CAN I JOIN?

A Sustaining Member is an alumnus who donates \$75 annually to the Ohio State fund of their choice. Our sustaining member community supports the people, projects and priorities of the university and stays connected to Ohio State by making a difference. Gifts may be made to any area of Ohio State, including the Alumni Association, scholarships, Pelotonia, the Wexner Medical Center and more.

As an ENR Alumnus, we would like you to consider one of our ENR funds (listed below) that will directly benefit students. Please visit senr.osu.edu/giving or the **Ohio State Alumni App** to make a donation today.

SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS

In celebration of our 50th anniversary, SENR has created two funds to provide support for our next 50 years. A huge part of our success and reputation is built on getting students out in the world and environment they are studying.

We need your help to continue to better prepare students for the growing need for superb environmental professionals.

[Click here](#) to learn how you can make a lasting impact on students' experience.

QUESTIONS?

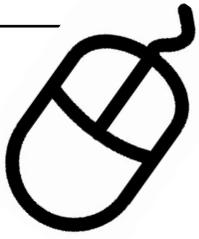
Email senr50@osu.edu with your questions.

Update Your Alumni Information

go.osu.edu/enralumupdate

We like to keep our information as up-to-date as much as possible when it comes to our alumni. Please take a second to follow the link above to give us your most current information. It will allow us to keep you up-to-date with all things happening with ENRAS and the School of Environment and Natural Resources.





STAY CONNECTED!



Facebook.com/OhioStateSENRAS



Twitter.com/ENRALumni



Google Calendar: <https://bit.ly/2zJhVoc>

JOIN SENR ON LINKEDIN:

<https://www.linkedin.com/school/school-of-environment-and-natural-resources-at-the-ohio-state-university/>

LinkedIn Jobs School of Environment and Natur... Columbus, OH

School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University
Higher Education
Columbus, Ohio · 100 followers

See alumni Follow

View all open jobs
View all 8 employees

SHARE A MEMORY OF YOUR TIME WITH US!

1968-2018 *Memory Lane*

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Share your favorite fond memories and photos of your time with the school 50 YEARS AND BEYOND at <https://senr.osu.edu/memories>

The School of Environment and Natural Resources reserves the right to select memory and story submissions for display on the school and other ENRAS materials. The School of Environment and Natural Resources reserves the right to edit submissions for length and/or content.



Environment and
Natural Resources
Alumni Society