Commencement
SPRING SEMESTER 2024

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
Sunday, May 5, 2024
Pegula Ice Arena
1:00 p.m.
National Anthem
by Francis Scott Key

O say, can you see, by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro’ the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air
Gave proof thro’ the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Alma Mater
by Fred Lewis Pattee

For the glory of old State,
For her founders, strong and great,
For the future that we wait,
Raise the song, raise the song,
Sing our love and loyalty,
Sing our hopes that, bright and free,
Rest, O Mother dear, with thee.
All with thee, all with thee.

When we stood at childhood’s gate,
Shapeless in the hands of fate,
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,
Dear old State, dear old State.

May no act of ours bring shame
To one heart that loves thy name,
May our lives but swell thy fame,
Dear old State, dear old State!
Dean's Message

Welcome, Class of 2024, and greetings to the family members and loved ones joining you for this commencement celebration.

I’m László Kulcsár, interim dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, and it gives me tremendous joy to acknowledge your hard work in the past several years that culminates in your degree. Today marks an important day in your lives as you embark on new adventures and will see both opportunities and challenges.

The challenges we face as a society include the need for producing food in new ways, increasing pressures on our environment and natural resources, an accelerating and often untested use of artificial intelligence, and shrinking appreciation for solidarity and common sense in solving anything.

Fortunately, agriculture, the first activity around which human civilization was organized, is well positioned to tackle these challenges. We have been leading the charge in research, innovation, and implementation, should it be climate-smart agriculture, community resilience, natural resource and energy use, or agricultural business and technology.

In addition, the previous name of the College of Agricultural Sciences, the Farmers’ High School of Pennsylvania is how Penn State started in 1855. Our college has been at the forefront of its land-grant mission ever since. Everything we do is for the betterment of the communities and stakeholders we work with. We have been the stewards of many resources, including talents and ideas.

You now possess the knowledge and skills to address pressing concerns and create new opportunities in society. You’ve developed the ability to think critically to analyze and adapt to continually changing conditions. You will be driven but will always have both feet on the ground, and your efforts will strengthen your communities.

As you take the next step in your career and in life, remember the relationships you’ve built here on Ag Hill that have enriched your journey. Stay connected as alumni and as members of the Penn State Ag Sciences family and strengthen the networks you have founded here, so that we and the students who follow you can continue to learn from your expanding experience.

We’re excited to see all you’ll accomplish.

Good luck and godspeed.

László Kulcsár

To Our Guests

We welcome you to the commencement exercises for the baccalaureate and associate degree candidates in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Only authorized press and University photographers are permitted on the floor to take pictures once the exercises are in progress.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the processional party enters, and the audience rises, if they are able. The audience remains standing until all members of the platform party have taken their place on the stage and the national anthem concludes. At the end of the program, the alma mater will be sung, followed by a recessional. The audience is requested to remain seated during this period.

NOTICE: The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in any indoor commencement facility is prohibited. Your admission to any of these facilities is conditional upon compliance with the above. The University reserves the right to refuse admission to, or remove, any person who violates this prohibition.
COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
Sunday, May 5, 2024

Academic Processional
Performed by Centre Brass

National Anthem
Led by Piper Weldon
The audience is asked to join in the singing.

Presiding
Neeli Bendapudi, B.A., M.B.A., Ph.D.
President of The Pennsylvania State University

László J. Kulcsár, M.A., Ph.D.
Interim Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences

Commencement Address
Tina J. Terrell, B.S.
Senior Executive for National Recruitment, National Forest System

Authorization to Confer Degrees
M. Abraham Harpster
Member, Board of Trustees

Recognition of Meritorious Achievement
Dean Kulcsár

Recognition of Student Marshals
Tracy S. Hoover, B.S., M.Ag., Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, College of Agricultural Sciences

Recognition of Military Commissions
Major Vincent J. Nicosia
Assistant Professor of Military Science

Conferral of Degrees
President Bendapudi

Induction into the Alumni Association
Matt Owens, B.S., M.B.A.
President, College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society

Alma Mater
Led by Piper Weldon
You are invited to join in the singing.

Recessional
Performed by Centre Brass

PROGRAM NOTES
This is an unofficial list of students who indicated an intent to graduate for spring semester and contains the list of candidates for graduation as of March 13, 2024.
Students who indicated their intent to graduate after that date are not listed in this program.
Distinction lists are based upon fall grades.
A student’s distinction level could change after spring grades are finalized and their final distinction level will be printed on their diploma.
Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.
Congratulations on your achievements!
Department and Program Representatives

Suat Irmak, B.Sc., M.S., Ph.D.
Department Head of Agricultural and Biological Engineering

David Abler, B.A., Ph.D.
Interim Department Head of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education

Adele M. Turzillo, B.A., Ph.D.
Department Head of Animal Science

Margot Wilkinson Kaye, B.A., M.S., Ph.D.
Interim Department Head of Ecosystem Science and Management

Gary Felton, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Department Head of Entomology

Robert F. Roberts, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Department Head of Food Science

María del Mar Jiménez Gasco, M.Eng., Ph.D.
Interim Department Head of Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology

Erin L. Connolly, B.A., Ph.D.
Department Head of Plant Science

K. Sandeep Prabhu, Ph.D.
Department Head of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences

Robert D. Shannon, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Program Coordinator of Environmental Resource Management

College Nomenclator
Robert D. Shannon, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

University Marshals
R. Allen Kimel, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Robert G. Melton, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

College Marshals
Lori L. Connelly, B.S., M.S.
Jenneth R. Layao, B.A.
Megan Marshall, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Milton G. Newberry, III, Ph.D.
Dianne M. Petrunak, B.S., M.S.
Matthew J. Stumpf, B.S., M.A.
Commencement Speaker
Tina J. Terrell
Senior Executive for National Recruitment, National Forest System

Tina Terrell is the senior executive for recruitment in the Forest Service, leading the national effort to hire the next generation of conservation leaders.

During her 35-year career with the Forest Service, Tina has held a broad range of positions in every corner of the country. Her career has taken her from Alaskan glaciers to the Grand Canyon, to managing giant sequoias and redwoods, and everywhere in between. Tina served as the national director of the Forest Service Job Corps program, where she collaborated with the Department of Labor to lead 24 Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers. As the Tuskegee University Forest/Natural Resources liaison, she was instrumental in expanding the Forest Resources Program to the current Forestry and Natural Resources Program that expanded bachelor’s and master’s degree programs in four majors. Prior to her current role, Tina served as associate deputy chief in the National Forest System and managed the agency’s regulatory agenda.

Tina earned her B.S. in Forestry from Penn State. She is an honorary member of Fellow of the Society of American Foresters and a Legend awardee of the National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences and one of its founding members. She received the Outstanding Alumni Award in 2019 and the prestigious Community Service in Government award from the 2019 Women of Color STEM Conference.
College Marshal

Jacquelin Spring

Jacquelin Spring, daughter of Daniel Spring and Linda Chiappini, majored in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Psychology. At Penn State, the Doylestown, Pennsylvania, native wrote her Schreyer Honors College thesis about assessing the effects of prepartum administration of anti-inflammatory therapies on production and disease status in dairy cows. Jacquelin published in the Journal of Dairy Science and earned Beef Quality Assurance certification for proper husbandry techniques coupled with scientific knowledge to raise cattle under optimum management conditions.

Department Marshals

Agricultural and Biological Engineering

Austin Swartley

Austin Swartley, son of Michael and Sandra Swartley, majored in BioRenewable Systems with the Agriculture Systems Management option and minored in Off-Road Equipment. During his undergraduate education, the Perkasie, Pennsylvania, native participated in Penn State Pullers, the quarter-scale tractor pulling team. He was also involved in research projects including work on hay and hemp separation and work with rebuilding and testing dynamometers.

Austin’s awards include the Penn State Provost Award, the Storer Trustee Scholarship, the Penn State Undergraduate Scholarship for Talented Students, the M.E.G. Dell Scholarship, and the Angstadt Family Agricultural Excellence Scholarship. Austin also made the Dean's List.

After graduation, Austin will serve as operations manager for Darkhorse Dairy Farm in his hometown of Perkasie.

Awards include the Evan Pugh Scholar Award, The Bernard N. and Beatrice W. Sandson Scholarship in Agriculture, Kenton D. Rexford Honors Scholarship in the College of Agricultural Sciences, Veterinary Founders Scholarship, James and Gertrude Leamer Scholarship Endowment for Excellence, Lamartine “Lam” Hood Jr. Endowed Scholarship of the Penn State Chapter of Bucks County, and a College of Agricultural Sciences Undergraduate Research Award to support summer research.

Jacquelin will pursue a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at the University of Pennsylvania with the One Health Scholarship.
Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education

Brandon Bixler

Brandon Bixler, son of Scott and Janelle Bixler, majored in Agricultural and Extension Education. The East Earl, Pennsylvania, native also earned a minor in International Agriculture and the Presidential Leadership Academy Certificate. Brandon served as student caucus co-chair of the University Faculty Senate, president of the Coaly Society, treasurer of the Penn State FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter, and College of Agricultural Sciences representative/deputy chief of staff of the University Park Undergraduate Association. Brandon was a member of the Penn State Collegiate Farm Bureau, an Ag Advocate, a Teach Ag Avenger, and a Global Orientation to Agricultural Learning (GOALS) Program Fellow. He completed his student teaching internship at Athens Area High School.

As an undergraduate intern with the Global Teach Ag Network, Brandon participated in extensive agricultural education research, much of which focused on rural Nepalese educators. In his Schreyer Honors College thesis, he explored effective instruction in resource-constrained environments.

Brandon was the recipient of the Schreyer Honors College Academic Excellence Scholarship, the Eric A. Walker Award, the Penn State Ag Council Youth Leadership Award, the Schreyer Honors College Usharani and Channa Reddy Mission Award, the Bryce Jordan Student Leadership Award, the John T. and Paige S. Smith Scholarship in Agricultural and Extension Education, and the J&P Arbuckle Scholarship in International Agriculture. He was a finalist for the Rhodes and the Truman Scholarships.

Brandon intends to address the challenges of poverty and food insecurity both close to home and around the world through agricultural education.

Animal Science

Emily Brion

Emily Brion, daughter of Robert and Kimberly Brion, majored in Animal Science. The Sayre, Pennsylvania, native served as president of the Small and Exotic Animal Club. She completed internships at Centre Wildlife Care, a State College area wildlife rescue organization, and Callie Winds Stables, an equestrian facility in Beaver Dams, New York. She also completed a veterinary field training mission at the Maderas Rainforest Conservancy in La Suerte, Costa Rica.

Emily was awarded the John T. and Paige S. Smith Scholarship for Animal Science and the Harry R. and Kathleen E. Ulrich Scholarship in Agricultural Sciences.

Emily plans to attend veterinary school at Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine this fall.
Ecosystem Science and Management

Karter Witmer

Karter Witmer, son of Jessica and Jack Witmer, majored in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. The Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, native served in leadership roles in the Penn State DuBois chapter of the Wildlife Society and was a board member for the Pennsylvania Society of Ornithology and the Penn State Student Activity Fee Board. Karter served his fellow students as a certified peer educator and was a member of the Astronomy Club, the Tabletop Gaming Club, and the Magic the Gathering Club. He worked as a seasonal avian ecologist during a summer at the University of Georgia and as a technical service animal attendant at Penn State.

Karter served as an undergraduate researcher for his research adviser, Emily Thomas. His work resulted in a poster presentation at the 2023 Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies annual conference, a volunteer presentation for the Pennsylvania Cavity Nesting volunteer program, and a professional presentation at the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Wildlife Society annual conference where he was awarded first place among student oral presentations.

Karter received numerous awards as an undergraduate, including this year’s Northeast Section of the Wildlife Society: P.F. English Memorial Award. He received the Eric A. and Josephine S. Walker Award in 2023, the Penn State DuBois Associate Degree Academic Award, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Wildlife Society Frank Felbaum Award and the Annual Chapter Meeting Student Awards, the Wildlife Technology Agricultural Alumni Outstanding Student Award, the Penn State Student Engagement Network Grant, and the Penn State Provost Award.

His scholarships include the Shaner Renaissance Fund, Bartley School-Forest Resource Scholarship, the Ferguson-Cope Scholarship, the N.C. Harris Scholarship, the Homer V. Gifford Scholarship, the Spearey Scholarship in Forest Resources, the Robert and Susan Storch Trustee Scholarship, and the Robert T. Billin Memorial Scholarship.

After graduation, Karter plans a summer of work at the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas and later intends to pursue advanced degrees to further conduct wildlife and fisheries research.

Food Science

Catherine Eisenhut

Catherine Eisenhut, daughter of Christine and Eric Eisenhut, majored in Food Science with a minor in International Agriculture. While at University Park, the Ithaca, New York, native ran club cross country and was a member of the Food Science Club.

Catherine participated in undergraduate research in the Guiltinan-Maximova and Hopfer Labs. She focused on analyzing lipid components in cocoa butter across different genotypes of cacao and cacao subjected to different post-harvesting practices. She also served as an undergraduate assistant in the Colombia-USA Water Energy Food (WEF) Nexus Alliance.

Catherine served in internships over the last three summers, first as a Plant Genome Research Program intern at the Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell University, then as a Forage Lab intern at Dairy One Cooperative, and finally as a research and development intern in International Research and Development at The Hershey Company. This January she completed the Penn State Ice Cream Short Course.

Her awards include the National Association of Flavors and Food-Ingredient Systems Scholarship Award, the Food Sciences Department of Undergraduate Research Award, and the College of Agricultural Sciences Undergraduate Research Award.

Catherine has accepted an offer with Ardent Mills in their cultivation program as a quality development associate in Omaha, Nebraska.

Continued
Plant Science
Nicolas Cerminara

Nicolas Cerminara, son of Joni and Frank Cerminara, majored in Landscape Contracting with the Design/Build Option. The Horsham, Pennsylvania, native was a member of and served as chaplain for the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, competed on the Penn State National Collegiate Landscape Competition Team, and served in several leadership roles for the Penn State Horticulture Club, including manager of the annual Horticulture Show.

Nicolas served as an undergraduate research assistant under Margaret Hoffman, exploring teaching and learning with technology in the landscape industry. He completed a design, construction, and maintenance internship with Shearon Environmental Design in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania.

Nicolas received numerous awards including the Patrick J. Bennet Memorial Scholarship in Landscape Contracting, the Farmside Landscape and Design Scholarship, the Jacobsen Landscape Design and Construction Scholarship, the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Scholarship, and the Tau Kappa Epsilon Pi Chapter Alumni Scholarship.

After graduation, Nicolas plans to be the account and production manager for Unique Designers and Landscapers, which is based in Dresher, Pennsylvania.

Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
Brooke Wunderler

Brooke Wunderler, daughter of CJ and Jennifer Wunderler, majored in Immunology and Infectious Disease with minors in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and General Biology. The Macungie, Pennsylvania, native was a Schreyer Honors College Scholar.

Brooke served as a Penn State tour guide, a THON OPPerations Committee lieutenant, a Human Cadaver Lab teaching assistant, and a General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry I learning assistant. She is a Pre-Health Professionals Honors Society National Member.

Brooke participated in research in Dr. K. Sandeep Prabhu’s lab and investigated acute myeloid leukemia.

Her awards include the Alpha Upsilon Beta Theta Pi Scholarship, the William D. and Clara Calhoun Phillips Scholarship, the Richard and Barbara Grubb Agricultural Excellence Award, and the President’s Freshman Award.

Brooke was accepted into the Research Scholars Program at Lehigh Valley Hospital. She plans to work with this organization as she applies for medical school.
Environmental Resource Management (Interdisciplinary Program)

Ava Klink

Ava Klink, daughter of Brian and Emily Klink, had a double major in Environmental Resource Management and Journalism. The Canton, Ohio, native was a Scholar in the Schreyer Honors College. Ava served as president of the Environmental Resource Management Society, was a member of the Student Farm club, and a counselor at the Outdoor School at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. She participated in the New Literacy Ambassador Program and the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. She served as an intern for the Sustainable Food Systems Network and the US Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs. Ava also worked as an undergraduate research scholar for the Institute for Sustainable Agricultural, Food and Environmental Science.

Ava’s awards include the Carol and Eugene Schurman 4-H Annual Scholarship, the Angstadt Family Agricultural Excellence Scholarship, the Rumbaugh Agricultural Leadership Award, the Laurel Haven Endowment Scholarship, the Horace H. Mitchell Honors Scholarship, the Gertrude B. Paschall Memorial Scholarship, the Theola F. Thevaos Honors Scholarship, the Hartman Honors Scholarship, the Horace Woodward Scholarship, and the Bernard N. and Beatrice W. Sandson Scholarship. Ava is an Annenberg Fellow in the Council of American Ambassadors.

Ava was selected for the 2024-25 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals and will spend the next year in Germany taking classes in environmental management and interning at a German organization.

Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC)

Stephen Pemberton

Stephen Pemberton, son of Carolyn and Tim Pemberton, majored in Community, Environment, and Development and was a cadet with the Penn State Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). In addition to his academic and military responsibilities, the Springfield, Virginia, native was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and the Agribusiness Management Club.

Stephen served two internships as an undergraduate, one with Ardent Mills based in Denver, Colorado, and later with the US House of Representatives.

Stephen’s awards include the Army ROTC Four-Year Scholarship and the Joint Service Award: Superior Cadet Award for Leadership Potential. He made the Dean’s List every semester. Upon graduation, Stephen will commission as a second lieutenant and serve on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army Transportation Corps.
Candidates for Degrees

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Two-Year Turfgrass Science and Management
Sayer Gaines Avery
Ryan Kevin Bowler
Bryce Gerald Dobosz
Carter Harnish
Jarryd King
William Mehegan
McAuliffe

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Agribusiness Management
Charlie Ryan Bannett
Connor J. Barr
Nolan Christopher Boehmcke
Samantha Elise Brensinger
Jonah T. Chayet-Albeg
Nicholas Vincent Coppolo
Saronn Jonathan Cummings
Debra Darling
Zachary M. Davis
Matthew Stephen Delciotto
Samuel Paul DeLozier
Michael Dennis
Riley Grace DeVitis
James Michael Dugan
Kyle James Duncan
Megan Ann Durandetta
John Peter Dustin
Greta Ann Feiertag
Angelina Hope Fontanez
Daniel M. Frisk II
Jiahui Guo

Agricultural and Extension Education
Brandon Scott Bixler
Gelia L. Graef
Rea Noel Ianson
Emily Lynne Jay
Mckenzie Marie Mahler
Emily Kate McGowan
Noah Ray Phillips
Paige L. Rohrbach
Baylor Clyde Shunk

Agricultural Science
Daniel Bosley Allen
Mitchell Mark Bernhardt
Parker N. Brown
Rachel Champluvier
Devyn William Clair
Chelsie Elizabeth Cummings
Erin Feng
Jonathan Hur
Ethan Jamison
Cheyenne Johnson
Maci Marie Kreider
Collin B. Miller
Camryn G. Moyer
Daniel Allan Shoener
Carrie Eliza Spangler
Katelyn Renee Taylor
Derek David Waltz
Jerri Harris Wetzel
Christopher Thomas Woods Jr.
Zhiyuan Xu

Animal Science
Natalie Grace Apgar
Dalen Banicky

Madison Leecann
Bemisderfer
Rachel Ann Bitter
Olivia Marie Black
Lynneah Brady
Emily Nicole Brion
Faith Bruno
David Caballero
Natalie Gail Charnego
Ziyan Chun
Morgan Sierra Clemens
Logan Diller
McKenna Erb
Emily Isabelle Germann
Elizabeth Gilpatrick
Summer A. Gonzales-Helms

Emily Audrey Hayes
Caity Ann Honus
Mattie Sue Horchler
Kairee N. Hunter
Lauren Annabelle Itle-Szpala
Kendal Jean Jenkins
Madison N. Jurick
Genesis Michelle Kacsmar
Katelin T. Kane
Tyler J. Krak
Alaina J. Leasure
Yun-Chen Liu
Toni Alexandria Martino
Bianna Victoria Mendez
Emma Rose Xia Yu Moran
Jaime Katie Lynnette Moyer
Lily Grace Nauman
Edwin Efren Navarrete
Kyra Oliver
Abigail Catherine O'Shell
Sydney Elizabeth Payne
Morgan Annabelle Peach
Paige Nicole Peiffer
Amanda Mae Peirson
Dominique Jessica Price
Rosemary Prieto
Rodriguez
Makayla Lin Puccio
BioRenewable Systems
Gabriela M. Aves
Abiola Moyosore
Demi-Ajayi
Makaila Rose Holston
Smith
William McElhattan
Austin Micheal Swartley
Stephen R. Yaroch

Food Science
William Peter Andre
Morgan P. Besz
Sarah Catherine Boyer
Zhi Chen
Isabella Colella Bosque
Jasir Cook
Madeleine Frances
Denlinger
Catherine Helen Eisenhut
Alayna Faison
Madeline Feeney
Trina Gerovasilis
Rachel Emma Godshall
Katherine S. Haagen
Sanjay Joshua
Katrina Kate Liu
Nicholas Robert McGervey
Heidi Mencl
Pham Nguyen Quyhn Nhu
Derek Aleksandr Oczypok
August Christian Pfieffer
John Martin Porter
Betty M. Raup
Erin Louise Readinger
Catarina Rodrigues
Anna Maria Sarubbi
William A. Sheets
Kailee Ann Shotto
Courtney Rose Swarey
Sabrina S. Wang
Collin Willett
Tyler David Wissner
Tyler Yany
Mackenna Yount

Forest Ecosystem Management
Jordan Elfrieda
Aramowicz
Kevin M. Balawejder
Maxwell Andrew Bianchi
Katherine Sage Garver
Dustin Kyle McCloskey
Ryan Christopher Peles
Kaden Robert Lee
Robinson
Donald William Yealy

Immunology and Infectious Disease
Jordan Bibb
Erin Marie Bienio
Maria Luz Colon
Liam Douglas Donald
Caroline Frances Fahrney
Zoe Sienna Goldblum
Gabriella Marie Gormas
Connor D. Hudson*
Kendall Kleinman
Madison Anne Kodis
Molly Marie Kraunelis
Ethan Michael Kronthal
Benjamin Li
Ralph Lintelman
Xinyu Liu
Taylor N. Lonati
Luke Brian May
Connor James Mullarkey
Erin S. Nelson
Meysoon Quraishi*
Allison Schulgen
Isabella Marie Seastone
Kimberly Nicole Sundy
Akira Cheyenne Thomas
Natalie Venitia Van Dort
Vedha Reddy Viddam
Lauren K. Welsh
Brooke Anne Wunderler

Pharmacology and Toxicology
Julia Paige Bendlin
Logan Carbaugh
Madeline Hoole
Connor D. Hudson*
Wei-Tse Hung
Matthew McLaughlin
Randolph Thomas Nelson
Baylee Louise Swarrow

Plant Sciences
Cameron Baverso
Jaren David Bomgardner
Riley Mayle Bowles
Amber Bowman
Claire Elizabeth Buczacki
Nicholas Allan Buffington
Emilio Ciervo
Anthony Ross Ferraro
Megan Lynn Guy
Rylie Hannis
Amanda Hess
Olivia Heyward
Matthew Donald Kaelin
Joanne Kim
Austin Lewis
Madalyn Julia Malicki
Blake Miller  
Yige Pang  
Ethan Elijah Pearson  
Ezra Raupach-Learn  
Rowan V. Saroka  
Blaise Anthony Sava II  
Madeline Schaefer  
Olivia Rose St Clair  
Samuel G. Walker  
John Werkley V  
Kenneth Conor Wick  

**Turfgrass Science**  
Michael Daniel Bafunno Jr.  
Luke Ciccarelli  
Daniel J. Czekaj  
Bryce Michael Koehler  
Chase Minnick  
Samuel Joseph Oleyourryk  
Hunter Thomas Shaw  
Thomas Nelson Sporn  

**Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences**  
Claire Jiang Babicz  
Sanjana Vinod Bhawnani  
Margaret Branagh  
James Adam Brewer  
Brianna Nicole Butler  
Valeria Maria Calderone  
Lauren R. Carragher  
Gabriel T. Casanova  
Jennifer A. Cedrone  
Megan Cherpak  
Alanni Crump  
Madelaina Joy Cuffia  
Teresa June DeMarro  
Juliana Renea Dodero  
Jesse Marie Donahue  
Isabella Donatucci  
Laura Jean Ertman  
Elani Elizabeth Eter  
Katelyn Janice Farrar  
Jaden Fields  
Elisavet Geranios  
Mandy Gershovich  

**Wildlife and Fisheries Science**  
Taylor Nicole Balint  
Lillian Dawn Biddle  
Devin Black  
Cole Patrick Brewer  
Krisna Venesy Chantharath  
Abby Elizabeth Cherry  
Keegan Rae Egenlauf  
Darien Paige Ehrensberger  
Ellie Jean Graff  
Grace Elizabeth Qianjie Hassing  
Nicholas Hogg  
Cameron Hollander  
Jeremiah McDade Irvin  
Nils Karsten Isaksen  
Grace Marie LeGars  
Kylee Mamnone  
Olivia Rose Meyers  
Daniel Philip Mohney III  
Breanna Evelyn Pearl  
Jasymn Marie Pelosi  
Justice Alexander Rhoads  
Dustin Ryan Shaffer  
Jack E. Shuchart  
Jordan P. Smith  
Natalie Ann Thomas  
Steven Jase Williams  
Karter Gabriel Witmer  

*Concurrent Majors*
DISTINCTION CANDIDATES
Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of minimum criteria, distinction may be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements. Distinction is conferred on candidates who have completed the required number of credits at the University and who are in the top 12 percent of their graduating class in their college.

The 12 percent is divided into 2 percent with “Summa Cum Laude,” 4 percent “Magna Cum Laude,” and 6 percent “Cum Laude.” Distinction levels were determined by cumulative grade point averages as of Fall 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summa Cum Laude</th>
<th>Magna Cum Laude</th>
<th>Cum Laude</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brandon Scott Bixler</td>
<td>Lynneah Brady</td>
<td>Madison Leeann</td>
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<td>Katelyn Janice Farrar</td>
<td>Emily Nicole Brion</td>
<td>Bemisderfer</td>
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<td>Ava Klink</td>
<td>Valeria Maria Calderone</td>
<td>Amber Bowman</td>
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<td>Emily Kate McGowan</td>
<td>Logan Carbaugh</td>
<td>Nicholas Allan Buffington</td>
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<td>Meghan Pilewski</td>
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<td>Katherine Chu</td>
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<td>Andrew David Schaeffer</td>
<td>Megan Cherpak</td>
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<td>Victoria Elizabeth Yetnick</td>
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The College of Agricultural Sciences

The first of the colleges established at Penn State, the College of Agricultural Sciences is broadly recognized as one of the nation’s premier institutions for agricultural research and education programs. One of the largest agricultural colleges in the country, its mission is to create, analyze, and share knowledge to enhance food and agricultural systems, natural resources and environmental stewardship, and economic and social well-being, thereby improving the lives of people in Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world.

The college comprises nine academic departments and 67 extension offices—one in each county in the state—and operates numerous research and extension centers and laboratories. As part of one of the world’s foremost research universities and Pennsylvania’s sole land-grant university, the college’s mission consists of three parts:

- **Teaching:** formal classroom or college instruction
- **Research:** both basic science and unbiased applied research on practical problems
- **Public service:** nonformal education through Penn State Extension

More than 3,000 undergraduates choose from 17 majors, 23 minors, three two-year programs, and five certificate programs. About 80 percent of the college’s undergraduates come from nonagricultural backgrounds. The college has one of Penn State’s largest scholarship programs, awarding more than $2.9 million annually.

The College of Agricultural Sciences invests more than $100 million annually in research and graduate study. Each year the college enrolls almost 550 graduate students from all corners of the world to conduct graduate study and research in 13 major areas within the college, as well as in eight intercollege degree programs and nine dual-title degree programs.

The College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society

Congratulations, and welcome to the College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society! As new graduates, you will receive complimentary one-year memberships to the society and the Penn State Alumni Association.

The mission of the Ag Alumni Society is to connect, serve, and recognize alumni, students, and faculty by fostering relationships, commitment, and pride in support of the College of Agricultural Sciences. As part of the Penn State Alumni Association, an organization powered by pride, we invite you to harness your passion to imagine, invent, and collaborate as one inclusive community.

Our award-winning organization has more than 10,000 members and several affiliate program groups representing academic units and specific programs. We have programs for alumni of all ages and activities to engage current and prospective students.

As a student, you may have benefited from programs sponsored by the Ag Alumni Society, such as scholarships, internship awards, or the student mentoring program. As a society member, we encourage you to give back to these programs while enjoying the benefits of membership, including alumni events, networking, and recognition programs.

Visit us online at [agsci.psu.edu/alumni](agsci.psu.edu/alumni) to learn more about Ag Alumni Society activities, how to volunteer on a committee, and how to stay connected to the society and the college.

Again, congratulations to all graduates, and stay in touch!
# College of Agricultural Sciences Seating Chart

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<tr>
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<td>COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT</td>
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The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact 814-865-7521 in advance of your participation or visit.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University’s educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901, Email: aao@psu.edu, Tel (814) 863-0471.

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