

# Commencement

SPRING SEMESTER 2024



## COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Pegula Ice Arena

1:00 p.m.



**PennState**



## **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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "László Kulcsár". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "K".

**László Kulcsár**

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## 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**

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### 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. Layaou**, B.A.

**Megan Marshall**, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

**Milton G. Newberry, III**, Ph.D.

**Dianne M. Petrunak**, B.S., M.S.

**Tammy M. Shannon**, B.A., M.Ed., D.Ed.

**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.

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.

## 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 Perkasio, 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 Perkasio.

*Continued*

*Department Marshals, continued*

**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 C. 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

Alexander Hardie  
 Alayna Louise Harrell  
 Mitchell James Haugh  
 Yingzhuan He  
 Daniel A. Jose Jr.  
 Nicholas Kammerdiener  
 Aidan Tyler Kane  
 Louis Kearney  
 Seth Leroy Klausen  
 Austin Kolb  
 Madison Marie Kurtz  
 Rebekah E. Leise  
 Cody Michael Leonard  
 Xingyu Lian  
 Tierney Lynn Lonberger  
 Alexis Adalaine Long  
 Michael Thomas James  
 Loucas

Jake Lloyd Machlovitz  
 Justin Edward Merry  
 Julia E. Michinok  
 Steven Mount  
 Thomas Gary Newell  
 Andrew J. Oesterle  
 Sonny Alexander Olah  
 Andrew C. Osborn  
 Taron Michael Prezel  
 Austin Pusey  
 Hans P. Reelick  
 Zachary Richard  
 Nicholas David Rizzo  
 Tanner Patrick Robinson  
 Nicole Anne Romanoski  
 Nicholas Alexander Ross  
 Andrew David Schaeffer  
 Mary Margaret Schaffer  
 Scott Parker Segal  
 Joshua D. Sepela  
 Joseph C. Silverstein  
 Taylor Anne Slembaraki  
 Michael Robert Smerek  
 Mason Stahl  
 Andrew Richard Stoner  
 Julia Rose Tracz  
 Gavin Joseph Tuski  
 Joel Patrick VanSkiver

Zoe Alana Vargas  
 Emily A. Welcher  
 Daniel John Wethey  
 Wentao Zhou

### Agricultural and Extension Education

Brandon Scott Bixler  
 Celia 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 Leeann Bemisderfer  
 Rachel Ann Bitler  
 Olivia Marie Black  
 Lynneah Brady  
 Emily Nicole Brion  
 Faith Bruno  
 David Caballero  
 Natalie Gail Charnego  
 Ziyang Chen  
 Morgan Sierra Clemens  
 Logan Diller  
 McKenna Erb  
 Emily Isabelle Germann  
 Elizabeth Gilpatrick  
 Summer A. Gonzalves-Helm  
 Emily Audrey Hayes  
 Caitlin Ann Honus  
 Mattie Sue Horchler  
 Kairee N. Hunter  
 Lauren Annabelle Itle-Szpala  
 Kendal Jean Jenkins  
 Madison N. Jurcik  
 Genesis Michelle Kacsmar  
 Katelin T. Kane  
 Tyler J. Kvak  
 Alaina J. Leasure  
 Yun-Chen Liu  
 Toni Alexandria Martino  
 Brianna Victoria Mendez  
 Emma Rose Xiu 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

Marissa Nichele Pyatt  
 Hana Marie Romanik  
 Brooke Rossman  
 Kaitlin Grace Schada  
 Jessica Lynn Stewart  
 Ashton Susan Stiles  
 Lacey Ann Swab  
 Natalie Jean Swope  
 Katherine Rebecca  
 Thompson  
 Sophia Colette Tirella  
 Anisah Weaver  
 Haley N. Weidman  
 Katrina Marie Zaccone

**BioRenewable Systems**

Gabriela M. Aves  
 Abisola Moyosore  
 Demi-Ajayi  
 Makaila Rose Holston  
 Smith  
 William McElhattan  
 Austin Micheal Swartley  
 Stephen R. Yaroch

**Community,  
 Environment,  
 and Development**

Alicia Ahakinian  
 Margaret Sharon Ayers  
 Erin L. Berg  
 Benjamin C. Dworsky  
 Maggie Taylor Fechtman  
 Conor Patrick Kelley  
 Kayla Faith Laddin  
 Arnav Inesh Lund  
 Emma Montemurro  
 Stephen Roland Pemberton  
 Juliana Toohey  
 Robert Maxwell Warth

**Environmental  
 Resource Management**

Shannon Eleanor  
 Baughman  
 Cyrus Dale Brant

Benjamin William Brosius  
 Katherine Chu  
 Kyle Jeffrey Cronin  
 Austin Michael Fisher  
 William George Handwerk  
 Kevin Wynn Kerr  
 Ava Klink  
 Gabrielle Theoni Leach  
 Ankush Maltesh  
 Nora Brookes Mason  
 Sarah Grace McManus  
 Haonan Pei  
 Andrew Jonathan Scherer  
 Bryant Dawson Stangel

**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 Quynh Nhu  
 Derek Aleksandr Oczypok  
 August Christian Pfeiffer  
 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  
 Abramowicz  
 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  
 Conor James Mullarkey  
 Erin S. Nelson  
 Meysoon Quraishi\*  
 Allison Schulgen  
 Isabella Marie Seastone  
 Kimberly Nicole Sundry  
 Akira Cheyenne Thomas  
 Natalie Venitia Van Dort  
 Vedha Reddy Viddam  
 Lauren K. Welsh  
 Brooke Anne Wunderler

Haylee Quinn Yocum  
 Katie Ziegler

**Landscape Contracting**

Kevin Bartosh  
 Nicolas Jo Cerminara  
 Hector Hernandez  
 Alexander James Landis  
 Andrew Jacob Masslofsky  
 John Anthony Mattiola  
 Derek Charles Petrochko  
 Christopher Ronald  
 Prokopchak  
 Zachary Alexander Pulcini  
 Lorenzo Nicholas  
 Recchilungo  
 Kimberly Vargo

**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 Bavervo  
 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 C. 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 Etter  
 Katelyn Janice Farrar  
 Jaden Fields  
 Elisavet Geranios  
 Mandy Gershovich

Mickaela Marie Gregory  
 Connor William Gross  
 John Samuel Helm  
 Maria Evelyn Florence  
 Helminiak  
 Jillian Renee Lynn Henok  
 Madyson Henry  
 Valerie Heydemann  
 Victoria K. Hoelzle  
 Seth Christian Karg  
 Annabel Kaufman  
 Max Harrison Kaufman  
 Delaney Lyn Leibensperger  
 Dion Matis Lopez  
 Kelsey Mehallo  
 Taylor Grace Miller  
 Desmyn Moore  
 Andrew Eugene Morris  
 Paige Marie Murgas  
 Emily Christine Osborne  
 Sarais Ovalles  
 Meghan Pilewski  
 Gabriella Marie Proleika  
 Jossalyn Brie-Ann Purdy  
 Meysoon Quraishi\*  
 Meghan Grace Reinke  
 Kelly Ann Runyan  
 Brandy Nicole Sickles  
 Avantika Sinha  
 Rachel Taylor Soccio  
 Collette Joselle Chrystiana  
 Sprague  
 Jocelyn Jean Sprague  
 Jacquelin Marguerite  
 Spring  
 Caroline Stickler  
 Nicole Grace Stillwell  
 Kristian Adam Tegge  
 Peighton Eva Toale  
 Veronica Grace Treacy  
 Madison Jane Trivelpiece  
 Claire Elise Twomey  
 Jessica Selena Villareal  
 Abigail Francis Wilson  
 Victoria Elizabeth Yetnick  
 Megan Suzanne Zolinski

**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 Mammone  
 Olivia Rose Meyers  
 Daniel Philip Mohny III  
 Breanna Evelyn Pearl  
 Jasmyn Marie Pelosi  
 Justice Alexander Rhoads  
 Dustin Ryan Shaffer  
 Jack E. Shuchart  
 Jordan P. Smith  
 Natalie Ann Thomas  
 Steven Jase Williams  
 Karter Gabriel Witmer

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\*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.

**Summa Cum Laude**

Brandon Scott Bixler  
 Katelyn Janice Farrar  
 Ava Klink  
 Emily Kate McGowan  
 Meghan Pilewski  
 Andrew David Schaeffer  
 Jacquelin Marguerite  
 Spring  
 Brooke Anne Wunderler

**Magna Cum Laude**

Lynneah Brady  
 Emily Nicole Brion  
 Valeria Maria Calderone  
 Logan Carbaugh  
 Nicolas Jo Cerminara  
 Megan Cherpak  
 Kyle Jeffrey Cronin  
 Isabella Donatucci  
 Catherine Helen Eisenhut  
 Austin Michael Fisher  
 Gabriella Marie Gormas  
 Emily Audrey Hayes  
 Madison Anne Kodis  
 Gabrielle Theoni Leach  
 Luke Brian May  
 Matthew McLaughlin  
 Randolph Thomas Nelson  
 Caroline Stickler  
 Peighton Eva Toale  
 Claire Elise Twomey  
 Karter Gabriel Witmer

**Cum Laude**

Madison Leeann  
 Bemisderfer  
 Amber Bowman  
 Nicholas Allan Buffington  
 Katherine Chu  
 Emilio Ciervo  
 Liam Douglas Donald  
 Caroline Frances Fahrney  
 Maggie Taylor Fechtman  
 Madeline Feeney  
 Celia L. Graef  
 Emily Lynne Jay  
 Maci Marie Kreider  
 Kayla Faith Laddin  
 Delaney Lyn Leibensperger  
 Dustin Kyle McCloskey  
 Heidi Mencl  
 Pham Nguyen Quynh Nhu  
 Haonan Pei  
 Paige Nicole Peiffer  
 Stephen Roland Pemberton  
 Meysoon Quraishi  
 Ezra Raupach-Learn  
 Meghan Grace Reinke  
 Kaden Robert Lee  
 Robinson  
 Paige L. Rohrbach  
 Brandy Nicole Sickles  
 Carrie Eliza Spangler  
 Kristian Adam Tegge  
 Kimberly Vargo  
 Zhiyuan Xu  
 Tyler Yany  
 Donald William Yealy  
 Victoria Elizabeth Yetnick

# 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 intercollegiate 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](http://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

STAGE	
FACULTY	FACULTY
BIORENEWABLE SYSTEMS	BIORENEWABLE SYSTEMS
AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT AGRICULTURAL AND EXTENSION EDUCATION AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT	AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT AGRICULTURAL AND EXTENSION EDUCATION AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT
ANIMAL SCIENCE	ANIMAL SCIENCE
FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SCIENCE	FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SCIENCE
FOOD SCIENCE	FOOD SCIENCE
LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING PLANT SCIENCES TURFGRASS SCIENCE TWO-YEAR TURFGRASS SCIENCE MGMT.	LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING PLANT SCIENCES TURFGRASS SCIENCE TWO-YEAR TURFGRASS SCIENCE MGMT.
IMMUNOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY VETERINARY AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES	IMMUNOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY VETERINARY AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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,

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