

Graduate Student Highlights

January 2020 – March 2020

Graduate School News

Speaker Offers Key to Communicating Research Effectively



Eliza VanCort, a motivational speaker with a focus on communication, presented a workshop at the Winter Pathways to Success Symposium designed to help graduate students and postdocs in attendance become more effective communicators. VanCort demonstrated how to use five key tools to effectively elevate ideas.

[Read the full story](#)

Workshops Offer Judgement-Free Zone to Learn How to Be an Ally



To help graduate students become better allies to those from historically marginalized communities across campus, graduate students organized a workshop series. The Building Allyship series aims to create conversation among members of a particular community and their potential allies to create a more positive campus climate for everyone.

[Read the full story](#)

Graduate Student Spotlights

Mary Kate Koch | *Human Development*



Human development doctoral student Mary Kate Koch's research focuses on the social experience of puberty, seeking to understand why puberty is a difficult transition for some youth but not others. Through her studies, she also hopes to help unpack how social biases towards visually mature youth shape their various experiences.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Victoria Pihl Sorensen | *Performing and Media Arts*



Victoria Pihl Sorensen, a doctoral student in performing and media arts, researches histories of media and technology from the perspective of gender, sexuality, race, and class. Studying the social norms and power relations within technology will allow for the rethinking of the interaction between humans and technology.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Ibukun Owoputi | *Nutrition*



Nutrition doctoral student Ibukun Owoputi studies chronic malnutrition in Tanzania with a focus on how household dynamics contribute to health and nutrition practices. Through her research, she aims to inform the design of better household interventions to improve both maternal and child nutrition.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Stela Gavrilova | *Applied Economics and Management*



Stela Gavrilova, a professional master's student in applied economics and management, studies technology management with a focus on cross-field innovations to maximize economic benefits. Through her studies, she aims to understand how companies successfully navigate in such a dynamic environment.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Jeremy Keys | *Biomedical Engineering*



Biomedical engineering doctoral student Jeremy Keys is researching the biological and physical factors which regulate the spread of cancer throughout the body. By understanding how cancer cells metastasize, he aims to help develop new drugs to ultimately improve the long-term efficacy of cancer treatment.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Jenny Leigh Du Puis | *Fiber Science and Apparel Design*



Jenny Leigh Du Puis, a doctoral student in fiber science and apparel design, researches the safety and functional design elements of attire for extreme physical performance in the circus arts. By studying apparel functionality, she aims to understand and meet the needs of anyone whose profession requires garments with extra support.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Felicia Setiono | *Nutrition*



Nutrition doctoral student Felicia Setiono's research seeks to understand the social and environmental factors that contribute to a population's dietary behaviors and health outcomes. Through this understanding, she aims to better develop effective and relevant interventions designed to improve people's health.

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Additional Graduate Students of Note

Student, Field	Achievement/Story Feature
Doğa Yücalan , aerospace engineering	Doctoral candidate Doğa Yücalan offered reflections on her participation in the Winter 2019 Pathways to Success Symposium workshop on communication. Learn more...
Thomas Davidson , sociology	Thomas Davidson, a doctoral candidate in sociology, discussed a study in which he found that AI systems designed to protect marginalized populations often discriminate against them. Learn more...
Charlotte Logan , linguistics	Linguistics doctoral student Charlotte Logan discusses the personal impact of the new Cayuga language class. Learn more...
Eugene Law , soil and crop sciences, and Gwen Beacham , biochemistry, molecular and cell biology	Doctoral students Eugene Law and Gwen Beacham created the Building Allyship workshop series to offer a safe space for potential allies to learn how to support those from historically marginalized communities across campus. Learn more...
Dusti Bridges , anthropology	Dusti Bridges, a doctoral candidate in anthropology, discusses how a digitization grant has furthered her research on the Seneca Haudenosaunee. Learn more...
Christopher Peritore-Galve , plant pathology and plant-microbe biology	Doctoral student Christopher Peritore-Galve is a co-author of a study examining wild tomatoes' resistance to bacterial cankers. Learn more...
Andrew Legan , neurobiology and behavior	Doctoral student Andrew Legan co-authored a paper studying the evolution of wasps to recognize individual faces of other wasps. Learn more...
Austin Hickman and Reet Chaudhuri , M.S. '16, electrical and computer engineering	Doctoral students Austin Hickman and Reet Chaudhuri are members of a team who received a Scale-Up Award from the College of Engineering. Learn more...
Jacob Toth and George Stack , plant breeding, and Ali Cala , plant pathology and plant-microbe biology	Doctoral student Jacob Toth is first author of a paper that found CBD and THC levels in hemp are determined by genetics rather than growing conditions, to which doctoral

	students George Stack and Ali Cala contributed. Learn more...
Patricia Xu , mechanical engineering	Doctoral student Patricia Xu contributed to the creation of a 3D-printed, sweating robot muscle with the ability to regulate its temperature. Learn more...
Sian Brown , fiber science and apparel design	Sian Brown, graduate student in fiber science and apparel design, curated an exhibition on the intersection of fashion design, black culture, dress, and identity. Learn more...
David Strickland , plant pathology and plant-microbe biology	Graduate student David Strickland collaborated on a study of better ways to manage <i>Syemphylium</i> leaf blight and fungicide use. Learn more...
Yasmeen Abedifard , art	Master of fine arts student Yasmeen Abedifard helped curate an exhibition on artists' books. Learn more...
Carol-Rose Little , linguistics	Linguistics doctoral student Carol-Rose Little received an award for an indigenous language presentation. Learn more...
Martin Stein and Cole Walsh , physics	Doctoral students Martin Stein and Cole Walsh contributed to a paper that examines the negative impact of traditional physics labs on students. Learn more...
Sean Murphy , microbiology	Microbiology doctoral student Sean Murphy is a co-author of a study on newly discovered bacteria that fights climate change and soil pollutants. Learn more...
Alex Macbeth, Margaux Ehrlich, Sarah Kozak-Weaver, Autumn Rudlong, Tim Lott, and Ian Kay , food science and technology	Food science graduate students entertained children at the Sciencenter in February by explaining secrets of popular foods. Learn more...
Sayak Ghosh and Michael Matty , physics	Doctoral students Sayak Ghosh and Michael Matty contributed to a collaboration that combined ultrasound and machine learning to explain a behavior of quantum material. Learn more...
Joshua Fan , computer science, Kathryn Merckel , nutrition, Houston Claire , mechanical engineering, Apratim Jash and Patrick Schulz , food science and technology, and Saeed Hosseinzadeh , plant pathology and plant-microbe biology	Graduate students Joshua Fan, Kathryn Merckel, Houston Claire, Apratim Jash, Patrick Schulz, and Saeed Hosseinzadeh participated in a digital ag hackathon. Learn more...

<p>Renee Sifri and Omar Padilla Vélez, chemistry and chemical biology</p>	<p>Chemistry doctoral candidates Renee Sifri and Omar Padilla-Vélez are authors of a paper that could help give plastic containers an environmental makeover. Learn more...</p>
<p>Tatsiana Kosciuk, biochemistry, molecular and cell biology</p>	<p>Doctoral student Tatsiana Kosciuk is lead author of a study examining the possibility of chemically regulating cell signaling to treat human diseases. Learn more...</p>
<p>Julie Davydova, communication, and Sarah Naiman, natural resources</p>	<p>Doctoral students Julie Davydova and Sarah Naiman are co-authors on a paper finding that minorities have a broader view of environmental issues. Learn more...</p>
<p>Stephen Sloan and Duncan McCloskey, biomedical engineering</p>	<p>Doctoral student Stephen Sloan is lead author of a paper on a two-step method to patch herniated discs, to which doctoral student Duncan McCloskey contributed. Learn more...</p>
<p>Andrea De Micheli, Emily Laurilliard, and Charles Heinke, biomedical engineering</p>	<p>Doctoral student Andrea De Micheli is lead author of a paper on a catalogue of muscle stem cells, to which doctoral students Emily Laurilliard and Charles Heinke contributed. Learn more...</p>
<p>Benedetta Luciana Sara Carnaghi, history, and Nick Huelster, romance studies</p>	<p>Doctoral student Benedetta Luciana Sara Carnaghi discusses her experience with Cornell University Library staff while working remotely due to COVID-19, services which doctoral student Nick Huelster also benefited from. Learn more...</p>
<p>Bruno Shirley, Asian literature, religion and culture</p>	<p>Doctoral student Bruno Shirley, chair of the Southeast Asia Program conference planning committee, discusses the decision to make conference attendance remote due to COVID-19. Learn more...</p>
<p>Lizhong Li, applied physics</p>	<p>Doctoral student Lizhong Li contributed to a paper on a simulator that uses ultrathin monolayers to map complex physics phenomena. Learn more...</p>
<p>Jess Hohenstein, M.S. '16, M.S. '19, information science</p>	<p>Jess Hohenstein, a doctoral student in information science, is first author of a study that found humans having difficult conversations trust artificially intelligent systems more than the people they are talking to. Learn more...</p>

<p>Breanne Kisselstein, plant pathology and plant-microbe biology</p>	<p>Doctoral student Breanne Kisselstein reflects on accessible technology necessary to learning during the Online Learning Community accessibility event. Learn more...</p>
<p>Daniel Sweeney, plant breeding</p>	<p>Graduate student Daniel Sweeney, alongside a professor and colleagues, developed a locally adapted variety of malting barley. Learn more...</p>
<p>Jack Madden, astronomy and space sciences</p>	<p>Doctoral student Jack Madden is an author of a paper on five models representing key points from Earth's evolution, to be used as templates in the search for Earth-like planets. Learn more...</p>
<p>Jack Madden, astronomy and space sciences, and Swati Pandita and Byungdoo Kim, communication</p>	<p>Doctoral student Jack Madden is first author of a paper exploring student learning in virtual reality, to which doctoral students Swati Pandita and Byungdoo Kim contributed. Learn more...</p>
<p>Mark Schrader and Lingyi Xu, landscape architecture</p>	<p>Master of landscape architecture students Mark Schrader and Lingyu Xu detail their ideas for climate-change adaptation in Ossining. Learn more...</p>