

Graduate Student Highlights

October 2019 – December 2019

Graduate School News

Reception Celebrates 200+ NSF GRFP Recipients



New and current awardees of the NSF GRFP gathered for a reception on Oct. 17. This year's group of new recipients consists of 51 students, adding to the more than 200 NSF GRFP recipients already on campus. To help students prepare applications, the Graduate School hosts a variety of programming to support successful application writing.

[Read the full story](#)

Becoming Better Mentors Through Workshop Series



In preparation for faculty careers, many graduate students and postdoctoral scholars seek out opportunities to develop their teaching, mentoring, and communication skills. The Building Mentoring Skills for an Academic Career workshop series prepares participants for not only their future endeavors, but assists them in being effective mentors in their current roles as well.

[Read the full story](#)

Students Present Research Around the World



As part of a suite of structures to support graduate students, Conference Travel Grants offer financial assistance to help students present their research around the world. Four students reflect on their experiences presenting and networking at conferences both at home and abroad.

[Read the full story](#)

New Group Supports First-Generation and Low-Income Students



Coming to Cornell as first-generation graduates, three doctoral students founded the First Generation and Low Income Graduate Student Association (FiGLI), realizing there was a need to be met. Taylor Brown, Rachel King, and Felicia New are working with new FiGLI members to plan events, workshops, speakers, and outreach to support members and students belonging to these communities.

[Read the full story](#)

Carriage House to Student Center: The Big Red Barn Over the Years



Before becoming the Graduate and Professional Student Center, the Big Red Barn was a carriage house and stable, a shelter for large animals, a cafeteria, an alumni center, and a storage facility. It did not take on its current role until 1992, when graduate and professional students recognized a need for a larger space to call their own. Now, the Barn hosts more than 200 events and programs each year.

[Read the full story](#)

Graduate Student Spotlights

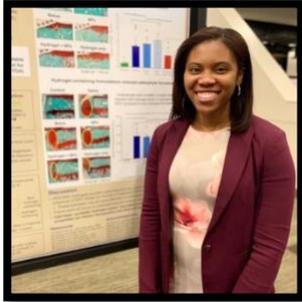
Michael Dunaway | *Natural Resources*



Natural resources doctoral student Michael Dunaway finds ways for Native American tribes to determine the best renewable resource technology for their reservations. Through his research, he gives tribes a tool to receive the benefits of renewable energy resources on their lands, which he hopes will provide a way to assert their freedom.

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Tibra Wheeler | *Biomedical Engineering*



Tibra Wheeler, a doctoral student in biomedical engineering, combines orthopedics, biomaterials, and drug delivery in her research to focus on understanding the role of the immune response in osteoarthritis. Her research aims to create new knowledge of the role of immune response to allow for new targets for therapy.

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Liang Cheng | *Horticulture*



Horticulture doctoral student Liang Cheng's research focuses on the microbiome of weed species. With weed resistance rapidly evolving, Cheng hopes to explore weed microbiomes with next-generation sequencing technologies for novel herbicide discoveries and insight into alternative weed management strategies.

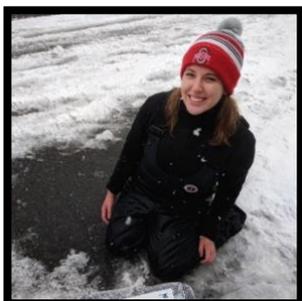
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Breanne Kesselstein | *Plant Pathology*



Breanne Kesselstein, a doctoral student in plant pathology, researches grapevine powdery mildew and its effect on wine grapes. By using a genetic sequencing tool, she studies how the disease spreads as well as how it becomes resistant to fungicides used by wine growers around the world, including in the Finger Lakes region.

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Taylor Brown | *Natural Resources*

Natural resources doctoral student Taylor Brown studies two fish species native to the Laurentian Great Lakes. She aims to understand the spatial extent and relative abundance of spawning populations to determine ecological mechanisms for population success.

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Candice Limper | *Biomedical and Biological Sciences*



Candice Limper, a doctoral student in biomedical and biological sciences, studies the importance of mitochondrial replication in immune cells to determine whether abnormal mitochondrial DNA alters immune cell function. In doing so, her research could help identify a potential target for immunotherapy.

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Rachel King | *Psychology*



Psychology doctoral student Rachel King studies social cognitive development with a focus on intergroup cognition. In her research, she examines how kids categorize the people they see into social groups, how and when social biases develop, and how they might be eliminated or prevented in childhood.

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Felicia New | *Genetics, Genomics and Development*



Felicia New, a doctoral candidate in genetics, genomics and development, studies the gut microbiome's impact on overall health as well as the spread of antimicrobial resistance genes within the gut microbiome. Through her research, she aims to address the impending problem of antimicrobial resistance.

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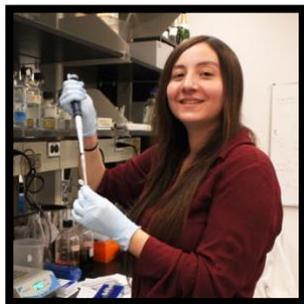
Alicia Cintora | *Materials Science and Engineering*



Materials science and engineering doctoral student Alicia Cintora develops new chemistries to create polymers and studies polymerizations in water-based systems. Through her research, she aims to find more environmentally friendly methods to create materials used in everyday life.

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Irma Fernandez | *Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology*



Biochemistry, molecular and cell biology doctoral student Irma Fernandez studies the role of Sirtuin 5 in breast cancer with the goal of creating a new avenue for specifically targeting cancer cells. An HHMI Gilliam Fellow, she also intends to create new programs to encourage underrepresented minority students to attend Cornell.

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Additional Graduate Students of Note

Student, Field	Achievement/Story Feature
Louis Chua , city and regional planning	Master's student Louis Chua is part of a group of Cornell students who spent October and November creating a report for Pacific nations that can be used at the 2019 UN COP25. Learn more...
Semira Ortiz , nutrition	Doctoral student Semira Ortiz contributed to a paper examining a new metabolic discovery that could inform solutions for heart disease and diabetes. Learn more...
Andrew St. James , microbiology	Alongside a professor, microbiology graduate student Andrew St. James will be working on a project that was recently awarded an Innovative Teaching and Learning Award. Learn more...
Matt Ferguson, Sayak Ghosh, and Florian Theuss , physics, and David Low , applied physics	Doctoral students Matt Ferguson, David Low, Sayak Ghosh, and Florian Theuss contributed to a paper that finds stressing metallic materials controls superconductivity. Learn more...
Hailey Scofield , neurobiology and behavior, and Nathan Oakes , computational biology	Complex, a startup launched by doctoral students Hailey Scofield and Nathan Oakes, was selected as a finalist in the Grow-NY competition. Learn more...
Arash Latifkar , chemistry and chemical biology	Arash Latifkar, a doctoral student in chemistry and chemical biology, researches

	how SIRT1 is altered in malignant tumor cells. Learn more...
Garrett Beeghly , biomedical engineering	Biomedical engineering doctoral student Garrett Beeghly studies adipocytes in breast tissue and how differences between lean and obese women contribute to the risk of cancer. Learn more...
Mi Yan , natural resources, Jake Gemerek , mechanical engineering, Iliana Paleva and Maya Mundell , information science, and Jen-Yu Huang , chemical engineering	Graduate students Mi Yan, Jake Gemerek, Iliana Paleva, Maya Mundell, and Jen-Yu Huang were all selected as part of this year's eLab cohort. Learn more...
Lissette Lorenz , science and technology studies, and Sam Gutekunst , operations research and engineering	Lissette Lorenz and Sam Gutekunst reflected on their participation in Graduate School fellowship workshops and experiences as NSF GRFP recipients. Learn more...
Camille Holmes , biomedical and biological sciences	Doctoral student Camille Holmes is following in the footsteps of her grandmother Dorothy Holmes, D.V.M. '58, Ph.D. '73, one of the first women to earn a combined D.V.M./Ph.D. at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Learn more...
Ian Arawjo , information science	Ian Arawjo, an information science doctoral student, is first author of a paper on lessons learned from the Nairobi Play Project. Learn more...
Kelsey Utne , history, and Bryan West , social psychology	Doctoral student Kelsey Utne participated on a panel during Cornell Day of Data, which doctoral student Bryan West attended. Learn more...
Anissa Rahadiningtyas , history of art, archaeology, and visual studies, and Amaris Brown , Africana Studies	Doctoral students Anissa Rahadiningtyas and Amaris Brown's projects were selected for Cornell University Library digitization grants. Learn more...
Seong ha Park , Jaeyoon Lee , and Ryan Badman , physics	Graduate students Seong ha Park, Jaeyoon Lee, and Ryan Badman are co-authors on a paper studying how DNA's double helix strands replicate without tangling. Learn more...
Zachary Stansell , horticulture	Graduate student Zachary Stansell is an author of a paper studying the genetics in horticultural quality traits of broccoli. Learn more...

Hunter Adams , aerospace engineering	Doctoral student Hunter Adams is using thumbnail-sized satellites to gather data valuable to NYS growers while testing their application for future space research. Learn more...
Shiyi Li , M.P.A. '15, M.S. '18, natural resources	Shiyi Li is part of a group building an outdoor art installation, including an artist in residence and other students. Learn more...
Isaiah Gray and David Low , applied physics	Doctoral student Isaiah Gray is lead author of a paper on measuring and controlling spins in nickel oxide, to which doctoral student David Low also contributed. Learn more...
Lauren Genova , chemistry and chemical biology, and Anna Wallis , plant pathology and microbe biology	Doctoral candidates Lauren Genova and Anna Wallis reflect on their experiences as participants in the Building Mentoring Skills for an Academic Career series. Learn more...
Maria Antoniak , information science	Maria Antoniak, a doctoral student in information science, performed a computational analysis on nearly 3,000 online birth stories publicly posted on Reddit, revealing power imbalances. Learn more...
Jingxu (Kent) Zheng , materials science and engineering	Doctoral student Jingxu (Kent) Zheng is lead author of a paper examining a way to build zinc-anode batteries. Learn more...
Lisa Watkins , biological and environmental engineering	Doctoral candidate Lisa Watkins discusses her research into how microplastics move through rivers and streams. Learn more...
Anna Issac , food science and technology, Anthonia Carter , information science, Cong Chen , electrical and computer engineering, Hannah Lee , computer science, Iliana Paleva , information science, Khyatee Tewari , public affairs, Rossie Luo , food science and technology, and Saloni Gandhi , information science	Anna Issac, Anthonia Carter, Cong Chen, Hannah Lee, Iliana Paleva, Khyatee Tewari, Rossie Luo, and Saloni Gandhi were selected as part of the newest W.E. Cornell cohort. Learn more...
Naomi Egel , government, Kendra Kintzi , development sociology, and Darin Self , government	Naomi Egel, Kendra Kintzi, and Darin Self were selected as participants in the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Learn more...
Adeline Yeh , applied economics	Applied economics doctoral student Adeline Yeh is a co-author of a paper examining the 'halo effect' produced by new GMO-labeling laws. Learn more...

Soumya Basu , computer science	Soumya Basu, a doctoral student in computer science, co-authored a paper on how transaction fees change the culture of bitcoin. Learn more...
Utkarsh Mall , computer science	Computer science doctoral student Utkarsh Mall is first author of a paper on a new artificial intelligence tool that effectively identifies fashion trends around the world. Learn more...
Mary-Kate Long , Asian literature, religion, and culture, and Jiwon Baik , government	Doctoral students Mary-Kate Long and Jiwon Baik received Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowships to study in Myanmar and China, respectively. Learn more...
Hailey Scofield , neurobiology and behavior, and Nathan Oakes , computational biology	Hailey Scofield and Nathan Oakes, doctoral candidates and founders of Combplex, are finalists in the Grow-NY competition. Learn more...
Renee Henck , public administration, and Hailey Morey , regional planning	Graduate students Renee Henck and Hailey Morey discussed their projects on consulate law and farm laborer housing at the Farmworker Program mobile consulates. Learn more...
Ariana Ray , physics	Graduate student Ariana Ray is a co-author of a study on the invention of organic films and their use for new electronics. Learn more...
Colleen Miller , ecology and evolutionary biology, Liang Cheng , horticulture, T.K. Daisy Leung , astronomy and space sciences, and Lina Bagepalli , biochemistry, molecular and cell biology	Doctoral students Colleen Miller, Liang Cheng, T.K. Daisy Leung, and Lina Bagepalli discuss their experiences attending conferences to present their research. Learn more...
Alicia Cintora , materials science and engineering, and Korie Grayson , biomedical engineering	Alicia Cintora and Korie Grayson, engineering doctoral students, reflect on their experiences navigating higher education as first-generation students. Learn more...
Robert Battaglia , biochemistry, molecular and cell biology	Graduate student Robert Battaglia is first author of a study that could lead to the designing of new antibiotics targeted to pathogens. Learn more...
Rediet Abebe , computer science	In December, Rediet Abebe will become the first black woman to earn a Ph.D. in computer science from Cornell. Learn more...

Stephen Kim , English	Doctoral candidate Stephen Kim discussed his dissertation in a workshop. Learn more...
Sergio Cote Barco, Miles Jefferson Friday, and Piyawat Louilarprasert , music	Graduate student composers Sergio Cote Barco, Miles Jefferson Friday, and Piyawat Louilarprasert contributed to a multimedia production. Learn more...
Taylor Brown , natural resources, Rachel King , psychology, and Felicia New , genetics, genomics and development	Taylor Brown, Rachel King, and Felicia New co-founded the First Generation and Low Income Graduate Student Association (FiGLI) when they realized no such group existed for graduate students. Learn more...
Zach Lee, Alfredo Rodriguez, Khaled Nabil Hashad, Ali Amadeh, and Bo Yang , mechanical engineering	Doctoral students Zach Lee, Alfredo Rodriguez, Khaled Nabil Hashad, Ali Amadeh, and Bo Yang are part of a group of Cornell engineering students working to lower New York City's carbon footprint. Learn more...
Maya Mundell , information science	Doctoral student Maya Mundell attended the eLab NYC Pitch Night, hoping to gain new connections. Learn more...
Cameron Aubin and Marysol Luna , mechanical engineering	Doctoral students Cameron Aubin and Marysol Luna are co-authors of a study on how the internal structure of bone can be strengthened, potentially leading to more efficient materials for the aerospace industry. Learn more...
Manish Raghavan , computer science	Manish Raghavan, a doctoral student in computer science, is first author of a study examining whether hiring algorithms are fair. Learn more...
Danilo Moreta , plant breeding	Graduate student Danilo Moreta teaches a plant science course in Spanish, aiming to prepare students for fieldwork. Learn more...
Nate Rogers , mechanical engineering	Doctoral candidate Nate Rogers discusses the impact the Big Red Barn has had on his life as a Cornell graduate student. Learn more...
Stephen Kim , English	Stephen Kim, a doctoral candidate in English, discusses "access" in the second episode of the new Intergroup Dialogue Project podcast. Learn more...
Jennifer Uehling , ecology and evolutionary biology	Doctoral student Jennifer Uehling is lead author of a study following tree swallows that found they carry environmental stress from eggs to adulthood. Learn more...

Diana Freed , information science	Cornell Tech doctoral candidate Diana Freed commented on digital security and privacy and the ways in which technology can be abused with digital domestic violence. Learn more...
Jessica Maya , genetics, genomics and development	Jessica Maya will be presenting at an immunology workshop that aims to demystify new technologies. Learn more...
Elizabeth Centeno-Tablante , nutrition	Nutrition doctoral student Elizabeth Centeno-Tablante contributed to a study on the benefits of fortifying wheat or maize flour with folic acid. Learn more...
Sabrina Solouki and Jessica Elmore , biomedical and biological sciences	Doctoral students Sabrina Solouki and Jessica Elmore are part of a research group working to improve vaccine effectiveness for diseases such as dengue. Learn more...
Polina Alexeenko , electrical and computer engineering	Doctoral student Polina Alexeenko developed an optimization algorithm to suggest optimal charging patterns for electric cars. Learn more...
Lauren Genova , chemistry and chemical biology, and Melanie Roberts , mechanical engineering	Graduate students Lauren Genova and Melanie Roberts are co-first authors of a paper on bacteria's toxin resistance. Learn more...
Melik Turker , materials science and engineering	Doctoral student Melik Turker contributed to a paper on using C dots to track cancer cells and improve patient care. Learn more...
Shilpa Sahoo , mechanical and aerospace engineering	From a NASA control room, doctoral student Shilpa Sahoo watched an experiment to which she contributed take place on the space station. Learn more...
Dana Havas , applied economics and management	Graduate student Dana Havas discusses her research on marketing with small fiber producers and involvement with LocalFiber. Learn more...
Fabian Okeke , information science	Information science doctoral student Fabian Okeke is first author of a paper on a new system that allows patients in rural Africa to provide feedback on community health care workers. Learn more...
Reah Chiong , nutrition	Doctoral student Reah Chiong is working alongside a professor on a study which

	recently received a Small Grant Award. Learn more...
Ashley Jernigan , entomology	Ashley Jernigan, a graduate student in entomology, is first author of a paper examining the lasting effects of organic crop practices. Learn more...
Whyjay Zheng , geological sciences	Doctoral student Whyjay Zheng is lead author of a paper describing the formation of an ice stream. Learn more...
Rediet Abebe , computer science	Rediet Abebe, a doctoral candidate in computer science, researches how computer science can address inequality. Learn more...
Megan Holtz , applied physics	Doctoral student Megan Holtz is co-author of a paper on a new material to be used for high-frequency electronics. Learn more...
Ronghan (Michelle) Wang , management	Doctoral student Ronghan (Michelle) Wang is co-author of a paper studying how having food restrictions can cause feelings of loneliness. Learn more...