

Graduate Student Highlights

April 2020 – June 2020

Graduate School News

Virtual Science Conference for Girls is April 18



Each year, 30+ graduate students come together to organize the Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) conference, which hosts 500 7th-9th grade girls for a day of hands-on science- and math-based programming. Due to COVID-19, this year's conference will be offered virtually, expanding the number and demographics of participants.

[Read the full story](#)

SPR Promotes Regular Feedback, Transparency – Even in Times of Uncertainty



Since implementing the Student Progress Review requirement in 2017, the Doctoral Experience Survey data shows increased satisfaction in students' abilities to gain regular, written feedback from their advisors. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these regularly scheduled conversations are even more important for ensuring students continue to make degree progress.

[Read the full story](#)

“Future Faculty and Academic Careers,” a New Name for a Long-Running Program



To help students who are interested in pursuing faculty careers, the Graduate School has renamed its Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) at Cornell program to highlight the new emphasis on career preparation and job search assistance and the enhancement of skill-building programs. The program has been a part of Cornell since 2012.

[Read the full story](#)

Graduate School Consolidates Professional and Career Development Listings



Understanding that many graduate and professional students explore careers inside and outside of academia simultaneously, the Graduate School developed a central presence for all academic, career, personal, and professional development opportunities. The new Career and Professional Development webpage will make it easier for students to navigate Cornell’s many offerings.

[Read the full story](#)

Expanding Opportunities while Expanding Horizons



Faced with cancelling or reformatting the Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) conference, the 30+ graduate student organizers made the decision to go digital. Normally offered by lottery system to 7th-9th grade girls in New York state, this year’s conference attracted listeners of all genders from 25 states, Puerto Rico, and Canada, with ages ranging from four to 86.

[Read the full story](#)

Zoom Fatigue? Not for This Graduate School Staff.



When university activity went remote due to COVID-19, Graduate School staff members were tasked with taking workshops designed for in-person gatherings and transitioning them online. Associate Dean Jan Allen and Denise DiRienzo of Careers Beyond Academia discuss their experiences with the pivot and how students are participating in higher numbers than before.

[Read the full story](#)

Professionals Discuss Careers in and Beyond Academia



Five panelists discussed their paths from doctoral program to career during the Summer 2020 Pathways to Success Series career panel discussion, “Careers in and Beyond Academia.” During the conversation, they shared lessons in embracing unexpected opportunities, identifying their strengths and interests, and finding a fulfilling career.

[Read the full story](#)

Degrees in Hand, New Alumni Discuss Remote Defenses



A and B exams are another aspect of academic life that moved online earlier this year in response to COVID-19. Jane Levy, M.A. '20, Youngmin Yi, Ph.D. '20, and Mohammed AlAmer, Ph.D. '20, discuss their experiences with successful defenses—from rearranging furniture and using online forms to practice run throughs and specially scheduled naptimes.

[Read the full story](#)

Twenty-two Receive Awards Recognizing Inclusive Excellence



The Graduate School Office of Inclusion and Student Engagement and the Graduate and Professional Student Diversity Council presented the 2020 Distinguished Awards on June 12 at the Graduate Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognition Celebration, held over Zoom. Typically held as an in-person banquet in late April, this year's celebration was moved online in response to COVID-19.

[Read the full story](#)

Five Inducted into Bouchet Graduate Honor Society



Korie Grayson, Ph.D. '20, and doctoral candidates Eugene Law, John McMullen, Manisha Munasinghe, and Johana Uribe have been selected for induction into the Cornell chapter of the Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. The scholars were scheduled to be inducted at the annual Bouchet Conference at Yale in April, but were instead celebrated remotely in June due to COVID-19.

[Read the full story](#)

Art History Ph.D. Candidate Wins Newcombe Fellowship



Lara Fresko Madra, a doctoral candidate in the history of art, archaeology, and visual studies, has been selected as a recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. Fresko Madra is one of 23 recipients for the 2020-21 academic year and will use the funding to concentrate on writing her dissertation, an analysis of the past and its reverberation in contemporary art in Turkey.

[Read the full story](#)

Graduate Student Spotlights

Diana Obregon Corredor | *Entomology*



Entomology doctoral student Diana Obregon Corredor is researching the loss of natural habitat and pesticide use on bee communities in tropical agricultural settings to design strategies and promote policies to protect them. With a Graduate School Research Travel Grant, she traveled to the Colombian Andes to conduct experiments to address this goal in livestock and fruit-producing farms.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Aditi Sahasrabuddhe | *Government*



Aditi Sahasrabuddhe, a doctoral student in the field of government, studies the politics of international finance to better understand theoretical and practical possibilities for cooperative policymaking in times of global financial stress. With her Graduate School Research Travel Grant, she was able to travel to Switzerland to visit the archives of the Bank for International Settlements for her research.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Robert Chiodi | *Mechanical Engineering*



Mechanical engineering doctoral candidate Robert Chiodi develops new techniques for computational fluid dynamics situations with the goal of replacing conventional fuels with environmentally-friendly fuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the NextGen Professors Program, he is gaining the tools necessary to better support first-generation and low-income college students.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Mariely Medina | *Food Science and Technology*



Mariely Medina, a doctoral candidate in food science and technology, is working to improve the detection of a group of bacteria used as an indicator of contamination on drinking water. In its final form, the method of detection she is working to develop will provide accurate results in less than eight hours, reduced from the current EPA-approved methods which take a minimum of 18 hours.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Amnon Ortoll-Bloch | *Chemistry and Chemical Biology*



Chemistry and chemical biology doctoral candidate Amnon Ortoll-Bloch researches the crystallization of hybrid perovskites with the goal of making perovskite solar cells with improved device performance. As part of the NextGen Professors Program, he is learning how to make academia a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

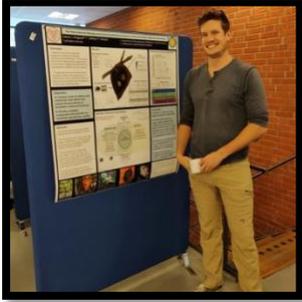
Deborah Oluwasanya | *Soil and Crop Sciences*



Deborah Oluwasanya, a doctoral candidate in soil and crop sciences, studies the reproductive development of cassava with a focus on late flower development and failure to flower. Through her research, she aims to understand the regulation of flowering time and develop ways to increase the number of flowers and likelihood of fruit set. This work will enhance crop improvement to withstand challenges.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Callum Kingwell | *Neurobiology and Behavior*



Neurobiology and behavior doctoral student Callum Kingwell studies sweat bees and their communication systems. The variation in the degree of the bees' social behavior within and between species provides the opportunity to address theoretical questions about how the evolution of social complexity drives the evolution of communication systems and vice versa.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Doğa Yücalan | *Aerospace Engineering*



Doğa Yücalan, a doctoral candidate in aerospace engineering, studies how to navigate extremely fast spacecraft to improve spacecraft navigation, missions, and travel. As part of the NextGen Professors Program, she is learning how to achieve her goal of becoming a faculty member while gaining a supportive and knowledgeable community of individuals with similar aspirations.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Jesus Martinez-Gomez | *Plant Biology*



Jesus Martinez-Gomez, a doctoral candidate in plant biology, researches how the structure of flower arrangements have changed by using evolutionary models that incorporate data from morphology and genetics. As part of the NextGen Professors Program, he is part of a network of peers and academics across campus learning how to achieve their goals of becoming professors.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Beatriz Asfora | Aerospace Engineering



Aerospace engineering doctoral student Beatriz Asfora's research focuses on autonomous systems and allowing multiple robots and humans to cooperate in a team setting. Through her studies, she aims to use robots' capabilities for search and rescue missions to find victims more efficiently while increasing human safety.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Additional Graduate Students of Note

Student, Field	Achievement/Story Feature
Mary Kate Koch , M.A. '18, human development	Doctoral student Mary Kate Koch is co-author of a paper linking coping strategies to mental health risks during girls' puberty. Learn more...
Georgios Karagiannis and Saehan Jo , computer science	Doctoral students Georgios Karagiannis and Saehan Jo are part of a team that developed an automated system which uses machine learning to verify statistical claims about the new coronavirus. Learn more...
Berit Goodge , applied physics	Berit Goodge, doctoral student in applied physics and conference chair for the Expanding Your Horizons conference, discussed how going virtual in response to COVID-19 would expand participation. Learn more...
Brian Clarke , science and technology studies	Science and technology studies doctoral student Brian Clarke co-authored an article about trust and cybersecurity. Learn more...
Tiffany Tang and Miya Bidon , chemical engineering	Doctoral student Tiffany Tang is lead author of a paper on a possible target for antiviral treatment for COVID-19, to which doctoral student Miya Bidon contributed. Learn more...
Conrad Smart , Michael Reynolds , and Samantha Norris , physics, Yanxin Ji , electrical and computer engineering, Fei Xia and Aaron Mok , biomedical engineering, and	Doctoral students Conrad Smart, Michael Reynolds, Samantha Norris, Yanxin Ji, Fei Xia, Aaron Mok, and Chuntan Wu are

Chunyan Wu , biomedical and biological sciences	contributing authors of a paper on mass-produced microscopic sensors. Learn more...
Bryce Lipinski , chemistry and chemical biology	Doctoral candidate Bryce Lipinski is lead researcher of a study on faster-degrading plastic for marine uses. Learn more...
Amanda Domingues , science and technology studies	Doctoral student Amanda Domingues is one of many students benefitting from the laptop loan program through the Cornell University Library. Learn more...
Timothy Dinh , biomedical and biological sciences	Doctoral student Timothy Dinh is first author of a study examining therapies that show knockout potential for rare, deadly liver cancer. Learn more...
Phoebe Strom , industrial and labor relations	Phoebe Strom, a doctoral student in industrial and labor relations, co-authored a paper analyzing COVID-19's impact on fashion models. Learn more...
Mark Gluzman , applied mathematics	Doctoral student Mark Gluzman is lead author of a paper on how game theory suggests more efficient cancer therapy. Learn more...
Ashley Bacalso , industrial and labor relations, and Shiang Wan Chin , M.Eng '19, systems engineering	Graduate students Ashley Bacalso and Shiang-Wan Chin were awarded second place in a hospitality business plan competition. Learn more...
David Goedicke , information science	Doctoral student David Goedicke is co-author of a paper examining cultural reactions to autonomous cars, tested by 'ghostdrivers'. Learn more...
Akshav Ajagekar and Ning Zhao , systems engineering, and Yanqiu Tao and Abdulelah Alshehri , chemical engineering	Graduate students Akshay Ajagekar, Ning Zhao, Yanqiu Tao, and Abdulelah Alshehri contributed to a website that charts the spread of COVID-19 across New York state. Learn more...
Sri Lakshmi Sravani Devarakonda , nutrition, and Cheyenne Peltier , chemistry and chemical biology	Doctoral students Sri Lakshmi Sravani Devarakonda and Cheyenne Peltier are the 2019-20 recipients of the Cornelia Ye Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. Learn more...
Alexander Adams , information science	Information science doctoral student Alexander Adams is first author of a paper on a new tool developed to monitor electronic cigarette inhalations. Learn more...

<p>Thea Kozakis, astronomy</p>	<p>Astronomy doctoral candidate Thea Kozakis is lead author of a paper on a spectral field guide that will help scientists search for life on exoplanets. Learn more...</p>
<p>Ellen Abrams, science and technology studies, and Kristen Wright, Africana studies</p>	<p>Doctoral candidates Ellen Abrams and Kristen Wright were selected as postdoctoral fellows for the Humanities Scholars Program. Learn more...</p>
<p>Tibra Wheeler, biomedical engineering, Breanne Kesselstein, plant pathology and plant-microbe biology, Annapaola Passerini, anthropology, Rachel King, psychology, Michael Dunaway and Taylor Brown, natural resources, and Felicia New, genetics, genomics and development</p>	<p>Graduate School Dean Barbara A. Knuth referenced the research being conducted by doctoral students Tibra Wheeler, Breanne Kesselstein, Annapaola Passerini, Rachel King, Michael Dunaway, Taylor Brown, and Felicia New in a piece about graduate student research and programs designed to support them. Learn more...</p>
<p>Lucy Xiaolu Wang, economics</p>	<p>Economics doctoral candidate Lucy Xiaolu Wang discusses her involvement with Future Faculty and Academic Careers, formerly the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) at Cornell. Learn more...</p>
<p>Grace Deng and Peter Wu, statistics, and Ziteng Sun and Sourbh Bhadane, electrical and computer engineering</p>	<p>Doctoral students Grace Deng, Ziteng Sun, Sourbh Bhadane, and Peter Wu co-authored a paper on how U.S. social distancing stabilized, but did not reduce, the spread of COVID-19. Learn more...</p>
<p>Lu Ling and Adrian Shimpi, biomedical engineering</p>	<p>Doctoral students Lu Ling and Adrian Shimpi are co-authors of a paper investigating how differences in collagen fibers influence the behavior of myofibroblasts. Learn more...</p>
<p>Hannah Rae Thomas, plant biology</p>	<p>Doctoral student Hannah Rae Thomas helped develop at-home gardening kits and projects for local families. Learn more...</p>
<p>Meera Ramaswamy, physics</p>	<p>Doctoral student Meera Ramaswamy is a lead author of a paper on how rotational oscillation can make cornstarch walkers sink. Learn more...</p>
<p>Arielle Johnson, plant biology, and Daniel Sabzghabaei, music</p>	<p>Arielle Johnson, doctoral student and GPSA Finance Commission chair, spoke about the GPSA's contribution to the Access fund, from which doctoral Daniel Sabzghabaei benefited. Learn more...</p>

Divya Shiroom , biomedical and biological sciences	Graduate student Divya Shiroom is first author of a paper on how stem cells are able to postpone their own death in order to respond to an injury in need of attention. Learn more...
Gabriel Lee , physics, and Grant Rowlands , biomedical engineering	Doctoral students Gabriel Lee and Grant Rowlands volunteer at Loaves & Fishes, which Cornellians are helping keep open during the pandemic. Learn more...
Jisoo Yuk , biological and environmental engineering	Doctoral student Jisoo Yuk is part of a team designing 3D-printable masks inspired by animal noses. Learn more...
Berit Goodge , applied physics, Aran Hubbell , chemistry and chemical biology, and Samantha Norris , physics	Doctoral students Berit Goodge, Aran Hubbell, and Samantha Norris helped digitize the annual Expanding Your Horizons conference. Learn more...
Laura Figueroa , entomology	Doctoral student Laura Figueroa is lead author of a paper tracing how bee pathogens spread, which can help farmers improve pollinator health. Learn more...
Monica Rourke , landscape architecture	Monica Rourke, a graduate student in landscape architecture, discusses how students are using virtual reality to share their current projects. Learn more...
Ryan McCullough , music	Music doctoral candidate Ryan McCullough and his wife, interim director of the Cornell Voice Program, will release their first collaborative album. Learn more...
Anne Byrne , applied economics and management, and Li Guan and Yuchen Tian , human development	Graduate students Anne Byrne, Li Guan, and Yuchen Tian will be assisting with research recently awarded COVID-19 rapid grants from Cornell Atkinson. Learn more...
Aparajita Majumdar , history, Ana Ozaki , architecture, Tuvshinzaya Amarzaya , design and environmental analysis, Aman Banerji , development sociology, Chelsea Butkowski , communication, Michael Cary , development sociology, Hannah Cole , comparative literature, Daniel Dawson , history, Tien-Dung Ha , science and technology studies, Kanika Khanna , government, Astara Light , history of art, archaeology, and visual studies, Sarah Meiners , history, Michael Miller , history,	Doctoral students Aparajita Majumdar, Ana Ozaki, Tuvshinzaya Amarzaya, Aman Banerji, Chelsea Butkowski, Michael Cary, Hannah Cole, Daniel Dawson, Tien-Dung Ha, Kanika Khanna, Astara Light, Sarah Meiners, Michael Miller, Emilio Ocampo Eibenschutz, Connor Rechtzigel, Ecem Saricayir, Juhwan Seo, and Alice Wolff are conducting dissertation-critical research through the Einaudi SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Program. Learn more...

Emilio Ocampo Eibenschutz , history, Connor Rechtzigel , anthropology, Ecem Saricayir , architecture, Juhwan Seo , sociology, and Alice Wolff , medieval studies	
Tina Lam , art, Patrick Brennan , policy analysis and management, Lyuxiao Liu , landscape architecture, Joshua Biggs , music, and Han Xu , music	Graduate students Tina Lam, Patrick Brennan, Lyuxiao Liu, Joshua Biggs, and Han Xu are finding creative ways to continue working on their art despite challenges presented by the pandemic. Learn more...
Alfredo Rodriguez , mechanical engineering	Doctoral candidate Alfredo Rodriguez is helping to reduce New York state's carbon footprint by installing real-time electricity metering hardware to several Cornell Cooperative Extension offices. Learn more...
Lu Zhang , chemistry and chemical biology	Graduate student Lu Zhang is co-author of a paper on a 'terminator' protein that halts cancer-causing cellular processes. Learn more...
Stephanie Aguilon and Gregor-Fausto Siegmund , ecology and evolutionary biology	Doctoral students Stephanie Aguilon and Gregor-Fausto Siegmund led a study that finds gender differences in active learning classrooms. Learn more...
Lauren Genova , Udit Kumar Chakraborty , and Wenyao Zhang , chemistry and chemical biology	Doctoral student Lauren Genova is a lead author of a paper on how bacteria purge toxic metal, to which doctoral students Udit Kumar Chakraborty and Wenyao Zhang contributed. Learn more...
Reut Shachnai , human development, and Mary Elson , psychology	Doctoral students Reut Shachnai and Mary Elson are contributing to social sciences research projects receiving spring grants. Learn more...
Alan Sulpizio , biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology	Doctoral student Alan Sulpizio is a co-lead author of a study on how new classes of drugs could be developed from certain enzymes. Learn more...
Joseph Hashmall '20 , biomedical and environmental engineering, Yang Zhao '20 , applied economics and management, Emma Antoine '21 and Isabella Harnick '21 , health administration, and Ryan McCurry '20 , industrial and labor relations	Joseph Hashmall, Yang Zhao, Emma Antoine, Isabella Harnick, and Ryan McCurry will be entering into graduate programs in the fall, having received SUNY Chancellor's Graduate Fellowships. Learn more...
Isaiah Gray , applied physics, and Yongjian Tang , physics	Doctoral student Isaiah Gray co-led research on rewritable magnetic patterning, to which

	<p>doctoral student Yongjian Tang contributed. Learn more...</p>
<p>Janani Hariharan, soil and crop sciences, Andy Sanchez and Natalia Lopez Barbosa, chemical engineering, and Candice Limper, Jeff Pea, and Kristel Yee Mon, biomedical and biological sciences</p>	<p>Doctoral students Natalia Lopez Barbosa, Jeff Pea, and Kristel Yee Mon discussed their experiences with #ShutDownSTEM in a piece co-written by doctoral students Janani Hariharan, Candice Limper, and Andy Sanchez. Learn more...</p>
<p>Massey Cashore, operations research and information engineering, and Yujia Zhang '19, applied mathematics</p>	<p>Doctoral students Massey Cashore and Yujia Zhang '19 co-authored a paper on how group testing could screen the entire U.S. for COVID-19. Learn more...</p>
<p>Eugene Bagdasaryan, M.S. '19, computer science</p>	<p>Doctoral student Eugene Bagdasaryan, M.S. '19, is first author of a paper about a platform that allows users to set restrictions on what personal data they release. Learn more...</p>
<p>Brianna Tate, animal science, Trevor Donadt, chemical engineering, Aaron Joiner, biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, Marissa Rice, psychology, Stephen Kim, English, Chelsea Stephens, biomedical engineering, Paige Priest, public health, Renee Sifri, chemistry, Gwendolyn Beacham, biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology, Kara Guse, public administration, Janani Hariharan, soil and crop sciences, Alexander LaCrampe, biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, Eugene Law, soil and crop sciences, and Arielle Johnson, plant biology</p>	<p>Doctoral students Brianna Tate and Arielle Johnson spoke at the 2020 Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognition Celebration, during which graduate students Trevor Donadt, Aaron Joiner, Marissa Rice, Stephen Kim, Chelsea Stephens, Paige Priest, Renee Sifri, Gwendolyn Beacham, Kara Guse, Janani Hariharan, Alexander LaCrampe, and Eugene Law were recognized for their contributions to diversity and inclusion at Cornell. Learn more...</p>
<p>Alan Sulpizio, biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology</p>	<p>Biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology doctoral student Alan Sulpizio received the Harry and Samuel Mann Outstanding Graduate Student Award for his work with the bacteria Legionella pneumophila. Learn more...</p>
<p>Yehudah Pardo, biological and environmental engineering</p>	<p>Doctoral student Yehudah Pardo is co-author of a paper on transforming DNA from organic matter into biodegradable gels and plastics. Learn more...</p>
<p>Lauren Kilgour, information science</p>	<p>Information science doctoral student Lauren Kilgour authored a paper on electric ankle</p>

	monitors and the stigma that accompanies their use. Learn more...
Mingyuan Zhu , plant biology	Doctoral student Mingyuan Zhu is first author of a paper exploring how multiple organs end up the same size. Learn more...
Eugene Law , soil and crop sciences, John McMullen , entomology, Manisha Munasinghe , computational biology, Johana Uribe , biomedical engineering, and Korie Grayson , Ph.D. '20, biomedical engineering	Doctoral candidates Eugene Law, John McMullen, Manisha Munasinghe, and Johana Uribe and alumna Korie Grayson, Ph.D. '20, were selected for induction into Cornell's chapter of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society. Learn more...
Lara Fresko Madra , history of art, archaeology, and visual studies	Lara Fresko Madra, a doctoral candidate in the history of art, archaeology, and visual studies, has been selected as a recipient of the Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. Learn more...
Hedan (Lillia) Bai '16, M.S. '19, mechanical engineering, Houston Claire , mechanical engineering, Yehou Gnopo , M.S. '18, chemical engineering, Meishen Liu , civil and environmental engineering, Brandon Regensburger , electrical and computer engineering, Jaejeong (Jane) Shin , mechanical engineering, and Michael Suguitan , mechanical engineering	Doctoral students Hedan (Lillia) Bai, Houston Claire, Yehou Gnopo, Meishen Liu, Brandon Regensburger, Jaejeong (Jane) Shin, and Michael Suguitan were selected as Ph.D. Commercialization Fellows. Learn more...
Brian Ernst and Wai Hang Lee , chemistry and chemical biology	Doctoral students Brian Ernst and Wai Hang Lee are co-authors on a paper exploring the use of electrochemistry for new drug discoveries. Learn more...
Zui Tao and Kaifei Kang , applied physics	Doctoral students Zui Tao and Kaifei Kang are co-authors of a paper on a new imaging technique able to observe fluctuations in two-dimensional magnets. Learn more...
Zifeng Liu , Africana studies	Zifeng Liu, a doctoral candidate in Africana studies, spoke about racism embedded in beauty products that promote skin lightening. Learn more...
Pradeep Muthukrishnan , management	Doctoral student Pradeep Muthukrishnan is a co-author on a study that finds high-skill hiring down amid COVID-19. Learn more...
Yineng Xu , genetics, genomics and development	Graduate student Yineng Xu is a co-author on a study that finds neurons thrive even when malnourished. Learn more...