

Graduate Student Highlights

April 2021 – June 2021

Graduate School News

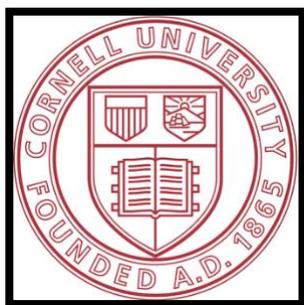
Five Inducted into Bouchet Graduate Honor Society



Five Cornell doctoral candidates were inducted into the Cornell chapter of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society: Christopher Berardino, English language and literature; Houston Claire, mechanical engineering; Irma Fernandez, biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology; Robert Swanda, biomedical and biological sciences; and Tibra Wheeler, biomedical engineering.

[Read the full story](#)

Graduate School Reaffirms Commitment to Student Mental Health and Well-being



Reports of student mental health concerns increased dramatically during the pandemic. Even before then, higher education institutions saw larger numbers of students struggling with mental health issues. In recognition of these challenges, the Graduate School has reaffirmed its commitment to student mental health by endorsing the Council of Graduate Schools Statement of Principles and Commitments on Graduate Student Mental Health and Well-being.

[Read the full story](#)

Barn Hosts Virtual Game Nights for Graduate Fields



A vaccinated nation is on the horizon, but remote and hybrid lifestyles remain the norm for many Cornellians. To connect students with peers, the Big Red Barn Graduate and Professional Student Center (the Barn) is offering virtual game nights for students grouped by graduate field. A representative from the field reaches out to schedule a game night, and Barn staff handle the rest.

[Read the full story](#)

Develop Professional Skills with the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly



Experts say that investing time in graduate student governance can benefit your future career. Subject-matter expertise can make you a strong candidate for employment, but demonstrated application of real-world skills developed through governance opportunities can tip the scales in your favor. For Cornell graduate students, these experiences can be gained through participation in the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly.

[Read the full story](#)

Linguistics Doctoral Student Named Cobell Fellow



Charlotte Logan, a doctoral student in linguistics, was selected as a Cobell Graduate Summer Research Fellow. Administered on behalf of the Cobell Board of Trustees by Indigenous Education, Inc., Logan is one of six fellows for 2021. Logan studies Haudenosaunee languages and works on language revitalization through Cornell's Indigenous Language Program and immersion programs within the Six Nations Confederacy.

[Read the full story](#)

Six Graduate Students Receive Wu Scholarships



Doctoral students Mike Bing, Lijun Ding, Reika Tei, Anran Wang, Hao Zhou, and Lingzi Zhuang were selected as recipients of the 2021 Hsien and Daisy Yen Wu Scholarships. Established by Daisy Yen Wu in memory of Hsien Wu, the scholarship recognizes graduate students for their academic ability, performance, character, and financial need, and can be used to help with any aspect of doctoral study, from research expenses to personal living expenses.

[Read the full story](#)

Removing Barriers Through Remote Opportunities



Public health guidelines are shifting and the country is beginning to reopen. Prior obstacles to travel, research, and in-person activities are being cleared, allowing many the opportunity to resume their pre-pandemic lives. But while remote operation hindered progress and limited options for some, the ability to join a Zoom call from anywhere in the world enabled greater access for others. Graduate School alumni and staff share their experiences with remote programming.

[Read the full story](#)

Two Doctoral Students Receive Ford Fellowships



Monique Pipkin and Ama Bemma Adwetewa-Badu were selected to receive 2021 Ford Foundation Fellowships. Honorable mentions were awarded to nine additional Cornell graduate students: Alexia Alkadi-Barbaro, Anthonia Carter, Stephanie Fuchs, Jalen Harris, Joseph Miranda, Stephanie Preising, Jehan Roberson, Jessica Rodriguez, and Brandon Williams.

[Read the full story](#)

Twenty Receive Awards Recognizing Inclusive Excellence



Twenty students, faculty, and staff received 2021 Distinguished Awards at the annual Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognition Celebration on May 26. The awards recognize members of the graduate community who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to advancing efforts around diversity, inclusion, outreach, and student engagement.

[Read the full story](#)

Graduate Student Spotlights

Amelia-Juliette Demery | *Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*



Ecology and evolutionary biology doctoral candidate Amelia-Juliette Demery studies color origins and variations in birds with a focus on how gene expression predicts color variation in bare-part avian traits, including beaks and eyes. Through her research, she hopes to bring insight into the comprehensive underpinnings of color expression and achieve better understanding of color's meaning and evolution.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Andrew Foley | *Management*



Andrew Foley, a doctoral candidate in management, studies how a firm's alliance partners leave lasting influences on the firm's strategic choices past the end of the partnerships. In a recent paper presented at a conference, Foley suggested that strategists and executives should take note of these influences and make decisions on future partners wisely based on the potential outcomes of future changes.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

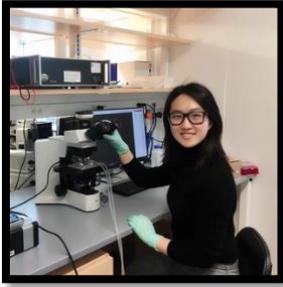
Eugene Bagdasaryan | *Computer Science*



Computer science doctoral student Eugene Bagdasaryan studies artificial intelligence and machine learning and whether neural networks contain destructive behavior. He views his research as guidance for artificial intelligence (AI) practitioners who strive to be thoughtful about potential negative impacts of AI. A student at Cornell Tech, he chose Cornell for the community, support, and research.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Xin Wang | *Chemical Engineering*



Xin Wang, a doctoral student in chemical engineering, studies colloid science and interfacial phenomena to understand dynamical behaviors of motile organisms and engineering microswimmers that display complex swimming patterns. Her current projects include collecting microplastics in water using the moving droplets and delivering polymers to targeted areas.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Tianyao Qu | *Sociology*



Sociology doctoral student Tianyao Qu's research interests are economic sociology, social networks, and health with a particular focus on how social relations shape individuals' evaluation of unquantifiable goods in the market transaction. Her larger research goal is to find new processes of social connection formation for current societies. During the pandemic, she used a grant to present at a virtual conference.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

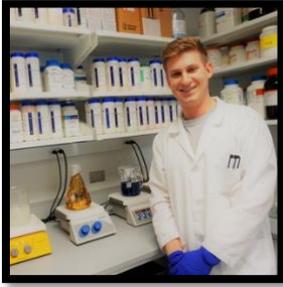
Rob Swanda | *Biomedical and Biological Sciences*



Rob Swanda, a doctoral candidate in biomedical and biological sciences, researches messenger RNA (mRNA). He designs mRNA molecules that can serve as new therapeutics to slow cancer growth by using mRNA to turn on integrated stress response pathways to trigger death among cancer cells. Outside of his research, Swanda is a Bouchet Scholar and works to make academia more equitable for all.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Jonathan Sogin | *Food Science and Technology*



Food science and technology doctoral candidate Jonathan Sogin researches food illnesses and microbially caused food spoilage, looking to discover and characterize novel natural antimicrobials to prevent the infiltration and growth of foodborne pathogens and food spoilage microorganisms in the global food supply chain. This will lead to less wasting of global food supply before consumption.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Bhargav Sanketi | *Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology*



Bhargav Sanketi, a doctoral candidate in biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, researches the small intestine and its carefully arranged loops. By understanding the genetic programs that control the looping process, he hopes to identify genetic risk factors that could be used to predict and medically correct midgut volvulus, as well as pave the way for future discoveries and medicine.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Kara Fikrig | *Entomology*



Entomology doctoral candidate Kara Fikrig studies the feeding behavior of the tiger mosquito, a species capable of transmitting many pathogens. By understanding its feeding behavior, researchers can better understand disease transmission and make better evidence-based control decisions in case of an outbreak. Fikrig was awarded People's Choice Award in the 2021 Three Minute Thesis competition.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Charlotte Logan | Linguistics



Charlotte Logan, a doctoral student in linguistics, researches and documents critically endangered Haudenosaunee languages in an effort to strengthen Haudenosaunee language revitalization through the development of research-based programming and coursework for Cornell's Endangered and Indigenous Language Program and the immersion programs within the Six Nations Confederacy.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Additional Graduate Students of Note

Student, Field	Achievement/Story Feature
Katarina Goodge '23, fiber science and apparel design	Alongside a professor, graduate student Katarina Goodge developed a simulated breathing device to perform a test on new reusable mask designs. Learn more...
Tian Tang and Yue Deng , materials science and engineering, and Shuo Jin , chemical engineering	Graduate students Tian Tang, Yue Deng, and Shuo Jin are co-authors of a paper on aluminum-anode batteries. Learn more...
Olumayowa (Bam) Willoughby , Africana studies, Carolina Gil , development sociology, Christopher Berardino , English language and literature, Houston Claire , mechanical engineering, Irma Fernandez , biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology, Robert Swanda , biomedical and biological sciences, and Tibra Wheeler , biomedical engineering	Doctoral candidates Christopher Berardino, Houston Claire, Irma Fernandez, Robert Swanda, and Tibra Wheeler were inducted into Cornell's chapter of the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society during the annual conference, during which doctoral candidate Bam Willoughby and doctoral student Carolina Gil gave presentations. Learn more...
Giula Andreoni , romance studies, and Vasilis Charisopoulos , operations research and information engineering	The Center for Teaching Innovation selected doctoral candidates Giulia Andreoni and Vasilis Charisopoulos as recipients of the 2020-21 Cornelia Ye Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. Learn more...
Katie Randolph , biological and environmental engineering, Javon Walker , chemical engineering, Jesus Lopez Baltazar , chemical engineering, Joe Casamento , materials science and engineering, Casey	The College of Engineering hosted a virtual gathering to welcome recently admitted engineering doctoral students from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in the field, during which doctoral students

Ching , civil and environmental engineering, Prince Ochonma , chemical engineering, and Chelsea Stephens , biomedical engineering	Katie Randolph, Javon Walker, Jesus Lopez Baltazar, Joe Casamento, Casey Ching, Prince Ochonma, and Chelsea Stephens served as panel moderators and panelists. Learn more...
Gregor-Fausto Siegmund , ecology and evolutionary biology	Ecology and evolutionary biology doctoral candidate Gregor-Fausto Siegmund was awarded the Ecological Society of America's Katherine S. McCarter Graduate Student Policy Award. Learn more...
Byungdoo Kim , communication	Byungdoo Kim, a doctoral candidate in communication, discussed a study about climate-induced migration in the United States. Learn more...
Shirley Le Penne , government	Government doctoral student Shirley Le Penne co-authored a study that found pandemic politics cultivated existential anxiety. Learn more...
Zahid Rafiq and India Sada Hackle , English language and literature	M.F.A. students Zahid Rafiq and India Sada Hackle discussed their experiences in Cornell's creative writing program. Learn more...
Mario Miranda Sazo , horticulture	Doctoral student Mario Miranda Sazo is involved in rootstock nutrient uptake trials, from which he and his professor hope to gain and share insights. Learn more...
Ella Taagen , plant breeding	Doctoral candidate Ella Taagen was selected as a recipient of a Borlaug Global Rust Initiative 2021 Women in Triticum Early Career Award. Learn more...
Yifei Sun , Daniel Weinstock , and Ryan Bouck , materials science and engineering	Doctoral student Yifei Sun is lead author of a paper on how nanoscale defects could boost energy storage materials, to which graduate students Daniel Weinstock and Ryan Bouck contributed as co-authors. Learn more...
Kunyuan Qiao , management, Felicity Frinsel , psychology, and Bineet Mishra , economics	Doctoral students Kunyuan Qiao, Felicity Frinsel, and Bineet Mishra will be working on Cornell faculty-led projects awarded grants from the Cornell Center for Social Sciences. Learn more...
Sounack Maji , electrical and computer engineering	Doctoral student Sounack Maji contributed to research on an innovative approach for

	the wireless charging of electric vehicles while they remain in motion. Learn more...
Alexandra Khlyustova , chemical engineering	As the Big Red Barn's health and wellness fellow, chemical engineering doctoral student Alexandra Khlyustova creates programs to benefit graduate student mental health. Learn more...
Bobbi Cohn , philosophy, Santiago Mollis , law, and Daniel Maggio , applied economics and management	Doctoral students Bobbi Cohn and Daniel Maggio discuss their participation in virtual graduate field specific game nights, which doctoral student Santiago Mollis facilitated. Learn more...
Matthew Comey and Amanda Eng , economics	Doctoral candidates Matthew Comey and Amanda Eng are co-authors on a study finding that immigrant women tend to do more unpaid labor than native-born women in the U.S. Learn more...
Bonnie Patchen , nutrition	Nutrition doctoral candidate Bonnie Patchen is lead author of a paper on the little evidence of links between vitamin D levels and risk of getting COVID-19. Learn more...
Jonathan Sogin , food science and technology	Food science doctoral candidate Jonathan Sogin is lead author on a study finding that swiping surfaces in commercial food processing plants with special swabs could diminish spoilage and foodborne illness. Learn more...
Jacob Tannenbaum , Shaily Patil , Zachary Zaremba , and Boonyakorn Chandhanayingyong , real estate	Professional students Jacob Tannenbaum and Shaily Patil won a hospitality business pitch contest with their natural burial alternative to current funeral practices. Zachary Zaremba and Boonyakorn Chandhanayingyong were on teams awarded third place and honorable mention, respectively. Learn more...
Jeffrey Sward , mechanical engineering	Doctoral candidate Jeffrey Sward is a co-author of a study suggesting that engaging the public and exploring additional solar development methods will be important in achieving New York's green energy goals. Learn more...
John Kallas , industrial and labor relations	Doctoral student John Kallas is project lead on the new Cornell ILR Labor Action Tracker,

	an interactive map and database that will capture a more accurate picture of labor activity across industries and around the country. Learn more...
David Dunham , Germanic studies, Caroline Steingard , microbiology, and Kavya Krishnan , soil and crop sciences	Doctoral candidates David Dunham, Caroline Steingard, and Kavya Krishnan discuss the professional development skills they gained through participating in the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly. Learn more...
Benjamin Rosche , sociology	Doctoral candidate Benjamin Rosche was awarded a two-year \$240,000 National Science Foundation grant. Learn more...
Mary Jane Dempsey , romance studies	Graduate student Mary Jane Dempsey received the Rome Prize in Modern Italian Studies. Learn more...
Olivia Graham , ecology and evolutionary biology, Aleksandra Maalaoui , mathematics, Mikaela Spruill , psychology, Daniela Samur , history, Peter Shipman , English language and literature, Stephanie Tepper , psychology, Katherine Zaslavsky , sociology, Megan Jeffreys , history, and Alec Pollak , English language and literature	Graduate students Olivia Graham, Aleksandra Maalaoui, Mikaela Spruill, Daniela Samur, Peter Shipman, Stephanie Tepper, Katherine Zaslavsky, Megan Jeffreys, and Alec Pollak received teaching awards from the College of Arts & Sciences. Learn more...
Stella Koch Ocker , astronomy and space sciences	Astronomy and space sciences doctoral candidate Stella Koch Ocker is lead author on a paper about an interstellar gas emission detected by Voyager 1. Learn more...
Charlotte Logan , linguistics	Linguistics doctoral student Charlotte Logan was recently selected as a Cobell Graduate Summer Research Fellow. Learn more...
Jason Zhao , M.S. '20, applied economics and management	Doctoral student Jason Zhao is a co-author of a paper about how grocery taxes increase the likelihood of food insecurity. Learn more...
Catharine Carlin , food science and technology	Food science doctoral candidate Catharine Carlin is lead author of a study finding five previously unknown and novel relatives of listeria. Learn more...
Cody Perez , real estate, and Chasidy Miles , regional planning/real estate	Graduate Students Cody Perez and Chasidy Miles won the top prize during the inaugural Cornell Investment Ideas Forum. Learn more...

Jonathan Jaramillo , electrical and computer engineering	Doctoral student Jonathan Jaramillo is first author of a paper on a smartphone app that predicts vineyard yields. Learn more...
Anthonia Carter , information science	Information science doctoral student Anthonia Carter launched a startup with a mission to assist and elevate business owners of color and bridge the gap between BIPOC-run companies and the venture capital industry. Learn more...
Ekaterina Landgren , applied mathematics	Doctoral candidate Ekaterina Landgren received a 2021 Zonta Amelia Earhart Fellowship, a program which annually recognizes up to 35 women worldwide pursuing doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering and space sciences. Learn more...
Parker Singleton , computational biology	Doctoral candidate Parker Singleton discussed the effect psychedelics have on the brain. Learn more...
Yuhan Hu , mechanical engineering	Doctoral candidate Yuhan Hu discusses the technology behind new soft robotics that use shadows to sense touch. Learn more...
Aparajita Bhandari , communication	Aparajita Bhandari, a communication doctoral candidate, explains how TikTok's algorithm works to keep users on the app. Learn more...
Mike Bing , statistics, Lijun Ding , operations research and information engineering, Reika Tei , chemistry and chemical biology, Anran Wang , history, Hao Zhou , microbiology, and Lingzi Zhuang , linguistics	Doctoral students Mike Bing, Lijun Ding, Reika Tei, Anran Wang, Hao Zhou, and Lingzi Zhuang received 2021 Hsien and Daisy Yen Wu Scholarships. Learn more...
Piyush Jain , mechanical engineering	Mechanical engineering doctoral candidate Piyush Jain is co-first author of a paper on technology that uses nanoscale sensors to measure water status just inside a leaf's surface. Learn more...
Megan Sawey , communication	Communication doctoral student Megan Sawey is co-author on a paper about algorithm vagaries in social media. Learn more...
Xi Wang , biological and environmental engineering	Doctoral candidate Xi Wang is first author of a paper on an improved cell therapy device that may ease therapy for Type 1 diabetes. Learn more...

<p>Julius Judd, biochemistry, molecular and cell biology</p>	<p>Julius Judd, a doctoral candidate in biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, has been selected for the 2021 Harry and Samuel Mann Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Learn more...</p>
<p>Kasey Laurent, theoretical and applied mechanics</p>	<p>Doctoral candidate Kasey Laurent is lead author of a paper suggesting that turbulence is a source of energy that birds use to their advantage, rather than a hindrance to flight. Learn more...</p>
<p>Chris Parzyck, physics</p>	<p>Doctoral candidate Chris Parzyck is a co-author of a paper on a rare “pseudogap” phenomenon that helps explain the superconducting transition temperature in a single monolayer of iron selenide. Learn more...</p>
<p>Melissa Bosch, physics</p>	<p>Doctoral candidate Melissa Bosch is first author of a paper detailing research on a metalens that can be focused using voltage instead of mechanically moving its components. Learn more...</p>
<p>Meenakshi Khosla, electrical and computer engineering</p>	<p>Electrical and computer engineering doctoral candidate Meenakshi Khosla is an author of a paper on the ways in which movies, music, and pictures can train a synthetic brain. Learn more...</p>
<p>Monique Pipkin, ecology and evolutionary biology, Ama Bemba Adwetewa-Badu, English language and literature, Alexia Alkadi-Barbaro, government, Anthonia Carter, information science, Stephanie Fuchs, biological and environmental engineering, Jalen Harris, materials science and engineering, Joseph Miranda, English language and literature, Stephanie Preising, plant pathology and plant-microbe biology, Jehan Roberson, English language and literature, Jessica Rodriguez, English language and literature, and Brandon Williams, plant biology</p>	<p>Monique Pipkin and Ama Bemba Adwetewa-Badu have been selected to receive 2021 Ford Foundation Fellowships. Honorable mentions were awarded to nine additional Cornell graduate students: Alexia Alkadi-Barbaro, Anthonia Carter, Stephanie Fuchs, Jalen Harris, Joseph Miranda, Stephanie Preising, Jehan Roberson, Jessica Rodriguez, and Brandon Williams. Learn more...</p>
<p>Ross Jennings, physics, and Stella Koch Ocker, astronomy and space sciences</p>	<p>Doctoral candidates Ross Jennings and Stella Koch Ocker are part of a team seeking</p>

	gravitational waves with a renewed NSF grant. Learn more...
Udit Kumar Chakraborty , chemistry and chemical biology	Doctoral candidate Udit Kumar Chakraborty is a co-author of a paper on the ways in which magnetic tweezers allow researchers to manipulate individual molecules of a polymer. Learn more...
Ruth Portes , classics, Taylor Brown , natural resources, Andrea Darby , entomology, Marguerite Pacheco , biomedical engineering, Irma Fernandez , biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, Stephanie Tepper , psychology, Casey Ching , civil and environmental engineering, Kavya Krishnan , soil and crop sciences, Tibra Wheeler , biomedical engineering, Samantha Bosco , horticulture, and Robert Swanda , biomedical and biological sciences	Ruth Portes, Taylor Brown, Andrea Darby, Marguerite Pacheco, Irma Fernandez, Stephanie Tepper, Casey Ching, Kavya Krishnan, Tibra Wheeler, Samantha Bosco, and Robert Swanda were recipients of 2021 Distinguished Awards, presented during the annual Graduate Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognition Celebration. Learn more...
Xueyu Tian , systems engineering	Doctoral student Xueyu Tian co-authored a paper on a recycling strategy for forthcoming solar panels. Learn more...
Maria Luisa Palumbo , architecture	Doctoral student Maria Luisa Palumbo organized a roundtable panel as part of the 2021 Venice Biennale. Learn more...
Amelia-Juliette Demery , ecology and evolutionary biology, Joshua Garcia , horticulture, Kavya Krishnan , soil and crop sciences, and Caitlin Kane , performing and media arts	Doctoral candidates Amelia-Juliette Demery, Joshua Garcia, Kavya Krishnan, and Caitlin Kane spoke on a panel about the work they did to create more equitable learning environments over the 2020-21 academic year. Learn more...
Leah Nandudu , plant breeding	Doctoral candidate Leah Nandudu, who was recently named a recipient of the Schmittau-Novak Small Grants Program, discusses her cassava research. Learn more...
Linda Wang , economics	Doctoral student Linda Wang contributed to a report suggesting that the Ithaca economy should not return to business as usual. Learn more...