

Graduate Student Highlights

January 2019 – March 2019

Casey Cazer | *Biomedical and Biological Sciences*



Doctoral student Casey Cazer studies antibiotic resistant bacteria in humans and animals, primarily focusing on bacteria that are resistant to multiple drugs. Her current research uses a machine learning technique to improve monitoring of antibiotic resistance in hospitals with a long-term goal of researching the transfer of antibiotic resistant bacteria between humans and animals

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Hazel Rivera | *Aerospace Engineering*



Hazel Rivera, a doctoral student in aerospace engineering, decided to pursue a degree at Cornell after studying mechanical engineering at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez as an undergraduate.

With interests of fluid mechanics and aerodynamics, fields which are not completely understood, she hopes to eventually find a way to make aircraft more efficient and accessible.

[Graduate School spotlight](#)

Sheren Winarto | *Food Science & Technology*



As a master's student in food science and technology and a member of the first W.E. Cornell cohort, Sheren Winarto's research focuses on increasing the bioavailability of bioactive peptides and B vitamins in rice grains. As part of W.E. Cornell, she will develop a fermented, non-alcoholic, rice-based beverage rich in bioactive peptides and B vitamins to nourish a person's whole being.

[Graduate Student spotlight](#)

Benjamin Marcy-Quay | *Natural Resources*



Natural resources doctoral student Benjamin March-Quay studies populations of native fish in New York's Adirondack Mountains with a focus on population dynamics. His work with fish populations aims to further understanding of ecological recovery in addition to the status of the populations, including the two main species he focuses on, brook and lake trout.

[Graduate Student spotlight](#)

Azul Pinochet-Barros | *Microbiology*



Azul Pinochet-Barros is a doctoral student in microbiology studying essential metal ions and iron overload conditions. Her research revealed that iron overload may be important to the process of infection, indicating the possibility for new therapeutic targets. Pinochet-Barros's research is also inspiration for her photography, for which she recently won gold in the 2018 Tokyo International Foto Awards competition.

[Graduate Student spotlight](#)

Manuel Berduc | *History*



Doctoral student Manuel Berduc studies the history of socialism since the French Revolution with a focus on aesthetic and scientific productions. Through his research, he aims to understand intellectual labor under socialism and its inherent contradictions. After receiving a Graduate School Research Travel Grant, he visited the Hoover Institution to view records of the Russian empire secret police prior to World War I.

[Graduate Student spotlight](#)

Lory Henderson | *Microbiology*



Lory Henderson is a doctoral student in microbiology whose research focuses on the causes of contamination by the foodborne pathogen *L. monocytogenes* in the dairy industry. Her work has shown how and why the current control strategies in place can be ineffective and also proposed new methods of controlling the pathogen.

[Graduate Student spotlight](#)

Remy Barnes | *English Language and Literature*



As a masters of fine arts student, Remy Barnes writes fiction sharing the commonality of geography. To support his thesis and most recent novel, he used a Graduate School Research Travel Grant to travel to Florida to conduct research on hurricane damage. The grant allowed him to visit the archives at Florida State University and witness hurricane aftermath firsthand.

[Graduate Student spotlight](#)

Rama Alhabian | *Near Eastern Studies*



Doctoral candidate Rama Alhabian studies 19th century Arabic literature with a focus on travel, genre, and translation. After earning a graduate degree in English and Anglophone literatures, she came to Cornell for her doctoral degree. Having taken advantage of the numerous programs and fields which drew her to Cornell, she is currently seeking a position that will allow her to simultaneously write her first manuscript.

[Graduate Student spotlight](#)

John Wyatt Greenlee | *Medieval Studies*



John Wyatt Greenlee, a medieval studies doctoral student, researches cartographic and spatial history. Recently, he received the Medieval Academy of America's Digital Humanities and Multimedia Studies Prize for the *Mapping Mandeville Project*, an online platform that combines a thirteenth-century map with a fourteenth-century text for greater comprehension of both.

[Graduate Student spotlight](#)

Pichaya (Mint) Damrongpiwat | *English*



A doctoral student in English, Pichaya Damrongpiwat studies the depth and impact of gendered violence on women's writing in eighteenth-century British, transatlantic, and early American literature. Through the recent award of the Hsein and Daisy Yen Wu Scholarship, she intends to attend conferences where she can share her ideas with the larger academic community.

[Graduate Student spotlight](#)

Additional Graduate Students of Note

Student, Field	Achievement/Story Feature
Philip Burnham and Michael Wang, biomedical engineering	Doctoral student Philip Burnham is first author on a paper about single-cell RNA sequencing, to which doctoral student Michael Wang also contributed. Learn more...
Yan Yang, materials science and engineering	Yan Yang is part of a team that published a paper about the influence of pore size on complex nanostructures. Learn more...

Skye Hart '18 and Rhea Lopes , regional planning, and Charlotte Levy , ecology and evolutionary biology	Skye Hart, Rhea Lopes, and Charlotte Levy participated in the 24 th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by speaking and engaging with delegates. Learn more...
Peter Koufalis and Alen Senanjan , physics	Peter Koufalis and Alen Senanjan contributed to research that could enhance the theoretical framework used to model future accelerators. Learn more...
Jonathan Villanueva , biomedical sciences	A second-year doctoral student, Jonathan Villanueva's research focuses on colorectal cancer, specifically focusing on microRNA 375. Learn more...
Louis Sears , applied economics and management	Doctoral candidate Louis Sears is lead author on a paper about spatial groundwater management. Learn more...
Julia Nolte , human development, and Martin Stübler , biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology	Doctoral students Julia Nolte and Martin Stübler reflected on their takeaways from the June Graduate School Pathways to Success Symposium. Learn more...
Lincoln Hines , government	The challenge of China's growing space power is the topic of the Diplomat piece government doctoral candidate Lincoln Hines recently published. Learn more...
Rediet Abebe , computer science	Computer science doctoral student Rediet Abebe contributed to a study that predicts future combinations, ranging from musical collaborations to pharmaceuticals. Learn more...
Andrew Daw , operations research and information engineering	Doctoral student Andrew Daw reflected on his takeaways after listening to a lecture by Nobel laureate Roald Hoffman. Learn more...
Yessica Martinez , creative writing	Yessica Martinez, a graduate student in creative writing, was named to the International Literacy Association's 2019 "30 Under 30" list. Learn more...
Ethan Ritz , mechanical and aerospace engineering	Alongside a professor, Ethan Ritz published a paper about negative thermal expansion and how long-held rules do not apply to all materials. Learn more...
Di Chen , computer science	Doctoral student Di Chen is first author of a paper on the ability of artificial intelligence to

	adjust for gaps in citizen science. Learn more...
Minsu Park , information science	Graduate student Minsu Park is first author on a paper about global music streaming and preferences. Learn more...
Kate Harline , plant biology, and Marlena Holter , biomedical and biological sciences	An associate and an assistant professor recently received Schwartz awards for their research, to which Kate Harline and Marlena Holter contribute. Learn more...
Yan Yang , materials science and engineering	Graduate student Yan Yang is part of a research group studying how pores change the strength of van der Waals forces and impact nanostructures. Learn more...
Minsu Park , information science	Minsu Park is part of a team that analyzed millions of songs streamed on Spotify to study emotional patterns. Learn more...
Xiangkun (Elvis) Cao , mechanical engineering	Doctoral student Xiangkun (Elvis) Cao was honored on the 2019 Forbes 30 Under 30 list for his work on a project that converts carbon dioxide into a resource. Learn more...
Youngmin Yi , policy analysis and management	A study co-authored by doctoral student Youngmin Yi focuses on the living arrangements of “Dreamers.” Learn more...
Anna Evtushenko , information science	Anna Evtushenko, an information science doctoral student, contributed to a paper studying whether or not people believed political news headlines. Learn more...
Maithra Raghu , computer science	Maithra Raghu is studying neural networks in the human brain. Learn more...
Changwoo Seo and Akash Guru , neurobiology and behavior, Yi-Yun Ho , and Brendan Ito , neurobiology and behavior	Doctoral candidates and co-lead authors Changwoo Seo and Akash Guru worked on a study on serotonin neurons impacting decision-making, to which doctoral candidate Yi-Yun Ho and graduate student Brendan Ito contributed. Learn more...
Samantha Carouso-Peck , development psychology	Samantha Carouso-Peck worked on a study of zebra finches and their song-learning patterns in regards to parental behavior. Learn more...
Samantha Carouso-Peck , development psychology	Doctoral candidate Samantha Carouso-Peck co-authored a paper studying the song-learning behavior of juvenile male zebra finches. Learn more...

Thomas Reeves , applied mathematics	Thomas Reeves performed a piece in a Cornell piano recital. Learn more...
Remy Barnes, Christopher Hewitt, Nneoma Ike-Njoku, Alice Mercier, Charlotte Pattison, Frances Revel, Sasha Smith, and Alice Tursky , master of fine arts	The spring reading series will include the Creative Writing MFA Graduation Reading, which will feature graduate student writers Remy Barnes, Christopher Hewitt, Nneoma Ike-Njoku, Alice Mercier, Charlotte Pattison, Frances Revel, Sasha Smith, and Alice Turski. Learn more...
Elliot Cartee , mathematics	Alongside a professor, Elliot Cartee studied mathematical framework to model interactions. Learn more...
Mohammad Haft-Javaherian , biomedical engineering	Doctoral student Mohammad Haft-Javaherian contributed to a study on the connection between brain blood flow and Alzheimer’s therapy. Learn more...
Sara Garzón , art history	Sara Garzón, a doctoral student studying the history of art, will lead a Contemporary Conversation on a video, “La Sombra (The Shadow)”. Learn more...
Lu Zhang , chemistry and chemical biology	Doctoral student Lu Zhang researches a class of enzymes and its application in breast cancer therapy. Learn more...
Gangyuan Jing , mechanical engineering	As part of a team of researchers, Gangyuan Jing contributed to a paper about a shape-shifting modular robot. Learn more...
Jack Madden , astronomy	Researchers, including doctoral candidate Jack Madden, recently sought to find out whether virtual reality enhanced learning of the phases of the moon. Learn more...
Jack Madden , astronomy, Byungdoo Kim and Swati Pandita , communication, and Yilu Sun , computing and information science	Graduate students Jack Madden, Byungdoo Kim, Swati Pandita, and Yilu Sun contributed to a recent study comparing learning through virtual reality to hands-on learning. Learn more...
Youngmin Yi , policy analysis and management	Doctoral student Youngmin Yi co-authored a study on the home lives of “dreamers”. Learn more...
Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo , science and technology studies	Doctoral student Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo combines her interest in music with studies in technology and sociology. Learn more...
Loredana Loy , sociology	During America’s Climate Change Future mini conference at Brown University, graduate

	student Loredana Loy delivered a presentation. Learn more...
John Wyatt Greenlee , medieval studies	The Medieval Academy of America awarded doctoral student John Wyatt Greenlee the Digital Humanities and Multimedia Studies Prize for his work on the Mandeville Map Project. Learn more...
Curtis Williamson , chemical and biomolecular engineering	Doctoral student Curtis Williamson sent samples to a professor abroad, leading to a discovery about nanocrystals. Learn more...
Shuyang Si , applied economics and management	Doctoral student Shuyang Si is lead author of a study that looked at China's energy policies as a whole. Learn more...
Kelly Richmond , performing and media arts	Doctoral student Kelly Richmond served as dramaturg in the recent production of "Tartuffe" by Moliere: A Performance Venture." Learn more...
Curtis Williamson , chemical and biomolecular engineering, and Andrew Nelson , materials science and engineering	Doctoral students Curtis Williamson and Andrew Nelson contributed to a paper examining particles' ability to switch back and forth between phases. Learn more...
Xiaonan Hui , electrical and computer engineering	Doctoral student Xiaonan Hui is first author on a paper focused on sensors that can measure the vital signs of small animals without touch. Learn more...
Laure Thompson , computer science	Alongside a professor, doctoral student Laure Thompson co-authored a paper on an algorithm trained to define Dada. Learn more...
Jack Madden , astronomy, and Swati Pandita , communication	A group of researchers, including graduate students Jack Madden and Swati Pandita, contributed to a study gauging the effectiveness of virtual reality as a learning method. Learn more...
Mohammad Haft-Javaherian , biomedical engineering	Doctoral student Mohammad Haft-Javaherian contributed to a study observing cerebral blood flow in mice with Alzheimer's. Learn more...
Yingjie Bi , electrical and computer engineering, Tinyi Chu , computational biology, Pichaya Damrongpiwat , English, Xi Shen , psychology, Mengran Wang , biophysics, Yuying Zhang , biomedical	The Hsien and Daisy Yen Wu Scholarship was awarded to seven doctoral students: Yingjie Bi, Tinyi Chu, Pichaya Damrongpiwat, Xi Shen, Yuying Zhang, and Hao Zhuang. The award recognizes students for their academic

engineering, and Hao Zhuang , natural resources	ability, performance, character, and financial need. Learn more...
Daniel Yoon '17 and David Alatorre Lopez , industrial and labor relations	Graduate students Daniel Yoon and David Alatorre Lopez competed in a world debating championship final. Learn more...
Loren Loiacono , music	A composition by graduate student Loren Loiacono will be premiered in the spring. Learn more...
Irma Fernandez , biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology	Irma Fernandez, a graduate student in biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, is researching sirtuins and their link to cancer. Learn more...
Kelly Richmond and Jayme Kilburn , performing and media arts	Graduate students Kelly Richmond and Jayme Kilburn are co-organizers of a symposium titled, "Feminist Directions: Performance, Power, and Leadership." Learn more...
Elena Michel , plant biology	Doctoral candidate Elena Michel spoke about co-organizing the Maximizing Your Mentoring Series for graduate students and postdocs. Learn more...
Youngmin Yi, M.A. '16 and Alyssa Goldman '07, M.A. '16 , sociology	Doctoral candidates Youngmin Yi and Alyssa Goldman were co-authors on a paper that finds nearly half of Americans have had a family member jailed or imprisoned. Learn more...
Marianne "Vicky" Santoso , nutritional sciences	Marianne "Vicky" Santoso, a doctoral student in nutritional sciences, helped develop curriculum designed for farmers in Tanzania. Learn more...
Timothy Dinh , biomedical and biological sciences	Doctoral student Timothy Dinh is a co-first author of a paper examining microRNA as it pertains to aggressive cancer growth. Learn more...
Marquis Bey , English	Marquis Bey, a doctoral candidate in English, answered questions about his new book. Learn more...
Timothy Dinh , biomedical and biological sciences	Timothy Dinh is part of a research team that discovered microRNA facilitates tumor growth. Learn more...
Maithra Raghu , computer science	Doctoral student Maithra Raghu was recognized on the 30 Under 30 list in the science category for her research into neural

	networks and their applications to healthcare. Learn more...
Michał Matejczuk , global development	Michał Matejczuk, a professional student in global development, was selected as a Luce Scholar and will spend a year working on international development in Asia. Learn more...
Eugene Law , soil and crop sciences, and David Eckman , operations research and information engineering	Graduate School Proposal, Thesis, and Dissertation Writing Boot Camp participants Eugene Law and David Eckman reflected on the benefits of attending the week-long program. Learn more...
Alap Kshirsagar , mechanical engineering	Doctoral student Alap Kshirsagar is first author of a paper examining human reactions to being beaten by robots in competition. Learn more...
Edward Lee , theoretical physics	Graduate student Edward Lee used a physics model to examine data on conflict incidents. Learn more...
Yu Gan , electrical and computer engineering	Yu Gan, a doctoral student in electrical and computer engineering, is first author on a paper studying microservices and cloud services. Learn more...
Jayme Kilburn and Kelly Richmond , performing and media arts	Graduate students Jayme Kilburn and Kelly Richmond co-organized a symposium exploring feminist performance. Learn more...
Amy Poe , genetics, genomics, and development	Graduate student Amy Poe is first author on a paper examining a new CRISPR technique. Learn more...
Jessica Zarkin , government	Government doctoral student Jessica Zarkin studies the effects of violence on citizens' perceptions and behavior in Latin America. Learn more...
Xiaotun Liu and Sanjuna Stalin , chemical engineering	Doctoral students Xiaotun Liu and Sanjuna Stalin are authors on a paper on advances that will make batteries smaller and safer. Learn more...
Elizabeth A.B. Chang , food science, and Natalie Hofmeister , ecology and evolutionary biology	Doctoral students Elizabeth A.B. Chang and Natalie Hofmeister received Cook Awards for improving campus climate for women. Learn more...

<p>Amelia-Juliette Demery, ecology and evolutionary biology, and Chris Peritore, plant biology</p>	<p>Doctoral candidate Chris Peritore helped organize Diversity Preview Weekend for students interested in graduate school, an event which convinced doctoral candidate Amelia-Juliette Demery to attend Cornell. Learn more...</p>
<p>Alap Kshirsagar, mechanical engineering</p>	<p>Doctoral student Alap Kshirsagar is first author on a paper studying human response to being beaten in competition by robots. Learn more...</p>
<p>Alap Kshirsagar, mechanical engineering</p>	<p>Alap Kshirsagar, a doctoral student in mechanical engineering, is first author on a paper researching the interactions between humans and robots when engaged in competition. Learn more...</p>
<p>Spencer Beswick, history, Kaitlin Emmanuel, history of art and visual studies, Stephanie Enloe, development sociology, Juan Fernandez, history, Molly Ingram, economics, Victoria Emma Kioko, English, Aparajita Majumdar, history, Vincent Mauro, government, Ana Ozaki, architecture, Shrive Rangarajan, city and regional planning, Krithika Vachali, English, and Palashi Vaghela, information science</p>	<p>Graduate students Spencer Beswick, Kaitlin Emmanuel, Stephanie Enloe, Juan Fernandez, Molly Ingram, Victoria Emma Kioko, Aparajita Majumdar, Vincent Mauro, Ana Ozaki, Shrive Rangarajan, Krithika Vachali, and Palashi Vaghela have been selected to participate in the Einaudi-SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Program. Learn more...</p>
<p>Teddy Yesudasan, plant breeding and genetics, Shao-Pei Chou, genetics, genomics, and development, Pamela Meyerhofer, policy analysis and management, Katherine Adler, civil and environmental engineering, Cassandra Benson, economics, Michelle Duong, food science and technology, Ashwariya Lahariya, fiber science and apparel design, Jeffrey Pea, biomedical and biological sciences, Maria Sapar, biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology, and Robert Swanda, biomedical and biological sciences</p>	<p>Research master's student Teddy Yesudasan won first place in the Graduate School's fifth annual Three Minute Thesis competition, where 10 graduate students presented their thesis or dissertation research in a compelling presentation in under three minutes. Shao-Pei Chou received second place and Pamela Meyerhofer received the People's Choice Award. Katherine Adler, Cassandra Benson, Michelle Duong, Ashwariya Lahariya, Jeffrey Pea, Maria Sapar, and Robert Swanda were finalists. Learn more...</p>
<p>Fernando Galeana Rodriguez, development sociology</p>	<p>Fernando Galeana Rodriguez reflected on his participation in the Inclusive Teaching Institute for graduate students and postdocs. Learn more...</p>

Hannah Swegarden , horticulture	Doctoral student Hannah Swegarden conducted taste tests of the new Galaxy Suite of grape tomatoes. Learn more...
Xiaonan Hui , electrical and computer engineering	Xiaonan Hui, a doctoral student, is lead author on a paper studying a radio frequency identification system. Learn more...
Ferra Pinnock , chemical and biomolecular engineering	Farra Pinnock was one of 30 Cornell graduate students who volunteered at an event designed to introduce female high school sophomores to science and engineering. Learn more...
Shivem Shah , biomedical engineering	Doctoral student Shivem Shah is using organoids to develop therapies to combat cancer. Learn more...
Alap Kshirsagar , mechanical engineering	Graduate student Alap Kshirsagar is part of a team that conducted research on human-robot responses during competition. Learn more...
Zoe Getman-Pickering, Nick Aflitto, and Julie Davis , entomology	Doctoral student Zoe Getman-Pickering helped create an app to measure plant resistance from insects, to which graduate students Nick Aflitto and Julie Davis also contributed. Learn more...
Sungwoong Kim , materials science and engineering, Kristine Lai , mechanical engineering, Hao Zhou , materials science and engineering, and Marysol Luna , mechanical engineering	Graduate students Sungwoong Kim, Kristine Lai, Hao Zhou, and Marysol Luna contributed to a paper studying a nanovaccine that boosted immunity in mice with metabolic disorders. Learn more...
David Gludish , biomedical and biological sciences	Doctoral student David Gludish is co-author on a paper that examines a novel approach to targeting HIV in viral reservoir cells. Learn more...
Caitlin McDonald , ecology and evolutionary biology	Caitlin McDonald co-authored a paper studying fungal disease impacting amphibian populations worldwide. Learn more...