# Graduate Student Highlights

July 2019 – September 2019

## Matheus Baseggio | *Plant Breeding and Genetics*

Matheus Baseggio, a doctoral candidate in plant breeding and genetics, is researching the nutritional quality of sweet corn with the goal of converting high-yielding, locally-adapted lines into more nutritious sweet corn lines. He is one of two awardees of the Crop Science Graduate Student Scholarship.

Graduate School spotlight

## Annapaola Passerini | *Anthropology*

Anthropology doctoral candidate Annapaola Passerini studies the application of scientific dating methods to reconstruct the non-written archaeological past. Her research uses radiocarbon dating to reconstruct the socio-cultural history of the prehistoric Caucasus, the samples for which she will collect while studying in Armenia with her Travel Grant.

Graduate School spotlight

## Leo Louis | *Natural Resources*

Leo Louis, a doctoral student in natural resources, is currently researching the relationship between humans and the environment, as well as human perceptions of the environment. His current research seeks to understand how observations of natural phenomena can build resilience in the face of climate change.

Graduate School spotlight

## T.K. Daisy Leung | *Astronomy and Space Sciences*

Astronomy and space sciences doctoral student T.K. Daisy Leung researches the properties and environment in which natal stars are born in galaxies at early cosmic epochs after the Big Bang and their evolution. Through this research, she hopes to help unveil the nature of the first galaxies and explain the structures seen in the universe.

Graduate School spotlight

## Colleen Miller | *Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

Colleen Miller, a doctoral student in ecology and evolutionary biology, is studying how humanized landscapes impact natural communities with a focus on climate change and urban impacts. Her dissertation focuses on the impact of constant light on birds with a primary focus on the behavior of wild black-capped chickadees at feeders.

Graduate School spotlight

## Lina Bagepalli | *Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology*

Biochemistry, molecular and cell biology doctoral student Lina Bagepalli studies the mechanisms that regulate gene expression and works to develop new methods to dissect the process of transcription and understand the functions of transcription factors. Her research into HSF1 will help avoid problems with traditional drug-based therapies.

Graduate School spotlight

# Graduate School News

| Posselt Advocates for Holistic Review Practices | Julie Posselt, associate professor of higher education at the University of Southern California, spoke about holistic review practices at the graduate level. Read more… |
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| University Recognized for Inclusion Efforts | Cornell University and the Graduate School were recently recognized for initiatives to |

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| | create and maintain an inclusive and diverse learning environment. Read more… |
| **'A Better Chance of Providing Access': Future Professors Institute Fosters Inclusivity** | Drs. Sweeney Windchief and Rory Cooper discussed culturally-aware mentoring practices and accessible research environments during the Future Professors Institute. Read more… |
| **Finding Success Through Failure** | Cornell alumna Susan Anderer '97 returned to campus to speak about using failure to find success at the GPWomeN-PCCW leadership retreat. Read more… |
| **Two Doctoral Students Selected for Liebmann Fellowships** | Two doctoral students received Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowships for the first time in the same year. Read more… |
| **NextGen Prepares Future Professors** | Four former participants discuss their experiences in the NextGen Professors Program, which aided their successful searches for academic careers. Read more… |
| **Expressing Gratitude at Orientation 2019** | Orienting 1,308 new students requires months of planning, dozens of student and staff volunteers, and, most importantly, gratitude. Read more… |
| **Symposium Encourages Graduate Student Success** | New and continuing graduate students attended the 2019 Summer Success Symposium for tips to aid a successful transition to and progression through graduate school. Read more… |
| **Careers Beyond Academia Expanded for All Ph.D.s** | Careers Beyond Academia, formerly known as the BEST Program, has been established in the Graduate School to help doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars explore non-academic career options. Read more… |
| **Four Postdocs Honored with Achievement Awards** | Four postdocs were honored with a Postdoc Achievement Award as part of Cornell's celebration of National Postdoc Appreciation Week. Read more… |
| **Over 50 Students Recognized at Pinning Ceremony** | The Graduate School welcomed more than 50 new Dean's Scholars at the Dean's Scholars Pinning Ceremony, which honors recipients of competitive diversity-focused fellowships. Read more… |

# Additional Graduate Students of Note

| Student, Field | Achievement/Story Feature |
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| **Jennifer Schmidt**, biological and environmental engineering | Jennifer Schmidt, a doctoral candidate in biological and environmental engineering, is a co-first author of a study on plants engineered to produce medical and industrial proteins. Learn more… |
| **Jesse Walker**, psychology | Graduate student Jesse Walker contributed to research finding that spending money on experiences rather than objects is more fulfilling. Learn more… |
| **Manuel Ricardo Perez-Alvarez**, entomology | Manuel Ricardo Perez-Alvarez, a graduate student in entomology, is first author of a paper studying the effectiveness of releasing natural enemies to combat larvae infestation in fields to avoid pesticide use. Learn more… |
| **Piyawat Louilarpprasert**, music | A CNN News article profiled Piyawat Louilarpprasert, a D.M.A. student and Thai composer, and his innovative style of composition. Learn more… |
| **Mario Molina**, sociology | A card game between doctoral students Mario Molina and Marucio Bucca, Ph.D. '18 led to a study on perceptions of inequality. Learn more… |
| **Snehashis Choudhury**, chemical engineering | Doctoral student Snehahsis Choudhury is part of a research team studying the life of batteries built from inexpensive and safe components. Learn more… |
| **Zachary Stansell**, horticulture | Doctoral student Zachary Stansell is part of a group that released a new software that standardized evaluations of broccoli. Learn more… |
| **Stepfanie Aguillon**, ecology and evolutionary biology | Doctoral candidate Stepfanie Aguillon commented on the importance of encouraging female participation in STEM classes. Learn more… |
| **Junwen Bai, Johan Björck, Sebastian Ament, and Brendan Rappazzo**, M.Eng '18, computer science | Doctoral students Junwen Bai, Johan Björck, Sebastian Ament, and Brendan Rappazzo are co-authors of a study on an artificial intelligence system that could make fuel cells more efficient. Learn more… |

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| **Jack Madden**, astronomy and space sciences | Jack Madden, a doctoral candidate in astronomy, simulated light fingerprints and climates for a planet after the first potentially habitable world outside our solar system was discovered. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Melisa DeGroot**, genetics, genomics and development | Doctoral student Melisa DeGroot discussed her research during a Science on Tap event. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Pualiina Patana** and **Mariel Barnes**, government | Pauliina Patana won the Social Science Research Council Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship and Mariel Barnes was named a predoctoral fellow at the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Thomas Davidson**, sociology | Sociology doctoral candidate Thomas Davidson is a first author of a paper that finds racial bias in tweets flagged as hate speech in numerous Twitter datasets. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Adnan Shami Shah**, chemistry and chemical biology | Graduate student Adnan Shami Shah led his lab in the publishing of a paper identifying a lipid binding protein. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Stephen Roblin**, government, and **Laura Leddy**, anthropology | Stephen Roblin, a doctoral candidate in government, and Laura Leddy, a doctoral student in anthropology, received Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowships. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Michelle Lee** and **Raheleh Ravanfar**, food science and technology | Doctoral candidates Michelle Lee and Raheleh Ravanfar are part of a team of researchers who created a low-calorie, butter-like spread. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Osei Boateng**, health administration | Master's student Osei Boateng is part of a team that participated in Life Changing Lab's Summer Incubator. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Amanda Purington**, communication | Doctoral student Amanda Purington contributed to research on software that allows kids to test drive social media before creating their own accounts. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Yixiao Wang**, design and environmental analysis | Graduate student Yixiao Wang is developing a prototype of an artificial intelligence-enhanced interactive environment. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Justine Zhang**, information science | Information science doctoral student Justine Zhang is first author of a report analyzing |

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| | counselors' language to better inform future volunteer crisis counselors. [Learn more…] |
| **Steven Elmlinger**, psychology | Steven Elmlinger, a psychology doctoral candidate, is lead author of a study on the ways in which babies shape their own learning environments. [Learn more…] |
| **Qinan Hu**, biochemistry, molecular and cell biology | Doctoral student Qinan Hu is first author of a paper that provides details into the role of calcium in the maturation of an egg. [Learn more…] |
| **Alex Cheng**, biomedical engineering | Doctoral student Alex Cheng is lead author of a study on diagnosing infectious disease by using cell-free DNA that roams throughout the bloodstream and urine. [Learn more…] |
| **Sebastian Deri**, psychology, **Alexander Ruch**, sociology, and **Natalie Tong**, information science | Graduate students Sebastian Deri, Alexander Ruch, and Natalie Tong co-authored a study that found political polarization is more about luck than ideology. [Learn more…] |
| **Lincoln Hines**, government | Graduate student Lincoln Hines commented on China's private space industry gaining ground on SpaceX. [Learn more…] |
| **Jordan Garcia**, ecology and evolutionary biology | Jordan Garcia, a doctoral student in ecology and evolutionary biology, studies salamanders' ability to adapt to climate change. [Learn more…] |
| **Marc Alessi** and **Colin Evans**, earth and atmospheric sciences | Graduate students Marc Alessi and Colin Evans questioned presidential candidates at the September 4 town hall. [Learn more…] |
| **Jeff Jorgensen**, biochemistry, molecular and cell biology | Graduate student Jeff Jorgensen conducts research on how a cell knows when a protein has reached the end of its productivity. [Learn more…] |
| **Shiang-Wan Chin**, M.Eng '19, systems engineering | A Beck Fellow, Shiang-Wan Chin uses a machine learning model to determine soil health and predict how it will change over time. [Learn more…] |
| **Patricia Xu**, **Lillia Bai**, and **Cameron Aubin**, mechanical and aerospace engineering | Doctoral student Patricia Xu developed a synthetic material that would enable robots to sense how they interact with their environments, and doctoral students Lillia Bai and Cameron Aubin co-authored the corresponding paper. [Learn more…] |

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| **Qinru Shi**, applied mathematics | Doctoral student Qinru Shi is a co-author of a study that uses artificial intelligence to shrink dams' greenhouse gas emissions. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Meera Ramaswamy**, physics, and **Prateek Sehgal**, mechanical engineering | Doctoral students Meera Ramaswamy and Prateek Sehgal worked on a study that uses acoustic energy to soften shear-thickening materials. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Elias Beltran**, comparative literature, **Elissa Domingo Badiqué**, performing and media arts, **Andrea Darby**, entomology, and **Alexander Lacrampe**, biochemistry, molecular and cell biology | Doctoral students Elias Beltran, Elissa Domingo Badiqué, Andrea Darby, and Alexander Lacrampe are four of more than 50 graduate students who were recognized at the Dean's Scholars Pinning Ceremony. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Elizabeth Lyon**, music, and **Thomas Davidson**, sociology | Doctoral student Elizabeth Lyon received the first Sadov Family Graduate Student Fellowship and doctoral student Thomas Davidson received the first Josephson Family Graduate Student Scholarship. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Reet Chaudhuri**, electrical and computer engineering, and **Samuel Bader**, applied physics | Doctoral students Reet Chaudhuri and Samuel Bader contributed to research that uses gallium nitride as a method to create energy efficient electronics. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Elaigwu Ameh**, performing and media arts, **Anna Evtushenko**, information science, and **Kristen Wright**, Africana studies | The 10-Minute Play Festival was produced by doctoral student Elaigwu Ameh and featured plays by doctoral students Anna Evtushenko and Kristen Wright. [Learn more…](#) |
| **Ida DiMucci**, chemistry and chemical biology | Doctoral student Ida DiMucci worked on a project that found missing electrons reveal a new copper-based catalyst. [Learn more…](#) |