

# BEST @ Cornell

The Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training Newsletter

Events | April 2018

## [ComSciCon Cornell 2018](#) | Applications Due 04/15/18

The 4th annual ComSciCon Cornell two-day science communication workshop will be held July 13th and July 21st. The workshop is free to attend and open to all STEM graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

**Location: Cornell University, TBA**

## [Conversation with Female Entrepreneurs](#) | 04/18/18 7:00PM-9:00PM

The discussion will focus on female entrepreneurs and technologists who are building the next generation of tech start-ups, upending male stereotypes, and rallying women and girls everywhere to join the digital revolution.

**Location: Statler Auditorium**

## [Finding your Research Voice](#) | 04/26/18

A customized communication workshop for researchers and scientists to learn how to tell a compelling research story. It can make you stand out at professional conferences, on the job market, or during an ideal networking opportunity. We provide specific presentation ideas followed by field tested exercises that will help you improve your research talk.

**Location: G-01 Biotech Building**

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## Announcements | April 2018

### CGCC

Stay informed of CGCC (Cornell Graduate Consulting Club) events & meetings. To join the mailing list: send an email message to: [cgcc-l-request@cornell.edu](mailto:cgcc-l-request@cornell.edu) with the subject "join," leaving the message body blank.

### Learning to do the 'ask'

#### "What does success look like?"

Occasionally, one experiences unexpected kinds of success. That's exactly what happened to Gael Nicolas when he had the opportunity to go on a BEST-sponsored science policy trip to Washington DC to advocate for scientific research. The experience in Washington helped him develop new presentation skills and boosted his confidence in navigating power dynamics. He returned to Cornell, continued to hone those skills, and then implemented them in day-to-day communication with his academic advisor about how he is balancing progress in the lab with time spent exploring a non-tenure track career path. In Gael's own words, "The DC trip and other BEST activities have refined my ability to get my point across in as few words as possible, and that's been useful in oral negotiations and even in my writing."

Ethan Sanford, Editor  
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Member Spotlight:  
Fiona Harnischfeger



April's BESTie of the month is Fiona Harnischfeger, a Food Science and Technology PhD student working in the lab of Dr. Robin Dando. Fiona is interested in the impact of obesity on taste perception, and with her work she hopes to help overweight patients restore their taste system. Last year, Fiona presented her work at the Three Minute Thesis competition! An intern at a consulting company prior to coming to Cornell, Fiona is pursuing her PhD with a consulting career outcome in mind. She acknowledges that the BEST program has improved her "soft skills" (that's business slang for interpersonal skills) through learning opportunities outside of the classroom. In line with her career goals, Fiona is co-president of the Cornell Graduate Consulting Club (CGCC) along with Eilís Monahan, PhD student in Classical and Near Eastern Archeology. Fiona recently completed the Lean Six Sigma Green Belt training, a management training boot-camp. When Fiona is not busy adding to her list of professional merits, she enjoys taking PE courses at Cornell, like paddle boarding.

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