



BEST @ Cornell

Events for March 2018

[Commercialization Fellowship - Info session](#) | 3/6/18 5:00-6:00 PM

Technology Entrepreneurship at Cornell (TEC) invites you to attend this information session. The Commercialization Fellowship is an opportunity for Ph.D. students in Cornell Engineering to take a deep dive into the commercialization process. The fellowship is funded and lasts six months.

Location: 116 Upson Hall

[Opportunities for Public Communication of Science](#) | 3/9/18 4:30-6:00 PM

Please register to attend this panel discussion to hear from Cornell panelists with outstanding communication efforts in the community and beyond.

Location: 143 Plant Sciences

[Three Minute Thesis \(3MT\) Competition](#) | 3/21/18 4:30 PM

Develop and showcase your research communication skills by competing in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition for graduate students. Cornell's 4th annual competition will be held on March 21st. All research students (masters and doctoral) are invited to participate in this event. 1st place prize includes \$1,500, and 2nd place includes \$1,000.

Location: G10 Biotech

Personal Success Stories

Putting a specific “face” to a vague career path: Celine Cammarata knew that there were many different career paths for PhDs that didn't involve becoming a professor. She had a general sense that she wanted to pursue a career in science policy, but just wasn't sure what specific kind of science policy path she might take. “It's easy to throw around vague terms, like you're interested in ‘science policy,’ but it's much harder to get a concrete sense of what specific jobs that could entail.” She knew she did not want to get to the end of her graduate studies and find herself saying, “now what?” So, she joined the BEST program and spent about a year and a half exploring her options. “What are the possibilities? Is this really the specific thing I want to do?” In a way, it was like sampling the varieties of apple in an orchard trying to figure out which one was the best choice. Because “...the BEST program has been very helpful in finding specific examples of careers within that vague ‘policy’ umbrella,..” she considers herself to be more in a “pruning stage” in which she is crafting her professional future by taking all that information she has accumulated and is pruning it to fit her specific interests and needs. “The BEST program has provided me with tangible support as I've tried to put a face on that specific someone I will become post-PhD.”

Ethan Sanford, Editor
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Member Spotlight: Gael Nicolas



February's BESTie of the month is Gael Nicolas, a Ph.D. candidate in Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology (BMCB) working in the lab of Dr. Pamela Chang. Gael studies microbial metabolites in our gut microbiome, and he is interested in how a subset of those metabolites can have antimicrobial properties, potentially protecting us from infection. Gael did four years of research prior to entering graduate school. Unsure of what career path he wanted to pursue with a PhD, the BEST program was a major factor in Gael's decision to join the BMCB program at Cornell. Currently, Gael is exploring an interest in science policy because, in his own words, “I believe the country needs more scientists in government to represent the scientific community and translate evidence based research into legislation.” The BEST program led Gael to get involved with science policy organizations on campus, such as ASAP, where he currently serves as the treasurer. Gael is also a member of the BEST program advisory board.

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