

BEST @ CORNELL

Announcements for December '16/January 2017

Hot off the press

Read this [Council of Graduate Schools 2017 Report](#) entitled "Professional Development: Shaping Effective STEM Graduate Programs" where CGS reports: "Employers seek PhDs and master's with more STEM-specific and transferable skills beyond those skills developed in academic research programs, but: Universities lack guidance, resources, and expertise that would enable them to identify these skills and deliver this training."

GOOD THING CORNELL HAS BEST!

"Employers unequivocally stated that the US PhD is the "gold standard" in research excellence... the integration of professional skills into graduate programs should not occur by sacrificing the excellent preparation in academic research skills received by today's master's and PhDs. Generic skills, STEM-specific skills, and personal attitudes and habits developed in formal professional development programs can strengthen graduates' success in both academic as well as non-academic careers."

WE UNDERSCORE THIS IMPORTANCE!

"Some STEM-specific skills noted as generally deficient in today's PhDs and master's by employers, however, currently receive little attention. These skills include: data science and big data skills; science policy; governance, risk and compliance; and time management and project management, with only approximately one out of 10 programs, on average, addressing these needs."

CORNELL BEST OFFERS TRAINING and EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THESE AREAS!

To see upcoming events, check the [BEST Events Section](#)

Cornell Alumna Urges Scientists to get Active in Policy-making

It is now more than ever of utmost importance that scientists get involved in shaping science policy and convincing Washington of the importance of scientific research. Cornell postdoc alumna Catharine Young, shared with us three things which she thinks are critical in training scientists to be advocates for their research:

1. Scientists need to become the world's greatest storytellers;
2. Graduate student education needs to be rethought to meet that end; and
3. In the immediate future, sign up for the BEST supported Science Policy Bootcamp: Concept to Conclusion course that will give students the tools they need to start actively influencing science policy.

Catharine Young co-developed the Science Policy Bootcamp course with the help of Engaged Cornell Faculty Fellow Chris Schaffer. She currently serves as Senior Science and Innovation Policy Advisor and Head of DC Team at the British Embassy. She is also a TED Fellow. [Read her article](#) at medium.com.

Reading List: "On Becoming a Better Scientist," by Raymond Huey

In this article from 2011, Dr. Huey of the University of Washington pens insightful advice for aspiring scientists. Refreshing and to the point, this article is a must-read for first-year graduate students.

Finding Your Scientific Voice: Course Offering for Spring 2017

Finding Your Scientific Voice, taught by Itai Cohen, has been promoted to course status from a BEST-supported workshop. Communicate your research more clearly to scientific audiences, and enroll now for PHYS 7685. Past participants unanimously recommend this course.

BESTie Sabrina Salouki recommends a recent National Academies Press publication on "[Communicating Science Effectively](#)" available as an online pdf

Ethan Sanford, Editor

BEST MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Ryan Alexander Coots received his Ph.D. in 2015 from Cornell's college of human ecology. As a graduate student, Alex investigated how cells use regulatory proteins to modulate protein production. Currently, Alex works in the field of quality assurance (QA)/ quality control (QC) as a member of an analytical chemistry lab, and he aspires to one day transition to project management.

His participation in the BEST program, he writes, "has shown me the breadth and diversity of opportunities that exist for graduates... [and] provided me with opportunities to sample different career paths." Alex advises that BESTies interested in transitioning away from academia should involve themselves early and often with the BEST program, to "have lunch with the guest speakers, ask them about internships," and, perhaps most importantly, to "create your own opportunities."

Broadening
Experiences in
Scientific
Training



325 Caldwell Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853

www.BEST.cornell.edu