



Iowa State Research Day
March 27, 2018
Discover. Create. Together.

Story Collider Program
Sun Room, Memorial Union

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.



Meghana Akella is a PhD student from the Department of Mechanical Engineering. She finished her Master's from Purdue University, West Lafayette and her undergraduate degree from JNTU-Hyderabad, India. She joined Iowa State in 2015 to pursue her PhD. Her research interest is in the field of manufacturing nano-/micro-materials using acoustically-driven self-assembly and photolithography techniques. Apart from academics, she works on science communication projects like the Art in Science exhibit and science demonstrations to the general public. She has a diploma in Kuchipudi, an Indian classical dance. She also likes to read, knit and sing.



Barbara Ching is a professor of English and department chair. She is the author of *Wrong's What I Do Best: Hard Country Music and Contemporary Culture* (Oxford University Press, 2001) and many articles on rural identity, popular music and film. She edited and introduced *Old Roots, New Routes: The Cultural Politics of Alt.Country Music* with Pamela Fox (University of Michigan Press, 2008), *The Scandal of Susan Sontag* (Columbia University Press, 2009) and with ethnographer Gerald Creed, she introduced and edited *Knowing Your Place: Rural Identity and Cultural Hierarchy* (Routledge, 1996). She has served as the Executive Secretary of the North American Mycological Society, a citizen science group, since 2015, and as her story, "I Should Have Said I Wanted to be an Ethnomycologist" suggests, she wants to collaborate with researchers, writers, and anyone else who seeks out the plot twists that braid our disciplines and our histories into a richer and more useful ways of knowing the world.



Shannon M. Coleman is an assistant professor and State Food Safety and Consumer Production Extension Specialist in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State University (ISU). Her research and outreach efforts at ISU focus on improving food safety along the local food system, which includes projects on best practices for exempt home food operations and home bakeries (cottage foods), small (start-up) food manufactures, farmer's market vendors, and gardeners.



Michael Dahlstrom (moderator) is the associate director of the Greenlee School of Journalism and Communication at Iowa State University and an associate professor. His research focuses on how storytelling impacts the communication of science to non-expert audiences. His work in these areas extend across diverse scientific contexts, including risk, health, agricultural and environmental communication. Dahlstrom is co-editor of a recently published edited volume focusing on the often overlooked ethical challenges underlying science communication. Dahlstrom received a B.S. in biophysics, a B.A. in journalism, and a M.S. in biophysics from Iowa State University and a joint Ph.D. in journalism and mass communication and environmental resources from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Matthew Ellinwood is an Associate Professor of Animal Science. He is a comparative medical genetics researcher who uses his veterinary medicine and PhD training to study rare human genetic diseases also seen in animals with a goal of eliminating disease in companion animals and developing better treatments for human disease. He is a highly collaborative researcher working on a number of simple and complex animal model systems, using tools from behavior to biochemistry in his research. With his laboratory colleagues he leads an internationally recognized program focusing on treatments for the rare, often fatal, pediatric neurodegenerative diseases known as the Mucopolysaccharidosis disorders, or the MPSs.



Mani Mina is with Departments of Industrial Design and Electrical and Computer Engineering, a combination that allows him to dream and do from both sides of his brain. He is passionate about things that are not easy for him to fully understand, such as electromagnetism, the human side of engineering, and why is the speed of light so slow? He always followed his passion and his heart learning, studying, and engaging with all that is possible. This love of learning, and knowing, and getting to know people and their stories, makes him a confusing character for all friends and associates. He majored in physics and took enough classes to minor in 8 other areas, but he never declared them. Mani came back to the university after years in industry to be a part of students' experiences and to learn from them and their journeys.



Neelam Prabhu Gaunkar is a final year PhD student in Electrical Engineering. She is broadly interested in sensors and the phenomena of resonance and has tried to bring these together in her research. Her research specialty is in the area of magnetics. Therefore, for her dissertation, she is studying the feasibility of magnetic resonance in non-uniform magnetic fields. In simpler terms, she is trying to know if MRI systems can ever become portable! Besides her technical interests, Neelam likes to spend her free time learning new things. In the past few years, she has learned how to swim, play tennis and enjoys occasional Zumba sessions with her friends.