



## FILM

### **First Man Wins Sloan Science in Cinema Prize at SFFILM**

The 2018 [SFFILM Sloan Science in Cinema Prize](#), which recognizes the compelling depiction of science in a narrative feature film, was awarded to *First Man*. Based on the book *First Man: The Life of Neil A. Armstrong*, *First Man* tells the story of Armstrong and the years leading up to the historic Apollo 11 mission to the moon. From the heartbreaking Apollo 1 fire that killed three astronauts to Armstrong's



first mission on Gemini 8, the film portrays the emotional and technological challenges that led to the moon landing. Directed by Academy Award-winning director Damien Chazelle (*La La Land*, *Whiplash*), the film stars Ryan Gosling as Armstrong and Claire Foy as Armstrong's wife Janet. *First Man*, nominated for two Golden Globes, has already grossed over 100 million dollars at the box office and received positive critical reception from [The Wall Street Journal](#), [Rolling Stone](#), [The Washington Post](#), and [The Atlantic](#). The Sloan/SFFILM award was presented Saturday, December 8 at the

Castro Theatre in San Francisco. Following a screening of the film, Academy Award-winning *First Man* screenwriter Josh Singer; acclaimed author James R. Hansen, who wrote the book on which the film is based; former NASA astronaut Steve Swanson; and NASA scientist Leon Alkalai discussed the science behind the story and the film's journey to the big screen. The award is part of a 2017 grant to SFFILM to develop and champion films that explore scientific or technological themes and characters.

### **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind Awarded 2019 Sundance Sloan Feature Film Prize**

*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* has been chosen as the Sloan Feature Film Prize Winner at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, to be awarded January 29 in Park City. The jury cited the film "for its inspirational and culturally nuanced true-life tale of the transformational power of science and the inventive spirit to improve everyday lives everywhere, and for its moving depiction of intra-family dynamics and a pivotal father-son relationship." The film, directed by actor Chiwetel Ejiofor (*12 Years a*



*Slave*), tells the true story of a young boy in Malawi who helps his famine-plagued village by building a wind turbine to fuel an irrigation pump after reading about it in a library book. It is based on the book *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope*, co-written by the story's real-life hero William Kamkwamba and will be distributed by Netflix. This year's Sloan jury included chemist and biologist Mandë Holford, theoretical astrophysicist Katie Mack, screenwriter, producer, and

2018 Sundance Sloan Feature Film Prize winner Sev Ohanian (*Searching*), producer Lydia Dean Pilcher (*The Talented Mr. Ripley*, *The Darjeeling Limited*), and actor Corey Stoll (*House of Cards*, *First Man*). *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* will premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, where it will be recognized at a reception hosted by Sloan following a panel with filmmakers and scientists. At the awards reception, Sloan will also announce the winners of the 2019 Sloan Sundance Screenwriting Lab fellowship and the Sloan Sundance Commissioning Grant.



### **To Dust Opens in Theaters Aided by Sloan Distribution Grant**

The 4th annual Sloan/Film Independent Distribution Grant, a \$50,000 award to help the distribution of a completed film that explores science and technology themes or characters, was awarded to [To Dust](#), written and directed by Shawn Snyder and produced by Alessandro Nivola and Josh Crook. The film, which follows a Hasidic man who becomes obsessed with the body's decomposition after the death of his beloved wife, stars Géza Röhrig as the widower and Matthew Broderick as the biology teacher who



helps him. It will be released in select theaters February 8, 2019. The award is part of a grant to Film Independent to provide direct support to develop and distribute science and technology scripts, teleplays, and films. *To Dust* was also the recipient of the 2015 Sloan/New York University First Feature Award and the 2016 Sloan/Tribeca Film Institute Student Grant Jury Prize.

### **BOOKS**

#### **Sloan Book Program Honored by National Book Foundation**

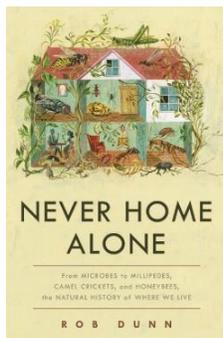
The National Book Foundation awarded Sloan VP and Program Director Doron Weber the 2018



Literarian Award at its 69th National Book Awards Ceremony. The award for “Outstanding Service to American Literature,” one of two annual lifetime achievement awards, is given to an individual for expanding the audience for books and reading and recognizes the more than one hundred books that have come out of the Sloan book program. Actor Nick Offerman (*Parks and Recreation*) hosted the ceremony and Sloan-supported *Hidden Figures* author Margot Lee Shetterly (pictured left) introduced Weber, who spoke about the importance of the Sloan Foundation’s work bridging the two cultures of science and the arts before a large audience that included luminaries from the literary and publishing communities. The Foundation was also represented at the black-tie ceremony by Board Chair Marta Tienda, President Adam Falk, and Senior Vice President and Treasurer Leisle Lin. The awards were covered by multiple news outlets, including [Publishers Weekly](#), [The Guardian](#), and [NBC News](#), among others.

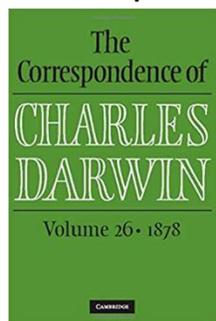


**Never Home Alone, by Rob Dunn, Published in November**



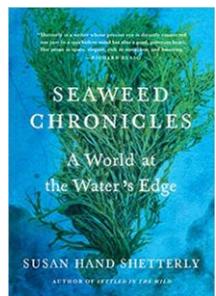
[Never Home Alone: From Microbes to Millipedes, Camel Crickets, and Honeybees, the Natural History of Where We Live](#) by biologist Rob Dunn, was published on November 6. The book looks at the creepy-crawly wildlife living in our homes, from microbes in the shower to spiders in the living room, and is based on research funded by the Sloan Microbiology of the Built Environment program. Since its publication, *Never Home Alone* has received positive coverage from [The New York Times](#), [Science News](#), [Kirkus](#), [Bookpage](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), and [Nature](#). Author Dunn discussed his book on a recent episode of the Sloan-supported PBS show [The Open Mind](#), hosted by Alexander Heffner. Dunn received a Sloan grant in 2016 to support the research and writing of this book.

**The Correspondence of Charles Darwin: Volume 26, 1878 Published in November**



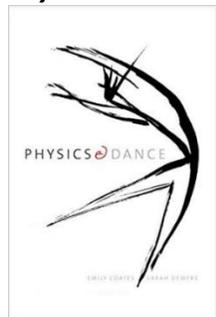
[The Correspondence of Charles Darwin, Volume 26](#), was published November 30 by Cambridge University Press. This is the latest volume to be published in an award-winning, definitive, 30-volume edition of letters by Charles Darwin, scheduled for completion by 2022. Volume 26 includes correspondence from the year 1878, including letters between Darwin and his son Francis and letters spanning Darwin's attempt to secure government support for Irish correspondents to breed a blight-resistant potato. Sloan provided a grant to the American Council of Learned Societies in 2010 to complete this work.

**Seaweed Chronicles, by Susan Hand Shetterly, Published in August**



[Seaweed Chronicles: A World at the Water's Edge](#), by Susan Hand Shetterly, was published on August 7 by Algonquin Books. Seaweed has a quiet but essential presence in our lives, from sushi in the grocery store to providing half the oxygen in Earth's atmosphere. As demand for seaweed rises, so do the possible consequences, not only for the coastline of Shetterly's home state of Maine, but also for the global environment. The book has been reviewed favorably in [The Washington Post](#), [Scientific American](#), and [The Wall Street Journal](#). Shetterly received a Sloan grant in 2017 for the research and writing of this book.

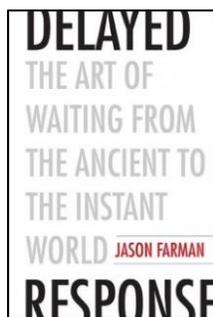
**Physics and Dance, by Emily Coates and Sarah Demers, to be Published in January**



[Physics and Dance](#), written by [Emily Coates](#), a former member of New York City Ballet, and [Sarah Demers](#), a CERN particle physicist, is set to be published on January 22, 2019. The book combines images, line drawings, and video content with a course book to examine introductory concepts in physics and dance. You can learn more about the authors' work by listening to an [interview](#) on the Sloan-supported podcast *Science Friday* from earlier this year. Coates and Demers received a Sloan grant in 2014 to support research, supplementary images, drawings, and video for this book.

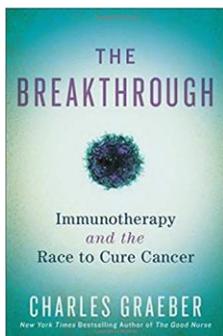


**Delayed Response, by Jason Farman, Published in November**



[Delayed Response: The Art of Waiting from the Ancient to the Instant World](#), by award winning author and media studies scholar [Jason Farman](#), was published on November 20 by Yale University Press. Looking at the different ways people have communicated over time, Farman argues that waiting is a fundamental part of the messages we send. The book has received positive coverage from [The Atlantic](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#), and Farman was interviewed for an episode of the podcast [Think](#). Farman received a Sloan grant in 2017 for the research and writing of this book.

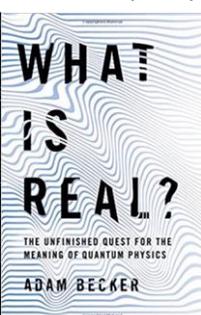
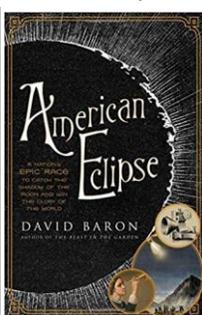
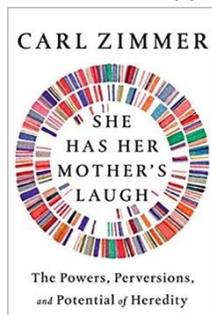
**The Breakthrough, by Charles Graeber, Published in November**



[The Breakthrough: Immunotherapy and the Race to Cure Cancer](#), by *New York Times* bestselling author [Charles Graeber](#), was published on November 13 by Twelve, a division of the Hachette Book Group. Weaving together history, science, and the stories of patients, doctors, and caregivers, Graeber examines the intersection between cancer and immunology and its potential to impact the course of cancer care. Since the book's publication, Graeber has written articles for [The Guardian](#) and [WIRED](#) on the same topic. The book has also received positive coverage in [Nature](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), and the [Courier Journal](#). Graeber received a Sloan grant in 2016 to support the research and writing of this book.

**Sloan-Supported *She Has Her Mother's Laugh, American Eclipse, and What is Real?* Honored**

Three Sloan-supported books published in the past year have received honors this quarter. [She Has Her](#)



[Mother's Laugh: The Powers, Perversions, and Potential of Heredity](#), by *New York Times* science columnist Carl Zimmer, was [named one of the top ten books of 2018](#) by Publishers Weekly and one of [100 Notable Books of 2018](#) by *The New York Times*. The book presents a history of our understanding of heredity, from the birth of genetics in the early 1900s to at-home genetic tests today, and has received overwhelmingly

positive critical reception. [American Eclipse: A Nation's Epic Race to Catch the Shadow of the Moon and Win the Glory of the World](#), by award-winning author, journalist, and broadcaster David Baron, won the [American Institute of Physics 2018 Science Communication Awards](#) for books. The book centers on a total solar eclipse, visible in the American West, that took place in July 1878. [What Is Real?: The Unfinished Quest for the Meaning of Quantum Physics](#), by Adam Becker, was [shortlisted for Physics World's 2018 Book of the Year](#). The book tells the history of quantum mechanics, from Niels Bohr's dominant Copenhagen Interpretation to physicists who risked their careers to question the theory, such as John Bell, David Bohm, and Hugh Everett.



**THEATER**

**Ensemble Studio Theatre Hosts Artist Cultivation Panel for Sloan Theater Program**

Marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sloan/Ensemble Studio Theatre (EST) partnership, EST hosted a special Sloan Artist Cultivation Panel in November. At the event, EST artistic director William Carden discussed what makes a great science play with Sloan-supported playwrights Cassandra Medley (*Relativity*), Lucas Hnath (*Issac’s Eye*), Charly Evon Simpson (*Behind the Sheet*), and Anna Ziegler (*Photograph 51; Boy*), all with EST/Sloan Mainstage productions. The panel also included Sloan VP and



Program Director Doron Weber and EST/Sloan’s three science consultants, Yeshiva University physicist Gabriel Cwilich and Columbia University biologists Stuart Firestein and Darcy Kelley. The event was free and open to any playwright interested in developing a play about science or technology. For two decades, the pioneering EST/Sloan partnership has commissioned, developed, and produced hundreds of new plays that explore science and technology and challenge existing stereotypes of scientists and engineers.

**EST/Sloan-Commissioned Play about Controversial Pioneer in Gynecology to Open in January**

[\*Behind the Sheet\*](#), a Sloan-commissioned play written by Charly Evon Simpson and produced by the



EST/Sloan Project, opens January 17 in New York City. The play is inspired by the life of Dr. J. Marion Sims, a controversial 19<sup>th</sup> century gynecologist credited as “the father of modern gynecology” (pictured left in a painting by Robert Thom). The play explores the fictionalized lives of the enslaved black women Sims experimented on to become a pioneer in his field. In a recent interview with [Sloan Science and Film](#), Simpson said: “One of the things that I find really interesting about looking at history is that we have to hold in our hands the good things that people do and the bad things that people do. We so quickly want to put a person or a thing in one category: good or bad. I’m interested in how

we hold both of those things as true.”



TELEVISION

**American Experience’s Sloan-Supported Sealab to Premiere in February**

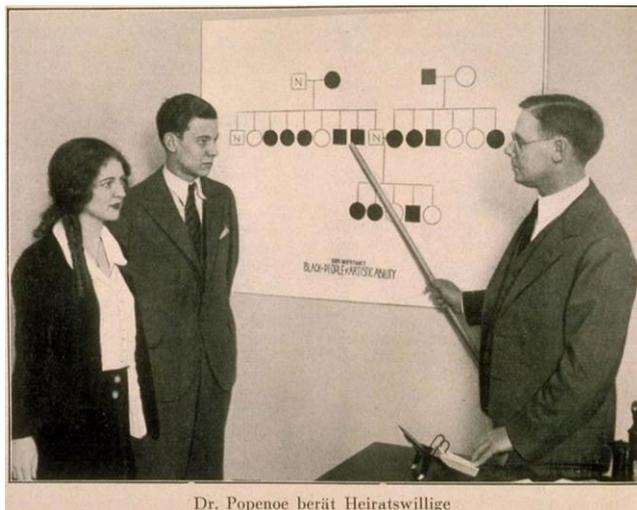
*Sealab*, an upcoming documentary in the Sloan-supported *American Experience* series, will premiere on February 5 on PBS. The film tells the little-known story of an elite group of divers working in a pressurized underwater habitat (pictured below) at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. The United States



Navy-developed project, which began in early 1960s, aimed to explore the unknown ocean in the same way that astronauts at the time were attempting to visit outer space. Work done from aboard the Sealab advanced understanding of deep sea diving and rescue, as well as the psychological impact of prolonged confinement. This show is the latest of four produced through Sloan’s two million dollar grant to American Experience, which supports projects like *The Eugenics Crusade*, *The Secret of Tuxedo Park*, *Rachel Carson*, and *The Race Underground*.

**The Eugenics Crusade and Nova Wonders Now Available on DVD**

Two Sloan-supported television series, American Experience’s *The Eugenics Crusade* and NOVA’s *Nova Wonders*, are now on DVD following 2018 PBS premieres. *The Eugenics Crusade*, which premiered in October, explores the dark history of eugenics and its role in society. From the coining of the term “eugenics” in 1883 by Sir Francis Galton, to Hitler’s use of eugenics as justification for the murder of



millions of people, to current day debates about gene editing, designer babies, and immigration, the film is relevant to issues we face today. *Nova Wonders*, which premiered in April, features six one-hour episodes that each tackle a major question in science—about artificial intelligence, extraterrestrial life, animal communication, genetic engineering, dark matter and dark energy, and the microbiome. The series is hosted by Talithia Williams, Associate Dean for Research and Experiential Learning and Associate Professor of Mathematics at Harvey Mudd College; André Fenton, Professor of Neural Science at New York University; and Rana el Kaliouby, CEO and co-founder of Affectiva.



### Senate Passes Congressional Gold Medal Act to Honor *Hidden Figures* Women Scientists

Following the rancorous midterm elections in November, the U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan bill to award the highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to the real-life women scientists (pictured below) portrayed in the Sloan-supported book *Hidden Figures*. The bills honor Katherine Johnson and Christine Darden, and posthumously Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan, for their contributions to science during the space race. “These four remarkable women and their contributions to the success of the Space Race remained unacknowledged for far too long,” Virginia Senators Mark



Warner and Tim Kaine said in a statement. “We are thrilled that their achievements while at NASA Langley—particularly during a tough period of racial inequality—continue to be brought to light.” A companion bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and is awaiting approval. Sloan has been involved behind the scenes, and it is hoped the bill will be ready for signing before the new Congress is installed in January.

### Block Outside NASA Headquarters to be Named “Hidden Figures Way”

The introduction of a bill to honor the women scientists of *Hidden Figures* is not the only legislation to come out of the critically acclaimed Sloan-supported bestseller. A [bipartisan bill](#) was introduced to the Senate to rename the street in front of the NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C. “Hidden Figures Way,” to celebrate the contributions of Katherine Johnson, Christine Darden, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy



Vaughan, as well as all the women computers who worked at NASA during the space race. Introducing the bill, Texas Senator Ted Cruz said, “The women who worked at NASA as computers played a pivotal role in advancing America’s leadership in space, and were trailblazers for the next generation of Americans... Women who worked as computers demonstrated incredible strength and resilience, and I’m grateful for the leadership of Sens. Markey, Thune, and Nelson in ensuring the legacy of hidden figures everywhere is not forgotten.”



## RADIO

### Pioneering Sloan Radio Program Honored for Two Decades of Support at WNYC Gala

At the 2018 New York Public Radio Gala, Sloan’s radio program was honored “for providing transformative support for work at the intersection of science, technology, and the arts.” Sloan



Foundation VP and Program Director Doron Weber received the award on behalf of the Sloan Foundation from Radiolab hosts Jad Abumrad and Robert Krulwich (pictured left). The Sloan Foundation, also represented at the gala by Board President Marta Tienda and President Adam Falk, provided founding support for Radiolab more than a decade ago, taking a chance on five, free-standing, one-hour themed radio shows without a regular time slot, the predecessor to what we call podcasts today. Now, Radiolab is a household name and one of the most popular and acclaimed podcasts on iTunes. The Public Understanding program has been a

supporter of WNYC for over 20 years, telling unique stories in science through The Health Unit, Studio 360, and special series on important issues.

## UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

### Consumer Reports Names Best Wireless Home Security Cameras

Using the Digital Standard for digital privacy and security criteria supported by a new Sloan grant, Consumer Reports named the [four best wireless home security cameras](#). The testing looked at privacy policies and other public documentation and inspected user interface and network traffic. “Your home is a very private place. We chose to add tests for data security and data privacy to our evaluations of wireless security cameras because they’re capable of capturing and transmitting very sensitive data,” said program manager Robert Richter. Through this testing, Consumer Reports also found one home



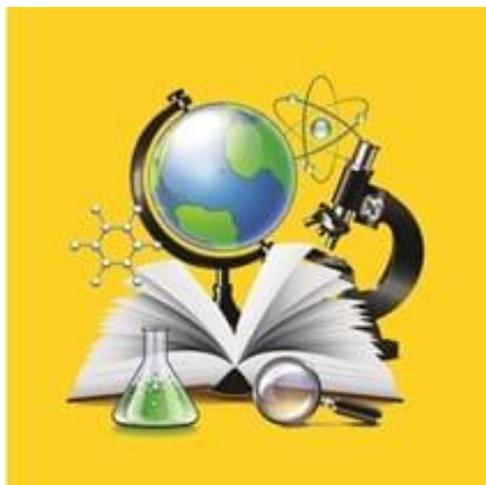
camera produced by D-Link that made consumers’ personal data vulnerable to hackers. In response to the findings, D-Link will tighten security this year. Work with the Digital Standard is part of a 2018 grant to Consumer Reports to research consumer attitudes on digital privacy, convene experts and test technology platforms on their privacy practices, and educate consumers about digital privacy and security.



## NEW MEDIA

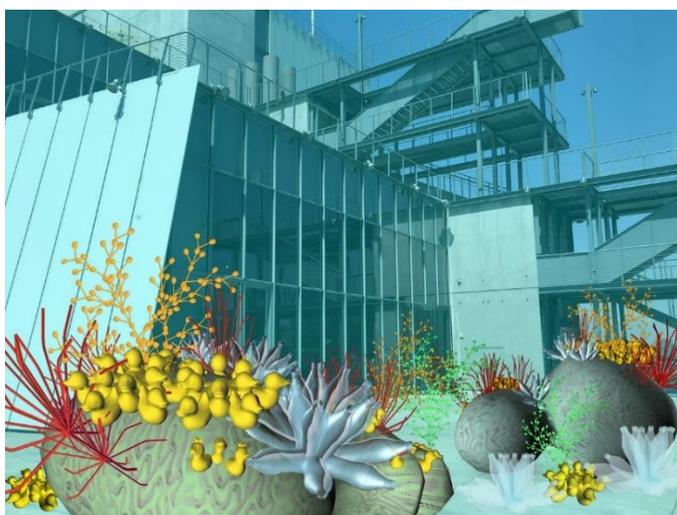
### NYAS Holds Sloan-Supported Symposium on Science Denialism

[“Science Denial: Lessons and Solutions,”](#) the Sloan-supported symposium hosted by the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) took place on November 2. Sheila Jasanoff, Professor of Science and Technology Studies at the Harvard Kennedy School, delivered the keynote lecture, “Denial or Distrust? — On Not Solving the Wrong Problem,” which was followed by four sessions on [“The History of Science Denial and its Consequences for Global Health,”](#) [“Understanding the Spread of Science Denial,”](#) [“Overcoming Science Denial: Studying the Successes and Failures,”](#) and [“Elevating Science in Public Policy and Public Discourse.”](#) This is the second of two Sloan-supported events on science denialism by the NYAS, following [“Science Denialism, Public Policy, and Global Health,”](#) a sold-out symposium hosted by Sloan-supported *Science Friday’s* Ira Flatow on June 28. Both events were recorded and can be streamed for free on the [NYAS’s Vimeo page](#).



### Sloan Staff Visits Foundation-Supported Art and Technology Exhibit at the Whitney Museum

Foundation staff visited [Programmed: Rules, Codes, and Choreographies in Art, 1965-2018](#), a new Sloan-supported art and technology exhibit at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. The cross-disciplinary exhibition, on view now through April 14, 2019, “traces how rules and instructions in art have both responded to and been shaped by technologies.” The October 31 visit included both a tour and a discussion in the conservation lab with Museum Director Adam Weinberg, Associate Director for Conservation and Research Carol Mancusi-Ungaro, Adjunct Curator of Digital Art Christine Paul, and Senior Technician, Exhibitions and Collections Management, Richard Bloes. The discussion centered on the extensive conservation work needed to prepare the Nam June Paik exhibit centerpiece, which was also featured in a recent [Whitney Museum short video](#). *Programmed* has received positive coverage in [ARTnews](#), [Musée](#), [Sotheby’s Museum Network](#), and [Forbes](#), among others. Support for the exhibit comes from a recent multi-media authorization grant to the Whitney Museum for \$100,000.

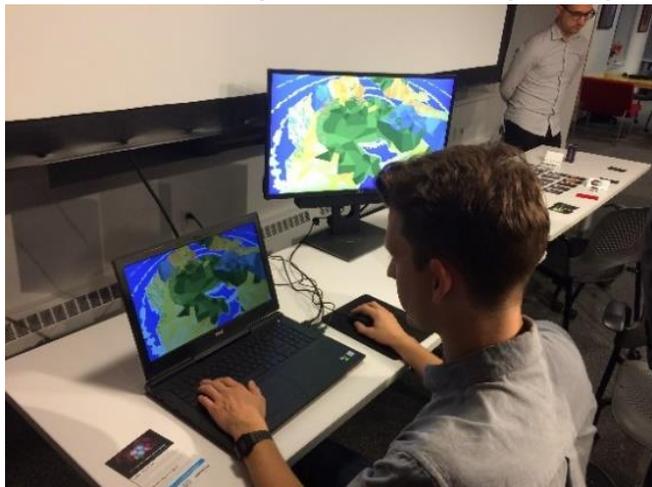




## GAMES

### Sloan Award-Winning Games Featured at NYU's Playtest Thursdays

Three Sloan-winning games were available for testing and exploration at a special edition of Playtest Thursdays, a weekly event by the New York University Game Center that brings together local game designers, game enthusiasts, and students to test and refine new games. Owen Bell, the inaugural 2016 Sloan-winner, exhibited his game *Mendel* (pictured left), where players explore Mendelian genetics through gardening on a strange planet. *Mendel* is now completed and available on gaming platforms including [Steam](#) and [Itch](#). 2017 winners Danny Nanni and Zachary Barash tested *AstronoME*, a card game inspired by real astronomical techniques that is on-track to be sold in the gift shop at the American Museum of Natural History. Recent 2018 winner Shiyun "Vanilla" Liu showed a newly refined version of her farming and resource management game *Hyper EcoFarm*, a mobile game that is expected



to be published in the App Store by the end of this year. Afterwards, the three winners joined Game Center Professor Matt Parker and Sloan Foundation VP and Program Director Doron Weber for a panel discussion on the impact of the Sloan production award and how to create new games that meaningfully integrate science and technology. The Sloan production award for games provides the opportunity to support talented young artists and reach new audiences through the immensely popular medium of gaming and is part of a 2012 grant to the NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

**Program Team:** Doron Weber, *Vice President, Programs and Program Director* | Ali Chunovic, *Program Associate* | Delia DiBiasi, *Senior Program and Investments Assistant*