Sunny Ni, a PhD candidate at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, has recently published in the acclaimed journal Nature. Her work on science communication and the role of scientific experts in the environmental issues in modern China has opened a new door into how we see experts in the realm of scientific discussion.

The central focus of Sunny's PhD work with ESF focuses on the contemporary issues that China faces and who plays what role in their solutions. Currently, many of the studies on China's issues focus on policy makers and the Non-Governmental Organizations that are debating these issues. Sunny's research focuses on the scientific experts who go beyond the lab to engage with the public and their communities. Sunny hopes to discover what motivates these scientists to take these extra steps into communication and how their voice can be increased in the realm of public dissemination of information.

Sunny is very excited to be attending ESF. She sees the network that the university provides as invaluable and has gained a great deal of support from professors and her major professor, Dr. David Sonnenfeld. The great network of information provided by ESF and the connections this college has with Syracuse University has greatly improved her education and the opportunities she has for research. She has truly gained cross-disciplinary perspectives of the real world issues she is researching.