Top 10 reasons to study bugs

1. And the top reason to study bugs is: bugs are just too cool!

2. Insects affect billions of $$ in agriculture for good as pollinators and bad as herbivores. Study such insects and you can help society.

3. Students studying insects at Cornell get in to top graduate schools or get jobs at non-profit organizations, such as Nature Conservancy and museums.

4. Insects live on all continents. Small flies even live year round on Antarctica. You can travel the world and work with insects where ever you go.

5. Insects have been around for 370 million years and have evolved solutions to many problems that still confound engineers. The new field of biomimetic design builds on the functional morphology of insects.

6. More species of insect have their genome sequenced than any other type of multicellular organism. To study the blueprint for life, insects are a great place to start.

7. Many serious diseases across the world have insect vectors. You’ll need to learn insect biology if you want to cure a disease.

8. Many physiological processes, such as nutrient specific hunger, are similar in insects and other animals, but are easier to study in insects.

9. Over half of the 2 million species described in the world are insects, thus there is a certain generality that pertains to all studies of insects. If you’re interested in biodiversity or ecology you need to study insects. Do it at Cornell, we’re the best.

10. The Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine has recently been awarded to biologists studying insects. How will you know which bug to work on for your Nobel Prize unless you study insects?