Brooks Annual Experiential Learning Showcase



Annual Fund Stewardship

Bridget Meeds

Brooks School of Public Policy

Cornell University

THE CORNELL BROOKS SCHOOL PRESENTS

The Brooks Annual Experiential Learning Showcase

Friday, September 26
12:00 – 2:00 pm | MVR 2219











Cornell Brooks Public Policy

Stewardship Event Overview

Brooks School Annual Fund provides grants to 30 students per year to fund internships, research experiences, and service-learning trips

The Brooks Annual Experiential Learning Showcase is an annual event where grant recipients present posters reflecting on their experiences

Content from the event is repurposed for digital stewardship via email newsletters and social posts, as well as in person display of posters at donor events throughout the year

Content is also repurposed for future annual fund solicitations

Event audience includes donors, faculty, and fellow students



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Angel Puder, '26
Master of Public Administration

My Research



City of Ithaca's Mission

They strive to make Ithaca a model community; a great place to create, dream, live, learn, work, and play. They deliver high quality services to preserve and enhance the well-being of Ithaca's community.

Angel Puder posing in front of the Brooks School of Public Policy Banner

- **My Opportunity**
  Partnered with the City of Ithaca's Mayor office to research the economic impact of homelessness on the city
- **Key Responsibilities**
  Conducted monthly check-ins with the Deputy City Manager and Encampment Response Coordinator on my progress
  Drafted and revised a white paper on homelessness
- **Significant Achievements**
  Authored a white paper titled "**The Economic and Human Cost of Homelessness in Ithaca**"
  Distributed findings to key stakeholders
- **Future Plans**
  This research strengthened my commitment to advancing affordable housing and food security policies—key areas often at risk when individuals experience homelessness.

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Kimia Shahriyar, '28
Health Care Policy

Scripps Research



Scripps Research

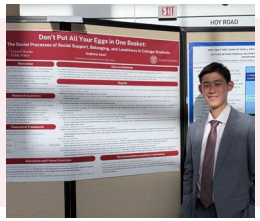
A nonprofit scientific institute dedicated to breakthroughs for global health, integrating transitional research to propose evidence-based solutions.

Preparing tubes for antibody staining in flow cytometry analysis

- **My Opportunity**
  I held a research assistant position at the Laboratory of Immune Longevity, studying how long-lived plasma cells sustain durable immunity. I worked on informing vaccine strategies that address public health challenges, such as pandemic preparedness.
- **Key Responsibilities**
  I prepared reagents, assisted with genotyping, and supported flow cytometry to identify and characterize LLPCs. I contributed to research discussions linking findings to policy priorities, including vaccine design frameworks that promote sustained herd immunity.
- **Significant Achievements**
  I contributed to experiments confirming successful LLPC labeling via Cre-inducible uLIPSTIC system, enabling high-resolution niche interactions. I presented at the annual Scripps Research summer poster session.
- **Future Plans**
  I hope to merge immunology research with policy advocacy to promote durable and globally accessible vaccines.

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Andrew Juan '25
Health Care Policy



Honors Thesis Study

I conducted independent research in fulfillment of an honors thesis under the guidance of Dr. Sharon Sassler, Dr. Peter Rich, and Dr. Jamie Budnick. My work is titled "Don't Put All Your Eggs in One Basket: The Social Processes of Social Support, Belonging, and Loneliness in College Students"

Poster Presentation at CURB

- **My Opportunity**
  The grant allowed me to be able to provide financial incentives for participants to be interviewed in my study about student social support, belonging, and loneliness.
- **Key Responsibilities**
  I independently created the research plan, conducted an extensive literature review, collected and analyzed the data, and compiled the work into a cohesive thesis, oral defense, and poster presentation.
- **Significant Achievements**
  My successful defense of my thesis in front of my three faculty advisors was the most significant moment, as they wanted to provide the most realistic, intense experience similar to one I would obtain in graduate school.
- **Future Plans**
  I am currently taking a few gap years to work prior to applying to MD/PhD programs in sociology and public policy. My honors thesis work solidified my interest in this work, and it has developed my research and communication skills.

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Issa Maymouna Yaya
MPA(Class of 2026)

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI



Research Question

What are smallholder farmers' perceptions and barriers to commercial farming?

UPPER MIDLANDS AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES (UMATI)

- **My Opportunity**

Identify factors that promote black smallholder farmer participation within the beef value chain. Understand policies that may prevent or incentivize their participation.

- **Key Responsibilities**

Evaluate the distribution of national beef industry in South Africa. Collect and analyze data of smallholder and commercial farmers in KwaZulu Natal Province in South Africa.

- **Significant Achievements**

Completed and presented research findings to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) of South Africa.

- **Future Plans**

Take more Agricultural finance and management classes. Attend more conferences and events on agricultural research and build a network with industry professionals. Work with the world food programe.

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Natalie Kimbrough/Cornell University

During his summer internship, Brooks School student Everett Smith '27 explored how wetlands policies affect not only avian populations and migration patterns but also the human communities that depend on those ecosystems.

AROUND CORNELL

News directly from Cornell's colleges and centers

Brooks student combines love of birds and climate policy research during summer internship

By Giles Morris, Cornell Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy

October 14, 2025

Everett Smith '27 started birding when he was just 7 years old. Growing up in the Netherlands, his family would travel to the U.S. during the summers to stay with relatives by the Chesapeake Bay. Back then, the ospreys captured his imagination.

This summer, Smith turned his lifelong passion into purpose through a new internship program jointly offered by the Cornell Brooks School of Public Policy and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Under the guidance of Brooks School professor Sheila Olmstead, Smith explored how wetlands policies affect not only avian populations and migration patterns but also the human communities that depend on those ecosystems.



Cornell University: Cornell Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy reposted this

Colleen Barry • 2nd
Inaugural Dean of the Cornell Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy | Resea...
1d •

+ Follo

I loved hearing from our students at this year's Cornell Brooks School Experiential Learning Showcase and seeing how they are putting policy into practice. I am grateful to our Brooks School donors for helping open doors to these transformative, ...more

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Brooks School Experiential Learning Showcase 2025

What an inspiring afternoon at this year's Experiential Learning Showcase! The event kicked off Homecoming Weekend with a networking and poster session, where Brooks Opportunity Grantees showcased their research, internships, and engaged learning experiences.

Through Brooks Opportunity Grants, made possible by our generous donors, students gain access to meaningful hands-on experiences that connect classroom learning to real-world impact.

A big thank-you to all the students, alumni, faculty, and staff who joined us to celebrate experiential learning at the Brooks School!

Swipe through for highlights from the event.



BROOKS BEAT

Cornell Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy | 10.16.25







OUR COMMUNITY

Brooks Opportunity Grantees shared their research, internships, and community-engaged projects at the 2025 Experiential Learning Showcase. Swipe through for highlights from the event here >

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Ezra,

One of the founding principles of the Brooks School is that all students should have the opportunity to learn how public policy works in the real world.

Your gift to the Brooks Annual Fund ensures that students, regardless of their financial means, can experience firsthand how policy works in non-profit, governmental, private sector, and research organizations.

FUND STUDENT EXPERIENCES



Kimia Shahriya '28 (Health Care Policy) spent the summer as a Research Assistant at the Laboratory of Immune Longevity, studying how long-lived plasma cells sustain durable immunity. **This experience helped solidify her career goal of merging immunology research with policy advocacy to promote globally accessible vaccines.**



Eeshaan Chaudhuri '27 (Public Policy) spent his summer as a Research Assistant at the Brooks Tech Policy Institute, where he co-authored a report on the need for rapid policy reform in the semiconductor industry for economic and national defense purposes.

Eeshaan aspires to a career in international relations.

At the Brooks School, our commitment to funding experiences like these is only possible with your generosity. **Thank you for supporting this work by making a gift today.**

to do the greatest good

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