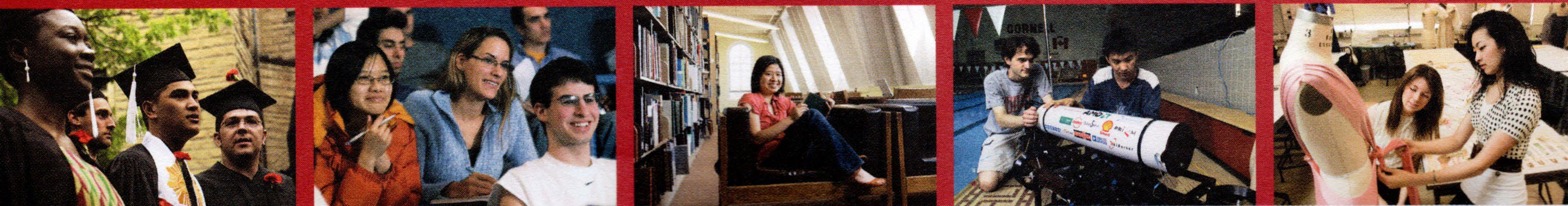


Cornell University

Thank You



Academic Year 2023-2024

Dear Class of 1961:

Thank you so much for your contribution scholarships and for making my education at Cornell possible with the Class of 1961 Scholarship. I come from a low-income family and would have not been able to attend Cornell without financial assistance, so my gratitude comes from a very genuine place. I come from a family of immigrants (Ukraine and Belarus), but grew up around Sacramento, California. I never even considered Cornell or any out-of-state schools before my junior year in high school because my understanding was that financially, it was not an option for us. When I learned about financial aid and just how much Cornell and other similar-level schools offer, this all changed for me. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to be and learn here, and I feel like that gratitude grows with each passing semester.

My path here hasn't exactly been linear. I started out in engineering, then switched to environment & sustainability, and am now studying information science. I think this is an extremely interesting and important field of study with immensely broad applications. My favorite course that I've taken here (which I'm currently a TA for) is INFO4240: Designing Tech for Social Impact. I think technology is very prevalent in our society and is becoming exponentially more prevalent and integrated with our existing and emerging systems/infrastructures. While my interest in this field comes from a genuine place of curiosity, it also comes from a place of social responsibility. Lack of representation can lead to many ethical issues, as we have seen historically, so in a way I feel responsible for examining the issues around ethics and representation in this field.

I love to study on the slope on a nice day, bare feet in the grass. My dad says it's the best medicine. I believe it. You should try it out if it's not already a regular practice in your life.

Again, thank you so much for your contribution. It's really changed the trajectory of my life, in a good way. I hope you all are enjoying life and living well, wherever you are. <3

Warmly,
Tanya Kasyanchuk