

Alex Meinhard



Alex Meinhard · 2nd

Traffic Safety | Clemson University Men's Soccer | National ...
1w · 🌐

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Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.

This quote was mentioned multiple times throughout this year's **Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety** at Long Beach, California, and it fits extremely well in the world of traffic safety.

I had the privilege of being chosen as one of 29 Traffic Safety Scholars for this year's conference, and it was a great way to learn and discuss with like-minded people. A big thank you to everyone who shared their expertise and perspectives and to the planning committee, whose efforts ensured the success of this event. I look forward to staying engaged and applying the insights learned from the conference!



👍❤️🌱 45

7 comments · 1 repost

Reactions

Nicole Aredes



Nicole Aredes · 2nd
Civil Engineering and Portuguese @ UMass Amherst
1w · 🌐

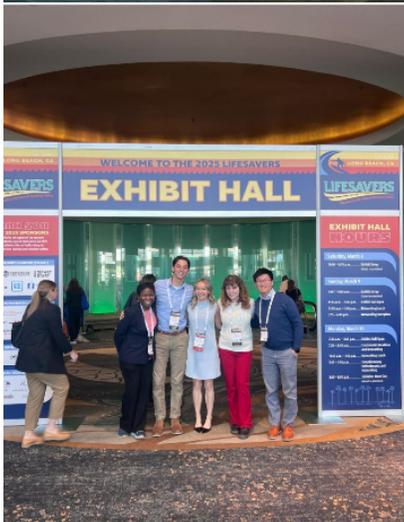


This week, I had the pleasure of attending the 43rd annual **Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety** in Long Beach, California as a Traffic Safety Scholar (TSS)!

It was so incredible to meet traffic safety advocates who are passionately working to make our roads safer. By attending the Lifesavers Conference, I was introduced to many topics in roadway safety beyond engineering, such as communications and public health. I am returning to UMass with a broader perspective that I will carry with me as I continue to grow.

Through the Traffic Safety Scholars program, I connected with phenomenal students doing great work to advance our understanding and promotion of roadway safety. Meeting these fellow students has been incredible. It is so inspiring to see how at Lifesavers everyone comes together to advance one goal: roadway safety for all.

Big thank you to the Lifesavers Planning Committee, Mary Lofgren, and all those involved in the TSS program for making this such a powerful experience!
[#Lifesavers2025](#)



Muhammed Irfan



Muhammad Sami Irfan · 2nd

Graduate Research Assistant at The University of Alabama

1w · 🌐

+ Follow ...

This week, I had the amazing opportunity to represent the University of Alabama at the 2025 Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety in Long Beach, California—the largest gathering of traffic safety professionals. I was honored to be designated as one of 30 Traffic Safety Scholars, selected from hundreds of applicants across the U.S. and beyond.

It was truly inspiring to connect with dedicated individuals working toward the common goal of reducing and eliminating traffic deaths and injuries. I gained valuable insights on topics such as child passenger safety, impaired driving, autonomous vehicle deployment challenges, and innovative road safety measures. I also had the privilege of networking with fellow Traffic Safety Scholars, industry experts, and safety professionals. This experience has further strengthened my commitment to Vision Zero and the Safe System approach, and I look forward to applying these principles in my future work.

I am grateful to the Conference Planning Committee members for making this amazing event possible. And a special thanks to Mary Lofgren, [Tara Casanova Powell](#), Michelle Khoury, [Rick Birt](#), [Miguel Acosta](#), and [Nat Beuse](#) for making this experience truly memorable.

[#LifeSavers2025](#) [#TrafficSafetyScholar](#) [#RoadSafety](#)



🌐 Tara Casanova Powell and 35 others

Aparna Joshi



Aparna Joshi · 2nd

PhD @ Iowa State University || Data Science || Machine Lear...
1w · 🌐

[+ Follow](#) ...

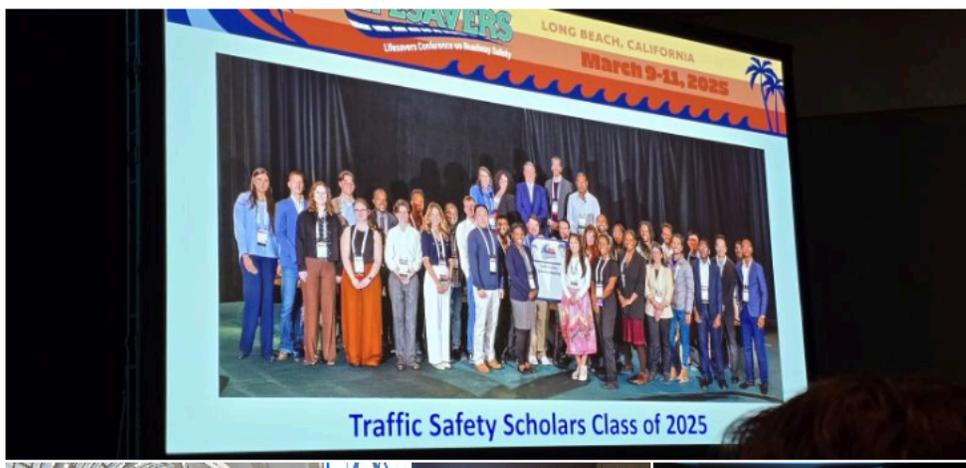
Just wrapped up an incredible experience at the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) in Long Beach, where I had the honor of being selected as one of 29 Traffic Safety Scholars from a highly competitive pool, representing [Iowa State University](#).

Going into the conference, I primarily viewed traffic safety through the lens of data and engineering. But after hearing from law enforcement officers, public health experts, policymakers, educators, and advocates—all working toward the same goal—I walked away with a much broader perspective. The most powerful moments came from hearing the voices of families who have lost loved ones to roadway tragedies, which reinforced the core truth: the only acceptable number is 0.

Connecting with my fellow Traffic Safety Scholars—a group of passionate, driven individuals—was just as impactful. Our discussions made it clear that change happens when different perspectives come together. A huge thank you to [Tara Casanova Powell](#), [Rick Birt](#), and the entire planning committee for making this conference such a powerful experience and for ensuring the scholars felt so welcome.

Thanks to my advisor, [Anuj Sharma](#), for his constant guidance and support throughout this journey.

[#Lifesavers2025](#) [#TrafficSafetyScholar](#) [#LifesaversConference](#)



Liaba Khan



Liaba Khan · 2nd

Graduate Research Assistant | MPH Candidate 2025 | Public Health & Tr...

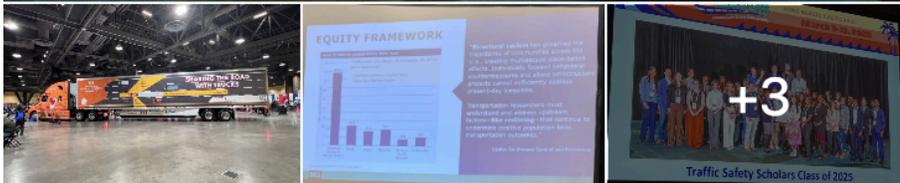
1w · Edited · 🌐

Attending the 2025 Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety in Long Beach as a Traffic Safety Scholar was an amazing experience that reinforced my passion for traffic safety and equity.

One of my biggest takeaways was that we can't keep approaching traffic safety in silos. It's not just about infrastructure, enforcement, or behavior. It's about designing a system that prevents crashes before they happen while ensuring that solutions don't reinforce disparities.

I'm very grateful for the knowledge I've gained and the connections I've made. A huge thank you to the Lifesavers Conference team and the Traffic Safety Scholars Program for this opportunity. I'm excited to carry these lessons forward in my work!

[#TrafficSafety](#) [#Lifesavers2025](#)



Tara Casanova Powell and 29 others

2 comments

My Journey as a 2025 Lifesavers Scholar

📅 Published on March 18, 2025 in Research In Action

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By Tom Seacrist

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend my very first Lifesavers Conference for Road Safety as a Traffic Safety Scholar. As a research engineer at CIRP and a part-time doctoral student at UPenn, my work often happens behind the scenes. It's easy to lose sight of how my research interacts with the broader traffic safety community. Attending Lifesavers allowed me to see firsthand the difference my research, and that of CIRP, is making for traffic safety stakeholders from all over the country.

How I Discovered Lifesavers

Even though I've been involved in traffic safety research for over a decade, I had never made it to Lifesavers...until now. The conference has always been on my radar since I first learned about Lifesavers during a lunch conversation early in my career at CIRP. My colleagues Drs. Kristy Arbogast and Mark Zonfrillo were chatting about the conference and suggested that everyone should attend Lifesavers at least once in their career. So, when I found out about the Traffic Safety Scholars program during my return to grad school, I jumped at the chance to attend.



Tom Seacrist with Suzanne Hill, Lifesavers Conference Vice-Chair and CIRP's Strategy Director

What Stood Out at Lifesavers

One of the highlights of the Lifesavers Conference[®] was connecting with fellow scholars and professionals in the field. Unlike academic research conferences, I had the chance to meet front-line traffic safety professionals—think law enforcement and EMS, driving instructors, large and small businesses— all dedicated to making our roadways safer. This interaction sparked new research ideas and potential collaborations that I am excited to explore.

I also enjoyed the variety of workshop topics available. I stepped outside my engineering comfort zone and explored sessions on Criminal Justice and on Communications. These workshops really drove home the importance of conducting research that can be translated into actionable policies and community programs— a lesson I plan to carry forward in my own career.

But what truly struck me about Lifesavers was the camaraderie among attendees. There was a genuine desire to share best-practices and learn from one another, all in pursuit of our common goal: reducing the toll of roadway crash deaths and injuries.

Congratulations and Thank You!

A huge shoutout to my fellow 2025 Traffic Safety Scholars[®]. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Lifesavers Board Members and Planning Committee—especially Rick Birt, Danielle Wolfe, Tara Casanova-Powell, and Mary Lofgren—for making this such a rewarding experience.

Looking Ahead

If you're in the field of traffic safety and considering a career in that space, I highly recommend attending Lifesavers at least once during your career. The fresh perspectives I gained from the workshops and the amazing new colleagues have broadened my understanding of traffic safety. I look forward to future Lifesavers, perhaps where I can present my research in a workshop.

Emma Mays



Emma Mays · 2nd

Colonel Robinson Scholar and Honors Student at the Unive...
6d · Edited · 🌐

+ Follow ...

Over spring break, I had the pleasure of attending the Lifesavers 2025 conference in Long Beach, California. At Lifesavers, I had the privilege of being a Speaker, Exhibitor, and Traffic Safety Scholar.

I was selected as one of the 29 Traffic Safety Scholars this year, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to connect with fellow scholars. The Traffic Safety Scholar program recognizes students in various fields at various levels of higher education working to advance traffic safety measures. I consistently found myself learning from my peers, which allowed me to think outside of the box and bring new ideas back home with me.

I spoke during two sessions throughout the conference about youth engagement and outreach. The first session was an all-SADD staff member panel titled, "Navigating College Outreach: Routes, Speed Bumps, & Traffic Jams". Here we spoke about our college outreach experiences in traffic safety. I had the pleasure of working with [Louis Pratt](#), [Deanna Grossi](#), and the wonderful [Eliza Fitzpatrick](#) on this panel. It was so exciting to speak about all of the wonderful initiatives we each have used to engage youth in important conversations on our campuses.

The second session I spoke at was titled "Student Changemakers: Leading the Charge for Safer Schools & Communities," here, I discussed the work I have been doing for the past year with SADD at UNC-Chapel Hill. From discussing best practices, current programming, and even the effects of social media, understanding what is working for our teens and young adults is crucial to furthering important conversations regarding safety on our roads.

In addition, I had a great time exhibiting with [SADD Nation](#) in the exhibit hall. There, I networked with traffic safety pioneers, connected with the SADD team, and shared the wonderful work SADD has been doing. Any day I get to highlight [SADD Nation](#) and the outreach my colleagues are doing is always a good one.

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who made this conference happen. In addition, I want to thank [Eliza Fitzpatrick](#) for all the guidance and support she provided before, during, and after the conference. Lastly, I want to give a special thanks to the Traffic Safety Scholar planning committee which allowed me to connect with so many other young professionals [Tara Casanova Powell](#). I am so excited to take what I have learned at Lifesavers and apply it to my work back on campus.

[#Lifesavers2025](#)



Nakooma Pelt



Nakooma Pelt · 2nd
KDOT Behavioral Safety Intern
5d · 🌐

+ Follow ...

I'm incredibly honored to have been selected as a Lifesavers Scholar this year!

Attending the Lifesavers National Conference was an amazing opportunity to connect with leaders in traffic safety and learn more about strategies to make our roads safer. I'm especially grateful for the chance to represent my community and contribute to meaningful conversations around improving transportation safety.

Thank you to the Lifesavers Conference organizers and everyone who has supported me on this journey — I'm excited to apply what I've learned to continue advocating for safer roads for all.

[#TrafficSafety](#) [#LifesaversConference](#) [#RoadSafety](#)



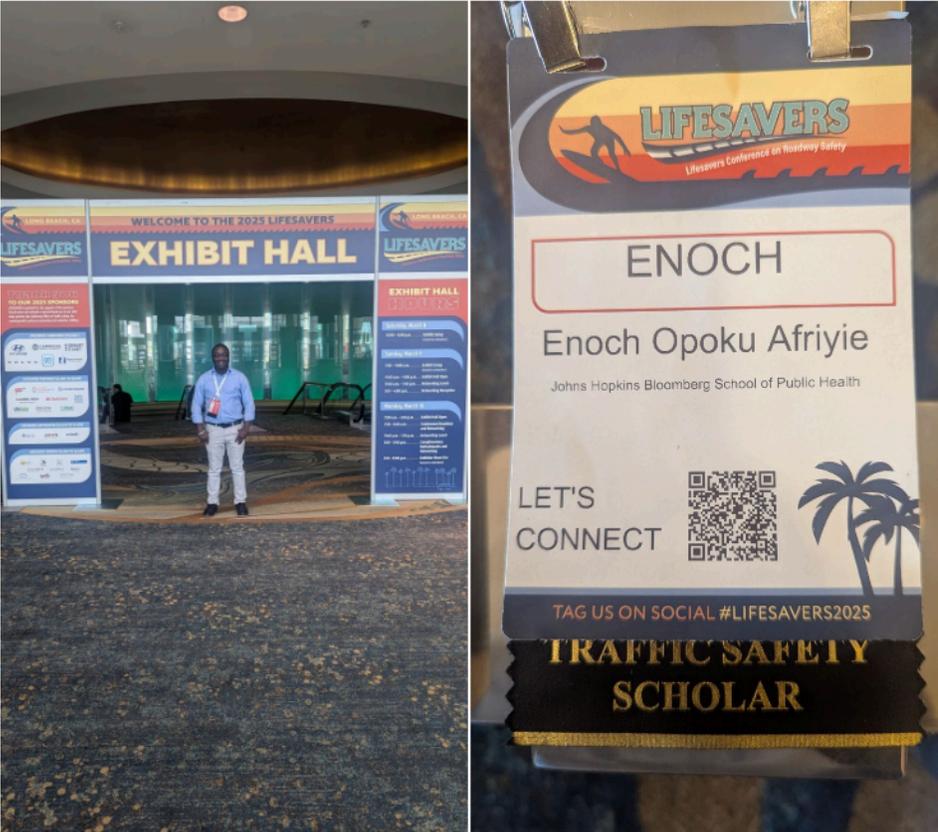
Louis Pratt and 7 others

1 comment · 1 repost

Enoch Afriyie

 **Enoch Opoku Afriyie, MD, MGCS, MPH** · 1st
Specialist/Attending Emergency Medicine Physician, Researcher, Public ...
1w · 🌐

Excited to be at the Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety in Long Beach, CA, as a Traffic Safety Scholar! It's been an incredible experience connecting with fellow experts, exploring new ideas, and discussing opportunities for collaboration in improving traffic safety. Grateful for the chance to contribute to such a vital conversation. [#Lifesavers2025](#) [#RoadwaySafety](#) [#PublicHealth](#)



ENOCH
Enoch Opoku Afriyie
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

LET'S CONNECT  

TAG US ON SOCIAL [#LIFESAVERS2025](#)
TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHOLAR

 110

8 comments · 3 reposts

Kirill Rogovoy

 **Kirill Rogovoy ENV S.P.** · 1st
M.S. Transportation Engineering Student with a passion for, and experie...
3d · Edited · 🌐

I just had the honor of attending the 2025 Lifesavers Conference as a Traffic Safety Scholar & exploring new traffic safety methods! A personal milestone: my first co-authored article in traffic safety has recently been published. Link:

<https://lnkd.in/gchgKeXn>



 Pouya Jalali Khalilabadi and 31 others

2 comments

Arthur Mukwaya

 **Arthur Mukwaya** · 2nd
Intelligent Transportation Systems|| Transport and Highway...
1w · Edited · 🌐 [+ Follow](#) ⋮

I am honored to have been named a Traffic Safety scholar for this year's [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) held at Long Beach, California from March 9-11.

The conference was filled with insightful sessions covering a wide range of critical road safety topics from Child Passenger Safety and Occupant Protection to Safe Systems, Law Enforcement Perspectives, Impaired and Distracted Driving.

I was greatly impressed by how diverse fields are coming together to improve safety on the road. In Clackmas county , Oregon they are integrating public health into transportation planning to create safe systems. I also enjoyed the discussion by industry and research partners on the deployment of safe autonomous vehicles and how their data can be used to understand their effect on highway safety.

Other insightful sessions were how ML is being used to prevent impaired driving and the impact of speed cameras in safe systems.

Super grateful to the entire organizing team for making this event a success. See you all in Baltimore next year in April.

Let's continue working together to save lives on the road.

[#TrafficSafetyScholar](#)
[#Lifesavers2025](#) [#LifesaversConference](#) [#RoadSafety](#) [#AutonomousVehicles](#)
[#SafeSystems](#) [#SaveLives](#)



Paige Carter



Paige Carter · 2nd
Graduate Student Research Assistant
6d · 🌐

[+ Follow](#) ...

Last week, I attended the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) in Long Beach, California as a part of their Traffic Safety Scholars program.

The projects addressing impaired driving among college students that I've had the opportunity to work on at the Higher Education Center focus on integrating initiatives for safer road use into collegiate prevention efforts. Attending Lifesavers allowed me to build upon my interest in relating higher education, prevention, and traffic safety from a broader, more comprehensive perspective.

One of my favorite aspects of the conference was engaging with various sectors committed to promoting safer road use. Connecting with other scholars in the program (media specialists, researchers, planners, advocates, and engineers, who are all doing incredible things), filled me with a strong resolve; we can go farther when we work together.

I'm returning to the work week with new ideas and goals to pursue. As I continue growing, learning, and collaborating, I'm challenging myself to reimagine how to tell the story of prevention and traffic safety on college campuses.

Thank you to the Lifesavers planning committee, as well as [Rick Birt](#) and [Tara Casanova Powell](#), for all their efforts in organizing the Traffic Safety Scholars program! I am so grateful for this experience.



👤 with [Peter Swenson](#), EIT and 1 other

Tara Casanova Powell and 40 others

8 comments

Allison Rewalt



Allison Rewalt · 2nd

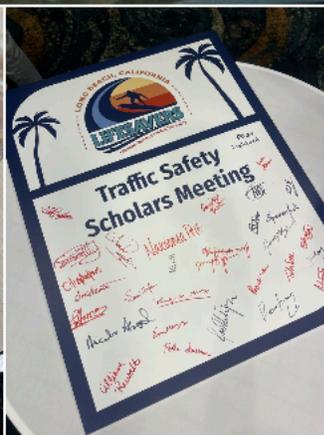
PhD Student
4d · Edited ·

+ Follow ...

I am honored to share that I was selected as a Traffic Safety Scholar and attended the **Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety** in Long Beach!

I'm very fortunate to have had the opportunity to connect with and learn from professionals as a Traffic Safety Scholar. Hearing from advocates, law enforcement, engineers, attorneys, planners, and EMTs (just to name a few) was an enriching experience. I also was able to form a strong connection with others in this cohort of Traffic Safety Scholars. I met many other driven individuals and I was inspired by the hard work they are doing to make roads safer for all users.

Needless to say, I had an unforgettable time at my first Lifesavers Conference and I am eager to attend again in the future!



Tara Casanova Powell and 39 others

4 comments

Nandi Taylor



Nandi L. Taylor, MPH · 2nd

PhD Candidate at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Hea...

1w · Edited · 🌐

+ Follow ...

Last week, I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the 2025 Lifesavers conference in Long Beach, CA, as a Traffic Safety Scholar (TSS)! Being selected as a TSS gives students a unique conference experience, creating opportunities for networking with experts in the transportation field and building community with other outstanding students from various disciplines.

Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety is a national conference on traffic safety that brings together researchers, advocates, and practitioners to share and learn about road safety initiatives all with a shared goal of reducing roadway fatalities. As a public health researcher, I truly enjoy conferences that highlight local and national initiatives that can better inform my research in the future to make lasting changes in public health. The best part of my conference experience was the opportunity to learn from and with other scholars from the fields of engineering, planning, medicine, communications, and public health.

Some highlights from the conference:

- Walking tour of Long Beach, CA - led by local city regional planners where we learned how the city of Long Beach has made changes in roadway designs to support walking, biking, and public transit for all road users.
- Workshops focused on the Safe System Approach - for safer road users and safer roads - where we learned about speed management tools that can be implemented to reduce speed on roadways in both rural, suburban, and urban settings. Also how tools, like AcciMap, and techniques, like increasing public health collaboration, can be used to bring together diverse stakeholders to address road safety in Washington and North Carolina.

A huge thank you to Mary Lofgren, **Tara Casanova Powell**, **Rick Birt**, and everyone for organizing this wonderful opportunity.

I'm grateful for the community and openness of my fellow scholars sharing their passion and new ideas for the field of traffic safety! I can not wait to see the amazing work we all do in the future.

[#LifesaversConference2025](#) [#TrafficSafety](#)



Peihang Li



Peihang Li · 2nd
PhD Student in Industrial Engineering
4d · 🌐

+ Follow ...

Last week, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) in Long Beach, California. It was truly an honor to be selected as a Traffic Safety Scholar and to connect with so many brilliant scholars from diverse backgrounds. The discussions and shared experiences were inspiring, pushing me to think even more deeply about how we can make our roads safer.

What stood out most was the interdisciplinary nature of the conference. I attended workshops spanning policy-making, law enforcement, community engagement, and engineering, each offering a unique perspective on traffic safety. Coming from an engineering background, I'm used to looking at safety through data and system design. But seeing the broader efforts, from advocacy to enforcement, was truly refreshing. It reinforced the idea that road safety isn't just a technical challenge; it's a shared responsibility across many fields.

I hope to continue learning from and collaborating with like-minded individuals who are passionate about making roads safer. Through my research, I aim to contribute to this mission, bridging human factors and technology to improve roadway safety.

And always remember—never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly.



🌐 Farooq Azam Khanzada and 25 others

Methusela Sulle

 **Methusela Sulle** · 2nd
MSc Candidate - Transportation and Highway Engineering ...
1w · Edited · 🌐 [+ Follow](#) ...

I had the incredible opportunity to attend the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#), where industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers gathered to discuss cutting-edge advancements in traffic safety.

Here are some key takeaways from the conference:

1. Vision Zero Strategy – The commitment to eliminating traffic-related deaths and injuries through systematic improvements remains at the core of roadway safety strategies.
2. Technology & Traffic Safety – Innovations like substance detection systems, vehicle movement monitoring, and in-vehicle interventions (such as warning messages) are making strides in reducing impaired driving and enhancing road safety.
3. Use of Simulators for Research – Driving simulators, integrated with eye-tracking and distraction detection systems, are revolutionizing how we study driver behavior, gaze patterns, and the impact of distractions on driving performance.
4. Advanced Driver Safety Solutions – Interior sensing technologies play a crucial role in improving occupant safety and comfort, with applications in driver engagement, occupant monitoring, and impaired driving detection.

I also had the privilege to meet big brains in Safety [Rick Birt](#), [Tara Casanova Powell](#), and [Ashley Brooks-Russell](#) exchanging insights on the future of transportation safety and innovative approaches to improving roadway conditions.

Attending this conference was an insightful experience, and I look forward to applying these learnings to my work in pedestrian safety, autonomous vehicle detection, and traffic safety research!

To my fellow TSS, [Alex Meinhard](#), [Arthur Mukwaya](#), [Nandi L. Taylor](#), [MPH](#), [Hellen Shita](#), [Louis Pratt](#) and [Enoch Opoku Afriyie, MD, MGCS, MPH](#). Nice meeting you all.

Thanks to my advisor [Judith Mwakalonge](#) for her constant support and unwavering guidance!

[#LifesaversConference2025](#) [#RoadwaySafety](#) [#VisionZero](#) [#TrafficSafety](#)
[#AutonomousVehicles](#) [#TransportationInnovation](#) [#LongBeachCA](#)



 Odilo Mdimi and 76 others 4 comments

Mollalign Mebrat

Mollalign Mebrat · 2nd
Road and Transport Engineer | Civil Engineering Lecturer | ...
1w · Edited · 🌐

+ Follow ...

I am pleased to announce that I have been honoured to be selected as a 2025 Lifesavers Traffic Safety Scholar (TSS) and had the privilege of attending the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#), held from March 9-11 in Long Beach, California.

The selection process for this esteemed scholarship was highly competitive, resulting in the selection of 30 of the most PhD/MSc/Research assistant students, 29 of whom were able to attend, and 28 representing universities across the United States. It was indeed a rewarding experience to engage with such dedicated and passionate scholars and professionals in the field.

The Lifesavers Conference serves as a premier platform that highlights the latest research, evidence-based strategies, proven countermeasures, and innovative approaches to address the most urgent traffic safety challenges. It is the largest gathering of traffic safety professionals in the United States. The conference featured ten engaging tracks with excellent speakers:

1. Safe systems
2. Pedestrian, Bicycle and micro-mobility issues
3. Occupant protection
4. Impaired driving
5. Distracted driving
6. Driver training, assessment, and licensing
7. Criminal justice and law enforcement
8. Communications
9. Child passenger safety
10. Vehicle Technologies/Automated Driving

My key messages:

- To establish an effective safe system approach, collaboration and partnership are essential.
- Human behaviour and its factors play a major role in speed management and the design of roads.
- Community feedback should be integral to the decision-making process when prioritising projects.
- Ridesharing is one means of reducing impaired driving, such as sober riding.

I heard heart-touching stories from [Jennifer Smith](#) and [Michel Shane](#) that captured the participants' attention. Our presence at the conference was about more than just attending; it was about saving human lives!

I participated in a walking tour in Long Beach with transport planners (Michael and his team) from [Fehr & Peers](#) Company. Long Beach has beautiful streets lined with palm trees. I was pleased to see some bike lanes with protected curb stones placed parallel to the road. I noticed that the e-scooters are parked at the end of the potential street. One surprising moment I observed was the food delivery robots on the streets; they seemed to navigate pedestrian crosswalks quite well, exhibiting no jaywalking, which was amusing 😊.

I would like to thank every team member of the Lifesavers Conference: [Michele Mount](#), [CAE](#), [Rick Birt](#), [Nat Beuse](#), [Mary](#), [Tara Casanova Powell](#) and others. The team demonstrated excellent communication, hospitality and scheduling skills and effectively managed and organised all the events. Thank you very much for this incredible opportunity.

I was also pleased by the kindness of the American people I met; they were welcoming, helpful, and offered warm greetings. It was a wonderful experience that I will cherish.

[#Lifesavers2025](#) [#Road](#)



competitive scholarship program (30 seats) by email of your intention to accept by the deadline, your scholarship applicant.

I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected to attend the Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety. The Review Committee was impressed with your application and your commitment to roadway safety.



Yongcan Huang

12:07 5G 30%

← ...

 **Yongcan Huang** · You
PhD candidate in the area of Sustainable and Resilient Infras...
1d · Edited ·

This year at the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#), I attended with a dual perspective, not just as a returning traffic safety scholar but also as an engineer. My consulting experience at [Stantec](#) have given me a new lens to view safety practices and education, making this year's conference even more insightful.

One of the most impactful moments was the opening plenary, where I was introduced to the film [#21MilesinMalibu](#). It shed light on the real challenges along the Pacific Coast Highway and reinforced the idea that many tragedies can be prevented with stronger safety education, better awareness, and more effective safety measures.

Beyond the sessions, it was great to reconnect with old colleagues and meet new people who share the same passion for making our roads safer. Looking forward to applying these takeaways in my work!



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Tolu Oke



Tolu Oke · 2nd
Founder & Principal at Odara Mobility LLC
3d · 🌐

+ Follow ...

I had an incredible time as a 2025 Traffic Safety Scholar at the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) in Long Beach, CA. It was great to connect with academics and practitioners from diverse fields dedicated to improving roadway safety across the US.

Some highlights from the conference include hearing from Sheri Bozic of the Pueblo of Jemez on their efforts to enhance walking and bicycling infrastructure on Tribal lands. Noemi Duenas and others provided practical tools for maintaining self-care and mental health to address the emotional toll from traumatic crash events. Meghan Hausser's presentation on using psychological theories and demographic targeting to improve safe driving media campaigns was especially insightful.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to have spent time with the highly talented group of fellow Traffic Safety Scholars. A big thank you to Mary Lofgren, [Tara Casanova Powell](#), and everyone involved in organizing the program for the Scholars and the conference. If you are interested in traffic safety, look out for the next Lifesavers in Baltimore, MD, from April 19–21, 2026!



👍👍👍 Tara Casanova Powell and 51 others +1 2 comments

Arman Malekloo



Arman Malekloo · 2nd
Graduate Research Assistant at University of Utah
3d · 🌐

+ Follow ...

I am thrilled to share that I was selected as one of only 29 students across the U.S. through a competitive application process to attend the **Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety** as a Traffic Safety Scholar (TSS) in Long Beach, California!

This conference was a transformative experience where I engaged with industry leaders, explored cutting-edge safety strategies, and learned about innovative approaches to making our roadways safer. Meeting and collaborating with other passionate scholars reinforced the importance of a shared commitment to traffic safety and the impact we can make together.

One of the most exciting sessions I attended was the Wargaming Workshop: Deploying AVs, It's Easy, Right? Led by **Laura Fraade-Blanan**, **Miguel Acosta** and **Chan Lieu**, this hands-on session challenged us to navigate AV deployment complexities through role-playing, negotiation, and strategic decision-making. It was a fascinating way to explore the future of urban mobility!

Another memorable moment was donating blood at the conference, a reminder that saving lives goes beyond engineering and policy. A big thank you to the **San Diego Blood Bank** for providing this opportunity to give back in such a meaningful way!

Finally, a huge thank you to the Lifesavers TSS Program, and especially Mary Lofgren and **Tara Casanova Powell**, for this incredible opportunity and to everyone who made this experience so impactful. I look forward to applying what I've learned and continuing to work toward safer, more sustainable transportation systems.

For those interested in learning more about the Lifesavers Conference, the next event is scheduled for April 19–21, 2026 in Baltimore, MD. Learn more at: <https://lnkd.in/g34DNfdF>

#LifesaversConference #TrafficSafetyScholar #RoadwaySafety #UniversityofUtah #TransportationEngineering #VisionZero #StudentLeadership #ITE #TransportationInnovation #AutonomousVehicles #BloodDonation #SavingLives #SanDiegoBloodBank



Peter Swenson



Peter Swenson, EIT · 1st

M.S. Candidate, Civil Engineering with a concentration in Transportation ...
3d · Edited · 🌐

Over the past several days, I had the opportunity to attend my second **Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety** as part of the Traffic Safety Scholars program. It was incredible to see nearly 2,000 people, ranging from professionals, students, and advocates, come together with a shared passion for roadway safety.

The Lifesavers Conference is one of my favorites for a few reasons. First, coming from an engineering background, I enjoyed attending sessions from a diverse range of tracks outside of my field. This conference allowed me to learn about mitigation strategies for distracted and impaired driving, communications and traffic safety advocacy, and more to broaden my perspective on the field. It is amazing to see the many aspects that make our roads safer and how they all come together. Second, the people I have met at Lifesavers are some of the most passionate people I know. Meeting the other students in the TSS program and learning from them has been invaluable.

I highly encourage anyone in the roadway safety field to learn more about the TSS program and apply for next year. Thank you to the Lifesavers Planning Committee and those involved in the TSS program for such an impactful and successful conference.



with Tolu Oke and 6 others

Carol A. Perello De Jesus and 69 others

3 comments

Saurav P



Saurav P. · 2nd
PhD Candidate at the University of Tennessee Knoxville
4d · Edited · 🌐

+ Follow ...

I had the privilege of once again participating as a Traffic Safety Scholar at the 2025 Lifesavers Conference in Long Beach, CA. Words can't fully capture how impactful this experience was for me, but I'll give it my best shot.

If you look at the photos, you might notice that I've been dealing with some mobility issues (hopefully temporary). Despite that, navigating the conference wasn't too difficult. Long Beach's transit system was accessible and affordable at just \$1.25 per trip, and a top-notch conference planning making it easy to get around. But more importantly, this experience gave me a new perspective—one that so many people navigate daily. It made me reflect on whether our transportation systems and safety measures truly account for those with mobility challenges and disabilities, and what role AVs could play in making them more inclusive. This is one of the few conferences that doesn't just acknowledge these issues but takes a deep dive into them.

One of my favorite sessions this year was "When Help Can't Wait: Using Low-Cost Strategies to Improve Pedestrian Safety." As a pedestrian safety researcher, I tend to focus on system- and policy-level solutions, but what about immediate, on-the-ground interventions? This session, featuring success stories from Ellen and innovative approaches from Jasmin, was an absolute highlight. In addition to so many insightful workshops, I also participated in wargaming sessions and a vehicle technology trivia bowl. There's no better way to grow professionally than to be stripped of your titles, thrown into a game of strategy and reasoning, and challenged to think from an entirely different perspective. These sessions pushed me to develop both critical thinking and decision-making skills, and I loved every minute of them.

Beyond the sessions, I'll always treasure the meaningful conversations and connections—with organizers, vendors, policymakers from state and federal levels, enforcement professionals, and, of course, my fellow Traffic Safety Scholars. This conference left me more motivated than ever to continue working toward saving lives, with an even greater passion for the mission.

A huge thank you to the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) for another unforgettable experience!

#Lifesavers2025 #LongBeach



👤👤👤 Latif Patwarv and 61 others

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Niisoja Torto · 2nd
Health Policy, ImpSci, Injuries | MD/MPH Candidate @ Stanford ...
14h · 🌐

Some of the most devastating injuries I've seen in the hospital as a medical student have involved pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists. The Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety highlighted how much we can do to prevent life-altering crashes for all road users. Grateful to the Traffic Safety Scholars Program and the wonderful folks working to make our roads safer—so no one has to fear losing a loved one on the road.

[#Lifesavers2025](#)



🌐 Enoch Opoku Afriyie, MD, MGCS, MPH and 22 others

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Louis Pratt



Louis Pratt · 1st
Park Promotions Executive Director | Emerging Leaders Chair at SADD | ...
22h · 🌐

"My traffic safety colleagues have become a family to me." [Tara Casanova Powell](#) is speaking the truth.

This year's [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) in Long Beach, CA, was one for the books, and I am grateful that I had the chance to be as involved as I was.

For the 2025 convening, I stepped up to be a member of the Communications Track Planning Committee to help review, plan, and lead workshops on different subject areas of traffic safety communications and marketing. I had the great opportunity to learn from experienced professionals in this committee ([Sam, Bill Kotowski](#), [Timothy, Erica](#), Gabriela, [Samantha](#), and Bill Miller) and help make these proposals come to life.

I was selected as one of the 29 Traffic Safety Scholars for this year as well, being one of five returning students. This scholar program recognizes students in undergraduate, graduate, and doctorate programs who are working to advance traffic safety measures through their studies. This year's group was a phenomenal cohort, and I have learned SO much from other fields of study that I am not involved in. Breaking down those silos!

My first session of the conference was "Out of the Box and Onto the Road - Unique Messaging Strategies for Young Drivers," where I moderated the session with some AMAZING presentations from [Ana-Maria Phillips](#), [Jason Jackman](#), and [Lauren Zimmerman-Meade, MA](#). We talked all about messaging channels, tactics, audiences, and the power of peer-to-peer outreach.

My second session was "Navigating College Outreach: Routes, Speed Bumps, & Traffic Jams," where we spoke about our experiences with traffic safety in the college setting as a FULL SADD panel - [Eliza Fitzpatrick](#), [Emma Mays](#), and [Deanna Grossi](#). This one has been in the works for a while, and it is only a teaser trailer for what work is being done in the college setting.

[SADD Nation](#) had a great time at our booth in the Exhibit Hall and getting to network with so many professionals to determine how we can work together to further enhance a safer future for our youth. I left with some great connections and am excited to see where we go next. I also got to see all of my fabulous traffic safety friends from NY who are doing some great work in their part of our state.

I should also mention I got to see the one and only, [Shaina Finkel](#), who put together an INCREDIBLE mental health and driving session, where I was the guest star in the role of "stress inducer." 😂 Shaina is a role model for us all.

Thank you to all who made this conference possible, everyone whom I was able to network and catch up with, and the entire SADD team. We do have to work together, like a family, if we want to see the needle move. Lives are being lost every day on our roads, but hearing from many of these professionals I have hope that we are headed in the right direction.





Yu-Min Yang · 2nd
PhD Candidate at University of Massachusetts Amherst
12h · 🌐

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Last week, I was honored to attend the 2025 **Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety** in Long Beach, California, as a Traffic Safety Scholar. Unlike traditional academic conferences, this event brought together professionals from public health, psychology, law enforcement, urban planning, and more — demonstrating how interdisciplinary collaboration is crucial to addressing traffic safety issues.

Key takeaways from various workshops beyond an engineering perspective include understanding the impact of cannabis use on traffic behavior and related policy considerations; applying psychological concepts in traffic safety campaigns to reduce risky driving behaviors; balancing equity and efficacy when implementing automated enforcement equipment.

Of course, there were also highlights directly related to the field of traffic engineering, such as: exploring the relationship between freight loading zone design and bicyclist perception and safety; understanding the role of distraction in the crash generation process and ways to mitigate it; building and using Accimap to analyze the causes of various traffic incidents and develop countermeasures to prevent crashes and reduce their severity.

Beyond the workshops, it was inspiring to connect with fellow Traffic Safety Scholars from across the country, each contributing their expertise to address pressing traffic safety challenges.

This Lifesavers Conference experience reminded me that the theories we learn in school can truly save lives when thoughtfully applied to roads, vehicles, and policies. Huge thanks to Mary Lofgren, **Tara Casanova Powell**, and everyone at Lifesavers for supporting young professionals in this field. If you are passionate about traffic safety, I highly recommend the 2026 Lifesavers Conference, to be held on April 19–21, 2026, in Baltimore, MD!



7

Oluwaseun Olufowobi



Oluwaseun Olufowobi · 2nd
PhD Candidate II Research Assistant
1d · 🌐

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Wrapped up an inspiring few days at the [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#) as a traffic safety scholar. It was a profound reminder that every crash statistic reflects a life and a story that may have turned out differently. I had often looked at traffic safety through the lens of data and engineering. However, engaging with experts, practitioners, and advocates reinforced the necessity of a multifaceted approach to reducing crashes. Integrating policy reforms, behavioral interventions, enforcement and technological advancements is crucial in our shared mission to save lives and enhance road safety for all.

I left this conference with a renewed sense of purpose—knowing that behind every dataset is a person who deserved a safer outcome. Looking forward to applying all that I have learnt into my work.

A heartfelt thank you to [Tara Casanova Powell](#), [Rick Birt](#), Mary Lofgren and the entire organizing team for this opportunity and being so welcoming. I am also deeply grateful to my advisor, Dr [John Ivan](#) for his support and guidance, which has encouraged me to pursue opportunities like this.

[#Lifesavers2025](#) [#LifesaversConference](#) [#TrafficSafety](#) [#VisionZero](#)
[#SafeSystemApproach](#) [#TrafficSafetyScholar](#)



Camille Lust



Camille Lust · 2nd

Urban and Regional Planning Master's Student at the Unive...

14h · 🌐

[+ Follow](#) ...

Last week, March 8-11, I had the opportunity to attend [Lifesavers Conference on Roadway Safety](#), a conference on roadway safety, in Long Beach, California. This was made possible by the Traffic Safety Scholars program, which seeks to give students an opportunity to experience and learn about the latest research, evidence-based strategies, proven countermeasures, and promising new approaches for addressing the nation's most pressing traffic safety issues.

During my time at Lifesavers, I learned so much about advancing roadway safety in our communities. Some session highlights included "Speed Management to Support Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety," "Connected Networks & Network Connections: Built Environment Changes to Support Youth Active Travel," and "When Help Can't Wait: Using Low-Cost Strategies to Improve Pedestrian Safety." I also had a great time on the walking tour of Long Beach and learning more about the city's history and future!

Not only did I have the chance to explore a new place and learn more about traffic safety, I also had the opportunity to make connections with my fellow Traffic Safety Scholars and professionals in the field. I am excited to take what I have learned back to school with me and into my future career. Overall, it was a great experience and I am grateful that I was able to attend!

Thank you to the Lifesavers Planning Committee and everyone involved in the Traffic Safety Scholars program for such a great experience. And thanks to [Kelly Corbin](#) for encouraging me to apply!



with Peter Swenson, EIT and 8 others