



CLASS OF 2016
EAGLETON UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATES



Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Wood Lawn, Douglass Campus
New Brunswick, NJ
eagleton.rutgers.edu

EAGLETON UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

The Eagleton Institute of Politics, founded in 1956 with an endowment from Florence Peshine Eagleton, explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. The Institute focuses attention on how the American political system works, how it changes, and how it might work better. Eagleton's faculty, centers and programs specialize in the study of state government and politics; public opinion polling and survey research; women's political participation; minority and immigrant political behavior; governors; campaigns, elections and political parties; ethics; civic education and political engagement; young elected leaders and youth political participation; and New Jersey politics.

The Eagleton Undergraduate Associates Program was established in 1974. During the one and one-half year certificate program, Associates learn about real-world politics and government from experienced practitioners. The program is a cooperative educational endeavor between the Eagleton Institute of Politics and the School of Arts and Sciences/Department of Political Science

Undergraduate Associates study government and politics through special seminars, a supervised internship, and discussions with governmental officials and political practitioners. The program is open to undergraduate students from all Rutgers schools, departments and campuses. Students apply the fall of their junior year. Those selected for the program take a series of three courses at Eagleton during the second semester of their junior year and each semester of their senior year. Associates also complete a summer or fall internship related to government, public policy or politics.

There are currently more than 900 alumni of the Eagleton Undergraduate Associates program. Some have chosen careers in public affairs and others have applied their knowledge of government and politics to a broad range of careers in the private and non-profit sectors.

More information about the Eagleton Undergraduate Associates program can be found at eagleton.rutgers.edu/students/undergradassociates

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Sabah Abbasi

Majors/Minor/School: Political Science, Public Health/Arabic/School of Arts and Sciences, Douglass Residential College

Internship Placement: New Jersey Department of Health



Sabah Abbasi is a School of Arts and Sciences student from Montgomery, New Jersey, pursuing a bachelor's degree, majoring in political science and public health with a minor in Arabic. She is also a member of Douglass Residential College. She is involved with the Public Leadership Education Network, which provides opportunities for women's leadership in politics and public policy in Washington, D.C. Sabah is the former Opinions Editor of *The Daily Targum*, and was awarded first place for editorial writing by the New Jersey Press Foundation. She is also a tutor at the Plangere Writing Center. She is actively involved in a number of organizations on campus and is on the executive board of the Rutgers chapter of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, a nonpolitical humanitarian organization that provides medical relief for children throughout the Middle East. She serves on an advisory committee for the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Sabah has spent a lot of time in Pakistan and is involved with healthcare initiatives there, which have been a source of inspiration for her to return with a background in public health to aid in the efforts. In terms of domestic issues, Sabah is interested in strategies of mobilizing minority groups, particularly immigrants, in both local and national politics. She plans to attend law school but would also be interested in pursuing journalism. In her spare time, she enjoys horseback riding and is teaching herself to play the piano.

Jesse Wayland Adams II

Major/School: Social Work/School of Social Work

Internship Placement: New Jersey Department of Children and Families



Lyndon Johnson was president of the United States when Jesse Adams was born, so it has been a long road to the Eagleton Institute, and his current stint at Rutgers University is not his first time at the college rodeo. After growing up in Vermilion, Ohio, Jesse attended the University of Miami for two years studying studio music and jazz before pursuing a career in the performing arts. He logged 350 performances as an actor in the European production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *STARLIGHT EXPRESS*, appeared multiple times at New York City's legendary punk club CBGBs with his band *sir* and produced the LGBTQ cinema classic *ANOTHER GAY MOVIE*, which opened at the Tribeca Film Festival and earned over \$850,000 at the world wide box office. Politically, Jesse volunteered for Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign, was elected Committeeman for the Asbury Park Democratic Party and was an active member of Garden State Equality, participating in many lobbying events at the Statehouse in Trenton, fighting for marriage equality in New Jersey. Jesse returned to school in 2014 to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Work, with plans after graduation to become a therapist.

Yaneiry Calpeno

Major/Minors/School: Political Science/Women's & Gender Studies, Social Justice/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: Office of the Mayor-Jersey City, Department of Housing, Economic Development and Commerce



Yaneiry Calpeño is a proud student of the Educational Opportunity Fund Student Program, pursuing a bachelor's degree majoring in political science with a double-minor in women & gender studies and social justice. She transferred from Ramapo College of New Jersey spring of 2014 determined to achieve as much as possible during her time here at Rutgers. Yaneiry participated in study abroad in Thessaloniki, Greece, where she completed two courses and volunteered at Miranda's Home, an all-girls orphanage. She also interned with Visions, Center for Blindness & Impaired Visions - a summer camp for children, adults, and/or families with blindness or impaired vision. Yaneiry is a part of the Rutgers Bonner Leader Program/AmeriCorps, where she participates on the The Conversation Tree Program. Recently, Yaneiry became a sister of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, where she hopes to be part of the executive board. She is a strong believer of never self-selecting yourself out of anything and hopes to continue to learn more about politics so that one day she can use her knowledge to make a difference in her community.

Michael Denis

Majors/Minors/School: Criminal Justice, Political Science/History, Public Policy/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: Office of U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (Ohio)



Michael Denis is the resident Buckeye at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, coming from Westlake, Ohio. He is a School of Arts and Sciences senior pursuing a bachelor's degree majoring in criminal justice and political science with minors in history and public policy. In his time at Rutgers University, he has served as an executive board member of the Rutgers University Democrats and as a general member, participating in various political involvement initiatives. Additionally, he has served as the editor-in-chief of *The Jackass Political Magazine*, a collaboration with the Rutgers Democrats focusing on political news and opinion and dedicated to addressing various political and policy issues. Michael has participated in the Aresty Research Assistant Program, exploring the history of immigration law and the social status of different ethnic groups in American history. He is also a consistent member of the Dean's List and had the pleasure of an offer to study in the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. This year, he interned with United States Senator Sherrod Brown in his Cleveland office. He also interned this year with the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio. During his senior year, Michael will be working on an honors thesis project with adviser Professor Andrew Murphy researching conceptions of citizenship in American politics with an emphasis on issues raised in the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision. His political interests range from a variety of subjects, but include the intersection of conflict resolution and torture within international law, as well as American politics with a deep interest in American political theory. In the future, he seeks to work in politics, as a representative for his fellow Ohioans and perhaps later in national security.

Zachary Goldfarb

Majors/Minors/School: History, Political Science/Spanish, Biological Sciences/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placements: Offices of Senator Joseph Vitale and Assemblyman Craig Coughlin



Zachary Goldfarb is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program. He was born and raised in Westfield, New Jersey. During his time at Rutgers, Zach is pursuing a bachelor's degree in the joint history and political science major, as well as minors in Spanish and biological sciences. His diverse range of academic interests is apparent through his participation as an Aresty research assistant, with the task of barcoding the DNA of aquatic larvae, and interning for the Genealogical Society of New Jersey. Zach is in the process of writing his honors thesis, which will explore the

racial profiling of Muslim-Americans during George W. Bush's administration. Zach is an officer of the Rutgers Triathlon Team, and hopes to be involved in the Hillary Clinton campaign at Rutgers during his senior year. He is a proud inductee of Phi Beta Kappa, and hopes to continue demonstrating academic excellence in studying law or working in government after a hiatus volunteering abroad for a year or two.

Henry Grabbe

Majors/Minor/School: Political Science, Philosophy/Music/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: M Public Affairs



Henry is a political science and philosophy double major and a music minor for his bachelor's degree. Entering Rutgers with a pre-established interest in government, Henry knew that he had four years to uncover the exact facet of politics he saw himself pursuing. Through internships with Senator Diane Allen, Governor Chris Christie, Republican National Committee Victory Campaign, and the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, he has taken a strong interest in lobbying and government affairs. His on campus activities include Chi Psi Fraternity (sergeant at arms and community service chair), Rutgers

College Republicans (former vice-chairman), and the Catholic Student Association (current president). Service has played a large role in his college experience and most recently, Henry was able to lead thirty-five students on a mission trip to Tampa, Florida to serve the homeless over spring break. The Eagleton Undergraduate Associates program has provided Henry with core writing and thinking skills he hopes to apply in the future - be it law school or otherwise.

Michael Guggenheim

Major/Minor/School: Political Science/ Modern Hebrew Language/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: Message & Media



Michael Guggenheim, from Passaic, New Jersey, is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree majoring in political science and is minoring in modern Hebrew language. During his time at Rutgers, Michael has received numerous honors and awards, including being named to the Dean's List, the Rutgers Academic Excellence Award, the SAS Excellence Award, and induction to Phi Beta Kappa. Michael has been actively involved in politics since he was in high

school, working on several campaigns in his hometown of Passaic in a variety of roles, including as campaign manager. This summer, Michael interned at the Democratic political communications firm Message & Media, where he focused on opposition research, advertisements, campaign messages, and media buys for various competitive federal, statewide, and local campaigns. On campus, Michael has been involved in several student groups. Since his freshman year, he has been a member of the Rutgers Mock Trial team. He is currently an attorney and treasurer on the Rutgers Mock Trial A-Team, which is regarded as one of the most competitive mock trial teams in the country. Michael is also an active member of the Rutgers Hillel, where he is currently the group's treasurer. Once he graduates, Michael hopes to work in political communications and strategy consulting.

Nicholas Hansen

Major/minor: Political Science/History/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Office of Capital Construction



Nicholas Hansen was born in West Orange, New Jersey and attended high school in Basking Ridge. He is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program studying political science and history for his bachelor's degree. Nicholas has worked as a research assistant with the Department of Political Science and the Aresty Research Center, working with Professors Andrew Murphy and Ruth Mandel. He has also worked as an organizer for President Obama's 2012 reelection campaign. Nicholas is a recipient of the Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship, the Charles H. Winfield Scholarship, and the SAS Academic Excellence Award. He is also the vice president of the Rutgers University Debate Union and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honors society.

Ria Iizuka

Majors/Minor/School: Political Science, Economics /Statistics/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: Office of Senator Diane Allen



Ria Iizuka, from Chatham, New Jersey, is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program pursuing a bachelor's degree by double majoring in political science and economics, and minoring in statistics. She has participated in the Livingston Social Justice Learning Community, the Darien Learning Community for Civic Engagement, and the Rutgers-Ritsumeikan Exchange Program in Kyoto, Japan. Currently, she is the treasurer of RU VOX, Rutgers's student organization for women's reproductive rights advocacy, and the peer mentor for IMPACT, the residential social justice learning community. Ria is the recipient of the 2014 Academic Excellence Award, Class of 1920 Scholarship and Dean's List, and is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha and Omega Delta Epsilon. For the past two summers, she has studied foreign relations while interning in Japan, where she worked regularly as a translator and English teacher, lectured on the American college admissions process for international students, and aided in disaster-relief efforts following the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake. On the weekends, she enjoys volunteering with VSA-NJ as an art instructor for disabled children and adults. Ria intends to attend law school and hopes to pursue a career in international relations.

Elizabeth Kantor

Majors/School: Political Science, Statistics/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: NORC (Illinois)



Liz Kantor, from Hamilton, New Jersey, is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program double majoring in political science and statistics for her bachelor's degree. Since her first month at Rutgers, she has been involved with the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling in several capacities, as a general research intern, phone interviewer, an Aresty Undergraduate Research Assistant, methodological intern, and data archivist. In fall 2013, she was a member of the Darien Learning Community for Civic Engagement and was a founding member of the RU Voting Club. Liz also volunteers with the Honors Program as an honors

ambassador and panel moderator. She is honored to be serving in the Rutgers University Student Assembly as an SAS senator at-large for her senior year. Liz is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha, and is the recipient of a Presidential Scholarship, the Academic Excellence Award, Dean's List, an honorable mention at the Aresty Undergraduate Research Symposium, and a Student Travel Award from the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). She received first place in the 2nd Annual Paper Competition of the Pennsylvania-New Jersey chapter of AAPOR, and presented her paper at AAPOR's national conference in May 2015. In the summer of 2014, she worked at the United States Census Bureau as a Joint Program in Survey Methodology junior fellow intern. This past summer she interned at NORC, based at the University of Chicago, one of the country's largest social science research organizations. Liz hopes to go to graduate school for survey methodology and pursue a career in public opinion research.

Jacqueline Malzone

Major/Minors/School: Political Science/Theatre Arts, Education as a Social Science/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placements: Office of the Governor, Department of Constituent Relations and Office of Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli



Jacqueline Malzone, born and raised in Whippany, New Jersey, is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science with minors in theatre arts and education as a social science. She is a recipient of the 2014 Academic Excellence Award and a newly inducted member to Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Sigma Alpha, and the National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi). On campus, Jacqueline has been involved in various activities, currently presiding as president of the Pre-Law Society, a founding member of the Ronal McDonald House Club, and a participating member of Cabaret Theatre. During her time

at Rutgers, Jacqueline has been an Aresty research assistant studying the perception of whistleblowers in the media with Professor Milton Heumann. She also spent a summer semester abroad in Rome, Italy. Since her freshman year, Jacqueline has taken the most pleasure in being a scarlet ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions - giving tours and showing off the University to prospective students. After graduation, she plans to go to law school and see where life takes her from there.

Ian McGeown

Majors/Minor/School: History, Political Science/Digital Communication, Information and Media /School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: Princeton Public Affairs



Ian McGeown is a School of Arts and Sciences senior from Bridgewater, New Jersey, pursuing a bachelor's degree in history and political science with a minor in digital communication, information and media. He has been involved with student organizations since his freshman year and has held various leadership roles. He started volunteering early at Ealgeton, with the program Citizenship Rutgers in his freshman year and the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling his sophomore year. During his sophomore year he was also an undergraduate research assistant with Professor David Redlawsk through the Aresty Research Center, where he studied the usefulness of social media analysis in public opinion poll studies. Ian was promoted from research assistant to peer instructor, to master peer instructor for the Aresty program. This fall, Ian is completing an internship at the Princeton Public Affairs Group. He has also a member of the Greek Community, serving as president of Delta Kappa Epsilon, and is an environmental research intern for McGeown Associates. In his spare time he enjoys baseball, cooking and spending time with family. He hopes to pursue law school after his undergraduate studies are complete at Rutgers.

Christina McGinnis

Majors/Minor/School: Planning and Public Policy, Political Science/Psychology/School of Arts and Sciences, Douglass Residential College

Internship Placement: New Jersey Senate Majority Office



Christina McGinnis is from Ringwood, New Jersey. She is a School of Arts and Sciences student pursuing a bachelor's degree in planning and public policy and political science with a minor in psychology. While at Rutgers, she has been involved in athletics, academic and community service organizations, Greek life, and student government. An active participant in Douglass Residential College, she served as a senator with Douglass Government Council and Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA). She has been a part of Douglass' Global Village for two years, and has been a Douglass greeter since her sophomore year. In her freshman year she was elected to be the Katzenbach Hall president through Rutgers' Residence Hall Association and was an involved participant with Circle K. Since 2013, she has been a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity. Christina has been recipient of Dean's List, Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association Scholar-Athlete award, named a member of Big East All-Academic Team, and received American Athletic Conference All-Academic Team Honors. This past summer she interned at the New York District's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the Freedom of Information Act unit (FOIA) where she received an award for redacting the most number of pages by a FOIA intern since the offices' internship program was initiated and earned certification as a FOIA specialist from the office. She also interned with the New Jersey Senate Majority Office and was recipient of the

Kathy Crotty Award at Eagleton. Currently she is a captain and varsity coxswain for the Division I Rutgers Women's Rowing team, and was recently elected to the position of SAS senator at-large for RUSA during the 2015-2016 academic year. Christina plans to attend law school upon graduation.

Steven Mercadante

Majors/Minor/School: Political Science, Planning and Public Policy/Economics/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: M Public Affairs



Steven Mercadante, from Point Pleasant, New Jersey, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science and planning and public policy with a minor in economics. He is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, and a recipient of the Rutgers Academic Excellence Award and Scarlet Knight scholarship. Steven interned at M Public Affairs where he dealt with campaign management, media relations, issue advocacy, and research efforts. At Rutgers, Steven was an intern for the RU Voting team his sophomore year, and served as RU Voting student coordinator his junior year, where he organized on-campus voter registration and get-out-the-vote efforts among other politically themed events. Steven was selected to represent Rutgers as a national campaign ambassador at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he worked in collaboration with twenty-four other participating universities to work on ways to foster bipartisan governance. In addition, Steven served as founder and president of the RU Voting Club, a student offshoot of the Eagleton program. In his junior year, he conducted research for the Aresty Research Center with Professor Andrew Murphy for his upcoming biography on William Penn. Additionally, he was a founder of the Civic Leadership Council, a campus-wide coalition of all civically-minded organizations aimed at increasing student participation in civics. In his future, Steven is considering law school, with hopes of one day running for public office.

Charlotte Morabito

Majors/School: Women's & Gender Studies, Journalism and Media Studies/ School of Arts and Sciences, Douglass Residential College

Internship Placement: The Rachel Maddow Show



Charlotte Morabito, who grew up in Westfield, New Jersey, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in women's and gender studies and journalism and media studies. Her curiosity surrounding politics started after leaving high school and has slowly built into a full formed passion. Charlotte is very interested in how public policy specifically affects marginalized groups. She hopes to become a political journalist to shed light on social and economic inequalities. She is a member of the Douglass Residential College and is involved with the Public Leadership Education Network, which offers leadership and educational opportunities regarding public policy programs for college women. Charlotte was awarded the Edward K. Faltermayer Journalism Scholarship in 2009 for excellence and courage in scholastic journalism and is being considered for the Women's Studies Honors Program at Rutgers. In addition to her academic successes, Charlotte is very

interested in technology and graphic design and she runs an Etsy shop, selling customized stickers for scrapbooking and planning.

Harrison Morgan

Majors/School: Economics/Political Science / School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: Office of Mayor-Philadelphia/Department of Policy



Harrison Morgan, born in Philadelphia and raised in Marlton, New Jersey, is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences studying economics and political science for his bachelor's degree. Last summer he interned with the Mayor's Office in Philadelphia as a member of Mayor Nutter's policy team. During Harry's junior year, he completed an internship with Senator Cory Booker's office in Newark, where he primarily handled constituent services work for the Senator. Harry enjoys the exciting atmosphere of political campaigns and has worked on the Booker for Senate re-election campaign as well as the Anthony Hardy Williams for Mayor campaign in Philadelphia. In addition to being an undergraduate associate at Eagleton, Harry is also deeply involved with his professional business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi, in which he has served as the vice president of alumni relations. He is also an active member in the Rutgers chapter of the Institute for Domestic and International Affairs, where he helps organize Model U.N./Model Congress conferences for local high school students. Throughout his college career, he has volunteered his time working with the Mountainview Project and mentoring autistic children at his local community center. Harry is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha, Omicron Delta Epsilon and Gamma Sigma Alpha honor societies. He hopes to pursue a career that allows him to meaningfully address the crucial policy issues of our generation, such as income inequality, climate change, access to quality education, and campaign finance reform. After graduation, Harry hopes to attend graduate school to earn a J.D. or a master's in public policy before landing a key role in the legislative office of a progressive politician.

Charles Nary

Majors/School: Economics, Political Science/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: Office of the Governor, Department of Constituent Relations



Charles Nary is from Linden, New Jersey is pursuing a bachelor's degree in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program majoring in economics and political science. Charles is an eagle scout and remains active in the Boy Scouts of America as a staff member of the National Youth Leadership Training Conference. He is an active member of the Rutgers community and serves as a field training officer with the Rutgers Community Service Officer program. Charles also serves as an executive aide to University President Robert Barchi. He is a member of the Rutgers Mock Trial team and was formerly a rider on the Rutgers Equestrian team. He is an inducted member of Phi Beta Kappa and a recipient of the Academic Excellence Award. Charles also has conducted research on political comedy, which he presented at the 2015 Undergraduate Research Writing Conference. This past summer, he interned at the New Jersey Governor's Office in the Department of Constituent Relations. After graduation in 2016, Charles will further his education by attending law school.

Juliana Odame-Labi

Majors/Minor/School: Political Science, Communication/International and Global Studies/
School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: Office of Assemblyman Michael Blake (New York)



Juliana Odame-Labi was born in Staten Island, New York, and lived briefly in Woodbridge, New Jersey, but has spent most of her life in Morganville, New Jersey. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree double majoring in political science and communication, with a minor in international and global studies. Juliana is a marketing leader for University Career Service and has been on Dean's List since fall 2014. In the summer of 2014, Juliana interned as a grassroots organizing intern for the non-profit organization Compassion and Choices. That summer she also participated in the inaugural United Nations Study Abroad Program in New York City. This past summer Juliana interned with Assemblyman Michael Blake, who represents the Bronx, New York. On campus, Juliana is an avid member of the Rutgers United Nations Club. She is passionate about advocating for women's rights. In the near future, she hopes to study international law and work at a non-governmental organization.

Danielle Pocock

Major/School: Finance/Rutgers Business School

Internship Placement: Middlesex County Democratic Organization



Danielle is from the Boston area and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in finance at the Rutgers Business School (RBS). She is on the executive board of the Rutgers Democrats as the political director, and on the executive board of the College Democrats of New Jersey as the fundraising director. As a freshman, she won a seat on the Piscataway Democratic Committee, which she still holds today. Through this position, she became involved in local politics, and enjoys attending local political events. Danielle also served as a vote challenger in the New Jersey gubernatorial election in 2013. At RBS, she is involved with the TeamUP mentorship program, with a mentor at the nearby Ernst and Young. As a sophomore, she conducted managerial research with a small student group at GE Healthcare. Additionally, she is currently conducting solo research on the Dodd-Frank Act with Professor James P. Winder as her advisor. This past summer she had an internship at PricewaterhouseCoopers Boston in their Risk Assurance division. In her free time, Danielle enjoys running - after two successful knee surgeries last year, she is planning on running a marathon this coming year. Danielle hopes to attend law school after graduation, with dreams of becoming a corporate lawyer.

Samantha Puja

Majors/Minor/School: Political Science/Communication/Sociology/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: Office of Assemblyman Joe Danielson



Samantha Puja, from Bayonne New Jersey, is pursuing a bachelor's degree at the School of Arts and Sciences majoring in communication, specializing in public relations, and political science with a sociology minor. Samantha has had a strong interest in communication and politics since she served as the only student liaison to the New Jersey State Board of Education in 2011. In the summer of 2015, Samantha joined Johnson & Johnson Medical Safety Center of Excellence as a full-time communication specialist intern. There, she worked with various project managers to understand ongoing initiatives and define key messages to communicate to various partners and stakeholders across the medical device sector. She also spent the summer as an intern with the Office of Assemblyman Joe Danielson. In 2014, Samantha held a public relations internship with Nios Group, a start-up personal care product company, where she was responsible for telling a story about the brands and considering how best to frame such stories to potential influencers and across social media outlets. In addition to various internships, she has been employed by Rutgers Recreation for four years, and is currently a building manager of the College Avenue Gym. Samantha is also a proud recipient of the Academic Excellence Award given by Rutgers University, a Dean's List Student, and a competitive bodybuilder.

Edward Romano

Majors/School: History, Political Science/ School of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placements: Middlesex County Democratic Organization



Edward Romano, from Iselin New Jersey, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in the School of Arts and Sciences majoring in History and Political Science. He is a recipient of the Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship in Leadership and Social Policy. His Gardner thesis, *Jersey Justice: How New Jersey's Judicial Culture Prevents Judicial Corruption and Protects the Independence of the New Jersey Judiciary*, will be released in May 2015. Ed is currently working on his senior thesis, researching the political influence of the Camden and Amboy Railroad. He also currently serves as the president of the Rutgers University Democrats, the vice president of the Rutgers History Club, and the co-chair of the Middlesex County College Democratic Caucus. In 2013-2014, Ed served as the leader of the History and Political Science Special Interest Housing Section. He also interned on Barbara Buono's campaign for Governor in 2013. He plans to earn his doctorate degree in history and remain active in local politics.

Angenny Rosario

Major/Minors/School: Political Science/Global Politics, English/ Rutgers Newark-College of Arts and Sciences

Internship Placement: Office of U.S. Senator Robert Menendez



Angenny Rosario was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Shortly thereafter, her family moved to New York, where they remained until finally settling into Roselle, New Jersey. She is currently a student in the Newark College of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-Newark, where she is a member of the Honors College, majoring in political science and minoring in global politics and in English. She has earned various distinctions, such as being on the Dean's List, as well as being inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Golden Key International Honor Society and Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society. During the summer of 2014, she had the honor of being a New Jersey Governor's Hispanic fellow. In addition to her academic achievements, she is a co-founder of the Honors College Student Council on campus, serving as the organization's constitution writer and first vice president. She is also a scarlet ambassador manager, giving perspective students tours of the Rutgers-Newark campus. Angenny's aspirations include going to law school and one day becoming a district attorney.

Hira Shaikh

Majors/Minor/School: Political Science, Mathematics/Psychology/ School of Arts and Sciences, Douglass Residential College

Internship Placement: Office of the Governor, Department of Appointments



Hira Shaikh was born in Karachi, Pakistan and grew up in Doha, Qatar before her family settled in East Brunswick, New Jersey. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science and mathematics with a minor in psychology. She is a member of the Douglass Residential College and an Aresty Research Assistant, researching gender and race in office-holding. Her passion is studying women's rights in the scope of international relations and foreign policy, which is why she hopes to eventually work at the United Nations or U.S. State Department. Hira is also the secretary-general of Rutgers Model U.N. 2015, a conference consisting of 1200 high school students who come to debate world issues for four days. She has been dedicated to the Model U.N. community at Rutgers since she first started as a freshman, and she hopes to promote civic education and an understanding of global issues in her students. Upon graduation, Hira hopes to teach abroad in Germany before going to law school and eventually working in international relations.

Ahmed Shehata

Major/Minor/School: Criminal Justice/Political Science/Rutgers-Newark University College, School of Criminal Justice

Internship Placement: Office of Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.



Ahmed Shehata, is an Egyptian-American who lives in Linden, New Jersey. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree studying criminal justice with a minor in political science at Rutgers-Newark University College and School of Criminal Justice. Ahmed is fluent in Arabic. He is currently a National Society of Collegiate Scholars honoree. Last summer, he interned with Congressman Donald Payne Jr. Ahmed has been active on campus since coming to Rutgers and has participated in the Rutgers Honor Council, was a Rutgers-Newark, student delegate for 2014 SCUSA Conference at West point, and authored an article for the *The Rutgers Observer* and the Rutgers School of Law-Newark. When not on campus, Ahmed volunteers with various organizations including, Arch Walk May, March of Dimes, Columbia Bank Blood Drive, Elizabeth Food Pantry and is a soccer referee for Linden Recreation. After completing his undergraduate studies, Ahmed hopes to attend law school, work in the private sector, and get involved in the political arena to help youth focus on the importance of an adequate education.

Luke Svasti

Major/Minor/School: Political Science/Labor Studies and Employment Relations/School of Arts and Sciences

Internship: Morford Drulis Associates



Luke Svasti, a native of Singapore, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in labor studies. He is interested in student activism and is currently the New Jersey United Students' parliamentarian. Last year, Luke was an at-large student senator and the legislative affairs chairperson for the Rutgers University Student Assembly, and worked on voter mobilization, student representation and tuition affordability amongst the student body. He has had extensive teaching experience within the school, working both as an undergraduate teaching assistant for Professor Francis Ryan and as a writing tutor at the Plangere Writing Center. Luke worked on an Aresty Research Center program, under Professor Ethel Brooks, focusing on the historical traditions of the Roma people during WWII and also participated in the Darien Learning Community, focusing on youth voter mobilization issues with Elizabeth Matto. Luke enjoys travelling, and spent the summer of 2015 studying foreign policy in Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto and interned with Morford Drulis Associates in Trenton. Luke has received academic awards including the School of Arts and Sciences academic excellence scholarship as well as being part of the school's Honors Program. Outside of the classroom, Luke is both a licensed rescue diver as well as a private pilot. He hopes to be involved in legal advocacy for groups that have a focus on healthcare, immigration and labor issues, and will seek admission into law school after graduation.