



CLASS OF 2024

UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATES

50th Anniversary Cohort



Eagleton Institute  Politics

Study politics. Inspire engagement, Improve democracy.

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EAGLETON UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

The Eagleton Undergraduate Associates Program, established in 1974, is a core education program of the Eagleton Institute of Politics. This 1.5-year interdisciplinary certificate program is open to seniors from all Rutgers schools, departments, and campus locations who are interested in American politics, government, policy and advocacy. Associates link the study of politics and power to its real-world application, while building knowledge, skills and networks for political, community, government, and social change during their last three semesters at Rutgers. The program is a partnership between the Eagleton Institute of Politics and the Department of Political Science in the School of Arts and Sciences.

Associates earn nine credits through three-courses, an internship, and program sessions where they learn to:

- understand power dynamics, decision making processes, policies, and structure of American political and government systems.
- demonstrate knowledge of how to positively impact government, politics and communities to improve American democracy.
- cultivate positive behaviors and attitudes towards democratic values and good governance
- develop core personal, professional and advocacy skills necessary to be engaged citizens and adaptable public service leaders who address pressing social needs
- explore the role diversity in identity, beliefs, and political perspectives play in democratic discourse

Undergraduate Associates begin with the *Practice of Politics* course the spring of senior year, where they examine the role of power with a primary focus on American institutions and political behavior. What is power? How does it work in our political system – and what makes it an at once critical, but also troubling aspect of governance within a democratic system? These questions are explored with an emphasis on theories of power and its function throughout American history.

Over the summer or fall semester, Associates complete valuable public service internships in New Jersey, Washington D.C., and other states. Students have a wide variety of internship options including all levels of government, public affairs, policy, advocacy and non-profit groups, political campaigns, lobbying firms, think tanks, and other interest groups to name a few. The accompanying *Internship Seminar* course in the fall fosters a deeper understanding of both the institutions and the individuals that shape public policymaking. In addition to learning about a variety of careers in the political realm, the class will examine political decision-making and leadership in the workplace. Associates also hone their strategic thinking, communications, and professional networking skills during the course.

Associates complete the final *Processes of Politics* course spring of senior year, where they deepen and apply their understanding of politics and governance by providing windows into how the democratic process works, how decisions are made, and how they can play a part. Students consider topics seeking to be civically engaged and affect change, analyzing political decision-making and considering the ramifications of the processes and ultimate decisions on democratic ideals.

The 2024 cohort is the **50th class** of Eagleton Undergraduate Associates. There are more than 1,200 alumni of the program from across Rutgers University. Most have chosen careers in politics and public service, while others have applied their advanced knowledge of government, politics and policy to a broad range of careers in the private, corporate and non-profit sectors. More information about the Eagleton Undergraduate Associates program can be found at go.rutgers.edu/EagletonUA

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Sheaa Amin



Sheaa Amin is an Honors College senior at the School of Arts and Sciences majoring in political science and mathematics with a minor in women's and gender studies. She completed a summer internship at the Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC, Office of Legislative Affairs through the Rutgers Summer Service-DC (RSS-DC) program. Born and raised in Woodbridge, New Jersey, her interests focus on taking a gender-based lens on political participation, labor relations, and advocacy. She is a Leadership Scholar at the Institute for Women's Leadership, focusing her Social Action Project on gender-based inequities in the service industry at Rutgers University--New Brunswick. She is currently a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow and is conducting research on the impact voter suppression policies on socially marginalized communities. Sheaa was a 2022 recipient of the Rutgers Eagleton-Washington Award and spent her summer interning at APIA Vote in Washington D.C., where she further developed her passions for grassroots organizing, civic engagement, and uplifting the voices of the Asian American community. Prior to this role, she volunteered on the 2020 Biden Presidential Campaign as part of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) for Biden Coalition, overseeing core tenets of their youth outreach initiatives and conducting a training seminar at the Democratic National Committee's AAPI Organizing Bootcamp focused on messaging for AAPI youth. Sheaa has been involved at the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) NJ NEW Leadership® Program and attended the Harvard Public Policy and Leadership conference during her sophomore year. She has also interned for State Senator Vin Gopal and for the New Jersey Assembly Majority Office. Sheaa plans to pursue a career in advocacy or legislative affairs before pursuing her masters in public policy degree. She is a proud member of Douglass College, previously serving as the mentor-in-residence to the Douglass Changemaking Community for continuing students within the Honors College. Sheaa also serves as a Resident Assistant and as the Sexual Violence Education Vice Chair in the Rutgers University Student Assembly. Outside of school, Sheaa loves spending time with her dog, trying new coffee shops, and watching musicals.

Fauzan Amjad



Fauzan Amjad is an honors Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences student from Woodbridge, New Jersey, majoring in computer science and cognitive science on the cognitive neuroscience track. He completed a summer Internship at the Office of Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. in Washington, DC as part of the Rutgers Summer Service-DC (RSS-DC) program. Fauzan finds the implementation of artificial intelligence in healthcare to increase accessibility and precision fascinating, and his research positions have allowed him to delve deeper into this exciting field. Currently, he is a research Intern at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School's Women's Health Institute where he researches how we can achieve equity and reduce healthcare disparities in women's health through advances in AI. He is also a Machine Learning and Psychology Undergraduate Researcher in the Rutgers Psychology Department where he analyzes the brain mechanisms using songbirds to study their use of songs and calls to communicate in social and reproductive contexts. He has held positions at the U.S. House of Representatives (Legislative Intern), University Correctional Healthcare (Research Intern & Project Lead), and Merck (Data Analytics and Research Intern). Fauzan's research in women's health and health disparities led him to create BabySafeHealth.com, a company he co-founded to tackle the infant mortality rate in New Jersey by creating a free maternal health application to educate mothers on the pregnancy process, increase accessibility to OB-GYNs, and alert mothers of adverse healthcare outcomes through machine learning. His research and entrepreneurship endeavors have allowed him to receive many awards, which include winning \$25,000 for his start up through TechUnited: Better Wellness Challenge; the Johnson and Johnson & Amazon Web Services Black Tech Health Hackathon, and a semifinalist at the Amazon Web Services US University Start-Up Competition; a \$2500 National Science Foundation & Rutgers

Innovation Corps grant and being invited to join the Clinton Global Initiative accelerator program. Fauzan is also an active member of university governance, currently serving a six-year term as a member of the Rutgers Board of Trustees, one of the primary governing boards at Rutgers University. In his capacity as the Student Charter Trustee, he represents the interests of 67,000+ Rutgers undergraduate and graduate students. On campus, Fauzan is a teaching assistant in the Rutgers Computer Science department, and he is on the Executive boards of the Rutgers Cricket Club (President and Founder), Rutgers University Student Assembly (Academic Affairs Chair), and the Rutgers Muslim Public Relations Council (Recruitment Chair). Fauzan seeks to become a machine learning engineer/architect directly after graduation and plans to apply to medical school in a couple years to become a physician-scientist.

Ethan Block



Ethan Block is enrolled in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Bloustein School studying political science and public policy with a minor in economics. He completed an Internship at the Office of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman in Washington, DC this summer. Ethan got his start in politics at the age of 16 as the co-founder and programming director of March for Our Lives Philadelphia, a chapter of the national organization founded by survivors of the Parkland school shooting. Ethan's notable accomplishments with March For Our Lives include co-organizing and speaking at the 15,000 person March For Our Lives Philadelphia, traveling to Harrisburg to advocate for the passage of red flag laws, and testifying to the New Jersey Senate in support of a 2018 gun reform package. After spending 2 years organizing with March For Our Lives, Ethan spent time as a campaign intern in NJ's 16th Legislative District, a finance intern for New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's reelection campaign, and an intern in the New Jersey Assembly Majority Office in Trenton. His goal after college is to serve overseas in the Peace Corps, and afterwards serve as a staffer in the U.S. Congress or a state capitol. He was raised in Hopewell Valley and graduated from Hopewell Valley Central High School. In his free time, Ethan enjoys reading, cooking, and playing the guitar.

Matthew Brodsky



Matthew Brodsky is a senior political science major with minors in urban studies and philosophy from Rutgers-Camden. He completed a summer Internship through the Rutgers-Eagleton Washington DC Internship award at the Office of Congressman Casar, Washington, DC. Matthew was born and raised in Sicklerville, New Jersey, and graduated from Paul VI High School in Haddonfield, New Jersey. Matthew is currently a member of the leadership team for Bonner Civic Scholars and created the RUC Votes Coalition. The coalition promotes civic engagement on campus and participates in the annual ballot bowl, a voter registration and pledge competition from the New Jersey Department of Elections. Also, as a Civic Scholar, Matthew works with the District Council Collaborative Board on public safety issues like street lighting in Camden neighborhoods. He is the executive representative of the Rutgers-Camden Student Government Association and the Secretary of the Political Science Society. Matthew works as a student researcher at the Walter Rand Institute and Digital Studies Center. Matthew also has interned for Congressman Donald Norcross at his constituent service office in Camden. Matthew hopes to have a career in government and politics where he wants to advocate for ensuring all Americans have the right to vote and the ability to easily cast their ballot.

John DelGuercio



John DelGuercio is an Honors College student at Rutgers-New Brunswick who is double majoring in economics and political science. Serving on two New Jersey campaigns and the Federal Railroad Administration in analytical roles, he has developed an interest in data-driven policymaking. Last summer, he returned to the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington DC as an economics subject matter expert in the Departmental Office of Civil Rights, providing the Office analysis on the efficacy of its programs. On campus, he serves on the Executive Boards of the American Cancer Society on Rutgers Campus (Director of Fundraising and Sponsorship) and his fraternity (Philanthropy Chair), coordinating some of the most successful fundraising efforts in each of these organization's histories. He has also served as a First-year

Honors College Ally, mentoring freshmen in the Honors College as they navigate the transition from high school to college. In his free time, John likes running, playing guitar, and going on long walks with his dog, Millie.

Krish Desai



Krish Desai, a senior at the Rutgers Business School, is majoring in political science and finance with a minor in quantitative economics. Coming from East Brunswick, New Jersey, he is involved with the Rutgers Queer & Asian society, Out in Business @ Rutgers, the Rutgers Student Managed Fund, and other campus organizations. He is completing a fall internship with the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. After working at the SEC's Philadelphia office in the EXAMS division as a freshman and later in Morgan Stanley's Investment Banking Division as a sophomore, Krish joined the Eagleton Undergraduate Associates program to broaden his opportunities and apply his knowledge of both Finance and Political Science in this increasingly interconnected world, dominated by both politics and economics. He is currently aiming to pursue a Masters/PhD program in the field of political economy with a focus on modern hegemony theory. In his free time, Krish is an avid snowboarder and is a licensed scuba diver as well.

Chelsea Fernandez



Chelsea Alicia Fernandez (she/her) is a first-generation senior attending Rutgers University. Born and raised in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, Chelsea is in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Honors College and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice with a minor in critical intelligence. She completed her summer Internship at Vital Voices in Washington, DC as part of the Rutgers Summer Service-DC (RSS-DC) program. Chelsea believes Rutgers has been a platform for meaningful connections pertaining to all the facets of her life: her identity as a woman, her love for her culture, her passion for social justice, and her career aspirations to study law. She has been a member of Honors College Peer Ambassadors, the Latinx Affinity Group at the Honors College, RU Amnesty, and the Latin Student Council. She is also passionate about women's reproductive rights and autonomy and regularly volunteers her time at Planned Parenthood. Chelsea is honored to be a part of the Eagleton cohort. Coming from a disadvantaged background, she believes this experience can further empower her through engagement in the civil discourse surrounding politics, communities, and public service. Chelsea established networks to advance her passion for immigration rights and reproductive justice in Washington last summer. After graduation, Chelsea aspires to go to law school, where she will become an immigration lawyer and be an advocate for underprivileged groups. In her free time, Chelsea enjoys lifting, doing arts and crafts with her niece, cooking, and re-watching episodes of Law and Order.

Pooja Ghadiali



Pooja Ghadiali, from Iselin, New Jersey, is a senior at Rutgers University-Newark in the School of Arts and Sciences. She majors in political science with a triple minor in legal studies, criminal justice, and history. She completed her summer Internship at the Office of New Jersey Senator Vin Gopal through the Rutgers Summer Service Internship (RSSI) program. Pooja has been involved in politics since the beginning of her high school career by volunteering in local campaigns to encourage citizens in her town to vote. Pooja's involvement in campaigning includes working under Governor Murphy, the Department of Health, and Mayor Sam Joshi. In 2020, Pooja participated in U.S. Representative Frank Pallone Jr.'s Youth Advisory Council, where she advocated for diversity and inclusion for LGBTQ+ individuals and served on a committee committed to preventing vape addictions for individuals under 18. As a resident of Woodbridge Township, Pooja continues to work closely with the Honorary Youth Council and Board of Education to spread awareness of the dangers of vaping in the youth. Pooja has taken part in multiple leadership positions as a dedicated executive board member of The Pre-Law Society, Greek Life Associations, the Program Board, and the first Senior Orientation Leader post-pandemic. In addition, Pooja served as an intern for the Rutgers Advocacy Corps, where she collaborated with fellow students to persuade members of Congress to support a doubling of the Pell Grant and increase financial aid for college students. Her passion for advocacy was further fueled when

she was an intern for the office of Susan N. Rosti LLC., an Immigration Attorney specializing in Asylum cases. Here, she worked efficiently to understand the depths of immigration legislation and assisted individuals in gaining naturalization. During her Senior year, Pooja was elected as the School of Arts and Sciences Senator, where she pushed forth an initiative to bring more awareness to reproductive rights on campus. Pooja worked diligently and proposed bringing Plan B vending machines on campus, gaining support from organizations and the Dean of students. Pooja's passion for advocacy stems from her love for the community. As a devoted public servant, Pooja hopes to become a District Attorney after attending law school and ultimately becoming a Supreme Court Justice. In her free time, Pooja enjoys playing chess, learning about car modifications, and reading novels.

Rees Hagler



Originally from Colorado Springs, Colorado, Rees Hagler is a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Rutgers Honors College. Rees is double-majoring in economics and Spanish and double-minoring in political science and international and global studies. She completed her summer Internship at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration in Washington, DC through the Rutgers-Eagleton Washington DC Internship award. During the Fall 2022 semester, she gained a global perspective and engaged in Spanish-language immersion at the University of Valencia in Spain via the Rutgers Global Study Abroad program. As a passionate student of the Spanish language with an adventurous spirit, Rees is a strong advocate of gaining international experience. She continues to work with the Rutgers Global office as a Global Ambassador, hoping to empower and support future study abroad candidates across their individual journeys. Rees previously interned with the non-profit organization Girls Who Invest, a pipeline program for women in finance that strives to inspire candidates of varied backgrounds and create a community of diverse voices in the wealth management industry. She studied finance basics at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in the Summer of 2022 alongside a cohort of 200 undergraduate sophomores representing more than 80 colleges and universities. She enjoyed the concrete, quantitative work of her Econometrics course, and her present aspirations lie in economic research, more specifically, the capacity of economics to advise public policy. As an Eagleton Undergraduate Associate, Rees aims to integrate her academic interests and explore careers in public service with the ultimate goal of employing economics to contribute to tangible positive change. Outside of school, Rees is a Coloradan at heart. She loves all things outdoors and can be found hiking, kayaking, fishing, and skiing in her free time.

Hanna Hammoud



Hanna Hammoud is a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program from Northfield, NJ, double-majoring in political science and philosophy with a minor in law & history. She interned at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington DC last summer through the Rutgers Summer Service-DC (RSS-DC) program. Hanna is a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow, working with Professor Jefferson Decker on an independent research project about contemporary legal developments concerning social media, free speech, and the First Amendment. She is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society. As part of her professional political experience, Hanna was a Campaign Intern for Josh Gottheimer's Primary and General Election campaigns in 2020, where she learned about the intricacies of campaign operations and how local politics is influential on a broader scale. She also has professional experience as a Licensed New Jersey Real Estate Salesperson, Realtor, and was a recipient of the NJ Realtors Educational Foundation Scholarship Award. Hanna currently works as a Building Manager at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, where she promotes the PRCC's missions to maintain Paul Robeson's legacy on campus. She has also been part of the Paul Robeson Living-Learning Community since her first-year at Rutgers, and is part of the LLC Community Ambassadors Program, where she's gained experience with community service initiatives. An aspiring lawyer, Hanna has prior experience with the Rutgers Pre-Law Society and Moot Court Association. Hanna's primarily legal interest is constitutional law, as she has always been fascinated by the various political and philosophical interpretations of the United States Constitution. Other legal fields that interest her are civil rights, consumer protection, international, employment, and real estate law. In her free time, Hanna enjoys reading, writing, drawing, cooking, and binging podcasts and political news streams.

Lauren Johnson



Lauren Johnson is a School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) student, studying political science with minors in religious studies and critical intelligence studies. Originally from Omaha, Nebraska, she moved to Sparta, New Jersey in 2012 where she graduated from Sparta High School. She is an eager student in the SAS Honors Program where she serves as a member of the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Advisory Board and the SAS Core Requirements Committee. She has also developed an appetite for research and has been actively working on various research projects throughout her time at Rutgers. Lauren is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honors society and she is a Kneller Fellow for her research on peoples' perceptions of privacy. Outside of academics, she has worked for the Rutgers Office of Federal Relations, both on campus and in Washington, DC, where she learned about her passion for advocacy. This passion was extended when she became part of the inaugural RSS-DC cohort, and had the opportunity to do an internship with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington, DC. In this role she was an integral part of overall committee operations and she was exposed to the intricacies of foreign policy and decision making. Post graduation, Lauren intends to take a gap year before attending law school. In the little free time she has, Lauren enjoys spending time with her siblings, working out, traveling, going to coffee shops, taking photos, and watching bull riding.

Anthony Lino-Barbosa



Anthony Lino-Barbosa, born and raised in Ventnor City, a small town next to Atlantic City. He is a School of Arts and Science (SAS) senior double-majoring in political science and English, and minor in environmental and business economics. Anthony is the first male and second in his domestic and extended family to go to a 4-year University. Upon entering Rutgers, Anthony entered as a School of Arts and Science Educational Opportunity Fund Scholar and became involved in the Rutgers University Student Assembly in which he was appointed to be a SAS Student Senator, advocating for student issues at Rutgers University Senate Meetings. During his sophomore year Anthony became an Hermano of La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. an impactful moment in his life that he honors because of the Hermanos service and involvement in the Latinx community in Rutgers and New Brunswick. In the Summer of 2022, Anthony completed the Seton Hall Law: Pre-Legal Summer Institute 5-week program where he was able to develop legal writing skills, case briefing and analysis, and connect with District Court Judges. During this program, Anthony was awarded the Award for Best Orator in giving a presentation with his peers about housing inequality and lead in the town of Newark. Anthony is also a Resident Assistant for the Leadership- Living Learning Community, where we assists his current residents in building connections with everyone on the floor and creating events that build leadership skills. After graduation, Anthony hopes to enroll in a Master program in Education in pursuit of becoming an English teacher at public schools. Further on he hopes to enroll in Law School and advocate for immigration rights. Aside from academia, Anthony loves to draw images of his Latino culture and workout consistently.

Sandhya Rajagopalan



Sandhya Rajagopalan is an Honors College senior in the School of Arts and Sciences, majoring in economics and political science with a minor in French. She is from Mountain Lakes, New Jersey. She completed a summer internship at Civic Nation, ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in Washington, DC. Currently, she is a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow, researching dictatorship and democratization, looking into the South Korean democracy and grassroots movements. At the Honors College, she is a Changemaking Mentor and an intern in the Professional Development department. She also has worked with the Eagleton Institute of Politics as an intern for both the RU Ready program, which aims to educate high school students about civic engagement, and the RU Voting program, which focuses on voter registration and mobilization. She also worked as a research assistant for the Center of American Women in Politics (CAWP) to create a new database of New Jersey officeholders, verify government-appointed boards, and collect ongoing data on women leaders in the U.S. government. Over the summer, she assisted Dr. Elizabeth Matto, Eagleton's Director,

with her book on the best democratic practices for engaging citizens. In her free time, she likes to chat with friends, listen to podcasts, and read!

Sarah Samdani



Sarah Samdani is an Honors College and School of Arts and Sciences student from Montville, NJ, double majoring in political science and criminal justice with a minor in psychology. Her academic interests include the judiciary, immigration, and civil rights. Her summer Rutgers Summer Service-DC (RSS-DC) internship was at the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Civil Rights Department in Washington, DC. Sarah was an Aresty Research Assistant for historian David Greenberg, performing research on his upcoming biography on civil rights leader and Congressman John Lewis. She has also volunteered for the Princeton Justice Initiative, a nonprofit organization aimed toward alleviating poverty, where she researched poverty levels in various counties. Sarah has been a competitor on the Rutgers University Mock Trial Association and competed as both an attorney and a witness. She has served on the Rutgers University Student Assembly's Judicial Council, being one of the first Councillors and taking notes on every case as secretary. Currently, Sarah is the president of the Rutgers University Women's Political Caucus, hosting an Intimate Partner Violence Symposium and encouraging student activism against the laws affecting women in Iran and Afghanistan. Sarah has contributed to the Eagleton Political Journal, writing an article on the treatment of Latino immigrants in Arizona, and is now the editor-in-chief for the journal. Last year, Sarah interned in her county's prosecutor's office and later with EMILY's List, the country's largest resource for women in politics. She is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honors Society. Going forward, Sarah hopes to attend law school and explore the fields of human rights and criminal law. In her free time, Sarah enjoys making informative posts for her Legal Lessons Instagram page, reading autobiographies, and exploring new bookstores.

Chloe Smith



Chloe is a senior majoring in environmental, policy, institutions, and behavior with a minor in sustainability at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Chloe completed her summer Internship at Mobilize Green in Washington DC through the Rutgers Summer Service-DC (RSS-DC) program. She is active within the Rutgers community and on campus through many programs and clubs. Chloe is a member of Students for Environmental Awareness and Climate Reality. This past year she was in the inaugural cohort of the Fellows in Racial Justice Learning Community (RAJU). This fall, Chloe is excited to be teaching a First Year Interest Group Seminar (FIGS) with the topical area of environmental policy. She is also currently serves on the student advisory board for RAJU and continues to be a SEBS ambassador.

Kiran Subramanian



Kiran Subramanian is a senior at Rutgers University, New Brunswick's School of Arts and Science, majoring in Political Science and Economics. He is from Belle Mead, New Jersey. On campus, Kiran is the Vice President of the Rutgers Moot Court Association and the Rutgers University Debate Union. He is also an opinions columnist at The Daily Targum, where he writes about various topics ranging from environmental policy to Rutgers events. He served as a Congressional Reform Intern at The Sunwater Institute. He served as a campaign fellow on the Zwicker for Senate, Freiman for Assembly, and Jaffer for Assembly campaigns in 2021. Currently, Kiran is a tutor at the Rutgers University Writing Centers, where he helps students with their essays and builds skills for critical thinking and analysis. He also completed his summer Internship at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, Office of General Counsel, in Washington, DC through the Rutgers Summer Service-DC (RSS-DC) program.

Novalee Tamayo Rodriguez



Novalee Tamayo Rodriguez is a senior from Rockaway, New Jersey, majoring in political science and double minoring in sociology and comparative and critical race and ethnic studies at Rutgers-New Brunswick. She completed her summer Internship at the Office of Representative Mikie Sherrill in Washington, DC through the Rutgers Summer Service-DC (RSS-DC) program. She is a first-generation student at the School of Arts and Sciences and Douglass Residential College. She is heavily involved in Douglass Residential College and participated in the Global Leaders Program this year. With Global Leaders, Novalee could travel abroad to Kuwait for two weeks during winter break. Through the program and trip, she learned about the misconceptions about the Middle East and how colonization has affected the middle east. Coming from an immigrant family has made Novalee passionate about social and political issues. It is why she is pursuing a degree in political science so she can one day be part of the government and help her community. She is looking forward to either working in government offices or with non-profits, but overall her main goal is to give back to her community and make sure the community's needs are met. After graduation, Novalee plans on attending law school and pursuing a career as a human rights lawyer or immigration lawyer. Outside of school, Novalee enjoys working out, cooking, playing sims, and hanging out with the people she loves.

Akanksha Thukral



Akanksha Thukral, a resident of Monroe Township, New Jersey, is a student majoring in political science and double minoring in critical intelligence studies and American studies in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Her summer Internship at National Humanities Alliance in Washington, DC was part of the Rutgers Summer Service-DC (RSS-DC) program. She is on the executive council for Phi Sigma Pi, National Honors Fraternity as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Co-Chair. She is also an Intelligence Community Centers for Academic Excellence Scholar, a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha, National Political Science Honor Society, as well as Phi Beta Kappa, Honors Society. On campus, she has worked at the Rutgers Writing Center as a tutor for other college students in Expository Writing, Basic Composition, and English for Academic Purposes courses. Off-campus, she has interned as a political fellow with the Tom Malinowski Congressional Campaign, a Democrat from the seventh district in New Jersey. Most recently, she has interned in the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Division of Criminal Justice in the Prosecutors Supervision and Training Bureau. She worked primarily with Outreach and Bias Crimes. Her academic interests lie in criminal justice, U.S. politics, and global education rights. Upon graduation, Akanksha is interested in continuing her education on the intersection of politics and the criminal justice system, as well as working in public service. In her free time, Akanksha is very passionate about her favorite sports teams, gardening, baking, and reading.

Virginia Uyehara



Virginia Uyehara (she/her), a senior at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, is a sociology major with a minor in music. She completed her summer Internship at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of the Secretary in Washington, DC through the Rutgers Summer Service-DC (RSS-DC) program. She is an active member of Douglass Residential College, where she serves on the Douglass Governing Council. Through Douglass, Virginia participated in the Global Village: Human Rights program, and she completed an externship with the NJ Assembly. Before transferring to Rutgers, Virginia attended the University of the Sciences (now Saint Joseph's University), where she studied biomedical science, bioinformatics, and medical humanities. She is originally from Pitman, NJ, where she currently serves on the Executive Campaign Team for the Pitman Democratic Party, in addition to her role as Chairperson of the Young Democrats of Pitman. Through her work with the Young Dems, Virginia continues to educate young people on the importance of voting, and she strives to inspire other young people to get involved with politics. Upon graduation, Virginia plans to pursue a master's degree in public health, concentrating on health systems and policies. Virginia's future plans include combining her knowledge of health and social sciences to eliminate structural barriers blocking marginalized communities from accessing equitable and affordable healthcare.

Cassandra Vega



Born and raised in New Jersey, Cassandra Vega is a student at the School of Arts and Sciences and Douglass Residential College. Cassie is majoring in political science, minoring in Latino and Caribbean Studies, and earned her certificate in women's leadership through the Institute for Women's Leadership Scholars Program. As a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow, she wrote a research paper analyzing Puerto Rico's history with the US and the current state of the island to determine the shaping of Puerto Rico's political future. A founding member of the Women's Pre-Law Society, she helped create a space for gender minorities interested in the legal field, and served on the executive board as co-Membership Chair. Cassie spearheaded the creation of the Fellows in Racial Justice Learning Community through her work with the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice, providing undergraduate students from all three Rutgers campuses with the resources to become activists in their academic and professional lives. Her summer internship at the Office of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez in Washington, DC was part of the Rutgers Summer Service-DC (RSS-DC) program. She is a member of *lota lota lota*, Pi Sigma Alpha, and Phi Beta Kappa, the national honor societies for women and gender studies, political science, and liberal arts and sciences, respectively. Off-campus, she has interned at Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman's District Office and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Pioneer Team. She was also a New Jersey Governor's Hispanic Fellow and the sole representative for the state of New Jersey at the Henry Clay Center's College Student Congress. After graduation, she looks forward to attending law school and serving marginalized communities as both a lawyer and future elected official.

Madison Verdone



Madison Verdone, a resident of Collingswood, NJ, is an Honors Program student in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers New-Brunswick, double majoring in political science and philosophy with a minor in law and history. She completed her summer Internship in the Office of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman in Washington, DC. On campus Maddy serves as the President of the Rutgers Democrats as well as the Networking Chair for the Women's Pre-Law Society. In 2021 Maddy worked on Governor Murphy's re-election campaign through door-knocking, phone banking, and registering students on campus to vote. Over the past year she has interned for Governor Murphy's Communications Office, and she currently is a policy intern at the New Jersey Senate Majority Office. Outside of Rutgers she is a server at Sabrina's Cafe as well as an avid reader and runner. After graduation she hopes to work in government for a few years before applying to law school.

Felicity Winter



Felicity Winter (she/her) is a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences double-majoring in political science and theater arts. She is from Springfield Township (Union County). Her summer internship was at the New Jersey Senate Majority Office in Trenton, New Jersey. Before joining the 2024 cohort of Undergraduate Associates, she interned with RU Voting in the Center for Youth Political Participation. She also had an organizing fellowship on Governor Murphy's 2021 reelection campaign. On campus, she is active in Cabaret Theatre, where she serves as Director of Finance. She has participated in numerous productions at Cabaret Theatre, both as an actor and a director. Favorite credits include *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Director), *Ideation* (Hannah), and *Into the Woods* (Director). Beyond student theater, she has served as a production intern for Fresh Theatre Arts, an educational theatre company based in Highland Park and she has taught theatre classes for Ferrell Studios. She has a keen interest in political theatre and the portrayal of politics in entertainment, and she plans to pursue theatre professionally.