



# **CLASS OF 2020**

# **FELLOWS**



**EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS**

Rutgers University–New Brunswick

Wood Lawn, Douglass Campus

New Brunswick, NJ

[eagleton.rutgers.edu](http://eagleton.rutgers.edu)

## EAGLETON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Eagleton Graduate Fellowship Program is an academic program within the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University—New Brunswick and was one of the first activities undertaken by the Institute after it was established in 1956 with a bequest from Florence Peshine Eagleton. The program offers select Rutgers graduate students the opportunity to further their understanding of government, public affairs, and the practice of politics, and to connect the fellowship experience to their chosen fields of study. Eagleton studies how American politics and government work and change, analyzes how the democracy might improve, and promotes political participation and civic engagement. The Institute explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice.

Over the years, the Fellowship Program has developed and changed, but its vision, mission and values have remained constant. Between 1957 and 1994, the program was conducted in partnership with the Department of Political Science in New Brunswick, and graduates earned an M.A. degree in political science. From 1995 to 2000 the program was administered in collaboration with the Department of Public Policy at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, where graduates earned an M.S. degree in public policy. Since the fall of 2000, the Eagleton Fellowship Program has been open to graduate students from departments and schools on all Rutgers campus who are interested in politics and government. Recent Fellows have come from the New Brunswick, Camden and Newark campus locations, representing more than 45 departments in the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences and nineteen different graduate and professional schools reflecting a wide variety of interests and perspectives.

Over 1,000 alumni have graduated from the program since the first class in 1958. Some choose careers in public service, while others apply their sophisticated knowledge of government and politics in the private and non-profit sectors or in education, business or a variety of other fields.

Eagleton Fellows work toward their graduate degrees without interruption; the one-year fellowships are designed to complement academic study. Throughout the year, Eagleton gives students access to practitioners in state and national politics and government who serve to bridge the gap between the academic training of a graduate student and the everyday challenges of a life in politics and public affairs. All Fellows take one of two specially-designed seminar classes in the fall to prepare them for an internship placement in the spring. Fellows are placed in the New Jersey Legislature, Office of the Governor, state executive agencies or departments, and government offices at the local, county, state, regional, and federal levels.

Up to twenty-seven fellowships are granted annually through four related awards: Harold and Reba Martin, Henry J. Raimondo Legislative, Governor's Executive, and Eagleton Alumni. More information on the program can be found at [eagleton.rutgers.edu/grad-fellowships](http://eagleton.rutgers.edu/grad-fellowships)

## CLASS OF 2020 EAGLETON FELLOWS

### Sarah Ballentine



Sarah Ballentine was homeschooled and graduated from Burlington County College at the age of sixteen with an associate's degree in English. She is currently pursuing a J.D. degree at Rutgers Law School—Camden. She was motivated to attend law school after serving as a constituent advocate intern with the Camden Office of U.S. Senator Cory Booker. During her internship, she assisted staff with casework, helping homeowners forestall foreclosure and veterans obtain benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. She also worked as a director of constituent outreach for Assemblyman Herb Conaway in New Jersey's 7<sup>th</sup> legislative district. Ballentine currently serves as the president of the Student Bar Association, participates in the Rutgers Law Domestic Violence and Mortgage Foreclosure Projects, and is a research assistant for Professor Roger Clark. She is also passionate about women's rights and victim advocacy, which prompted her to become a confidential sexual violence advocate through the Center for Family Services in Camden. Over the summer, she also volunteered as a ballet teacher at the Neighborhood Center in Camden, on the Camp Kumbaya summer enrichment program. She is looking forward to the fall term, when she will be participating in the Honorable James Hunter III Moot Court Competition, and when she will be joining the Eagleton Graduate Fellowship Program as a Harold and Reba Martin Award recipient.

### Sarah Blaine



Sarah Blaine is currently pursuing a Master's of Arts degree in history at Rutgers Graduate School—Newark. An attorney, writer, and educator, Blaine earned her J.D. at Rutgers Law School—Newark with high honors in 2005. During law school, she was a member of the Order of the Coif and the *Women's Rights Law Reporter*. She was also a judicial intern for the Honorable Julio M. Fuentes of the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals. After law school, she practiced commercial and securities fraud litigation as an Associate and later Counsel at Lowenstein Sandler, P.C. Following her years at Lowenstein, Blaine practiced insurance and commercial litigation at d'Arcambal Ousley & Cuyler Burk, LLP until leaving to embark on a year of travel with her family to 43 states and approximately 18 countries. A New Jersey native, Blaine earned her undergraduate degree in English from Wesleyan University. Prior to law school she earned a master's degree in teaching secondary English at the University of Maine, and taught American and World Literature, coached the Debate Team, and served on her Union's contract negotiations team at Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School in South Paris, Maine. During her years practicing law, Blaine renewed her involvement in education policy, which included publishing both online and print articles in *The Washington Post* through the "Answer Sheet" blog. She is also active with Save Our Schools New Jersey as a volunteer organizer, has presented on panels at Network for Public Education and other conferences, and occasionally contributes education-related columns to *NJ Spotlight*. An active volunteer with NJ 11<sup>th</sup> for Change, Blaine returned to Rutgers University—Newark in January of 2019 to pursue an master's degree in history with plans to return to classroom teaching with a focus on civics, political science, and history education. Blaine is honored to be a recipient of the Harold and Reba Martin Award, and looks forward to bringing the skills she learns through the Eagleton Fellowship to her students and her education advocacy work.

### **Zane Byrd**



Zane Byrd is a third year law student at Rutgers Law School—Newark pursuing a J.D. degree. After graduating from Rutgers University-New Brunswick with bachelor's degrees in political science, sociology, and criminal justice, he proceeded straight into law school. His entire family has deep roots in Newark and Byrd has a commitment and passion for public service, particularly in low-income urban areas such as Newark, where he resides to this day. During college, Byrd interned for the City of Newark's Corporation Counsel, and proceeded to intern for three consecutive summers in the United States District Court under the Honorable Judge Douglas E. Arpert. He currently works for Wharton Investors LLC, working in real estate matters. In law school, he serves on the Jessup International Mock Trial Team, the Executive Board for the National Lawyers Guild, and is an active member in the school's Association of Black Law Students. In addition, he worked with the Rutgers Law International Human Rights Clinic where he engaged in advocacy on various issues pertaining to international law and human rights violations. Since his youth, Byrd has always held an avid interest in law and policy. In high school, he actively worked on NJ Senate Majority Leader Barbara Buono's campaign, and would perform work at the Hillside Municipal Court in the Public Defender's office whenever he could. Stemming from his experiences, Byrd has worked to pursue his interests, and as a recipient of the Harold and Reba Martin Award, he is honored and eagerly looking forward to his experiences in the Fellowship Program.

### **Matthew Camarda**



A lifelong New Jersey resident, Matthew Camarda is beginning his second and final year as a Master of Public Policy student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers—New Brunswick. He graduated the College of William & Mary with a bachelor's degree in government and a minor in history. While an undergraduate, Camarda interned for the Library of Congress and Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY). Post-college, he interned with Campus Vote Project, working to strengthen voting rights and accessibility for college students and volunteered for five campaigns on the presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial level. Prior to starting grad school, he worked at Dixon Homestead Library and Ramsey Public Library, assisting patrons and supporting public programs. This summer, he completed a policy fellowship with the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. He is passionate about using social policy and public institutions to help improve people's lives and to get millennials engaged in politics. Camarda is honored to receive the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award and will intern with the Democratic Senate Majority Office this spring.

### **Maira Castellane**



Maira Castellane is a second-year Masters of Public Administration student at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers—Newark. Castellane is an entrepreneur, running a small cleaning business for eighteen years while continuously exploring career options that align with her interest in gender issues. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from Baruch College in New York City, and before entering graduate school, she invested in a career in public service, receiving two teaching licenses and serving as a recruit for the New Jersey State Police. As a New Jersey State Police recruit she was able to observe issues regarding the low representation of women in law enforcement, leading her to focus most of her M.P.A. research on the implicit and explicit reasons for this underrepresentation and the ramifications of this issue in public service. Castellane's research goal is to bring awareness to this deficiency not only for the sake of upholding public services values and enforcing federal and state laws but for the socio-economic impact of this disparity. As a Brazilian immigrant woman, with the experience of having lived undocumented in

the United States for ten years, she understands the importance of representing those in vulnerable positions in the process of policymaking and enforcement. The Eagleton Fellowship will complement her public administration education to make her a more competent and well-rounded public servant. In addition to a career in public service, she would like to pursue a Ph.D. and teach women's history. Castellane is honored to be the recipient of the Governor's Executive Award.

### **Adam Conrad**



Adam Conrad is a social worker and certified nonprofit professional who received an undergraduate degree from the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Conrad is a New Jersey native pursuing a J.D. degree at the Rutgers Law School—Newark with the intention to one day work in public policy and policy reform. Conrad's primary interests include LGBTQ issues, prison reform, issues concerning HIV-positive populations, and access to housing and healthcare. Conrad has sought out numerous experiential opportunities, including the Education and Health Law Clinic at the law school, an internship with the Office of the Federal Public Defender, and two fellowships — the

Marsha Wenk Fellowship with the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey and the McCleary Law Fellowship with the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C. They received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative award and will be placed in the Assembly Majority Office in the spring.

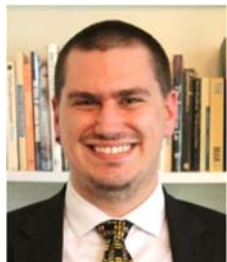
### **Kayla Crawley**



Kayla J. Crawley is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in the sociology through the School of Graduate Studies at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Her interest in politics and government began early in her academic career. While serving as an active member of her high school's Civics and Government Institute, Crawley went on to attend the University of Pennsylvania where she majored in politics, philosophy and economics and concentrated political science. While at UPenn, she participated in numerous student activities, serving as funding chair for UMOJA (an umbrella organization for all African American student groups on campus), and as an executive board member

for Tangible Change, a funding resource for multicultural campus events. After graduating with her bachelor's degree in 2007, Crawley went on to work in several education roles including director of student programs for the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. During this time she also volunteered as a mentor for Summer Search Philadelphia, a youth program that prepares high school students for college. She was also a member of the Greater Education Innovation Network. Through these experiences she cultivated a strong interest in education, which she is now exploring through her graduate school training. Her research interests include the intersection of race and education policy, school discipline, and the school-to-prison pipeline. Her master's degree thesis is on the historical underpinnings of school discipline policy in Virginia and the barriers to reform. For her dissertation, she is focusing on school discipline policy alternatives in New Jersey, using karate dojos as a comparative case. As a teaching assistant and lecturer in the sociology department, she has taught courses including *Introduction to Sociology, Race Relations, and Law and Society*. Most recently, Crawley was hired as a research assistant for the National Institute for Early Education Research, where she performs data collection and analysis on a research study funded by Robert Wood Johnson on quality preschool programs in New Jersey. Crawley received the Eagleton Alumni award.

### Derek Demeri



Derek J. Demeri is a third-year law student at Rutgers Law School—Camden and life-time resident of the state of New Jersey. Since high school, Demeri has committed his career to serving disadvantaged communities—particularly the LGBTQ+ and sex worker communities. While an undergraduate studying political science at Rutgers University—New Brunswick, he co-founded the New Jersey Red Umbrella Alliance, the state’s only sex worker rights organization and was a project leader at the Center for the Study of Genocide & Human Rights and the UNESCO chair in Genocide Prevention. Since then, he has advocated for the rights of sex workers at the local, state, national, and international levels and even testified for the United Nations Human Rights Council during the United States’ Period Review in 2015. In 2016, Demeri joined the fight for worker rights as a boycott organizer with UNITE HERE! during the Trump Taj Mahal Casino strike in Atlantic City. Since starting law school, he has served as the president of OUTLaws, the vice president of Alianza, managing editor of the *Rutgers University Law Review*, and a legal writing fellow. His experience also includes an externship for the Honorable Michael A. Shipp in the District of New Jersey and a clerkship for the American Civil Liberties Union LGBT & HIV National Project and the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office. He is also a member of the Minority Student Program, a social justice scholar, and on the National Advisory Committee for Equal Justice Works. Demeri also drafted, lobbied for, and successfully passed a resolution in 2019 for the National Lawyers Guild to adopt a national stance in favor of the rights of sex workers. With his law degree, he plans to continue advocating for his communities and fighting for justice. Upon graduation, Demeri will be clerking for the Honorable Arnold L. Natali, Jr. of the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division during the 2020–21 court term. He is honored to have received the Harold and Reba Martin Award.

### Mariel DiDato



Mariel DiDato is a third-year Masters of Arts student in the women’s and gender studies program with a concentration in politics at Rutgers-New Brunswick. She completed her undergraduate degree at Rutgers in the field of nutritional sciences, but shortly after graduating she discovered a passion for sexual violence prevention and improving access to reproductive healthcare. She became a lead volunteer for the Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey, a crisis response advocate for two sexual assault response teams in New Jersey, and helped to restart the Monmouth County chapter of the National Organization for Women. In 2017, she ran for the General Assembly in New Jersey’s 13<sup>th</sup> Legislative District under the Democratic Party, and currently sits on the Monmouth County Democrats Executive Board. A GEMMA scholar, DiDato also spent part of her second year in the master’s degree program abroad in the Netherlands. Alongside her studies, she is currently interning at the Office of Women’s Health in Trenton to help with various projects aiming to improve access to care. Through her education and experience working within politics, DiDato hopes to improve policies in New Jersey primarily affecting women and girls. She is honored to receive the Harold and Reba Martin Award.

### Deona Edgerton



Deona Edgerton is a third year graduate student at Rutgers University—Camden. She is currently enrolled in the dual master’s degree program in public administration and criminal justice. Edgerton graduated *cum laude* from William Paterson University in 2017 with her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. While an undergraduate student, she interned at the New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office in Newark. After graduating, Edgerton worked in human services, specifically with individuals who have developmental disabilities and mental health diagnoses. As a graduate student, she served as the treasurer for the Criminal Justice Organization on campus.

She was involved in planning events and discussions that focused on criminal justice reform, current events, and debating current policies or controversial topics. Edgerton is also a recipient of the CISS Fellowship at Rutgers University—Camden, which holds the responsibility of teaching a one-credit undergraduate recitation course. Her interests include criminal justice reform, mental health, research, and policy making. Edgerton is a recipient of the Governor’s Executive Award and is looking forward to being involved at Eagleton.

### **Sarah Elgalad**



Sarah Elgalad is a second year Masters of Public Administration student in the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University Newark. She acquired her bachelor’s degree *summa cum laude* from Rutgers University—Newark in history with minors in legal studies, honors college, and social justice. As a third year undergraduate, Elgalad founded the Rutgers Inspires Students Early (RISE) Program in collaboration with West Side High School in Newark. RISE is a college access program that helps seniors at West Side High School with all aspects of the college application process. As a senior undergraduate Elgalad was the vice president of the Pre-Law Society and helped plan educational and networking events for pre-law students at Rutgers University—Newark. Through working with low income communities with her work at RISE Elgalad is planning to pursue a law degree after completing her degree to help those in disenfranchised communities. She is honored and humbled to be the recipient of the Governor’s Executive Award.

### **Ellen Fallon-Senechal**



Ellen Fallon-Senechal is beginning her final year as a Masters of Landscape Architecture candidate in the School of Graduate Studies at Rutgers—New Brunswick. She received her bachelor’s degree in environmental science as well as a graduate certificate in geographic information systems from the University of Connecticut. During her undergraduate career, she served as vice president and president of UConn Winterguard and section leader in the UConn Marching Band. After graduating, she completed a year of service in Americorps through the Student Conservation Association as an environmental educator in Manchester, New Hampshire and trail crew member in the White Mountains National Forest. After completing a year of service, she worked for L.L. Bean as a kayak instructor and a state park interpreter for the Connecticut State Park System. During this time, she served as secretary for Tolland Conservation Commission, which managed the town’s open space properties. In 2015, she took a position as merchandise lead with L.L. Bean in Lake George, New York, opening a new store and training staff. Since moving to New Jersey in 2016, she has served on the Old Bridge Environmental Commission. While in graduate school, Fallon-Senechal has been a member of the Landscape Architecture Graduate Student Association and is currently serving as president. She has worked on the Rutgers Student Farm as well as an instructor for plant ecology through the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences on the Cook Campus. She has received the Center for Resilient Landscapes Fellowship for 2019 and is currently researching the social networks of New York City’s farms and community gardens. Her thesis work is focused on Capital City Farm in Trenton — the impetus for its creation, the history of the property, and the social network that surrounds it. Fallon-Senechal looks to facilitate the growth of stronger communities and urban ecosystems by focusing on public participatory processes and functional landscapes through her practice as a landscape architect. Fallon-Senechal is a proud recipient of the Governor’s Executive Award and looks forward to learning more about the political process in New Jersey.

### Zoë Getz



Zoë Getz is a graduate student at the Rutgers School of Social Work. She will be finishing the program in May of 2020 with a M.S.W. degree and a concentration in management and public policy. She received a bachelor's degree in human services with a clinical concentration from the University of Delaware. She is also a member of Kappa Omicron Nu Honors Society for the Human Services. Getz focuses her professional efforts on assisting at-risk populations, including individuals with disabilities, and individuals experiencing poverty. She is extremely grateful to have been accepted as an Eagleton Fellow and a recipient of the Governor's Executive Award, as the program. After graduation, Getz plans to pursue a career in government and politics, as well as a law degree.

### Stephanie Gibson



Stephanie Gibson is a third year law student at Rutgers Law School—Newark. She received her bachelor's degree in English with a focus in linguistics and teaching English as a second language from the California Polytechnic State University. As someone who is not a native of New Jersey, Gibson is eager to immerse herself in her new community and government. She has always carried with her a passion for helping those in need. She came to law school with a goal to integrate her commitment to public service into the unique channels the legal profession has to offer. During her 1L summer, she interned at a small law firm in Passaic, specializing in foreclosure defense and debt negotiation. She saw there the lasting effects of the 2008-2009 market crash and housing bubble. During her 2L year, Gibson interned for the Honorable Stephen L. Petrillo in Essex County Superior Court and for the Consumer Affairs Counseling Section of the New Jersey Attorney General's office. These positions in state government were another eye-opening experience into the struggles of New Jersey citizens. During her 3L summer, she worked at an employment law firm in Montclair, doing plaintiff-side work. Gibson worked on cases involving wrongful termination, failure to pay wages, tenure charges, discrimination, breach of contract, among others. She also serves as a senior notes editor for the *Rutgers Women's Rights Law Reporter*. Gibson is committed to a career involving public interest work and hopes to be able to affect positive change in her community and the world at large. She is a recipient of the Governor's Executive Award.

### Rebecca Glinn



Rebecca Glinn is a second-year Master of Public Policy student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers—New Brunswick. As an undergraduate student at the University of Delaware, she studied women & gender studies and public policy while advocating for the rights of victims of gender-based violence. She volunteered as a victim advocate for the university's sexual assault and domestic violence hotline and as a peer health educator, coordinating the first Wellness Speaker Series. She also served as a social work intern in the Domestic Violence Unit of the New Castle County Courthouse, supporting domestic violence survivors throughout their court proceedings. Her work led her to achieve the Mae Carter Award for Advancing the Status of Women at the University of Delaware. Glinn combined her academic ambitions and advocacy experience to write her honors thesis titled "Using Feminist Pornography to Offer Sexual Healing for Victims of Sexual Violence." She presented her original research at the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence Advocates Retreat as the only student present. As a graduate student, she worked as a research assistant for the Center for Violence Against Women and Children, where she helped develop the first culturally relevant campus climate survey for historically black colleges and universities. She now promotes women's safety and equality through their economic empowerment, focusing on public policy solutions that support work-life balance. Glinn completed an internship at the New Jersey Department of Labor, Office of Strategic Planning and Outreach, and



implemented a strategic outreach plan to raise awareness of New Jersey's Paid Family Leave and Earned Sick Leave policies. She helped develop marketing materials for targeted populations with specialized needs, including domestic and sexual violence victims. At Bloustein, she serves as the president of the Women's Leadership Conference. After graduation, Glinn hopes to continue advocating for policies that support women's ability to flourish as both workers and caregivers. She is honored to receive the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award and will be placed at the Office of Legislative Services in the spring.

### **Ryan Jeter**



Ryan Jeter is a graduate student at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, pursuing a Masters of Public Policy with a concentration in urban policy and community development. His interest in these areas comes as a result of his time working with impoverished communities in Chicago and Costa Rica. His time in Costa Rica was spent as a Peace Corps volunteer, where he was elected by his peers to serve as president of Peace Corps -Costa Rica and had the opportunity to work with the director and U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica. During his time as president, he helped produce a diversity and inclusion program that is now implemented in every Peace Corps country around the world. After focusing on international development, he returned home to focus on U.S. development and place-based investments. Jeter strengthened his experience in community development with an internship with The Rockefeller Foundation where he worked with their U.S. Jobs and Economic Opportunity team. He focused on opportunity zones, expanding the earned income tax credit and child tax credit, portable employee benefits, and bringing resilience to over 20 U.S. cities. Although he now resides in Central Jersey, Jeter hails from Tampa, Florida. He studied political science at Howard University. Upon graduating from Rutgers with his master's degree, Jeter hopes to synthesize his knowledge of policy, community engagement, and community development to impact issues of housing, displacement, and joblessness in distressed communities. He is honored to have received the Governor's Executive Award.

### **Vineeta Kapahi**



Vineeta Kapahi is a third-year graduate student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers. Prior to beginning her graduate studies at Bloustein, Kapahi was a social worker and community organizer in New York City, where she served as the manager of policy and volunteer engagement at Womankind, a nonprofit organization that works with survivors of gender-based violence. She was also the NYC program facilitator at the National Asian Pacific Women's Forum. Her interest in policy and politics is informed by her experience working alongside immigrant and low-income communities to promote the inclusivity of critical resources and to develop and implement community-based programs. A South Asian American and Georgia native, Kapahi currently lives in Trenton. As the 2019 Kathleen Crotty Fellow at New Jersey Policy Perspective, she conducted research on the impact of expanding New Jersey's earned income tax credit. Kapahi completed her undergraduate studies at Bard College at Simon's Rock and Rice University, earning a bachelor's degree in sociology. She also holds a master's degree in social work and community organizing, planning, and development from the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. She is honored to receive the Harold and Reba Martin Award.

### Jacqueline Kline



Jacqueline Kline, a Pennsylvania native, is a third-year student pursuing a joint law degree from Rutgers Law School—Newark and a master's degree in public administration, with a concentration in budgeting and financial management. She graduated undergrad *cum laude* from the State University of New York with a major in international trade and minors in economics, international politics, and art history. In her senior year, she conducted her thesis research about the connection between media portrayals and the self-perception of rural America. Due to her experiences growing up in the anthracite coal region, Kline has an interest in economic policy and is passionate about raising people out of poverty. She has worked as a legislative intern for NJ Senator Tom Kean, Jr., and as a policy intern at the Greenwich Village-Chelsea Chamber of Commerce (GVCCC), advocating on behalf of small business. In her free time, Kline volunteers at the student pantry on campus, and enjoys knitting, travel and gardening. She is also a member of the Minority Student Program at the law school. Kline is honored to receive the Governor's Executive Award.

### Thomas Lahey



Thomas Lahey is a third-year student at Rutgers Law School - Newark. Lahey devoted much of his personal and professional energies to the study of international relations and foreign policy. Prior to entering law school, Lahey attended the Catholic University of America, in Washington, D.C., where he worked as an intern in the U.S. House of Representatives, studied abroad in London and worked for a member of the House of Commons. He also worked for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as a policy analyst with the international policy team, where he advocated for a free trade agenda, including the Trans Pacific Partnership and TTIP trade agreements. Lahey graduated with a degree in international politics, and wrote his bachelor's thesis on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent conflict and its geopolitical implications. While in law school, he has twice interned with the New Jersey Superior Court, Chancery Division, where he will be returning to serve as a law clerk for the Honorable James DeLuca, J.S.C. in August of 2020. Lahey has also interned for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey for the Hon. Vincent Papalia. During the summer of 2019, he worked as a summer associate for Cullen & Dykman, LLP, and he will be joining the firm as an associate following his clerkship in the Chancery Division. He currently serves as a class representative in the Student Bar Association and was elected by his peers to serve as editor-in-chief of the Rutgers Business Law Review. He is the proud recipient of the Governor's Executive award and is delighted to be among those involved with Eagleton.

### Logan LeCates



Logan LeCates is pursuing a joint J.D. degree at Rutgers Law School and M.B.A. at Rutgers Business School, both on the Newark campus. He was the first in his family to attend college, graduating with a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Delaware. Following his undergraduate education, LeCates also earned an associate's degree in Persian-Farsi from the Defense Language Institute while serving in the United States Navy as a cryptologic technician. He also traveled extensively during deployments, developing subject matter expertise in Middle Eastern affairs, culture, and regional politics. While at home, he contributed to his community by helping to establish a veterans' non-profit organization. As an Eagleton Fellow, LeCates hopes to learn more about the legislative process so that he can effectively advocate for civil rights and practical legal and political reform. He is honored to be a recipient of the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award and will be serving in the Assembly Republican Office for his spring placement.

### Monica Moir



Monica Moir is a Howell, New Jersey native and a second-year Master of Public Policy student in the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Moir graduated from Ramapo College of New Jersey in 2018, with a bachelor's degree in political science. During her time as an undergraduate student, she served as president of her sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi, and was an active member of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity. Moir has a wide range of internship experience, which includes time in the Governor's Office during former Governor Chris Christie's tenure and most recently, as a team member in Hackensack Meridian Health's Government Relations department. Through these experiences, she has developed an interest in New Jersey state politics, as well as an interest in health policy, which she will be pursuing as her policy concentration within her graduate program. Moir's research interest lies in the social determinants of health and how healthcare disparities develop; an issue that is becoming increasingly prominent in New Jersey. After graduating, she hopes to utilize her experience to inform health policy on a state and federal level. Moir is honored to be the recipient of the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship placed in the Senate Republican Office.

### Arthur (Art) Murphy



Arthur Murphy is a third-year law student at Rutgers Law School in Camden. Prior to pursuing a law degree, Art graduated *cum laude* from Rutgers University – Camden with a bachelor of arts degree in history, with a minor in political science. Murphy also obtained a master's degree in public history. It was during an AmeriCorps-Student Conservation Association internship at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri that he was inspired to pursue a career in the law. During law school Murphy was a part a *Legislative Policymaking and Bill Drafting* course, where he drafted a memo which surveyed state laws across the country concerning unauthorized pelvic exams. He was also an associate editor of the Nuremberg Project on the *Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion*. On the journal, he wrote an article comparing the medical marijuana laws of New Jersey and Germany which is slated to be published in an upcoming issue. He has also pursued legal internships and work opportunities with both New Jersey municipalities and the federal government. His experience includes working with Camden's Office of the City Attorney, the Social Security Administration's Office of General Counsel, and a small South Jersey law firm. As a recipient of the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award he will be placed with the Office of Legislative Services.

### Ben Ojserkis



Ben Ojserkis is entering his final year at Rutgers Law School - Camden. A resident of Linwood, nearby Atlantic City and the Jersey Shore have always played a prominent role in his life. He graduated from Indiana University with a degree in history and dual concentration in Asia and Europe after 1500, with a minor in Central Eurasian Studies. While in Indiana, he enjoyed learning about other cultures and perspectives by interacting with the diverse student body and taking interesting classes including Ukrainian History; Swahili; Scandinavian History; Oil, Islam and Geopolitics; and Women in Islam. During his 2L Year, Ojserkis participated in Hunter Moot Court, where he was a semi-finalist. Committed to assisting those in need, he has worked for the South Jersey AIDS Alliance in Camden and Atlantic City in various capacities in the past. In Atlantic City, he assisted injection drug user clients in the syringe access program in obtaining clean needles to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. In Camden, he worked at the Alliance's homeless day shelter in providing those clients a safe environment out of the heat/cold where they could enjoy coffee, do laundry, and shower while being offered testing and other resources. It is while working at the South Jersey AIDS Alliance that he realized that government can have a positive impact on a person's daily life, when used correctly. Ojserkis spent

the summer after his 1L year of law school interning part-time for Judges Bernard DeLury, P.J. and Donna Taylor in the Atlantic County Superior Court - Criminal Division. The summer after his 2L year, he worked as a law clerk at Brown & Connery, LLP. He is delighted to receive the Governor's Executive Award and is looking forward to learning how to best use government systems to improve people's lives and impact positive change.

### **Mathilde Roux**



Mathilde Roux is a second-year Master of Public Policy candidate at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Her policy interests are in immigration policy and social policy, particularly in relation to refugee resettlement in the United States and in other countries. She discovered a passion for immigration policy as an undergraduate student at the Bloustein school, where she completed a bachelor's degree in planning and public policy with minors in economics and Spanish. As an undergraduate, she worked as a research assistant in the Aresty Program, where she participated in a project seeking to facilitate networks of youth around the world in order to combat extremism. While in the Aresty program, she also conducted an independent project studying the relationship between immigration policy, attitudes of native-born citizens toward immigrants, and success of immigrant integration. The Aresty project sparked the idea for her undergraduate honors thesis titled "Addressing Barriers to the Integration of Refugee Women to Improve Outcomes for All Migrants." She developed a passion for policy research, advocacy and public service through her past internships, which have included an advocacy internship at American Association of Retired Persons, where she became the in-house expert on nuclear energy in the state and participated in lobbying efforts in Trenton. She also had a constituent services internship at the Office of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman. Most recently, Roux completed an internship at the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, conducting policy research and assisting with logistical and strategic planning for a statewide campaign to expand access to driver's licenses. As a graduate student, she serves as the vice president for public policy of the Bloustein Graduate Student Association. She is honored to have received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative award and will be interning with the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services during the spring semester.

### **Colin Sheehan**



Colin Sheehan is a third-year law student at Rutgers Law School - Camden. A lifelong New Jersey native, he graduated *summa cum laude* from Rutgers University with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in Spanish. As an undergraduate, he realized his passion for public service through his work with the Rutgers Office of Civic Engagement and developed his interest in politics as a research assistant to Dr. Kelly Dittmar at Eagleton's Center for American Women in Politics. These experiences led Sheehan to intern with the National Network to End Domestic Violence in Washington, D.C., during which he decided to pursue a career in the public interest. He has since assisted low-income LGBT+ clients with discrimination matters at Mazzone Center Legal Services, taught high school students their constitutional rights as a Marshall Brennan Fellow, and served his community as an intern with the Honorable Judge Robert B. Kugler in the District of New Jersey and the Philadelphia Law Department's Civil Rights Unit. He currently serves on the *Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion*, and Hunter Moot Court Board, and currently works in the Rutgers' Immigrant Justice Clinic. Sheehan hopes to combine his passions for politics and community into his legal career, using his education to combat discrimination and violence against our most vulnerable communities and to amplify the voices of community members in policy-making. Sheehan is honored to receive the Governor's Executive Award and excited to complete his law school career as an Eagleton Fellow.

### **Michael Swan**



Michael Swan is a second-year graduate student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers - New Brunswick. He is pursuing a Masters of City and Regional Planning with a concentration in transportation planning. Swan earned a bachelor's degree in geography with a concentration in urban geography and a bachelor's degree in Spanish from the University of Denver. He spent three years working for a private English as a second language (ESL) company in Denver before entering the public sector as a city planner. Swan spent three years in Missouri, his home state, working as an environmental planner and land use planner. In his first year at the Bloustein School, Swan worked for the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center to develop an action plan in coordination with New Brunswick Tomorrow to ensure the sustainable future of the local open streets program known as the New Brunswick Ciclovía. Most recently, he was an intern in the Capital Planning and Programs Department at NJ TRANSIT working on Americans with Disabilities Act accessible rail stations, bus service enhancements, and fare policy. His policy focus is transportation, land use, and budgeting. He plans to combine his fellowship experience with his passion for public transportation to expand and enhance public transit in New Jersey and throughout the region. He is honored to receive the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship award and looks forward to interning with the Office of Legislative Services in the spring.

### **Alexandra Vidal**



Alexandra Vidal is a first-year master's degree student in the history department at Rutgers - Newark. A first-generation college student, she graduated *magna cum laude* and double major in history and political science, with a Middle Eastern and Islamic studies minor. she is currently pursuing a master's degree in history of technology, environment and medicine/health. Vidal was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa for the liberal arts and science, Pi Sigma Alpha for political science, and Phi Alpha Theta for history. As an undergraduate student, she was the recipient of the Benjamin Weissman Writing Award for the best essay on politics. Her experience as a Dominican immigrant in New Jersey sparked her interest in the relationship between minority communities and the government bodies that are supposed to represent them, which has inspired her to be an environmental justice advocate, pushing for equal protection of low-income, minority populations from receiving the brunt of the burden of increasing industrialization and pollution. She received the Governor's Executive award.