

**Class of 2021**

# **Eagleton Undergraduate Associates**

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**Rutgers University – New Brunswick**

Wood Lawn, Douglass Campus

New Brunswick, NJ

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

## Eagleton Undergraduate Associates Program

The Eagleton Undergraduate Associates Program was established in 1974. During the one and one-half year interdisciplinary certificate program, Associates learn about real-world American politics and government from experienced practitioners. Rutgers students, from all schools and campus locations can apply in the fall of their junior year. The program is a cooperative educational endeavor between the Eagleton Institute of Politics and the Department of Political Science in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers—New Brunswick.

The Undergraduate Associates' journey begins with the *Practice of Politics* course, 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. Associates incorporate critical works in American politics and political science – while culling visions of power from the literary and artistic world that inform the practical sphere of government in unique ways.

Over the summer or fall, Associates complete internships in a variety of offices focused on American politics, government and public policy in New Jersey and locations across the country. Placements include legislative and executive offices and agencies at the state, county and local levels, Congressional and federal offices, public affairs, public interest groups, political campaigns (local, state and national), lobbying firms, think tanks, and other interest groups. The accompanying *Internship Seminar* 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 examines organizational dynamics and the elements of leadership that impact the workplace. Associates have many opportunities to hone their strategic thinking, communications, and career development skills during the course.

The final course, *Processes of Politics*, during the spring semester of senior year, helps students deepen and apply their advanced understanding of politics and governance by focusing on processes and issues. Building upon the exploration of political power from previous semesters, this course centers around the notion of “politics as a choice”. The examples chosen provide windows into how political and governmental systems work more generally and how change occurs or doesn't. Underlying these conversations are reflections on the national political conversation especially the fall 2020 elections and New Jersey politics.

The Class of 2021 is the 47th class of Eagleton Undergraduate Associates. There are more than 1,000 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 and politics 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 online at [go.rutgers.edu/EagletonUA](https://go.rutgers.edu/EagletonUA).

## Class of 2021 Eagleton Undergraduate Associates



**Jada Abdullah**

Jada Abdullah, a proud resident of Franklin Park, New Jersey, is a senior in the School of Arts and Science at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. She is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in political science with a minor in history. Prior to completing her political campaign internship with Betsy Sweet, a progressive from Maine, Abdullah was an intern for Assemblyman Joseph Danielsen in 2018. At Rutgers, she is a member of the Douglass Residential College as well as the political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha. On campus, Abdullah is involved in Health Outreach Promotion and Education (HOPE) as an Alcohol and Other Drug peer educator and as the director of SHADES Theater. She is also very involved with her Franklin community as a co-founder and assistant director of a youth empowerment group The Success Forum of Franklin Township. She also serves as a youth liaison for the Somerset County Democratic Committee Black Caucus–Youth Development program. Upon graduation, Abdullah plans to attend graduate school and pursue a career in public service.

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**Ezza Ahmed**

Ezza Ahmed is from Central Jersey. A School of Arts and Sciences senior at Rutgers–New Brunswick, she is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in English and political science with a minor in creative writing. Ahmed interned for the Congressional campaign of Congresswoman Yvette Clarke of the ninth district in Brooklyn. While at Rutgers, she’s been a part of the Muslim Feminists for the Arts and has worked as an English composition tutor. She plans complete to an English honors thesis where she will curate a poetry chapbook surrounding the Kashmiri culture and conflict. In her spare time, Ahmed likes to read, paint, and spend time with her niece and nephew. In the future, she hopes to attain a master’s of fine arts degree in creative writing and to pursue a career in higher education.



**Kieran Brown**

Kieran Brown is pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in history through the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-New Brunswick. He is originally from Staten Island, New York. Since 2015, he has been engaged with politics at a local level and was elected to serve as a committee member of the Richmond County Republican Party in 2019. During the 2020 academic year and throughout the summer, he interned with the advertising firm Jamestown Associates. As a member of the firm, he provided politicians with data analytics to highlight the impact that the ads had on convincing potential voters to cast ballots in their favor. During the fall 2020 semester, Brown is serving as a field organizer on the re-election campaign for President Trump in the battleground state of Wisconsin. After finishing his degree, Brown hopes to work on Capitol Hill as a legislative aide. He hopes to promote fair-minded solutions to complex international affairs, particularly in the Caucasus region.

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**Nicole DeAssis**

Nicole DeAssis grew up in Kearny, New Jersey and attended high school at Jersey City County Prep. She is currently a senior pursuing a bachelor's degree in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers–New Brunswick. She double majors in political science and criminal justice while minoring in women's and gender studies on the pre-law track. DeAssis recently joined Pi Sigma Alpha, the national honor society for political science. During her academic career at Rutgers, she has interned with legal private practices, as well as the Office of United States Senator Robert Menendez. These opportunities, as well as her experience volunteering with students on the Autism spectrum, has peaked her interest in both the legal and public service aspects of government. Upon graduation, she hopes to continue her education at a law school in the Northeast.



**Jessica Dicker**

Jessica Dicker, a senior in the Rutgers University-New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in economics with double minors in health administration and philosophy, politics, economics. Born and raised in River Vale, New Jersey, Dicker is a proud Scarlet Knight. She is involved in the Theta Chapter of Omicron Delta Epsilon, the international honor society for economics, and serves on the Student Advisory Board for the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program. Dicker is president and founder of the Rutgers PPE Club. She interned at BCollaborative, a healthcare consulting firm. In fall 2019, Dicker served as an instructor in the First-Year Interest Group Seminar program, where she engaged and educated first year students about the study of economics. Outside of the classroom, Dicker has been working as an economics research assistant, participating in original academic research focusing on industry-specific CEO compensation and related steel and aluminum tariffs. In her senior year, Dicker will study the economic inequities in the United States healthcare system for her Paul Robeson Scholar Interdisciplinary Honors Capstone Thesis. All of these endeavors have shaped Dicker's view of healthcare and her understanding of the mechanics of crafting and implementing policy and the process of evaluating the effects of changes in policy on society. Dicker hopes to blend her analytical and collaborative skills, her rigorous academic training and her desire to help others to facilitate the transition to an improved healthcare system.

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**Juan Flores-Serrano**

Juan Flores-Serrano, born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and now a resident of Robbinsville, New Jersey, is a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers–New Brunswick, studying political science and public policy. Most recently, he interned at Kaufman Zita Group, a lobbying firm in Trenton, New Jersey, where he tracked and monitored important legislation for clients. He also interned with the Middlesex County Democratic Organization. He previously interned at Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo's Legislative Office where he began interning in

May of his high school senior year. He helped the office's outreach and legislative efforts by conducting policy research and contacting constituents about state programs and legislation. Besides his internships, Flores-Serrano has also worked in numerous campaigns around Mercer county as a volunteer in 2017 and as a Field Organizer for the Benson and DeAngelo for New Jersey campaign in 2019. On campus, he is a Resident Assistant for Cook/Douglass First-Years. Before his time at Rutgers University, Flores-Serrano earned his Eagle Scout Award in 2017 and, while attending Rowan University, had his award-winning case study presentation published under the *New Errands Journal*. In his free time, he loves to keep up with the news, engage in conversations about politics, listen to music and podcasts, go on hikes, and watch movies/tv shows. After graduation, Flores-Serrano hopes to pursue a career in environmental or labor policy.

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### **Sachin Goradia**

Sachin Goradia grew up in Edison, New Jersey but now resides in Monroe Township. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree through the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers–New Brunswick double majoring in political science and economics with minors in planning and public policy, philosophy, and religion. Most recently, he interned at the Institute for Sustainable Development and for the New Jersey Department of the Treasury where he worked on Governor Murphy's Energy Master Plan. Besides his internships, he has also been involved in various local political campaigns in Edison, New Brunswick, and Monroe. On-campus, Goradia is the co-president and co-founder of Meeting Point, an organization dedicated to improving college political representation and discussion. He is also a Scarlet Ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and is a news reporter for WRSU, Rutgers radio in New Brunswick where he specializes in political topics. When he is not talking about politics, he enjoys reading, working out, photography, and music production. Goradia is an advocate for environmental sustainability and loves hiking, photographing landscapes and wildlife, and visiting state and national parks. He hopes to pursue a career in environmental advocacy by going to law school and ultimately run for public office.





### **Yasmine Hafez**

Yasmine Hafez is an English and political science double major at the Rutgers–New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences. She interned at the Council on American and Islamic Relations. Hafez has a passion for law and justice, and is an aspiring civil rights attorney. She hopes to become a catalyst for change within the justice system, and extend her influence for equality and justice towards all races by eventually running for, and holding, political office.

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### **Duncan Hardiman**

Duncan Hardiman is a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers–New Brunswick pursuing a bachelor’s degree in economics and political science. He hails from the small Island of Brigantine, New Jersey, and is a proud alum of Atlantic City High School. Hardiman has been a member of the Eagleton community since his sophomore year at Rutgers. As a student intern, he has done valuable work and research for multiple centers at Eagleton. He is a member of both the Omicron Delta Epsilon economics honors society and the Pi Sigma Alpha political science honors society. In the summer of his sophomore year, Hardiman studied comparative politics and German at the Freie Universität Berlin. At Rutgers, he is continuing his German language studies and he is a member of the Executive Board of the Rutgers German Club. Hardiman is interested in public policy, economic development, and international politics. His ultimate goal is to help others. After graduating, he plans on beginning his career by volunteering with either the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps.



**Luke Hinrichs**

Luke Hinrichs is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program at Rutgers–New Brunswick with academic and research interests in inequality and public policy related to the criminal justice system, housing, labor, social welfare, and immigration. He currently works as a legal assistant in a criminal law firm while also interning as a policy analyst and legislative assistant for New Jersey State Senator Linda Greenstein. While at Rutgers, he served a term as the opinion editor for *The Daily Targum*, the second-oldest independent college newspaper in the country, writing the editorials as the voice of the paper and coordinating a staff of 24 columnists. With a passion for teaching and civic education, he has also volunteered as a tutor in a local New Brunswick elementary school through the Youth Empowerment Services’ A2E program, participated in the Center for Youth Political Participation’s voter engagement and civic education initiatives, and conducted a civic education workshop to sophomores in New Brunswick High School as an RU Ready research intern. He spent his sophomore year researching the influence of interest groups on policy formation as an Aresty Research Assistant. As a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow in Leadership and Social Policy, he completed an independent study on the history of immigration policy in the United States. Hinrichs aspires to be a public servant and advocate in the political and criminal justice systems through a profession in law.

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**Robert Kaiser**

Robert Kaiser, a life-long resident of East Windsor, is currently a senior at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. He is pursuing a bachelor’s degree through the School of Arts and Sciences in both history and political science. Since high school, Kaiser has focused on helping his community through his work on various elections and campaigns. Recently, he was accepted into the Rutgers Graduate School of Education, where he is studying to be a high school history teacher. His personal interests include American military history and foreign policy. After receiving his degree, Kaiser plans to further his studies and obtain a master’s degree in international relations. He is planning to pursue a career in the public sector as a Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. State Department.





**Jane Keller**

Jane Keller is a senior pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science with minors in American studies and social justice. She is a member of Douglass Residential College and Rutgers–New Brunswick Honors College. Keller hopes to pursue a master's degree in global studies or international relations when she completes her undergraduate degree. She spent her junior year interning at Unchained at Last, a nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to ending forced and child marriage, working primarily to advance legislation that would end child marriage in Minnesota. She has also interned at Move for Hunger and at the *Asbury Park Press*, in addition to volunteering with Casa Freeholder and the New Brunswick Free Public Library's English for Beginners program. Keller is from Shrewsbury. Her long-term career goal is to continue to work in the field of public policy advancing a cause close to her heart, such as gender equality or immigrant and refugee justice.

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**Zaynab Khan**

Zaynab Khan is a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-New Brunswick, from South Brunswick, New Jersey. Khan is pursuing a bachelor's degree in mathematics with minors in economics and political science. She is a member of Honors College and Douglass Residential College. Khan has interned at the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender and Mathematica Policy Research. She is also an Aresty Research Scholar for the Graduate School of Education, researching education policy. Khan was selected for the Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award for summer of 2020. In her free time, she likes to volunteer by helping inmates earn their GED at the Middlesex County Jail and also teaches English to novice speakers.



**Caleb Kuberiet**

Caleb Kuberiet is a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program at Rutgers University–New Brunswick, double majoring in history and political science with a minor in history for his bachelor’s degree. He is from South Plainfield, New Jersey. Kuberiet became interested in politics, law, government, and foreign policy after joining his high school Model United Nations club. At Rutgers, Kuberiet is the News Director at *WRSU* – Rutgers Radio where he hosts the station’s premier news show *Knightbeat*. He has assisted the station into expanding coverage of political topics and he was awarded third place in the Garden State Journalists’ Association for covering a Brett Kavanaugh protest. As a director for the Institute of Domestic and International Affairs, Kuberiet has moderated debates on international topics for high schoolers at several Model United Nation conferences. On campus, Kuberiet is a site leader for Rutgers University Alternative Breaks, a scarlet ambassador at the Rutgers Visitor Center, and was a resident assistant his junior year. Throughout his college career, Kuberiet has interned at *NJTV News*, the New Brunswick District Office of Congressman Frank Pallone, and the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office. In his spare time, he enjoys running, traveling, watching late-night television, and trying different types of food.

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**Alyssa Kumalmaz**

Alyssa Kumalmaz is pursuing a bachelor’s degree through the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers–New Brunswick. She is double majoring in history and political science with a minor in biological sciences. After completing a writing theory and tutoring internship, she began working as a tutor at the Plangere Writing Center. She also contributes frequently to the Inside Beat section of *The Daily Targum* and serves on the executive board for Muslim Feminists for the Arts as its social media head. Kumalmaz plans to continue her studies in history at the postgraduate level, becoming a university professor concentrating in Middle East history and producing scholarly work. She is also exploring the possibility of pursuing a degree in law, particularly human rights and international law.



**Deja Little**

Deja Little is in her final year at the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program at Rutgers University–Newark pursuing a bachelor’s degree in social work with a minor in criminal justice. On campus, she has dedicated herself to working with the Rutgers–Newark food pantry, PantryRUN, which was created to assist any Rutgers students, faculty, and staff who have difficulty accessing or affording a healthy diet. Little has worked at PantryRUN for four years and has traveled to nationwide conferences focused on combating food insecurity at a collegiate level. Little has been recognized by the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and the Phi Alpha Honor Society for her academic excellence. In the future, she hopes to pursue dual mater’s degrees in social work and public policy. Little’s career goals include working in the public policy sphere on criminal justice and prison reform. She is passionate about revamping the American criminal justice system to encourage a system that does not induce recidivism and promotes just/fair policies holistically. She aims to restructure the racial and socioeconomic injustices engrained in the American political system. Little is also passionate about all-star competitive cheerleading. In her free time, she coaches the Rutgers–Newark cheerleading team.

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**Zachary Malek**

Zachary Malek, a native of Bridgewater, is a senior majoring in political science and minoring in psychology and public policy through the School of Arts and Sciences and the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. During his first year at Rutgers, he was elected to the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District Board of Education, winning against the former board president by 885 votes. The district includes 8,349 student and has a budget of over \$164 million. Malek is currently a liaison to the Special Education Alliance, chairs the Academic Committee and serves on the Community Relations Committee. Through his participation on the board, he has overseen multiple program evaluations and has pushed for the district to be more equitable for all students. At Rutgers, he is a member of the Rutgers University Debate Union and competed at the American Parliamentary Debate Nationals competition. Malek is also a Rutgers athletics academic tutor. After graduation, he plans to take a year off to teach for a non-profit before entering law school.



**Avinash Maniam**

Avinash Maniam is in his final year at Rutgers University–New Brunswick in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Honors College. A native of Franklin Township, he is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in political science with a minor in history. Maniam completed internships for the District and State Offices of Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman and Senator Cory Booker. He also interned at the Rutgers Office of Federal Relations in Washington, D.C., where he drafted memos and project reports on legislation and university issues, and planned and student and alumni engagement events. At Rutgers, Maniam is involved with the Institute for Domestic and International Affairs as director of staff for the organization’s fall conference, RUMUN. He co-founded MeetingPointRutgers, a non-partisan political discussion club that met weekly to discuss current events and debate policy. Maniam studied abroad during the fall of 2019 at Hong Kong University. He witnessed the massive pro-democracy protests, events which humbled him as he saw his classmates fight for their freedom against an oppressive regime. Maniam is passionate about transportation and environmental policy, social justice, and voting reform. His interest in politics was sparked by participation in high school Model United Nations and the 2016 elections. He plans to attend law school in the future, and hopes to pursue a career in public policy.

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**Oluwatobi “Tobi” Omotoso**

Oluwatobi “Tobi” Omotoso is an undergraduate student at Rutgers University enrolled in the School of Arts and Sciences within the Honors College. He has an unyielding interest in world history, as well as matters of politics and the public interest. He has worked jobs related to the legal profession in and around his hometown, most recently at the county prosecutor’s office. He also recently interned with Lulu Seikaly for Texas campaign in Plano, Texas. Inextricable from his interest in politics, history, and the law is his passion for public service. Omotoso spent much of his sophomore and junior year volunteering with the Crisis Text Line as a counselor and much of 2020 working as a legal research consultant for Hearts for the Homeless International, a nonprofit concerned with health evaluation for the homeless.

At Rutgers, Tobi has served in various capacities for several clubs and organizations, spending much of his time engaged in the Rutgers Student government. As a member of the Rutgers Senate, among other activities, he chaired the Student Affairs committee and oversaw a review of Rutgers mental health system. He has also spent his time as director of public outreach of the Rutgers Democrats and as both the treasurer and a hearing board member of the Scarlet Honor Council. Omotoso hopes to obtain a law degree to work towards the protection and advancement of the underprivileged.

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**Ariel Pina**

Ariel Pina is a fourth-year undergraduate student studying political science and public health at the Rutgers–New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences and Honor College. He is the president of RU Progressive, the largest student political organization at Rutgers. In 2019, Pina was elected as a committee member to the Middlesex County Democratic Organization in his hometown of North Brunswick. He also currently serves as an environmental commissioner in North Brunswick. Pina is looking to pursue a law degree in the near future. His interests in politics and policy include healthcare, the environment, and securing our democracy. Outside of politics, Pina is motivated by his family’s humble beginnings and hardships. Coming from an immigrant, single-parent household, with three siblings, he is committed to change that would help his community.

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**Julien Rosenbloom**

Julien Rosenbloom is a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers–New Brunswick studying political science with a minor in philosophy, politics, and economics. Rosenbloom is interested in the intersection of public policy, economics, and American history. He is passionate about improving how the social and public sectors address the needs of vulnerable and underrepresented communities and



hopes to forge innovations in how the public interacts with and benefits from economic policy, higher education policy, and labor policy. During his time at Rutgers, Rosenbloom studied American race relations and the great recession as Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow in Leadership and Social Policy, published research on emergency food delivery as a Ralph W. Voorhees Fellow in Public Service, and interned in Washington, DC as a recipient of the 2018 Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award. He is also a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, and was a national finalist for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship. Professionally, Rosenbloom has a range of experience in public policy and consulting, including internships with the New Jersey Department of Treasury, the Rutgers Office of Federal Relations, and several government affairs and strategy consulting firms. On campus, Rosenbloom is a committed leader in student government and civic engagement. Currently the executive director of the Rutgers University Student Assembly's COVID-19 Task Force, Rosenbloom is responsible for coordinating the student government's pandemic response efforts, and he previously served as RUSA's Legislative Affairs Committee Chair. Additionally, Rosenbloom serves as managing director of the Rutgers Consulting Group, a director at the Institute for Domestic and International Affairs, an instructor of a first-year seminar on political science, and is heavily involved with Eagleton's Center for Youth Political Participation voter engagement and civic education efforts, having previously served as an Aresty Research Assistant for Director Dr. Elizabeth Matto. Born in Venice, Italy, Rosenbloom is interested in coffee, politics, and travel, and hopes to study law, economics, or policy after completing his undergraduate education.

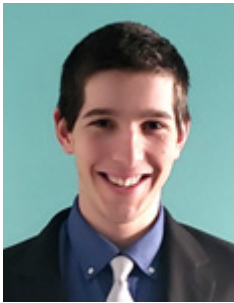
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### **Dylan Serrentino-Mullins**

Dylan Serrentino-Mullins is an honors program student in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers–New Brunswick who is currently studying political science. Previously, he spent two years serving as the president of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing the interests of youth health and safety. During this time, Serrentino-Mullins traveled the country to speak on behalf of the organization, including representing the organization's interests on Capitol Hill. After concluding his tenure in June of 2019, Serrentino-Mullins accepted a seat on SADD's National Board of Directors, where he is currently working to revise SADD's national policies based on contemporary research. Serrentino-Mullins was selected as the 2020 Truman Scholar for New Jersey. He looks forward to a career in public service in the future. In his free time, Serrentino-Mullins volunteers as an Emergency Medical Technician with the Marlboro First Aid and Rescue Squad. He also enjoys roller coasters, which nicely compliments his current position as supervisor of emergency medical services, safety, and risk management at Six Flags Great Adventure.





**Nitan Shanas**

Nitan Shanas is a fourth-year Honors College student at Rutgers University–Camden pursuing a bachelor’s degree in psychology, urban studies, and economics with a minor in ethics. A native of Israel, Shanas immigrated to the United States in 2009 settling in Cherry Hill. Shanas is deeply passionate about helping underserved and vulnerable populations, particularly persons experiencing homelessness. Shanas works at a local homeless shelter as a service navigator where he supports clients in obtaining monetary benefits, mental health services, employment and housing. On campus, Shanas facilitated several awareness campaigns including Hunger and Homelessness Week and Rutgers Sleepout for Homelessness, which garnered increased attention about the topic and raised over \$6,000 for a local shelter and recognition through a proclamation from the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholdes. Shenas is the vice president of the Rutgers-Camden chapter of College Democrats, a Newman Civic Fellow alumnus, a Bonner Foundation scholar, and a recipient of Phi Beta Kappa’s Key Into Public Service scholarship. After graduation, he plans to pursue a master’s degree in public administration with the goal of joining the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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**Chloe Tai**

Chloe Tai is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in political science and journalism with a minor in Chinese at Rutgers–New Brunswick. She grew up in Cedar Knolls, but was born and raised in the houses of her grandparents in Brooklyn, New York. Ever since high school, she has always had a passion for writing. As the editor-in-chief of her school’s newspaper, Tai was delighted to edit articles and work on developing a paper that would make a difference at her school. Her passion for law, politics, and government stem from her Advanced Placement United States History, and Government and Politics teacher in high school. She initially decided to attend Rutgers as a business major but realized after studying abroad at Hong Kong University in the spring of 2019 that her real interests always lied elsewhere. On campus, Tai is a frequent writer for both the Inside Beat and News sections of The Daily Targum and a DJ at WRSU. Her favorite thing to do, besides sitting down with a good book, is travelling the world with friends and family. In the future, she hopes to write for a newspaper and then attend law school.



## **Barbara Uehara**

Barbara Uehara is a senior at Rutgers University–Newark pursuing a double major in political science and Portuguese and Lusophone world studies. She is also a member of the Honors Living Learning Community. In fall 2019, she interned at the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, a statewide membership-based coalition of organizations that creates and achieves policies in New Jersey that welcome and support immigrants to become rooted economically, politically and socially within the state. She worked on the Attorney General directive of blocking ICE 287G, the New Jersey Immigrant Rights Summit, and the Let's Drive Campaign, which now allows undocumented individuals obtain a driver's license in the state of New Jersey. Uehara was inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha in spring 2019 and has been on the Dean's List each semester. After graduation she hopes to pursue a graduate degree in foreign service and diplomacy with the goal of becoming a United States diplomat.



## **Gerard Tyrrell**

Gerard Tyrrell is currently a third-year student at Rutgers Law School–Camden and is a life-long New Jersey resident. Raised in South Jersey, Gerard attended The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) where he studied political science and German, spending one semester abroad in Germany and another in Washington D.C. interning for a Member of the United States House of Representatives. He also spent a summer abroad in Germany interning for TCNJ’s study-abroad host institution, where he helped plan and execute study abroad programs for host students from the United States and Mexico. Before starting law school, Tyrrell worked as an aide in the New Jersey Governor’s Office, where he handled casework relating to health and human services issues. Since joining Rutgers Law, Tyrrell’s activities have included becoming a member of both the Rutgers University Law Review and the Honorable James Hunter III Moot Court competition, which he and his partner won best oral argument for during the 2019-2020 competition. Additionally, he is a student leader for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance pro bono project and was an e-board member for Rutgers OUTlaws and Business Law Association. He also interned for United States District Judge Peter G. Sheridan and completed a part-time fellowship with the Rutgers Law Clinic. He plans on externing for the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey this year and hopes to work in business law upon graduating. He is honored to receive the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship Award and will be placed with the Assembly Republican Office in the spring.

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## **Marleina Ubel**

Marleina Ubel is a third-year graduate student at the School of Social Work at Rutgers–New Brunswick, where she is pursuing a master’s degree with a concentration in management and public policy. She was born in Puerto Rico and raised in Miami, eventually enrolling at Valencia Community College in Orlando. Ubel went on to earn her bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. As the president of the Carolina Philosophy Club and

undergraduate conference organizer, she spent her time at UNC working to challenge demographic disparities in academia. After attending the MIT Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute, Ubel was named an ambassador for making philosophy more inclusive. Before beginning her graduate career, she worked supporting children with special needs at a local public school. These experiences led her directly to advocacy and policy. Since beginning her graduate work, Ubel has been a researcher for various projects, including the Housing and Health in Trenton project with Princeton University, which studies the relationship between health disparities and affordable housing. In the fall, Ubel will begin an internship with New Jersey Policy Perspective as a Kathleen Crotty Fellow. She is honored to receive the Henry J. Raimondo Award and intern with the Assembly Majority Office in the spring.

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### **Maya Wahrman**

Maya Wahrman is currently the reception and placement case manager and refugee school impact coordinator at Interfaith-RISE refugee resettlement agency in Highland Park. She is a graduate student in the Rutgers University Intensive Weekend Masters in Social Work program at Rutgers–New Brunswick. She is currently doing her field placement with Spanish-speaking mental health clients and trafficking victims at the Reformed Church of Highland Park. She graduated summa cum laude in 2016 from Princeton University with certificates in Near Eastern Studies and creative writing. She is a published opinion columnist and poet. Wahrman has worked in Trenton as a bilingual case manager at the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, serving at Hedgepeth-Williams Middle School and as a client advocate from the main office. Two years prior she worked as the program assistant in forced migration at the Office of Religious Life at Princeton University, where she co-curated their conference, *Seeking Refuge: Faith-Based Approaches to Forced Migration*, as well as an interfaith policy forum about the role of religion in domestic refugee resettlement. She will be placed in the Office of New Americans in the Department of Health and Human Services for her Eagleton internship.



**Melissa Wilkinson**

Melissa Wilkinson is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Joint Graduate Program in Toxicology at the School of Graduate Studies at Rutgers–New Brunswick. Originally from Argyle, New York, and graduated from Nazareth College of Rochester with honors earning her bachelor’s degree in biology and toxicology in 2017. While at Nazareth, she cultivated her love for science through numerous research opportunities, developed a deep connection to her campus community, and was engaged in a number of organizations. She was a varsity swimmer, new student orientation coordinator, admissions assistant, and student senator in the Undergraduate Association. Following her undergraduate education, Wilkinson moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey, to pursue her Ph.D. under the mentorship of Andrew Gow. Her research focuses on the use of nitrated fatty acids as an anti-inflammatory agent in acute lung injury and interstitial lung diseases. She is president of the Rutgers Association of Toxicology Students and as the current program coordinator for the Toxicology, Health, and Environmental Disease High School Summer Program, a staple of the program. Wilkinson learned about the intersection of advocacy, science, and policy as an American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) Washington Fellow in D.C. earlier this year. She hopes to learn more about the legislative and policy-making processes to act as a liaison for science in the future and to continue leading within her community. She hopes to advocate for the importance of STEM education, especially in rural communities, and wants to utilize her own experiences to demonstrate the importance of funding for biomedical research and education programs, as well as the need for greater opportunity to learn and grow in the STEM fields. Wilkinson hopes to work as a science policy advisor at the federal level to help advise our nation’s leaders with pressing scientific issues and work as an advocate for STEM education. She is honored to receive the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award and will be placed at the Office of Legislative Services in the spring.



**Guy Yedwab**

Guy Yedwab was born in Israel and raised in Southern California, but never felt truly at home until he moved to the cold and transit-rich Northeast. He is pursuing a joint Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers Law School – Newark and a master’s in politics and public policy from the Edward J. Bloustein School

of Planning and Public Policy. After graduating from New York University with a bachelors' degree in experimental theater, he joined an advocacy organization working to save small theaters in New York City during the economic crises of 2008 and gentrification. He became managing director of the League of Independent Theaters, leading their work on union codes, endorsements in electoral campaigns, legislative advocacy, and social justice work. He has also been an active member of his district's participatory budgeting process and local community board. This summer, he co-led the League's COVID response (in particular, coalition building around #cancelrent). Yedwab is looking forward to the fall term, where he will be joining the Eagleton Graduate Fellowship program and interning with the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey.

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**Tracy Youngster**

Tracy Youngster is a fourth-year PhD Student in the department of Ecology and Evolution at the School of Graduate Studies in Rutgers–New Brunswick. She was raised in Piscataway, by a family who always discussed politics and science at the dinner table and who instilled a strong sense of civic duty in her from a young age. She received her bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers in 2011. After graduation, she worked at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory as a research assistant for a project developing sustainable aquaculture feeds for tropical regions. Along with research, this position allowed her to travel to Haiti regularly to assist with sustainable aquaculture education. This work in sustainable food systems piqued her interest in soils and she went on to pursue a master's degree in soil and crop science at Cornell University. At Cornell, she received Master Composter certification, which involved volunteer work to teach the public about composting practices. After completing her degree in 2017, Youngster returned home to New Jersey and Rutgers University. Her current research is focused on evaluating how soil and plant ecology of dune systems along the developed coastline of New Jersey affects soil stability. She is currently a coastal climate risk and resilience trainee and was the recipient of the 2019 NJ Chapter of the Society of Women Environmental Professionals Graduate Scholar award. Her current work relating to coastal resiliency and climate change has increased her desire to learn more about the intersection between science, policy, and public opinion and she is thrilled to be an Eagleton Fellow where she can pursue these interests.



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