



# CLASS OF 2023

## EAGLETON GRADUATE FELLOWS



**Eagleton Institute  Politics**

Study politics. Inspire engagement, Improve democracy.

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

## EAGLETON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Eagleton Graduate Fellowship Program, a core education program of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University—New Brunswick, 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 connect the fellowship experience to their chosen fields of study.

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 a master's 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 a master's of science degree in public policy. Since the fall of 2000, the Eagleton Fellowship Program has been interdisciplinary, open to all Rutgers graduate students 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 that reflect a wide variety of interests and perspectives.

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 a unique seminar classes in the fall that provides a foundation of knowledge in politics, policy, and government in preparation for a spring placement. Fellows participate in advanced internships 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.

Over 1,100 alumni have graduated from the program since the first class in 1958. Many choose careers in public service, while others apply their sophisticated knowledge of politics and government as advocates and change agents through public, corporate and non-profit sectors in a wide variety of fields across the country.

Twenty-seven fellowships were granted this year 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)

**Learn More Online**



## CLASS OF 2023 EAGLETON GRADUATE FELLOWS

### JULIE AROMI



Julie Aromi is a doctoral candidate in the School of Communication and Information at Rutgers-New Brunswick, where she specializes in library and information science and media studies. Her research focuses on the impact of archives on the creation of historical narratives, and the ways biases, particularly around race, are embedded in what the public comes to understand as historical fact. Her dissertation focuses on the 1991 riot in Crown Heights, Brooklyn as it is memorialized in archives across New York City. At Rutgers, Julie also serves as a GradFund Fellowship Advisor, a PreDoctoral Leadership Academy Fellow, and a Graduate Mentor in the Mentoring for Social Justice and Community-Building Project. She holds a master of library and information science and a master of art in history from Queens College, CUNY, as well as a bachelor of art in sociology and a certificate in African American studies from Princeton University. A native of Long Island, New York, Julie has worked in early childhood education, archives, research, and theater costume shops. She has taught in the library and information science department programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and is committed to improving access to higher education for students of all backgrounds, both in the classroom and beyond. Formerly the president of the SCI Doctoral Student Association, Julie won the 2020 Paul Robeson Renaissance Award at Rutgers—New Brunswick for her leadership and activist mission, and she hosts multiple working groups and programs for doctoral students across SCI. This year, she is honored to receive the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship and intern with the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services.

### GERARDO BENAVIDES



Gerardo Benavides is a second-year graduate student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers – New Brunswick, pursuing a master’s degree in public policy. He received his bachelor’s degree in sociology and minor in global poverty at the University of Maryland – College Park. Prior to pursuing his master’s degree, he lived in Baltimore where he worked in several nonprofit organizations in the city across various capacities. Initially he worked in refugee resettlement as a case manager at the International Rescue Committee before transitioning into specialized case management, community relations, and program management roles at Health Care for the Homeless and Youth Empowered Society, two organizations that work directly with people experiencing homelessness, the latter focusing on young adults. Additionally, Gerardo is a member of Housing Our Neighbors, a local community organizing group led by people with the lived experience of homelessness and has in the past supported and coordinated campaigns rooted in housing equity principles; during the COVID-19 pandemic, their primary advocacy campaign was focused on moving shelter residents into safe forms of housing for the duration of the pandemic. Through his professional experience, Gerardo began to understand the importance of connecting interpersonal direct service work with broader calls for advocacy targeting the systemic conditions that necessitate public policy and social work’s existence. He learned how nonprofit organizations can directly work with the public sector to provide greater access to housing, health care, incomes, education, and other needed services for directly impacted communities, people experiencing homelessness and immigrants. However, he also noticed the limitations of such institutional partnerships when their advocacy efforts are not led by people and communities historically impacted by past and current policies. Gerardo hopes to continue working collaboratively with communities to create a more just and equitable world. He currently serves as the secretary for the Bloustein Social Justice Committee, is a board member of the Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition, an organization that mobilizes community members for the health, dignity, and safety of people targeted by the war on drugs and anti sex-worker policies, and he continues to work with Make the Road – New Jersey on a newly established housing campaign in Elizabeth, Passaic, and Perth Amboy, an organization that builds the power of immigrant, working-class, and Latinx communities.

### **ABIGAIL BROWN**



Abigail Brown is a second-year graduate student pursuing a master's of public policy degree at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers – New Brunswick. In her studies at Rutgers, she is focusing on environmental policy. Outside the classroom, Abigail was a researcher for the New Jersey Climate Change Alliance studying organic waste policies throughout the country that could provide examples for New Jersey. This past summer, she was an Environmental Defense Fund Climate Corps Fellow researching the feasibility of micro-scale anaerobic digestion for residential food waste for New York City Housing Authority communities. In 2017, she graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering, where she was a member of the AguaClara project team that developed community-owned and operated gravity-powered water treatment systems that are utilized in Honduras. Abigail was also fortunate to be able to take part in an exchange program with the University of Cantabria and spent her entire junior year and the following summer in Santander, Spain. Between undergraduate and graduate school, Abigail worked as an environmental engineering consultant at Langan Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc. focusing on the remediation of contaminated sites. Her dedication to environmental work is inspired by the natural beauty and tight-knit rural community she grew up around in her hometown of Cooperstown, NY. When she is not studying how best to preserve the environment, she is enjoying it! Abigail completed a 500-mile hike in the months before graduate school that included sections of New York's Long Path and the entirety of Vermont's Long Trail. She looks forward to using her engineering background and new knowledge in public policy to be an effective communicator between the scientific community and the political community. Additionally, she looks forward to one day owning a small farm where she can make the most of her outdoor time at home.

### **MORGAN CLAUSER**



Morgan Clauser is a New Jersey native and third-year law student at Rutgers Law School – Camden. Prior to law school, Morgan graduated from Gettysburg College with a bachelor's of science degree in Environmental Studies, with concentrations in policy and earth systems. While at Gettysburg, she was a pitcher for the school's NCAA Division III softball team, and a Teaching Assistant for Geographic Information Systems classes. She was able to intern for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection during her undergrad years where she analyzed public health data and outcomes that are exacerbated by environmental stressors. This work combined with her studies at Gettysburg inspired her to go to law school and pursue a career in environmental justice, to create environmental policy solutions that benefit the most vulnerable. At Rutgers, Morgan currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Rutgers Journal of Law & Public Policy. Previously, she served as a Legal Research and Writing Teaching Fellow under Professor Ruth Ann Robbins, President of the Camden Environmental Law Society, a judicial intern for the Honorable Michael J. Haas in the New Jersey Superior Court Appellate Division, and a summer intern for the Environmental Enforcement & Environmental Justice Section in the Division of Law and Public Safety at the Office of the Attorney General. She has accepted a clerkship position in Judge Haas' chambers for the 2023-2024 court term upon graduation from law school. She hopes to continue to make a positive impact on those around her and the State of New Jersey during her Eagleton Fellowship, and beyond, and is honored to receive the Governor's Executive award.

### **AARON CORNELL**



Aaron Cornell is a second-year master's of public policy student at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers New Brunswick. In 2020, Aaron graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University with dual degrees in psychology and political science, with a minor in history. During his undergraduate studies, Aaron worked as a research assistant and laboratory manager for a Psychology lab. He also served as president of both the Undergraduate Psychology Club and the Political Science Student Association. In his senior year, Aaron was a recipient of the Governor Brad Henry International Scholarship, which enabled him to pursue additional coursework in international politics while studying in the United Kingdom. This experience influenced his decision to pursue a degree in public policy. After graduation, Aaron worked as a finance

fellow for the re-election campaign of former Oklahoma Representative Kendra Horn. Since attending Rutgers University, Aaron has had opportunity to advocate for increasing student financial aid as a member of the Rutgers Advocacy Corps. He has also volunteered with educating other graduate students on advocating for evidence-based policies as a member of Science Policy Advocacy at Rutgers. During this time, he worked as statistical research specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services and intern analyst for the Government Accountability Office. After graduating from Rutgers, Aaron will pursue a career in policymaking and plans to return to further his education. Aaron looks forward to joining the Office of Legislative Services in the spring as a Henry J. Raimondo Legislative award recipient.

#### **EMILY DALTON**



Emily Dalton is a third-year graduate student at the Rutgers School of Social Work, pursuing a master's degree with a concentration in management and policy. She received her bachelor's degree from Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts with a concentration in fine art. She worked for several years in fashion production management before returning to study at Rutgers. Born and raised in Hoboken NJ, Emily focuses her work on building and engaging with her community. Emily has been a member of Hoboken's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) since 2016 and served on that team's Crisis, Information and Referral Hotline during the City's response to the COVID-19 crisis. This

experience deeply influenced her desire to learn more about the intersection of advocacy and public policy. During the summer of 2022, she expanded on that work by serving as the Hoboken Public Library's first Community Social Worker, where she met with residents in the field to help them connect to vital State and City services. Emily is honored to be a member of the Eagleton Fellowship cohort as a Henry J. Raimondo award recipient. Upon graduation, she hopes to use her knowledge and skills from both Eagleton and the School of Social Work to advocate for better policies that benefit families and communities in New Jersey.

#### **JOSEFINA EWINS**



Josefina Manetta Ewins, a South Jersey native, is a participant in the Masters in Public Administration Program at Rutgers University–Camden, focusing on ensuring an equal and equitable community through policy and activism. She graduated from Rutgers University–Camden with a double major in political science and philosophy and a concentration in legal studies. During her time as an undergraduate, she served on different leadership boards and organizations and was the Executive Senator for the Camden Campus Student Government. In terms of racial justice and advocacy, her focal point, Josefina was the lead student coordinator for the Bonner Civic Scholar project which focused on transitional

racial justice through oral history on the topic of policing and education systems within Camden, New Jersey, with hopes to bring power to the voices in the community. She looks forward to continuing this work during her graduate studies. Josefina had been recognized on her campus as one of the Remarkable 31 for being student-focused on the campus community in advancing gender equality in all its forms through scholarship, campus action, community and professional service, teaching, and creative work. This past year, Josefina was an Afro-Latinx Avanzando Lideres Fellow, focusing on bringing awareness to the Afro-Latinx community where she focused on the necessity of mental health resources for Afro-Latinx students due to mental health access disparities, which were further highlighted by COVID-19. Josefina has spoken on both national and international panels, hosted by the AACU and the Council of Europe respectively, regarding her civic engagement in Camden, throughout her undergraduate years. She believes deeply in the uplifting of community voices to understand what the space needs to flourish in the best capacity. Josefina is beginning her career as a Project Manager at Garden State Equality, an organization focused on providing quality, innovative community programs, educating and training service providers, and passing pro-equality policies to protect and meet the needs of LGBTQ New Jerseyans. Her efforts will be centralized within Camden, where she will be able to continue to give back to the community surrounding her alma mater. She looks forward to a life of activism for marginalized communities and creating a space to amplify the voices of systemically oppressed groups.

## ANDREW FARQUHAR



Andrew Farquhar is a second-year City and Regional Planning graduate student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. Concentrating his studies in transportation policy and planning, his experience growing up in the East Texas, master-planned community of the Woodlands shapes his acute interest in transportation access and disaster resiliency. As an undergraduate planning student at Texas A&M University - College Station's College of Architecture, he minored in anthropology and English and pursued a graduate certificate in public management to better understand the human contexts that policy is designed to address. Andrew's time as a student researcher at the Texas A&M Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center and as an intern at the Texas A&M Energy Institute and Bloustein's Alan M.

Voorhees Transportation Center speaks to his belief in the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to governance and societal issues. He likewise was a member of the Public Policy Internship Program's fall of 2020 cohort, where he worked at the Office of the Chief Counsel at the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Transportation as a paralegal intern. This experience sparked his desire to learn more about the role of federal and state government in the nation's transportation ecosystem and to start a professional career at those levels of government. Honored to receive Governor's Executive award, Andrew looks forward to the opportunity to serve New Jersey and learn deeply about the operations of state government.

## BRIX FOWLER



Brix Fowler is a native of Los Angeles. He is currently pursuing his law degree at Rutgers-Camden. He received his undergraduate degree from UCLA in English literature with a minor in German. He is currently a member of the law school's mock trial team. He is also the Camden Liaison for the Rutgers Race and the Law Review journal. Additionally, he is a Marshall Brennan Teaching Fellow. Last year he was a Marshall Brennan Fellow, member of the Jessup International Law Moot Court team, Regional Representative for the Black Law Students Association, and a 2L Representative for the Association of Public Interest Law. During his second year of law school, he was also a member of the Immigrant Rights Clinic.

He had the unique opportunity last summer to travel to the U.S.- Mexico border in Tijuana to give "Know Your Rights" presentations to migrants. He has also interned for the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, the Honorable Judge Sharon A. King and with the Senior Law Center. Before attending law school, Brix was a broadcast journalist. When Brix graduates, he hopes to combine his passion for politics and law to help pass substantive criminal justice reform legislation.

## YOLANDA GREENE



Yolanda Greene is currently a fourth-year evening student at Rutgers Law School-Newark. She is an advanced clinical student in the Rutgers Education & Health Law Clinic, where she has been successful in obtaining necessary supports for the Clinic's clients. She is a proud member of the Association of Black Law School Students and has served as the Evening Representative to the student body. In addition, she has completed legal internships at ACLU of NJ-Newark, Essex County Superior Court - Criminal Division, and Rutgers Office of the Vice President and General Counsel. Currently, she is the Training Manager at the Abbott Leadership Institute at Rutgers University in Newark, a court-appointed mediator, and serves as a consultant to two organizations in Newark.

Prior to law school, Yolanda completed her undergraduate studies at Rutgers University-New Brunswick, with a double major in political science and communication and a minor in philosophy. She has earned a master's degree from Nova Southeastern University in curriculum, technology, and instruction and numerous credits in the Graduate School of Education. Yolanda has served as a public-school teacher and administrator for close to twenty years in Essex County, where she has been a life-long resident in the great city of Newark. As a staunch advocate for children and families, Yolanda endeavors to marry her passion for education and social justice as a civil rights attorney with a focus on educational equity to children in urban areas. Grounded by her faith, she believes this to be a great extension of her career and service to her community.

## AUSTIN GRUBB



Austin Grubb is a sixth-year doctoral candidate in oceanography at Rutgers University studying calcifying phytoplankton. His research sheds light into how these important microscopic organisms impact the global carbon cycle. This has allowed him to contribute to other projects beyond his thesis, including participating in a twelve-day research cruise in the North Atlantic investigating how particle disaggregation impacts carbon export. He received his bachelor's degrees in biology and Spanish from Susquehanna University. In addition to his dissertation work at Rutgers, Austin's interest in environmental issues led him to join the Rutgers chapter of the National Science Policy Network (NSPN), Science Policy and Advocacy at Rutgers (SPAR). As co-president of SPAR, he has helped organized and run numerous workshops for STEM graduate students interested in policy. Throughout his time at Rutgers, he has written several policy memos. His memo on how oysters can be used to curb the impacts of climate change was published in the *Journal of Science Policy and Governance*. He was selected to be one of NSPN's SciPol Scholars in fall 2021. Austin currently lives in New Jersey with his wife, but is a native of Hanover, Pennsylvania. He is honored to accept the Eagleton Fellowship Program's Governor's Executive award and is excited to learn about and experience state government policymaking.

## LUKE HERTZEL



Luke Hertz is a 3L at Rutgers Law School. Luke is from Rockaway, NJ, and is the youngest of eight children. While attending County College of Morris, Luke worked for Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen as a Field Representative. After graduating from CCM, he attended The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). During his undergraduate career, Luke worked on various senate campaigns and completed internships at AARP-NJ, TCNJ's Office of Community and Government Relations, and the Office of the Governor of New Jersey. After graduating from TCNJ with a bachelor's degree in political science, he again worked for Congressman Frelinghuysen as a Legislative Correspondent. He then worked for the U.S. House of Appropriations Committee as an Investigator for Surveys and Investigations where he was part of teams that reviewed Executive Branch Departments and programs. In 2019, Luke began working at Bloomberg as a Regulatory Research Analyst where he would summarize federal and state regulatory actions for customers. In 2020, he began law school where he has participated in Professor Robbins' Legislative and Policy Drafting Practicum. Luke has been awarded the John J. Barry Memorial Scholarship from the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey as well as the Honorable Nicholas G. Mandak Memorial Scholarship from the Passaic County Bar Association. After graduating from Rutgers Law, Luke will serve as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Robert M. Hanna, J.S.C. He enjoys reading, hiking, exercising, and spending time with his girlfriend Olympia and their cat, Toby.

## BROOKE MARGOLIN



Brooke Margolin is in her final year at the Rutgers School of Public Health Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences obtaining her master's of public health degree in epidemiology. Last May, she graduated from Rutgers University New Brunswick's School of Environmental and Biological Sciences' Honors Program and Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy *Magna Cum Laude* with Highest Departmental Honors with a major in public health, minors in political science and women's & gender studies, and certificates in global health & health policy and health disparities. Brooke is the recipient of the Bloustein School's Governor James J. Florio Public Service award and Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship awardee where she worked at the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in the Majority Office. Brooke is the Chief Editor and Senior Advisor of the Pandemic Task Force at the Miller Center for Community Protection and Resilience at the Eagleton Institute of Politics and has previously served in student research assistant roles at the Center on the American Governor and Center for Youth Political Participation. On campus, Brooke currently serves as the President of the Rutgers Global Health Institute's Student Council and previously served as a Research Assistant for a NIH-funded, multi institutional research on eugenic sterilization, Student Advisory Panel Member of the Rutgers University Climate Task Force, Teaching Assistant and Alternative Break Site Leader for a pilot Honors College First-Year Byrne Seminar on food insecurity in New Brunswick, Vice President of Triota – National

Women's & Gender Studies Honor Society, and member of Eta Sigma Gamma – National Health Education Honor Society. During her undergraduate education, Brooke was an Eagleton Undergraduate Associate, George H. Cook Honors Scholar, Ralph W. Voorhees Public Service Fellow, and Rutgers Scholar at the Intelligence Community – Center for Academic Excellence. Professionally, Brooke has worked at Boston Children's Hospital, GlobeMed Headquarters, New Brunswick Development Corporation (DEVCO), Office of Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06), Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Rutgers Global Health Institute, and Rutgers University's Center for Women's Global Leadership. She is passionate about health policy, specifically working to eliminate inequities through increased public health infrastructure to improve the health outcomes of marginalized communities.

### **JAMAYRAH MOORE**



Jamayrah "Jammy" Moore is a long-time community activist and advocate. Having attended Saint Elizabeth University her bachelor's in mathematics and communication, Jamayrah is now a third-year student at Rutgers Law School in Newark. Jamayrah has received a number of honors from Rutgers Law School, including the NJSB Justice Marie L. Garibaldi Scholarship, ABA Legal Opportunity Scholarship, Association of Black Women Lawyers (NJ), and Rutgers Law Scholarship. She also serves as a Managing Editor of the Rutgers Religion and Law Journal and the Director of Advocacy and External Affairs for the Northeast Region of the National Black Law Student Association. Jamayrah is also an affiliate of Rutgers Law School's Minority Student Program, Street Law, the American Bar Association, the Association of Black Women in Law, and the Garden State Bar Association. Since 2013, Jamayrah has served as CEO and Founder of My Life Movement in Trenton, a 501(c)3 non-profit, where she has curated partnerships with the New Jersey Department of Corrections, YMCA, Age-out Angels, Children's Home Society, Aids Resource Foundation, and secured \$3,000 in annual funding through grant writing and fundraising campaigns. Jamayrah has held various internships, with Stark & Stark, P.C., McCarter & English, L.L.P., New Jersey Attorney General's Office Department of Criminal Justice, the Honorable Siobhan A. Teare, J.S.C., and the District Office of Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman. She also served as a research assistant for the Rutgers Law School Civil Justice Clinic, where she performed legal research surrounding the COVID-19 eviction crisis on how it affected Black and Brown impoverished families in NJ and MI, as well as assisted with client interactions for an eviction case on the basis of discrimination. Jamayrah also worked as a Volunteer Lawyers for Justice where she served as the legal assistant for VLJ's Re-entry Legal Services Program, Children's Representation Program, and the South Ward Promise Neighborhood Program. Jamayrah has participated in several certificate programs, including the Council on Legal Education (CLEO) Pre-Law Summer Institute, Fairleigh Dickenson Paralegal Studies Programs, Seton Hall Law Summer Institute for Pre-Legal Studies, and the Bianchi Law Group.

### **DERRICK NEVES**



Derrick Neves is a third-year law student at Rutgers Law School - Newark. After graduation, he will be a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Stuart Minkowitz, A.J.S.C., for the 2023-2024 term. He is currently a Michael J. Sullivan Defender Fellow at the Criminal Youth Justice Clinic and Center on Criminal Justice, Youth Rights, and Race and an Associate Staff Editor at the Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion. In the summer of 2022, he was an Ella Baker Summer Intern at the Center for Constitutional Rights, where he helped analyze legal issues related to constitutional rights to promote social justice and advance the rights of grassroots activists and movements. In the spring of 2022, he was a Research Assistant for the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, where he helped draft a report for future publication to help determine whether Covid-19 executive orders were inequitably enforced in New Jersey. He was also a teaching fellow for Constitutional Law, a legal intern at Latino Justice P.R.L.D.E.F., and a Maida Fellow at Volunteer Lawyers for Justice. Derrick earned his undergraduate degree in criminal justice from Rutgers University-Newark. He is honored to have received the Harold and Reba Martin Award. He hopes this experience will help provide him with the tools to pursue a career in civil rights and public service.

## ASIA NORTON



Asia J. Norton was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey. She is a third year student at Rutgers Law School – Newark and is a legal intern at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. She works primarily within their economic justice pillar, where she researches housing disparities. During her second year in law school, she was a fellow for the Civil Justice Clinic at Rutgers Law, where she worked on the anti-eviction project to combat evictions due to COVID. The White House and Department of Justice recognized her work as an example of best practices among law schools engaging in housing stability. Last summer, Asia interned at the Essex County Office of the Public Defender where she researched and drafted motions, briefs, and memoranda and assisted in client and witness interviews. In April 2021, she received the Top 25 Under 40 award from the Garden State Bar Association – Young Lawyers Division. Asia is a two-term Board member of the Newark Board of Education. She was first elected in 2018 and re-elected in 2021. She is currently the Co-Vice President of the Board and has chaired the Finance and Budget Committee, the Legal Committee, and vice-chaired the Programs and Instructions Committee. As a tenure Board member, she works with various community stakeholders to improve the quality of education for the 60,000 students in the city while creating policy and managing a billion-dollar budget, the largest school budget in the state. Prior, Asia was a teacher for six years in Newark and a literacy coach in Elizabeth Public Schools. She has a master's degree from Columbia University Teachers College and a bachelor's degree from Simmons College. Asia is also involved in service-oriented organizations, such as Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Most importantly, Asia is a proud mother raising her son in the South Ward of Newark.

## FALAKNAAZ PATNI



Falaknaaz Patni is a second-year candidate pursuing her master's degree in city and regional planning at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. She also serves as the President of the Bloustein Graduate Student Association. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Mumbai, India where she focused on the socio-economic and living conditions of people living in high-density informal areas. She has more than five years of experience working as an architect on many residential and commercial projects along with the conservation and retrofitting of heritage buildings. During this time she led various teams and multi-scalar projects from design to execution on site and liaised with multiple stakeholders. Having

lived and worked in Mumbai, she experienced and witnessed issues of poverty, lack of access to basic infrastructure services along with inadequate and unaffordable housing. This reinforced her passion to work toward the sustainable and inclusive development of cities and improve the overall quality of life while making communities more resilient to environmental challenges. Her interests and determination led her to pursue an internship with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) which aligns with her passion to work toward the sustainable and equitable development of cities. Upon completion of her master's degree Falaknaaz hopes to apply her knowledge and expertise to enable community development initiatives, with a focus on affordable housing and inclusionary zoning, that can enable equitable access to information and policy benefits. As a planner, she aims to work for marginalized groups like women, children, and the LGBTQIA+ community, to ensure their participation in city planning processes and gender-inclusive policy formulation. More work is required to address the concerns of safety, security, and empowerment of women, children, and the queer community. She hopes to use her comprehensive understanding of spatial space, design, and planning skills to develop a thoughtful policy framework and innovative methods to achieve context-based solutions and ensure equity and equality for all.

### **EMILY RATHBURN**



Emily Rathburn is a third-year student at Rutgers Law School - Newark, where she is an Immigrant Rights Fellow and Editor-in-Chief of the peer-reviewed Rutgers International Law and Human Rights Journal. Emily also holds a master's degree from the Rutgers United Nations and Global Policy Studies program with a concentration in human rights, international law, and gender equality. She earned her bachelor's degree from Rutgers, as well, with a double major in political science and Russian language and literature. She is a New Jersey resident who grew up in Atlantic Highlands. During the summer of 2022, Emily was a Maida Fellow and Equal Justice America Fellow at Kids in Need of Defense, where she assisted unaccompanied minors in immigration and family court proceedings. The previous summer, Emily received a Public Interest Law Foundation grant to support an internship at the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General's Conviction Review Unit, where she reviewed claims of wrongful conviction and experienced the unit's first exoneration. She looks forward to serving as a law clerk to Judge Vernoia in the New Jersey Appellate Division after graduation. Emily is honored to receive the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award and intern at the Office of Legislative Services. She hopes this experience will help her learn more about policymaking so that she can be a more effective human rights advocate.

### **AMANDA REED**



Amanda Reed is a third-year juris doctorate candidate at Rutgers Law School - Camden. Born and raised in South Jersey, Amanda is the first in her family to achieve a degree higher than a bachelor's. She graduated on the Dean's List from the University of Maryland with a double major in criminology and criminal justice studies and history. During her senior year, Amanda interned for the Maryland General Assembly where she discovered her passions for advocacy and public policy. She regularly met with constituents and researched state-wide issues for pending legislation. Notably, Amanda was selected to lead the research for House Bill 1462, a bill that required the Motor Vehicle Administration to educate and train applicants for commercial driver's licenses on human trafficking recognition, prevention, and effective reporting. Her research was effectively presented in support of the bill where it passed both chambers of the House (the bill unfortunately did not survive the Senate). Following her time in Maryland, she spent two years working for nonprofits in Washington, D.C. until she enrolled in law school in 2020. Amanda has been actively involved in her Rutgers community, serving as President of the American Constitution Society, President of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and Vice President of the Women's Law Caucus. She has also worked alongside Distinguished Clinical Professor of Law Ruth Anne Robbins in researching, advocating, and testifying for House Bill 1475, one that would recognize coercive control as a basis to acquire a restraining order. While her academic career has covered a wide range of interests, Amanda is most honored to receive the Governor's Executive award and plans to serve in Governor Murphy's office. As an Eagleton Fellow, Amanda hopes to further her passions for advocacy and run for office one day.

### **LORI REIDER**



Lori Reider is from Ellenville, New York, a small town in the Hudson Valley. As a first-generation college student, she earned her bachelor of arts in psychology and criminology from Hofstra University in 2016, and her master of arts in psychology from Rutgers University-Newark in 2018. She is currently a doctoral student in psychology at the Graduate School at Rutgers University-Newark, and plans to graduate this spring. Her research focuses on early child development, and how children's daily experiences (with parents, the media, and society) shape their emotional development. With a growing interest in advocating for and supporting the well-being of children and families, she recently joined the policy team at Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development, where she created legislative summaries, drafted letters of support, and developed policy briefs to support the healthy lives of children in the digital world. She is excited to continue learning how developmental science can be used to inform policy decisions to better

support children and families. She is honored to receive the Eagleton Fellowship Governor's Executive award, and is certain that this opportunity will provide her with the knowledge and experience to continue her research and advocacy work to make a positive change in the lives of young people.

#### **KELVIN RUSSELL**



Kelvin M. Russell is currently a second-year master's student studying City and Regional Planning at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. Born and raised in Union, New Jersey, he has had a passion for transportation since a young age. After completing high school, he had a goal to make a difference in the transportation industry. This difference, he thought, would be achieved by working with every mode of transport eventually becoming the United States Secretary of Transportation. He first began with aviation, receiving a bachelor's degree in Aviation Business Administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. During his undergraduate years he had the pleasure of interning at the school's local airport and participating in JetBlue's JET Summer Internship program. Upon graduating in December 2019, Kelvin was fortunate enough to receive an offer from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as a Management Intern in the agency's Aviation Department. Since 2020, Kelvin has supported the Aviation Department in various roles from administrative tasks like timekeeping to coordinating workforce development training to enhancing customer service initiatives. While at Bloustein he made it his goal to do more than just excel at his academics, in 2022 he co-founded and launched a new student organization BEAT, Bloustein Enthusiasts and Advocates for Transportation. This has allowed him to build his skills as a leader, network with industry professionals, and promote his passion of the transportation industry. Kelvin intends on continuing his life-long career path in transportation, not only working at prominent organizations such as the U.S. Department of Transportation and the International Transport Forum but achieving his PhD, potentially becoming a professor teaching his passions for transportation and enhance his knowledge for an industry he is committed to. He is grateful for being an Eagleton Fellow placing him one step closer to fulfilling his career goals.

#### **NEHA SAJU**



Neha Saju is completing her final year in the Bloustein School's 3-1-1 accelerated Bachelor of Arts/Master of Public Policy Program with a graduate concentration in education. Originally from Somerset County, she graduated *summa cum laude* from Rutgers-New Brunswick in May 2022 with a joint bachelor's degree in history and political science. She minored in French as well as women's and gender studies. During her time as an undergraduate, she was an Eagleton Undergraduate Associate, a Ralph W. Voorhees Public Service Fellow, a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow, a Leadership Scholar with the Institute of Women's Leadership, and an instructor of a First-year Interest Group seminar (FIGS program) on law and leadership. She has interned at the Center for American Women and Politics, worked as an Aresty research assistant for the Civically Engaged Districts Project, interned at the Center for Youth Political Participation, written for The Daily Targum Newspaper, was a part of the team that designed the RU Voting National Microsite, served as the Chief Copy Editor of the Aresty Undergraduate Research Journal, completed a History honors thesis (becoming a Paul Robeson Scholar), and has been dedicated to serving the community (through Rutgers University Alternative Breaks, Youth Empowerment Services, and the Collaborative Center for Community-Based Research and Service). Along with being in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors program and consistently making Dean's List as an undergraduate, Neha is a part of Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society), and Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society). As a graduating senior, Neha was awarded the Chancellor-Provost Leadership Award. Currently, she is working as an academic coach at the Rutgers Learning Centers. An avid reader and doting cat mom, Neha hopes to go on to law school after graduating with her master's degree.

### JENNIFER SPIEGEL



Jennifer Spiegel is a second-year student, pursuing a master of public policy at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University – New Brunswick. She is concentrating on public informatics, using big data analytics to inform policy solutions. Jennifer holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from American University in Washington, D.C. After serving as a team leader in AmeriCorps NCCC, Jennifer fundraised and canvassed for multiple federal and state electoral campaigns and now works as a poll worker in her home voting district of Florham Park, NJ. At Bloustein, Jennifer is a Research Assistant at the New Jersey State Policy Lab, a new state-funded research institute focused on using evidence-based research to evaluate state policies and programs that address the needs of New Jersey communities. In addition to supporting groundbreaking research, she has contributed multiple blog posts on policy issue areas ranging from using pandemic recovery funds to bridging the digital divide. Jennifer was proud to be a finalist in the NYU Policy Case Competition, where her team presented policy solutions for affordable housing in NYC. Last summer, Jennifer served as a human services intern at Mathematica, a policy research firm in Princeton, where she supported projects evaluating adult education, early childhood home visiting, and teen pregnancy prevention. She is interested in a broad range of policy issue areas including social policy, digital equity, voting rights, and environmental justice. Upon graduation, Jennifer seeks to pursue more equitable policy solutions utilizing evidence-based research and data analysis.

### ABIGAIL TIRADOR



Abigail Tirador is a second-year graduate student at Rutgers-Newark School of Social Work, pursuing a master’s degree with a concentration in clinical social work. This coming fall, the Bloomfield, New Jersey native will begin an internship at the New Jersey Reentry Corporation in Elizabeth, working with those who’ve been recently incarcerated or have a history of incarceration to help navigate re-acclimation into society. Prior to graduate school, Abigail received her bachelor’s degree at the University of Scranton, in international relations, with a minor in biology. Abigail graduated as part of the Tri-Beta Biology Honor Society and Alpha Tau Honor Society. During her time as an undergraduate student, Abigail served as a teaching assistant for a general biology lab course, as well as, conducting a student work-study research initiative for the University’s Office of Sustainability. Through her work-study findings, Abigail worked closely with the local Scranton community by developing a seasonal gardening class amidst the community garden. She also helped facilitate the yearly Evening of Environmental Science. During her tenure, Abigail was awarded the 2020 Green Character Sustainability Award. Upon graduating, Abigail has since had the pleasure of working with the Volunteer Lawyers for Justice in Newark, on issues she is passionate about, including anti-trafficking work. Abigail most recently concluded her first-year internship at the International Rescue Committee in Elizabeth, NJ, working closely with immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking populations on Intensive Case Management. Abigail has been a constant advocate for human rights, collaborating with her clients to create foundational lives that promote self-sufficiency and stability. Through the Eagleton Fellowship, she will explore and trail-blaze new methods in which social work can be integrated into political advocacy and representation for social equity. Abigail aspires to one day work on the federal or state level as a representative liaison for adults recently released from prison, who are at high-risk for recidivism, as well as individuals released on wrongful convictions.

### ISAAC VELEZ



Fairfax County, Virginia native Isaac Alejandro Velez is pursuing a master’s degree in public policy with a concentration in political processes and institutions at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University—New Brunswick. Isaac’s studies focus on leveraging the intersection of policy and politics to uplift working families and underserved communities. Isaac graduated with a bachelor of science degree in public policy from Rutgers University where he also interned for Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (VA-10), Results for America, The Brookings Institution, and New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy. Most recently, Isaac was a Summer Scholar at Deloitte Consulting’s Government and Public Services industry where

he worked to address complex public sector issues by improving client outcomes with relevant, timely and sustainable solutions. While an undergraduate student at Rutgers, Isaac was selected as a Ralph W. Voorhees Public Service Fellow, an Undergraduate Associate at the Eagleton Institute of Politics, and was elected to the Rutgers University Student Assembly. Upon graduation, Isaac will pursue law school to serve his neighbors and community as a dedicated attorney. When not working or studying, Isaac can be found watching football and college basketball, at the gym decompressing, or cooking his favorite Latin foods.

#### **MARIUS WILLIAMS**



Marius Williams is a dual degree student in the fourth year of the joint Juris Doctor and Masters in City and Regional Planning program. He is a Brooklyn native who has lived in Brooklyn, Queens, Boston, Salem, Cambridge, Newark, New Brunswick, and now Piscataway and he has taken classes at Rutgers Newark, Rutgers New Brunswick, and Rutgers Camden. At Rutgers he has worn several hats including, Vice President of Fundraising for the Association of Black Law Students, President of the International Development Interest Group, and Staff Editor for the International Law and Human Rights Journal. Marius graduated from Boston University in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in computer science. After undergraduate school he worked in technical theatre before becoming a software developer at Accenture, leading international teams through development and testing of business process software solutions. Marius also worked for the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination processing discrimination complaints and for Rutgers' Voorhees Transportation Center, researching the regional planning issues faced by NJTPA, North Jersey and Middlesex County, New Jersey. Last summer, he completed an internship at the law firm Allen & Overy and looks forward to returning after graduation to further assist clients looking to finance large infrastructure, alternative energy, natural resources, and capital improvements projects. In the future Marius hopes to pursue political lobbying, distributed community development solutions, and public office.

#### **JEFFREY YOUNG**



Jeffrey Young is a graduate student pursuing a master of city and regional planning degree with a transportation planning concentration at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. During his first year in the program, he helped establish the Bloustein Social Justice Committee as an official student club, co-writing its constitution and serving as its first Director of Communication. Last summer, he interned at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission in Philadelphia, developing a white paper on the state of the practice of long-range transportation planning based on staff interviews at fourteen Metropolitan Planning Organizations around the United States. His deep interest in cities, transportation, and planning grows out of his experience booking his own music tours over fifteen years as a violinist, composer, and electronic musician. He has toured North America, Europe, and China as a solo artist and with experimental, rock, and classical music groups including thingNY, the World/Inferno Friendship Society, and projects of Switzerland's Lucerne Festival. Jeffrey grew up in Brooklyn, New York and spent over a decade as a professional musician in the NYC music scene after graduating from the Oberlin Conservatory in 2007 and Bard College at Simon's Rock in 2003. He has appeared on The Late Show with David Letterman and the Rachael Ray show and in the New York Times and Washington Post. Jeffrey is honored to receive the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship and to serve in the Office of the Senate Majority. He hopes to combine his experience as a creative thinker and charismatic communicator with planning and policy expertise to make a positive impact in the public sphere.

9/12/22