



# CLASS OF 2018

## FELLOWS



EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS  
Rutgers University—New Brunswick  
Wood Lawn, Douglass Campus  
New Brunswick, NJ  
*eagleton.rutgers.edu*

## EAGLETON GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Eagleton Fellowship Program was one of the first activities undertaken by the Institute after it was established in 1956 with a bequest from Florence Peshine Eagleton. The Institute has become a center of learning and inquiry about politics where attention and interest focus on how contemporary political systems work, how they change, and how they might work better.

Over the years, the Eagleton Fellowship Program has developed and changed, but its vision, mission and values have remained constant. Between 1957 and 1994, the program was conducted in partnership with the Department of Political Science in New Brunswick, and graduates earned an M.A. 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, with graduates earning an M.S. degree in public policy. Since 2000, the Eagleton Fellowship Program has been open to graduate students from departments and schools on all Rutgers campus who are interested in politics and government. Recent Fellows have come from diverse departments and schools on the New Brunswick, Camden and Newark campuses, representing more than forty-five departments in the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences and nineteen different graduate and professional schools reflecting a wide variety of interests and perspectives.

2017 marked the 60<sup>th</sup> class of Eagleton Fellows. Over 1,000 alumni have graduated from the program since the first class in 1958. Some choose careers in public service, while others apply their sophisticated knowledge of government and politics in the private and non-profit sectors or in education, business or a variety of other fields.

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

Up to 27 fellowships are awarded annually through four related awards: Harold and Reba Martin, Henry J. Raimondo Legislative, Governor's Executive, and Eagleton Alumni. More information on the Eagleton Fellowship program can be found on the Eagleton website at <http://eagleton.rutgers.edu/students/fellowships.php>

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### **Jane Allen**



Jane Allen, a lifelong Philadelphian, is a third year student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy pursuing dual master's degrees in public policy and city and regional planning. From undergraduate through graduate school, Jane's academic interest has been focused on housing policy, residential segregation, and resource allocation in Philadelphia. As the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority's housing finance intern, she is helping to design a new home repair loan program that relies on a public sector credit enhancement to incentivize private lenders to provide low-interest loans to homeowners who do not qualify for conventional products. Last year, Jane, in collaboration with an all-female team of planning and landscape architecture students, placed first in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Innovation and Affordable Housing Student Design Competition. She has also completed affordable housing finance internships at New Jersey Community Capital, a New Jersey based Community Development Financial Institution, and Project H.O.M.E., a nonprofit organization in Philadelphia. Jane received the Eagleton Governor's Executive award. Upon graduation, Jane hopes to continue working on projects that increase access to resources in high-poverty neighborhoods throughout the City of Philadelphia.

### **Jessica Brand**



Jessica Brand is completing her final year as a master of public policy student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, concentrating in public budgeting and finance. She currently works at the Rutgers Office of Institutional Research analyzing and presenting survey data to better inform the decisions of Rutgers' administration. Jessica spent the summer interning for the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development, where she developed foreclosure prevention programming, built a coalition and addressed other affordable housing issues. Jessica is especially interested in housing and education policy, particularly access to higher education, and is passionate about civic engagement and increasing individuals' understandings and connections to politics and policy. Jessica has completed myriad research projects, focusing her writing on increasing the accessibility of political power and better understanding citizens' relationships to government and to their communities. Her research interests revolve around civic engagement, education, housing and healthcare access, and ways in which fiscal and tax policy can be utilized to help lower income citizens. While an undergraduate, Jessica worked on campaign finance for both New Jersey Senators Booker and Menendez. Jessica was also an Eagleton Undergraduate Associate and earned her bachelor's degree *summa cum laude* at Rutgers University, majoring in American Studies and minoring in political science and women's and gender studies. Her senior honors thesis, regarding politically motivated readings of the Declaration of Independence and its use in modern politics, won several awards including the Eastern American Studies Association's Best Undergraduate Paper Award and was recently published in *New Errands*, an American Studies journal. Jessica is engaged in several community and service activities in the Central and North Jersey regions and, in particular, looks for opportunities to encourage young women to take on leadership roles and strive for personal and professional success. She is the President of the Central New Jersey alumnae chapter of Delta Gamma Fraternity and is on the executive board of the Women's Leadership Coalition, a Rutgers Graduate Student Association. She received the Eagleton Alumni award.

### Nicole Broome



Nikki Broome is a fourth year doctoral degree candidate in the Urban Education Policy track of the urban systems joint program at Rutgers Graduate School-Newark and New Jersey Institute of Technology. She received her master's degree in education with a concentration in literacy from Kutztown University, and her bachelor's degree in English education at Centenary University. She has over 10 years' experience in education, including curriculum development and research, and serving as a high school English teacher, literacy coach, and reading specialist. During Nikki's time in the doctoral program, she has worked as a graduate teaching assistant in the Urban Teacher's Education Program at Rutgers-Newark, teaching courses in literacy, curriculum design, and English teaching methods. She has also served as an English content specialist for student teachers during their clinical experience. In 2016, Nikki was awarded a Research and Innovation Fellowship in collaboration with the U.S. Global Development Lab of the U.S. Agency for International Development, which allowed her to travel to Cape Town, South Africa to research multiple models of after school program implementation focused on increasing educational outcomes for low-income students. Her research interests include urban education reform and policy, after school programs, college and career readiness, and the influence of health and nutrition on educational achievement. Nikki's dissertation research examines the effectiveness of a college and career readiness after school program at increasing college enrollment and matriculation rates for low-income and first-generation students. Nikki hopes that the Eagleton Fellowship will provide experience in applying her background in education and her expertise in educational policy to government level policy-making to increase educational outcomes for all students. She has received the Harold and Reba Martin Fellowship Award.

### Jacquelyn Corsentino



Jacquelyn Corsentino, in her third and final year at Rutgers Law School-Camden, is a native of Freehold. A first generation college student, she graduated *summa cum laude* from Monmouth University with a bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in international relations, and minors in legal studies, gender studies, philosophy and religion. During her undergraduate studies, Jacquelyn began helping her community by volunteering with the African-American Read-In Chain. Following that experience, she became a mentor for Women and Girls Education International's Asbury Park Summer Enrichment Program and registered college students to vote. Her commitment to helping her community and being involved with public service culminated when she was selected as a Youth Representative for Monmouth University to the United Nations and as an intern for the Honorable Stephanie M. Waters in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Ocean Vicinage Family Division. Jacquelyn was a Marshall Brennan Constitutional Law Fellow, where she taught high school history to Camden students, has been a certified mediator for the Domestic Violence Pro-Bono project, and a volunteer challenger on Election Day. Jacquelyn is currently serving as the State Constitutional Law Editor of the *Rutgers University Law Review* and will continue as a Teaching Assistant this year. She has interned for the New Jersey Office of Attorney General's Tort Litigation Division, the Honorable George S. Leone of the Appellate Division in the Superior Court of New Jersey, and was a summer associate at Connell Foley. Following graduation, she will serve as a law clerk to the Honorable Heidi W. Currier of the Appellate Division in the Superior Court of New Jersey. She hopes to practice areas of law that will enable her to make a community-wide impact and improve the lives of others. Ultimately, she hopes to serve in a public service position and create meaningful legislation. Jacquelyn received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship award and is looking forward to her placement in the Office of Legislative Services in the spring.

### **Elisheva Davidoff**



Liz Davidoff is a master's of social work student at the School of Social Work, where her focus is management and policy. She is a Violence Against Women certificate student and the community liaison for the School of Social Work Student Government Association. As an undergraduate, Liz studied western philosophy and ethnographic journalism at Saint John's College in Annapolis, Maryland and the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Liz spent last year interning for Good Grief in Morristown, a nonprofit that provides peer support groups to children who have lost a parent or sibling. In summer 2017, she was hired as the Policy and Advocacy Fellow at Unchained At Last, a nonprofit dedicated to ending child marriage in the United States. She enjoys community organizing, politics, reading, road trips, hiking, and spending time with her boyfriend and family. Liz is honored to have received the Governor's Executive Award and will spend her second year interning with the Domestic Violence Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board in Trenton.

### **Daniel Dowdy**



Daniel Dowdy is a rising 3L at Rutgers Law School-Camden campus. He is president of the National Lawyers' Guild chapter at Rutgers-Camden, a student leader of the Voters' Rights Project, student pro bono director of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, a staff editor of the *Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion*, a Peggy Browning Fellow Summer Fellow, and an extern at the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission in the fall 2016 semester. Having also done prisoners' rights work during the summer of 2016 at the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project, Daniel has shown a strong interest in public interest law and criminal justice reform.

His summer 2017 work has been an immersion into plaintiff's side labor law, which primarily dealt with the representation of labor unions in the Midwest. Daniel has a bachelor's of arts degree in history and religious studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He will be placed in the New Jersey Senate Majority Office next spring as a Henry J. Raimondo fellowship award recipient. He is excited to get a hands-on approach to the political world and hopes to utilize his research skills to impact social policies, focusing on the needs of those who have been touched by the justice system, and learn from those who have had real experience in the political realm.

### **Alessia Eramo**



Alessia Eramo is a doctoral candidate in civil and environmental engineering. She holds a master's of science degree in civil and environmental engineering from Penn State and a bachelor of science degree in biology from Pace University with minors in women's and gender studies and Italian studies. Alessia's research focuses on antibiotic resistance genes and other microbial contaminants in urban water and sewer environments. Prior to returning to graduate school to pursue her doctorate, Alessia worked on contaminated site remediation as an environmental consultant in New Jersey. Alessia is very passionate about protecting the environment and making science accessible and relatable to all. She has mentored five female undergraduate researchers in STEM fields over the course of her degree and has been the secretary of the Society of Women Engineers Graduate Branch at Rutgers since fall 2015. She received research funding from the New Jersey Water Resources Research Institute, the Hudson River Foundation and a scholarship from the New Jersey Water Environment Association. In April 2017, Alessia was sponsored by Rutgers to participate in the American Association for the Advancement of Science Catalyzing Advocacy for Science and Engineering Workshop in Washington D.C. and attended Congressional meetings with New Jersey representatives' staff to advocate for steady and sustained scientific funding. Alessia is a member of the

Beautification Committee of Clifton, where she resides and hopes to become involved in local politics and beyond. Alessia believes that the participation of more scientists in the political process would be greatly beneficial to the nation and is excited to learn from the Eagleton Institute. Alessia is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. and is fluent in Italian. She is honored to have received the Harold and Reba Martin Fellowship award.

#### **Storm Ervin**



Storm Ervin is a second year master's of public policy student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. She received her bachelor of arts degree in sociology and Black studies at the University of Missouri. As a Saint Louis native, Storm has a track record of public service and activism. She worked for the Crime Victim Advocacy Center of Saint Louis and for Congressman William Lacy Clay. Before graduating from the University of Missouri, she was active in Ferguson protests and in challenging racial tensions on campus. She, along with eleven other students, the Mizzou football team, and the larger minority community, engaged in a series of demonstrations during the fall of 2015 that eventually led to the resignation of, then University President Tim Wolfe. Storm continues her advocacy for racial justice through public speaking engagements. She has spoken on issues surrounding race, college access, and free speech at the University of Denver-School of Law, Yale University, The National Constitution Center, the National American Council on Education Conference, the American Educational Research Association Conference, and National Association for Directors in Higher Education. Her current academic interests include social policy as it relates to educational equity and mass incarceration. She spent this past summer as a policy researcher at the Center for Justice at Columbia University studying means to transform violent crime punishment and policy as well as supporting prison education and related programming. Storm received the Governor's Executive award and she plans to continue legislative advocacy to reduce mass incarceration, challenge the racial caste, and to promote healing through investment in low-income communities.

#### **M. Nolan Gray**



Nolan Gray is a second-year master of city and regional planning student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. His research interests include land-use regulation, real estate markets, economic development, and international urbanization. Nolan is a regular contributor to *Market Urbanism* and *Strong Towns* and has published in *Citylab*, *Forbes*, and *The Hill* among other sources. He is currently a Frédéric Bastiat Fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Nolan recently spent a summer working with the Municipality of Guatemala on planning and digital mapping, conducting research on informal parking markets in Guatemala City. This research will be published as an academic paper later this year with Universidad Francisco Marroquín. Earlier this year, he co-authored a paper on home-based business regulation that earned the Economic Development Division Holzheimer Memorial Student Scholarship from the American Planning Association. A native of Lexington, Kentucky, Nolan graduated *summa cum laude* with bachelor's degrees in philosophy and political science from the University of Kentucky. His political science honors thesis studied political polarization at the neighborhood level. He is honored to have received the Harold and Reba Martin Award.

### **Francisco Guzman Andrade**



Francisco F. Guzman Andrade he was eight years old when his family emigrated to the United States from Mexico. He grew up in South Jersey, and attended Southern Regional High School, where he excelled in statistics, history, and U.S. government and politics. Francisco graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from Stockton University. Francisco is currently entering his third-year at Rutgers Law School-Camden. He contributes to the *Law Review*, participates in the Hunter Moot Court, is the treasurer of Alianza - Rutgers' Latino Law Students Association, and is a 2L representative in the Student Bar Association. Francisco has also taken part in two of Rutgers Law Pro Bono projects, the Domestic Violence and the Honorable Judith H. Wizmur Bankruptcy Pro Bono projects, which help low-income and indigent individuals in the community that may not be able to afford legal assistance navigate New Jersey's Family and Bankruptcy court systems. Francisco's interest in public service extends beyond the academic year, having spent his 2016 summer working as a law clerk in the Law Department for the City of Philadelphia and his 2017 summer in the same capacity for the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office. Francisco was recently named a Maida Public Interest Fellow for his work and commitment to Rutgers and the community. During the current academic year, Francisco will be an executive editor of the *Rutgers Law Review* and active in the Rutgers Immigrant Justice Clinic and Intramural Mock Trial Team. Francisco has been awarded a Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship Award and will spend his spring working the NJ Senate Republican Office. After law school, Francisco plans on judicial clerking before entering practice or the public service arena.

### **Jessica Johns**



Jessica Johns is currently pursuing a master's degree in social work with a clinical concentration at the School of Social Work. She was raised in southern California and relocated to the Philadelphia area in 2010. Jessica received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with minors in business and psychology from California Lutheran University. As an undergraduate, she was secretary of the local chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma - the Criminal Justice Honor Society. After graduating, she worked at the Ventura County Sheriff Department in Thousand Oaks, California, and Chester County Prison in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Since 2012, Jessica has worked for Path, Inc. and Project HOME - non-profit organizations in Philadelphia - where she advocates for housing, health services, mental health services and employment for adults diagnosed with severe mental health conditions. As a social work student, she was recently accepted to the Violence Against Women and Children certificate program, which will provide her with a specialization in working with survivors of abuse and trauma. During the current school year, she will complete her field placement at the Rutgers-Camden Title IX office, working towards preventing violence on campus and providing assistance for survivors of abuse and trauma. She was recently elected to serve as the treasurer for the School of Social Work Graduate School Association. After graduating, Jessica plans to use the experience she gains at Eagleton to advocate for legislation and programs that will increase campus safety and bring resources to student survivors of abuse and trauma. She is the proud recipient of the Governor's Executive fellowship award.

**Daniel Kline**

Elected to the Roxbury Township Council in November of 2015, Daniel Kline is the youngest councilman in the township's 220 year history. Daniel created the town's internship program, serves as the liaison to the School Board, is a member of the Water and Sewer Committee, Energy Committee, and the Roxbury/Mount Arlington Consolidation Commission. Daniel received his bachelor's degree in history and political science from Rutgers-New Brunswick, and is currently a 3L at Rutgers Law School-Newark, where he is involved with the Constitutional Rights Clinic, Jewish Law Students Association, LGBT Law Caucus, and Entertainment Arts and Sports Law Society. Between college and law school, Daniel served as a staff assistant to Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., a legislative aide for Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman and Assemblyman Daniel R. Benson, and was a policy analyst for the National Hemophilia Foundation. Currently, Daniel is a law clerk with the firm of Hammerman Rosen. When he is not learning about the law or advocating for Roxbury residents, Daniel enjoys snowboarding and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. He is also involved with Raise the Roof for Levi, a charity benefitting a local resident with Spina Bifida. Daniel is very active in New Jersey's Jewish community as well, serving on the JN Future Executive Board as the Leadership Chair, and teaching Jewish Community Advocacy at Temple Shalom. He is also a volunteer pole vault coach for the Roxbury High School Track and Field team. Receiving the Governor's Executive Fellowship is truly an honor for Daniel, and he looks forward to further serving the people of New Jersey in this role.

**Zoe Linder-Baptie**

Zoë Linder-Baptie is a third year graduate student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy in New Brunswick, where she is pursuing dual master's degrees in city and regional planning and public policy. Her concentration areas include environmental planning and policy, communicating science, and coastal resilience. Raised by two architects in Albany, New York, she has always been interested in the ways in which people interact with their built environments. After graduating from Hampshire College with a B.A., Zoë spent six years in New Orleans at a variety of jobs that strengthened her concern for communities impacted by a changing built and natural environment. These jobs included the Juvenile Public Defender's office, the plaintiff steering committee of the BP lawsuit, and a construction management company contracted to rebuild or renovate all of New Orleans' public school buildings. These experiences reinforced Zoë's interest and understanding of the value in community driven planning. After her first year at Bloustein, she went back to New Orleans to intern for the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, which was created through the federal RESTORE Act in 2012 in response to the BP Oil spill. This past summer Zoë interned for two organizations on projects related to increasing resilience within existing networks and projects in the New York and New Jersey region. Zoë has enjoyed being a part of the Bloustein community and served as the social chair for the Rutgers Association for Planning and Policy Students. Zoë is also currently serving as president of the Women's Leadership Coalition and helped plan the Women's Leadership Conference. During the 2016-2017 school year, she also worked as a student recruiter for the Bloustein School. Zoë enjoys spending her free time outside exploring New Jersey and New York City. She received the Governor's Executive Award.

### Alexandra Lleras



Alex Lleras is a second year graduate student in the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. She is pursuing a master's of public policy, with a concentration in cannabis policy and reform. While completing her double undergraduate majors in political science and women and gender studies at Rutgers, Alex pursued a number of ambitious internship positions. She held positions in the Office of Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen and New York State Senator Brian Kavanagh. Alex also spent time as a policy intern for the anti-smoking nonprofit, the New Jersey Global Advisors on Smoke-Free Policy. Most recently, Alex has been a dedicated member of the government affairs team for Weedmaps, the world's oldest and largest cannabis tech company. At Weedmaps, Alex has had the opportunity to work closely with local and state officials to create and support safe, industrious and equitable legislation around medical and recreational cannabis legalization. Alex is a recipient of the Governor's Executive Fellowship and is excited to get involved in Eagleton.

### Holly Low



Holly Low is in her final year at the Edward J. Bloustein School at Rutgers, earning a master of public policy degree. Her concentrations are economics and social policy and her research has focused on New Jersey's working families. During a 2016 internship at New Jersey Citizen Action, Holly wrote a report on the cost of a fully refundable state child and dependent care tax credit for New Jersey. As the 2017 Kathleen Crotty Fellow at New Jersey Policy Perspective, she conducted research on New Jersey's working mothers and early care and education programs. Holly graduated *magna cum laude* from Boston College in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in environmental studies. She spent eight years fundraising for community-based environmental justice organizations in Seattle and Boston. Holly grew up in Long Branch, New Jersey and Eastport, Maine and now lives on the Delaware River in Frenchtown. She and her husband are the proud parents of two boys, ages four and six. Holly was elected to the Frenchtown Borough Council in November 2016 and appointed Parks Commissioner. With her master's degree, she hopes to continue to conduct research and advocate for policies that value caregivers and promote economic justice. Holly received the Harold and Reba Martin Award.

### Jazmyne McNeese



Jazmyne McNeese is a second year master of public policy candidate, with a concentration in race and economics at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. Originally from Los Angeles, California, she obtained her bachelor's degree in sociology, with minor in African-American studies from the University of California-Irvine. As an undergraduate, Jazmyne participated in the Early Academic Outreach Program, was a student coordinator at Compton High school, president of the Xi Omega chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., co-chair of the African Black Coalition Conference, on the board of the Black Student Union and on the J.P. Demands Team at UC Irvine where she developed an identity as a committed activist, advocate, and community organizer. Her undergraduate research focused on Black economic history, cooperative financial institutions, and credit unions. Jazmyne also participated in the Summer Academic Enrichment Program, and the Public Policy and International Affairs Program at University of California-Berkeley. At Rutgers, Jazmyne is vice president of public policy to the Rutgers Association of Policy and Planning Students at the Bloustein School, a member of the Council of Black graduates, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated, Cerritos Area Alumnae Chapter and a Fellow at New Jersey Community Capital as a member of their Community Strategies Team. She has also worked as a research assistant for Dr. Listokin on business improvement districts and historical development projects in New Brunswick.

Jazmyne aspires to pursue a career in public policy after earning a doctorate degree in public policy or public policy management. She hopes to create her own community development financial institution to help better organize community development projects in underserved communities. Jazmyne is looking forward to Eagleton connecting her community organizing experiences to the inner workings of political decision-making and developing public policy solutions. Jazmyne is honored to receive the Harold and Reba Martin fellowship award.

#### **Claire Nielsen**



Claire Nielsen is a third-year student at Rutgers Law School-Newark. Claire is a Monmouth County native and graduated from Fordham University with a business degree. Between college and law school, Claire worked for an international asset management company in New York City. Following her first year at Rutgers, Claire was selected for membership on the *Rutgers University Law Review*. That summer, she interned in the chambers of the Honorable Madeline Cox Arleo in the District of New Jersey, where she drafted legal memoranda and conducted case law research for judicial opinions. As a second-year law student, Claire interned at the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, and began volunteering with the Honorable Morris Stern Pro Bono Bankruptcy Project. Most recently, Claire spent her summer interning in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and also at Gibbons P.C. in Newark. She was selected as the commentaries editor of the *Rutgers University Law Review* for the upcoming year, as well as president of the Rutgers-Newark chapter of the American Constitution Society. As a recipient of the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship, Claire will be placed in the Office of Legislative Services this spring. Following graduation, Claire will clerk for Presiding Judge Clarkson S. Fisher, Jr. of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division. Claire is the oldest of seven and enjoys listening to podcasts, reading historical fiction novels, and hiking U.S. National Parks.

#### **Zachary Ostrow**



Zachary Ostrow is a juris doctorate candidate in his third year at Rutgers Law School-Camden. He was born in New Jersey, but grew up just over the border in Bucks County P.A. After high school, Zachary studied music at Bucks County Community College where he earned an associate of arts degree. An interest in law and public policy inspired him to attend law school. In pursuit of that goal, he returned to New Jersey where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in philosophy from The College of New Jersey. There he studied topics such as political philosophy, philosophy of law, and ethics. After graduation, he took a year to travel across the country, and work as a legislative intern to Pennsylvania State Representative Steve McCarter (154th legislative district). At Rutgers, his studies have focused on the legal aspects of government and public policy. He also serves as senior publications editor for the *Rutgers Law School Journal of Law and Public Policy*. Zachary's internship experiences have included the Rutgers Law School Child and Family Advocacy Clinic, the Office of General Counsel to the Governor of New Jersey, Committee of Seventy, a non-partisan non-profit organization which advocates for good government and voter awareness, and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. In recognition of his dedication to public interest work, he has been selected by the school as a Maida Public Interest Fellow for two consecutive years. Zachary believes that good government and sound public policy has the potential to benefit millions of people. He hopes to use his legal training, and the experience he gains from the Eagleton fellowship, to help play a part in effecting positive change. He received the Governor's Executive fellowship award. In his spare time, Zachary enjoys travel, hiking, bicycling, and music.

**Anish Patel**

Anish Patel is a master's degree in public policy candidate at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Policy. He completed his undergraduate work at Rutgers University-New Brunswick with a bachelor's degree in psychology and planning and public policy. He is an active member of Rutgers student government as student representative to the Board of Governors, hearing board member for the Scarlet Honor Council and parliamentarian and senator for the Rutgers University Student Assembly. Anish is captain and president of the Mock Trial Association team, leading Rutgers to its second trip to the National Championship Tournament in 2017. Anish was a two-term Americorps member with the Rutgers Bonner Leader program, helping fight food insecurity both on-campus at Rutgers University and off-campus in the City of New Brunswick. This past year he was a policy analyst for the City of New Brunswick Law Department and service outreach chair for the Bloustein Public Service Association. Anish is also an Emergency Medical Technician in Freehold, New Jersey. Anish received the Governor's Executive fellowship award and he hopes to attend law school after completing his graduate degree.

**Brandon Pugh**

Brandon Pugh, a third-year law student at Rutgers Law School-Camden, is from Moorestown, New Jersey. During law school, he has worked for the New Jersey Attorney General's Division of Criminal Justice, for Justice Solomon of the New Jersey Supreme Court, and for the federal government. Brandon founded the Rutgers National Security Law Association, through which he hosted the General Counsel of the CIA and a Board Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, among others. He currently serves as the managing editor for the *Journal of the Law and Cyber Warfare* and is a teaching fellow for the Hunter Moot Court Appellate Advocacy Program. Outside of law school, Brandon is the vice president of the Moorestown Board of Education, a board member/gubernatorial appointee on the New Jersey Governor's Advisory Council on Volunteerism, a past county school boards association president, and the vice president for legislation/resolutions of the New Jersey School Boards Association, which represents New Jersey's nearly six hundred school boards. Professionally, he is the president and CEO of a homeland security consulting firm and he previously held emergency preparedness and response positions in New Jersey and abroad. He is a frequent writer and speaker on education and homeland security, including having nearly sixty publications, authoring a state law, advising business and political leaders of all levels, and helping to lead training for Congress on cyber security. Brandon received a bachelor's of arts degree in political science from The College of New Jersey and is a master continuity practitioner through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He has been awarded by President Obama, Governor Christie, members of Congress, and members of the New Jersey Legislature. As hobbies, Brandon is a pilot, a master scuba diver, and an Emergency Medical Technician. He received the Harold and Reba Martin Award.

**Rena Sherman**

Rena Sherman is currently pursuing a master's in public policy degree at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. While serving as the communications director at Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, an anti-poverty direct social service agency, Rena developed a deep passion for and understanding of the barriers economically distressed communities face. In her role, she helped give a voice to the most vulnerable by sharing their stories and advocating for funds to support relevant programs. At the agency she developed relationships with community-based organizations, government offices, and

private funders to arrange monthly visits to the agency's 30 emergency food pantries, SNAP outreach events, and affordable housing sites. At Rutgers, she hopes to help create solutions to overcome these challenges by collaborating with communities, government, and the private sector. This past summer, Rena interned at Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corporation in Jersey City, working with the Neighborhood Redevelopment Tax Credit Plan funded through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. She also helped identify effective local nonprofits to support the neighborhood plan, and synthesized data on the growing inequality in Jersey City to show the need for these funds. Rena earned her bachelor's degree in communication from the University of Maryland-College Park, and is a 2017 New Jersey Housing and Community Development Scholar. Rena is honored to receive the Governor's Executive Award.

#### **Jacob Shulman**



Jacob Shulman is originally from central New Jersey, but has spent a significant period of his life near Chicago, Illinois. Jacob is a third year student at Rutgers Law School- Newark. He received his bachelor's degree in political science, with a minor in economics from Rutgers University-New Brunswick. Jacob also received an Undergraduate Associate certificate from the Eagleton Institute of Politics in 2015. During the past few years, Jacob, has worked for multiple law firms in New York and New Jersey, focusing on assisting attorneys who represent mid-size and large business entities. He enjoys giving back to the community and has done so by being a member of Mt. Zion Lodge #135 of Free and Accepted Masons, various alumni groups, and the Highland Park Human Relations Commission. Jacob has had exposure to a myriad of legal and policy related internships and jobs. At the law school, Jacob was involved as the career services chairman of the Student Bar Association, and served as the president of the Jewish Law Students Association. As the career services chairman, Jacob organized one of the largest judicial receptions at the law school. Politically, Jacob was the vice chair of a local political party and volunteered for a handful of campaigns. As an undergraduate, Jacob was involved with the Rutgers College Republicans and organized their "9/11" Never Forget" event. Jacob also interned with Assemblywoman Donna Simon and Morford Drulis Associates, a policy research firm. His hobbies include reading about current legal issues, rescuing and fostering dogs, and being involved in the community.

#### **David Spector**



David A. Spector, former councilman for the Borough of Bellmawr, is a graduate of Rutgers University-Camden with a bachelor's degree in political science. He is currently a graduate student at Rutgers University-Camden in the Master of Public Policy & Administration Program. David is currently the CEO and principal of Spector Strategies, LLC, specializing in political consulting, public affairs, government relations, lobbying and communications. David previously worked as an aide for the legislative offices of Senator Fred Madden, Assemblyman Paul Moriarty, and Assemblywoman Gabriela Mosquera in New Jersey's fourth district, where he spearheaded communications, social media and constituent relations in Gloucester Township. David also worked with current Congressman Donald Norcross and State Senator through the Camden County Democratic Committee in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He helped organize and direct political campaigns at all levels of government with recruitment and involvement, party building, working along with elected officials and assisting in election operations on behalf of candidates. David has been active in many charitable and social causes including: peer mentor at the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Southern New Jersey, board of directors for Jewish Community Relations Council and the American Red Cross of South Jersey. David has also been involved with *Trades and Union Digest*, Ronald McDonald House of Southern New Jersey, Cathedral Kitchen, Urban Promise Academy, Bellmawr

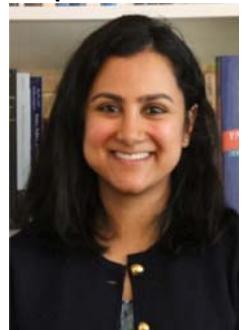
Lions Club, Bellmawr VFW, Sons of Italy and Big Brothers Big Sisters as a former Big Brother and Boys and Girls Club of Camden County. David revived the Rutgers-Camden Democratic Club and served as president for two years. He received the Governor's Executive fellowship award.

### **Michael Spinello**



Michael Spinello is a third-year law student at Rutgers School of Law-Newark. He grew up in Shrewsbury, New Jersey, and obtained his bachelors of arts degree from West Virginia University in political science, with a concentration in international relations, and a minor in sociology. After graduation, Michael served as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Community Services Consortium, a local community action agency located in Corvallis, Oregon, where he helped create and implement a community gardening program to alleviate hunger and food insecurity throughout rural Oregon. After serving as a VISTA, Michael completed a second term of national service as an AmeriCorps member with the St. Bernard Project in Sea Bright, New Jersey. At the St. Bernard Project, Michael helped assist low-to-moderate income homeowners impacted by Hurricane Sandy rebuild their primary residences. After his first year of law school, Michael interned with the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Personnel, Community Affairs, and Elections Unit, where he drafted legal memoranda, conducted research, and assisted attorneys in preparing for depositions and trials. As a second-year law student, Michael interned for Judge Jodi Lee Alper in the New Jersey Superior Court, Essex Vicinage Family Division where he drafted summaries on impending motions, drafted orders, and reviewed emergent applications. Between his second and third years, Michael worked at the Federal Mine Safety Health and Review Commission in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he drafted settlement agreements and judicial opinions. Currently, Michael volunteers with HeadCount, a national nonpartisan voter registration organization and Street Law, Inc., a global nonprofit organization that develops classroom and community programs that educate young people about law and government. As a recipient of the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship, Michael will be placed in the Office of the Legislative Services this spring. Following graduation, Michael will serve as a law clerk to Judge Jodi Lee Alper of the New Jersey Superior Court, Essex Vicinage Family Division. After clerking, Michael hopes to obtain a position in the public sector. During his free time, Michael enjoys traveling, reading, and discussing politics.

### **Shilpa Viswanath**



Shilpa Viswanath is a Ph.D. candidate and dissertation fellow at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University-Newark. Shilpa's doctoral thesis is exploring the collective bargaining outcomes during municipal takeovers by the state. Her research also explores the intellectual and legal foundations of public administration from the equity framework. Shilpa earned her bachelor and master degrees in economics and psychology from Bangalore University in India, and went onto to receive a master of science degree in development studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science. While in London, Shilpa worked as research assistant for numerous organizations including the Royal Institute of International Affairs-Chatham House on their Energy, Environment and Development Program, The Financial Times, and Crisis States Research Center. At Rutgers, Shilpa has received fellowships from the Center for Law in Metropolitan Equity and the Institute for Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security. She is also an adjunct faculty member at the School of Public Affairs and Administration. Shilpa has been involved with the American Society for Public Administration as student representative for the sections for Women in Public Administration, and Professional and Organizational Development. She has also served as managing editor for *Civic Engagement* Magazine, Alliance 4 Public Service. Shilpa is a recipient of the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award and will be interning at the New Jersey Assembly Majority Office in the spring semester.

**Christian Weisenbacher**

Christian Weisenbacher, a third year student at Rutgers Law School-Camden, is from Union Township, New Jersey. In his first year of law school, Christian worked for the Honorable Michael F. O'Neill, and he now works as a legislative law clerk for the New Jersey Law Revision Commission. Christian participates in the mediation and research project pro bono programs. His interests include social policy, gender and family issues, and alternative dispute resolution. Christian attended Roanoke College, where he studied political science and peace and justice studies and was president and founding member of their Student Peace and Justice Association. Christian earned his master of public policy at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy with a concentration in social policy and women's issues. As a policy student, Christian worked for Assemblywoman Donna M. Simon and his practicum project studied student success programs in New Jersey's colleges for the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education. He has also been involved in the Center for American Homeless Veterans in Falls Church, Virginia and participated in the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights in Washington D.C., Christian received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship and will be placed with the Office of Legislative Services in the spring.

**Roshard Williams**

Roshard Williams is a master of public policy student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. Prior to graduate school, he graduated *magna cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in political science and sociology from the University of South Florida (USF). At USF, he was a member of the men's Track and Field team, a resident assistant for USF Housing and Residential Education, and served on the Athletics Council and the Student Academic Integrity Committee. Roshard's research interests focuses on social and urban policy, particularly as it relates to education, incarceration, and social welfare programs. This past summer, Roshard was a financial justice fellow at New Jersey Citizen Action where he examined issues related to the Community Reinvestment Act, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, student loan debt, and predatory payday lending. Along with his academic obligations, Roshard is the GSA representative for the Rutgers Association of Planning and Policy Students, a member of the Council of Black Graduates, and a volunteer/facilitator for the Black Men's Excellence Mentoring Institute at Rutgers-New Brunswick. During his free time, Roshard enjoys reading, running, and spending time with friends. Roshard received the Governor's Executive Fellowship award.