



CLASS OF 2019

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. degree in political science. From 1995 to 2000 the program was administered in collaboration with the Department of Public Policy at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, where graduates earned an M.S. degree in public policy. Since the fall of 2000, the Eagleton Fellowship Program has been open to graduate students from departments and schools on all Rutgers campus who are interested in politics and government. Recent Fellows have come from 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.

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

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

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

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John Aleksandravicius



John Aleksandravicius is a third-year law student at the Rutgers Law School in Newark. Having graduated from Rutgers University-New Brunswick with a dual bachelor of arts degree in chemistry and Chinese, he pursued law school to explore the space where public policy and science intersect. During college, Aleksandravicius studied abroad in China twice and interned with the Center for Advanced Food Technology. After college, he worked as an electro-optical engineer and traveled North America and the Caribbean to repair lasers for five years. Aleksandravicius spent the summer after his first year of law school interning for the Honorable Sharifa Salaam, and the summer after his second year interning for the Honorable

Brian Martinotti. During his second year, he externed for the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General in the Government and Healthcare Fraud Section of the Division of Law. He serves as the managing business editor of the *Rutgers Computer and Technology Law Journal*. Aleksandravicius has received the Governor's Executive award and looks forward to learning more about the executive branch during his spring placement.

Denise Anderson



Denise Anderson is a Newark, New Jersey native and fourth-year doctoral degree candidate in the Urban Health track of the urban systems joint program at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and New Jersey Institute of Technology. She received her master's degree in public health with a concentration in urban health administration from Rutgers University, and her bachelor's degree in human ecology with a concentration in dietetics at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Denise is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Prevention Specialist Fellow. She is also a National Center for Quality Assurance Patient-Centered Medical Home Certified Content Expert. Anderson has over ten

years' experience as a public health professional in the content areas of infectious diseases; birth defects; developmental disabilities; chronic illnesses; and college campus sexual assault. She works as a public health and health care freelancer. Currently, much of her work involves working with AIDS services organizations and community based organizations on service delivery models and business agreements to diversify their financial portfolio and increase their sustainability. She has worked as an adjunct instructor at Rutgers' School of Public Affairs and Administration and William Paterson University's Department of Public Health. Anderson's dissertation work examines a health care delivery model and its ability to reduce health disparities in low income, racial and ethnic minorities. Additional research interests include: health care reform, systems, and care delivery models; urban systems and populations; public health; health disparities; social determinants of health; African American family formation and dynamics; HIV/AIDS; race relations; social justice, gender equity; and feminism. She looks forward to the Eagleton Fellowship expanding her knowledge of government and policy, supporting her transformative and participatory research interests, and strengthening her skills as a change agent and scholar-activist. Anderson received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Award and will be placed in the Office of Legislative Services in the spring.

Sean Campbell



Sean Campbell is a third-year student at Rutgers Law School in Newark. Prior to law school, Campbell devoted much of his personal and professional energies to the field of substance abuse and mental health. He is passionate about empowering individuals, families and professionals to embrace the power that positive mental health has in achieving holistic wellness, effective leadership, and community development. As a speaker and mental health advocate, Campbell has traveled across the United States, Canada and the Middle East, presenting at more than forty college campuses and dozens of professional conferences for more than 20,000 individuals. Previously, Campbell was involved in mentoring initiatives to support youth coping with mental health challenges, substance abuse issues and involvement in the criminal justice system. His efforts earned him the national Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Voice Award for Young Adult Leadership in 2014. From 2016 to 2018, Campbell worked in state government for the New Jersey Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, where he oversaw the statewide administration of the Municipal Alliance program, which funds substance abuse prevention initiatives in municipalities across New Jersey. Campbell currently serves on the *Rutgers Law Review*, and worked for the corporate law firm Lowenstein Sandler during the summer of 2018. Sean received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative award and is looking forward to his placement in the New Jersey Senate Republican Office this spring.

Victoria Carvajal



Victoria Carvajal is a third-year student at Rutgers Law School in Newark. Born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey, she is deeply devoted to underprivileged, vulnerable communities and communities of color. Prior to entering law school, Carvajal attended Fairleigh Dickinson University where she graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in creative writing. After graduation, she switched gears and decided to use her writing and creative thinking skills towards devoting herself to underprivileged communities. In her first year of graduate school, Carvajal interned at Northeast New Jersey Legal Services as a public entitlements intern and an Equal Justice Works Veterans Legal Corp Fellow, where she assisted clients with their entitlements, demystified the legal process, and empowered them to know their rights. In addition, she assisted veterans with legal issues involving housing, veteran benefits, and family stability. During her second year, she interned at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, where she conducted research and facilitated community outreach events in the areas of civic engagement, criminal justice reform, and economic mobility. Carvajal was part of Rutgers Law School's International Human Rights Clinic, where she participated in writing an amicus brief for a detained immigrants' rights activist and a habeas corpus petition for a detained asylum-seeking journalist. She also received training on human trafficking advocacy and best practices. She will be a member of the Constitutional Rights Clinic for the fall 2018 semester. Carvajal is dedicated to a career in public interest, where she also hopes to advocate for public policies that address and assist vulnerable communities. She is a recipient of the Governor's Executive award.

Erik Cruz Morales



Erik Cruz Morales is pursuing a master's degree in public administration, with a concentration in public and nonprofit performance management, at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University-Newark. A first-generation college student, he graduated *summa cum laude* from Rutgers-Newark with a bachelor's in public administration and nonprofit management. Cruz Morales was inducted into the Pi Alpha Alpha Honor Society and also received a TheDream.US scholarship. Born in Oaxaca, Mexico, Cruz Morales migrated to the United States when he was eight years old. His life has revolved around politics and activism from

a young age due to the impact of being a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipient. He has worked on local, state, and federal campaigns and elections. Cruz Morales has interned for Congressman Bill Pascrell and Assemblyman Gordon Johnson, addressing constituent inquiries, as well as with the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey. Cruz Morales plans to dedicate his life to public service through government or nonprofit work to advance underdeveloped communities, work with youth, or serve the Hispanic community through research, policy, or advocacy. He is passionate about civic engagement and helping others understand the issues affecting their communities. Cruz Morales is a volunteer assistant coach at Teaneck High School for the Junior Varsity Boys soccer team and is very thankful to receive the Harold and Reba Martin award.

Daniel Delmonaco



Dan Delmonaco is in his second year of the Master of Information graduate program at the School of Communication and Information at Rutgers-New Brunswick where he is completing a concentration in library and information science. Delmonaco is a reference assistant and instructional assistant at Douglass Library. He is also a graduate specialist with Rutgers University Libraries with a focus on metadata projects. His most recent project involved processing an online collection of interviews about the history of women's education at Rutgers. Delmonaco's research interests include information policy, barriers to information access, and health information behavior. Delmonaco graduated from the College of William and Mary in

2017 with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in Middle Eastern studies. He also completed a concentration in early American history, museum studies, and material culture with the National Institute of American History and Democracy. Delmonaco was a summer research fellow and teaching assistant with the William and Mary LGBTIQ Research Project where he predominantly focused on collecting oral histories. In 2017, he received William and Mary's James Monroe Prize in Civic Leadership. Delmonaco is a recipient of the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship award and will be interning with the Office of Legislative Services in the spring.

Jillian Dorsey



Jillian Dorsey is beginning her third and final year as a master of landscape architecture candidate at the School of Graduate Studies at Rutgers-New Brunswick. She received her bachelor's degree in public health with a focus in public health preparedness from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy in conjunction with the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers-New Brunswick. During her time as an undergraduate student, she served as the president of a career-focused honor society, Delta Epsilon Iota. Upon graduation, she worked as a registered environmental health specialist for the Camden County

Department of Health and Human Services, until applying to graduate school in 2016. As a master's student, Dorsey received the Julius Gy Fábos Research Award in Landscape Architecture which provided her the opportunity to conduct research in Munich and the Ruhr region of Germany. In addition, she has served as the graduate committee liaison at student/faculty meetings, and was the Landscape Architecture Graduate Student Association secretary during the 2017-2018 academic year. Most recently, she was the recipient of the Sally Ditton Memorial Scholarship, granted to her by the Wyckoff Area Garden Club. Growing up in East Brunswick, New Jersey, and staying local throughout college and graduate school, Dorsey hopes to make a positive impact on the state of New Jersey by creating more public access to outdoor, green spaces through her work as a landscape architect. In her free time, Dorsey enjoys gardening, playing on recreational sports teams such as dodgeball and kickball, and working as a youth council coordinator for East Brunswick Recreation and Parks. Dorsey received a Governor's Executive award and couldn't be more excited for the opportunities it presents.

Evan Friscia



Evan Friscia is a third-year graduate student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick. He is pursuing two master's degrees, one in public policy and one in urban planning, with concentrations in informatics and transportation planning. Friscia graduated *magna cum laude* from University of California-Los Angeles in 2013, with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in public affairs. He spent three years working with the private sector as an associate insurance underwriter before deciding to return to school and pursue his passion in transportation policy. Friscia served as a research assistant at the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center while at the Bloustein School, where he worked on data collection and outreach with New Jersey's bicyclists and pedestrians. Most recently, he worked for the Aviation Department of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, focusing on air traffic control privatization and aircraft delay metrics projects. With his two master's degrees, Friscia plans on working towards improving public transportation networks. He is honored to receive the Governor's Executive award.

Jerome Gonzalez



Jerome Gonzalez, originally from Fort Worth, Texas, is a Ralph J. Bunche Excellence Fellow and master of city and regional planning degree candidate concentrating in transportation at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Gonzalez earned his bachelor's degree in American studies, along with a minor in American Catholic studies, from Fordham University in the Bronx, New York. Following his undergraduate years, he spent five years in Washington D.C., first serving as an intern for a United States congressman on Capitol Hill, and later building community relations as an accreditation review coordinator at the Better Business Bureau of Washington D.C. His interest in urban planning stems from his experiences using various transportation modes in two major cities on the East Coast, from bike riding on the many trails of Maryland to walking the streets of New York and taking rapid transit. His research interests include multimodal transport, land use, zoning, infrastructure, and freight movement planning. He spent the summer as a parking studies intern at the private firm of Timothy Haahs and Associates, and previously served as a graduate research intern at the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center analyzing New Jersey Transit bus routes and New York Waterway Ferry ridership. He hopes to apply his educational and Eagleton experiences towards working for a municipal or county government upon graduation. In his spare time, he likes hiking in the many natural areas of New Jersey and exploring historic sites in the region. He and his wife live in Piscataway, New Jersey, and recently welcomed their first child, a daughter, born in August. Gonzalez received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship award and looks forward to interning at the Assembly Republican Office in State House in the spring.

Deepta Janardhan



Deepta Janardhan is in her third and final year at Rutgers Law School in Newark. A lifelong New Jerseyan, she grew up in Edison and obtained her undergraduate degree in economics and political science from Rutgers-New Brunswick. At Rutgers, Janardhan was an avid member of the Debate Union and traveled to colleges across the east coast to compete in debate tournaments. Following college, she worked at a New Jersey credit union as a junior mortgage underwriter. In her first year of law school, Janardhan took part in the Courtroom Advocates Project, supporting victims of domestic violence seeking orders of protection in family court. During the summer after her first year, she went to Washington D.C. to intern for the Federal Housing Finance Agency, which regulates Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. In her second year, she took part in the Honorable Morris Stern Pro Bono Bankruptcy project, helping low-income individuals looking for a way to relieve their debt load. She was also an intern for the Honorable Esther Salas in the District

of New Jersey, where she conducted legal research and wrote the first draft of judicial opinions. Recently, Janardhan was a summer honors intern at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. She will serve as one of two editors-in-chief of the *Rutgers Race and the Law Review* during the 2018-2019 academic year. She is honored to receive the Governor's Executive award.

Rick Kavin



A lifelong resident of New Jersey, Rick Kavin is entering his third year as a doctoral degree candidate in the political science department at Rutgers-New Brunswick. After earning his bachelor's degree from Boston University with a double major in psychology and anthropology, Kavin spent several years teaching English abroad. He worked as an English instructor for elementary and middle-school aged children in South Korea before moving to Honduras to teach first through eighth grades, where he also improved his Spanish language skills. Upon his return to the United States, Kavin entered into a master's degree program at Rutgers-Newark to study political science, writing his thesis on the expansion of executive war powers during the age of the 'War on Terror.' Following a natural interest in constitutional law, Kavin chose to continue his studies at Rutgers-New Brunswick to pursue a doctorate focusing on policing and policy change within police departments. He recently published an article on body-worn cameras that examined police attitudes towards and perceptions of this new tool. Kavin served as the Political Science Graduate Student Association vice president for the 2017-2018 academic year. His side interests include LGBT+ politics. His work for the Gender Watch 2018 project has been featured in outlets such as *Ms. Magazine*. He is a two-time recipient of the Kneller Fellowship. Outside of the academic world, Kavin serves as the volunteer coordinator for the Pride Center of New Jersey in Highland Park, where he recruits, trains, and manages a staff of roughly 30 volunteers working to help New Jersey's LGBT+ community. For his work there, he was honored with the "Dedicated Service Award" for 2018. He also helps run Jersey Subs, the 'family business,' which has served New Brunswick for more than 25 years. Kavin is thrilled to receive the Harold and Reba Martin award.

Amin Khalili



Amin Khalili is a second-year graduate student in the biomedical engineering department of the School of Graduate Studies at Rutgers-New Brunswick. His current research focuses on tissue engineering with the aim to proliferate and differentiate patients' own stem cells into functional skeletal muscle cells. Since current methods of treatment for skeletal muscle injuries have some serious drawbacks, Khalili's current research is aimed at potentially creating a personalized treatment that uses patients' own stem cells to regenerate their skeletal muscle *in vitro* after injury or illness, which is crucial for patients that suffer from volumetric skeletal muscle tissue loss to gain back mobility, such as soldiers with battle wounds. Khalili hopes to bridge the worlds of science, politics and policymaking. He believes there is an inherent inter-dependence that makes both science and politics thrive when they are in synergy with one another. As such, when Khalili immigrated to the United States, he became a poll worker for the Bergen County Board of Elections. Having had the privileged opportunity to be at the forefront of the democratic process for several elections, he was able to meet many elected officials, all of whom further encouraged him to bridge the gap between science and politics. This motivation from government officials allowed Khalili to cultivate his professional goals of mutual cooperation between science and politics. Khalili will be focusing on the legislative process as a recipient of the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative award through his spring placement at the Assembly Majority Office.

Lauren Lefevre



Lauren Lefevre is entering her final year at School of Social Work at Rutgers-New Brunswick, earning a master's of social work degree. After graduating from the University of Scranton with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in criminal justice, Lefevre volunteered at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program in Kentucky where she discovered her passion for helping individuals struggling with addiction. Upon her return to New Jersey, she received a law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law. Through an internship with the Public Defender's Office and as a student attorney with the Immigrants' Rights/International Human Rights clinic, she gained valuable legal experience. Lefevre is licensed to practice law in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. She initially practiced in Princeton, New Jersey, before deciding to focus her efforts on issues surrounding addiction and substance abuse. During the MSW application process, Lefevre volunteered through AmeriCorps, working with homeowners whose property was damaged by Hurricane Sandy. She is enrolled in Rutgers School of Social Work's Addiction Counselor Training Certificate program, which provides her additional education and clinical training in the field of addiction counseling. While Lefevre's focus within her master's program is clinical in nature, she was able to pursue her interest in public policy working as a research assistant with the Center for Prevention Science at Rutgers during her first year in the program. Ultimately, Lefevre plans to combine her clinical training with her passion for advocacy in the public policy arena to help individuals struggling with addiction. She is honored to have received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative award and will be interning with the Office of Legislative Services during her spring semester.

Caitlyn Leiter-Mason



Caitlyn Leiter-Mason is a master's of public policy student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Her academic and professional work has focused on social policy and health care, women's voices in politics and policy, and social justice. Since last fall, she has worked as a research assistant at the Center for American Women and Politics for Gender Watch 2018 and the NEW Leadership Program. At the Bloustein School, Leiter-Mason serves as co-president of the Women's Leadership Coalition. This past summer she interned in Washington, D.C. at the Government Accountability Office where she worked in the Division on Natural Resources and the Environment, studying interagency coordination on seafood safety. Before beginning her graduate degree at Rutgers, Leiter-Mason graduated *summa cum laude* as a Sondheim Public Affairs Scholar from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, with bachelor's degrees in gender and women's studies and political science. She focused her academic work on the intersection of her two degrees, completing original research in Tunisia on young women's role in the Arab Spring, and in Maryland on the 1992 abortion rights referendum. She amassed numerous academic honors, including departmental awards, induction into Phi Beta Kappa, and finalist status for the Truman Scholarship. As an undergraduate, she also led the state's most active College Democrats chapter, advocated for students while serving on the University System of Maryland Student Council, and was elected as a delegate to the 2012 Democratic National Convention. These experiences led her to work in local and state politics after graduation, managing a successful county council campaign and working in Annapolis with a newly elected state delegate before joining Planned Parenthood of Maryland in external relations. Leiter-Mason worked in fundraising and public affairs, organizing lobby days in D.C., a state legislative reception, and health center tours for Baltimore city council members. She is honored to receive the Harold and Reba Martin award during her final year at Rutgers where she will combine her interests in policy research and applied politics on her way to a career in policy research.

Kevin Levy



Kevin M. Levy is a third-year law student at Rutgers Law School in Camden. A lifelong South Jersey resident of Washington Township, Levy's first foray into the political world was in the 4th Legislative District as a legislative intern to Senator Fred Madden, Assemblyman Paul Moriarty, and Assemblywoman Gabriela Mosquera. While attending American University, he completed internships with Congressman Donald Norcross and Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, where he further developed his interests in politics and government. After graduating *cum laude* with bachelor's degrees in international studies and Arab world studies from American and studying abroad at the University of Haifa in Israel, Levy returned home to attend Rutgers Law

School where he currently serves as a class representative on the Student Bar Association, is a Legal Writing Teaching Fellow, and is the senior commentaries editor for the *Rutgers Law Review*. During law school, Levy interned for the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, and the Honorable Judge Eduardo C. Robreno in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Most recently, he was a summer associate at a large law firm in Philadelphia. Outside of class, Levy volunteers with the Civil Air Patrol (the civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force), in various law school pro bono projects, and as an advisor for a fraternity at the University of Delaware. As a recipient of the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative award, he will be interning in the Senate Majority Office in the spring.

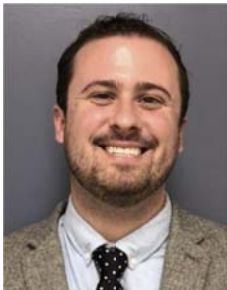
Hayley Lynch



Hayley Lynch is pursuing her master's in social work through the School of Social Work at Rutgers-New Brunswick focusing on clinical practice. Lynch has had a lifelong desire to work in the public sector. Prior to enrolling in graduate school, she attended Montclair State University and received a bachelor's degree in nutrition and public health. As an undergraduate student, she was treasurer of the Public Health Association and helped lead a coalition to install refillable water stations across campus. For the 2018-2019 year, Lynch will be completing her field work at Chapel Hill Academy, a private school for students with emotional/behavioral disorders and learning disabilities. Her interests include

education policy and prison reform, as well as the intersection between neighborhood poverty and incarceration rates. Throughout her previous experiences, she has developed an interest in working with adolescents. In her free time, she can often be found baking new recipes, spending time with her family, watching Yankee games, listening to a variety of music, and reading nonfiction books. Lynch is the proud recipient of the Governor's Executive award and looks forward to being involved at Eagleton.

Drew Madore



Drew Madore is a second year student in the doctoral program in clinical psychology at Rutgers-New Brunswick Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology. He received his bachelor of science in clinical psychology from Tufts University in 2013, and spent the following four years as a mental health counselor on the Inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Tufts Medical Center. Madore's current studies focus on the cognitive and affective bases for the development of severe psychopathology, particularly schizophrenia. In accordance with the scholar-practitioner training model, he is interested in the intersection of clinical theory and practice within the sociocultural and systemic contexts in which they are

embedded. As the student representative on the New Jersey Psychological Association's Committee on Legislative Affairs, Madore is working to shape policy proposals that allow for greater access to mental health care at the individual and community levels. In addition, he is involved with grassroots political efforts to establish and preserve patient's rights in the healthcare and criminal justice systems. Madore's previous experience working with people living with severe mental illness has shaped his desire to promote community wellness and prevention programs, including the development of a more

integrated service system for adolescents showing early signs of severe psychopathology. He hopes to draw upon his experience as a Governor's Executive award recipient in the Eagleton Fellowship Program to create a space for interdisciplinary dialogue that incorporates the perspectives of policymakers, service-providers, and patients.

Jacelyn Matthews



Jacelyn Matthews is a doctoral candidate at the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers-New Brunswick, with a concentration in education, culture, and society. She is currently beginning work on her dissertation which will focus on the ways English as a second language teachers manage stories of trauma exhibited by refugee students. Her interest in trauma work was sparked while serving as a teacher in Rwanda with the Peace Corps from 2009-2011. Trained as a mental health clinician, she was interested in how the classroom could serve as a springboard to healing for students who have been exposed to trauma. While serving in Rwanda, Matthews helped to develop the country's first leadership and empowerment camp for girls and worked in the President's office establishing the country's first college career centers. Both programs are continuing to run strong and have been implemented into every province within the country of Rwanda. She has continued working and advocating for vulnerable youth populations as a mental health clinician in a partial hospital program, as the program coordinator for a youth violence prevention program, and as a part of the Newark Youth Policy Advisory board. She is also the founder of JM Consulting, LLC where she offers trainings and professional development opportunities to teachers and administrators on ways to create trauma informed classrooms and schools. Matthews received her bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in sociology from St. John's University, and went on to obtain master's of arts and education degrees in counseling psychology from Teachers College at Columbia University. Matthews is looking forward to the ways in which the Eagleton Fellowship will assist in applying her background in mental health and education to government level policy making. She is honored to receive the Harold and Reba Martin award.

Caroline Pantazis



Caroline Pantazis is a doctoral candidate in the Neuroscience Graduate Program of the School of Graduate Studies at Rutgers-New Brunswick. She received her bachelor's degree in neuroscience with a minor in history from Hamilton College. Following her undergraduate education, Pantazis worked as an Intramural Research Training Award Fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, where she studied a brain region involved in learning and memory. In graduate school, she wanted to explore how neural circuits involved in learning are disrupted in neurological disorders, like drug addiction. Her dissertation research at Rutgers focuses on the neurobiology of motivation for cocaine, using animals to model drug addiction in humans. In 2015, she received a Predoctoral Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Drug Abuse to support her dissertation research. Pantazis plans to use her education in addiction neuroscience to shape policies on the treatment and prevention of opioid abuse. In February 2018, she was sponsored by the School of Graduate Studies to participate in the American Association for the Advancement of Science Catalyzing Advocacy for Science and Engineering workshop in Washington D.C. to gain early experience in scientific policymaking. At Rutgers, Pantazis has served as the student representative for the School of Graduate Studies in the Rutgers Senate and volunteered in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, Rutgers Honors College Mentoring Pod program, and 1000 Girls-1000 Futures program. She is the recipient of the Eagleton Alumni fellowship award.

Angel Perez



Angel Perez, a Camden city native, is completing his final year as a master's of public administration student at the Graduate School-Camden, with a specialization in community development. He received his bachelor's degree in communications from Rowan University focusing on writing arts and radio, TV and film, along with an associate's degree in criminal justice from Camden County Community College. With over 12 years of experience working with young people in the non-profit sector, Perez utilizes his passion for art and social change for self-advocacy and community empowerment. He has worked for the CHAMP/Gear-Up Program, Aspira Upward Bound Program and served as the southern-regional coordinator for the Youth Advisory Board through Rutgers University. He has worked with youth involved in the criminal justice system as well as those in pursuit of post-secondary education attainment. As a first-generation college student, Perez understands the hope for one's social, educational and economic future opportunity and exposure can bring. He is excited to experience the other side of positive change-making as a Governor's Executive award recipient. He hopes to be a bridge between those who create policy and those affected by its implementation.

Vance Stephens



Vance Stephens, a native of Trenton, is a fourth-year evening student pursuing a joint juris doctor and master of business administration degree at Rutgers Law School and the School of Business in Camden. He completed his undergraduate work at Princeton University, majoring in sociology, with minors in African American studies and urban studies. He currently works as a financial aid officer at Princeton University, advising prospective and enrolled students and their families of college financing options and on issues of institutional and federal financial aid policy. His professional interests include higher education administration and policy, organizational behavior, and corporate and nonprofit governance. At the law school, Stephens performs public interest and pro bono work—helping local residents to file tax returns, apply for bankruptcy protection, and draft wills and powers of attorney—with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Project, the Bankruptcy Pro Bono Project, and the Planning Estates Project. This past summer, Stephens interned in the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division and with the New Jersey Attorney General's State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, where he worked to develop strategies for outreach and service in providing financial, medical, and psychological resources for victims of crime. Stephens serves on the Coordinating Committee on College Access at Princeton and is a class treasurer with the Alumni Association of Princeton University. He just completed a term on the executive board of the Association of Black Admission and Financial Aid Officers of the Ivy League and Sister Schools, and now serves on the executive board of the Rutgers-Camden chapter of the Black Law Students' Association. Stephens is also a member of the Minority Student Program at the law school. Upon graduation, he hopes to synthesize his knowledge of policy, business, and law in order to impact education policy and outcomes, especially for underrepresented and underserved populations. He is honored to have received the Harold and Reba Martin award.

Kyle Sullender



Kyle Sullender is a second-year master of public policy student at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers-New Brunswick. The first in his family to attend college, he graduated *summa cum laude* from Rowan University with bachelor's degrees in journalism, philosophy and religion studies, and a minor in political science. His senior philosophy thesis focused on free speech, Twitter, and the ethical implications of censoring and banning supporters of the terrorist organization ISIS. At Rowan, Sullender served his community as a resident assistant for three years, and worked with his peers as the editor-in-chief of the student-run campus

newspaper *The Whit*. During college, he worked as a freelance reporter for local news outlets in South Jersey including *The Retrospect*, *The Courier-Post*, and *WHYY Newsworks*. He was the recipient of the Jack Gillespie Award for Excellence in Journalism and the philosophy department's Senior of Distinction Award in 2017. Sullender spent the past year working in local government as a member of the Office of Communications and Community Affairs in Camden County. Last summer he interned with the government affairs team of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, working on topics ranging from postsecondary education to renewable energy initiatives. Sullender's interests include state and federal politics, film, and recreational athletics. His policy focus is in budgeting and economics. Sullender received the Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellowship and will be placed with the Office of Legislative Services in the spring.

Valerie Suter



Valerie Suter is a master's of fine arts candidate in the Department of Art and Design at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers-New Brunswick, where she is also a part-time lecturer in painting. As an undergraduate, she earned a bachelor's degree in modern history and minor in Russian studies at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She also spent a year as a guest student in the visual arts department at Central St. Martins College of Art and Design in London. Her work and interests focus on the intersection of visual art and other forms of expression in social and political history, law and government. Suter is currently working on a project focused on the history of women who have run for the U.S. Presidency. She was a 2018 Fellow of The Art and Law Program in New York City, has twice been awarded artist residency grants from the Vermont Studio Center, and has exhibited her work internationally. Prior to beginning her graduate studies at Mason Gross, she worked in book publishing for several years as an assistant literary agent and editorial assistant, and has also worked as a writing tutor, mentor, and volunteer at organizations including the Writers Guild Foundation and 826LA in Los Angeles. In her free time, Valerie enjoys playing the mandolin, reading, running, and traveling. She is honored to have received the Governor's Executive Award.

Dorothy Thompson-Wilkes



Dorothy Thompson-Wilkes is a second year master of public administration candidate at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers-Newark. She obtained her bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* in psychology, with a minor in Spanish from Seton Hall University. As an undergraduate, Thompson-Wilkes served as vice-president for the International Students Association and Psychology Association and Psi Chi, the National Honor Society for psychology majors. After graduating she worked with The Salvation Army in Newark and Union New Jersey. While directing programs that benefitted the elderly and children in Essex, Hudson and Union counties, she received the National Daily Points of Light Award. She also received the Heroe del Barrio award for her commitment and compassion to the Latino community of Northern New Jersey. Thompson-Wilkes is passionate about empowering the disenfranchised and served on the Community Advisory Board with the United Way of Essex and West Hudson county and Senator Jon Corzine's Senior Citizen Affairs Committee. Thompson-Wilkes created an LLC to provide strategic planning, board development and fiscal accountability to nonprofit organizations. She spent the summer as an Education Pioneers Fellow with a focus on quality and advocacy in education policy in the City of Newark. She is honored to be the recipient of the Governor's Executive award and is looking forward to serving the residents of New Jersey.

Francisco Vargas



Weeks before Hurricane María struck Puerto Rico, Francisco Vargas left Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico to attend Rutgers University-Newark to pursue a master's in public administration with a concentration in financial management through the School of Public Affairs and Administration. Vargas graduated with honors from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in international relations. During his undergraduate studies, he was elected student senator for the Arts and Sciences Faculty, president of the Political Science Student Association and president of the General Student Council. In 2015, he attended the National Conference on Student Leadership in Washington, D.C. where he met student leaders from all over the world and participated in professional development workshops. Since arriving at Rutgers-Newark, Vargas has been elected president of the Public Administration Graduate Association and was selected as the New Jersey-American Society for Public Administration Student of the Year. His research interests include transparency in the public budgeting process, energy and climate change policy. Vargas is a member of the Rutgers Transparency and Governance Center and has helped form a collaboration between the School of Public Affairs and Administration and the University of Puerto Rico's National Institute of Energy and Island Sustainability. The collaboration, funded by the Chancellor's Seed Grant, aims to help Puerto Rico achieve a resilient energy system and develop effective disaster management and response practices. This past summer, Vargas interned with the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, where he helped the director advise the Secretary of Energy on how energy policies affect minorities in the United States. After graduation he plans to pursue a doctoral degree in environmental policy and eventually become a public official in Puerto Rico. He is honored to be a Harold and Reba Martin Award recipient.

Mallory Visser



Mallory Visser is currently pursuing her master's degree in social work with a concentration in management and policy at the School of Social Work at Rutgers-Newark. As an undergraduate, she studied social work at Salve Regina University and Providence College in Rhode Island. Since graduating, she has worked at various non-profits including the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey, where she was instrumental in coordinating the largest revenue stream for the organization. In 2014, Visser found her passion in life when she began volunteering for the Morris County Sexual Assault Response Team that responds to survivors in immediate crisis at local hospitals. She currently holds leadership positions in The Junior League of Montclair-Newark, where she oversees the development of community service initiatives as the community vice president, and on the Board of Directors for the Young Non-Profit Professionals Network of New Jersey, where she is implementing an equity, diversity, and inclusion initiative. Visser is an outspoken advocate for survivors of intimate partner and sexual violence, eating disorder research, and access to affordable healthcare. After graduating, she hopes to use her knowledge and experience with clinical social work to inform her larger policy interests in a legislative capacity. She is a proud recipient of the Governor's Executive award.

Yilin Wu



Yilin Wu is a doctoral candidate in economics at the School of Graduate Studies, Rutgers-New Brunswick. Her fields of study are labor economics, health economics and urban economics. Her current research focuses on racial, geographic, economic segregation and the associational inequality across identifiable subgroups. Wu earned her bachelor's degree in economics from Wuhan University in China. She is the co-president of the Graduate Economic Student Association and organizer of the student micro-economics seminar series in the economics department. She is honored to have received the Governor's Executive award.