



CLASS OF 2018

UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATES



EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Wood Lawn, Douglass Campus

New Brunswick, NJ

eagleton.rutgers.edu

EAGLETON UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

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

The Undergraduate Associates journey at Wood Lawn begins with the Practice of Politics course, where they examine “politics as a choice”. Each week, students analyze different political decisions such as the Constitutional Convention, jury verdicts, voting outcomes, budgets, public education systems, legislative actions, campaign strategies, presidential programs, and American foreign policy.

Over the summer and fall, Associates complete internships in a variety of offices focused on American politics, government and public policy. Placement locations range from congressional offices and federal agencies in Washington D.C. to state, county and local government positions in New Jersey and New York, along with some of the top political consulting and public affairs firms in the state to name a few. The accompanying Internship Seminar in the fall examines the art of leadership and builds on concrete ways for the students to “make a difference” as they pursue careers after graduation.

The final course, Processes of Politics, is taken during the spring semester of senior year. This class focuses on the search for better and more trustworthy political processes and government operations. Through weekly news reports, numerous guest speakers, group and individual projects, the Associates enhance their knowledge of the mechanics of government and politics. They work on opening their minds to different perspectives and aspire to “make it better” (in the words of Eagleton’s 60th anniversary motto) by envisioning positive change and taking steps to realize it.

The Class of 2018 represents the 44th class of Eagleton Undergraduate Associates. There are currently more than 925 alumni of the Undergraduate Associates program. Some have chosen careers in politics and public affairs, while others have applied their advanced knowledge of government and politics to a broad range of careers in the private and non-profit sectors.

More information about the Eagleton Undergraduate Associates program can be found at go.rutgers.edu/EagletonUA

CLASS OF 2018 EAGLETON UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATES

Sahar Akbarzai



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Major/Minor: Political Science/International and Global Studies

Internship: Office of the Mercer County Clerk/Muslim Girl

Sahar Akbarzai is pursuing a major in Political Science and a minor in international and global studies. She is originally from California, but has been living in Old Bridge, New Jersey for many years and graduated from Old Bridge High School. Sahar is interested in journalism and global affairs. She had previous internships with New Jersey Senator Cory Booker and the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City. Her ultimate goal is to work as a journalist on political affairs, and be the first Muslim American female news anchor. She has written for *USA Today College* as well as *The Daily Targum* at Rutgers University. Sahar is also very passionate about different humanitarian concerns, specifically refugee education and the policy areas concerned around them. She is the president and founder of Global Allies, a non-profit organization which works to provide refugee children with educational resources. She is also currently working on passing a refugee justice resolution in the United States Senate.

Mussab Ali



Honors College, Rutgers-Newark

Majors/Minors: Economics, Neurobiology/Chemistry, Middle Eastern-Islamic Studies

Internship: Jersey City Board of Education Campaign

Mussab Ali is a first-generation Muslim-American studying at Rutgers University-Newark, with majors in neurobiology and economics as well as minors in Middle Eastern/Islamic Studies and chemistry. A loyal son of Jersey City, Mussab is already working to address such issues as youth homelessness, urban education, criminal justice reform, and discrimination against minorities in his home state. He has participated in research at the New Jersey Medical School, using pre-natal cortical cell-stretching to simulate concussions and has worked at SMC Digital Marketing as a client manager. Mussab plans on pursuing an MD/MSHP, and, in the future, he hopes to help legislators and doctors craft innovative policies to improve healthcare access and quality in the United States. He was recently inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and became a Truman Scholar.

Danna Almeida



School of Communication and Information, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Major/Minor: Political Science, Journalism and Media Studies/International Relations and Global Studies

Internship: Strategas Research Partners (Washington D.C.)

Danna Almeida, a senior majoring in political science and journalism and media studies, while minoring in international relations and global studies, is from Kearny, New Jersey. At Rutgers, she serves as the chair of Rutgers College Republicans, the largest political organization on campus, and as vice president of Young Americans for Freedom. She is also involved with New Student Orientation, Scarlet Honor Council, and Residence Life at the Honors College, where she was awarded Responsibility Program of the Year for her work with her residents. On campus, she has been the recipient of the Excellence in Leadership Award and Academic Excellence Award. She is a contributing writer with by-lines in *The Trentonian*. In her time here at Rutgers, she has volunteered for successful congressional and presidential campaigns, and helped found two conservative student organizations on campus. She has spent multiple summers volunteering locally and abroad, most recently in Austria and Hungary. Danna, whose family hails from Brazil, is a first-generation American, pursuing a career in law and politics.

Alex Arnold



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick
Major/Minor: Political Science/Labor Studies
Internship: New Jersey Future

Alex Arnold is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences where he is majoring in political science and pursuing a minor in labor studies. He lives in Ocean Township, just five minutes from the beach. Alex served as a Legislative Intern for Assemblyman Jack Ciattarelli and Senator Jennifer Beck. He is also a proud brother of the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity, where he serves as rush chairman and standards chairman. Alex is a recipient of the Academic Excellence Award. He has attended several American Israel Public Affairs Committee conferences, where he learned about policy and foreign politics. Alex hopes to have a career lobbying in Washington D.C. or working in the government helping to craft policy. In his spare time, Alex enjoys playing the drums, hitting the beach, and traveling.

Aferba Ashong



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick
Majors: Political Science and Africana Studies
Internship: Ocean County Long Term Recovery Group

Aferba Ashong is a senior at Rutgers-New Brunswick where she double majors in political science and Africana studies. When she first arrived at Rutgers, she immediately became involved with the Rutgers University chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Eagleton Institute of Politics. During her freshman year, she served on the executive board for the Rutgers chapter of the NAACP as the freshman delegate where her primary responsibilities were to recruit other freshman to the organizations and to network with the other organizations on campus. In her sophomore year, she served as the political action chair where she examined the legal aspects of the chapter and informed students of their civic duties. She also works for the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling where she helps to survey New Jersey constituents on a variety of topics. Currently, she serves as president of the NAACP and as an Eagleton Undergraduate Associate. During the summer of 2016 she interned for New Jersey Senator Cory Booker through the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Upon graduation she plans to attend law school and eventually practice as a civil rights lawyer.

Ryan Berger



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick
Majors/Minor: Political Science, History/Statistics
Internship: Rutgers Office of Federal Relations (Washington D.C.)

Ryan Berger is a political science and history joint major with a statistics minor in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program. He is the news director for *WRSU 88.7 FM - Rutgers Radio*, reporting on all things Rutgers Ryan hosts "KnightBeat", a talk show with the many news making members of the Rutgers community. He has also directed multiple Model UN/Congress committees for high school conferences, with such topics as campaign finance, developing democracy, voting rights, and freedom of the press. Ryan interned last year at the Council of State Governments in Washington D.C., advocating for state-based issues and researching for state-federal relationships. Last summer, Ryan was once again in our nation's capital, this time working for Rutgers University's Office of Federal Relations, where he researched and advocated for research funding, education policy, and helped to maintain University relationships with Congress. In his spare time, Ryan is a political junkie, who reads *POLITICO* and watches *VEEP* and *House of Cards*. Ryan's dream job would be chief of staff to the President.

Skyler Bolkin



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Major/Minor: Political Science, Communications and Public Relations/Spanish

Internship: Office of the Bergen County Executive

Sky Bolkin is double majoring in political science and communications with a specialization in strategic communication and public relations, as well as minoring in Spanish. She is passionate about the political system and the role the media plays in the political process. She spent the fall 2016 semester studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Sky is vice president of Muggle Mayhem, the Rutgers Chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance, an internationally recognized community service organization. She is also treasurer of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi, a Jewish interest sorority. She has received special recognitions as a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient and being inducted into the national honor society Phi Beta Kappa as a junior.

Rhea Christmas



School of Arts and Sciences/Douglass Residential College, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Majors: Political Science, Journalism and Media Studies

Internship: Murphy for Governor Campaign

Rhea Christmas, a senior at Rutgers-New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences, is from Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. She is currently double majoring in political science and journalism and media studies. Rhea is a member of Douglass Residential College and holds leadership positions in the Douglass Student Recruitment Network and Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity. Rhea has previously interned for New Jersey Senator Cory Booker, the Lawrenceville School, externed for Federal Judge Freda Wolfson, and has numerous academic accomplishments. She hopes to take the skills she learns as an undergraduate associate and utilize them as she continues her future career in law.

David Galpern



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Majors/Minor: Political Science, Economics/Statistics

Internship: Office of the Mercer County Clerk

David Galpern is a political science and economics major and statistics minor in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program. He is from Voorhees, New Jersey. David has been interested in politics since high school, interning at the Assembly Offices of Greenwald and Lampitt, and has sought to pursue that interest in college as well. Upon coming to Rutgers, David became an active member of the Institute for Domestic and International Affairs (IDIA), a nonprofit organization that organizes and runs Model UN and Model Congress conferences for students all over region. Most recently, David was the executive director of Rutgers Model Congress 2017, and was in charge of overseeing the implementation of the conference for over 300 students and over 50 staff members. Apart from IDIA, David is a research assistant at the Aresty Research Center, working with economics Professor Mark Killingsworth in his research regarding the pay of public university presidents. After college, David hopes to pursue a career in either politics or law.

Pamela Hernandez



School of Arts and Sciences/Douglass Residential College, Rutgers-New Brunswick
Major/Minors: Political Science/International and Global Studies, Women's and Gender Studies

Internship: New Jersey Department of Education

Pamela Hernandez is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences and the Douglass Residential College majoring in political science and double minoring in international and global studies and women's and gender studies. She is a leadership scholar at the Institute for Women's Leadership, a fellow in the Young People for Leadership program, and a fellow in the Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship Program in Leadership and Social Policy. Pamela is also a recipient of numerous awards including the Dean's List, Phi Beta Kappa, and Pi Sigma Alpha. Her involvement on campus includes serving as the treasurer of the Latin American Students Organization and the vice-president for the Douglass Friends of UNFPA, which focuses on raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health. Pamela is also the project manager of the Douglass Social Media Team. In the past, she has interned for the Center for American Women and Politics researching the councils and mayors of municipalities in New Jersey along with assisting with the Center's yearly non-partisan campaign training program, Ready to Run. Pamela is extremely interested in social justice and human rights. In the future, she plans on pursuing a master's degree in international affairs with a focus on global gender studies. During her free time, she enjoys reading poetry and learning different languages.

Samir Kamat



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Majors: Molecular Biology, Biochemistry

Internship: Drug Policy Alliance

Samir Kamat, raised in South Brunswick, is a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program pursuing a bachelor's degree in molecular biology and biochemistry. His undergraduate coursework has spanned science, public health, music production, and politics. On campus, Samir is actively engaged in pharmaceutical research studying the clinical effects of modified drugs. Interested in public and community health, Samir has also volunteered at low-income diabetes clinics throughout New Brunswick, and is also a sexual health advocate, where he facilitates workshops across campus related to safe sexual practices, relationships, and body-image. He pursues his love for international relations and debate on the Rutgers Model United Nations team. He has served in various teaching roles in such diverse courses as Introduction to Logic and Introduction to Philosophy to Genetics. In the future, Samir hopes to bridge his interests in science, service and policy as a physician.

Sarah Ma



School of Arts and Sciences/Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy,
Rutgers-New Brunswick

Major/Minors: Political Science/Economics, Chinese, Real Estate

Internship: The Heritage Foundation (Washington D.C.)

Sarah Ma is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program majoring in political science, minoring in economics and Chinese, and pursuing a real estate certificate from the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. She is a lifelong resident of Metuchen, where she has served as county committeewoman since 2016. Sarah is passionate about both governmental affairs and real estate, and her internships on a presidential campaign and in the Office of the Governor of New Jersey, as well as with a number of top-producing real estate brokers, reflect these diverse interests. At Rutgers, Sarah serves as vice chair of the College Republicans, founded and serves as the president of the Network of Enlightened Women, and is a member of Phi Mu Fraternity. She is also a recipient of the 2016 Academic Excellence Award and the Dean's List. Sarah interned at The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., where she researched financial markets

and regulations, with a focus on housing policy. Her personal interests include philanthropy, politics, real estate, tennis, and travel. Following her undergraduate studies, Sarah hopes to either attend law school or pursue a career in real estate development.

Maryann McCloskey

School of Environmental and Biological Science/Douglass Residential College, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Major/Minor: Biology/Political Science

Internship: In Process

Maryann McCloskey is a New Jersey native. She returned to school to pursue a degree in biology with the goal of entering medical school. She is a proud member of both the Douglass Residential College and the School of Environmental and Biological Science (SEBS). At Douglass, she is involved in the Douglass Project for Women in STEM as a member of the Research Advisory Board, and also as a STEM ambassador. Maryann is also the president of the Sophia Club, a group for nontraditional women attending Douglass. She is a SEBS student ambassador and works as a learning assistant through the Rutgers Learning Centers in a survey course on microbiology at SEBS. Last fall Maryann was honored to be chosen for the “Baker’s Dozen”, an exclusive class with the distinguished political science professor Ross Baker. Maryann’s interest in politics grew when the class traveled to Washington, D.C. where they met with Senator Cory Booker and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid. Last summer Maryann worked as a research assistant in the laboratory of Dr. Angela Christiano at Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons investigating the trigger for the autoimmune reaction in Alopecia Areata. She has also worked as a research assistant at the New Jersey Center for Biomaterials at Rutgers-New Brunswick in Dr. Joachim Kohn’s laboratory.

Andrew Natanagara



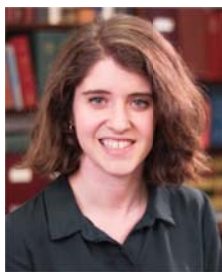
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Major/Minor: Planning and Public Policy/Economics and Environmental Studies

Internship: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (New York City)

Andrew ‘Max’ Natanagara, an Ocean Township, New Jersey native, is a student in the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program. At Rutgers, Max is involved with the Bloustein Public Service Association, the Rutgers University Association of International Relations, and the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling. He has worked as an intern for the Union County Department of Economic Development and for Sharbell Development Corporation in Robbinsville, New Jersey. Max is currently enrolled within the Bloustein School’s five-year joint undergraduate-graduate program, pursuing a master in city and regional planning degree. After graduation, Max hopes to contribute to the betterment of society through non-profit or government work. A proud Eagle Scout, Max thoroughly enjoys hiking and the outdoors, as well as making and listening to music.

Chiara Nodari



School of Arts and Sciences/Douglass Residential College, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Major/Minors: Political Science/Economics, International and Global Studies

Internship: New Jersey Department of Children and Families

Chiara Nodari is a School of Arts and Sciences senior, from Pennington, New Jersey, pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science and minors in economics and international and global studies. While she was born in Milan, Italy, her family emigrated to the United States in 2001. Chiara is a member of the SAS Honors Program and Douglass Residential College (DRC). Her love for politics began in high school when she read a powerful book about Robert Kennedy’s 1968 campaign. After her gap year with City Year New York where she worked in a middle school in Queens, New York, she came to Rutgers with a love for policy and an understanding of some of its failures. She interned for Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman and conducted research within the Department of Political Science exploring the use of gender quotas in the

French political system. She is also a peer academic leader for the honors community on Douglass where she relishes getting a chance to advise and mentor other DRC women. She hopes to pursue a career in public service and eventually go back to school to get her doctorate in political science. Chiara is fluent in both Italian and English and can hold a conversation in French, which is one reason why her favorite thing to do is to travel and meet people from around the world.

Damilola Onifade



School of Arts and Sciences/Douglass Residential College, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Major/Minor: Political Science/Economics

Internship: Community Investment Strategies

Damilola Onifade is a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences majoring in political science and minoring in economics. She is from Paterson, New Jersey and is a proud member of Douglass Residential College (DRC). Damilola is a peer academic leader in DRC housing and served as a Barbara Voorhees Mentor. She is also a member of The Scarlet Council, an organization that seeks to build the bridge between students and alumni. In addition, Damilola is a Lloyd Gardner Fellow. She has served as a legislative intern to Congressman Bill Pascrell Jr., and as a legal intern for the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission. Damilola is one of the directors of SHADES, an educational acting organization on campus. Lastly, she has been a member of RU Voting since her sophomore year and served as a student coordinator on get out the vote efforts. In the future she hopes to pursue a career in law.

Nainika Paul



School of Arts and Sciences/Douglass Residential College, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Major/Minors: Political Science/ International and Global Studies, Women's and Gender Studies

Internship: New Jersey Department of Children and Families

Nainika Ashok Paul is a School of Arts and Sciences student and proud Douglass woman from Edison, New Jersey. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a double-minor in international and global studies and women's and gender studies. She is an Institute of Women's Leadership Scholar, a 19-credit Douglass scholars program dedicated to women's leadership for social change. Nainika is a recipient of the Dean's List as well as a member of the Rutgers Pi-Sigma Alpha Honors Society, a national political science honor society. She has interned for NJPIRG as a co-coordinator for the "New Voters Project" and currently holds an intern position at Eagleton's own-Center for American Women and Politics. She is involved in RUSA Allocations and is one of the co-founding members of Rutgers Gen-UN, an organization dedicated to empowering youth to enact the UN's sustainable development goals within their local communities. She serves on the Honors Program Student Advisory Council. Nainika plans to attend graduate school to further study foreign policy, specifically national security and diplomacy strategies. Her career goal is to serve as an ambassador for the U.S Department of State. Nainika is also an avid traveler and has visited 23 countries with her family. In her free time, she enjoys watching classic/old Hollywood cinema films, studying Arabic, laughing at online stand-up comedy routines and listening to all things hip-hop and rap.

Michael Piquero



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Majors: History, Political Science

Internship: Fox News (New York City)

Michael Piquero is a political science and history double major in the School of Arts and Sciences. He spent majority of his young life living in the large New York suburb of Paramus, New Jersey. As a freshman at Rutgers, Michael interned in the office of Congressman Scott Garrett as a congressional intern. Michael is active on campus, penning bi-weekly political

columns for *The Daily Targum*, contributing to the philanthropy of Theta Chi fraternity, assisting with survey researching at the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling, and playing an active role in The College Republicans. Michael plans to apply to law school in Washington D.C., his favorite city. His career goals include practicing national security law in D.C. and one day running for public office. On his off time, Michael enjoys to watch his two favorite sports teams, the Indianapolis Colts and the New York Yankees, as well as spend time with friends and close family.

Nicholas Quinn



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Major/Minor: Sociology/Environmental Studies

Internship: New York State Workers Compensation Board (Schenectady, New York)

Nick Quinn is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences majoring in sociology and minoring in environmental studies. He is from Maywood, New Jersey and a graduate of Hackensack High School. Nick grew up as a member of the Boy Scouts of America earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Nick attended Bergen Community College, and volunteered as a group leader for Wolf PAC, which is a political action committee that advocates for a constitutional amendment to eliminate the private use of money in the U.S. political system. After Nick transferred to Rutgers University founded and served as co-president of 'Rutgers for Bernie 2016', and is a brother of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity. Last year, Nick was an Aresty Undergraduate researcher with the Center on the American Governor at Eagleton. Nick is interested in environmental justice, conservation, human ecology, and grassroots organizing. After graduation, he plans to attend law school to pursue his interest environmental law and eventually work with a state government agency or an environmental advocacy group. On his free time he enjoys hiking, camping, and is learning how to play the banjo.

Yaffa Stone



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Majors/Minor: Political Science, Economics/History

Internship: Office of Congressman Donald Norcross

Yaffa Stone is majoring in political science and economics and minoring in history. She is currently enrolled in the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program and has received the SAS Academic Excellence Award, as well as a spot on the Dean's List each semester. Yaffa has worked with Professor Beth Leech in studying Political Action Committees and advocacy trends. Some of her work has been used in updating an Advanced Placement United States Government textbook. She also received the Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship and researched the legality and efficacy of enhanced interrogation techniques. She hopes to continue her academic study at law school after graduation. Yaffa proudly dedicates her spare time to Kol Halayla, the Premier Jewish a cappella group at Rutgers. When not on campus, Yaffa enjoys attending chamber music concerts, going on hikes, and traveling.

Patrick Connor Sutherland



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Major/Minors: Political Science/History, Public Policy

Internship: Council on Foreign Relations (New York City)

Patrick Connor Sutherland, from Middletown, New York, is pursuing a bachelor's degree at the School of Arts and Sciences majoring in political science with a specialty in foreign policy with minors in history and public policy. Patrick first became intimately involved in politics during the summer and fall of 2015 when coordinating local campaigns in his hometown. Patrick previously interned at the Office of Congressman Christopher Smith, where he gained research and casework experience while learning the ins and outs of the federal and New Jersey state government. Last summer, Patrick interned at the Council on Foreign Relations and he has

written for *The Daily Targum*, and active in RUProgressive and Rutgers Hillel on campus. He is a Dean's List student, and hopes to pursue graduate study in international relations upon graduating Rutgers.

Nancy Wang



School of Arts and Sciences/Douglass Residential College, Rutgers-New Brunswick
Major/Minors: Political Science/Chinese, Women's and Gender Studies
Internship: Office of Assemblyman Jerry Green/New Brunswick Board of Education Campaign

Nancy Wang is a senior majoring in political science, with a double minor in women's & gender studies and Chinese. Nancy is the founder of RU Progressive, one of the largest political student organizations on-campus, and a former freeholder candidate in Gloucester County, New Jersey. Nancy, a proud feminist and Douglass Woman, has participated in the Douglass Orientation Committee and the Women and Creativity House. Nancy is also a Leadership Scholar at the Institute of Women's Leadership. Through the Leadership and Experiential Learning Department and Pilot Me Mentoring Program, Nancy has forged a connection with New Brunswick and will be working on a social action project to aid New Jersey families during her senior year. An avid bookworm and passionate dreamer, Nancy hopes to explore the world and, like Langston Hughes once said, let America be America again.

Elise Zhou



School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-New Brunswick
Majors/Minor: Political Science, Philosophy/History
Internship: Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (New York City)

Elise Zhou is a student in the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) Honors Program who received the SAS Academic Excellence Award while double-majoring in political science and philosophy and minoring in history. She was an Aresty Research Assistant to Dr. Mark Wasserman where she studied the relationship between Jersey City political boss Frank Hague and New Jersey's first Congresswoman, Mary T. Norton. This project pushed her to further explore research, culminating in projects with political science and philosophy professors during her senior year. Elise studied abroad at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan and discovered a new interest in language and culture exchange in international relations. During her junior year, Elise was a Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow and a regular tutor at the Douglass Writing Center. In the future, she strives to build a career that combines the theoretical ideas of philosophy with the pragmatic concerns of political science.