



# EASL FORUM

## 2024 - 2025

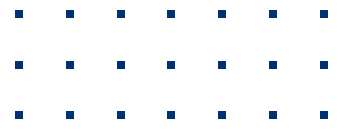
# STUDENT DIRECTORY

# Table of contents

About EASL Forum	1
EASL Forum Student Directory	2
About EASL Peer Mentors	7
EASL Peer Mentor Directory	8
Community Partner Organizations	12
EASL Contact Information	14



# EASL Forum Program



The EASL Forum is an interdisciplinary group of scholars who meet weekly in collaborative 90 minute sessions focused on pressing social issues, leadership development, and community engagement. The Forum consists of 10 to 15 students who learn and serve together over the course of 22 weeks from September to April. The shared journey focuses on four areas: integrity, personal growth, bridge building, and community engagement.

In the spring semester, Forum students will put into action the concepts they developed during the year, working in small groups to plan and deliver a project to enhance the Emory or local community. This project will be hands-on and will address a need or problem on campus and will result in a tangible, sustainable solution. Forum students will present on their projects at our closing celebration at the end of Spring semester.

## EASL Students 2024 - 2025



Kozbi Bayne  
Trey Daniel  
Malina Gadsden  
Finn Johnston  
Amogh Magesh

Avery Neuer  
Carlos Roa  
Sarina Thapar  
Kaleigh Tolliver

# Kozbi Bayne

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**Year:** Senior  
**School(s):** Emory College  
**Major(s):** Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology (NBB)  
& English and Creative Writing  
**Pronouns:** she/her

Hi! My name is Kozbi Bayne, and I'm from Greenville, South Carolina. I'm a senior in the College studying neuroscience and creative writing. As a research assistant at the School of Medicine's Division of Geriatrics, I'm completing a thesis on creativity in people with Parkinson's Disease. Outside of research, I'm involved as a Resident Advisor for the Arts Living & Learning Community, a student leader at Bread Coffeehouse, and a collaborator for the *Journal of Humanities in Rehabilitation*. In my free time I enjoy songwriting, yoga, and being outside.

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# Trey Daniel

**Year:** Second  
**School(s):** Candler School of Theology  
and Rollins School of Public Health  
**Program(s):** Master of Theology (ThM)  
and Master of Public Health (MPH)  
**Pronouns:** he/him



My name is Trey Daniel, and I am a Dual Degree ThM and MPH student at Emory University. I am also the Program Coordinator for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Emory University. I am originally from Baltimore, MD, and I was the first in my family to attend college. I pursued my undergraduate studies at Bowie State University and graduated with a degree in Communications with a minor in African American Studies. Through student leadership, I was able to build community away from home, get more involved on campus, and gain meaningful contacts. I continued on to graduate school at Howard University to pursue a master's degree in divinity, with a concentration in Black Church Studies. My passions include social justice, inclusivity, college student development, and equity for marginalized groups.



# Malina Gadsden

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**Year:** Freshman  
**School(s):** Emory College  
**Major(s):** Psychology  
**Pronouns:** she/her

My name is Malina Gadsden, and I'm from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I'm a freshman at Emory University, pursuing a B.S. in Psychology with a minor in Ethics. I plan on attending medical school to become a psychiatrist in hopes of exploring and mending the accessibility gap when it comes to healthcare, especially mental health care. I have a strong love for advocacy as I compete on Emory's Mock Trial team and have lobbied for mental health and firearm-related bills. In my free time, I dedicate myself to reading and creative writing.

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# Finn Johnston

**Year:** Senior  
**School(s):** Emory College  
**Major(s):** Environmental Science & History  
**Pronouns:** he/him



# Amogh Magesh

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**Year:** Sophomore  
**School(s):** Oxford College  
**Major(s):** Biology & Sociology  
**Pronouns:** he/him

My name is Amogh Magesh, and I'm a sophomore double majoring in biology and sociology on the pre-med track. I'm passionate about exploring the intersection of science and society, with a particular interest in ethics in healthcare and emergency medical services. I enjoy learning how different fields come together to impact patient care. In my free time, I stay active by playing basketball and pickleball, and I also enjoy relaxing with board games like Monopoly.

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# Avery Neuer

**Year:** Sophomore  
**School(s):** Emory College  
**Major(s):** Philosophy, Politics, and Law (PPL)  
**Pronouns:** she/her



Hi! I'm Avery Neuer, and I'm from Newnan, Georgia. I am a second year at Emory University studying Philosophy, Politics, and Law and plan to attend law school after I graduate, hoping to pursue a career in criminal defense. Outside of EASL, I am a writer for Emory's Law Journal and Society and a defender for Emory's Women's Club Lacrosse Team.

# Carlos Roa

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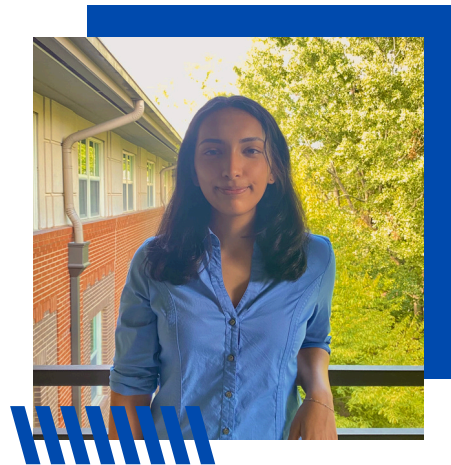


**Year:** Sophomore  
**School(s):** Emory College  
**Major(s):** Nursing  
**Pronouns:** he/him

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# Sarina Thapar

**Year:** Senior  
**School(s):** Emory College  
**Major(s):** Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology (NBB)  
**Pronouns:** she/her



My name is Sarina Thapar, and I am a senior at Emory University, majoring in Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology with a minor in Ethics. I am passionate about exploring the intersections of science, ethics, and healthcare. I work in Dr. Quyyumi's research lab, focusing on identifying biomarkers that increase the risk of adverse cardiac outcomes. My school commitments include being a Conversation Partner with the Tibetan monastic students and volunteering with SciCovery to inspire elementary students to explore science. As a pre-med student, I aspire to pursue a career in medicine.

# Kaleigh Tolliver

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**Year:** Sophomore

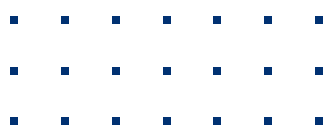
**School(s):** Emory College

**Major(s):** Philosophy, Politics, and Law (PPL) & Psychology

**Pronouns:** she/her

I am Kaleigh Tolliver, a second-year student at Emory College of Arts & Sciences. I am from a small town in southern West Virginia called Man. Currently, I am pursuing majors in PPL (philosophy, politics, and law) and Psychology. I have been passionate about service since I was a child watching my grandparents serve our community. I am especially passionate about mental health advocacy and social justice because of my background and identity. I plan to pursue a career in law and find ways to advocate for mental health awareness wherever I may end up in the future. For now, I am living in Woodruff Residential Center on campus and getting involved in organizations like Emory Autism Advocacy Organization and the Voter Registration Committee for the Young Democrats of Emory.



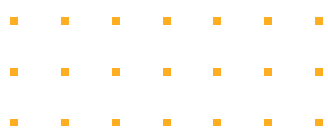


# EASL Forum Mentor Program

The EASL Forum peer mentor program is made up of former EASL participants. Mentors help current EASL Forum students maximize their experiences by helping them process their learnings from weekly meetings and guiding them through the development and delivery of their service project.

As an EASL peer mentor, students...

- Strengthen their individual integrity by serving as a role model for participants and holding each student and other mentors accountable.
- Grow their ability to lead others by building a mentoring framework and managing multiple personalities to ensure a meaningful experience.
- Reflect and evaluate their awareness and responsiveness managing conflict and creating solutions within their mentoring group.
- Develop greater engagement with the program, Center for Ethics, Emory as a whole, and Atlanta by leading the way for participants to fully immerse themselves in their communities.



## EASL Mentors 2024 - 2025

Cassandra Berlin  
Giancarlo Cusimano  
Eliana Liporace

Anahi Perez  
Sam Siminou  
Charlotte Weinstein

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## Cassandra Berlin

**Year:** Senior  
**Years Participated in EASL:** Four  
**School(s):** Goizueta Business School  
**Major(s):** Accounting & Finance  
**Pronouns:** she/her or they/them



My name is Cassandra Berlin and I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and attended Hawken Upper School. Debate played a formative role in my high school experience. I started with my high school team, and later competed internationally representing the United States. I was exposed to issues (social, political, etc.) and learned how much words can change minds.

Before Emory, I opted to take a COVID-inspired gap year. I spent time working in the service industry as a server and market researcher. I had an opportunity to travel to Costa Rica to care for endangered macaws for a few months.

At Emory, I'm a Goizueta Scholar and am involved in CHARGE, Women in Business, and the Linguistics Circle. I couldn't be more excited to get to know the other members of the Forum, and I can't wait to get started!

## Giancarlo Cusimano

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**Year:** Senior  
**Years Participated in EASL:** Four  
**School(s):** Emory College  
**Major(s):** Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology (NBB)  
**Pronouns:** he/him

My name is Giancarlo Cusimano and I'm from Long Island, NY. I attended Regis High School in Manhattan, NY where I led my school's Community Service Organization that benefitted a range of different communities across its 13 committees and connected 300 of my peers to opportunities to serve others. The committees' activities ranged from raising money to fund our sister school in the slums of Kibera, Kenya that offers local students a tuition free catholic education, to building welcome packages for childhood cancer patients at the local Columbia Presbyterian hospital.

Some more things about me are that I enjoy playing basketball and soccer with my friends, reading about neuroscience and personal finance, playing board/card games (catan is my current favorite), and shooting aerial photography.

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## Eliana Liporace

**Year:** Sophomore  
**Years Participated in EASL:** Two  
**School(s):** Emory College  
**Major(s):** Neuroscience & Behavioral Biology  
**Minor:** Community Building  
& Social Change  
**Pronouns:** she/her



As a peer mentor in the EASL Forum, my experience has been profoundly shaped by the program's emphasis on integrity, bridge building, and community engagement. Participating first as a scholar and later as a mentor allowed me to deepen my understanding of servant leadership and ethical advocacy, especially in addressing health disparities. One of the most meaningful lessons I learned is the power of collaborative leadership to create sustainable solutions for complex social and environmental challenges. My work with Global Growers Network and my presentation on climate risk reinforced my commitment to exploring how climate change intersects with health, particularly in vulnerable populations.

EASL has greatly influenced my career path by sharpening my focus on community-centered research and equitable healthcare delivery. After graduation, I plan to pursue an MD/PhD to investigate neurodegenerative diseases within the broader context of environmental justice and climate change. The leadership and ethical frameworks I developed in EASL will guide my efforts to bridge research, policy, and practice to create inclusive, science-based solutions for healthier, more resilient communities.

## Anahi Perez



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**Year:** Junior  
**Years Participated in EASL:** Two  
**School(s):** Emory College  
**Major(s):** Computer Science and  
Mathematics  
**Pronouns:** she/her

Hi! I'm Anahi Perez, a junior at Emory University pursuing a double major in Computer Science and Mathematics. I'm also on track to complete a dual degree in Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech.

## Anahi Perez (continued)

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I'm deeply passionate about leveraging technology and data to transform healthcare, with a focus on creating medical devices and solutions that address health inequities for children with disabilities in underrepresented communities.

Outside of academics, I serve as the VP of Programming for Emory ColorStack, connecting students with industry opportunities and fostering a sense of community. I am also the Scholarship Committee Chair for Emory Quest Scholars Network and member of Empowering First Gen.

EASL has been a cornerstone of my personal and professional growth. Through its focus on servant leadership, ethical advocacy, and community engagement, I've learned the importance of bridging gaps between research, policy, and practice to create meaningful change. The program has empowered me to approach challenges with greater empathy, collaborate across diverse perspectives, and remain committed to making a positive impact. My experiences with EASL have not only sharpened my leadership skills but also reinforced my passion for creating inclusive and equitable solutions in healthcare.

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## Sam Siminou

**Year:** Senior

**Years Participated in EASL:** Four

**School(s):** Goizueta Business School

**Major(s):** Real Estate, Management, Sociology

**Pronouns:** he/him



After graduation, I plan to take a gap year then apply to law school. Getting to learn from Dr. Queen has been a meaningful part of my Emory experience, and I plan to take our lessons from EASL into my later professional and personal life.

# Charlotte Weinstein

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**Year:** Senior  
**Years Participated in EASL:** Two  
**School(s):** Emory College  
**Major(s):** History Major, Ethics Minor  
**Pronouns:** she/her

I joined EASL as a junior arriving from Oxford college and I'm so glad that I did. As someone who hopes to pursue a career in refugee care, this program has been really affirming of my goals and has helped me refine the way I approach leadership. Since beginning the EASL program, I have become well acquainted with organizations like the International Rescue Committee and New American Pathways, which serves the refugee community of Atlanta. EASL has also connected me with students from across the university who I would likely never have met otherwise. I will really miss this group when my time at Emory ends!



# 2025 EASL Community Partners



Each year, EASL Forum students engage with the community by working on projects with partner organizations during the spring semester. Students will identify the needs of a community partner and build an informed action plan for a project to address that need, with long-term goals for success and sustainability. They will then implement the project, presenting the results and what they learned throughout the process at a year end celebration.

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## Budd Terrace at Wesley Woods

**Website:** [www.emoryhealthcare.org//locations/offices/budd-terrace](http://www.emoryhealthcare.org//locations/offices/budd-terrace)

Budd Terrace at Wesley Woods is a skilled nursing center located in Atlanta, Georgia, where generations of seniors are provided with expert senior care. Our on-site certified geriatric medical management team consists of physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, each highly and specifically trained to meet the needs of an aging population.

Both long-term care and post-acute care are offered at Budd Terrace at Wesley Woods. Long-term care helps in daily living activities and socialization while post-acute care aids in rehabilitation following a patient's surgery or hospitalization. Post-acute care provides constant monitoring from our team of geriatric-certified physicians, nurses, and rehabilitation specialists.

## Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia

**Website:** [www.eealliance.org](http://www.eealliance.org)

The Environmental Education Alliance (EEA) is the backbone organization for environmental education and outdoor learning in Georgia, working towards a world where every child grows up feeling connected to nature, knowledgeable about the environment, prepared to solve problems, and motivated to create a just and sustainable future.

## ***Environmental Education Alliance continued...***

EEA champions environmental and outdoor learning; promotes research-informed instructional practices and high-quality teaching resources; sparks innovation; demonstrates collective impact; advances equity and inclusion; and advocates for investment in the field.

The EEA believes educators can leverage the power of environmental and outdoor education to spark curiosity, engage children in real-world investigations, and foster problem-solving skills. These transformative learning experiences and nature connections empower children to tackle the environmental challenges of their generation, bringing us closer to a world where people and nature thrive. EEA offers assistance and resources to those who provide outdoor learning spaces, educate children, and cultivate inclusive nature experiences.

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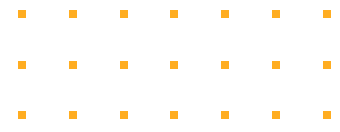
## **International Rescue Committee**

**Website:** [www.rescue.org/united-states/atlanta-ga](http://www.rescue.org/united-states/atlanta-ga)

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Atlanta creates opportunities for refugees and immigrants to integrate and thrive in Georgia communities. Since opening in 1979, the IRC's locally funded office in Atlanta has welcomed more than 28,000 refugees from over 65 countries to resettle in communities across the state.

A committed staff of more than 100 professionals work together with volunteers to assist families in reuniting and rebuilding their lives in the greater Atlanta area. The IRC in Atlanta offers a broad range of programs including resettlement and case management services, adult education classes, youth programs covering ages 5 to 24, employment assistance, asset building resources, community health response programs, and immigration services, all of which serve more than 4,000 clients each year.

# EASL Contact Information



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 [Emory Center for Ethics](#)

[1531 Dickey Drive, Atlanta, GA 30322](#)

 [ethics.emory.edu](https://ethics.emory.edu)

 [bit.ly/easlforum](https://bit.ly/easlforum)

## Looking for more ways to get involved?

Check out [\*\*bit.ly/easlsummer\*\*](https://bit.ly/easlsummer) to learn more about the EASL Summer Internship Program.

Applications go live February 1, 2025.