

# Newsletter

**The University of Alabama at Birmingham**



**ADVOCATING FOR STUDENT INTERESTS  
EMPOWERING THE STUDENT VOICE**



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# Meet the Team:

## USGA NEWSLETTER 2024-2025



**Jessica Martin**  
Photographer



**Ammar Rana**  
Vice President of  
Communications



**Nicole Lober**  
Director of  
Graphic Design



**Charlotte Menko**  
Website Coordinator



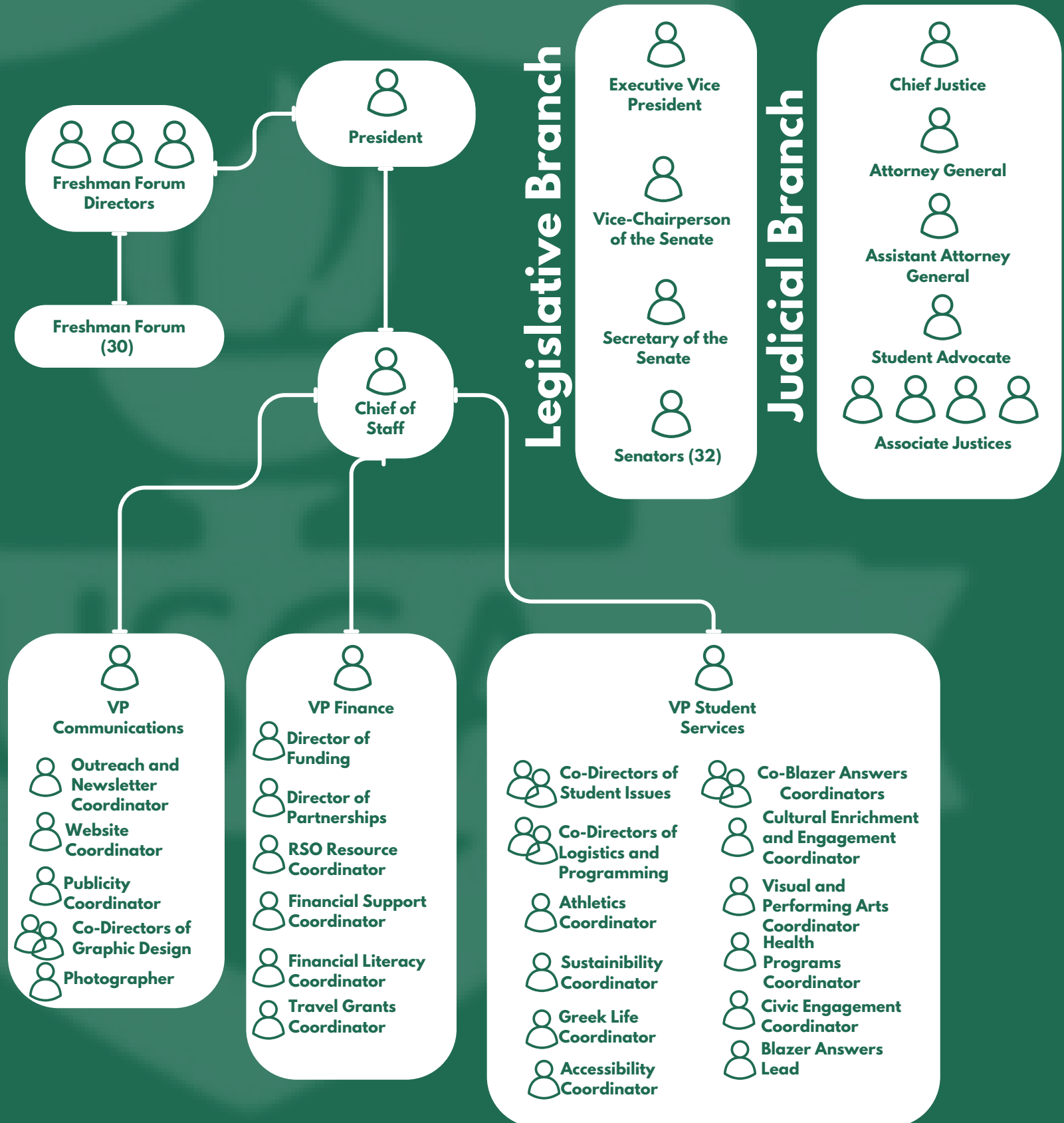
**Rishab Samant**  
Outreach and  
Newsletter Coordinator  
(Lead Author)



**Roselyn Olulu**  
Publicity Coordinator

# USGA Structure

## 2024-2025





# Your 2024-2025



## Undergraduate Student Government Association Executive and Judicial Branch

### Executive Council

#### President

Ayona Roychowdhury

#### Executive Vice President

Sydney Testman

#### Vice President of Student Services

Miguel Luna

#### Vice President of Finance

Vinaya Vanteru

#### Vice President of Communications

Ammar Rana

#### Chief Justice

Isabella Campos

#### Chief of Staff

Christy Xie

### Division of Communications

#### Director of Graphic Design

Nicole Lober

#### Outreach/Newsletter Coordinator

Rishab Samant

#### Publicity Coordinator

Roselyn Olulu

#### Website Coordinator

Charlotte Menko

#### Photography Coordinator

Jessica Martin

### Division of Finance

#### Director of Funding

Gitanjali Alapati

#### Director of Partnerships

Nikki Lipski

#### RSO Resource Coordinator

Rachel Weng

#### Financial Support Coordinator

Sarah Jerry

#### Financial Literacy Coordinator

Param Chauhan

#### Travel Grants Coordinator

Arianne Siegel

### Executive Office of the President (EOP)

#### Freshman Forum Directors

Anushka Patel, Roshni Datta, Jagathnarayan Madhanagopal

#### Director of Internal Affairs

Yi Liu

#### Director of Political Advocacy

Wajiha Mekki

#### Election Manager

Sarah Wilson

### Division of Student Services

#### Co-Director of Logistics and Programming

Henna Parekh, Samanvi Vootukuri

#### Co-Director of Student Issues

Darrius Bushe, Amanda Tran

#### Blazer Answers Lead

Aysha Patel

#### Co-Blazer Answers Coordinators

Ayush Jain, Yashodhara Velayudam

#### Civic Engagement Coordinator

Ashima Grover

#### Health Programs Coordinator

Srushti Talluri

#### Athletics Coordinator

Brianna Heard

#### Cultural Enrichment and Engagement Coordinator

Eva Pechtl

#### Accessibility Coordinator

Paxton Gillispie

#### Greek Life Coordinator

Nick Ragland

#### Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator

Neha Singhal

#### Sustainability Coordinator

Coulter Bumgarner

### Judicial

#### Assistant Attorney General

Grace Mcaleer

#### Student Advocate

Isabel Blevins

#### Attorney General

Rakshith Ramdas

#### Associate Justices

Georgia Erbe, Grace Norman,

Pheven Yohannes, Theivanai Kasee



# Your 2024-2025



## Undergraduate Student Government Association Legislative Branch

### Senate

#### Secretary of the Senate

Kaitlyn Stearns

#### Vice Chairperson of the Senate

Harrison Strong

### College of Arts and Sciences

#### Senator, College of Arts and Sciences

Halla Al-Moradi

#### Senator, College of Arts and Sciences

Jaya Vadapalli

#### Senator, College of Arts and Sciences

Abbie Deason

#### Senator, College of Arts and Sciences

Abigail Kulkarni

#### Senator, College of Arts and Sciences

Breanna Fisher

#### Senator, College of Arts and Sciences

Saad Khan

#### Senator, College of Arts and Sciences

Vamsi Singu

#### Senator, College of Arts and Sciences

Punarvi Mandadapu

#### Senator, College of Arts and Sciences

Harrison Strong

### Collat School of Business

#### Senator, Collat School of Business

Josh Jacob

#### Senator, Collat School of Business

Luke Statom

#### Senator, Collat School of Business

Tanya Contreras

#### Senator, Collat School of Business

Miles Alston

#### Senator, Collat School of Business

Ashley Nguyen

#### Senator, Collat School of Business

Samir Abouhaidar

### School of Health Professions

#### Senator, School of Health Professions

Brent Jackson

#### Senator, School of Health Professions

John Ko

#### Senator, School of Health Professions

Snekha Rajasekaran

#### Senator, School of Health Professions

Pranav Jaichandar

### School of Nursing

#### Senator, School of Nursing

Carlia Hood

#### Senator, School of Nursing

Avery Fischbach

#### Senator, School of Nursing

Jurnee Coppage

#### Senator, School of Nursing

Kiseok Song

#### Senator, School of Nursing

John Mahone

### School of Public Health

#### Senator, School of Public Health

Ameena Momand

#### Senator, School of Public Health

Aarya Aluri

### School of Education

#### Senator, School of Education

Ramy Mansur

#### Senator, School of Education

Payton Kiser

### School of Engineering

#### Senator, School of Engineering

Daniel Hollingsworth

#### Senator, School of Engineering

Karleigh Henegar

#### Senator, School of Engineering

Krusha Patel





# USGA Advisors



2024-2025



**Mary Wallace**  
**Ph.D.**

**Assistant Vice President for  
Student Experience at the  
University of Alabama at  
Birmingham**

**Advisor to the Executive  
Cabinet**



**Toni Reeves**  
**M.Ed.**

**Coordinator of Student  
Activities**

**Advisor to the Legislative  
Branch and Freshman Forum**

# Freshman Forum

September



2024-2025



**Roshni Datta**  
4th Year Student,  
Neuroscience



**Anushka Patel**  
4th Year Student,  
Neuroscience



**Jag Madhanagopal**  
4th Year Student,  
Cancer Biology

Co-Directors

## Goals For Freshman Forum

The goal for Freshman Forum this year is for the new cohort to find issues they would like to address on campus and pursue initiatives targeting them. The directors look forward to connecting the Freshman Forum members with USGA members in all divisions and branches to learn about how USGA functions and what positions they may be interested in going forward. In addition to USGA, they plan on encouraging the cohort to explore other leadership opportunities to find their place on campus based on their interests.

## Freshman Forum Selection

Advertising for the program began during summer orientations and through Instagram reels with previous cohort members who talked about their experience in Freshman Forum. Applications opened on August 1st and closed on September 1st. Once the applications were reviewed, the top 50 candidates were interviewed over the span of three days, August 11-13th, and selected the top 30 candidates for acceptance into the cohort.

## Events and Efforts

The directors plan for Freshman Forum (FF) members to brainstorm ideas for and implement potential initiatives and events on campus. They also aim for FF members to participate in workshops with student leaders in USGA and other organizations. This will equip the cohort with the necessary skills needed to become standout leaders on campus!



# Freshman Forum

## Cohort 2024-2025

September



The directors are excited to facilitate the growth of the new generation of leaders on campus and help them shape the impact they want to leave in this community! Congrats and Blaze On!



**Abhai Anand**



**Thirishaa Pothini Balaji**



**Taryn Billups**



**Bhavya Chalasani**



**Vibha Chandra**



**David Delk**



**Agam Dhaliwal**



**Mohamed Elimam**



**Arwa Gowani**



**Sara Hancock**



**Natascha Helfrecht-Kannady**



**Alyssa Hernandez**



**Hailey Hezeau**



**Ananya Mohanraj**



**Colby Morrison**



**Aasim Musani**



**Bhaavita Nekkalapudi**



**Prachi Patel**



**Serika Patel**



**Jesall Patel**



**Addison Philphot**



**Deepak Satishkumar**



**Navya Sethi**



**Neha Sharma**



**Anusha Singh**



**Stella Steely**



**Aurora Tipp**



**Pablo Velez Garcia**



**Prudence Wachira**



**Aishwarya Yaddanapudi**

# Ayona's Announcements

September 

## Monthly Updates

President

Ayona Roychowdhury

**The main focus this year is community building on campus by...**

- **Advocating** for student-minded housing policies and for buildings to open on weekends. President Roychowdhury met with Dr Jones to discuss staffing buildings on the weekend. She also asked 50 students in one hour about their experiences living on campus.
- **Community events**-- Connecting to the community is an integral part of USGA. The Director of External Affairs (see pg. 9) would help accomplish this goal by developing a collaborative environment
- **Internal Affairs**--accomplished through the work of Yi and Christy, monitoring the Initiative Tracker.
- **Freshman Forum** (see pg. 6)
- **Lobby Board**--members have been chosen. They will be learning more about local policy and building relationships with municipal government.





# Overviews from Office of the President Monthly Updates

## Election Commission

We have confirmed our 2025 Election Commission: Shiv Patel, Geethika Polepalli, Sheetal Rumalla, and Khadija Malik, With our advisor, Liz Quistorff, we hope to standardize the election process via a comprehensive manual.

Election Manager

Sarah Wilson



Chief of Staff

Christy Xie



## Student Government Institutes:

USGA members participated in the inaugural Student Government Institute where guest speakers were invited to present on topics such as Servant Leadership, Risks of Groupthink, Perspectives of Advocacy, and more!

## Director of External Affairs (CLOSED)

USGA is selecting a new Director of External Affairs to plan community-wide events and build relationships with local businesses.

# Catchin' Up With

# COMMS

## Monthly Updates

Vice President  
Ammar Rana



### Newsletter:

Like the USGA Newsletter? This year, the Division of Communications will be sending out monthly Newsletters so you can keep up with all things related to USGA!

### Interested in joining the Division of Communications? (OPEN)

The Division of Communications currently has two open spots. The positions available are the

- 1) Videography Coordinator and
- 2) Co-Director of Graphic Design.

Email [azrana@uab.edu](mailto:azrana@uab.edu) if interested!

### What's Next:

Giveaways!

Member Highlights

USGA T-Shirts

Updated website

USGA headshots

.....and more!

### Follow us!

INSTAGRAM: [uab\\_usga](https://www.instagram.com/uab_usga)

FACEBOOK: [UABUSGA](https://www.facebook.com/UABUSGA)

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: [www.uab.edu/usga](http://www.uab.edu/usga)



# Fun Times with Finance!

## Monthly Updates

Vice President  
Vinaya Vanteru



### USGA x Pathfinder Workshop

Curious about starting your own organization or becoming a USGA affiliate? Join us for the USGA x Pathfinders Finance Workshop, where USGA is collaborating with Pathfinders to provide all the essential information you need to build your organization. We'll also cover the budgeting and funding process in detail and answer any questions you may have. Don't miss this opportunity to take the next step toward your goals!

### Textbook Award

The Textbook Award is a collaboration between USGA, UAB Bookstore, and Student Assistance and Support to provide students with financial support when purchasing their academic textbooks. A hundred degree seeking students will be awarded \$150.00, awarded on a need basis. The award is open until funds are exhausted. The textbook award will return for the Spring Semester!

# Sit Down with

September



# STUDENT SERVICES

## Monthly Updates

Vice President  
Miguel Luna



### 2024 Elect--UAB Green Sept. 18

Want to be an informed voter? This is the event for you, Blazers! 2024 Elect is an informational event for all students at UAB interested in learning about both the benefits and complexities of voting in the 2024 Presidential election as well as elections happening around the world. This event is intended to educate the community on the election process, encourage civic engagement, and bring UAB students of different social backgrounds together to gain perspective on worldwide views.

### Greek Life Introduction

Blazers, dive into a world of lifelong friendships, unforgettable experiences, and endless opportunities with UAB's Greek Life. Whether you're seeking leadership, community service, or just a tight-knit group to call family, our Greek Life has it all.



# Just Chillin' with JUDICIAL



## Monthly Updates

Chief Justice  
Isabella Campos

### What is Judicial?

Judicial is a branch of USGA that interprets the USGA Constitution and Code of Laws and ensures other branches of USGA adhere to these laws. They are here to help ensure elected representatives are held accountable to justly making efforts to serve their constituents, YOU, the students! Members of the Judicial Branch also sit in on Community Standards and Student Accountability Hearings. It is a great way to get exposure to how a court may function!

### Time for a Mock Trial!

Judicial will be holding a Mock Trial on October 25th at 6:30pm. A Mock Trial, as the name suggests, is not a trial of a real case.

Rather, it allows people to gain experience for how a real trial would work. In the context of USGA's unique constitutional framework, this allows participants to gain a better understanding of how certain issues or offenses may be tried in USGA.



# Speak Out with the

# SENATE

## Monthly Updates

Executive Vice President

 Sydney Testman

### From the Executive Vice President...

Welcome to campus! We have plenty of new initiatives so follow our Instagram @uab\_usga for updates!

### Keep on the Lookout for...

- CAS Donuts with the Dean- October 16th
- SHP Fall Carnival- October 23rd.

### New Senators Alert!

UAB USGA welcomes Ramy Mansur and Payton Kiser, students part of the School of Education, as new Senators for the 2024-2025 year. Currently, the Senate is looking for ONE additional Senator to help represent the School of

Education. Senators are vital to USGA and UAB, allowing students to express their concerns and aims for their School on a broad scale.

Contact [stestman@uab.edu](mailto:stestman@uab.edu) if you would like to be considered.





# USGA Retreat:

## 2024-2025



**GRAB THE CUP!**



**DISTRICT 3**



**DISTRICT 2**



**DISTRICT 11**



**DISTRICT 1**



**FLAG JUDGING**



**DISTRICT 5**



**DISTRICT 9**



**DISTRICT 6**



**DISTRICT 8**

# Members of the Month



September 2024

Welcome to Member(s) of the Month, the newest edition to the USGA Newsletter! USGA members nominate other members for their hard work and dedication. These members represent the values and mission of this organization, earning them a highlight for this month. Keep up the great work!

## **Ameena Momand--Senator for the School of Public Health**



“Ameena has only just joined USGA and is already working hard on her initiatives to provide all UAB students with essential public health resources! I can’t wait to see what more she will do in USGA.”

## **Snekha Rajasekaran--Senator for the School of Public Health**



“She has been running the SHP Caucus and Academic Affairs Committee flawlessly since the summer. Since the semester started she has spearheaded the planning of the SHP Fall Carnival and has already met with her Dean pertaining to USGA. She also has been great at keeping her fellow senators on task.”



# Members of the Month



September 2024

## **Saad Khan--Senator, College of Arts and Sciences**



“Saad is an example of what working for the students is. He devotes the majority of his time to ensure that everybody has the tools they need to succeed and enjoy life on campus.”

## **Eva Pechtl--Cultural Enrichment and Engagement Coordinator**



“She is doing an excellent job with planning for the 2024 Elect event and was very organized and started planning early.”

## **Param Chauhan--Financial Literacy Coordinator**



“Param has been doing an excellent job with the Financial Literacy Workshop.”

# See You Soon!

**The University of Alabama at Birmingham**

