Student Governing Board Members 2019 – 2020

SOURCE is proud to present the Student Members of our Governing Board. Students from the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine are encouraged to reach out to these student leaders in order to: share ideas, offer programming recommendations, ask questions about community engagement, and more. These student leaders meet with SOURCE staff regularly, and are up-to-date on a variety of campus and community issues. Additionally, these student leaders are exceptional role models who are involved both on and off campus. Read more about our wonderful student leaders!

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The SOURCE for community engagement opportunities.
My name is Danielle Amundsen, and I’m currently a second-year medical student. I grew up just outside of Madison, WI and attended the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. During my time at UMN, I participated in the Community Engagement Scholars Program by taking service-learning courses, working with several community-based organizations, and reflected on these experiences with other program participants. Through the program, I interned with the Minneapolis American Indian Center’s Fitness and Nutrition program, worked with a program called Vida Sana to address childhood obesity in the Latinx community, and tutored at a public school geared towards students who recently emigrated to the United States.

I am excited to become a part of the East Baltimore community and continue working towards equity and justice with SOURCE and the organizations SOURCE partners with. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my passion for service-learning and community engagement with my classmates by serving as a member of the SOURCE student governing board!
Hi, everyone! My name is Annie Cho, and I am a second-year medical student at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. I was born in Seoul and raised in Los Angeles, but I spent four years living in Baltimore during my time as an undergraduate at Hopkins, where I studied writing and natural sciences. As an undergraduate, I frequented East Baltimore to serve as a Health Resource Case Manager at Charm City Care Connection and as a member of the MERIT mentor team.

Baltimore has since become my second home, and I am thrilled to continue exploring Charm City through the lens of the SOURCE Student Governing Board. I look forward to celebrating the community-based organizations that inspire change and progress in this city and hope to partake in fortifying Hopkins’ relationship with the Baltimore community through SOURCE.
Hi everyone, my name’s Amira Collison and I am a third year medical student at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine! I am very excited to be joining the SOURCE student governing board member due to my strong interest in social justice and community involvement, particularly focused in bettering the quality of health and education for underrepresented minorities in Baltimore. I am originally from Silver Spring, Maryland and studied Biology and Spanish at the University of Maryland College Park. When I was younger, I moved to a predominantly African-American and Hispanic community near Chicago, IL. It was then I realized the harsh reality into which a large number of underrepresented minorities are born. This experience motivated me to address the health and education disparities that I have seen firsthand. For this reason, my first year in college, a fellow classmate and I created the FISH program to help students from low-income backgrounds with the support necessary to pursue higher education. Additionally, while in college, I served as a medical volunteer in poverty-stricken areas of Lima, Peru and Riobamba, Ecuador, and continued my work as a medical volunteer in a free clinic in Silver Spring, MD. After college, my desire to improve conditions for underserved minorities through health education motivated me to pursue a Fulbright English teaching Assistantship in Spain. Education is an essential component of medicine, and my experience in Spain will benefit me in communicating with medically underserved populations in the U.S. and abroad. I was enthused to learn about the SOURCE program, and its partnership with community-based organizations, as my passion for social justice and desire to improve conditions for underserved minorities directly aligns with SOURCE’s goals of providing opportunities for community outreach. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with SOURCE, and excited for what is to come!
My name is Macy Early, and I am a second year in the School of Medicine from Lexington, Kentucky, with a background in economics and religious studies from the University of Virginia. Throughout high school and college, I worked to equip students to serve by establishing youth service learning curriculum through the YMCA and completing a term on a service learning grant-making board funded by State Farm. Personally, I have engaged in service-learning trips around the Southeastern United States, disaster relief trips to New Orleans and Oklahoma, and medical and child sponsorship mission trips to Bolivia and El Salvador. In my community, I was active as a nurse and case manager at the Charlottesville Free Clinic, worked as volunteer administrative and medical staff with a Charlottesville-operated free Bolivian hospital, and coordinated community partnership with my churches.

Through my experiences as a child and young adult, I have developed a visceral, righteous anger at inequities in basic needs and the way they stunt an individual’s dignity ability to thrive — whether those individuals live in rural Appalachia (where my family is from), Bolivia (the focus of a chunk of my work on clean water access, medical care, and child sponsorship), or New York City (where I interned with TFA for a summer). While I cannot redesign a perfectly harmonious, equitable world, I can devote my adult life to helping my patients and communities appreciate their own dignity and flourish in their circumstances — and through SOURCE, I can help my classmates learn to do the same. One of the primary factors that guided me to enroll at Johns Hopkins was my excitement about the richness, diversity, and challenges present in the Baltimore community. My hope is that, by engaging as a SOURCE governing board member, I can nourish the reciprocal relationship between Hopkins students and Baltimore.
Hello! My name is Tony Kim, and I’m a third-year medical student from South Korea. I left home for New Zealand when I was 9 without my parents, largely due to my curiosity about different cultures and languages. Since then, living in 3 different countries and 5 different states with host families and boarding schools helped me understand the importance of a tight-knit community. My diverse upbringing taught me to embrace the commonalities that tie everyone together rather than the differences. This understanding of global citizenry led me to medicine in the first place, and still motivates me every day to always offer a hand to those in need.

I graduated from Dartmouth College in New Hampshire in 2016. While I was there, I was involved with different community engagement projects in local Upper Valley community, as well as global service-learning experiences. I hope to bring my diverse experience and positive energy to SOURCE governing board, and I look forward working as a liaison between Johns Hopkins and community organizations in Baltimore.
Hey everyone, my name is Aravind and I'm a fourth year medical student at Hopkins! I come from all over the world having been born in France and subsequently having moved to places like Venezuela and China, but for the past 5 and a half years I have had the immense privilege and honor of calling Baltimore my home. As a former Hopkins undergrad, I got the privilege to volunteer in clinics like the Baltimore Rescue Mission and the Weight Management Clinic, as well as lead Baltimore Service Learning in a broad effort to tackle health inequity in Baltimore.

I'm extremely excited to work with SOURCE because Baltimore is now my home, and we PROTECT THIS HOUSE. I'm electrified to rally my classmates and institution to take an active role in reducing health disparities and improving health outcomes in a wholesome and sustainable way.
My name is Alex Norton, and I am a third year medical student. I grew up in St. Louis, Missouri and attended Vanderbilt University, majoring in Public Health/Health Policy and Economics. I engaged a wide range of direct service & service learning opportunities during college, from coordination of Alternative Spring Break service sites to an internship in an HIV/AIDS clinic in Uganda. I served as the Executive Director for the founding year of a mobile grocery store, working to fill gaps of food access and security, and I also became involved with Nashville’s refugee community, teaching nutrition and health classes.

After graduation, I joined a population health start-up to help clinical teams identify patients in greatest need. I also broadened my community involvements, conducting research for an anti-trafficking organization and serving as a mentor in job readiness classes. My husband and I served as host parents for children of families in crisis, through a program aiming to prevent a later need for foster care. In my final year before starting at Hopkins, I was the Director of Community Health for a non-profit hospital system, directing their community health programs & partnerships, supporting their network of community health clinics, and participating in advocacy work focused on expanding access to care.

I’ve enjoyed being an East Baltimore resident and becoming more familiar with the community surrounding Hopkins. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve with the SOURCE Student Governing Board and through it to support work underway in this community, serve alongside my classmates, and grow as a community advocate.
Hi all! My name is Sharon Pang and I am so excited to be joining the SOURCE Student Governing Board. I grew up in New York City and stayed there for undergrad at Hunter College, where I majored in Biochemistry and Religion and got really involved at the Youth Events for Seniors Club through my honors program (Macaulay Honors College). Through the club, I volunteered frequently at neighborhood centers, organizing recreational activities between college students and senior citizens. I really enjoy hearing seniors’ stories and perspectives on life. Our club collaborated with Selfhelp, a virtual senior center, to facilitate online classes for homebound seniors. I decided to start leading discussions about poetry and am still involved with Selfhelp today. I am passionate about building new relationships with seniors who might not think they have access to a supportive social network.

After moving away from home for the first time, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to learn more about the city of Baltimore, the community members’ needs, and what we can do to help. While I do not know too much about the community now, I am driven to get to know East Baltimore on a deeper level during my time here. Much of my passion in medicine stems from serving my community and my neighbors, and I cannot think of a better way to continue this passion than through SOURCE. I am really impressed with the intimate and strong relationship SOURCE has with the community and cannot wait to be a part of it.
My name is Mary Peeler, and I am a fourth year medical student. I graduated in May 2015 from the University of North Carolina with a Public Health degree in Health Policy and Management. I grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, and one of the major reasons why I decided to attend Hopkins was because of the service work being done in the city of Baltimore and my desire to be a part of it.

In Memphis, I co-chaired the St. Mary’s Community Fund, a grant funding organization that gave students the opportunity to understand philanthropic work through hands on community service, fundraising, and grant-making. In college at UNC, I served as co-chair of the Student Government's Public Service and Advocacy Committee. Through this position, I worked to coordinate the service-based campus organizations and connect students with community-based volunteer opportunities. In more direct community involvement, I volunteered as a doula (birth assistant) at the NC Women’s Hospital and as Certified Application Counselor for the federal Healthcare Exchange. I have also had the opportunity to work with communities abroad in Uganda and Morocco.

In my first year in Baltimore, I've been excited to learn more about the community-based resources in this city. I've volunteered at the Baltimore City Health Department, Charm City Clinic, and the Reproductive Health Institute. Serving on the SOURCE student governing board has been a great way for me to support the existing work being done in East Baltimore and to help connect my classmates with service opportunities!
Hi all! My name is Jose Reyes, and I’m a fourth year medical student here at Hopkins. I’m originally from the border city of El Paso, Texas. Finding it too hard to leave Texas, I stayed in the state for college going to Texas State University where I majored in Biochemistry and minored in Writing with a poetry emphasis. El Paso is a unique city due to the fact it is majority-minority, with Hispanic people making up 82.2%. Despite encompassing the majority, the Latino population of El Paso still faces disparities in many aspects of life. Observing this growing up, my volunteer efforts began with the motivation to better Hispanic communities from my intimate knowledge of the core areas of need. With this intent, I began volunteering with the Bridges to Biomedicine Program, which partnered with community colleges in San Antonio to provide support for minority students to continue college beyond an associate degree, and I also began volunteering at events which conducted science outreach events in low-income, predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods to encourage interest in science at an early age to build towards a more diverse scientific community. I also worked 2 years volunteering as a tutor for science courses, I annually took part in cleanups of our local river frequently littered by college students, and also spent time volunteering at our Public Library helping elementary school students improve their reading abilities.

In my previous community services experiences, my roles were sometimes that of an organizer in addition to being directly involved as a volunteer. By working with SOURCE, I hope to use my understanding of volunteer programs to work towards bettering them from both a systemic perspective and an interpersonal perspective, making efforts to develop strong relationships with organizations in and around Johns Hopkins. I promise to use all the skills I’ve developed over the years, whether it be critical thinking from research or teamwork skills from time in the service industry, to make our support for our neighbors its greatest. I am extremely excited for the years to come, and I look forward to the work SOURCE will accomplish through the strength of our partnerships throughout Baltimore.
Hi everyone! My name is Rachel Strodel and I’m a first-year medical student at Hopkins. I am originally from outside Boston, MA, and went to Yale for college where I studied Biology and Global Health. Throughout my undergraduate career, I volunteered at a free clinic serving New Haven residents without health insurance from a predominantly Latinx immigrant community. This experience led to a community-based research project assessing barriers and facilitators of diabetes prevention in this neighborhood. During this time I also volunteered with New Haven Farms, an organization that offers nutrition education, gardening skills, and produce to community members and families through seven urban farms. My interest in the intersection of food security and chronic disease prevention led me to spend a year-long fellowship in New Mexico working with the Navajo Nation. There, I collaborated with Head Start preschools and community health workers to improve nutrition education and improve access to fruits and vegetables by allowing healthcare providers to “prescribe” produce to patients at risk for diabetes. As a newcomer to Baltimore, I have loved getting to know my neighbors by volunteering at the produce market at the Commodore John Rogers school!

I am thrilled to be joining the SOURCE Student Governing Board and learn from the organizations in Baltimore that are working toward a better future for our communities. I believe that the reciprocity and mutual respect are vital to addressing health inequities and bridging historic divides, and I am excited to share this passion with my classmates through SOURCE!
My name is Lauren Sutherland and I am thrilled to be joining the SOURCE Student Governing Board as a fourth year student at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine! I grew up in a nearby suburb of Baltimore in a town called Sykesville and am so excited to be back in the Baltimore area. I believe Baltimore is such a dynamic, unique, and welcoming city and I look forward to getting to know the local communities. I went to college in North Carolina at Elon University, where I majored in Biochemistry, and graduated in 2015. While in North Carolina, I spent my time volunteering for the Open Door Clinic of Alamance County, where I learned about the depth and complexity of social determinants of health and decided that I wanted to go to medical school. I also learned through coordinating volunteers that I loved building relationships in my community and helping other students to do the same.

After graduation, I moved to Jamkhed, India to work for the Comprehensive Rural Health Project as a Mabelle Arole Fellow. The organization taught me so much about identifying community need and developing community-based programs such as their Village Health Worker Model. Over the year that I spent there, I worked in many aspects of the organization from writing grants and raising funds to developing a community-based screening and prevention program for type 2 diabetes. From this experience, I learned about the importance of empowering communities to address needs and the myriad ways that these needs are interconnected. Oftentimes, to solve health issues, we also needed to address economic, agricultural, and social issues. This gave me a much broader perspective in what I think of as health and made me excited to work to address community needs in Baltimore. As a future physician, I look forward to addressing health needs from both an individual level and a community level. I am excited to be a part of the SOURCE Student Governing Board, where I can learn to be the most effective advocate for my community.
Hi everyone! My name is Amy Xu, and I am a first-year medical student here at Hopkins. I grew up in southern California and attended Stanford University for undergrad, where I studied human biology - an interdisciplinary major combining the biological and psychosocial sciences. This multi-dimensional lens cultivated an interest in comprehensive healthcare and led to my spending a year in rural Alabama at a community health non-profit after graduation. I led activities for seniors at a community center, staffed an assisted living home for women with mental illnesses, taught at-risk youth, interviewed patients within a rural clinic, worked on an organic farm, and helped disadvantaged individuals navigate healthcare and social services after forming deep relationships. I truly saw how seemingly disparate aspects of a community can come together to generate influence on an individual level.

My experience in Alabama led me to SOURCE. I have come to deeply understand the impact of healthcare disparities and the role we can play in their reduction as well as the importance of forming connections with the surrounding community. For this reason, I am incredibly honored and excited to serve on the SOURCE Student Governing Board and look forward to working for our Baltimore.
Hello! My name is Andrew Zale, and I am a first-year medical school student. Raised in Westfield, New Jersey, I attended the University of Pittsburgh for my undergraduate education, where I forged my passion for community engagement. In Pittsburgh, I mentored underprivileged youth at the Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy in both academics and athletics. I also helped start an annual Holocaust Survivor Speaker series to educate community members about the Holocaust and archive the stories of survivors. These experiences culminated in an opportunity to help start a data science firm that focused on the needs of non-profit organizations during my senior year.

Now in Baltimore, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with community leaders and link the Johns Hopkins community to greater Baltimore. I am particularly excited to work with organizations that seek to empower children and women, solve the opioid crisis, delve into rectifying health inequities, and make structural community changes to improve the daily lives of Baltimore residents. I am ready to work with these communities to promote their flourishing alongside my peers and neighbors.

I have loved my time living in East Baltimore thus far, and I am hopeful that my time on the SOURCE Governing Board supports ongoing work in the community. I wish to build upon the reciprocal relationship between Johns Hopkins and the Baltimore community mediated by SOURCE, while energizing those around me!
Hello everyone! I’m Anne Batchelder and am a student in the School of Nursing’s MSN: Entry to Nursing Program, Summer 2020 cohort. I grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, studied sociology at Boston College, and earned my Masters in Public Health from Hopkins part-time and online. After many moves, I am excited to be living in Baltimore! And very excited to be part of SOURCE and connect to the community here.

Prior to this career change, I worked in global health and Democratic political campaigns. At U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), I was the Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths Advisor, as well as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrator of Global Health. I managed the Clinton Health Access Initiative’s Pediatric HIV/AIDS program in Ethiopia, and the field program at the ONE Campaign, a more than two-million-strong international grassroots advocacy campaign to end extreme poverty. I also spent shorter stints with community organizations in Nigeria and Ghana.

In 2016, I worked on the Hillary Clinton Campaign as the Pennsylvania Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Director and in 2013, I was the Field Director for Cory Booker's first campaign for Senate. I was also the Campaign Manager for a 2013 Pittsburgh mayoral candidate, the Deputy Field Director for President Obama's 2012 re-election campaign and Regional Field Director for Obama’s 2008 campaign, both in western Pennsylvania. After the 2008 election, I served as a Special Assistant on the Obama-Biden transition team.

One of my biggest priorities in moving to Baltimore was engaging in the community. It is incredibly important for students in nursing, medicine, and public health to engage in the community in which we work to understanding the holistic experience of clients and patients from the community, even while being in intensive programs and juggling multiple priorities. I believe that we have a responsibility at Hopkins to be responsible with our power in the community and challenge the underlying injustices that enable this power imbalance. I am very excited to get involved in SOURCE.
My name is Emily Gale, and I currently an MEN student at the School of Nursing in the Summer 2021 cohort. I grew up in North Carolina and completed my undergraduate degrees at Furman University in Health Sciences and Spanish. Prior to coming to Johns Hopkins, I spent two years serving in Belize, Central America, as a Community Health Education Peace Corps Volunteer, primarily leading community members in healthy physical activity and nutrition-related lifestyle initiatives. I also focused my work on positive youth development, including the development of after-school leadership clubs, sports teams, and a literacy program.

Through my background as an international health volunteer as well as a health department program coordinator focusing on sexual and reproductive health, I have witnessed the power of health education and preventative medicine. I believe that the best health outcomes of individuals, families, and populations result from a holistic approach to care, always considering social determinants as key factors. I am most fulfilled when I am truly integrated and feel a sense of belonging in a community, and this is accomplished by relationship building, mutual understanding, and team collaboration to serve those around us.

I am thrilled to serve as a student board member for the Johns Hopkins health professional schools, sharing ideas to improve SOURCE programming and operations and engaging with a diverse group of students who share my same passion for health-related issues in our Baltimore community.
My name is Sarah Geiler and I am a currently a student in the MSN: Entry into Nursing Program here at Johns Hopkins. I have earned a B.S. in Psychology with an emphasis in Neuroscience. Additionally, I have worked as a Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (BPPV) technician at an Otoneurology clinic in Southern California. While in this role, I learned how to tailor healthcare to the individual, not just the diagnosis. With the clinic’s close proximity to the southern border, I frequently provided care for patients from the Latinx community. It was a privilege to educate patients and their translators about their diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Working with the Latinx community highlighted the prevalence of healthcare disparities among minorities, particularly immigrants. This experience ignited my passion for medicine, patient advocacy and social justice.

I worked as a researcher at the Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Biology at Thomas Jefferson Hospital. My research focused on the neuropsychiatric manifestations of the rare dermatologic genetic disease, Lipoid Proteinosis (LP). My ultimate goal was to be able to determine a correlation between the presence, size and location of temporal lobe calcifications and neuropsychiatric symptoms. After months of research, I discovered that previous LP research lacked continuity, validity and/or precision when collecting and interpreting neuropsychiatric data. This discovery emphasized how severe healthcare disparities are among the orphan disease population. I found this revelation truly infuriating and unacceptable. When a patient participates in research, they are under the impression that the data collected is accurate, valid and reliable. Medical research gives patients hope for a cure, hope for helping future generations afflicted by the same disease, and hope for a purpose. As a result, I developed the Lipoid Proteinosis Neuropsychiatric Data Collection Protocol which would give future LP researchers a protocol to follow regarding the aggregation of neuropsychiatric data. Most
importantly, this protocol was developed to advocate and support LP patient’s hope for answers regarding their disease.

These experiences have fostered a sincere drive to eliminate the disparities that exist in not just healthcare and research but in my community. I believe that my unrelenting passion to serve my community and eliminate healthcare disparities and social injustices will prove useful while serving on the SOURCE Student Governing Board. As an active citizen, I look forward to working with and supporting current and future community based-organizations in our communal mission of improving the city of Baltimore.
Hello Everyone! My name is Katie Landwehr and I am honored to serve on the SOURCE Student Governing Board this year. I am currently a student in the MSN program at the Hopkins School of Nursing: Summer 2020 cohort.

A little bit about me: I grew up in a suburb of the Twin Cities in Minnesota and attended undergrad at Bethel University. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 2015. During my time in undergrad, I worked part-time as a nursing assistant at a nursing facility. After graduation till starting nursing school, I worked as a medical scribe in the Emergency departments of two area hospitals and at a health and wellness center. I have always had a strong passion for medicine and knew since I was young that I wanted to work in the health-care field. Additionally, I have also had a strong passion for community service and have been very active in my local community. I was involved in a local chapter of Kiwanis in Minnesota and was privileged to serve on the club board for the past two years. In that time, I have learned a lot about leadership and how to be an effective board member. I am very excited to be able to combine my passions for medicine, community service, and leadership along with my board experience to make a positive impact on SOURCE. I am also excited to learn from my other board member colleagues, the SOURCE staff, and the Baltimore community members. We all come from diverse backgrounds and have great knowledge to share with one another!

Looking forward to a great year!
Hello! My name is Mary Lavery and I am a student in the Masters Entry Nursing program here at Johns Hopkins. My undergraduate degrees in Public Health and Spanish inspired me to pursue a nursing degree so that I could use hands-on skills each day to serve others. I am passionate about maternal health, children, and education. It all began in elementary school when my aunt, a NICU nurse, taught me how to knit hats for preemie babies and children undergoing chemo therapy. Since then, I have developed an interest in working with these populations in some way or another. Although I am only in my first semester, I look forward to the adventures a career in nursing will bring!

I am thrilled to part of SOURCES's governing board since I would like to be as involved as possible through community outreach in Baltimore. Previously, I volunteered by teaching ESL, coaching youth track and cross country, and working in a physical therapy center abroad. I plan to keep up involvement here at the Henderson-Hopkins School by coaching track. One of my goals is to inspire other students to spend their time volunteering in an area where they are passionate. I am excited to begin learning from community members of Baltimore, other students, and the team here at SOURCE.
My name is Katie Nelson, and I am a hospice nurse and first year PhD student in the School of Nursing. I previously received my MSN from the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in 2017. I grew up in Minnesota and finished my undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota in 2015.

Community engagement has always been very important to me, as I feel it helps me to feel truly present wherever my two feet are planted in the universe. I have always been especially passionate about the elderly populations, so I volunteered at several nursing homes back home from middle school through college – hosting different activities, painting fingernails, having coffee chats, etc. I came across hospice while in high school, and served as a No One Dies Alone volunteer, providing a presence for people who are without family/loved ones at the very end of life. I became connected with SOURCE right after moving to Baltimore in 2015, participating in many of the year-round volunteer opportunities that SOURCE offers for students. The tri-school days of service, various lunch seminars, and Baltimore Week activities all helped me learn so much about the breadth of community-based organizations in Baltimore and all of the great work that’s being done in many different spheres.

I’m so thrilled to be a new member on the SOURCE Governing Board! I look forward to being engaged with community partners and encouraging students to be engaged in the greater Baltimore community, too. SOURCE provides brilliant opportunities for both students and community members to learn and grow together, and I’m super thankful to be a part of it all!
Hello! My name is Matt and I am currently in the MEN program in the School of Nursing. I previously studied Nutrition and Economics and have been working as an educator in China for the last six years.

While working as an educator I was active in getting my students connected with their community. We partnered with aging communities to create opportunities for companionship and were active in the promotion of health and humanity. My students and I frequently organized wellness activities and social justice and compassion projects.

My stint in China helped me realize how much more alike than different we all are as people. This strengthened my feelings of connection to the human race and resolve to give freely of myself for the benefit of others. It helped me value the chance to listen to others and the importance of communication when engaging with diverse individuals.

For me, the chance to be part of the tapestry of Charm City is just as exciting as being at Johns Hopkins. I see Baltimore as a community where individuals of varied backgrounds and experiences are dedicated to making the city an equitable place for all. I am committed to meaningful exchange and eager to come alongside.

I am thankful for this moment and the opportunity to serve and learn with the members of SOURCE.
My name is Keitra Thompson and I am currently an executive DNP student at the School of Nursing, having completed the BSN and MSN programs at Hopkins in 2014 and 2017, respectively. Originally from Indiana, I completed my undergraduate degree in Anthropology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Service and volunteerism has always been a driving force in my life and played an integral role in my time at Emory and thus far at Hopkins. During the last four years I have had the pleasure of advocating for and serving the needs of individuals across Baltimore and beyond. Serving as the Volunteer and Case Management Coordinator for the Atlanta Asylum Network, a non-profit organization of health professionals and case managers who evaluate asylum seekers and promote human dignity through upholding human rights, I learned the value of social responsibility in leadership while at Emory. Working with incarcerated patients and those struggling with substance use, I have learned to value each person’s life story in relation to social and structural inequities. My other areas of service include providing health education through B’MORE for Healthy Babies, facilitating restorative justice sessions in Baltimore City, and mentoring minority students interested in pursuing careers in health care. My decision to attend Johns Hopkins and pursue a career in public health nursing and research is centered on my desire to address health disparities and advocate for social justice. I am particularly interested in issues affecting marginalized groups within society from a clinical and theoretical perspective. I am actively involved in research to address issues of domestic sex trafficking of minors, adolescent health, HIV prevention, and mass incarceration. As a SOURCE representative I enjoy working across the School of Nursing, School of Public Health, and the School of Medicine to serve Baltimore and beyond. I firmly believe everyone has the power to change someone’s life in big and small ways. I love SOURCE and infusing others with a passion to change the world!
My name is Valentina Viscardi and I am a first semester student at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. I grew up in Long Island, New York and attended Loyola University Maryland for undergrad.

I am a lifelong member of the Girl Scouts. From an early age, it was instilled in me that an individual’s duty in life is to better the lives of others through service to her community. Through curiosity, education, and optimism, I was determined to end an infant abandonment problem in my home state. I educated young pregnant women on their available resources by hosting public events and broadcasting public service announcements on the radio. With persistence and perseverance, I was able to save a child’s life; changing my own life and fueling my ambition to serve the lives of others. I then became a Girl Scout troop leader in Baltimore and encouraged young women to identify issues within their community that they would like to change. Together, in a positive environment, we came up with plans and ideas to do just that and supported each other’s goals and aspirations. I look forward to continuing my service at Hopkins and beyond and learning from the many talented individuals that share our “home” of Baltimore.

I am really excited to be a part of the SOURCE governing board and serve the diverse Baltimore community!
Hello! I am Shaina White and I grew up in New Jersey. I attended Virginia Commonwealth University where I obtained my Bachelors of Health Science. I am currently a first semester student in the Master program at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

My passion for community service started in high school and intensified as an undergraduate. During my internship at VCU I worked as a Health Screener. My main goal was identifying patients with needs related to social determinants of health. Through my efforts I was able to update and disseminate the local resource list to better serve the needs of my clients. At my internship my desire to assist the community not just as a nurse, but a public advocate, began bursting at the seams.

I am beyond delighted to be chosen to be a part of SOURCE. I look forward to working with community organizations and my colleagues. I am excited to dive in and begin making Baltimore a better place one day at a time!
Jessica Dozier is a doctoral student in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health at JHSPH. She is a C. Sylvia and Eddie C. Brown Community Health Scholar and hopes to enrich her studies by collaborating with Baltimore organizations through service, community-engaged research, and public health advocacy efforts. Her research interests include sexual and reproductive health, implementation science, and health disparities.

Prior to joining JHSPH, Jessica completed her MPH in Global Health at Emory University, where she was a Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health fellow. She received her BA in Women’s Studies and Medical Anthropology from the University of Michigan in 2016. Jessica has served in leadership capacities on numerous multicultural councils, on the board of an educational non-profit, and as an AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA).

Jessica hopes to contribute to building strong academic-community partnerships within Baltimore. Through her role on the SOURCE governing board, she hopes to encourage others to be thoughtful about how we interact with and speak about the communities and diverse people with whom we share a neighborhood, pursue meaningful service, and contribute to programming that celebrates the East Baltimore community.
Hi everyone, I’m Nicole Fischer and am currently a fourth-year medical student taking a year to complete my MPH at Bloomberg. I grew up in Los Angeles, California where my strong interest in outreach for indigent communities first began. In college, I helped organize and facilitate free health fairs in Los Angeles to provide immunizations, diabetes testing, anemia screening, dental care, counseling, and other services for the uninsured families and youth of the community. Years later, I went on to coordinate multiple community outreach programs under the UCLA School of Public Health that focused on improving the health and quality of life for black and Latinx community members in southern California. One project provided overweight and obese patients with the necessary tools and knowledge they needed to help live healthier lives including exercise equipment, healthy recipe cookbooks, grocery funds, and cooking classes. On another project, we used mentoring and social media approaches to reduce drug use in at-risk youth within LA County.

Three years ago, I moved to Baltimore for medical school and fell in love with this city. As a medical student, I had the immense privilege of helping provide healthcare to community members of Baltimore. In addition to this, I have participated in SOURCE donation drives and the Tri-School days of Service. Despite this, I have been eager to do more and serve this community in a more direct and tangible way. I am, therefore, very excited to be joining the SOURCE Student Governing Board. This year, I look forward to fortifying Hopkins’ relationship with Baltimore and work endlessly to serve this community.
My name is Chelsea Liu and I am a second-year MHS student in the Department of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health. I was born in Hangzhou, China and moved to Toronto, Canada in 2005. I graduated in May 2018 from Duke University with a degree in Computer Science and minors in Biology and Chemistry. I am interested in working with more CBOs that serve the older population in Baltimore, a group that is at high risk of social isolation associated with physical and mental health issues.

During my time at Duke, I led a student group called NeuroCare that volunteered in the community and on campus to advocate for more funding and better healthcare services for people with neurological or psychiatric disorders. We worked with stroke support groups and nursing homes in the area to bring social interaction programs to their participants. I also served on the advisory committee for Duke Counseling and Psychological Services. In this role, I advised the center on developing and executing outreach programs related to improving mental health in the student body.

These experiences have allowed me to work at the intersection of student outreach and community outreach, where I learned that local collaboration is key to developing service-learning opportunities that benefit both the community and the student. I am excited to work with SOURCE, the student body and CBOs in service of this goal and to give back to the community.
My name is Areisa Peters, and I’m currently a full-time MPH student and 4th year medical student at Indiana University School of Medicine. Admittedly, I’ve fallen in love with the city of Baltimore and would love to return to train and practice medicine. In addition, I plan to serve as an advocate for members of Baltimore community, especially those who look like myself. As a black woman in medicine, my passions are aimed at improving the health outcomes of black and Latina women in the community. At IUSOM, I frequently led in community engagement activities for the medical students and community based medical care. Through our interdisciplinary free Student Outreach Clinic, we were able to deliver gynecological care to women who otherwise use the ER as their primary care or don’t have a primary OBGYN.

I’m very excited to serve on the SOURCE Student Governing Board to learn the administrative side of community engagement and advocacy, which I believe is equally as important as grassroots efforts and work on the ground. To learn the ins and outs of equity and justice with SOURCE and its partners will definitely be the highlight of my short and valuable time here.
Hi everyone, my name is Elise and I am an ScM student in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology (MMI). Over the last five years, my commitment to community engagement has been shaped by my involvement at Public Annex, a volunteer-run organization that develops arts and urban farming programming with an emphasis on inclusion of community members with developmental disabilities. Recently, I have become interested in community engagement via science education and I currently serve as a sex education teacher at a middle school here in East Baltimore.

As a Student Governing Board Member, I look forward to facilitating engagement with SOURCE partners among my peers in MMI, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB), and across the school. I am particularly interested in supporting engagement among students planning to pursue basic and translational sciences research in academia, government, and industry. This is because I believe that community engagement during graduate education shapes our understandings of how to engage with science along the lines of social justice, how to render science education more accessible to our communities, and how to communicate our science to the public. In short, it prepares us to become more socially-aware, interdisciplinary, and engaged scientists – the kinds of scientists that our communities need.
My name is Yousra Yusuf and I am pursuing a PhD at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. My current research interests are in sexual and reproductive health, immigrant health, health in American-Muslim communities and health disparities in underserved, community-based research settings. I have a background in public health research and teaching in the fields of community health research, health disparities, and health advocacy. Prior to joining the school, I managed large-scale studies with Asian, South-Asian and Arab American communities in New York following the community-based participatory research principle.

Apart from my academic research, I am involved in various capacities in several community-based, non-profit organizations serving the Asian and South Asian community nationally and overseas. I have also attained a Masters in Public Health degree at the SUNY Downstate School of Public Health with a specialization in Epidemiology and a research focus in maternal health.

I strongly believe in engaging community members and building partnerships with community-based and faith-based organizations to tackle health inequity and injustice. Armed with this belief, I look forward to working with SOURCE and hope to help in creating more opportunities for service within and across the school in collaboration with local partners. As a public health professional trained in community-based research, I hope to bring in the practice of listening and reflection while participating in programs held by SOURCE.
Hello! My name is Marie. I am a first semester student in the MEN program at the School of Nursing, Spring 2021 cohort. I am from Sierra Leone, West Africa, and I completed my undergraduate degree in Writing from the University of Houston, and my first graduate degree at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. This past August I was among the newbies participating in Orientation at the School of Nursing. Fast forward to a few weeks, I am now a member of the SOURCE Student Governing Board. As a Hopkins student, I am very grateful for the opportunity to grow as a person, work with and learn from SOURCE. I am also enrolled in the Community Outreach to Underserved Communities in Urban Baltimore course at the School of Nursing, and I have learned a lot about Baltimore. SOURCE provides a ton of opportunities to be one of the threads in what I consider a very rich Baltimore tapestry. It’s a very fruitful and rewarding experience.
Hi all! My name is Emily Vo, and I'm in the Masters Entry Nursing program here at Hopkins. I graduated from UCLA in 2018 with a major in Biology and minor in Asian American Studies. My experiences volunteering in a hospital led me to recognize the significant impact of language barriers in health care and the quality of care received. Since then, I've been particularly interested in working with the geriatric Vietnamese immigrant population and hope to end up in Orange County, California, where there is a particularly large Vietnamese population.

During one of my summers in college, I had the privilege of studying the indigenous population of Hawai'i at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa, where I was able to learn of the vast (and longstanding) impacts of colonization on the native Hawaiian population. Witnessing firsthand the vast economic, political, and social disparities experienced by native individuals fostered my interest in working with and uplifting marginalized communities.

My time in Baltimore has been nothing short of wonderful thus far, and I'm extremely excited to work with the SOURCE Student Governing Board this upcoming year.
My name is Haley Brahmbhatt—I am a first year MSPH student in the Population, Family and Reproductive Health Department with a focus in Maternal, Fetal and Perinatal Health. I am also pursuing a certificate in global health. Prior to attending the School of Public Health, I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. While in Baltimore, I’m looking forward to expanding my understanding of interdisciplinary collaboration in public health practice. I’m incredibly excited to be a member of the SOURCE team—working towards greater collaboration with the Baltimore community and amongst students in all three schools in the East Baltimore campus. I look forward to working with my peers to more creatively and compassionately improve the health of communities around us.
My name is Becca Fowler and I am a Master of Public Health Student at the Bloomberg School. My areas of focus include reproductive justice, LGBTQ health, health disparities, and gender-based violence. This year I will be working with FreeState Justice assisting in education, training, and outreach. Before joining the MPH cohort, I received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in Public Health and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. At UMass, I worked as a sexual assault crisis counselor and was heavily involved with the planning of the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Conference. After graduation I worked as a Domestic Violence Intervention Advocate for the state of Massachusetts, where I provided advocacy and support to survivors of intimate partner violence. I soon moved to Burlington, VT and began working as a medical assistant at Planned Parenthood, working closely with their abortion program. I am excited to be joining the SOURCE team as the Baltimore Action Project’s Program Assistant. I look forward to being a part of the Governing Board and helping to support a continued meaningful relationship between the Baltimore community and Johns Hopkins.
I’m a 3rd year PhD student in the department of Health, Behavior & Society and the teaching assistant for SOURCE’s Baltimore Community Practicum course. Prior to starting the doctoral program at JHSPH, I worked for more than a decade primarily on psychosocial interventions for children and families living with HIV in South Africa, India, and Thailand. My current work is with Baltimore-based female sex workers, with a particular interest in stigma, empowerment, and issues related to motherhood/parenting. In addition to my public health background, I have a master’s degree in social work, with a focus on community organization, and I seek to incorporate an applied, practice-oriented, community-based perspective into all my work. I look forward to getting more involved with SOURCE!
Hi everyone! My name is Nelson Malone, and I’m an MD/MPH candidate from Richmond, VA currently pursuing the MPH at the Bloomberg School before returning to finish my final year at Harvard Medical School. As a first-generation student, I graduated from Howard University with a bachelors in Chemistry.

During medical school, I served as President of Harvard's Student National Medical Association (SNMA) chapter. I also co-founded and chaired the Racial Justice Coalition, an organization established to address issues of diversity, inclusion, and social justice within the school and surrounding community. I volunteered with the Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program (HPREP), aiming to inspire the next generation of health professionals. I was also a volunteer on The Family Van, Harvard's mobile health clinic that delivers preventative care services to some of Boston’s most vulnerable populations.

I am pursuing the MPH in efforts of better equipping myself to work in and advocate for disadvantaged communities like the one I grew up in. I’m excited to learn more about the Baltimore’s beauty, charm, unique challenges, and amazing people working to make lasting differences through the SOURCE Student Governing Board and work with our community-based organizations!
Krithika is a MSPH candidate in Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She recently graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in April 2019, where she received a BA in English Writing, History, and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies. Her academic interests include combining scholarship within the humanities and the sciences in public health practice and using interdisciplinary approaches in addressing violence prevention and access to care within marginalized communities. During her undergraduate career in Pittsburgh, she was a community organizer, continuously pushing for intersectional approaches relating to issues about women, LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive rights, and intimate partner violence outside of the classroom through campus and city-wide activism. She worked on creating safe spaces for healing and inclusive discussion environments, serving on many campus organization boards and working with prominent Pittsburgh activists to center and serve marginalized communities. Additionally, she received two funded fellowships to study intimate partner violence within marginalized communities, while regularly volunteering at Planned Parenthood and at a local women's hospital. She views her academic interests and her extracurricular interests as complementary, ultimately striving to have a career where she can integrate her experiences as a community organizer and in academia to push for progressive local and state policies.
LAVINIA RIZVI
SOURCE Service Scholars Program Assistant

Lavinia started working as SOURCE’s Service Scholar program/teaching assistant in September 2019, and is currently completing her Master’s in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She grew up in Silver Spring, MD and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.Sc. in Psychology from the College of Charleston in 2017. She then worked for two years as a Neurology Research Coordinator at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and currently has pending manuscripts regarding her research on movement disorders, dementia, and the impact of arts-based therapies. In addition to the sciences, Lavinia loves art, travel, and history. She is formerly part of a professional dance troupe and enjoys singing jazz.
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