Student Governing Board Members 2020 – 2021

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!

SOURCE
The Community Engagement and Service-Learning Center
Serving the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine

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Your SOURCE for community engagement opportunities.
My name is Danielle Amundsen, and I’m currently a third-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 third-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 fourth-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 third 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 Nic Heckenlaible, and at the time of writing I’m a first-year student in the School of Medicine! I grew up in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and moved to Omaha, Nebraska to study chemistry and computer science at Creighton University. All along the way I’ve made it a mission to keep a foot anchored in my community, as far back in high school as co-founding an environmental outreach student organization or as recent in undergrad as my work with environmental investment projects and service in refugee educational programs at the YATES Community House. Living and learning in the distant, distant Midwest has been an experience interfacing with populations largely ignored by our national consciousness, and having that foundation motivates me to seek out and empower those facing challenges whose voices are yet unheard. As you can probably tell, I particularly enjoy focusing on environmental challenges for their dual impact as a determinant of individual health and as a danger to our global community.

I’m a big believer in leverage, which is to say that I feel the importance of identifying the best ways to enact change and create empowerment with interventions in the right place and the right time—targeted directly at the problems we face or sometimes much farther upstream. Baltimore represents a complex system, full to the brim with human spirit and human challenges, and I couldn’t be more excited to be living here and contributing what perspectives and efforts I can. I can’t wait to help SOURCE leverage the resources of the School of Medicine and more to uplift sustainable health solutions from within the community we share.
Hello! My name is Tony Kim, and I’m a fourth-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.
My name is Alex Norton, and I am a fourth-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 a member of 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.
Hi everyone, I’m Liz Schlant. I’m a first-year medical student from Buffalo, New York. While in Buffalo, I volunteered at two clinics that provided care for underserved populations, specifically those who are homeless, uninsured or recently released from incarceration. I interned with a think tank that lobbied for legislative and policy changes to alleviate systemic disparities in realms such as poverty, housing, education and the criminal justice system. I engaged in local politics by interning for a Congressman and canvassing for a State Senate candidate. I was also lucky enough to gain public and global health experience with the Community for Global Health Equity as well as through research experiences with the Comprehensive Rural Health Project in Jamkhed, India and the Appropriate Technology Center in Kampala, Uganda. I am thrilled to be able to continue my community involvement through SOURCE and its partner organizations.

I am very passionate about promoting collaboration and communication to leverage the resources of Hopkins to most effectively serve the surrounding community. I am so excited to be able to learn from those involved with SOURCE about Baltimore and the work everyone has been doing to promote health and justice, and I hope to be able to contribute to these missions.
Hi everyone! My name is Rachel Strodel and I’m a second-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 a member of 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!
Hey everyone, my name is Siddharth and I am a first-year medical student. I was born and raised in San Jose, California, studied biochemistry and philosophy at Creighton University, and am very excited to call Hopkins and East Baltimore my new home! Throughout my life, I have engaged in service and advocacy initiatives ranging from working as a Youth Commissioner for the San Jose City Government to teaching senior citizens how to play the violin, but my main focus has been improving housing infrastructure/accessibility. I worked extensively with Habitat for Humanity to build houses in San Jose and Omaha, provide financial planning and education to families, and advocate on Capitol Hill for affordable housing legislation. I am drawn to service because it allows me to work with like-minded people while developing intimate relationships with my community and the individuals that I serve.

After seeing the many systemic disparities in San Jose, Omaha, and Baltimore, it has become clear to me that the practice and progression of medicine is inextricably tied to issues of social justice and service. Now that I am here in Baltimore, I want to help build my new community into a stronger, safer, and more equitable home for all people. I am so excited to work with SOURCE to develop and promote service and advocacy opportunities within East Baltimore, galvanize students to become more active stewards of their own community, and use my platform to improve health and housing disparities in a tangible and sustainable way.
Hi everyone! My name is Amy Xu, and I am a second-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 second-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!
I received a BA in Sociology, minored in Phycology and out of college I began a career in Social work. It only took me a few years to realized Social Work wasn’t my thing, but I did fine purpose and fulfillment in working with others. I have spent the last 15 years in the health and fitness Industry as a Manager at GNC and a personal trainer. The skills I learned in leadership, management, employee training and in education others about nutrient and health are skills that I will bring to the Student Governing Board. These experiences will also allow me to fulfill the roles and responsibilities as a board member.

A strength of mine is curiosity. One of my favorite saying is from the movie Yental (don’t judge me, lol) “The more I learn the more I realize the less I know”. Learning about other and what makes them tick is something that I have always loved, I guess that explains my degree in Sociology. I also enjoy working with people and helping them identify what their goals are and finding ways for them to work towards and accomplish their goals.

Within the community I have volunteered on a Women’s Crisis Hotline, with the organization Water1st, who helps put wells in underdeveloped countries so girls can attend school instead of walking 5 miles a day carrying water back to their homes and, I have volunteered at Seattle Children’s Hospital in Washington. I enjoy working with and learning from others who are different from me. I am currently looking for volunteer opportunities in Baltimore and today’s zoom meeting informed me of what I would like to look further into. The Henderson-Hopkins Food program and the Reading Partners program.
Being a part of the SOURCE Governing Board would allow me the opportunity to work with other students who have a desire to be a part of the Baltimore community. It would also allow me the opportunity to assist in community events, service projects, education of others about community opportunities and participate on subcommittees. The more I learn about SOURCE I feel a little selfish because SOURCE has so much to offer me and I only hope I am able to find a productive role and give back to the SOURCE program and the Baltimore community.
EMILY GALE

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 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.
My name is Katie Nelson, and I am a hospice nurse and second 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 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!
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!
My name is Ashish Bibireddy and I am a medical student at the University of Central Florida. My mission as a future physician is to empower my patients to take ownership of their own health, especially individuals from marginalized communities. I want to actively listen to my patients, empathize with their stories, understand their backgrounds, and the social determinants that affect their health. My interests include Health Policy, Community Health, Urban Health, Health Administration, Health Disparities, Non-communicable Diseases, and Infectious Diseases. I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and majored in Urban Studies and Neuroscience. After undergrad, I worked at the American Heart Association as the community health project coordinator. We implemented the Healthy BP for All program which provided blood pressure education classes and nutritional cooking classes to the 50 most underserved communities in the Greater Pittsburgh Area.

As part of the 2020 MPH cohort, I am really excited to build relationships with the JHU community and Baltimore as a whole. As a member of the SOURCE student governing board, I hope to engage our university in service and help build on a culture that promotes diversity, equity, and justice. I am looking forward to advancing SOURCE's mission and collaborating with the various stakeholders in Baltimore.
Greetings, everyone! As a first year MHS student here at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, I am excited to serve as a representative for the SOURCE Student Governing Board! With a distinct drive to advocate for underserved populations and help eliminate health disparities, I look forward to getting more involved in the Baltimore community, particularly during such a pivotal time in public health. Currently, I am a member of the Johns Hopkins Science Policy Group and an instructor in the Johns Hopkins Heath And Education Training (HEAT) Corps teaching health education and training youth regarding COVID-19. I seek to promote science and health literacy, especially in vulnerable populations, and I am intrigued by clinical trial research and vaccine development as to pertains to overall public health. As an undergraduate, I participated in translational and computational research for almost four years while pursuing my degree in Biology and Chemistry. I also served in leadership and other service roles which allowed me to serve my community and support public health initiatives. I am eager to serve SOURCE and my Baltimore community!
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 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.
Hello everyone! My name is Kim Khoo, and I am a current full-time MPH student. Prior to starting my public health education at Johns Hopkins, I recently finished my third year of medical school in Texas, where I was born and raised. I have always found joy in community service and leadership, and during my time as an undergraduate student in college, I served as the director of the UT Austin chapter of Camp Kesem, a nonprofit camp for kids whose parents have cancer. In medical school, inspired by my own family’s experiences with the healthcare system, I started an organization called Sunshine Helpers, which seeks to improve healthcare practitioner awareness in working with patients with developmental disabilities.

My personal philosophy is that if I have the privilege of receiving an education that can help me improve the lives of and empower others, it is my duty to use every opportunity to do so. In medical school, I quickly came to find that the intersection between social justice and public health impacted my patients more than anything I could personally do as a physician, and it drastically changed my perspective on what role I can play in the lives of those I serve. These experiences as a student in the healthcare field, in addition to the lived experiences of my family and friends, are what inspired me to pursue not only a degree in public health but also to pursue a more involved role in SOURCE and the Baltimore community. I also find fulfillment in helping others discover what they are passionate about, what sparks their fire, and I’m excited to be able to combine these loves of mine by serving on the SOURCE Student Governing Board. I look forward to growing with the members of this team and connecting with the communities that are the heart and soul of Baltimore.
Krithika is currently a second year MSPH candidate in Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and holds a BA from the University of Pittsburgh. She has over five years of campus and city-wide organizing experience, working on campaigns and actions advocating for economic justice, LGBTQ+ justice, reproductive justice, immigrant justice, and intimate partner violence survivor advocacy in the Pittsburgh area. 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. In Baltimore, she immediately became involved with community-based work. This past year, she held positions as a social justice program assistant at JHU SOURCE, an intern with FreeState Justice, a public health intern at Rebuild, Overcome, and Rise Center at the University of Maryland School of Law, and as a policy & research intern at NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland. Currently, she is completing her field placement as a social justice program assistant at the Social Security Administration in Philadelphia. She is ultimately striving for a career where she can integrate her experiences in academia, nonprofits, and government to uplift marginalized voices in public health practice. She is excited to be involved with the governing board for another year!
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 Everyone, my name is Lily Zandi and I am a full-time MHS student in the department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. My undergraduate degree in Health and Societies at the University of Pennsylvania inspired me to become a physician who considers both the pathophysiology and social determinants of illnesses.

While living in a rural village in Argentina, I developed a passion for the Latin American culture and the issues affecting Spanish-speaking communities. Upon returning to the US, I volunteered at nonprofits that address the diverse medical, legal, and social needs of these populations. I have also spent a significant amount of time volunteering at free health clinics in both DC and Philadelphia where I have worked to connect the underserved with the necessary medical and non-medical resources.

I also served as the site coordinator for an after-school program at an elementary school in West Philadelphia that taught students how to cook healthy recipes. I look forward to continuing this type of work as a JHU heat volunteer where I will educate K-7 students across the nation and globally about the biological underpinnings of and how to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

I believe that community engagement is an integral component of a well-rounded and meaningful education. As a member of the SOURCE governing board, I look forward to assisting my classmates as they seek opportunities that will allow them to leverage their skills and interests in way that serves the Baltimore Community.
My name is Tselza Almendra and I am a first-year Master of Health Administration at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. I was born and raised in Los Angeles, California and I completed my undergrad in California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). During my time at CSUF, I was involved with several programs and internships. I interned for the Environmental Health and Safety Department at school and was a Peer Facilitator during student orientations. Outside of school, I was also was a Health Scholar in the COPE Health Scholars program, and this was a clinical internship where I was allowed to rotate through different departments of the hospital, work alongside nurses, and shadow doctors. Besides interning as a Health Scholar, I was also in the leadership team as the Administrative Coordinator of the Program.

Prior to starting my graduate career at Johns Hopkins, I served a year as an AmeriCorps Health Fellow in the city of Los Angeles. I worked in two federally qualified health centers conducting patient satisfaction surveys, creating social media content, and participating in various health education outreach events. After AmeriCorps, I moved to Chicago, IL to join the Public Health Associate Program with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I was placed in the Immunizations Program within the Chicago Department of Public Health, where I managed epidemiologic surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases by conducting case investigations and contact tracing.

This is my first-time living in the East Coast and I am really happy to be joining the JH Health Corps team! I am excited for all the wonderful opportunities to learn more about and serve the community here in Baltimore!
My name is Madison Billingsley and I am working as the SOURCE Scholars Program Assistant for the 2020-2021 year. I graduated in May 2020 from Arizona State University where I majored in Biochemistry and Global Health. During my undergrad I worked with HEAL International, an organization dedicated to leading conversations on HIV and addressing issues of gender inequity. I also worked as a math tutor and teaching assistant where I developed a passion for improving access to education using interdisciplinary curriculum. I am a new student at the Bloomberg School of Public Health and am getting my MSPH in International Health with a concentration in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control. I am excited to be working with SOURCE and getting to engage with the Baltimore community.
HALEY BRAHMHATT
Program Assistant for the Baltimore Community Practicum (BCP) course and The Connection Community Consultants

My name is Haley Brahmbhatt—I am a second 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 Leah Eickhoff, and I’m excited to work with the SOURCE Student Governing Board! I was born and raised in rural New Hampshire, and graduated from Brown University in 2015 with a Bachelor’s degree in Community Health, a passion for whole-person healthcare, and no real idea which pathway I wanted to follow. Over the course of several years working and volunteering in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Boston (research assistant at the Veterans Affairs, caterer, educator at a digital fabrication lab, gardener, home health care aide, food access & cooking teacher at a soup kitchen, suicide hotline volunteer, personal trainer) my interest in holistic, trauma-informed health and health equity ultimately led me to nursing.
I’m a 4th 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!
NATHAN REHR
SOURCE Program Assistant

Nathan Rehr is a native Baltimorean and a student in the Master’s Entry to Nursing program. Nathan was most recently a Program Officer for local non-profit Jhpiego, where he worked to improve the health of women and their families in various countries around the world. Before that, he volunteered for the Peace Corps as a Health Education Volunteer in the Kolda region of Senegal. There, he worked with members of his community to extend access to clean water, prevent malaria, and promote youth engagement and empowerment. His experiences being educated in the Baltimore public school system as well as his professional experiences inform and reinforce his passion for public health work in low- and middle-income communities. Nathan went to the University of Maryland Baltimore County and still works with some of his fellow alumni as a bartender at Suspended Brewing Company in Pigtown.
SHARARA SAIFULLAH  
Research and Engagement Program Assistant

My name is Sharara Saifullah and I am a first year MHA student in the Bloomberg School of Public Health. I grew up in the state of Michigan where I attended Wayne State University and received a degree in Public Health. Since graduating, I volunteered as a crisis counselor and worked as a medical scribe. My background in public health and the experiences that I’ve gained thus far have shaped my interest in health disparities and improving access to care.

Currently I am living in Troy, MI but I have been to Baltimore a few times. Even though I am not in Baltimore at this time, I hope that my time with SOURCE will allow me to make positive contributions. I am looking forward to learning a lot during my time with SOURCE.
Hello, my name is Lidya and I’m a first year MHS student in Epidemiology at the School of Public Health. I graduated 2019 with a BA in Public Health from Johns Hopkins and spent the last year conducting research as a Fulbright scholar in Switzerland. My research interests include social factors in health and examining health disparities. I’m interested in collaborating with community-based organizations, particularly those engaging with immigrant and minority populations and I’m excited to start working on social justice programming with SOURCE!
The SOURCE for community involvement opportunities.