Student Governing Board Members 2021 – 2022

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
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Serving the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Public Health, Nursing, and Medicine

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Your SOURCE for community engagement opportunities.
Hello! My name is Danielle Amundsen, and I’m a fourth-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 reflecting 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 improve health in a Spanish-speaking community, and tutored at a public school for students who recently emigrated to the United States. I am applying into combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics (med-peds) residency and look forward partnering with communities as a primary care doctor! I have been so grateful to share my passion for service-learning, community engagement, and social justice by serving as a member of the SOURCE student governing board throughout medical school.
Hi, everyone! My name is Annie Cho, and I am a fourth-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.
My name is Jin Choi, and I’m a first-year medical student here at Hopkins. I was born in Korea and raised in Southern California, though my family currently lives in Boston.

After high school, I moved to Providence to attend Brown University, where I studied neuroscience and STS (Science, Technology, and Society). In college, I worked as a hospice volunteer and became involved with various programs at the Swearer Center for Public Service, including the Social Innovation Fellowship and the Student Advisory Committee. After doing research in Poland for my first gap year, I returned to Providence last year and worked as a Social Medicine VISTA at the Rhode Island Hospital Center for Primary Care. In this position, I worked closely with community health workers to address patients’ social and structural determinants of health, especially related to housing, transportation, and incarceration.

While I am still relatively new to Baltimore, I’ve enjoyed living here so far and hope to get to know some of the communities here better through SOURCE. I’m grateful for the opportunity to join the SOURCE Student Governing Board and look forward to working with everyone to help strengthen community partnerships and address health disparities in Baltimore.
My name is Macy Early, and I am a fourth-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 I’m a second-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 as co-founding an environmental outreach student organization in high school or as recent as my work with the ViSION program to bring free vision screenings to the East Baltimore community. Living and learning in the distant Midwest was a profound experience interfacing with populations often ignored by our national consciousness, and having that foundation motivates me to seek out and empower those facing challenges whose voices are yet unheard. 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 with interventions in the right place and the right time—whether targeted directly at the problems we face or sometimes much farther upstream. Baltimore is a complex and beautiful city, full to the brim with spirit and challenges, and I couldn’t be more excited to be living here and contributing in the ways 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.
Hi everyone! My name is Hyonoo Joo, and I’m a first-year medical student. I grew up in Boise, Idaho and attended the University of Utah where I studied biomedical engineering. At my college’s community engagement center (the Bennion Center), I served as the head of Community Outreach and as a Student Board Representative. Throughout my time in college, I spearheaded several different programs which focused on mentoring first-year students on leadership skills and community engagement. As a Bennion Center student boardmember, I worked alongside students, staff, faculty, and community partners to outline the direction and mission of our center’s programming. In particular, we worked to expand the diversity of our programs, foster a more inclusive environment, and increase opportunities for nontraditional students. I also volunteered with underserved populations in a clinical setting, which has motivated me to learn more about healthcare disparities and work towards addressing social determinants of health.

I am very excited to be a part of the SOURCE Student Governing Board. My community engagement experiences were a cornerstone of my undergraduate education, and I hope SOURCE will similarly be a foundational part of my medical education. I can’t wait to learn from others within SOURCE and from the greater Baltimore communities that we work with!
Hi! My name is Saket Myneni, and I am a first-year medical student at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine! I am originally from Austin, Texas but moved to study Biology and Psychology at Stanford University. I am excited to be serving on the SOURCE student governing board member and continuing efforts to build meaningful partnerships with the East Baltimore community. Both cities I have lived in experienced many of the same challenges growing cities around the country face, as development displaces existing communities and uniquely impacts underserved communities. I strongly believe addressing roots of inequity with a sustainable approach is an important and necessary step in any effort to addressing structural harm. With this mindset, I have volunteered with a variety of programs throughout college aimed at addressing these barriers by developing partnerships with existing support programs in my communities and utilizing their strengths. I am excited to explore Baltimore, my new home, and to do my part to build relationships with community-based organizations to create new interventions that capitalize on Baltimore’s drive and unique identity and empower any efforts to improving the health and well-being of our community. I am grateful for the opportunities SOURCE provides to build these connections and looking forward to everything we can accomplish!
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 second-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 third-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 second-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 third-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 third-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!
KARA ANDERSON

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”. Leaning 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.
Hi everyone! My name is Coral Estefania Alonso Garcia and I’m a first-year nursing student at Hopkins. I am originally from Mexico City, Mexico. I have been a student-athlete my whole life. I was part of the Mexican Junior National Team for the sport of synchronized swimming. I got to represent my country at world championships, Pan-American and Centro-American games. I came to the United States with a scholarship to compete for Lindenwood University, and we won 4 times the US National Championship. At Lindenwood university I studied a BA in International Business and a master’s in business administration (MBA). I volunteered at the International Institute of St Louis, tutored non-literate refugees and fellow immigrants in American Civics, History and English. I also worked as a social worker in Fort Collins CO. helping Latinx immigrants to deal with the healthcare, immigration, and the legal system of the US.

As an immigrant in the US, I have seen and experienced the enormous disparities that are still present in the healthcare system. I want to bring that to light and work towards a more equitable and fair society. I am more than thrilled to be a member of the SOURCE Governing Board and work with the organizations of Baltimore that are working towards a more inclusive society. Ultimately, I am driven by the belief that quality healthcare is an indisputable human right, and it is our responsibility as future medical professionals to work towards seeing that right realized.
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 Dawnyshia Griffin. I am a first-semester student in the Master of Science in Nursing Entry Into Practice program. I decided to become a nurse because I viewed nursing as a concrete and linear career path that would enable me to advance social progress. My undergraduate degree was in International Relations which I originally selected so that I could better understand the world in an effort to remedy social ails and injustices. I ended up in nursing because I wanted my professional life to consist of both direct patient care and community-level interventions. I found the wide scope and versatility of the nursing profession to be particularly empowering. I am particularly interested in mental wellness, addiction management, and effective interventions for coping with trauma and chronic mood instability. I plan to contribute to health promotion efforts as well as community-level interventions in order to improve accessibility and affordability in healthcare. In my free time I enjoy rugby, kayaking, crime dramas, and eating seafood.
Hello! My name is Carmen, and I am a first semester MSN student at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. I was born and raised in San Francisco, CA and remained in California to pursue degrees in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental (MCD) Biology and Psychology.

During my undergraduate career, I worked at the Learning Support Services center, both as an administrative assistant where I connected historically disadvantaged students to campus educational resources, and as a tutor in which I was able to engage active learning strategies to reinforce learning material to students with varying learning preferences. As someone who struggled with food insecurity throughout college, I also became involved with my university's food pantry where I was able to serve my community with free and fresh produce. Here, I developed a standing passion for addressing food insecurity among college students and residents of the community at large.

Through my involvement in SOURCE, I hope to continue my work in connecting students to community resources and service opportunities within the Baltimore community in efforts to reduce the many inequities we see in the world. Whether it may be partnering with a local public school to offer tutoring and mentorship to its students or working with food vendors in addressing food insecurity (or something else entirely!), there are many paths to become involved with community-based organizations. Needless to say, I am excited to work with SOURCE in fostering meaningful relationships between the Hopkins community and partner organizations throughout Baltimore!
Hello! My name is Keanna Qarooni. I am a first-year student seeking a master’s in nursing. I was born in Hershey PA, the sweetest place on earth, and grew up just outside Harrisburg PA. I am Persian and have a large family spread all over the world which has allowed me to visit over 20 countries. After high school, I began my studies at Penn State. I earned a degree in Humanities allowing me to become well-versed in social studies and cultural studies. While there, I spent a lot of time volunteering for different causes I feel passionate about such as homelessness and immigration. Having learned Farsi while growing up, I was able to manage a project at a non-profit relocating Afghan refugee to the US. We assisted them with housing, schooling, learning English, receiving medical aid, and many more aspects of life in America. Now that I am a part of SOURCE, I am hoping to further my ability to help those in need.
NATHAN REHR

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.
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.
My name is Brittney Guzzi and I am a full time MPH student in the Bloomberg School of Public Health. I am concentrating in Humanitarian Health and completing a certificate in Public Health Preparedness. I recently relocated to Baltimore from Portland, Oregon where I was born and raised. I earned my BS in Human Physiology at the University of Oregon in 2016, where I also developed a strong interest and passion for public health through my involvement with our University Health Center on campus. I spent this past year in program management for Multnomah County’s Joint Office of Homeless Services, supporting the management of emergency Covid and severe weather sheltering efforts in Portland. Prior to the pandemic, I spent about two years working in Mozambique as a community health services Peace Corps Volunteer, working under the direction of the Ministry of Health in outreach projects related to HIV/AIDS, malaria, and youth development programming.

Being physically present and engaged in the Baltimore community and supporting local community organizations is a major goal of mine this year, and I look forward to supporting community and student engagement, organizational strengthening efforts, and fostering sustainable partnerships throughout the year through my involvement on the SOURCE Student Governing Board.
My name is Lauren Russell, and I’m very grateful to be a member of the School of Public Health’s Master of Public Health’s (MPH) Class of 2022 and to serve as a Student Representative on the SOURCE Student Governing Board! For the past several years, I lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts and worked for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs New England Healthcare System. During my time there, I discovered my passion for promoting health equity by addressing health-related social needs and social determinants of health. My interest in and commitment to developing programs and policies that support all individuals in attaining their highest level of health inspired me to pursue an MPH.

Outside of work, I spent four years volunteering with Minds Matter Boston, an organization which “connects driven and determined students from low-income families with the people, preparation, and possibilities to succeed in college, create their future, and change the world.” Before moving to Massachusetts, I earned my bachelor’s degree in Spanish Linguistics and Philology and Global Studies – Public Health (2016) as well as my master’s degree in public policy (2017) at the University of Virginia (UVA). While at UVA, I volunteered weekly at the University of Virginia Children’s Hospital, participated in Alternative Spring Break trips, and served as the Philanthropy Chair for Lighting of the Lawn.

I was drawn to serving on the SOURCE Student Governing Board because of my desire to get to know Baltimore on a deeper level and better understand how we can strengthen relationships between Johns Hopkins and the city through reciprocal partnerships. Additionally, I’m eager to collaborate with peers, fellow SOURCE volunteers and staff, community-based organizations, and Baltimore residents on initiatives that promote the health and well-being of the entire community.
Hello everyone! My name is Sheila Shaheed, and I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve on the SOURCE Governing Board. I am currently a 1st year MSPH student at the JHSPH. Previously, I received my B.S. in Biology from Howard University. While attending HU, I served in leadership roles related to community engagement where I worked with my peers to create volunteer opportunities for the Howard University community. I also participated in HU Alternative Spring Break as a Team Leader where I helped to organize volunteer trips to various low-and-middle income communities.

Growing up in South Baltimore, I understand all too well the issues that are heavily impacting our residents. Thankfully, I also know the benefits of having a close-knit, positive community that is willing and able to help. I am excited to continue extending this sense of positive community to the rest of my city-- I feel very passionately about uplifting Baltimore by directly offering support to residents and aim to use this platform to help better the relationship between JHU and the greater Baltimore community through strategic partnerships with community-based organizations that are helping to promote our values of health and social justice. I am especially interested in research regarding mass incarceration and the impacts of heavy policing on communities.
Hello everyone! My name is Michelle Yao, my pronouns are she/her, and I am a full-time Master of Bioethics (MBE) student. Originally from Sarnia—a small Canadian town just north of Port Huron—I recently obtained a Bachelor of Health Sciences from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Having greatly benefitted from community resources both formal and informal while growing up, I tried to find different ways to get involved myself throughout high school. I eventually found a niche with graphic design and multimedia communications, which were useful, unique channels for supporting the causes that I cared about, whether that was looking at youth mental wellness or promoting interminority alliances and solidarity in a region prone to passive assimilation.

During the last three years of my undergraduate studies, I acted as an executive for SHEC, our university’s health advocacy, resource provision, and peer support service. I also helped lead initiatives that married the arts and activism under our campus community’s creative arts publication. In the summers between school years, I continued to work with different child and youth-centered services throughout Sarnia.

While it is daunting now to be so far from home, I am thrilled to become an active part of the Baltimore community. I am especially excited to put my background in bioethics and advocacy to practical, powerful uses that will hopefully reach far beyond papers, pedagogy, and performance to create resonating connections and change.
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.
Hi Everyone, My name is Vaishu Bandaru and I am Masters student in the department of Mental Health at Bloomberg School of Public Health. My main focus in education is Stigma of Mental Health disorders. I graduated in Jan 2021 from Bharati Vidyapeeth Medical College, India - where I majored in Surgery and Medicine. During my undergrad I worked with SSO International, an organization dedicated to providing medical care for under privileged populations, where I developed the passion for community service and public health education. I am excited to be working with SOURCE as the scholars program assistant and getting to engage with the Baltimore Community.
Hi everyone! My name is Melanie Bolden, and I am a 2nd year DrPH student in the Environmental Health track and work as a Risk Manager with the EPA. I am originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, born and raised. After Hurricane Katrina, my family and I were relocated to Arkansas, where I finished high school and earned a BS in Biology from the University of Arkansas (Woo Pig Sooie!). I then had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Master's International program, which allowed participants to combined Peace Corps service with a master's degree program. I served as a Community Health Specialist in Mozambique and completed my MPH at SUNY-Albany in 2016. I am very excited to support the 2021-2022 Baltimore Community Practicum course as a Teaching Assistant.
Hi all! My name is Savannah Boyd, and I'm a first year MSN student here at Johns Hopkins. I grew up in San Diego, CA, and then moved to Northern California to attend UC Davis for my undergraduate degree (go Ags!). I studied Nutrition Science there, which gave me the incredible opportunity to engage in Nutrition-related research with a community of mothers and infants living in Rwanda, Africa. This experience, though remote, gave me my first taste of public health and community research, which I fell in love with. Working with this community also confirmed my interest in working with this population (women and infants) as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner/Certified Nurse Midwife one day.

It's only taken me a few months of living here in Baltimore to fall in love with it, and I couldn't think of a better way to engage with this city than joining SOURCE as a Give Pulse Ambassador. I look forward to learning more about my community here and figuring out how I can best contribute to this work.
My name is Reid Cagir, and I am a MSE student with the School of Engineering. I have worked with SOURCE on various research projects since 2019 and am extremely fortunate to serve on the Student Governing Board with countless community health professionals.

I grew up in upstate New York and sought to acclimate to city life by serving as many Baltimoreans as possible. This inspired me to volunteer at an intensive care unit and work with Jhpiego, a local nonprofit with international reach. I also discovered SOURCE as an unrivaled resource to connect future students to the many impactful and altruistic opportunities in Baltimore.

With SOURCE, I developed several websites and data tools to strengthen the University’s offerings to its community partners and am currently working to quantify nonprofit inequities in Baltimore City. I am so excited to shape the future of both SOURCE and Baltimore with the Student Governing Board!
My name is Lerna Deyirmencian, and I am a currently a student in the MSN: Entry into Nursing Program in my 4th semester here at Johns Hopkins. I previously received my B.S. in Neuroscience from UCLA in 2015. I grew up in Los Angeles and this is my first time living on the East Coast!

I previously volunteered in the COP program working with Jubilee Arts where I assisted with Zoom art and dance classes for youth in Baltimore County. My other areas of service include working as a youth soccer coach for a public school in my community, teaching as a tutor for Soccer without Borders, and serving as a behavioral therapist for children on the autism spectrum. I have always enjoyed working with children and hope to continue to continue to do so in my career as a nurse.

I am really excited to be a part of the SOURCE governing board and serve the Baltimore community!
My name is Katie Nelson, and I am a hospice nurse and third year PhD candidate 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 supporting older adults, 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 history of our city, and the breadth of work that’s being done by so many of our wonderful community-based organizations.

There is nothing better than 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 as a member of the Student Governing Board. Here’s to a great year!
Hello! My name is Suzanne Pye and I'm a fourth-semester student in the Master's Entry Into Nursing Program. I am originally from Santa Monica, CA, and have my undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Biology and Environmental Studies. For as long as I can remember, service work has been an integral part of my life. My experience includes educating middle school students through developing and delivering curriculum on healthy lifestyle practices as a COP assistant with Baltimore SquashWise; assisting in free healthcare clinics in Los Angeles; training over 100 camp counselors and CITs; and mentoring middle school girls in STEM workshops. I have found this work very rewarding and plan to continue service work throughout my nursing career. I am very excited to be a part of the SOURCE governing board and look forward to seeing how we can impact our Baltimore community.
Hi everyone! My name is Sofia Osio. I am a first year MSPH student in the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and I am excited to be part of the SOURCE Student Governing Board. My program’s concentration of study is Health Education and Health Communications. My topics of interest include health disparities among various minority populations, but I am more specifically interested in women’s health and sexual health in low-income communities around the world. I plan help reduce these health disparities in the future in a hands-on approach that would involve education, outreach, and advocacy in the community.

Before I got to Hopkins, I graduated from the University of Miami with a major in Communication Studies and double minors in Public Health and International Studies. I have previous work experience with multiple nonprofit organizations that focused on health and human rights issues. As part of their communications departments, I completed tasks that included outreach, collaboration with community partners, and creating educational content for the community. In addition, I have also worked as a student research intern in the Sexual Health Dissemination Lab at the University of Miami where our main goal was to use social planforms as an intervention method to educate the community on sexual health. As this is my first year in Baltimore, I can't wait to get involved with the community through SOURCE and its amazing opportunities and programs. I look forward to working with other people who share my passions and hopefully learn something new every day on how we can better serve our community.
The SOURCE for community involvement opportunities.