

John Hart

AY 2016-17 All-STAR Fellow

School of Public Health

Department of Family Science,

PhD Candidate, 4th year



My graduate education has shaped my path in research and advocacy for the health of low-income fathers, African American families, and disadvantaged communities. With the mentorship of Dr. Roy, I have spearheaded research on intergenerational relationships for young men disconnected from school and work. As a clinical family therapist and growing up in an immigrant Liberian family in Maryland, I value the empathy and understanding for the lives of these young men. I have taken leadership roles in collecting data and conceptualizing new perspectives on young Black men and their families.

My own dissertation project has emerged from this experience. I have worked for six months in the Prince Georges County Department of Corrections, facilitating discussions with incarcerated fathers and exploring prospects for reentry, as well as synthesizing theory and findings in family science, public health, and criminology.

These research experiences make me an effective instructor, as I bring insight into daily challenges faced by young men of color into the classroom. Over the past two years, I have taught an undergraduate course on families, inequality, and social policy. I help my students understand how social policy affects families, and how social justice, diversity, and equity are critical issues. As a mentor, I have created bridges to encourage students to take part in research as well. Each of these GAsip opportunities has moved me along a path to a promising academic career in family and health research and advocacy.