



Shavonne Stanek, the 2019-20
Joe Lurie Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Gateway Fellow
at International House, UC Berkeley



My name is Shavonne Stanek, and I am a first year graduate student in the Master of Development Practice program. I graduated from Oberlin College with a BA in Environmental Studies and a minor in Chemistry. After graduating, I served in the Peace Corps as a Coastal Resource Management Specialist in the Philippines. I worked with the Department of Agriculture and my community to create a 10-year solid waste management plan, along with training officials in sustainable practices and conducting habitat assessments. Serving in the Philippines, a country heavily impacted by climate change, led to my decision to obtain a Master's in Development Practice at UC Berkeley.

My research has always related to water. Studying natural resource management abroad in Zanzibar, I conducted research on the sustainability of artisanal fishing, receiving the 2015 Forum on Education Abroad Award. I spent a summer collecting and analyzing water samples for the San Francisco Estuary Institute in Richmond, co-authored Sutton R., Mason S., Stanek S., and Willis E., *2016 Microplastic Contamination in the San Francisco Bay, California USA*, and presented those findings, which were instrumental to California's microplastic ban in cosmetics. I have also completed an NSF Fellowship on the use of tailored water for irrigating turf grasses and studied the impacts of boating activities on humpback whale behaviors in Hawaii.

I am excited for this opportunity to return to Berkeley and to live in International House alongside so many other amazing Berkeley students. I will forever be grateful for this opportunity.



The Joe Lurie Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Gateway Fellowship provides support for residency at International House. This endowment fund was established to honor Joe Lurie's service as I-House's Executive Director from 1988 to 2007 and is earmarked for a returned Peace Corps volunteer. Joe previously served as a volunteer with the Peace Corps in Kenya.