Marcus Hudgins: Public Safety Officer

“Housing Our Story” interview with Ifeyinwa Egbunike

October 26, 2018

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: All right. So here we go. Okay. Just for the record, can you tell the people who you are?


Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay, okay.

Marcus Hudgins: You know.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Also, by the way, for the person listening, this is Ifeyinwa Egbunike, junior here at Johns Hopkins. What do you do here at Hopkins?

Marcus Hudgins: I am a security officer here for Johns Hopkins.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Do you only do security in Nine East, or do you do other buildings as well.

Marcus Hudgins: No, I work pretty much all of them, honestly. Charles Commons, Wolman, McCoy, the AMRs. I’ve worked in all of them. Not just limited to Nine East.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay, so what’s your favorite building?

Marcus Hudgins: Nine East.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Nine East? Why?

Marcus Hudgins: It’s less—what’s the word I’m looking for? It’s less of a hassle, I can say. Nine East is always clean. The people are friendly. They make me feel comfortable working here. I like Nine East.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: How long have you been working here?

Marcus Hudgins: Nine East or Johns Hopkins?
Ifeyinwa Egbonike: Johns Hopkins.

Marcus Hudgins: A little over eight months now.

Ifeyinwa Egbonike: When did you start working here—in Nine East?

Marcus Hudgins: I would say maybe three to four months after I started working here. I’m not sure what month that is. I would say I started working here [at Hopkins], and then maybe four months in, I started working at Nine East.

Ifeyinwa Egbonike: What is your first memory of Hopkins? The first thing you thought when you started working here.

Marcus Hudgins: This is a big campus.

Ifeyinwa Egbonike: This is a big campus?

Marcus Hudgins: Yeah. This is a big campus. I think when I first started working here and I got hired, my first assignment was a campus officer. I wasn't always inside the buildings; I was originally outside. When I first started working here, I think I remember the most, I was like, “Wow. I gotta walk this campus.” From place to place, different posts. It was pretty big. This is a pretty big campus. Because it's not only the campus ... it isn't just “on-campus.” You have a lot of off-campus too. I think that's why it makes it seem like it's so much bigger.

Ifeyinwa Egbonike: Than what it really is?

Marcus Hudgins: Right.

Ifeyinwa Egbonike: Before you started working at Hopkins, what was your opinion about Johns Hopkins?

Marcus Hudgins: I guess I've always liked Johns Hopkins. I graduated from Dunbar High School, which is literally 20 feet from the hospital Johns Hopkins. Johns Hopkins also sponsored our football. They donated a lot of money to our school. We have internships with Johns Hopkins. I've always been an advocate for Johns Hopkins.

Ifeyinwa Egbonike: How has your perception of Hopkins changed from being a student at Dunbar to now working here as an adult?
Marcus Hudgins: That's a good question. I guess I would say it hasn't really changed too much. Back then for me—being a student—one, I wasn't employed, so I wasn't making any money. That's one thing. But two, I guess it really hasn't changed; Johns Hopkins still the same. They still run a tight ship.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: So how do you think Hopkins is different from Dunbar? Comparing it school for school.

Marcus Hudgins: Okay. One is a high school and one is a college. We can do that. What am I looking for? What's the word I'm looking for?

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: The culture?

Marcus Hudgins: Not so much the culture; just the ethnicity. Coming from a majority African-American, black high school, to a probably see three black people within the next five miles of here. It's a little different. Other than that, Dunbar is a little bit more ghetto. Dunbar is a little bit more ghetto. Other than that, still people; I don't think that's the issue. I think Dunbar is a high school; they're still children in a sense. This is a university, so most of them are adults or should be adults. I feel as though it's a little more ... Age has something to play with it, but other than that, I don't think there's too much of a difference.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Describe the typical Dunbar student and then describe the typical Hopkins student.

Marcus Hudgins: Okay. Typical Dunbar student. I'm gonna be literal here: about five feet. I'm gonna be real literal here. I'm gonna describe the typical Dunbar student. Let me stop. No, the typical Dunbar student is African-American, medium to low poverty. Most everyone who is in Dunbar don't have a lot of money. They might have a few dollars, or something to make themselves stay afloat, but they're not rich. Most of them play sports, myself included. Most of them are into medicine. Like I said earlier, we have a sponsorship from Johns Hopkins. We have a medical program with them called Project Lead the Way. They help sponsor us and get us into really good healthcare careers. That's really a plus. I'm not thinking about anything else. Trying to think of anything else I'm missing. I think that's the typical Dunbar student. Happy children; a little off the wall; a little crazy sometimes; pretty much good kids.

Marcus Hudgins: Typical Johns Hopkins student: I would say some type of Asian. I think that's the biggest race I see here. Spoiled—I'm gonna be honest. Not saying all of them are spoiled of course, but I think typically, most of them are privileged—spoiled. However, you wanna say it. Caring. I will say that. A lot of the students here
care. I've noticed that. A lot of the students here, I can attest they'll just be like random; “Do you want something to drink?” or “Is there something we can get you,” out of nowhere, so definitely compassionate ... Nice; smart, obviously. Going here you have to be some type of smart. You have to have some type of intelligence. I think that's the typical Johns Hopkins student. I'm not sure about athletic; I'm not really into that. I don't know if a lot of them are in sports are not. I'm sure Johns Hopkins is doing pretty good as far as sports. I would hope so.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: We're mostly DIII, and then our one Division One sport is lacrosse. I've heard the lacrosse team is good, but–

Marcus Hudgins: Right. I wouldn't know either; I literally haven't seen any games. I've seen a few games, but I haven't actually went to any games. I probably was working here, and this was a lot of people. They would say we're having a lacrosse game. That's how I would describe the typical Johns Hopkins student.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay. Now how about the typical Hopkins employee?

Marcus Hudgins: Typical Hopkins employee ... From the employees that I know—I don't really know everybody—but from the employees that I know, I think most of them are black, or African-American at least. Most of them have one to two kids, I would say. I would say most of them are trying to make a decent amount of money for living costs. Most of the employees I know are nice, so I can say that and ... I can also say they are understanding. I know that. A lot of people I've met so far are really like here for ... You know, we all work together. We all have one goal. It's all team driven. Teamwork makes the dream work. I think that's how I would describe them.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: As someone who is African-American, how do you think working on a mostly African-American team, or with a mostly African-American group impact your daily work? Does it make it better? Does it make it worse?

Marcus Hudgins: Right. I don't think it hinders at all; I would say that. I don't think it hinders. Now, as far as making it better, we have our own inside jokes. We bond closer to those who look like us, in a sense. We're all human, but if I see a black lady and I see a white lady, I feel like personally, I would probably bond better with the black lady versus the white lady; not because the white lady is mean, or the white lady isn't mean. I don't know. I think this is something that was just instilled as children growing up. We tend to bond closer to those who look like us or seem like us or have our views. I would say, working with an all African-American group, I guess it's fine. I personally don't have no experience where it
helped or hindered me from doing my job. I'm just trying to think of any instance or any case. For the most part, I think this is neither here or there.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: How do you think, because you interact mostly with students at a PWI [Predominantly White Institution], do you think that being African-American or working with a predominantly African-American staff as your co-workers, that interaction with students ... is it good? Is it bad? Is it weird?

Marcus Hudgins: No. Me personally? No, I don't think so; I think it's actually a little bit good. Like you said, this is a PWI, so I feel like just having that presence around gives you some type of ... What's the word I'm looking for? I don't wanna say safety or nothing like that; it just gives you that home feeling, I guess. Growing up in black neighborhood, that's all you see. When you move out your comfort zone, and you start working at places where everyone doesn't look like you, everyone isn't you, it makes it a little weird in a sense. I guess having that black staff, that African-American staff, I guess that's an actual good thing. Yeah, I don't know. I don't think that being around African-Americans in a PWI is a bad thing; I think it's a good thing. I think it should be more if anything.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: When you say more, do you say more staff, more students, or just more in general?


Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay. Why do you think that?

Marcus Hudgins: I just feel like for people, when you're around something for so long, change is hard. Change is difficult. I feel like even if you're working, even if you're being employed ... Let's say that I'm employed here, but instead of having more so a black staff, we have more so a white staff; it's a few African-Americans around. I wouldn't say it would feel weird, but it would make me feel as though I'm the only one. I'm that singular person instead the group. You know what I mean? I guess it's just something that's in us from the beginning, at least from how we grew up.

Marcus Hudgins: It all depends on how you grew up. I grew up in an all-black household with all black neighbors, and all black grandparents, and all black ... It's a little weird. So, for me to be around so many whites and Asians and Latinos; you know just different races. I feel like I still miss that, being around black people. It's not nothing to do with racism or anything. I don't prefer blacks over whites or whites over blacks or whatever. I think it's just that comfort feeling. You grew up
around something your whole life, you’re gonna tend to gravitate more to that side.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay. Have you worked anywhere else before Hopkins–

Marcus Hudgins: Like this?

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Like with similar demographics?

Marcus Hudgins: No. This is literally the first. This is the first.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay. I know you talked about you didn’t start out working at Nine East. How else has your work changed since you started working here?

Marcus Hudgins: When you say my work, you mean as far as-

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: What you do every day and stuff like that.

Marcus Hudgins: Like my personal life changed from working here, or like just my work ethic from working at Nine East to now working somewhere else?

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Either one?

Marcus Hudgins: My personal life hasn’t changed in any way, at least I don’t feel like it. If anything, from working at Nine East, I would say that my work ethic has been improved. Honestly, I think I would. I just feel like when I work at Nine East, I feel like one: people care. I definitely always said the Nine East staff definitely give me that home feeling. They give me that comfort. I would definitely say they care. I guess I would say I start to protrude that. I’ve been working here for months now at Nine East. I’m starting to act like the people I’m around so much and I’m here all the time. I feel like I’m starting to act like the guys and females that work here; it’s a good thing. I feel like I’m becoming a better person, in a sense. Every day you try to be the best person you can be. I feel like I definitely have gained a few things, a few tips and tricks from people here. I feel like I’m definitely using that now.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: What would you change about your working experience in other buildings to make it more like Nine East? You really love this place and really care about this place; so, what could other buildings do, especially the ones owned by Hopkins, like the AMRs, Wolman, McCoy? What could those areas do to make it an enjoyable working experience to Nine East?
Marcus Hudgins: What could they do? Honestly a good question. What could they do? I'm gonna start by saying, I don't think the buildings are bad; I would never say that. I think the buildings are fine. I feel like maybe ... I don't know; that's a good question. What could they do? I don't know. That's a really good question. I don't know. I don't think they have to do anything honestly. I think it's just about who you hire or who you have working where you work at. If anything, it would have to be the people that you hire. I guess just do a better job of who is working where. I don't know. I feel like the buildings are fine; the people in the buildings are fine. I guess it'd just be the staff sometimes that make things seem like it's difficult or the people who are in charge that need to do a better job of being in charge. Not so much the Hopkins staff, but just people in general, I guess. I don't know how to explain that; it's just something I feel. Not so much that ... It might not be true. It's probably just something that I feel. I don't want to be biased or anything.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: You mentioned that you feel there are ways that they could be better leaders or better at being in charge. Is it communication? Is it policies? What is it that is just not as good as working at Nine East?

Marcus Hudgins: I would definitely say communication. I would definitely say professionalism. Those would have to be my two main points that I would need, because one: communication is very poor, at least from my experience. It's been plenty of times where I would get off work later than I should because they're not communicating with me about who is supposed to be coming to relieve me, or people are not on time, which falls under professionalism. At Nine East, it's not the same thing at all, but because I worked for Allied and Allied officers still work at Nine East. Even if I'm at McCoy or Charles Commons or I come here, it's still Allied officers. It wouldn't be so much as Johns Hopkins as it would be Allied. That really doesn't fall for Johns Hopkins, that really falls for Allied. That really wouldn't count.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay. I know you said that you worked mostly under Allied Universal.

Marcus Hudgins: Right.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: How do you think with the partnership between those two, Hopkins and Allied, how does that affect your work or what you have to ... Obviously, you're an Allied officer and you work here at Hopkins, but beyond that, how does that partnership affect your work?

Marcus Hudgins: Allied is a great company. So is Johns Hopkins. I feel as though they don't ... I don't know. I feel as though they could do better. As far as it affecting my work,
I'll give you an example: I can work five days this week and work 40 hours. Next week, I'll work two days and make 16 hours. It's all ... Allied works for Johns Hopkins, so Johns Hopkins is the big boss and then comes Allied, and then comes us, the workers. If Johns Hopkins says you have too many people working too many hours, then Allied is like, “Well, we've gotta cut some hours.” That's how that would affect my work. Not all the time of course, but I would be one of those people that's hours get cut or can't make a certain amount of money this week, because Johns Hopkins says it's too many people working too many hours. Allied will be like okay we'll need to cut some hours so we can stay within the limits that Johns Hopkins set. So that's how that would go.

Marcus Hudgins: Affecting my work would just be as though ... sometimes I work a lot; sometimes I work a little. It all depends on what Johns Hopkins says, and after what Johns Hopkins says, Allied enforces it, and us, the workers, we would be the ones to feel it the most, I guess.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: I know that you said you have inconsistent hours, and I know that you're usually always downstairs on Thursday. When Thursday comes around, I'm like, “Oh I'm about to see my boy Marcus Hudgins,” (laughs)

Marcus Hudgins: Yeah, I work Thursdays. So far, I've been working Thursday every week. That's good. I think that's probably one of the only days that doesn't really fluctuate. That's good.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Because of the inconsistent hours, do you have a side job? A side hustle?

Marcus Hudgins: Oh yeah. You have to because the hours aren't consistent enough. You can't want someone to work and put their all into it and they don't know if next week they'll be able to work and do the same thing. You want us to work hard and do our job effectively and correctly; we need that consistency to do that. You can't have us work real good for one weekend, and the next week, we don't work at all. The week after that, you want us to come back and work another 40 hour week. What was I saying? I forgot what I was saying.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Do you have a side hustle?

Marcus Hudgins: Oh, thank you. Yeah I do. Actually I do. I have a second job that I work. Usually I work it Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays. That's out at the airport. I do that. Excuse me. I do that and I work here.
Ifeyinwa Egbunike: I personally know a security officer that worked here. He was accused, so that's how we got to know each other because he came to my probate. He used to work here and now he deejays full time. Have you ever met someone here that used to work here and has moved to their second job full time?

Marcus Hudgins: Yeah, I know a few people that have done that.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay. Have you ever considered working at the airport full time instead of coming in here?

Marcus Hudgins: Yeah, I've considered it. I've considered it a few times; I don't know why I haven't left. I've considered it. I think it's just the fact that two jobs are better than one. Sometimes even through all the run around this company will give us, sometimes it's like I'm still making money, so I'm not going to be complaining as much. For the most part, I think that's why I keep coming back.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Also, because–

Marcus Hudgins: Oh yeah you!

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Who else is gonna mess with you on Thursday nights?

Marcus Hudgins: Exactly; you're family. That's the funny thing. Working here, and I met you through working here. I feel like we're cool. We have this good relationship; we're good friends. It's fun because ... That's just one little example of how Nine East is a little better than the rest. I'm not sure. Working there, I don't get that–

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Interaction?

Marcus Hudgins: Yeah. I don't even wanna say that; I get that. I'm at the front desk, so I interact with everyone that comes in and out. The people here are just friendly. It's not way too friendly. They're just friendlier than the people on the campus, or on the Johns Hopkins buildings, or the students, or the faculty. Like I said earlier, I feel like the people here are so forthcoming, and friendlier, and nicer. I don't wanna say nicer. Not nicer. I think friendly is just the word I really need.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay. Coming down to my last couple questions. What is your ... We already talked about your favorite part, the most difficult part, but what is your least favorite part about working here?

Marcus Hudgins: As far as working for Johns Hopkins?
Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Yeah.

Marcus Hudgins: My least favorite difficult part. For me, I guess it would have to be the inconsistency, like we touched on earlier. I’m not sure if Johns Hopkins has anything to do with that. I know they give the orders to Allied, but at the end of the day, I feel like it might be just Allied who does certain things. Johns Hopkins might say we need to slow down on this, but I feel like Allied is probably the ones that take it and tweak it and put their own spin on it. I don’t know if Johns Hopkins is necessarily to blame for that. I just feel like the inconsistency of working; I don’t like working one week–

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: And then not working the next.

Marcus Hudgins: Yeah, I don’t like that at all.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Do you feel like any of those inconsistencies have to do with the proposed police force coming to campus or anything surrounding that, or do you think that–

Marcus Hudgins: No, I don’t think that. I think that this is something that has been going on way before I got here and is gonna go on way after I leave. You can talk to any officer that works here. They’ll tell you themselves; it fluctuates. During the summer, they was calling my phone, “Oh we want you to come into work, come into work, come into work,” during the whole summer. I guess it’s a seasonal thing. During the summer I was working every week, 40 plus hours every week. And now that it is getting colder, maybe they’re just trying to slow down or maybe Johns Hopkins is like this is too much. You’ve had too much activity or we’re paying too much for all these officers that be working this long. I don’t know what the higher ups are actually talking about. I can just speculate on what I see and what I know. I don’t know.

Marcus Hudgins: I think that would probably be my least favorite part. It’s just the consistency of working here. Of not knowing how long I’m gonna work here for this week. I don’t like that. I need to know; if I’m supposed to work Monday through Friday, I need to know that’s when I’m working Monday through Friday. I don’t need to work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, don’t work Thursday, work Friday, don’t work Saturday, work Sunday, don’t work Monday, Tuesday, work Wednesday—I don’t like that jump around.

(Pause)

Marcus Hudgins: (Hums Jeopardy theme)
Ifeyinwa Egbunike: My professor is gonna hear this and be like—

Marcus Hudgins: What were they doing?

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Why did I trust her to record? I apologize in advance, Professor Connolly. You know I’m a clown.

Marcus Hudgins: Yes, I apologize for her Professor.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Really, I'm here trying to get good grades.

Marcus Hudgins: That's it. That's all we want is some good grades.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay. I can't think of ... One last question for the record. AKAs or Deltas?

Marcus Hudgins: Deltas.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Wrong!

Marcus Hudgins: Come on. Come on now.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Wrong.

Marcus Hudgins: AKAs the cheap bougie. Deltas are down to earth.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: What?

Marcus Hudgins: I'm sorry. It is what it is.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: I live here with the Deltas, so what's the truth?

Marcus Hudgins: The Deltas are down to earth. You're the rare breed; you should have been a Delta. That's all that is. You made the wrong decision. It's okay. We all make the wrong decision.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Incorrect. Pink and Green reign supreme. I'm gonna end this interview right here. Pink and Green reigns supreme. Thank you so much. I appreciate you. I appreciate you taking time out of your day to talk to me for this class, for this project.
Marcus Hudgins: You’re fine; you know you’re family. I would help anyway I could. Just don’t ask me for money, because apparently I don’t have any.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: I’m not gonna ask you for money.

Part 2

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay, so how do you think Hopkins, as a campus or institution as a university is different from Baltimore as a whole?

Marcus Hudgins: That’s a very good question, now that I think of Baltimore. Well, I can say one. Hawking is not violent. Baltimore is very violent. Hopkins is clean, Baltimore is dirty; you know not all of Baltimore is dirty, but—as a whole—Baltimore is dirty. I don’t know I think those two words are very good for me. Like I don’t know if any other thing can describe what I was thinking. It’s like yeah. Cleanliness and violence; you know Baltimore is dirty, Baltimore is violent. Hopkins is clean, Hopkins is nonviolent.

Marcus Hudgins: You know of course you have your incidents here and there but as a whole Hopkins does not tolerate that.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Right.

Marcus Hudgins: So yeah.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Like some people believe that... when people think of Baltimore, all they think of is Hopkins.

Marcus Hudgins: Well I mean, I can see it, you know? Is it true? Yeah, it is, you know? You got to think back in the early 1900s—back then Hopkins was everything. Baltimore really didn’t have a name for itself. We had the ports, that’s one thing about Baltimore people knew. But mostly it was Hopkins; mostly because of the hospital. You know?

Marcus Hudgins: They did bring a lot of names to Baltimore. So when people visit us, or [inaudible 00:02:34] the first thing they think about is probably the hospitals. Like, “Oh, Johns Hopkins hospital. You know famously for the Henrietta Lacks.”

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Right.
Marcus Hudgins: That whole era of what's going on, that also was a big thing. So yeah I think Hawkings definitely clouds Baltimore. Like if Hopkins wasn't here in Baltimore, I'm not sure how many things that people outside of Baltimore would be like, “Oh, that's Baltimore!” I doubt it. I think when people think of Baltimore they think of Johns Hopkins, they think of the harbor and the ports. That's about it—and the violence. I don't think there's to many other things. You don't hear... I mean I'm not saying that there's not good things going on inside of Baltimore that people don't recognize, but for the majority ... if you live in Asia and you come to Baltimore and most times your brochure packets of Baltimore going to have to do something to do with Hopkins.

Marcus Hudgins: It's going to something to do with Johns Hopkins, and the renowned research, and the award-winning hospital and the beautiful university and all this good stuff. But as for the tour sites for Baltimore it wouldn't be east Baltimore or it won't be Cherry Hill. It would be go to the harbor, got to Fells Point, or go to the University or hospital. Yeah Hopkins definitely clouds Baltimore overall image but in a good way because Johns Hopkins is doing it in a bad way. It's not giving it negativity.

Marcus Hudgins: When you think of Johns Hopkins, you don't think, “Oh, they are evil or...” what's the word I'm looking for: Vindictive. You think "Oh, Johns Hopkins the hospital. The lifesaving hospital, the surgeon Ben Carson" and you think of the other surgeon. You think about the good things that's been done here. I think it does over shadow, but it's doing it in a good way because Baltimore has definitely been coming up a lot, but for not the right reasons. You hear Baltimore you think about the murders that's going on or the robbers, or the crime rate. We need that halo over our heads and that's what Johns Hopkins is giving us.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Some people would say that halo kind prevents things from being fixed or things getting done. Change being made for actual residents of the city of Baltimore.

Marcus Hudgins: Well, whoever thinks that is retarded ,because I don’t know why they would think that. We sit here talk about all the negativity stuff that's going on here in Baltimore and no one is trying to change that. You know? They say they're trying to change it, but same stuff has been going in and getting worse for years now. You know? I feel like Johns Hopkins name or stigma over Baltimore is good; it doesn't prevent or help change anything.

Marcus Hudgins: I don't think it helps change how Baltimore is— think it gives us a good a good look. You know? Before helping change the poverty levels or the crime rate I don't think that changes anything. You know? I think it draws more people here. But it doesn't change how Baltimore is.
Ifeyinwa Egbunike:  So, because Hopkins is so closely associated with Baltimore and it is what people think of when they think of Baltimore. Do you think Johns Hopkins as an institution has a responsibility to the city of Baltimore to make things better?

Marcus Hudgins:  I just want know how would they do that? I don't understand how they’d... even if I said they had a responsibility I wouldn't understand how they’ll actually go about doing that. That's not their job. It's our elected officials' job, regardless of if you got this multi-million company here or not. That is not their job to change Baltimore or make Baltimore something that it should be—like I said I'm a native here; born and raised.

Marcus Hudgins:  I love my city. But I don't think is Johns Hopkins responsibility to do anything. I feel if they do things, that’s great. I applaud them but I don’t feel like it’s their responsibility because of their name and who they are. That they should better Baltimore. No! That's the people we go out and vote for and we put in these offices. For them to do the hard lifting and heavy working change Baltimore for the better.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike:  Some people—I get where you’re coming from, totally—some people might say that because Johns Hopkins like in the city of Baltimore and they used up a lot of the resources when it comes to water, transportation. When we look at which way the trains go, which way the buses go, and they always make sure to hit Johns Hopkins campuses and things like that because Hopkins uses a lot of the resources. Some might argue that in some ways they’re being like a drain, like they’re draining Baltimore resources

Marcus Hudgins:  Well I know that Johns Hopkins is a very big institution here in Baltimore. It would be kind of crazy to say, “Well Johns Hopkins is here, but let's not give them anything. Or Let's not help them in any way.” Like I said, I don't feel like it's Johns Hopkins responsibility. I feel like they do give back in a sense. But as for them being a drain, I guess it matters who you talk to about it because I can argue that they’re not. Someone can argue that they are.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike:  Right.

Marcus Hudgins:  I don't know exactly, which one is right which one is wrong. I think it's all matter of opinion. Like I was saying, I could be bias because I have ties to Johns Hopkins personally. From high school to my grandmother, who used to work for John Hopkins. I personally have ties to Johns Hopkins. It'll be kinda bias. That's probably for instead of against. I don't know I feel like they do give back. I feel like they are a big presence here. But I feel like it is what it is; I feel like they're doing Baltimore a justice, in a sense.
Ifeyinwa Egbunike: I know you mentioned that your grandmother worked here as well. Where did she work on Homewood campus, or did she work on a different campus from here?

Marcus Hudgins: Oh no. She worked in the hospital.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay, what did she do at the hospital?

Marcus Hudgins: She was a phlebotomist for 25 years. Right, if you don't know what that is you should know what that is.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: They're the ones who do the little IVs. I said, “Woof” because I don't ...

Marcus Hudgins: She wasn't in. I'm not sure if you know. I don't really know all about it. She was one of the old type feel-and-poke type woman; stick and poke. I don't know what the actual term was. When she did the needle. She didn't have a lot of technology to like [crosstalk 00:12:11]. She was like a real life feel the vein and know where the vein is, and you got know the body and all that. She did that for 25 years. That was good.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: What did she tell you about Johns Hopkins when you were growing up as a kid?

Marcus Hudgins: I honestly don't remember ... We having those conversations. She liked her job, I knew that. She did it for 25 years and she never complained. She never was sick or injured; she always did her job right. I can remember, she never came home... She had bad days of course. Who doesn't?

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Right.

Marcus Hudgins: For the most part, for what my belief is, I believed that she loved her job. She loved what she was doing. She did it every day and it made her happy. So yeah.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Did your grandmother ever had a second job while she was working here at Hopkins?

Marcus Hudgins: I don't think so.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay.

Marcus Hudgins: Yeah, I don't think so.
Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay. So how do you think Hopkins has changed from your grandmother’s time to today? And I get it’s two different campuses, but ...

Marcus Hudgins: Right, Hopkins overall. I would say more resources, more technology, more money. Yeah, I guess those will be the three that can sum up everything. More resources, more technology, more money. Yeah, I guess those would be the three that could some up everything.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: In terms of like technology and resources. What do you mean?

Marcus Hudgins: Well, I’m not really into the whole medical field so I wouldn’t really know. I know those machines that scan your body for cancer and stuff; I know those are really developing. I’ve heard, not sure how true it is, but I’ve heard that Johns Hopkins has some of the most cutting-edge technology till date. That’s good that it’s here in Baltimore; that technology is here. As for technology the machines that they used, they find certain issues with people. The medicine has developed a lot; a lot of the medicine is came a long way from when you used to be sick and just let you be in bed and give you something and it barely worked.

Marcus Hudgins: Now there’s all these types of aspirins and pain medications. Liquids, all type of stuff that now cure you and save people.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: When you were growing up, I know you talk a lot about in terms of reputation, Hopkins hospital, Hopkins medicine. What was your perception about the Homewood campus?

Marcus Hudgins: I really didn’t have one. I honestly didn’t know that this college was here until I turned 17, 18. My whole childhood I didn’t know about this campus to be honest with you. Like I knew more about the hospital than the University. I really won’t be able to answer any questions about that. Until about recent years when I found about the campus.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: How do you think the university side of Hopkins is different from then Madison side of Hopkins?

Marcus Hudgins: I don’t know if there’s really so much different. It’s like two sides of the same coin type of thing. I feel like as though they’re both Johns Hopkins. They’re for medicine; that’s where most of the students here study, you know some type of medicine related. Some type of medical field—all that good stuff. I doubt they’re different in a way. Like I said earlier just two sides of the same coin. They’re both the same thing. At least in my eyes. You know they might be
different. Playing that one is a hospital and one is a college but in the end they're both aiming for the same goal.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: So, as you as someone that is employed by Ally university, have you ever had to work a shift at the medical campus or the hospital?

Marcus Hudgins: No, I have not. I always stayed here at Homewood campus.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Do they decide who works at what campus, is that permanently assigned to somebody?

Marcus Hudgins: Yeah, when you first get hired here, they let you know where you're going. That's where you're going. When I first got hired, I was coming to the campus. So that's where I been since I started working here.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: They train you specifically about this campus, what the buildings are called?

Marcus Hudgins: Yeah, they give you all that; they give you all that training. Also, when you get to a specific post or specific station, of where you're going to be at. You learn about that specific area. You also get field training, in the field training, so if I was tapped to work on Charles and 33rd, you know one day and I never worked there before; I would get trained to actually work there to know, what to see. What to look out for. You know? That's good.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: What do they usually tell you to look out for at the place you often work?

Marcus Hudgins: Not so much people. Be vigilant. If you sense something is not right be aware of your situation. Your surroundings, be safe, basically keep your head on a swivel, so to speak. You never know? Crime happens all the time. Can happen in a blink of an eye. It doesn't have to be crime, Someone can just drop their room key or something on the way past you and they don't notice. It doesn't have to be something negative; just be aware of what's going on at all times.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay, you also said they tell you about the area? Do they tell you like ...

Marcus Hudgins: Oh, like this area is heavy populated. This are might be safer than 34 and St. Paul. It's a heavy foot traffic area. It's a heavy area where students come in and out. It's also a heavy area with the homeless live around there. It's also three blocks from the ghetto, the hood so to speak; Greenmount's right there, that's a dangerous neighborhood. They prepare you, they let you know. They train you for it. Okay, so it's a heavy population of students around here. Just make sure that you're being safe. One, you protect yourself—be safe. Two, you make sure
that you look out for the others that are here. The good and the bad and you basically do the job.


Marcus Hudgins: My favorite Baltimore neighborhood [crosstalk 00:21:41]?

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Or Baltimore spot. Cause I know you said, "Yeah, I'm going to hang out with my friends at–" what neighborhood would you and your friends go to.

Marcus Hudgins: When I was little, I used to love my neighborhood a lot, but you know, we all grew up; everyone moves away and goes different places and all that. So, my favorite would be my childhood neighborhood. But as an adult, I see more adult things. Drinking, having fun with friends, socializing. For those that'll be more so downtown now. Back when I was younger it was, "Let's go around the corner and go to the playground," running around doing all that stuff. Now I'm older, downtown is where I gravitate towards now.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: What's your favorite spot in Charles Village? Like if you were just to hangout.

Marcus Hudgins: Nine East if you let me come in here (laughs)—sike no. You know what's funny, I don't really hangout around Charles village. I work down here, but other than that, I really don't be down here. I really had no need to.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Oh, why not?

Marcus Hudgins: Because I'm a homebody. Not a lot of people know that. Like I said I work here; I'm down here, but for most part if I'm not at work or I'm not like out, I'm in the house; that's where I'm at. I'm really a homebody, I try to stay home as much as possible, because now in days Baltimore is getting out of control, with these killings and violence. I don't need to be tied up to anything. I don't need anything happen to me or someone I'm with. The best way avoid that is be at home.

Ifeyinwa Egbunike: Okay. Well thank you so much once again.

Marcus Hudgins: You're welcome.