



The G.S.A. NEWSLETTER

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Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

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Once Upon a Midnight Sparkling

by Jutta Beneken

It was midnight in the central European timezone. The lights were still on. The TV was showing the same old crap (a German version of NBC's blockbuster "Y2K - The Movie"). The VCR wasn't spitting out tapes left and right. The water was still running (or at least we think so...we didn't really bother to check that until sometime later, when it was time for bed and there were teeth to be brushed). Other than the random fireworks shooting off into the sky from the street below, there were no signs that the long-awaited apocalypse was upon us. Bummer. Of course, we didn't really *expect* anything to happen, but in a way we wanted it to. Earlier that day we had watched first Sydney then Beijing then Moscow party like it was 1999 and nothing happened - wait, it *was* 1999 and *still* nothing happened! Actually, a few things did happen, but nothing that would have made the guys at the Disaster Preparedness Center break a sweat. The guys at the Pentagon probably *did* break a sweat though, because right when the Queen was dedicating the Millennium Dome in Greenwich, England, they lost contact to a few of

Notes from the GSA

by Jutta Beneken

A very happy 2000! As with the rest of the world, very few things have changed with the GSA since 1999. Two things, however, have changed slightly: 1) the guidelines for the GSA travel awards, and 2) the administration of the allgrad email alias.

As many of you know, the GSA has set aside a fraction of its annual budget for supplementing student travel to scientific meetings or field work. The quarterly deadlines for travel award applications have been replaced with a rolling application process in which applications are now accepted at any time. The GSA Finance Committee will review applications received on or before the first Tuesday of every month in time for that month's GSA meeting (on the second Tuesday of the month). There is now also a time restriction on the submission of applications: you can submit your application at any time before the meeting or field work, but no later than two months after its conclusion. The revised travel award guidelines as well as an updated travel award application can be found at <http://www.med.jhu.edu/gsa/travel.html>.

cont'd on page 2 -- GSA News

cont'd on page 3 -- Midnight

Upcoming GSA Meeting February 8

*** 517 PCTB ***

Meetings are held on the 2nd
Tuesday of each month at 2 pm

Upcoming GSA Events

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunity

Help renovate houses for low-income families in Baltimore City.

February 12, 2000.

Email the GSA at gsa-g@jhmi.edu if you're interested in helping out.

Alicia Showalter Reynolds Memorial Lecture

Speaker: Dr. Elisabetta Ullu,
Yale University
Tuesday, May 2, 2000.

Pioneers in Biology Lecture

Dr. James McKerrow,
UCSF
Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Contact gsa-g@jhmi.edu
with any comments.

That reminds me to put in another plug for the GSA website at <http://www.med.jhu.edu/gsa>. You will find links to upcoming GSA events, past issues of the GSA Newsletter, the parking wait lists, as well as useful links to other resources and fun things to do in Baltimore. In about a month or so we'll add a new link to the website that will include helpful hints for filling out your 1999 Tax Return. Also, don't forget that the GSA maintains a library of books on career issues, resume writing, interview skills, and the like. Again, more information, including a full listing of books, can be found on the GSA webpage. The library itself is located in the Office of Graduate Student Affairs in G-1 Hunterian.

The second change taking effect in the new year pertains to the posting of email notices to the allgrad alias. After a few months of confusion and hassle in regard to allgrad postings, the JHMI network has finally updated the system that maintains these aliases. The GSA email account functions as the owner of the allgrad list, which means that all messages to be posted will automatically first be sent to gsa-g@jhmi.edu for approval. These messages will be reviewed by those GSA officers and reps that have access to this account and, if deemed acceptable, returned to the listserver for posting. As before, the criteria for acceptable postings are as follows: only

official GSA announcements, announcements of general interest to the graduate student body, and requests for scientific reagents, advice, or equipment will be posted to the list. As of immediately, students wishing to post a notice to the allgrad list can do so by sending their message to allgrad@lists.jhmi.edu. In addition, the list is set up as having closed subscription and open unsubscribe, meaning that adding people to the list must be done via gsa-g@jhmi.edu, but that anyone can unsubscribe themselves. If you have any questions about this new setup, contact Matt Wallenfang at mwallenf@jhmi.edu.

Other GSA events planned for the spring: the fourth Annual Poster Session/Happy Hour, the Alicia Showalter Reynolds Memorial and Pioneers in Biology Lectures, and several community service opportunities. Watch this space and your email for more info.

The pen is mightier than the pipet...

Please send any poems, short stories, creative writing, essays, photos, or black and white art to the *GSA Newsletter*!

Submissions for the March/April issue will be due **March 24, 2000**.

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

February 17-22, 2000

For more information on the AAAS Career Series, see <http://www.aaas.org/meetings/2000/career.htm>.

Of particular interest to students is the following workshop: Taking Action on Young Scientists Career Development and Training Issues; Saturday, February 19, 2000, 12:00noon - 3:00pm).

Students can be session aides and get free admission. More information at: http://www.aaas.org/meetings/2000/aide_info.htm. Admission just for the career development program is \$10 for AAAS members or \$25 for nonmembers. You can register online at <https://secure.aaas.org/meetings/advance2000.htm>.



GSA Millennium Happy Hour

January 20, 2000

Graduate students (and others) enjoyed a sumptuous selection of finger foods, beer, sodas, sparkling conversation, and music from the '70s and '80s. Photo by J. Beneken.

On the Wild Side:

Gunpowder Falls State Park

by Ed Hsiao

Every now and then, Baltimore's winter doldrums of sub-freezing temperatures are interrupted by a few unseasonably warm days. A variety of outdoor options are available to take advantage of these days, including walks in Robert E. Lee Park, Loch Raven Reservoir, and Ptapsco State Park.

In contrast to these very popular areas, the Gunpowder Falls State Park system is often more quiet and serene. One area close to Baltimore is the Gunpowder trailhead on Belair Road. From Baltimore, take I-83 north to I-695 beltway northeast towards White Marsh/Perry Hall. Take exit 32 (Belair Road / Rt. 1) northbound and drive approximately 5.5 miles. Immediately after crossing a large cement bridge over Big Gunpowder Falls, turn right into the (rather small) parking area.

The parking lot serves as the trailhead for several paths heading in different directions (look on the trail map for specific blazes and directions). Most of

the trails are now closed to mountain bikers except for the Belair Road to Harford Road path that runs along the Big Gunpowder Falls. To access this trail, descend to the tunnel that passes under Belair Road. After passing through the tunnel, immediately turn left and follow the trail alongside the bridge. At the end of the bridge, bear right and follow the trail as it winds behind a tavern. Continue straight across the grassy knoll, over a small stream, and onto a narrow path that winds through the woods.

A particularly scenic trail for hiking (but closed to bikers and horses) is the Stockdale Road/Valley Rim walk. To access this trail, again go under Belair Road via the tunnel. Instead of turning left at the end of the tunnel, continue straight ahead into the woods with the river on your left, and follow the blazes.

Make sure you look at the map near the tunnel before you head out – a lot of the trails intersect, and you should know which color blaze you want to follow. Also, while the trails in this area are not particularly difficult, there are occasional rocky areas and lots of exposed roots.

Happy trails!

Midnight, cont'd from page 1

their satellite intelligence systems. The systems hiccupped not because of the unexpected display of affection between Elizabeth II and her husband (the two of them were holding hands with Prime Minister Tony Blair while singing Auld Lang Syne), but because Greenwich Mean Time happens to be the time standard for many satellite systems. News of this malfunction didn't leak to the press until most people in the U.S. had already gone to sleep. Of course, according to the Pentagon, this malfunction never even happened in the first place...

You might wonder...what else happened that we weren't told about? Probably not that much. Most computer glitches aren't that easy to hide these days, and there is a website, of course. Sangersreview.com collected and archived all news reports about the Y2K problem. According to them, France also reported a small fault in their military satellite system (they temporarily lost contact to their forces in Kosovo), Swedish hospitals experienced problems with some heart monitoring equipment, and the computers at a few Chinese credit card companies and banks broke down temporarily. The automatic access system (i.e. the *door*) at an Arkansas power plant went offline but was repaired quickly, a false alarm was set off at a

chemical weapons depot near Seattle, and Amtrak's Philadelphia Control Center lost train symbols as the trains were progressing on the system. In the latter case the date was reset to 1972 and now everything is running smoothly again...

While it seems like most of the Y2K bugs were fixed in less time than it took me to recover from the flu bug, I was especially impressed with how Amtrak handled its particular problem. Resetting the date...how ingenious. Great way to save on all of those Y2K compliant software upgrades the rest of us had to install, too. The other option is to make like the 200 inhabitants of the isolated town of Gwaun Valley in Wales. While the rest of Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, these calendar rebels stuck with the Julian calendar and are thus 11 days behind. Keep this in mind for New Year's 2001, when the new millennium *really* begins. You can celebrate it three times: once in Tonga (in the eastern-most timezone), once in Western Samoa (across the International Date Line from Tonga and thus a full day behind), and once in Gwaun Valley. You'll have 11 days to find your way from Western Samoa to Gwaun Valley. Plenty of time, even if the GPS satellites go offline temporarily and/or you catch the flu.

A Taste of Baltimore

by Sarah Wheelan

Most of you have probably not been around long enough to remember Mike's, a run-down semi-Mexican bar that quietly sat on Broadway in Fells Point. Two years ago, Mike's was sold, and since then we have been curiously watching the building's transformation from a dusty old rat-trap to an elegant new restaurant. Purchased by twin brothers, the building began another life last summer, now housing the restaurant Gemini plus a downstairs bar. For anyone who knew the old Mike's, Gemini is a startling testament to carpentry. While we were peeking in the window, one of the owners came out to offer us a menu, and we gladly stopped by a couple of weeks later with a whole group of people eager to try the offerings of this fresh new face on Broadway.

Gemini is located at 710 South Broadway (just up the block from Bertha's), in Fells Point (410-342-8711). The menu is fairly small, but we thoroughly enjoyed everything we tried. There is a very nice bar downstairs, but we preferred to dine in the cozy and elegant upstairs dining room.

We knew we were in for a treat when the bread arrived still steamy and fresh. The bread is served with a deliciously strong garlic, basil and cheese spread.

We started off with a bowl of the soup of the day, which was New England clam chowder. The soup was thick and full of clams, with a smoky flavor. We also tried the fried calamari, which was served with a thick olive, garlic, and basil dip. The calamari was tender, crisp, nicely seasoned, and not at all greasy. The third appetizer we sampled was the Phyllo Triangle, a unique and tasty phyllo creation filled with crab meat, arti-

chokes, and vaguely Greek spices. All appetizers are \$5-\$8.

In addition to the appetizers (which include hummus, salads, and baked oysters as well), there are several "light fare" options, including a crabcake sandwich, steamed shrimp, and steamed mussels. We went straight for the entrees. Our favorite entrée was the broiled salmon filet, served with goat cheese and a raspberry vinaigrette. The salmon was juicy, flaky, and very fresh, and the accompanying greens and sauce were delectable. We also enjoyed the roasted vegetable ratatouille (also available with chicken or shrimp). It's a stew of seasoned vegetables served over linguine, for only \$8. Another diner tried the Gemini bouillabaisse, which included shrimp, mussels, and calamari (not the innocuous cut-up ones, but entire small squid, to warn the more squeamish) all in an excellent tomato-based broth. The lamb stew was also a hit. Entrees range from \$8 to \$16.

All desserts are made in-house, and the choices were quite unique – no insanely chocolatey cakes or 2-pound cheesecake slices, but rather bread pudding, fruit tarts, raspberry brownies, and baklava. We opted for the bread pudding and baklava, both of which were spectacular. To our surprise, the waiter brought out complimentary glasses of dessert wine with our desserts.

The service was attentive but not overbearing, the atmosphere was very comfortable, and the food was top-notch. Gemini has not yet been discovered by the mainstream Baltimore diners, so give it a try before it gets too crowded!

Johns Hopkins Blood Drive

The next Johns Hopkins Blood Drive will be on February 29 - March 1, 2000. Donations are accepted from 7am to 7pm on both days. Watch out for informational posters, or call 5-5488 for more information.

The Johns Hopkins University International Travel Clinic

Traveling for work or fun? Don't forget to contact the International Travel Clinic at least two weeks prior to your departure!

This service provides health information, routine immunizations, and preventive medications for your trip. The service also takes appointments for the diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of travel related illnesses.

Appointments can be arranged by calling 410-955-8931.

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