



# The G.S.A. NEWSLETTER

a publication of the  
Graduate Student Association  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

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## **Business Careers for Scientists and Physicians**

by Erick Noensie

Have you considered all of your post-graduate career options? I know there are others out there who, like myself, prefer a broader perspective of science over the focus of a research lab. Perhaps you have mulled over starting your own biotech company, or you just like the idea of spending weekends in a New York corporate suite. In my case, I knew that I wanted to use my scientific background in a business setting, but I didn't know how to make the transition. The fact is not many M.D.s and Ph.D.s out there are working in the commercial world, and there is no well-charted pathway to this other career track.

In order to develop such a pathway, a group of graduate students and myself have created the Johns Hopkins Biomedical and Business Network (JHBBN). JHBBN is a non-profit organization open to all students, post-docs, employees, and alumni of The Johns Hopkins Institutions. We want to create an active group of biomedical scientists who have an interest in eventually working in a business environment. Such businesses include biotech industry, management consulting, investment banking, venture capital, patent law and the creation of biotech startups. Our goals are to establish

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## **A Note of Thanks**

by Pierre Coulombe

Having been honored with the GSA Teacher of the Year Award, I asked for a little space in this forum to express my gratitude and share a few thoughts about being a teacher and advisor at Hopkins. It's great to write a piece that will endure little if any peer review. That is, until it is published...

In the past eight years I have come to know many individuals who are truly great teachers and leaders in the area of postgraduate education here at Hopkins. These are the people "who make this place work" as a teaching institution - no small feat given the complexity of the mission of a top-level University/Hospital such as ours. These people inspire me in my quest to continue to improve my effectiveness as a teacher and advisor. Award notwithstanding, I am the first to know that there is room for improvement. Like Jonathan the Seagull, a borderline kamikaze character in a simple-but-inspiring book by Richard Bach, I long for the perfect flight, and just like him, I constantly search for people who can teach me. This "eternal student" is therefore humbled by your selection. I interpret it as a recognition, on your part, that I care a great deal about graduate education. I therefore thank you, from the bottom of my heart. A big thank you also goes to many of my

*cont'd on page 2 -- Thanks*

## *Upcoming GSA Meeting September 12*

**\*\*\* 517 PCTB \*\*\***

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

## Upcoming GSA Events Orientation Happy Hour

Thursday, August 31st  
2 - 4 p.m.  
PCTB Courtyard

**\*\*\*\*\***

## All-JHMI Party

Friday, Sept. 8th  
8 p.m. - 1 a.m.  
PCTB Courtyard/Greenhouse  
DJ, free food, beverages, etc.

**\*\*\*\*\***

## Fall Picnic

Saturday, Sept. 9th 1-5 p.m.  
Garland Field, Homewood  
rain date: 9/23  
Hang out with your little/big  
sib and enjoy our BBQ.

**\*\*\*\*\***

## Orioles Tickets

Orioles vs. Yankees  
Sept. 29th, 7:05 p.m.  
Camden Yards  
see ad on p. 3 for details

**\*\*\*\*\***

## 2000 Race for the Cure

Oct. 8 at Rash Field, Inner Harbor.  
Join the Hopkins Team. Take part in the  
School Challenge. For details, see  
<[www.med.jhu.edu/gsa/events/race2000.html](http://www.med.jhu.edu/gsa/events/race2000.html)>

## President's Report

by Tina Tenenhaus

There's no denying it...another school year is about to begin! A new class of graduate students is about to tackle their first year courses, seminars and journal clubs will get rolling faster than you can set up a PCR reaction, and free food will abound. While other things slowed down during the summer months, the 2000-2001 GSA council has been busy getting ready for the new year.

There was no election for this year's officers (no positions were contested) so you may not have realized that there was a transition in leadership in July. As the new president I am continuing Jutta Beneken's custom of writing a column for the GSA which will serve to update you on the council's activities and plans. One of our priorities has been to fill a few of the **empty positions for departmental representatives** (check p.4 to see if you're being represented). Representatives play a key role in what I consider to be the main function of the GSA: to share ideas and graduate student concerns with the SOM administration. On the other hand, all GSA meetings are

open to everyone, so you can share your thoughts directly with other students. GSA meetings last only about one hour and the rumors about being roped into doing things are only partially true!

Several GSA sponsored activities are planned to welcome the new students to Hopkins. Our first job is to organize **Orientation Day**. If you think back to your Orientation you may remember a long day with lots of waiting around. This year we are trying to streamline the activities and gear them more towards graduate students. Part of this plan includes a **Happy Hour** in the PCTB courtyard during the afternoon of Aug. 31. Stay tuned for ways you can participate in Orientation besides eating chips at the Happy Hour. The **GSA Picnic** will be on Saturday, Sept. 9 at Homewood's Garland Field. Hopefully we will only be sharing the field with the construction workers nearby. To finish off the September activities why not join your little sib/big sib and fellow graduate students to see the **Orioles and the Yankees play** on Friday, Sept. 29?

For the next newsletter I hope to be able to share with you this year's speakers for the **Pioneers in Science** seminar. For now I'll say...Phil Sharp, Mark Ptashne, Tom Steitz...hope to see you around this fall!

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### *Business careers, cont'd from page 1*

informational resources for the job search, furnish the opportunity to build your business resume, and provide a member list for networking and informational interviewing purposes.

We have established a website (which was featured as the Homestead.com website of the day) that serves as a point of contact for its members at Johns Hopkins and those who have already moved on into business careers. Presently our network has almost thirty members, and a small group of us are currently writing profiles of biotech companies in the Mid-Atlantic region so scientists who are looking for local biotech jobs can investigate the opportunities. We are building a feature-rich platform with other site projects such as an online newsletter, a job posting database, and the establishment of corporate sponsors. We also plan to host activities such as recruiting events, guest speakers, and a biomedical business plan competition.

We invite you to join us, and we are also looking for individuals who want to participate in the growth of the organization. For details, visit our website or contact us by email, and to register for membership, go to the networking page and click "Become a member."

Website: <http://homestead.com/jhbbn/home.html>

email: erick@jhmi.edu

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### *Thanks, cont'd from page 1*

colleagues on this faculty.

Can we better the education that we provide for the graduate students here at Hopkins? I believe so. Technological advances alone will improve the transfer of information and knowledge. In the next couple of years we will see a dramatic increase in computer-crafted and delivered lectures, with movies, animations, and so on. Such lectures and/or journal clubs are more exciting to give, and chances are that they'll be more stimulating to attend. Before long the tremendous potential offered by the world wide web will radically redefine the concept of "lecturing", and that of student-faculty exchange.

At another level, I am hoping for more student-driven activities. This "take-charge" approach should be encouraged. There are monthly research meetings and/or journal clubs that are organized and attended by students. In recent years there has been a steady increase in the number of special lectureships that are organized and led by students as well. We've been visited by great scientists in this context - part of the success resides in the fact that researchers love to be invited by students for such lectureships. A suggestion: tap into the local pool! Why not occasionally invite Hopkins faculty members to speak on a specific topic? I think many of us would be thrilled to be given an open mandate to discuss with you the holy grails of our respective fields without having to be concerned about achieving specific educational goals (or self-promoting ones.)

My thanks go to the GSA leadership for the opportunity to address you. I wish you all a terrific year. Once again, thank you.

## **An Idiots Guide to Tenant Rights**

by Emily Overholser

After living in a dorm room for four years before starting my tenure at Hopkins, I was a complete new-comer to the world of paying rent and dealing with landlords. My first year I found an apartment with relative ease but decided that I wanted to live closer to the city. I, along with two of my friends, decided to look for a three-bedroom house in one of the neighborhoods popular with graduate students. Four months later, we found our nearly perfect home to rent on a quaint little street in the Charles Village area. I should have known that it was too good to be true.

After finally deciding to let us have the house our landlord raised the rent \$150 over the initial figure posted in the newspaper because we are students and could tear up the house. Every bone in my body screamed discrimination at this point, but we were too desperate to find a place we liked that we let it slide.

The first year passed rather uneventfully. Whenever we had a problem, we would call our landlord who would grumble and groan about having to pay for things but would always cough up the money for repairs in the end. At this point my housemates and I had already decided to stay in the house for another year. In order to curtail a further rent increase, we had gone out of our way to fix up the somewhat run-down exterior: ripping out a jungle of ivy, planting new flowers, mulching, and painting old deck furniture.

Weeks went by, and we never heard from our landlord about increasing the rent or extending the lease. We assumed no news was good news. WRONG! Two weeks before the end of our one year lease, our landlord called and said she was raising our rent 10% to account for the increase in her variable mortgage. She said that

she needed to know in a week whether we wanted the house because if not she was going to sell it. (If I only had a dime for every time I've heard that!) Unfortunately, one of my housemates was vacationing in Europe at the time and was not going to be back until after the lease was up. Obviously, this little bombshell was quite disturbing, so I decided to investigate just what we could and couldn't do in our situation.

Remember this: "Just because I'm a tenant doesn't mean that I don't have rights" and also remember this phone number: (410)243-6007. This is the phone number of Baltimore Neighborhoods Inc. (BNI) Office of Landlord / Tenant Relations, a wonderful resource for renters who don't know what is legal and what is not in regards to renting an apartment in the Baltimore area. I called this office and learned from a very patient, knowledgeable person that our landlord was required by law in Baltimore City to give us 60 days WRITTEN notice of any rent increase. Bottom line was that we didn't have to tell her within a week whether or not we wanted to sign a lease.

As I said before one of my landlord's favorite things to say is that she's going to sell the house. She's even gone so far as to suggest that if she wanted, she could buy out our lease and essentially kick us out should she feel the need. BNI to the rescue! I can sleep easier at night knowing that if a landlord decides to sell the property, they must first offer it to the current tenants (Right of First Refusal), and if the tenant turns down the offer, the new landlord must honor the full terms of the lease.

There is law after law such as these that are designed to protect tenants from being bullied and menaced by landlords. The problem arises when no one knows that the laws exist. You have rights! If you think that your landlord is being unfair, find out what the law says and then stand up for your rights as responsible tenants should!

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## **GEICO Auto Insurance Discount for Grad Students**

The NAGPS (National Association of Graduate and Professional Students) and GEICO Auto Insurance have teamed up to offer discounted auto insurance to graduate students. Check out the NAGPS page with information and links to a GEICO online rate quote page at: <<http://www.nagps.org/NAGPS/news/NAGPS-GEICO-980712.html>> or call GEICO at 1-800-361-3330 or check out their web page at <<http://www.geico.com>>

## **Johns Hopkins Blood Drive**

The next Johns Hopkins Blood Drive will be on September 5-6, 2000 in Turner Concourse.

Donations are accepted from 7am to 7pm on both days. Watch out for informational posters, or call 5-5488 for more information.

## 2000-2001 GSA Officers

President	Tina Tenenhaus	ctenenha@jhmi.edu
Vice Presidents	Joanna Zarach	jzarach@jhmi.edu
	Jay Mussell	jmussell@jhmi.edu
Secretary	C.G. Moore	moorec@jhmi.edu
Treasurer	Charles Dann III	cdann@jhmi.edu

### GSA Department Representatives 2000-2001

Art as Applied to Medicine	Helen MacFarlane, Zina Deretsky
BCMB	Adam Haberman
Biological Chemistry	Dan Cohen
Biomedical Engineering (BME)	Cristina Perez de la Cruz
Biophysics	TBA
Cell Biology	Debbie Kuehn
CMM	David Jiang, Richard Cho, Chris Brett
Functional Anatomy and Evolution	Ann Zumwalt
History of Science and Technology	Lloyd Ackert
Human Genetics	TBA
Immunology	Daphne Monie
Intercampus Program in Molecular Biophysics (IPMB):	Nicholas Goffeney
	Matt Wallenfang
MBG	Amy Purcell
Neuroscience	TBA
Pathobiology	TBA
Pharmacology	TBA
Physiology	TBA

### GSA Committee Representatives 2000-2001

Medical School Council:	Tina Tenenhaus/Jutta Beneken
M.A. Ph.D. Committee	Jay Mussell
Graduate Board	Joanna Zarach
University Health Services	Nicholas Goffeney
Parking	Debbie Kuehn
Graduation	Matt Wallenfang

## Welcome New Students!

The *GSA Newsletter* is published 5 times a year by the Graduate Student Association.

In addition to keeping you up-to-date on topics directly related to your graduate education, we try to provide information that might enhance your stay/career in Baltimore. Check out the back issues of the *Newsletter* online at <[www.med.jhu.edu/gsa/news.html](http://www.med.jhu.edu/gsa/news.html)> for articles on housing, restaurants, and things to do in Baltimore!

We encourage you, our readers, to submit articles, experiences, pearls of wisdom, event announcements, artwork, etc. to the *Newsletter* – we generally try to publish what we can!

We wish you the best of luck with your research and studies!

-- The *Newsletter* Editors

## 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 next issue will be due **Oct. 20, 2000**

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## ORIOLES TICKETS!

**Friday, Sept. 29th, 2000**  
**7:05 pm**

**Orioles vs. NY Yankees**

**@ Camden Yards**  
**Ticket prices to be announced.**

<http://www.med.jhu.edu/gsa/events/ogames.html>