



The G.S.A. NEWSLETTER

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

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Top 10 Alternative News From the GSA Uses for your ID Badge

by Matt Wallenfang

10. Photographic memoir of "My First Day of School"
9. Use clip as nose plug while swimming
8. Spare shoelace holder
7. Spare ball earring holder
6. Use razor sharp chain as emergency chain saw
5. (for those too cool for 8, 7, 6) fashionable belt accessory
4. Open your own Kinko's copy franchise
3. Keep that pesky necktie down on windy days
2. "In the event of a declared emergency," rest assured that you'll be able to get into the lab to passage your cells
1. STUDENT DISCOUNTS

Yes, just because you've left the carefree life of a college student behind doesn't mean that you have to give up all those nifty student discounts you've grown to love. A wide variety of cultural institutions in Baltimore realize that you are just as poor as you ever were and are more than happy to offer you discounts (in the hopes that when you get a "real job" you'll be hooked and willing to pay full price). What follows is a highly selective, non-comprehensive list of some of the cultural activities I have found most worthwhile and economical.

cont'd on page 3 -- Discounts

by Jutta Beneken

Many of the returning graduate students and regular readers will realize that this column was usually much more condensed (and maybe more to the point). As the GSA and the *GSA Newsletter* are looking ahead to a new academic year, it became clear that too much is going on with the GSA to fit into a 2" x 4" box. Starting with this issue of the *Newsletter*, this column will become a regular feature in the hopes that new and returning graduate students will look to this space for a summary of issues on the GSA's agenda. Upcoming GSA-sponsored events will continue to be advertised on the front page.

The first plug I want to make is for the **GSA webpage** at <www.med.jhu.edu/gsa>. Here you will find links to a GSA event calendar, including detailed information about selected upcoming events, contact information for officers and representatives, as well as on-line minutes of past GSA meetings. You can also get information on how to apply for a GSA travel award, or how to get funding for your student group. We've recently improved on the Parking page, adding online waiting lists for on-site and off-site parking lots and links to JHMI shuttle route timetables. Other links from the main page include information regarding University Health Services (UHS), the Homewood Graduate Representative Organization (GRO), and the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS). Check it out. As always, we welcome suggestions and constructive criticism.

A propos UHS and NAGPS: two quick tidbits of information. 1) **The UHS Benefits Office**, which handles claims and bills, has moved to 144 Blalock (located

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Upcoming GSA Meeting September 21

GSA Meetings are usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at **2 pm** in **517 PCTB** (the Sept. meeting being on the 3rd Tues. is an exception)

Upcoming GSA Events

Saturday, September 11: **GSA Fall Picnic**

1-5 pm, Garland Field
Homewood Campus
Hang out with your big sib/little sib and meet other graduate students!
Watch for more info.

Monday, September 13: **Orioles vs. Seattle Mariners**

7:05 p.m. Tickets will go on sale Thursday, Sept 2.
Tickets are free for new students, \$8 for other graduate students, \$10 for non-students. Each ticket includes a \$5 gift certificate redeemable only at the ballpark on the day of the game for concessions, merchandise, tickets, or tours.
Tickets are available from:
Charles Dann, 703 Hunterian
Kellie Cummings, 104 Biophysics
Marie Mancini, 1055/1059 Ross
<www.med.jhu.edu/gsa/events/ogames.html>

Wednesday, September 15: **"Wild Type" Happy Hour**

8 p.m., Evergreen House,
4545 N. Charles St.
Hear live music by Bert Vogelstein's band "Wild Type" and mingle with fellow graduate students.
Hosted by the CMM program.
Sponsored by CMM and the GSA.
For directions and more info:
Heidi Galonek (hgalonek@jhmi.edu)

Sunday, October 3, 1999: **1999 Race for the Cure**

Rash Field, Inner Harbor.
Join the Hopkins Team. Take part in the School Challenge. For details, see
<www.med.jhu.edu/gsa/events/racecure.html>

On the Wild Side: Robert E. Lee Memorial Park

by Ed Hsiao

First of all, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all of the new students! As you may already know, Baltimore has a lot to offer, including museums, shops, theater, nightlife, and the outdoors.

In the next few installments of "On the Wild Side," I'll highlight nearby opportunities to explore the great outdoors. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome at <ehsiao@jhmi.edu>. You can also find past articles of OTWS on the *GSA Newsletter* website.

One of the closest and most popular getaways is Robert E. Lee Memorial Park. Also known as Lake Roland, the woods in the park are very popular with birdwatchers, mountain bikers, runners, and walkers. To get to the park, take I-83 North to Northern Parkway eastbound (exit 10A). Turn left at the first stoplight onto Falls Road northbound and follow the road for about 0.9 mi. Just across from the Blockbuster video (on the left) and just before a long bridge over the Jones Falls, turn right and then right again onto the access road to the park (Lakeside Drive, although it is unmarked). Keep going towards the dam and park along the side of the road after the second speed bump.

From the parking area, cross the bridge just below the dam and walk uphill to the right to the picnic area. (Note that the dam area is in some disrepair, but things get

better!) Take the left fork (actually, the left fork of a loop around the picnic shelters) and walk about 200 meters. Just before the picnic shelter at the top of the knoll, turn left onto a very eroded dirt path going downhill towards the MTA light rail tracks. Cross the tracks (very carefully, especially if you are walking a dog) and follow the path along the water's edge.

The trail follows a previous railbed used by the Northern Central Railway, although the section here no longer connects with the NCR trail extending from Cockeysville to Pennsylvania. As with most rails-to-trails conversions, the Robert E. Lee Park trail is in excellent condition and relatively flat. The trail extends over 2 miles into the woods before reaching an old railroad bridge over the Jones Falls. You'll see various single-track side trails extending off to the left and right; most of these eventually meet up with the main trail before the bridge. For a particularly scenic walk, take a small trail to the left just before the bridge and walk along the Jones Falls.

For more information about the Robert E. Lee park, see Alan Fisher's book *Country Walks Near Baltimore*. Information on other Maryland parks can be found on the Maryland Department of Natural Resources web site at <www.dnr.state.md.us>. Happy Trails!

CSSA

The Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA) consists mainly of Chinese graduate students and scholars studying or working at JHMI. Its mission is to raise the profile of Chinese students and scholars at JHMI, to coordinate the initial accomodation of newcomers, to nurture intercultural interactions, and to facilitate its members' career development. Contact: Jiangwen Zhang, zsunrise@jhmi.edu, 5-3975 (lab), 662-9869 (home).

The pen is mightier than the pipet...

Please send any poems, short stories, creative writing, photos, or black and white art to the *GSA Newsletter*! Submissions for the October/November issue will be due **Oct. 22, 1999**.

You know you're a Hopkins graduate student if...

- ...the concept of free time scares you
- ...you consider caffeine to be a major food group
- ...the professor doesn't show up to class and you discuss the papers anyway
- ...you appreciate the fact that you get to choose WHICH twenty hours out of the day you have to work
- ...you have more copy cards than credit cards
- ...you look forward to some time off to do laundry
- ...you can analyze the significance of lectures you cannot understand
- ...you find yourself explaining to children that you are in the "20th grade"
- ...you have accepted guilt as an inherent feature of relaxation
- ...you and your friends have a heated discussion about the digestive system of worms in a crowded restaurant
- ...your lab desk is better decorated than your apartment
- ...you have resigned yourself to living underground in the name of science

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For me, one of the great pleasures of living in Baltimore has been the surprising wealth of cultural opportunities in the area. In particular, there are a number of excellent local theatres that consistently present top-quality productions for a fraction of the price of theatre in New York. The **Everyman Theatre**, located on Charles St. just north of Penn Station and the Charles Theatre, offers some of the most consistently outstanding theatre I have seen. This season includes the Tony Award-winning play *Last Night of Ballyhoo* and Tennessee Williams' classic *The Glass Menagerie*. Student tickets are \$13 (\$15 for the general public), and a four-play season subscription is only \$45 - I promise you won't be disappointed. Also popular is **Center Stage**, located in Mt. Vernon on Calvert St. Production values here are always top-notch, and while quality is sometimes uneven, a good show is second to none. This season, watch for Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Student rush tickets are available on the day of the performance and range from \$10 - \$20.

Baltimore also offers a number of great options for art lovers. The **Baltimore Museum of Art**, conveniently located at the Homewood Campus, features a wide range of artistic periods and styles, including a large contemporary wing and the world-class Cone Collection which includes some outstanding work by Henri Matisse. Admission is \$4 for students, but there is no charge for students on Thursdays. Also worth seeing is the **Walters Art Gallery**, located in the heart of Mt. Vernon near the Monument. The Walters boasts an impressive permanent collection, and always hosts a wide range of intriguing temporary exhibits. Admission is \$3 for students, although special exhibits may require a separate admission fee.

If hobnobbing with Baltimore's elite is more your style, even this is possible in Baltimore on a student's

budget. The upcoming season of the **Baltimore Opera** is jam-packed with hits - including Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Verdi's *La Traviata*, and Puccini's *La Bohème* - and serves as a great introduction to opera neophytes. Student rush tickets are available on the day of the performance, making this otherwise prohibitively expensive outing available to us commoners. In the same vein, the **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra** offers what I believe to be the greatest benefit of being a grad student in Baltimore - \$8 student rush tickets. For the price of a movie, you can enjoy a truly world-class orchestra performing with top artists from the classical world. Performances run almost weekly from fall to spring, and provide a great diversion from classwork and lab.

Finally, for those who wish to get out of Baltimore, there are a number of options for doing that cheaply as well. During the week, inexpensive (under \$10) **MARC trains** regularly make the 45 minute trip between Baltimore's Penn Station and Washington's Union Station. Once in D.C., there is no limit to the number of free museums you can find. Going to the big city, **Peter Pan/Greyhound** offers \$45 round-trip student fares to New York City. Two of the thousands of deals in New York are the **TKTS booths** (in Times Square and at the World Trade Center) which offer 1/2 price theatre tickets, and the enormous **Metropolitan Museum of Art** on the east side of Central Park, which has a pay-what-you-can admission policy.

What I've presented here are just a few of the many opportunities for student discounts in and around Baltimore. Be sure to inquire elsewhere as many times student discounts are not widely advertised. Also, for all of the above be sure to call ahead and confirm ticket availability, as student tickets are generally not reservable. Good luck bargain hunting, and remember that being a poor grad student is no excuse to be less cultured than your cells.



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Physiology	TBA

GSA Committee Representatives 1999-2000

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M.A. Ph.D. Committee	Nicholas Goffeney/Jay Mussell
Graduate Board	Jessa Jones
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Parking	Holly Berkovits
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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> 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

GSA News, cont'd from page 1

just down the hall from the UHS clinic). Their phone number remains unchanged (5-3872). 2) The NAGPS has teamed up with **GEICO Auto Insurance** to offer discounted auto insurance to graduate students. This information is particularly valuable to new students and those who are thinking about getting a car. Even if you already have auto insurance from a different company, you may want to take advantage of this offer. The NAGPS webpage links to a GEICO online rate quote page at <www.nagps.org/benefits/auto/index.html>. You can also call GEICO at 1-800-861-8380 or check out their web page at <www.geico.com>.

Some very exciting news out of Dean Hildreth's Office of Graduate Student Affairs is the announcement of the JHU SOM - Dunbar High School **NSF Graduate Teaching Fellows Program**. This program is aimed at senior graduate students who are close to completing their bench work and have the permission of their thesis advisor to spend up to one full academic year as teaching interns at nearby Dunbar High School. Four selected students will be paired with teachers in Dunbar's Biotechnology Program and will receive an annual stipend of \$18,000 as well as additional funds to develop other teaching aids. This program is a unique opportunity for

graduate students to gain practical and theoretical teaching experience in a classroom setting while still in graduate school. For more information, contact Cathy Will-Scott at 4-3385.

On an entirely different note I would like to announce that the GSA recently acquired a **digital camera** and has adopted a general policy of use. Graduate students can sign out the camera for a maximum of 24 hours (no weekends) for use at on- or off-campus Hopkins-sponsored events. GSA representatives and officers may sign out the camera on weekends for GSA-sponsored events only. Everyone who signs out the camera must leave a \$20 refundable deposit and all pertinent contact information.

As for other GSA events this upcoming year, we are planning three lectures (the **Alicia Showalter Reynolds Memorial Lecture** and two lectures in the **Pioneers in Biology Series**), a number of volunteer events, as well as a **Graduate Student Town Meeting**. More on these and other events in future issues of the *Newsletter*. As a final point I will reiterate that the GSA welcomes your suggestions and feedback, especially with regard to the inviting of seminar speakers and the planning of social and academic events. If you would like to get involved, email me (jbeneken@jhmi.edu), the GSA (gsa-g@jhmi.edu) or attend one of the upcoming GSA meetings.