



THE GRAD NEWS

A Newsletter for the Homewood Graduate Student Community

State of the GRO Report

GRO Co-Chair John Matsui outlines the work of GRO in the past semester and unveils plans for the future.

Fellow Homewood Graduate Students,

The department representatives and officers of the Graduate Representative Organization have been hard at work this semester. For you. We meet with the president and deans of the Homewood campus to express your concerns regarding stipends, health insurance, research, teaching, etc. We provide you with weekly coffee hours as well as regular happy hours, bus trips, and other social events.

The GRO General Council has been very generous during the Fall Semester. We have already dispensed more than half of our annual group funding budget, or some \$10,000. Graduate student groups that have held events with GRO support include the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA), Hopkins Biotech Network, Hopkins Dance Club, Human Rights Working Group, Indian Graduate Student Association (IGSA), JHU Association for India's Development, and Practical Self-Defense Club.

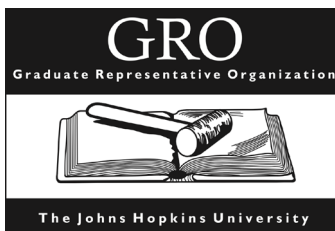
Your Chairs secured a \$20,000 annual budget to promote the cross-campus socialization of all Hopkins graduate students in Baltimore. We have already held a "PhD Comics" movie screening at the School of Medicine and a Yule Ball at the Homewood campus. Stay tuned for a poker tournament in the spring and a summer activity. As the GRO set up the fund – and as possession is nine-tenths of the law – Homewood graduates have the lion's share of influence in determining how the fund is spent each year. As such, we would welcome interested grad students to join a committee to plan cross-campus social events for the 2012-13 academic year. We feel that the Graduate Socialization Initiative is in line with President Daniels' desire to promote cross-campus research and other academic interactions.

We are not, however, resting on our laurels. Yuanming Suo, your Alumni & Development Chair is intrepidly crafting a partnership with the Society of Engineering Alumni, Second Decade Society, and JHU Alumni Association to help current students to network with graduate alumni. Ehsan Variani, your Diversity Coordinator, has

proposed an initiative to encourage graduate students of all nationalities and cultures to find each other and to help welcome new grads. Each of our E-Board members would be happy to form a committee of graduate students interested in discussing current concerns and initiatives to anticipate future issues.

We shall continue to press our concern for space dedicated to graduate students. Graduate students at UPenn have a building dedicated to their use. At Cornell, graduate students have "The Barn," where they can order lunch, hold happy hours, and read the newspaper (or the latest monograph). We are particularly concerned about space for academic use by graduate students, namely for the holding of sensitive conversations about grades that currently take place in public, as well as private study space that will help you write your dissertations in the goal of a humane time-to-degree. ■

John Matsui, GRO Co-Chair



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INTERVIEW: Alumni & Development Chair Yuanming Suo talks about the upcoming events of the Society of Homewood Graduate Alumni.

Tell us about yourself.

Happy new year, my name is Yuanming Suo. I am a third year PhD student in the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering.

What is your role in the GRO E-board and what are the related responsibilities?

I am the Alumni & Development Chair, who is responsible for building the relationship with former graduate students and organizing Alumni-Grad events.

How would this position help the current graduate student community?

Last summer, we organized two career events featuring experts from the Career Center and TechUSA on resume polishing and networking strategies. Around 50 graduate students participated in the events and we have received great feedback. This spring, we have planned something bigger – the Pathway program.

From February to April, we're going to host seminars and panels each month with guest speakers who are graduate alumni from the Schools of Engineering and Arts & Sciences. The backgrounds of guest speakers span academia, industry, and government. And we will conclude the spring semester with the Graduate Alumni Reunion event during the Homecoming Weekend. These events are planned to help current graduate students build a better understanding of the career options after graduation and establish strong professional network connections both in industry and academia.

What would be the best way to learn more about these events?

For general info about the events, please stay tuned to the GRO e-mail list and join the Facebook group of JHU Society of Homewood Graduate Alumni. If you are interested in joining me for event planning or have suggestions, you can reach me any time via e-mail - ysuo1@jhu.edu. ■

IGSA HOLIDAY PARTY

by Venkat Prava

It was a night of fun and frolic as the newly elected Board members of the Indian Graduate Student Association (IGSA) organized a memorable holiday party for the graduate student community of the Johns Hopkins University on December 19, 2011 in the Mattin Center. It proved to be that much needed stress-buster for our students after hectic days of exams and projects. With the guys dressed in black and girls in ravishing red, the party was kick-started with a stellar 45 minute foot-tapping performance by the Baltimore-based freelancing music band "Straight Up Tribal". The crowd then warmed up to the party by hitting the dance floor, grooving to a compilation of peppy Indian and Western music. The audience was bubbling with energy and enthusiasm when we rolled out our list of games like Newspaper Dancing, Rope Race, Tug-of-War and the classic Limbo. The games were undoubtedly big hits that garnered a lot of praise from the audience. Light snacks like cookies, pizza, and beverages were served. About 75 guests turned up for the event.

ANATOMY OF A WINTER BREAK

GRADES DEADLINE

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

XMAS

NEW YEAR'S

JANUARY

NO CLASSES

UNIVERSITY OFFICIALLY CLOSED

VAGUE PERIOD IN WHICH YOU'RE NOT SURE IF YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO OR EXPECTED TO BE AT WORK.

SUPER VAGUE PERIOD

WHAT PEOPLE USUALLY DO OVER WINTER BREAK:

GO HOME FOR THREE WEEKS WITHOUT TELLING THEIR ADVISOR

"WORK" FROM HOME

GET A FEW THINGS DONE HERE AND THERE

HAVE THE LAB ALL TO YOURSELF BUT SPEND MOST OF THE TIME SURFING THE WEB

WHEN IT'S OK TO WISH SOMEONE "HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

HUH?

WHOO!

JAN. 5

OK, YOU SOUND LIKE A WEIRDO

JANUARY 1

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Restaurant Review: b bistro

by Murat Bilgel

B Bistro is located in the heart of Bolton Hill, a beautiful historical neighborhood of Baltimore that can easily be overlooked by visitors and residents who are not familiar with the area. Once marking the northern border of Baltimore City, Bolton Hill used to be home to President Woodrow Wilson, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Hopkins's very own Daniel Coit Gilman, the first president of the Johns Hopkins University. Such historical facts are easily available to the visitors of the neighborhood via the circular blue placards that can be found on the façades of many of its row homes, making a pre-dinner walk through the neighborhood even more enjoyable for the patrons of B Bistro.

Despite a packed dining room with no square foot to spare, the wait for a table was a scant 15-minute delay on a Friday night at the B Bistro. An enthusiastic waitress greeted my guest and me, and guided us to the table that had just opened up by the entrance. After choosing to have a bottle of sparkling water over regular, we asked for the wine list. The well-chosen list was complemented by our server's personal recommendation, which we decided to follow. We were served focaccia bread and olive oil as an appetizer while we read over the food menu.

The menu at B Bistro is succinct, yet has something to offer for a wide range of palatal pleasures. The entrées are frequently updated to include in-season ingredients, but the main focus of the dishes remains Mediterranean-like. The only downside of the menu is that vegetarian entrée choices are very limited, but this can be remedied by combining a few appetizers together into a delicious potpourri.

To balance our bold-bodied red

wine, we decided to start our dinner with a cheese plate. B Bistro values local and organic produce, and most types of cheese on the menu come from farms in Maryland and Virginia. The cheese selection includes different kinds of goat, cow, and sheep cheeses, and the plate is served with both crisps and soft bread (\$12 for a 3-cheese plate).

For my entrée, I decided to have the day's swordfish special, and my guest ordered the lamb agnolotti. The swordfish was the most deliciously prepared

b

A BOLTON HILL BISTRO

1501 Bolton Street
Baltimore, MD 21217
(410) 383-8600

Tuesday to Saturday – 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday – Brunch 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.;
Dinner 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

www.b-bistro.com

Rating: 5 out of 5



fish I have ever had – the steak was grilled to perfection, slightly rare at the center, and tender and juicy throughout (\$32, market price). The lamb agnolotti, prepared from scratch in the kitchen of B Bistro like any other pasta dish served at the restaurant, was incredibly filling for my guest despite the small serving size (\$18).

For dessert, we had bittersweet chocolate pot de crème, which is served in a shallow canning jar, topped with a piece of pistachio biscotti (\$8). Even though we were both quite full after our entrées, we made sure to enjoy every spoonful of the creamy dessert. It was the perfect note on which to end our dinner.

B Bistro is guaranteed to give the pleasure of fine dining without being formal. Though its price range is difficult to fit into a graduate student budget, it is definitely worth a visit, and the experience will be a justifiable once-in-a-while indulgence. If you are looking for a restaurant to celebrate an occasion, to enjoy a meal with your significant other, or simply to have some “food for thought”, make sure to consider B Bistro as one of your options. Especially in warmer weather, when you can sit outside under the trees in the beautiful neighborhood of Bolton Hill, dining at B Bistro will truly be a special occasion. ■

Write reviews of your favorite restaurants, movies, music releases, events, games, ... and get reimbursed up to \$40! For more information, contact gradnews@jhu.edu

Homewood Campus Blue Jay Shuttle Service

Environmental Concerns Chair Steve Berman provides information on the Blue Jay Shuttle that came into operation last semester.

The Blue Jay Shuttle service operates on a fixed-route schedule in an area proximate to the Homewood campus from 5:45 p.m. to 11:15 p.m., seven days per week, excluding holidays. The fleet of vans depart from Mason Hall (the shuttle service's transportation hub) every thirty minutes starting at 5:45 p.m. The shuttles are equipped with NextBus, a GPS-based real-time transit information system available online or through a mobile device. To view the Blue Jay Shuttle routes and to track the vans, go to www.nextbus.com. Passengers can also call NextBus at 410-834-2833 and enter a stop number to receive vehicle tracking information.

The vans depart Mason Hall at 15 and 45 minutes after the hour and service 5 set routes within a limited area surrounding the Homewood campus. The 5 set routes are color-coded and include marked "flag stops." These "flag stops" are safe passenger loading zones which are located at selected university-owned buildings, off-campus residence halls and commercial/retail locations. **Passengers must be at a designated flag stop and use their J-Card to "flag the shuttle" in order to ride.** Drivers are instructed not to deviate from their fixed route except in the case of emergency. All Johns Hopkins affiliates with a valid J-Card can use the Blue Jay Shuttle service. Final departure for the routes is 10:45 p.m. nightly.

From 11:15 p.m. to 2 a.m. the Blue Jay Shuttle reverts to an on-demand point-to-point service to and from lo-



For more information and a list of stops by route, go to <http://www.parking.jhu.edu/blue-jayshuttle.html>.

cations within a one-mile radius of campus. This includes Charles Village, Waverly, Remington, Hampden, most of Roland Park, and Guilford. Blue Jay Shuttle extended services operates on a limited, on demand basis from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. For this demand-response service, passengers will be provided with a van number and estimated time of arrival for pickup. To request a shuttle after the fixed-route service ends in the evening, call 410-516-8700 after 11:00 p.m.

In the case of severe weather conditions, Blue Jay Shuttle service may be temporarily suspended as circumstances warrant but shall be resumed thereafter as soon as possible. Notifications will be kept up to date on NextBus. ■

In Support of Open Access

Communications Chair Manu Madhav discusses GRO's recent resolution in support of Open Access journals.

Graduate students at the Johns Hopkins University are frequently engaged in academic scholarly research activities, and access to scholarly journals is necessary for the completion of a graduate degree. The University Libraries are trying to control the costs of serials and journals despite price increases and a flat materials budget. Open Access (OA) addresses the problem of expensive subscription-based access to journals and publications. When articles are published as open access, anyone can access them for free online, as well as benefit from and build upon the research without publishers or other intermediaries impeding the sharing of knowledge through financial, technological, or other constraints. Publishing in open access journals and repositories increases student access to information.

The United States Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) is requesting information on public access to scholarly research; and future government legislation regarding public funding of research will have a major impact on students' access to scholarly research; therefore recognizing the role of Johns Hopkins University as a premier institution of higher learning,

- ❖ the Graduate Representative Organization (GRO) at the Johns Hopkins University encourages faculty and graduate students to publish in open access journals.

- ❖ the GRO encourages its General Council to discuss this issue with faculty and graduate students within their departments.

- ❖ the GRO encourages students and faculty to submit their own individual responses in favor of public access. ■