



# The Grad News

The Newsletter of the Hopkins/Homewood Graduate Community

Volume 3  
Issue 1

October 2001

## In this issue:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A GRO Endowment                         | 1 |
| Welcome                                 | 1 |
| News from the Career Center             | 2 |
| Movie Review                            | 2 |
| New Student Advocate                    | 3 |
| Harassment and Discrimination Resources | 4 |
| Restaurant Review                       | 6 |

GRO

Graduate Representative Organization



The Johns Hopkins University

## Establishment of a GRO Endowment

Dan Bain, DOGEE

Do you get those annoying solicitations from your undergraduate institution that may as well be blubbered by Sally Struthers on late night television? Other than peeking at the wedding photos and taking solace in the fact that so and so got fat, do you feel any alumni office love? I hope you feel more than that. Consider that at least you were an undergrad there. Now, imagine this august institution (JHU) sending you the same lame thing, the only difference being a ridiculous report on lacrosse machinations. There will be no special recognition of your graduate status and needs. It is a dim future at the mailbox.

Graduate students are the ugly cousins of alumni development office. Most of us aren't hanging around the boardroom table when someone hatches one of those money makers like Microsoft DOS or the yo-yo. Most of us are conscientious citizens, giving money to laudable causes, but usually reserve the spot next to the higher education trough for our undergraduate mater. You don't make Dean of Development chasing graduate alumni dollars.

We believe that this conventional wisdom has been crafted by marketing charlatans and failed politicians serving as university administrators (they're always looking for the easy Political Action Committee money). We believe that there are graduate alumni willing to build the university with steady, albeit small, revenue streams. We just need to be asked right.

Throughout the 2001 summer, GRO representatives have been working with the university to iron out a procedure that will allow the GRO to raise money toward the establishment of a GRO endowment. If we are given the permission to raise funds, we are confident that we know how to ask.

Why would the GRO need an endowment? Let's explore some possibilities. We need \$20,000 to establish an endowment. A fund endowed at that level would provide an annual revenue of roughly \$1000. How might this

money be spent?

- Plow that money, along with additional fundraising, back into the endowment until it produces larger revenues. These revenues could be applied to everyone's insurance premium. If the university, bless its heart, decides to subsidize the premium, this money could be applied to sweeteners like a den-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Welcome!

Allison Surtees, GRO Co-chair

In this year's first edition of the *Grad News*, the Graduate Representative Organization (GRO) would like to welcome all new students to Hopkins. To all returning students, it's good to see everyone back. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the people behind the GRO and tell you a little about what we do.

The officers for this year are Mary Berk (Chair), Allison Surtees (Co-chair), Ciprian Tutu (Treasurer) and Mike Krebs (Secretary). In addition we have other officers who work on specific issues. Many of you will be familiar with Dan Bain, the Insurance Man. As part of his work to improve health insurance for grad students, Dan played an important role in last year's bidding, which resulted in a change of insurance companies. Alexis Lewis is our *Grad News* Editor and has prepared this publica-

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Endowment, from page 1)

- tal insurance premium or parity in mental health benefits.
- Many university graduate organizations provide money to students for travel to and from conferences, meetings, and training. The endowed money could become an annual pool for graduate student travel.
- The early estimates on a grad club suggest the endeavor might require thousands of dollars of subsidy from the GRO. Endowed revenue is one possible source for this type of expense.

Now, how can you help with this fundraising effort? This is the best part. You can contribute for absolutely free. Here's how it works. We have established arrangements with a number of on-line merchants. If we direct your sales to their sites, they will pay us a percentage of the sales. For example, Amazon (the 500 pound gorilla of online sales) will give the GRO a buck out of every twenty you spend on their books, stereos or garden tools, IF you go to their site by clicking the link provided on ours. That's it. See how we know how to ask?

For your convenience we have set up a page where you can access the vendors we have teamed with. To start raising money for a GRO endowment, simply go to [www.jhu.edu/gro/endowment](http://www.jhu.edu/gro/endowment). Come on, you buy books, travel, and office supplies. Send a little of the e-commission towards your and JHU graduate student's future. Visit it today, and you'll see how easy it is.

## Career Services Hears You!

**Adrienne Alberts**  
Interim Director, Career Center

Over the summer, the OLD Office of Career Planning and Development began changing! First our name, now "The Career Center", then our home, now in Garland Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, and finally our website, [www.jhu.edu/~careers](http://www.jhu.edu/~careers). But the changes didn't stop there! We began to think about service and how we have been meeting the needs of our students.

Over the coming months you will begin to see increased attention to graduate student issues as they relate to career development. A population that has traditionally been overlooked is now being considered. The first step was to include a specific and dedicated area for graduate students on our website. The second step was to meet with Mary Berk, Chair of the GRO, to begin a dialogue on graduate students' concerns about Career Center services. As we continue to develop our services for graduate students, you will see targeted workshops and co-sponsored programs aimed to meet your needs.

We are at the beginning of an ongoing process that we hope will produce lasting results. You can assist us by continuing to provide GRO officers with suggestions for future programs, workshops, and services. All of our efforts are in the infancy stages including our website, and we appreciate your continued patience. Our primary mission is to let you know that the Career Center hears you and steps are being taken to provide you with the best services possible.

## Movie Review: The Musketeer

**Ari-David Brown**  
Department of Physics and Astronomy

Whereas "The Musketeer" may not earn an Oscar, the film is an entertaining, albeit slightly altered, rendition of Alexandre Dumas' famous novel. The story commences when D'Artagnan (Justin Chambers) is a small boy and witnesses the murder of his parents by the evil Fevre (Tim Roth). We are then taken fourteen years into the future, with our hero seeking employment as a musketeer. It turns out that the musketeers consist of a battalion of drunkards in a country where the conniving Cardinal's henchmen are the law of the land. D'Artagnan decides that he will un-

(Continued on page 4)



### NON-RESIDENT STUDENT FEE: YOUR INPUT NEEDED!

The GRO has recently begun to investigate the effects of the non-resident tuition fee on graduate students. Please share your stories with us. Tell us how the non-resident tuition fee has helped or hindered the completion of your degree. Send your comments to us at [gro@jhu.edu](mailto:gro@jhu.edu). Be sure to tell us what department you are in.



### Notice to Student Groups

Make sure that the GRO has the correct contact info and URL for you. Check at <http://www.jhu.edu/gro/clubs.html>

(Welcome, from page 1)

tion for your reading pleasure. She's always looking for writers, so if you're interested in sharing you talent with the graduate community, she's the one to talk to. Various athletic activities, including intramurals, are organized by Eugenio Culurciello, our Sports Rep. Finally, we have Adam Schneider working as Entertainment Coordinator. This is the man who will be bringing you all kinds of fun and excitement in the coming year. If you wish to contact any of the officers, you can send an email to gro@jhu.edu, or call the office at x6-7682.

Now that you know who we are, you should know what we do. The mandate of the GRO is to make life better for Homewood graduate students. We work in conjunction with the various Deans on campus, along with university administration, to improve or resolve issues that affect grad students. Some of the things we are currently working on include improving graduate computing facilities, investigation of the non-resident student fees, development of a grad club, improving social opportunities and establishing an endowment to fund issues of interest to graduate students.

In order to keep you informed of our activities, the GRO publishes the *Grad News* several times each semester. You can also check us out on our web page at [www.jhu.edu/gro](http://www.jhu.edu/gro). There you can find lists of officers and contact information, as well as minutes of our General Council Meetings, and links to both the Grad Forum and the online edition of the GRO Guide to Living in Baltimore.

We also want to make sure your time at Hopkins is fun, so we sponsor several social activities through the year. Coffee Hour is every Monday from 3-4 in the Mattin Center. Come out and enjoy free coffee and buy a Krispy Kreme donut. Happy Hour is every Tuesday evening from 6-9 at PJ's Pub, featuring free food and cheap drinks. In addition, the GRO will host a special themed Happy Hour at E-Level on select Fridays in November. And there are many other plans in the works, so keep your eyes open and come out to play with the GRO. We'll see you there!

## A New Student Advocate

### Mike Krebs, Mathematics

Associate Dean of Students Dorothy Sheppard will assume new responsibilities this year that will bring her into closer contact with graduate students. In particular, students having conflicts with an advisor, other students, faculty, staff, or administrators may contact her for assistance. The university Ombudsperson used to play this role, but that position is currently vacant. Dean Sheppard has also expressed willingness to investigate issues that face large numbers of grad students, such as the matriculation fee that nonresident students must pay.

You can reach Dorothy by e-mail at <[dshepard@jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu](mailto:dshepard@jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu)> or by phone at 410-516-8208.

## Insurance Rumor Control

There are a wide variety of stories circulating about eminent subsidy of graduate student health insurance. These stories are somewhat inconsistent and definitely incomplete. This much we know to be true. There will be some sort of subsidy of graduate health insurance beginning next year. The details of this subsidy, eligibility, and the mechanisms (funding and otherwise) driving this subsidy are planned to be announced in December 2001/January 2002. Anything else is yet to be confirmed. Cross your fingers.

### INDEPENDENT MOVIES AT JHU

Every Thursday at 9pm you have the chance to see free, GRO-sponsored independent movies in Shaffer Hall, Room 3 (basement). The Trojka movie club has a great selection of movies from different cultural backgrounds in its program. Please consult [www.kleissl.com/trojka](http://www.kleissl.com/trojka) for further information or sign up for the weekly email announcement at: <http://www.acm.jhu.edu/mailman/listinfo/trojka>

### GOT A GRAD STUDENT ID CARD?

By now every graduate student should have their Grad Student ID card. Use this card to identify yourself as a graduate student for events such as GRO Coffee Hour and Happy Hour. This card does *not* replace your J-Card, but it can be used to get you into the Libraries. If you have not received a card, please email [gro@jhu.edu](mailto:gro@jhu.edu) with your name and department.

# Harassed? Put Out? Stressed? Fight Back, and Get Some Help!

**Alexis C. Lewis**  
Materials Science & Engineering

Homewood's new Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Programs is now fully functional and ready to serve the campus. The director, Assistant Provost Ray Gillian, envisions a threefold purpose of this new office: to oversee and ensure compliance with Equal Opportunity & Affirmative Action programs, to enhance diversity on campus, and to provide students, staff, and faculty with a suitable workplace climate.

The office has two senior staff members, each responsible for specific issues. Kevin McDonald is responsible for Compliance and Conflict. He will handle all cases of sexual harassment and discrimination brought to the office, and will also be responsible for conflict resolution and training sessions. Peggy Hayslip, the Disabilities Coordinator, will head up an effort to improve and enhance accommodations for those with disabilities on campus, with emphasis on both physical and learning disabilities. Ms. Hayslip will be gathering information about disability access on campus, identifying problem areas, and seeking input from the Homewood Community about where improvements might be needed.

Students facing harassment, discrimination, or conflict of any kind now have many options. Issues of general conflict and harassment should be brought to Dorothy Sheppard, Associate Dean (see "A New Student Advocate"). Any student dealing with discrimination of any sort should contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirma-



tive Action Programs. Sexual Harassment cases should be brought to Kevin McDonald. As always, help is available from the Counseling Center, Campus Ministries, and the office of Education for Health and Wellness.



A list of student resources on this page gives you some phone numbers and URLs of people and places where you can get help. No concern is too small, so please don't be afraid to look for help, take action, or just find someone to talk to.

**What Are We Titing Our Masters Thesis?**

1. An Overview Of Property Records, Schuyler County, VA, 1790-1815: S000000 Boring
2. Green With Envy: The Hulk As Jealous Lover
3. White Chicks/Black Sticks
4. Doing Things At The Last Minute: A Sociopsychological Analytical Thing
5. The Fatal Obsolescence Of The American Professorship
6. Masters! Masters! Masters Thesis Of Puppets!

Reprinted with permission from The Onion | America's Finest News Source | copyright 2001 | www.theonion.com

(Movie Review, from page 2)

dertake his duties, to avenge "mama's and papa's" deaths and protecting the Queen from the Cardinal/Febré, alone.

However, the musketeers come though for him in the end, and D'Artagnan and his newfound love Francesca (Mena Suvari) live happily ever after.

This film is a cut above the standard musketeer film for two reasons. One is that every character except for our dashing D'Artagnan and noisome Febré is quite funny - jokes are told throughout the movie. In addition, the sword-fighting scenes appeared as if they came straight out of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" as people ran up towers and the like. In fact, most, if not all of the stunt choreographers were either Chinese or Taiwanese.

If you want to see a thought-provoking film, look elsewhere. However, a busy graduate student looking to take a breather from any sort of intellectual pursuit will surely enjoy this film filled with swashbucklers and fair maidens.

## HAPPY MONTH

November is Happy Month! The GRO is hosting extra Happy Hours at E-level on Friday, November 9th and Friday, November 30th from 4-8 PM. Bring your friends, your research group, and your Karaoke skills. Some proceeds to benefit the GRO Endowment.

## Where to go, Who to call.

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action | x6-8075        |
| Sexual Harassment & Discrimination                 | Kevin McDonald |
| Disabilities                                       | Peggy Hayslip  |
| Dorothy Sheppard, Office of the Dean of Students   | x6-8208        |
| Counseling Center                                  | x6-8278        |
| Campus Ministries                                  | (410)-261-1880 |
| Health & Wellness Center                           | x6-8270        |

# Materials Science Trounces Chemical Engineering in Winner-take-all Softball Match

On September 28, the students and staff of the Departments of Materials Science and Engineering and Chemical Engineering held a joint picnic/softball match. Though it seemed at first that the teams were well-matched, Chemical Engineering took a serious beating.

From the first inning, things were looking dim for ChemE. In a sad, sad attempt to tip the scales in their favor, the sneaky group loaded the field with about fifteen fielders. Even so, the strong bats of Materials Science stars such as Professors Todd Homerun Hufnagel and Bob Can't-Catch-Me Cammarata embarrassed the inhabitants of Maryland Hall's "lower half." Despite the efforts of ChemE Professor and Chair Michael E. Paulaitis to trip up the Materials Science team, accusing the gold-glove-winning first baseman of "not knowing how to catch," the Chemical Engineering team was able to scrape up only 12 runs against Materials Science's 21.

After routing Chemical Engineering in such a decisive manner, the Materials Science team decided to let them keep their half of Maryland Hall, "out of pity. They just looked so sad," said one player from the Materials Science team.

But it seems the Chemical Engineering Department doesn't know when to quit. The plans for the annual chili cook-off held between the two departments, which was won by write-in Materials Science chili chef and late entrant John Long last year, are still on. Good Luck, ChemE. You'll need it.

Are you subscribed to the Grad Student Listserv?  
Get information on upcoming events and important graduate student issues. Sign up by sending email to [gro@jhu.edu](mailto:gro@jhu.edu)

# Graduate Board Open House

The Graduate Board makes policies regarding the granting of JHU degrees. It is also involved in grad student issues as a whole. One November 27, the Graduate Board will be having an Open House. Come to the Glass Pavilion between 3 and 5 pm to receive information regarding dissertation guidelines, ask questions, and more. Dean Gary K. Ostrander, Graduate Board Chair, and Dr. Michael Betenbaugh, Graduate Board Engineering Representative, will speak at 3:30.

Light refreshments will be served. If you are interested, please RSVP by October 29 to [rhaag1@jhu.edu](mailto:rhaag1@jhu.edu).

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **GRO ENDOWMENT** \*  
\*  
\* Help support a Graduate Student Endowment Fund. Do all your \*  
\* online shopping by first visiting <http://www.jhu.edu/gro/> \*  
\* endowment. \*  
\*  
\* Shop at a variety of online retailers including amazon.com, buy. \*  
\* com, staples.com, dvdplanet.com, barnesandnoble.com, and \*  
\* many more! When you link to retailers through the GRO En- \*  
\* dowment site, we make a commission on your purchase. Shop- \*  
\* ping online through the GRO Endowment page does not add \*  
\* anything to your item cost. \*  
\*  
\* Spread word about the endowment to your friends and family. \*  
\* The money will be used to benefit Homewood graduate stu- \*  
\* dents. Thanks for your support! \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**GET IN TOUCH**

**GRO GUIDE ONLINE**

Your favorite source for restaurant reviews, tips on navigating the administration, and outdoor fun is now online: [www.jhu.edu/gro/GROGuide/](http://www.jhu.edu/gro/GROGuide/)

**GRAD NEWS ONLINE**

Catch previous issue of the *Grad News* online at [www.jhu.edu/gro/gradnews.html](http://www.jhu.edu/gro/gradnews.html)

**COFFEE HOUR:**

Every Monday from 3 to 4 pm in the Mattin Center Cafe. Free coffee and good company.

**HAPPY HOUR**

Every Tuesday night from 6 to 9 pm at PJ's Pub. Bass and Guinness pints for \$2.50, as well as free food.

**THE GRAD FORUM**

Post a wanted ad, sound off about your latest passion, make a hot date, or just see what other grad students are up to. Link to the Grad Forum from the GRO website: [www.jhu.edu/gro](http://www.jhu.edu/gro)

GRO

Graduate Representative Organization



The Johns Hopkins University

## The Graduate Representative Organization

Levering Hall  
(inside the student activities office)  
(410) 516-7682  
gro@jhu.edu  
www.jhu.edu/gro

### Grad News Editor

Alexis C Lewis, Dept.  
of Materials Science  
and Engineering  
lewisac@jhu.edu

### Contributors

Adrienne Alberts  
Dan Bain  
Keith Barbera  
Mary Berk  
Ari Brown  
Mike Krebs  
Allison Surtees

### Design

Jacqueline Best

Credits

# Restaurant Review: India Tandoor

**Keith Barbera**

Ever see the colorful sidewalk sign at E. 21st and N. Charles St.? It points the way to the India Tandoor, an excellent restaurant run by a Punjabi family. I'm a regular at its lunch buffet, which generally features chicken curry, tandoori chicken, four vegetable dishes, and nan, a bread made in a tandoor (clay oven) and brought piping hot to your table. The food is always fresh and hearty. Moreover it has escaped the Americanization that often predominates in other places. What's more, the restaurant boasts variety and sometimes includes dishes not usual for Indian buffets – for example, chili fried chicken and a chicken or lamb biryani. India Tandoor is also cozy and has great service. Your water glass is always full, and the servers seem to enjoy chatting with patrons.

Recently a friend and I had an excellent dinner there. We started with a combo platter that include chicken pakora, meat somosa, and fish pakora. The first two were especially good. The chicken was hefty and spicy; the meat samosa consisted of beef encased in flaky, triangular dough. Our two main courses were chicken tikka masala and fish almond. We ordered them both spicy and that's the way they came! Chicken tikka is grilled in a tandoor and then added to a flavorful tomato sauce. Both the sauce and the chunks of curried chicken immersed in it have some bite. The fish almond was also first-rate. The fish was a large, fresh salmon marinated and then grilled before being cooked in a thick, delicious curry. My friend I also both enjoyed dipping our garlic nan and keema (ground beef) nan into our curry. You'll excuse me for not reporting on the dessert. We both ate so much that we passed on the offer of selecting a complimentary dessert. I had to do this once before, when our waitress's brother tried hard to persuade me to take home some gulab jamun, my favorite Indian dessert, at no extra charge.

In short, India Tandoor is a very good restaurant. Its reasonable prices are even better after the 15% discount for Hopkins students. It's located at 2101 N. Charles St. and is open seven days a week, 11:30 AM to 2:45 PM and 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM. It also offers free delivery for orders of \$10 or more. So even if you can't enjoy the restaurant's combination of Baltimore (fading cloth pictures of playing cards on the wall seats; the masked man announcing the restaurant's Best of Baltimore award) and India (photo of one owner's parents; peacock fan; Hindi pop music; ceramic elephant plant stands), its excellent food is just a phone call away (410-468-0969).

## DISSERTATION SUPPORT GROUP

The Counseling Center is offering a group for advanced graduate students to help them complete their dissertations. The group has been meeting since March, 1998, with great success. It offers students a place and a peer group to discuss their dissertation work on a weekly basis. It provides some structure for a project that is often overwhelming in large part because of its lack of the typical university structures such as class sessions and due dates. Students who have participated in the group have reported increased focus, less sense of isolation, improved work habits, and most significantly, increased productivity on their dissertations.

We have had four students complete their dissertations in the past three months and therefore currently have some openings in the group.

If you are interested in learning more about the group, please call either Barbara Baum or Daniel Zimet at the Counseling Center, 410-516-8278.