

# The Grad News

The Newsletter of the Hopkins/Homewood  
Graduate Community

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2000

**GRO Happy  
Hours now on  
Tuesdays at PJ's!**

**To continue to  
serve the social  
needs of Hopkins  
Graduates, the  
GRO have moved  
the time & venue of  
our famed happy  
hours. PJ's has  
opened its door for  
US on Tuesdays,  
from 5:pm to 9:pm**

**Guinness and Bass  
STILL \$2.10 a pint!**

## ***Inside this issue:***

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the new Dean of  
Arts and Sciences

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## **Dean Robert E. McCarty: Getting Around The Field of Dreams**

"I was the wrong choice at the wrong time with the right expertise," sums up Dean Robert E. McCarty, as he describes his unexpected appointment to the position of James Barclay Knapp Dean of the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences last December.

The news, which came shortly after the Thanksgiving break, may have "astounded" him, but Dean McCarty is no stranger to the office. He had been working closely with administrators as a senior advisor on faculty affairs and the school's strategic planning and daily operations. He also served as interim Dean in 1997 and 1998. In an e-mail to students and faculty announcing the appointment, President William Brody described Dean McCarty as "a native son of Hopkins" and "a natural choice to lead the school."

As a former Chairman of the Biology Department who earned both his undergraduate and doctoral degrees from Hopkins, Dean McCarty is very appreciative of the efforts of the President and the Provost in acting swiftly, "because the school could not afford another hiatus in leadership. We had already been through a series of interim leaders, and it was important not to lose the momentum," he says.

There seems to be little danger of that as Dean McCarty describes his plans and priorities. The most important of these will be fund-raising—or "development" as it is euphemistically called. "It is going to occupy a fair amount of my time as we have some pretty large needs. People are always talking about undergraduate scholarships. But I think we need further funding

for graduate students—For the Humanities in particular," he says.

The immediate plan is to tap the alumni who, as Dean McCarty points out, have always been supportive and generous. "We've redoubled our efforts with the alumni," he says, adding that in the last Development Campaign alone, a total of 40 faculty chairs were at least partially funded by the alumni. Faculty chairs, in his opinion, are a way to bring in faculty who might not otherwise have come because of the perceived lack of resources.

That may also be keeping graduate students away. The Dean admits that there has been a gradual decline in the number of graduate students coming to JHU, but is quick to point out that it is a nation-

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## **The Grad News is Ready for a New...**

Semester, year, millennium, format, editor... The hype of Y2K is behind us, so we can get back to business. The Executive Committee started the term with a round of meetings with the Deans of Engineering, of Arts and Sciences, of Student Activities, and of Stu-

dents to keep them up-to-date on graduates' concerns as expressed to the GRO. *The GN* provides a report of the meetings appears on page 2.

The features "At the Movies" and "Restaurant Review" continue, and we are always looking for people willing to

have a night out paid for by the GRO to write a review.

Finally, we have brought the computer software into this new age, and the *GN* staff hope you enjoy the new-look *News*.

*Happy New Whatever!*

# Executive Committee Does the Rounds with the Deans

As the term got under way, GRO Chairman Anthony Stapon and Treasurer Mike Paraskewich met with Ilene Busch-Vishniac, Dean of the School of Engineering; with Richard McCarty, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences; with Susan Boswell, the Dean of Students; and with Larry Benedict, Dean of Student Affairs. The purpose of these meetings is to keep each party aware of the others' concerns for graduates at Homewood.

Of particular interest to all parties was the move of the GRO's Happy Hour to PJ's for the foreseeable future. Difficulties at E-Level, including a police visit that revealed the selling of alcohol to underage patrons, moved the administration to close the meeting spot until certain organizational and legal concerns were straightened out. The Happy Hour would return to E-Level, Stapon said, once things were set up to ensure smooth operation. The deans of students expressed their satisfaction at how well attended the GRO Happy Hours have been. When Paraskewich proposed a raise in future GRO funds from the administration to continue the Happy Hours, Dean Boswell responded favorably, in light of

the relatively low per-person cost and the service it provided to graduates.

Dean McCarty updated the GRO on the 'Master Plan' for Homewood, and for Gilman Hall in particular. He said that the project is currently "in concept design," with the removal of the bookstore and the post office scheduled for about three years hence. "We want one of the best facilities in the Humanities, not just in the U.S., but anywhere." He spoke of a building that has not seen updating since 1961.

The compilation of a truly representative graduate email list remains elusive, but Dean Busch-Vishniac has put the problem at the top of her list of jobs. Such a compilation, while complicated by the fact that many graduates (especially in the sciences) use their own departmental servers, is hardly beyond

the ken of academic computing. Ideas were suggested as how to register all incoming grads onto a comprehensive list through, for example, the JHU Homepage.

Finally, student insurance was on the GRO's agenda. The problems (and costs) have been at the fore of graduates' concerns for a number of years. The Dean of Engineering said that advisors could take insurance payments out of their students' stipends. In many Arts and Sciences departments, though, such a policy would be difficult to enforce. Nor would it make the up-front cost to establish a semester's (much less a year's) coverage any easier to bear.

These meetings will continue through the term. If you would like to have a specific point raised, please contact Anthony Stapon at [stapon@jhu.edu](mailto:stapon@jhu.edu).

## Habitat for Humanity wants YOU in Florida for Spring Break

The Homewood Chapter of Habitat for Humanity are heading to Tampa for the week of Spring Break to participate in the renovation of poverty level housing in the city. As of the *GN* going to print, some 6 places remained to be filled. It will cost each participant just \$100 to bring enrichment to an inner-city community and to themselves. Contact Steven Millward ([swm1@jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu](mailto:swm1@jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu)) for an application

## Restaurant Review

You've probably walked by it 20 times and never noticed: *Brown's Wharf Restaurant* is the last building before the pier in Fell's Point, serving the best food I have had in Baltimore. And there is historical appeal to boot: Until 1917, the adjacent Broadway Pier welcomed thousands of immigrants to America. In some years the wharf was second only to Ellis Island in admitting foreigners to U.S. soil.

As we first walked through the door of Brown's we had no idea what to think. The atmosphere was warmly lit with inviting jazz music in the background, but not a soul was in sight. After our server saw us standing, lost in the doorway, we received nothing but devoted attention. Brenda, our excellent waitress, kept us laughing and well-stocked at our waterside table for two hours. We were the only customers to appear.

Brenda calls you "sweetie" or "sweet pea" in a way that makes you feel like you are sitting in your grandmother's kitchen—and this comes from a reviewer who usually finds such pet names patronizing. Brenda was helpful with food recommendations, starting us with a tasty Maryland crab dip, served with freshly toasted bread. Choosing entrees was somewhat more difficult; from the typical Maryland crab cakes, steaks, various chicken dishes, and a large selection of sandwiches, to exciting pasta dishes and an enticing list of specials, I could have enjoyed almost anything. I settled on seafood fettuccini alfredo, and my friend ordered one of the specials: crab-stuffed flounder. Each entrée cost about \$19—on the high end of Brown's Wharf's menu—and was en-

**Brown's Wharf  
Restaurant**  
1629 Thames St.  
Fell's Point  
410- 522- 6600

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## AT THE MOVIES:

*Magnolia*, Paul Thomas Anderson (dir.)

*Magnolia* takes its own shape from scattered initial fragments, revealing a story that revolves around the dying Earl Partridge (Jason Robards), who, from his deathbed, summons his nurse, Phil (Philip Seymour Hoffman) to find his lost son. After confirming the son's identity in a Playboy ad, Phil sets on a mission to bring back the well-known Frank Mackey (Tom Cruise), whose "Seduce and Destroy" seminars place him among the "world's most repugnant macho men" list. Earl's unfaithful (yet repentant) young wife and future heiress, Linda Partridge (Julianne Moore) tries to prevent the father-and-son reconciliation, yet waves of guilt and hysteria wash away her sense of control.

Other episodes include Stanley Spector (Jeremy Blackman), the boy genius who, exploited by his father, must break the record of the popular television quiz show "What Do Kids Know?"; Donnie Smith (William H. Macy), a bitter ex-boy-genius who had set the same show's

record decades earlier, and whose boss (Alfred Molina) now uses this popularity to his advantage; and Jimmy Gator (Philip Baker Hall), host of the show, cancer victim, and father of a cocaine-addicted, highly traumatized daughter, Claudia (Melora Walters). Adding a touch of compassion to the drama, police officer Jim Kurring (John C. Reilly) falls in love with the problematic Claudia immediately upon meeting her.

*Magnolia* explores in a beautiful way diverse scenes of tragedy in the lives of an ensemble of 'normal' people. The characters are not aware that their own fates are intertwined with others. However, the audience is presented with a magnificent interweaving of events that links the lives of these people. The events and episodes described sound a hymn to the beauty of our emotional lives, capable of steering us to the right direction regardless of how wrong our decisions have been in the past. Occurrences and coincidences intermix our lives with others' no matter what we do, leading us to the sudden realization either to feel guilt or to be part of the whole from which we have no escape.

The film benefits from some creative uses of its medium: music and sound are boldly

used to create tension, often by overlapping two different tunes or pairing background music with dialogue. However, the film's strength lies in the entwining of the stories composing its narration: each of its scenes pulls the viewer directly into the heart of all the conflicts, which brings a satisfying unity to compensate for the overwhelming diversity of all its stories. It is very beautiful to be suddenly shifted by the plot to different perspectives that contribute to this vision of life as an interleaving of emotions and human contact.

The movie is from the writer/director Paul Thomas Anderson. Paul is the 29-year-old Oscar nominated writer and director that drew comparisons to such directors as Martin Scorsese, Robert Altman and Woody Allen. *Magnolia* is being shown at Towson Commons, which is equipped with Dolby Digital and DTS sound. The size of the auditorium is comfortably large and the audio is superb.

**Eugenio Culurciello**  
**Electrical and Computer Engineering**

## Dean McCarty Focuses on Getting the Word Out on Hopkins Graduates

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wide trend. To attract more graduate students to Hopkins, he explains, scholarships and fellowships will have to be improved and stipends be made competitive.

There is also an ongoing effort to seek out students from historically disadvantaged groups and minorities. There is a move to diversity faculty too. "If we can get the student population to reflect what we want, we can create an environment that is desirable," says Dean McCarty. The basic problem, as he sees it, is that JHU is not good at adver-

tising what it is good at. "I call this the 'Field of Dreams' approach," he says with a chuckle. "The 'we'll-build-the-program-and-they'll-come' attitude. But we have to communicate better," he insists. He suggests that every department should have its own web site, and every member of the faculty should also have a web page so prospective students can get a better idea of who teaches at Hopkins.

Another priority will be the renovation of certain buildings: Gilman Hall, Dunning Hall, and the MSE Library. The Gillman

Hall project, which has been on the drawing board for some time now, envisions relocating the bookstore, the Hopkins Credit Union, the bank, and the post office to create more space for students and faculty. There is also a campus Master Plan, which will ensure more spaces for graduate students. [See related topic in "Executive Committee Does Rounds," page 2]

"Right now, there is an unequal quality of life, and we need better places for graduate students," he admits, "a place they can call their own—where

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Dean McCarty

The Graduate Representatives' Organization—Levering Hall (Inside the Student Activities Office) Phone: 410- 516- 7682

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Check out our Web Site:  
<http://www.jhu.edu/gro/>

**Check It  
Out!**

### **The Johns Hopkins Symposium on Foreign Affairs**

Is bringing in such names as Sheila Sisulu, Ambassador of South Africa to and Professor Noam Chomsky from MIT to Homewood to speak in March! It's FREE, and you'll want to be there. Contact Michael Rossi (Mrossi@jhu.edu) for details.

### **Restaurant Review**

(Continued from page 2)

tirely worth it. Being a grad student with limited funds, you know it has to be *really* good food to be worth \$19. The seafood fettuccini alfredo was rich, creamy, and delicious. The flounder seemed literally to melt in the mouth. And the bonus: both meals yielded enough leftover for lunch the next day.

Dessert was another class act: creamy Gran Marnier cake, rich carrot cake, and fresh coffee.

As for complaints, I have only one. There was a charge for extra bread with our appetizers. But Brenda did offset this by giving us a free, and delicious, salad.

Though the prices at Brown's Wharf may be a bit beyond what the average graduate

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they can congregate and share ideas over a cup of coffee, maybe." He confirms that such a space in the new arts center and the new recreation center, for which ground will be broken this fall, are on his list of priorities. "All these projects are massive and involve significant costs. The biggest challenge will be to find the money, but we're very optimistic about it," he says.

Dean McCarty is also promising to look closely into medical insurance, which has been a thorn in the side of graduate students for a long time now. Another area that will get attention is corporate tie-ups for internships and career options. "What we hope it will do is network students with our alumni, and maybe open up internship possibilities. Knapp said to me two years ago that Hopkins is very good at training entrepreneurs. We just don't know it yet," he recollects with a laugh, obviously thinking about the generous contributions that future entrepreneurs will make to Hopkins.

Dean McCarty's outlook on the future is upbeat and positive. "Two years ago, we were in a period that I would call 'creative retrenchment.' But there are lots of opportunities now, and things are definitely looking better."

When he takes a minute off his duties, he thinks about his lab in the Biology Department where, perched on a shelf are about 24 champagne bottles—one for each student who graduated from his lab. For now, he will raise a toast to graduate scholarships at the next development campaign

**Rina Chadran**  
**The Writing Seminars**

## **MEET THE DEANS OVER LUNCH:**

At 12:pm on Wednesday, March 29th, the GRO is sponsoring a luncheon with the Deans of Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Student Affairs, and Students. The lunch will be in The Great Hall of Levering. Those interested in speaking with the deans must R.S.V.P. by sending your name and department to: [gro@jhu.edu](mailto:gro@jhu.edu) by March 8th.

student's budget allows, there are ways to offset the cost. Some daily specials offer appetizers, entrees, and desserts well below the average price. Moreover, sandwiches cost between \$7 and \$10. However you manage, you should go.

For wonderful seafood or just good food, Brown's Wharf is the place. Make a day of it during the summer (The harbor's water taxis stop right outside the doors). And ask for Brenda—You won't regret it.

**Mary Berk**  
**Philosophy Department**

## **NAGPS News:**

The 2000 NAGPS Southeast Regional Conference is scheduled to be held from Friday, March 31st at 3:pm through Sunday, April 2nd at noon. It will meet at the Doubletree Guest Suites in Durham, NC. The registration fee will be about \$45 per person, which includes Sat & Sun breakfast and Sat lunch. Anyone interested in more information can check out the Website: <http://www.nagps.org/> where you can find out about the NAGPS and what it does to benefit graduate and professional students throughout the country.