

This book is brought to you by the letters G, R, and O...



The Johns Hopkins University Graduate Representative Organization (GRO) is—as the name implies—an organization that represents graduate students at JHU. The GRO does many things, not least of which is produce this book. We also coordinate much of graduate student orientation, fight for grad student concerns (e.g., health insurance subsidies), conduct social events, fund campus groups, organize sports tournaments, and much, much more. Indeed, the GRO is proud to have earned the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students' (NAGPS) 2000–2001 Outstanding Graduate Student Association award, its highest honor.

The GRO is made up of graduate student representatives from every department on the Homewood Campus in the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences and the Whiting School of Engineering. Together, the Council and E-Board are responsible for programming, advocating, and facilitating communication for graduate students on the Homewood campus. We also hold occasional programs with the student governments of the East Baltimore Campus (the medical sciences) and the Peabody Conservatory.

■ Orientation

As a new graduate student, your first stop should be www.jhu.edu/gro/newstudents. Here you'll find useful information on housing, travel plans, health insurance, university fees, and more. In addition to maintaining

this website, the GRO plans graduate student orientation events. Specifically, we organize the GRO Orientation BBQ and the Welcome Wagon program.

The **GRO Orientation BBQ** is a beginning-of-the-year social event.

The **Welcome Wagon** program matches returning grad students with incoming grad students. The returning students contact the new folks over the summer to offer a helping hand with housing, airport transportation, registration, and the like. You should have received such an e-mail before arriving at JHU. To sign up to be a Welcome Wagon member next year, email the GRO at gro@jhu.edu.

■ Activism

The GRO is a voice for graduate student concerns. For example, most JHU graduate students in Arts & Sciences and Engineering receive fully subsidized health insurance. This action is the direct result of the GRO's lobbying. Hopkins does not currently provide this benefit to students in its SAIS and Peabody divisions. The GRO is presently working on issues that include the reduction of non-resident student fees, increased teaching opportunities, raising graduate stipends, parking and safety concerns, the development of an Honor Code, technology on campus, graduate student social space, and more.

During GPSA Week each spring, the GRO hosts a Deans' Luncheon, where graduate

students can voice their concerns directly to and get responses from the administrators who have the most control over graduate student-related issues. At the same time, you can eat a free lunch.

■ Problem Solving

If you have a problem in your department, with your landlord, or with a professor, the GRO can direct you to the appropriate university resources to resolve the problem. If you need an advocate or simply the knowledge of where to start, consult the GRO Grievance Procedure. This is designed to be a roadmap of resources. If you need help figuring out what to do, contact us at gro@jhu.edu.

■ GRO Endowments & Grants

Graduate students never have enough money. The GRO has recently begun raising money to create an endowed account that supports graduate student concerns, such as conference travel funds. With enthusiastic support from Dr. Susan Boswell, Dean of Student Life, the GRO launched its Conference Travel Grants program in the 2005-06 academic year. This is a costly program, and the GRO Endowment will help ensure its future. The goal is to raise enough money so that the interest earned on the endowment generates a *permanent* funding source. We encourage graduate students to help the GRO and themselves by shopping at our online shopping mall or by donating your spare change. Ticket sales at GRO special events and proceeds from our arcade game and pinball machines in the Hop Stop in Levering Hall also benefit the endowment. Information on shopping, donating, and the travel grants program is available at www.jhu.edu/gro.

■ Social Events

The GRO is perhaps best known on campus for running the weekly **GRO Happy Hour**. This event takes place every week, featuring free food and drink specials. Check out

www.jhu.edu/gro for the up-to-date time and location of this event, or just ask around your department.

Periodically the GRO organizes **Bonus Happy Hours**. In addition to food and drink specials, the Bonus Happy Hours have additional activities such as karaoke, Open Mic Nights, trivia competitions, and cool GRO stuff up for grabs.

Another popular event is the weekly **GRO Coffee Hour**, which offers free coffee, tea, and pastries. (We've observed that grad students like free stuff.) You can get your cost-free dose of caffeine every Monday at 3 p.m. at E-Level, in Levering Hall.

There are other GRO social events throughout the school year. The GRO has organized trips to amusement parks and beaches, wine tastings, free massage events, outdoor movies, and evenings of speed dating.

The easiest way to make certain that you find out about such activities is to sign up for GRO's e-mail list. To join, send an e-mail with no message but ADD TO GRAD LISTSERV in the subject line to gro@jhu.edu. Other ways to find out what's going on are to read the events calendar in the *Grad News*, or to visit the GRO on the web at www.jhu.edu/gro. If you have other ideas for social events and would like to help the GRO organize them, e-mail us at

■ Sports

The GRO organizes sports activities all twelve months of the year, such as soccer, basketball, **Ultimate Frisbee**, and softball. Especially popular are the summer tournaments. GRO also supports and sponsors graduate-oriented sport clubs of the most popular kind. Soccer, volleyball, and cricket are some of them. Contact gro@jhu.edu or visit www.jhu.edu/~recsport for more information.

When demand is high enough and the funds are available, GRO also arranges for the

televised broadcast of sporting events such as the World Cup, Euro Cup, and championship cricket matches

■ Helping out others

The GRO is a source of funding for campus groups whose programming involves members of the graduate student community. For example, we have provided up to \$1,500 of funding for graduate student conferences, cultural events (e.g., Chinese New Year), and sports or gaming groups.

In addition, the GRO may provide grants of \$150 for interdepartmental social events. If two or more departments can think of an excuse to party together, we'll consider chipping in some money to buy food and drinks. Please note that the GRO cannot pay for alcohol -JHU won't allow it..

To find out about requesting GRO funding, follow the link for funding from the GRO main website, www.jhu.edu/gro.

■ Publications

As you've no doubt deduced by now, the GRO publishes the *GRO-Hopkins Guide to Living in Baltimore*. We also put out the *Grad News*, a monthly newsletter with a focus on graduate student concerns; look for it in your campus mailbox soon. Also, consider volunteering to write an article and pick up some extra cash. Contact the editor at gradnews@jhu.edu. Moreover, we're working together with the Center for Educational Resources on improving the *TA Manual* and TA training

■ Getting Involved in the GRO

The GRO cannot do all of these things without the help of graduate students like you. Please consider doing your part. The best way to start getting involved is to attend a GRO meeting.

GRO meetings occur every two weeks and

are open to the public. Every department is entitled to one vote on issues (such as funding of campus groups and agenda determination). If your department doesn't have a representative, please consider joining us! There's always free food at meetings, and it's a good way to get to know the university and your fellow graduate students. There's always free food at meetings; and it's a good way to get to know the university, meet your fellow graduate students, and develop administrative experience for that all-important job in academia or industry when you graduate. Visit the GRO main website www.jhu.edu/gro to find out where and when these meetings will take place.

How to contact the GRO:

website: www.jhu.edu/gro

email: gro@jhu.edu

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