Dear Parents,

It is our pleasure to send you this edition of the Hopkins Parents eNewsletter. We hope you are enjoying the end of fall and looking forward to the winter holidays! We are excited to report that JHU ranked 11th in US News’ Global University Rankings for academic research performance and global and regional reputations! This is distinct from their recent ranking of JHU as #12 in Best Colleges. We are pleased to be recognized for our commitment to excellence in research and academics.

President Daniels’ 10 x20 goals include a commitment to our communities—both locally and globally. Among our many research focuses is developing ways to respond to the Ebola epidemic. From labs in Baltimore to boots on the ground in West Africa, Johns Hopkins is participating in the campaign against Ebola. Scientists, doctors and nurses, public health experts and engineers are all involved in many ways: building West Africa’s health infrastructure, training local caregivers, researching the virus, designing better protective equipment, and educating fellow medical professionals and the public. You can find out much more about what Johns Hopkins is doing at http://hub.jhu.edu/ebola.

In alignment with this community commitment, 1,300 JHU students, faculty members, alumni, and staff joined President Daniels to volunteer in the 6th annual President’s Day of Service: focusing on community projects with goals including city beautification, food justice, and outreach projects like mentoring youth in athletics and academics. Watch this video for highlights.

On a lighter note, earlier this semester, students flocked to Pier Six Pavilion to see Iggy Azalea in concert on September 25th. HOPtoberfest, supported by the Parents Fund, included quirky and diverting events like Alien Laser Tag and the Silent Disco, fall-themed fun including the Campfire, Johnny’s Orchard and the Pumpkin Patch, relaxing events like Yoga on the Quad, and a variety of shows, concerts, and low-key events. We hope you were able to make it out to Family Weekend and enjoy some quality time with your Blue Jay! We had over 2,500 participants representing approximately 1,000 families in attendance. This year’s program included perennial favorites, such as museum and library tours, Parents College, and the Diwali Dhamaka and some new events, including the Homewood Orchard Fest at the Homewood Museum. One highlight of the weekend was the MSE Symposium, supported by the Parents Fund, featuring journalist Laura Ling: one of two foreign reporters detained by North Korean authorities in March of 2009 for purportedly attempting to enter the country illegally.

We encourage you to engage with us through one of the many opportunities offered through Parents Programs: volunteering at Johns Hopkins in Action events in Baltimore and elsewhere (a Philadelphia-area event is coming up on December 13th); connecting to our vibrant 2100-strong Parents Facebook community, keeping up with JHU publications, contributing student internships via PIN:200, and much more.

As always, thank you for your involvement and support! We hope you and your student enjoy Thanksgiving and the winter holidays together.

Sincerely,

Kevin G. Shollenberger, Vice Provost for Student Affairs
Carol M. Lorton, Director, Parents Programs
Staff Spotlight: Executive Director for the JHU Career Center: Trudy Van Zee

We are pleased to introduce our Career Center’s new executive director, Trudy Van Zee, who started her position at JHU on November 1.

“After a long career at Accenture designing and developing career related programs and more recently working with clients to address their most pressing talent challenges, I reflected on what has been most satisfying to me in my career. Nothing has compared to when I was told that, “I made a difference.” I came to JHU to do just that - to make a difference in the lives of students as they make one of the biggest and most fragile transitions in their lives. I too am a mother of college aged kids - I “get it” and am deeply committed to the opportunities that lie ahead.”

Please join us in welcoming Trudy to the JHU team.

New Developments
The Whiting School of Engineering’s newest, 69,000-square-foot addition to the engineering quad, Malone Hall, opened its doors on October 17th. Much of Computer Science and some affiliated research institutes will for the first time reside under one roof, ushering in, according to WSE leadership, “an unprecedented era of networking and interdisciplinary collaboration.”

Exciting developments are taking place in the Station North district in Baltimore City. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Film Center is a collaboration with MICA and MD Film Festival which will transform Baltimore’s historic Parkway Theater into a center for the study, production, and exhibition of film. This is one step in a plan for the surrounding area’s redevelopment, which will accommodate the expansion of Johns Hopkins and MICA film and media studies programs.

Finally, we are proud to announce plans for a new mixed-use project opening in Charles Village. The project - which we’re calling 3200 St. Paul until it has a permanent name - will provide additional market-rate housing opportunities for juniors and seniors and shopping and dining spaces that will benefit students and Charles Village neighbors alike. Assuming all approvals are granted, construction is expected to begin in April 2015 so that student tenants can occupy the building by the start of the fall 2016 semester.

Important Dates
Monday, November 24- Sunday, November 30: Thanksgiving Vacation
Tuesday, December 2: Intersession registration opens at 7 a.m.
Friday, December 5: Last day of classes
Saturday, December 6 - Tuesday, December 9: Reading period
Wednesday, December 10 - Friday, December 19: Final examination period
Saturday, December 20- Sunday, January 4, 2015: Mid-year Vacation
Sunday, January 4: Residence halls re-open at noon
Monday, January 5- Friday, January 23: Intersession
Monday, January 26: First day of Spring Semester classes
Click here to view the full academic calendar.
Students shouldn’t miss out on the 10th Annual Lighting of the Quads on Tuesday, December 2nd at 8pm on the Keyser quad! For this tradition, students, faculty, and staff come together and enjoy hot chocolate, performances, and festivities as President Ron Daniels ushers in the winter season by lighting up the campus.

Updates on Greek Life & the Alcohol Strategy Working Group
The Intrafraternity Council (IFC) and the university administration have worked together to develop and implement an interim plan for safer, more secure social activities at fraternity houses. The new plan requires IFC member chapters to allow only Johns Hopkins students invited in advance to attend parties at chapter houses. They will also appoint party monitors to ensure that only the invited guests are admitted and to watch for unsafe or unhealthy behaviors. The IFC is working on defining different types of social events and the numbers of monitors required for each, detailing monitors’ responsibilities, and training monitors.

The next step is to develop a permanent plan that will be applied to all student organizations. The Alcohol Strategy Working Group and its student subcommittee, expected to complete their work early next calendar year, are taking a broad look at building a culture and practice of responsible behavior that extends throughout campus. We are all committed to effective measures that protect our students while enabling them to enjoy each other’s company in the social activities that are an important part of undergraduate life.

We hope your students enjoyed the MSE Symposium this fall. Plenty of other interesting lectures by guest speakers occur on campus throughout the year. Students can look forward to the Foreign Affairs Symposium in the spring. The Conversations in Medicine series also brings distinguished guest speakers to campus. Encourage students to attend these events with their friends year-round: lectures present great opportunities for students to broaden their perspectives and learn outside the classroom as a community.

Research, Internships, and Intersession
Students interested in research and internships should begin making plans for the intersession and the summer, if they have not already done so. We encourage you to explore and discuss our many available opportunities with your student. Intersession programs include credit and non-credit courses; opportunities to study abroad, travel in the US, and contribute to Baltimore; trips focused on career development; and more. While many students choose to pursue opportunities directly related to their chosen career paths, it can be equally educational and enriching for students to leave their comfort zones. For example, our B’More program enables freshmen to take courses that immerse students in their Baltimore community: acquainting them with the city’s civic and cultural resources, and enabling them to make a contribution to the city and its residents. [Registration](#) for B’More and other intersession programs begins December 2nd!

Safety and Security
We have made a significant investment in recent years to enhance our security services. Campus Safety and Security’s multi-layer model includes over 300 CCTV cameras, campus police, contract security, and off-duty Baltimore City police. Our security fleet of cars, golf carts, Segways, bicycles, and foot patrols provide a strong security presence on and around campus.

The Campus Safety and Security website offers personal safety tips for students and information on a variety of other programs available to students, including a Rape Aggression Defense course, walking tours of the surrounding area, and Home Security Inspections. Additionally, in order to accommodate growth in ridership, we have expanded the hours and number of vans for the Blue Jay Shuttle, which offers route vans as well as phone-requested Night Ride
escorts. The safety of our students is critically important to us and we are continually assessing our efforts in order to ensure we are providing them the services they need.

Health and Wellness

With exams coming up soon and the weather changing, this is a time when students need to pay special attention to both their mental and physical health. We understand that during this time, students don't always prioritize exercising and eating right and we know that these healthy habits are important. Students should be aware of the plethora of resources that we have designed to support them academically, emotionally, and physically. We urge you to go over the available services with your student and encourage them to seek help when they need it.

Encourage your student to take advantage of the confidential services offered by the Counseling Center, including individual and group therapy, referrals, workshops, outreach programs, and more. Students should also check out the Counseling Center’s informational pamphlets and confidential self-assessments, and be familiar with on- and off-campus psychological resources.

A Place to Talk (APTT) is a confidential peer listening group. Sunday-Thursday evenings, APTT provides cozy spaces in AMR I and Wolman, filled with candy and board games, where students can come talk about anything they want (including serious concerns). APTT volunteers are trained to listen and respond without giving advice: this helps students sort out their own thoughts and feelings.

Stressbusters are JHU students trained to give relaxing 5-minute back rubs. Students can drop by Q level of the MSE Library and receive free back rubs and stress management tips every Monday from 8-10PM. Student groups can also book Stressbusters for their meetings and events.

With the stress of finals coinciding with the onset of the cold and flu season, it is increasingly important for students to take care of themselves and implement preventative measures to avoid becoming ill. Please remind your child to rest, get a flu shot, and follow these simple guidelines:

- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer often.
- Don’t share cups or eating utensils with anyone. Infected students can shed germs days before they develop obvious signs of illness.
- Don’t go to class with a fever. (Students should work with their professors to make up any missed work. If
they miss extensive class time due to illness, the Office of Student Life can work with them to help make arrangements with faculty members.)

- Cough into their sleeve rather than their hand.
- If students feel sick, especially if they have a fever or prominent cough, they should go to the Health and Wellness Center.

Dining services can work with sick students who are on meal plans to make arrangements for food from FFC to be taken back to residence halls.

After Hours Care
If your student has a non-life-threatening medical problem while the Student Health and Wellness Center is closed, s/he can call 410-516-8270 (the main SH&W line) and be automatically transferred to a nurse practitioner who can give medical advice.

Influenza Vaccination Schedule
JHU full-time students can get flu shots for free, either by appointment or at the listed locations/dates.