Dear Parents,

As we watch students walking through campus bundled against the snow and freezing temperatures, we recognize the irony of calling this the spring semester. However, spring really is just weeks away and it brings with it the promise of blooming dogwoods, Frisbee on the Beach, Spring Fair, and the joys of sunshine in the evenings.

While our Hopkins community looks forward to the change of season, we also recognize that the past few months have been challenging to all of us. The losses of two students, Yangkai Li and Jeremy Huber, have caused us to take pause and consider how best to support each other as the healing process continues for our Hopkins family. We have always been committed to ensuring that your child receives support, high quality services, and an experience that will set them up for success both during college and after they leave. In November, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education gave us wonderful recognition for our work on these goals by voting to reaffirm Johns Hopkins’ accreditation, with no conditions or required follow-up: a rare unqualified endorsement that is akin to a perfect score. We are incredibly proud of this achievement, and proud of the work we have done over the past 10 years to improve the undergraduate experience, establish two new schools, and make other strategic changes to strengthen JHU.

Accreditation is a process of peer review that the educational community uses to self-regulate, and it encompasses a thorough examination and evaluation of all facets of an institution. The Early Decision applicant statistics for the Class of 2019 affirm that JHU continues to attract the best students in the world. Of the 1,865 applicants—a 17% increase from last year’s already record-breaking early decision pool—91% were in the top 10% of their graduating classes. These top students come from diverse backgrounds and boast high-impact community engagement experiences in addition to their stellar academic credentials. Also, this year, JHU was recognized among hundreds of colleges by the Corporation for National & Community Service for its role in addressing community challenges through service: testament to the commitment of our students and staff alike to productively engage with and contribute to our greater community.

We will not allow these affirmations to make us complacent: rather, we will take them as motivation to work harder than ever to devise new ways and continue to strengthen existing ways to support our students and enable our community to continue to flourish.

We are particularly excited to have a new member of our team assisting with these efforts very soon. Andrew Wilson, Senior Associate Dean for Campus Life and Interim Assistant Vice President for Community at Emory University, will be joining the Hopkins community as the new Dean of Academic and Student Services this April. Dr. Wilson’s impressive and diverse background in teaching, research, and professional and institutional service, and his commitment to offering students a seamless, holistically supportive learning environment, will make him a great asset to JHU.

On the horizon, we are very excited to announce that construction for the 3200 St. Paul mixed-use project will begin on March 2nd! Designed to benefit students and Charles Village neighbors alike, this project will include shopping, dining spaces, and additional market-rate housing for 560 juniors and seniors. 3200 St. Paul will enhance upperclassmen’s connections to the JHU community and offer them more opportunities to enrich one another’s educational and personal journeys.
As part of our commitment to safety, JHU is launching a yearlong donor-funded project to improve San Martin Drive, the scenic 0.9-mile thoroughfare that winds around the back of the Homewood Campus. The goal of the project, beginning late February, is to make this road safer for the pedestrians (including runners and joggers), cyclists, and drivers who use it. New construction will also improve the aesthetics and clearly indicate, by the new brick gateways to campus, that visitors have arrived at Johns Hopkins.

Our students are part of a community that emphasizes the importance of taking an active role in our surroundings and building an inclusive community that embraces and capitalizes upon the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff. One of the most exciting aspects of our students’ education is learning to work with peers who have different views and experiences from their own. Not only will this serve them well as they enter a diverse society after graduation, it will prepare them for our increasingly global world. We work hard to create opportunities that leverage our diversity.

Just one example of this is our student-run, Parents-Fund-sponsored Foreign Affairs Symposium. Founded by a group of JHU undergraduates in 1997, the Symposium hosts distinguished speakers and discussion panels focusing on current, controversial topics. The 2015 theme is Chaos/Catalyst/Clarity. Spring events include women’s rights icon Gloria Steinem, CIA veteran Jack Devine, Obama campaign manager David Plouffe, Humans of New York founder Brandon Stanton, an ISIS panel, and A Discussion of Crime and Punishment in Modern America.

The role of parents is vitally important to the success of students and our community. Continue to provide the wisdom, advice, and loving support that you have always offered your young adults. Your invaluable perspective enables them to flourish academically and socially, and to positively influence their fellow scholars to grow as global citizens. Also continue to engage with the other members of our parents’ community and with JHU.

As always, thank you for your involvement and support!
Sincerely,
Kevin G. Shollenberger, Vice Provost for Student Affairs
Carol M. Lorton, Director, Parents Programs

Student Service Spotlights

The JHU Career Center offers students a vast array of services including individual appointments, workshops, connections to alumni, and Career Fairs, aimed at giving them the necessary tools to successfully launch their careers. New this year to JHU is the Specialty Career Fair (March 5th, 11:30am- 2:30pm, Glass Pavilion)! Start-ups, non-profit organizations, the Government, and JHU affiliated companies will have booths for students interested in internships and/or full-time positions.
Now is the perfect time for students to search for internships and summer experiences! Internships that provide meaningful on-the-job experience enable students to build their resumes and get a foot in the door, and offer them chances to network, establish mentor relationships, accumulate new skills, and gain real-world perspectives on an occupation. We have reached our goal of 200 parent-generated internships, but we don't want to stop there! You can help current students take their first steps into the world of employment by sponsoring a summer internship or connecting the Career Center with your company’s recruiting staff, through PIN:200. We have reached our goal of 200 parent-generated internships, but we don't want to stop there!

Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and Whiting School of Engineering Academic Advisors benefit students in all classes by assisting with class registration decisions, ensuring that students are making good academic progress, helping them to improve their study skills, and matching them up with tutoring and other academic support options as needed. Faculty advisors are also an extremely important resource for WSE students and KSAS upperclassmen: WSE students should be especially attentive to messages from their faculty advisors in the next few weeks, in anticipation of Advising Week (March 30th - Apr 3rd) for fall 2015 registration. Encourage your students to stay in contact with their Academic and Faculty Advisors and ask questions.

Students should familiarize themselves with the academic support services available before they need them. The Hopkins PILOT program groups students in specific courses with 6-10 classmates to work on problems and study together, led by a student team leader. The Study Consulting Program offers weekly one-on-one meetings with a consultant who helps the student to strengthen general academic skills. The Learning Den provides regularly scheduled course-specific tutoring. The Office of Academic Support website also offers study aids and links to relevant campus resources.

Getting Involved

The Center for Social Concern (CSC) prides itself on its focus on leveraging students’ unique talents and skills in order to ensure that partner organizations get what they need, while enabling students to learn and explore by working within our larger community. The CSC’s vast array of student groups enables students with different skills, interests, and personalities to engage with the community. For example, Art Brigade and Encore Music enable artistic and musical students to teach and guide elementary school children in creative expression. Cooking 4 Love gives students opportunities to refine their cooking skills while providing hot meals for homeless women in Baltimore, BootUp Baltimore leverages students’ technology skills to bring computer equipment and education to Baltimore students and community organizations, and Health Leads offers students health-related experience in clinics designed to give patients the physical and psychological resources they need. In addition to its wide variety of student groups, the Center for Social Concern offers work-study with nonprofit organizations, enriching summer internships with the Community Impact Internship Program which matches students to non-profit and government organizations, leadership opportunities such as paid, appointed positions with the CSC’s Planning Committee, and many more ways to engage with Baltimore. Students can spend their spring break learning about and working in the Baltimore community: this year’s spring Alternative Break options are Food Justice in Baltimore and Community Development in Baltimore. Students should visit the Center for Social Concern just across campus: 3103 North Charles St., the building with the red door.
Encourage your freshman or sophomore to host new Blue Jays for **SOHOP**: our 2-day programs for admitted students! Current student volunteers host admitted students for one night and enjoy showing them around and sharing their JHU experiences. This year’s SOHOP dates are April 8th-9th and 15th-16th. Upperclassmen can stay involved in the Hopkins Hosting Society by serving as Host Advisors, or on the Leadership Board if they are interested in planning and executing programs.

Another way for students to stay involved and engaged with our community is by enjoying our special Blue Jay events and traditions, many of which are sponsored fully or in part by the Parents Fund. For example, this year’s **High Table** will be on Tuesday, March 10th, at 6:30 PM. The food tasting has yielded a delicious gourmet menu for this formal 5-course dinner for freshman, faculty, and staff— including President Daniels. Don’t let your freshman student miss out on this grand and quirky JHU tradition! Students should also keep an eye out upcoming classwide events for sophomores, juniors and seniors. Students can keep up with campus programming through their Today’s Announcements emails and social media including the Student Life Facebook page.

One of our oldest and most fun traditions is the Parents Fund-supported **Spring Fair**: April 24-26 this year, with the theme Outwit: Outlast: Outfair. The nation’s largest student-run festival celebrates its 43rd year with concerts by Nelly and Sweater Beats (yes: two concerts this year!), carnival rides, games, concerts, local crafts and nonprofit vendors, and an ever-expanding food court. It’s a great time for families to visit campus and connect with their Blue Jays!

We have plenty of opportunities for you to get more involved. We encourage parents to contribute internships to **PIN:200**, make gifts to the Hopkins Parents Fund, volunteer a in regional or local event or on campus, stay in touch with one another via the Hopkins Parents Facebook group, and much more.

Happy Spring!