October 2015

Dear Johns Hopkins Families,

Our new academic year is well underway and we have enjoyed welcoming new and returning students to campus. The students have established their fall routines and are enjoying immersing themselves in our flourishing academic, social, intellectual, and cultural community.

Throughout this past year, our Homewood community worked together to ensure that our policies align with our work to provide high quality programming and opportunities that complement and enhance learning both inside and outside the classroom. Our goal continues to be to provide these opportunities in a safe and stimulating environment that enables our students to develop into individuals who will be successful both at JHU and beyond. We recognize that we have a collective responsibility to create an environment that supports good decision-making, holds us each accountable for our actions, and builds community.

Over the last several months, we spent much time articulating expectations and policies regarding related behaviors and community care. Specifically, our new sexual misconduct policies were shared with the community earlier this academic year. In addition, we have made policy changes - resulting from recommendations from the alcohol strategy working group and its student subcommittee - geared toward the creation and sustenance of an environment and culture of individual and organizational responsibility around alcohol consumption. We are reviewing these changes with student groups with the goal of implementing the new policies later this semester.

You can also talk to your student about alcohol consumption and responsibility: collegeparentsmatter.org has a great deal of information on this subject, and with Halloween just around the corner, now is a good time for these conversations.

In the spirit of community involvement and responsibility, our Bystander Intervention Training (BIT), which teaches students safe and creative ways to help prevent gender violence when they see situations of concern, has been so successful and well received that students actually asked that it be made mandatory university-wide. We are pleased to see how committed students are to looking out for their fellow students and community members. All first-year students are now required to participate in two 2.5-hour BIT training sessions.

For those of you who have students who live off-campus, we want to share with you the City of Baltimore’s updated Neighborhood Nuisance and Unruly Social Events Code, which governs social events at which noise levels exceed legal limits. A brief overview of the ordinance is available here, and the full code is available on the Baltimore City website. We have also made our student community aware of this city code.

All Johns Hopkins community members share a collective commitment to a campus where academic integrity is treated with the utmost respect. The Center for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as “a commitment...to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.” Our academic community flourishes when each scholar can have faith that all peers and colleagues are exhibiting these behaviors in their work. A number of resources have been shared with students to help them avoid pitfalls associated with inaccurately acknowledging references.

Helping students understand their community responsibilities and holding them accountable for advancing these standards is critical to ensuring the vibrancy of the student experience at Johns Hopkins. This summer we brought on a full-time Associate Dean for Student Conduct to lead our efforts as well as a full-time student conduct officer. As talented and capable as Hopkins students are, sometimes they face challenges that span multiple facets of their lives at JHU. In an effort to assist with these issues, two case managers have joined the Office of the Dean of Student Life to assist with a multidisciplinary team ranging from student life to academic advising that will work with students to navigate the various resources of the university.

Families are 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.
Your partnership with us is critical in reinforcing the messaging that we give to students. If your student feels overwhelmed or has questions, encourage them to contact professors, academic advisors, the office of the dean of student life, or other relevant Homewood Student Affairs resources in order to seek assistance. Additionally, if you have questions please feel free to contact the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs and we will be glad to work with you in order to connect your student appropriately.

Thank you for your involvement and support!

Sincerely,

Kevin G. Shollenberger, Vice Provost for Student Affairs

This time of year can be especially stressful for students: they may be juggling midterms, papers, projects, and increasingly substantial obligations for their student groups. Some of them may be experiencing disappointment as they receive their first poor grades: read more for ways to help and support them when this happens.

In addition to increased academic and co-curricular pressure, many students tend to get sick when the seasons change, and illnesses spread quickly among college students. You can help by encouraging your student to continue to eat healthy, exercise regularly, get enough sleep, and visit the Student Health and Wellness Center (SHWC) when they are sick. Nudge them to take charge of time management in order to avoid feeling overwhelmed.

**Influenza Vaccine Info**

- Living in the dorms can be a great set-up for having the flu sweep through. While the influenza vaccine is not 100% effective, an annual vaccine is the best way to reduce the chances of getting seasonal flu and lessen the chances of spreading it to others.
- This is especially important for anyone with a history of asthma, as asthmatics are at increased risk of severe disease and complications from the flu.
- The easiest way for them to get their influenza vaccine is through the Student Health and Wellness Center’s Flu Clinics. Upcoming dates for 2015-2016 include 10/28, 11/2, 11/18, 12/2, and 1/28/16. View the schedule here for times and locations.
- If your student cannot make it to the Flu Clinic, they should call (410) 516-8270 to schedule an appointment at the Student Health and Wellness Center (SHWC) for their influenza vaccine.
- The vaccine is $20 at the SHWC; free for students who have school insurance, and free for most insurance plans if they use a preferred provider from their insurance (SHWC is not a preferred provider for any insurance other than the school insurance). Your student may pay at the time of the vaccine and ask for a receipt to submit to their insurance.

Encourage your student to check out all the fabulous dining options available on campus. On meal plans or with dining dollars, students can always get something delicious to eat with the high-ranking Johns Hopkins Dining Program. Our newest offering, Crepe Studio, is located inside Charles Street Market and offers savory and sweet crepes, salads, flatbreads, bagels and sandwiches. Nolan’s on 33rd underwent a major dining room update this summer, including the addition of new stations Homewood Market (focused on rotisserie meats and homestyle sides) and Rustic Plate (focused on ethnic cuisine, which changes weekly); an expanded and improved Tacqueria, pasta station, and salad bar; and lowered pricing (a meal swipe or $7.99 can now pay for an entrée, sides, dessert and a beverage). Students can keep a lookout for The Birdfeeder, our very own food truck, and follow Hopkins Dining on Twitter for updates on dining specials and events. For questions related to campus dining or meal plans please contact Dining at 410-516-3383 or dining@hd.jhu.edu.
This year began with a fun and informative Orientation for incoming students. Each year we continue to improve and enhance our Orientation program, keeping what works and adding new events. The Class of 2019 had the opportunity to participate in Baltimore Day: guided by their First Year Mentors, each student explored one of seven Baltimore neighborhoods for three hours to learn more about the city they will call home. This program was highly successful at familiarizing students with Baltimore and helping them to recognize that the entire city, not just campus, is their new home and that they have an important place in it: setting the tone for engagement with the Baltimore community for their years at JHU and well beyond. The Baltimore Sun ran a great article on this event. The JHU Digital Media Center created this soundscape of new students' and families' stories that they recorded with StoryNest during Orientation: listen and enjoy!

During Convocation, the Class of 2019’s official induction into the Blue Jay community, President Daniels likened the students’ journeys to that of the New Horizons spacecraft which flew to Pluto last month. Members of the New Horizons team attended as special guests. Students enjoyed Pluto fly-by cookies alongside the traditional Convocation cookies: as excited about these, and this achievement, as they were to join JHU.

The Nine East 33 project, formerly referred to as 3200 St. Paul, is underway and set to open Fall 2016! Nine East 33 will offer Hopkins juniors and seniors four-bedroom suites, each of which will contain four private rooms, two bathrooms with four bathroom sinks, a full kitchen, a living room, washers and dryers, and Internet connectivity. Residents will have access to garage parking and a secure bike storage room. Nine East 33 will also feature study rooms, large common rooms, a mini theater, and a second floor outdoor terrace overlooking 33rd Street. In addition, Nine East 33 will have 30,000 square feet of space for food, service, and retail businesses, including a CVS to complement our Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Charles Commons.

The Center for Social Concern’s Community Impact Internship Program (CIIP) Class of 2014 has won a Governor’s Service Award in the Exemplary Service-Learning Category. Through CIIP, undergraduate students spend summers paired with nonprofit organizations and government agencies in Baltimore City, gaining hands-on paid experience in the fields of healthcare and health policy, homelessness and poverty, sustainability and food access, community art, criminal justice, education and youth advocacy, neighborhood improvements, and much more. In the CIIP’s five years, 225 interns have worked over 60,000 hours in Baltimore City at no cost to community partners (the program is supported by anonymous gifts). The CIIP’s Class of 2014 was nominated for the award by Scott Gottbrecht from Project Connect with United Way, one of their community partners.
This summer, Leroy “Lee” James was appointed Executive Director for Campus Safety and Security Services. Before coming to JHU, Mr. James served as the Chief of Police and Executive Director for Safety and Security at Howard University. JHU Campus Safety and Security functions in concert with other service-oriented offices to ensure a safe and secure environment for students to learn and grow. We always strive to assess, add to, and improve upon the services we offer to ensure that our students’ environment is pleasant and safe.

We encourage you and your student to familiarize yourselves with JHU Campus Safety and Security’s vast catalog of services, and to use the resources on our website to learn how to keep safe in diverse situations. We provide law enforcement services around the clock, with campus special police officers commissioned by the state of Maryland patrolling on foot, on bicycles and in security vehicles on and off campus. We also offer Meet & Greets for students to meet staff, Neighborhood Safety Walks which enable students to learn “street smarts” while exploring the Charles Village area, Home Security Inspections for student off-campus residences, a 24-hour phone line, walking escorts in addition to our Transportation Services, and more.

Upcoming Events

The 2015 MSE Symposium theme is “Voices That Shaped Today, Visions That Frame Tomorrow.” Hopefully your student already attended the lecture and dinner with Lauren Bush Lauren on September 24th, and the lecture by Dwight Watkins on October 7th. Subsequent speakers include former senator and vice presidential candidate Joe Lieberman, criminal defense attorney and civil liberties proponent Alan Dershowitz, director of Academy Award-nominated film Selma Ava Duvernay, and comedian/Instagram personality Josh Ostrovsky. President’s Day of Service: This year’s President’s Day of Service, originally scheduled for October 3rd, has been rescheduled for April 2nd, 2016. Both of these events, along with many others, are proudly sponsored by the Hopkins Parents Fund.
Family Weekend: Friday, October 23rd - Sunday, October 25th

Encourage your student to apply for a Provost’s Undergraduate Research Award (PURA). Students of any discipline can design a research project, and if accepted, be guided by a full-time faculty sponsor as they complete the research. Award recipients choose between a financial award ($2500 to go toward the research) and academic credit (up to 6 credits for “independent work”), and present their posters at a special Poster Session and Recognition Ceremony. Fall proposals are due on October 15th at midnight.

HopArt, the Homewood Arts Initiative, gives Homewood undergraduates the opportunity to attend shows in Baltimore for free. Students can email HOPART@JHU.EDU with their name and the show they would like to be considered for: they are entered into a drawing and winners get a free ticket to the show, round-trip transportation to and from campus, and coffee/dessert after the event at a local restaurant. The Fall 2015 HopArt shows run from October 11th-December 5th. HopArt is sponsored by the Hopkins Parents Fund.
Opportunities abound for parents and families to enhance their involvement in our community. Join the conversation on the closed JHU Parents Facebook group, volunteer for JHU on campus or at home, contribute to the Hopkins Parents Fund which supports many of the student life programs mentioned above, and more through Parents Programs.

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