Dear Parents and Families,

I hope you are enjoying the spring! It’s been beautiful in Baltimore, and campus has been bursting with activity—from the class-wide events that promote solidarity and connection among students, to the fascinating student-run symposia which expose students to the ideas of influential figures and fuel lively discussions, to the food, frolic and fun of Spring Fair.

Although our institution has always valued community engagement, in the year since Freddie Gray’s death and the unrest in Baltimore, JHU has been even more conscious of our connections and work with our surrounding Baltimore community. It’s invigorating to see our students so dedicated to improving the world around them. Students who engage with their communities during their years at JHU broaden their perspectives and graduate better equipped as global citizens.

Seven hundred students and community members demonstrated their individual commitments to this goal by participating in the first ever President’s Day of Service to be held in the spring. After rescheduling from last October due to weather, they came out to serve their community on April 2nd: planting, pruning, cleaning, and painting all over Baltimore City. Made possible by the Hopkins Parents Fund and organized by the Center for Social Concern, President’s Day of Service is in its seventh year, and with each event we strengthen our ties with the city that we call home.

HopkinsLocal is another way that we continue to enhance our community engagement. Hopkins is using its status as the largest private anchor institution for Baltimore City to create lasting opportunities in Baltimore by expanding participation of local and minority-owned businesses in construction projects, hiring more city residents especially from neighborhoods in need of job opportunities, and buying locally to enhance economic growth, employment, and investment in Baltimore. For example, Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System has a workforce development program that has helped 69 individuals who receive state assistance train for jobs at the system. Inspired by HopkinsLocal, JHU and JHM trustees leading major companies in Baltimore partnered with JHU and other business leaders in the city to form BLocal. Blocal is a commitment by 25 Baltimore area businesses that will infuse at least $69 million into local and minority-owned, women-owned, and disadvantaged businesses over the next three years.

Another of our community partnerships is the Community Impact Internships Program (CIIP), which pairs JHU undergrads with nonprofit organizations and government agencies to work on community-identified projects. Funded by generous anonymous gifts, this Center for Social Concern initiative enables students to earn $4000 working 35 hours a week for 8 weeks over a summer, gaining real-world experience in one of ten internship focus areas while playing a part in the Baltimore community. Since 2011, CIIP interns have worked over 60,000 hours with over 100 different organizations in Baltimore City. Some examples of this year’s partner organizations are the Baltimore City Health Department, Jubilee Arts, Project Homeless Connect, Baltimore Green Space, and the Office...
Students staying in Baltimore over the summer have a wonderful opportunity to continue to experience campus and get to know their city! Students should take time to enjoy exploring the spaces they might walk by every day—including the Sculpture Garden and the President’s Garden, the Homewood Museum, and the nearby Baltimore Museum of Art. Off campus, encourage them to use our transportation services to check out the rich array of events that happen in Baltimore during the summer.

As always, thank you for your involvement and support!

Sincerely,
Kevin G. Shollenberger
Vice Provost for Student Affairs

Important Dates

Final Exam Period: Wednesday, May 4th - Thursday, May 12th
Closing of Residence Halls: Friday, May 13th, 12pm

Commencement
Date: Wednesday, May 18th 2016: 4:00 PM
Speaker: Spike Lee
Location: Royal Farms Arena
201 W Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Signature Class Events
The Signature Class Events are designed to enhance cohesion within each class, and meaningful connection to the university, by facilitating interactions between classmates.

High Table
Hundreds of dapper freshmen joined professors and university administrators in academic regalia for a formal three-course meal and conversation, mimicking the centuries-old formal dining rituals of Oxford and Cambridge. High Table facilitates informal but meaningful conversation between freshmen, faculty members, and university leaders.

Sophomore Garden Party
Over 300 sophomores sported their cocktail party finery for their class’s elegant Spring Garden Party at Gertrude’s, which included appetizers, dinner, desserts, a DJ, and non-alcoholic drinks, both inside the restaurant and in the outdoor statue garden.
**Junior Cruise**
This year’s luau-themed Junior Class Inner Harbor Boat Cruise on April 7th doubled as a charity event raising money for Change for Children, a nonprofit that provides access to clean drinking water wells in the Dominican Republic. Students enjoyed a dinner buffet and two open dance floors, each with its own DJ, on a ship provided by Spirit Cruises.

**Senior Week and MSEe-Ya Party**
This year, Senior Week is from May 12th - May 17th! Graduating seniors enjoy a week of events. Monday, May 16th is the traditional cocktail party in the MSE Library: bidding a sentimental, if cheeky, farewell to the site of so many hours of work over their undergraduate careers. This week also includes a formal at Gertrude’s, a night of fun at Powerplant Live (free; buses provided), an Atlantic City trip, a Senior Toast, and a Pancake Palooza at the FFC ($4, tickets at the door).

We would like to thank the many parents who generously support the Hopkins Parents Fund making our springtime and year-round programming for students possible, including Spring Fair, Signature Class Events, Nest Fest, the Foreign Affairs Symposium, and more.