



The Grad News

The Newsletter of the Hopkins/Homewood Graduate Community

February/March 2009 · Volume 10 · Issue 4

Opinions expressed in the Grad News do not necessarily represent those of its staff, the GRO, or graduate students in general.

Housing Chair's Report

GRO Housing Chair Kelly Duke Bryant, History

During the 2008-2009 year, I am serving as the Housing Chair for the GRO. In addition to attendance at meetings of the GRO Executive Board twice a month, the position, as its name suggests, involves addressing issues pertaining to housing for current and future graduate students here at Johns Hopkins University. Thus far, I have mostly been gathering information about the housing resources already available to Hopkins graduate students. I have learned, for example, that the Off-Campus Housing Coordinator (who works in Wolman Hall, Room 102) is quite eager to help graduate students locate quality housing in Baltimore. In addition to providing listings of commercial and privately-owned properties, this office also offers information regarding landlord-tenant issues, public transportation, trash and recycling collection, and so on. Beyond the Off-Campus Housing Office, advertisements for apartments, sublets, and shared housing, as well as requests for roommates, can be found on the GRO's Housing Forum: <http://groups.google.com/group/gro-housing>. As Housing Chair, I hope to increase usage of the site by publicizing it, encouraging participation, and perhaps expanding functionality.

I have also begun working to ensure that incoming graduate students have access to useful information

regarding housing in Baltimore and that they receive this information early enough in the summer, so that they may plan an apartment-hunting trip if they wish. Affordable short-term or temporary housing is very important to new students, since it allows them to spend a little time familiarizing themselves with the city and to make an educated decision about where to live and how much to pay. I have found that there are quite a few privately-owned temporary accommodations available near campus – interested students may contact the Off-Campus Housing Office to obtain access to the listings. Numerous commercially-owned apartment buildings offer short-term housing as well; I plan to contact these businesses to obtain up-to-date information on pricing. I will then disseminate this information among the incoming and current grad stu-

dent community. Furthermore, the Hopkins-owned dorms may have rooms available on campus for incoming graduate students to rent on a short-term basis between June and mid-August. Finally, students may rent rooms in hotels along the Collegetown Shuttle route at a discounted rate if they book through the Collegetown Network's website: <http://www.baltimorecollegetown.org/things-to-do/accommodations>. I plan to collect information and resources for graduate students facing problems with their landlords. Landlord-tenant relations can deteriorate any time, but I am particularly concerned that during these difficult economic times, landlords may become unresponsive or may take advantage of their tenants in various ways. Many documents to help address these issues may already be found at the Off-Campus Housing website: <http://www.jhu.edu/hds/offcampus/landlords/legal.html>. I plan to spend some time checking through these resources to make sure that all bases are covered and to add additional resources as necessary.

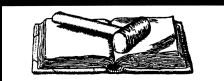
I welcome your questions, comments, and concerns regarding any of the issues I've discussed above. In addition, I would love suggestions or ideas that you may have about other housing issues that need to be addressed. Please contact me at [<kmduke@jhu.edu>](mailto:kmduke@jhu.edu). ♦



The GRO sent a soccer team to NYC in November. See p. 10 for a report.

GRO

Graduate Representative Organization



The Johns Hopkins University

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On Monday, February 9th, a “Town Hall” meeting was held in which some of the deans were present to hear and answer questions from the graduate student body. The content of that meeting follows.



GRO Chair and Co-Chair, Duncan Sinclair and Brenda Hedrick, called the meeting to order and introduced the deans who were present: Krieger School of Arts and Sciences Dean Adam Falk; Whiting School of Engineering Dean Nick Jones; Whiting Associate Dean Ed Scheinerman; and Dean of University Libraries Winston Tabb. The GRO Co-chairs laid down the ground rules – *i.e.* that all questions and answers should be respectful and succinct to allow time for more questions and answers.

Brenda began the question and answer period with a write-in question. Someone in Computer Science raised the question of support for graduate student families. This student is concerned about lack of maternity leave as well as adding dependents to health insurance.

Dean Jones chaired the “Work & Family Task Force” ten years ago. Some recommendations were implemented, but others were not. This is certainly an issue; the deans have heard the concern and now have a committee working on it.

“Is there a timeline or date by which we might hear results?”

“Not yet.”

Nick Tebbins from the Philosophy Department raised the question of non-resident fees. Non-residents are stuck in a bit of a Catch 22. Non-residents are the least able to pay, so they end up adjusting, which prolongs their time to degree. A sixth-year graduate student from the Philosophy Department sec-

onded this concern. While this student was not sure of the average time to degree for the department, he did know the amount that he was being asked to pay – \$10,700, not including living expenses.

Dean Falk responded to the question. Non-resident fees were instituted to reflect that students were using university facilities and services, such as their advisors’ time and library resources. KSAS is close to the end in developing a policy that would allow for a ‘post-support’ category.

Neena Mahadev, 2006-07 GRO Chair and a grad student in Anthropology, raised the following question: “Can there be any more teaching opportunities, *etc.*?”

Dean Falk would like to increase the number of Deans’ Teaching Fellowships to as many as the committee thinks are qualified. They are also looking to add TA slots. These would be to support advanced students rather than new students. There are certainly now gaps between the end of support and degree completion.

Caitlin Cross-Barnett from the Sociology Department noted that social scientists can’t get jobs because they don’t have publications, so they end up accepting post-doctoral positions. This works for people who do not have families but would not be fair for someone who already moved her children three thousand miles to start graduate school.

Dean Falk acknowledged this concern and that it raises the question of whether to admit fewer grad students and support them for longer. Perhaps we need to have a bit of restructuring.

The next question regarding conferral of degrees came from Kelly Duke Bryant, GRO Housing Chair and a grad student in History. Kelly’s concern is with students who finish up

over the summer, which is common in History. They need to receive their degree before they begin teaching in September.

The deans responded that this is a problem they are fixing. It’s even a more acute problem in Nursing. This should be done this year. Degree conferral will take place three times a year, and this will be reflected on students’ transcripts. Dean Falk noted that this issue points to the usefulness of conversations like this.

Mareike Wilson, GRO Alumni Chair and Anthropology grad student, pointed out that it’s absolutely imperative to finish degrees, but this is difficult when we don’t have summer funding. “Is there anything the University can do to expedite the process of finding summer funding?”

Dean Falk noted that KSAS received a grant from the Mellon Foundation as well as money from the Provost; however, this money’s endowment is smaller than when we received it. Finding money of this sort is one of his tasks as dean. Grad students are at the top of his list, but finding an additional \$5000 to support summer funding for each grad student is difficult.

Mareike also noted that students in the Anthropology Department were told that stipends would be frozen.

Neena Mahadev noted that questions of summer funding and funding to support languages is particularly relevant to international students, who do not qualify for several sources. “Will programs such as IGS and WGS, *etc.*, which students have relied upon for summer research funds, be cut?”

Dean Falk notes that the general philosophy has been to protect grad students as much as possible. These funds often lead to longer-term funding. In terms of longer funding

opportunities, faculty in our-fields know what is out there best.

A student from the History of Art Department asked about the Singleton Center. "How will it cover services that used to be offered at the Villa Spellman?"

Dean Falk complemented the grad students for asking such relevant questions and then proceeded to answer. Elements of the Villa Spellman program included money for conferences, but students in the History of Art Department also used the Villa when they were stationed in Florence. These funds have been transferred directly to the History of Art Dept.

Another student asked about the University's strategy with respect to grad students. "What does Hopkins expect from us?"

"When Hopkins opened, three quarters of students were grad students. Our competitor institutions and the Ivy League have a level of support we will never have. Our endowment is one half to one third of Duke, Penn, or Washington. Our peer institutions – *i.e.* the top 15 – have raised stipends, while we've chugged along. From the outside, this often looks like an undergraduate college." Dean Falk said that he needs to find the resources to fix this.

WSE is different and is equivalent to non-sciences in KSAS. It would be easier to hire a post-doc than to bring grad students up to speed. Lots of our peer institutions have comparative masters programs.

Dean Falk noted that he doesn't think anyone is whining.

Dean Scheinerman pointed out that higher stipends serve their needs as well.

A masters student from an engineering department wondered whether there is a streamlined program for masters students to enter PhD programs at JHU. "Do they have to head back to grad admissions?"

The deans note that they are working on it. "You may have to check a box, but it should be possible, with faculty support."

"Would this also be possible with the advanced academic programs?" "Yes, but there isn't as much overlap between masters and PhD coursework as with the engineering departments."

A Chemical Engineering third-year noted that his program is much more integrated than he's seen anywhere else, but he wonders how to

We are administering a Stipend Survey to gauge the status of graduate student funding at JHU and to examine its effect on our research, lives, and professional aspirations. We are asking you to participate by following the link below and filling out the online form. This information is very important to all of us, and we cannot emphasize enough the value of your participation. All responses will be completely confidential.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=EzhKSBftR1AVq8TdOfZBiA_3d_3d

We will close the survey on March 31st, so please participate soon.

be a better mentor.

"From a school-wide perspective, we subject you to safety and ethics courses. We should think about offering additional courses for first-years."

Brenda raised a question for Dean Tabb. "Specifically, will there be space for grad students, such as a reading room, in the new library wing?"

Dean Tabb noted that he was glad to get this question as they begin planning the new building. The Brody Commons will open in two to three years. The current building has only common space – no reading rooms. Dean Tabb encourages everyone to be in touch with Brenda regarding this issue.

Gilman is also due to reopen before the new library and should provide space for Humanities students in 18 months.

WSE also tries to include grad student space as they plan new buildings.

Neena Mahadev noted that there continues to be a lack of support for writing. "We need this support for publications."

The deans acknowledged that this is an unmet need. It was discussed at a chairs meeting, and the chairs have been charged with understanding the problem.

Ryan Edel from Writing Seminars asked a quick question. He has a friend whose paycheck doesn't cover what hours she's working and what is being held.

"This is a problem she should bring up with her supervisor."

The final question came from me. "As GRO Secretary for the past 20 months, I have been in a

number of meetings where grad students have asked about the possibility of having a post office. This is a particularly important issue for those who are applying to jobs. I've already raised the question before in meetings with the deans, including Dean Scheinerman. Has there been any movement toward getting a Post Office? Could it be something included in the new library wing?"

Dean Falk responded that the US Post Office decides where there will be post offices. Homewood doesn't have the volume of Remington. Packages can be sent from the basement of Wolman.

As a final note, James Williams from Anthropology noted that the Writing Center is now open to grad students. Appointments can be made on-line. ♦

In North American culture, nay, world culture, the cuisine of France is legendary for its perfection in flavorful eating. When we think of a French restaurant, visions of indulgent appetizers, succulent meats, and decidedly decadent desserts swim through our heads; the French restaurant is often considered the ultimate, important, romantic date venue, with impeccable service and expensive gastronomy, all served in an elegant location.

For just such a treat, my fiancée and I sought out the celebrated Tersiguel's, located in old Ellicott City. The charm of old Ellicott City, with its beautiful architecture and haunting air, is the perfect setting for a romantic night out. Tersiguel's has been long considered the pinnacle of the old-fashioned charm of the town – and for good reason. The restaurant, so quaint and unassuming on the street, is easy to miss, as it blends into the surroundings of the old buildings. However, it is hard to miss the proud French flags in the windows, which make a lovely and inviting entry.

Upon entering the building, we were greeted by most of the staff, with offers to take our coats, and soon we were seated. I had a bit of time to take in the décor of the restaurant, which was very old-fashioned, possibly to keep with the spirit of Ellicott City and the antique shops that line the street. Quaint little doilies and other granny-friendly items lined shelves and cupboards placed throughout the dining area.

Our server appeared and, with no menus, asked for our drink order. We asked to see a wine list, to which she complied quickly, with still no menus. After ordering two glasses of wine, we were given our menus, with the server spilling out a lengthy, detailed list of the night's specials, which we promptly forgot when we opened the printed

menus.

The menu choices were very stereotypical French fare: *escargot*, *pâté*, *bouillabaisse*, and crepes, along with chicken, beef, pork, and fish as main courses. The best part about the menu is that Tersiguel's offers a *prix fixe* menu – that is, the diner chooses a salad, appetizer, main course, and dessert and pays a fixed price for everything, which will usually work out to be a considerable savings.

Tersiguel's
8293 Main St.
Ellicott City, MD
(410) 465-4004
www.tersiguels.com

Reviewer's Rating:

(out of five French flags)

My date decided to order one of the *prix fixe* menus, selecting the house salad, *pâté* as the appetizer, the roasted chicken for the main course, and the crème caramel for dessert. I decided to be a little adventurous and chose the duck, which was prepared two ways: the breast was seared, and the leg was *confit*.

The salad came out very quickly, and was a standard salad – not bad, but not exciting. Soon afterwards, the appetizer came out, which my companion described as “kind of weird.” Perhaps *pâté* is a taste that one must acquire, much like the first time one tries beer or wine, but the *pâté* did not excite my companion.

The main courses came out quickly and with little fanfare. Excited by the menu descriptions and our hunger, we dug in, eager for the delights of good food.

I enjoy duck; in fact, I'd have it

much more often if it were more readily available and was sold in pieces like chicken. I'm not a chef, but I've cooked a few ducks, and I know that it can be an easy dish to ruin. The duck was a nice texture and was cooked evenly, but the seasoning was nonexistent. The only flavor at all was a greasy, buttery taste that felt filmy in my mouth. The dish came with two sides – cabbage and apples diced and fried. The apples were very good – crunchy and a nice alternative to potatoes. The cabbage was interesting – tart and crisp.

My companion's chicken was perfectly cooked, but again, with very minimal seasonings save for butter. The onion risotto was a strange pairing with the chicken, overpowering the chicken with an unappetizing onion flavor.

Now it was time for the real excitement – dessert! The *prix fixe* really is a great deal; it comes with a regular-sized dessert that was large enough to share. We selected the crème caramel, which was a flan with a slight coffee flavoring. The flan was perfect – smooth and creamy, with the perfect amount of sweet coffee taste. The dessert was certainly the best part of the meal.

At a restaurant of this caliber, impeccable service is to be expected. The staff at Tersiguel's certainly go through the motions of great service, but there is a clumsiness to their actions, showing inexperience. For example, the replacement of silverware between courses should be a silent, almost invisible action to the diner. However, the silverware was clumsily clunked onto the table from a tray of hundreds of forks, knives, and spoons. After the server placed our silverware on the table, he bussed our finished plates, placing the dirty plates on top of the tray of fresh silverware. I don't

(Continued on page 8)

Restaurant Review: Trinidad Gourmet

Adam Maskevich, Near Eastern Studies

The vagaries of geography and history that bring diverse cultures together often produce some of the most interesting cuisines. The incompatible imperial ambitions of the Spanish and Aztecs seem to have made peace in the foods of Mexico, while West Africa and France are both well represented in a bowl of gumbo. The cuisine of the Caribbean island nation of Trinidad and Tobago is another reflection of diverse cultures thrown together and shaken well. The islands have changed hands numerous times since the 16th century, and today the country's population is a mix of European, African, Indian, and East Asian, all of which are represented in its cooking.

While there are several Jamaican restaurants and carry-outs in Baltimore, Trinidad Gourmet (418 East 31st Street) is, to my knowledge, the only place for Trinidadian food, and it's certainly the only one within walking distance of campus. Like a lot of good ethnic restaurants, the ambiance is minimal; there's a Trinidadian flag, a counter with a couple of stools, and that's about it – it's definitely more of a carry-out place. However, true to form for restaurants of its ilk, the food is interesting, reasonably priced, and, above all, delicious.

Combo plates at Trinidad gourmet include an entrée, yams, rice and peas, and one side. The Stew Chicken (\$9.50) is cooked in a

mildly spiced brown sauce until falling off the bone. The sauce had a good flavor and was spicy without being hot. Oxtail Stew (\$12.00) had meaty pieces of oxtail cooked in a similar sauce, though with less assertive spicing. For those unfamiliar with oxtails, they are, as the name implies, sections from the tail of a cow. The meat is cartilaginous, which, while it may sound unappetizing, creates a rich sauce with a great texture when cooked for a long time. The oxtails at Trinidad Gourmet were quite good but could have used a bit more time on the stove. With our combos, we chose pumpkin and steamed cabbage as sides. The steamed cabbage was... steamed cabbage, and if you are fond of cabbage (as I am) you'll enjoy it. The pumpkin was truly memorable and is one of the best things on the menu. It's sweet with just a hint of spice and is definitely

not overcooked), and it's always nice to see green vegetables play a prominent role in a carry-out meal. And the pumpkin. Did I mention it was good? 'Cause it is. The roti itself is delicious with a sturdy texture that can soak up the flavors of the fillings it lovingly cradles while still able to be used as a utensil to scoop everything up.

We also tried a beef patty and a chicken patty (\$1.75 each), which had spicy fillings inside flaky pastries. The patties are cheap and tasty, though I don't think they're homemade. A side order of plantains (\$2.50) was generous and not too sweet.

Every order at Trinidad Gourmet comes with homemade tamarind sauce and hot sauce. The tamarind sauce is sweet and sour and provides a nice foil to almost everything on the menu; I find it's especially suited to the pumpkin. The hot sauce is made from scotch bonnet chilies (aka habaneros), and its sharp flavor (vinegar? lemon juice?) compliments both the meat and vegetable dishes. If you like things HOT, ask for the hot hot sauce. It's hot. Seriously.

A good basic description of Trinidadian food is a hybrid of Jamaican and Indian culinary traditions. Other items on the menu, for instance, include the Jamaican standards of jerk chicken and curry goat (though curry chicken, beef, fish, and shrimp are also available). The Indian influences are most evident in the veggie dishes and the chutneys they offer – the curry mango is especially good. All ethnography aside, though, the food is just tasty. It's really tasty, actually. Add in the reasonable prices, friendly owners, and the fact that it's a locally owned small business and not a chain, and Trinidad Gourmet is a great addition to the neighborhood and a place that I will keep coming back to. ♦

Trinidad Gourmet
 418 E. 31st St.
 (410) 243-0072
 Mo-Sa 7 AM–8:30 PM
 www.trinidadgourmet.com

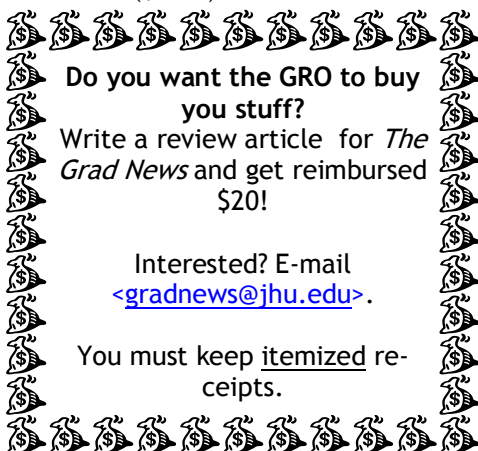
Reviewer's Rating:

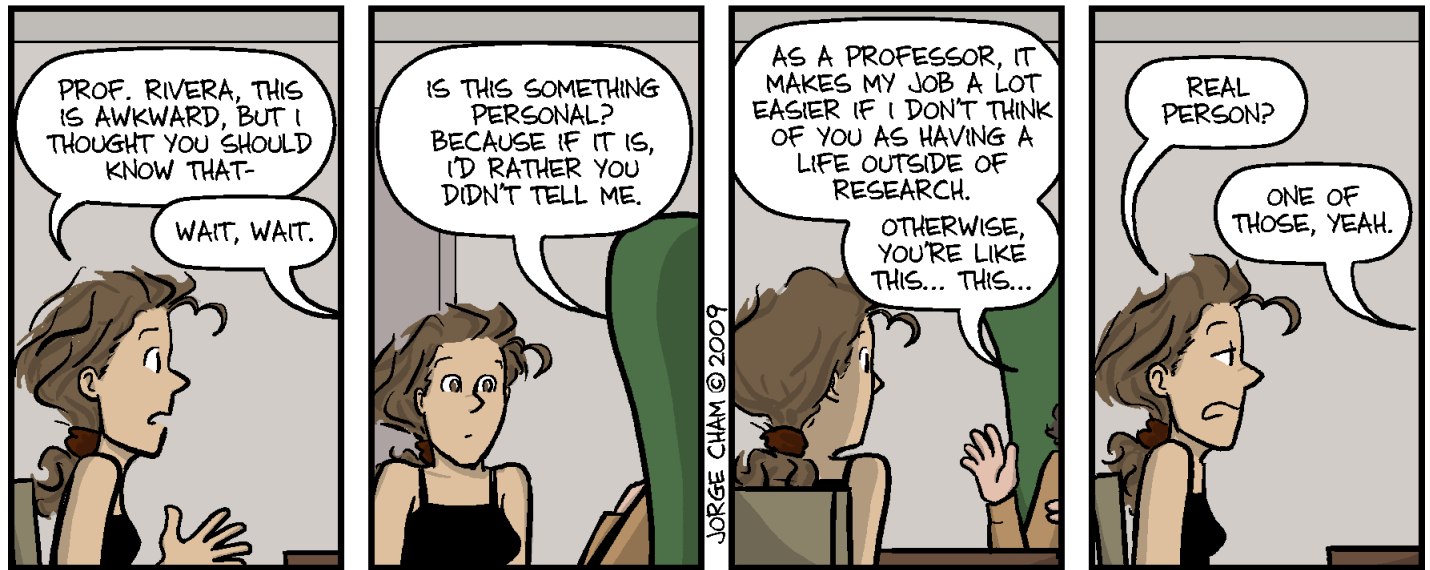


(out of five pumpkins)

worth getting an extra order of. The rice and peas and yams (aka sweet potatoes) that round out the combos make them a generous meal and are both thoroughly enjoyable without being particularly memorable.

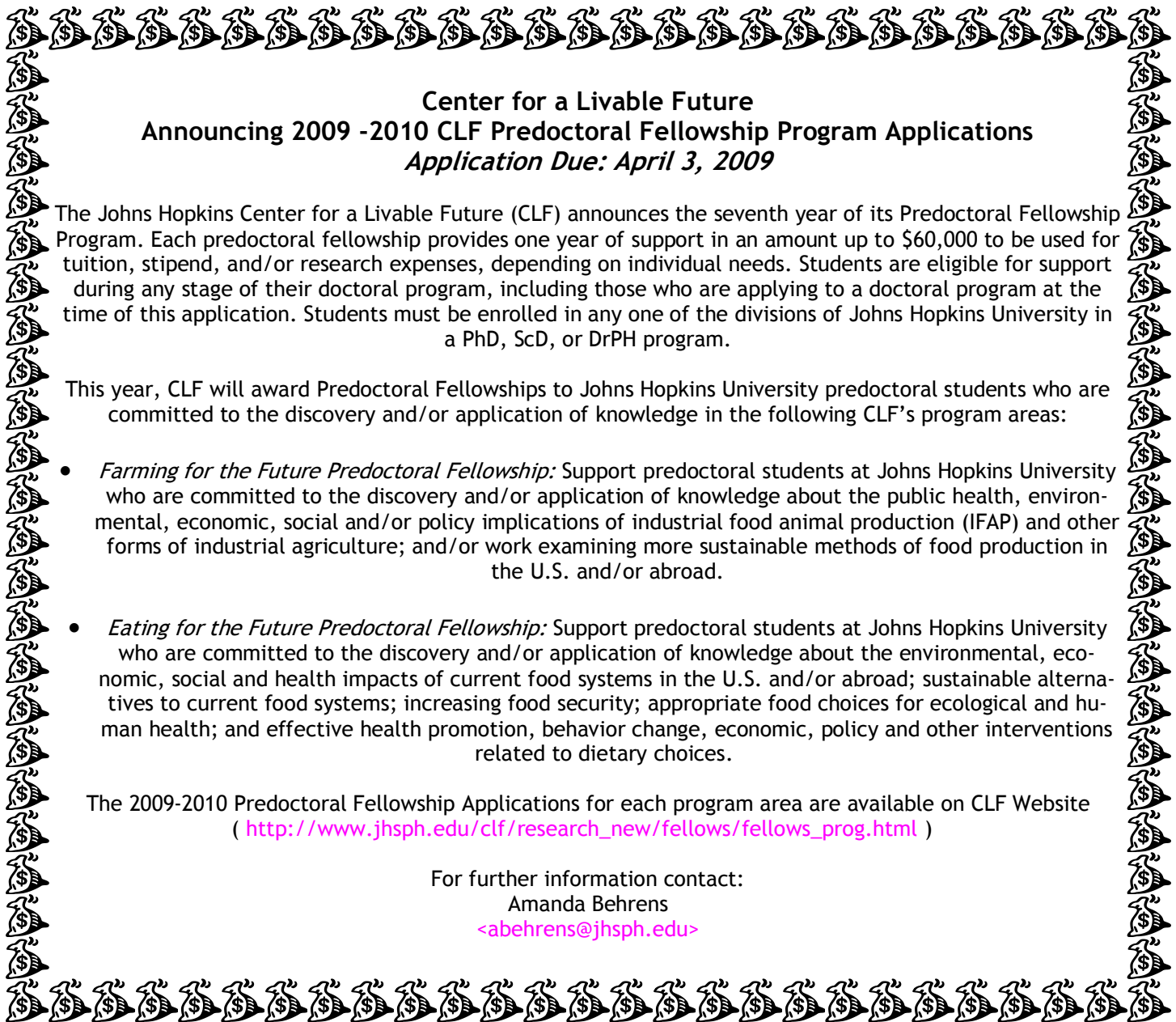
The best deal at Trinidad Gourmet and my personal favorite is the Veggie Roti (\$7.00). A roti is a flat bread of Indian origin that is used to enclose the various fillings, which include *channa* (chickpeas) and potato, spinach, green beans, and that heavenly pumpkin. The *channa* and potatoes is hearty and filling, though it could use some more spicing. The spinach and green beans are both well cooked (that is to say,


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 You must keep itemized receipts.



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Center for a Livable Future
Announcing 2009 -2010 CLF Predoctoral Fellowship Program Applications
Application Due: April 3, 2009

The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (CLF) announces the seventh year of its Predoctoral Fellowship Program. Each predoctoral fellowship provides one year of support in an amount up to \$60,000 to be used for tuition, stipend, and/or research expenses, depending on individual needs. Students are eligible for support during any stage of their doctoral program, including those who are applying to a doctoral program at the time of this application. Students must be enrolled in any one of the divisions of Johns Hopkins University in a PhD, ScD, or DrPH program.

This year, CLF will award Predoctoral Fellowships to Johns Hopkins University predoctoral students who are committed to the discovery and/or application of knowledge in the following CLF's program areas:

- *Farming for the Future Predoctoral Fellowship:* Support predoctoral students at Johns Hopkins University who are committed to the discovery and/or application of knowledge about the public health, environmental, economic, social and/or policy implications of industrial food animal production (IFAP) and other forms of industrial agriculture; and/or work examining more sustainable methods of food production in the U.S. and/or abroad.
- *Eating for the Future Predoctoral Fellowship:* Support predoctoral students at Johns Hopkins University who are committed to the discovery and/or application of knowledge about the environmental, economic, social and health impacts of current food systems in the U.S. and/or abroad; sustainable alternatives to current food systems; increasing food security; appropriate food choices for ecological and human health; and effective health promotion, behavior change, economic, policy and other interventions related to dietary choices.

The 2009-2010 Predoctoral Fellowship Applications for each program area are available on CLF Website (http://www.jhsph.edu/clf/research_new/fellows/fellows_prog.html)

For further information contact:
 Amanda Behrens
[<abehrens@jhsph.edu>](mailto:abehrens@jhsph.edu)

Student Health Insurance Alert

If you were insured under the school's student health insurance plan between 2001 and 2009 and visited an out-of-network health care provider, you may be eligible for reprocessing of your claim and a subsequent refund. Aetna Student Health will be contacting students who fall into this category.

For further details regarding their "Claims Reprocessing Initiative for Out of Network Claims", please visit Aetna's website:

<http://www.aetnastudenthealth.com>

**Undergrads
Write the
Darndest Things!**

From a set of applications for an intersession course:

"This summer I interned in the Mergers and Accusations department."

"At my internship I learned that my aspirations were not dumbfounded."

Please send those funny, heartwarming, or just plain dumb undergraduate quotes to <gradnews@jhu.edu>.

**Juanita Jackson Mitchell Book Drive
Sponsored by the JHU Black Graduate Student Association**

Are your bookshelves bursting at the seams? Do you have books you'd like to donate to a good cause? The JHU Black Graduate Student Association is sponsoring its first annual Juanita Jackson Mitchell Book Drive. Juanita Jackson Mitchell was the first African American woman to graduate from University of Maryland School of Law and the first to be admitted to the Maryland Bar.

We are asking all faculty, staff, students, and friends of the University to donate books about or written by Africans, African-Americans, and peoples of the Caribbean. The book drive will begin February 16th and will end February 27th. Labeled bins will be located in the breezeways between Ames and Krieger; Mergenthaler and Remsen; and in Levering Hall.

Let us find your books a new home! Remember books are gifts that can be opened again and again. These books will be distributed to a school in the Johns Hopkins University area.

Herbal Medicine - A Holistic Approach

If you suffer from chronic stress, frequent illnesses, chronic conditions not adequately managed with conventional approaches, or if you just want to explore a healthier lifestyle, you may want to consider herbal medicine. During an appointment, we discuss health concerns, review lifestyle factors like diet and exercise, and explore ways to achieve optimum wellness using herbs. Visits are part of the free services offered at the JHU Student Health & Wellness Center. (Please note: There is a charge for herbs and supplements.)

For an herbal medicine consult with Allegra Hamman, please contact the Student Health & Wellness Center at 410-516-8270. Appointments are available Wednesday afternoons or Friday mornings.

Did You Know?

If you go to the following website...

<http://www.jhu.edu/gro/endowment>

...and follow the links there to make purchases, the GRO receives a small commission towards its endowment fund.

What is this endowment? It is a bank account from which the GRO can spend only the interest, a funding source available every year to benefit grad students like you.

The 2009 Homewood Student Video Competition has begun!

Sponsored jointly by KSAS and WSE and open to full-time undergraduate and graduate students in both schools, the competition is a terrific way for the people who know Johns Hopkins best to promote the university by sharing their unique perspectives on life at Hopkins.

What's in it for students?

- Cash prizes
- At least two to three minutes of fame
- The chance to promote themselves, their department, favorite restaurant, student group, unusual hobby, research, athletic prowess, or whatever they want (as long as it adheres to some basic rules and is about some aspect of life at Johns Hopkins).

What's in it for you?

All videos deemed acceptable for use (according to competition rules <http://www.jhu.edu/video-competition/09/rules.html>) will be made available to departments, research centers, administrative areas, student groups, *etc.* to post on their websites and promote their activities. Encouraging (and even providing incentives to) your students, student workers, advisees, research assistants, *etc.* to create a video is a great and inexpensive way to acquire new, creative content that you can use to promote your area.

The process is simple – students (working individually or in groups) choose from one of three broad topics and create a two- to three-minute-long video that they submit by March 25th. All the equipment they'll need (and instructions in how to use it) is available, free-of-charge, through the Digital Media Center. All competition details can be found on the 2009 Homewood Student Video Competition website:

<http://www.jhu.edu/video-competition/09/>

Submissions to last year's competition (sponsored by WSE) ranged from a documentary about the manufacturing of and potential uses for self-assembling nanocubes to a pseudo-nature show about hunting the elusive mechanical engineering student. The 2008 videos can be viewed here:

<<http://www.jhu.edu/video-competition/09/rules.html>>

For fifteen years, the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program has helped colleges and universities prepare more minority students for careers in academe than any other national fellowship program. Our fellowship is part of a cooperative venture between regional educational organizations, states, colleges and universities, their departments, and charitable foundations.

More than 350 scholars currently benefit from participation, more than 425 of our fellows have completed their doctoral degrees, and over 83 institutions have participated in our program.

The fellowship provides \$15,000-\$20,000 in annual stipend of support (award amount determined by each state) and covers attendance at the Annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the largest gathering of minority Ph.D.s in the nation seeking careers as college faculty.

The deadline for application submission is March 7th, 2009, for fall 2009 awards.

Additional information is available at:

<http://www.sreb.org/programs/dsp/dspindex.asp>

Don't forget!

**Fill out the
GRO Stipend Survey:**

[http://
www.surveymonkey.com
/s.aspxsm=
EzhKSBftR1AVq8TdOfZ-
BiA_3d_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspxsm=EzhKSBftR1AVq8TdOfZ-BiA_3d_3d)

(Continued from page 4: Restaurant Review)
consider myself to be squeamish, but this was unhygienic.

Tersiguel's is one of the few French-cuisine restaurants in the area, and the crowning jewel of the old charm of Ellicott City. Although it was an interesting dining experience, the quality of the food and service did not live up to the \$90 price tag (tip

not included). For top-notch cuisine and service, a hefty bill is not surprising, even expected, but despite our anticipation, this experience left my companion and me feeling disappointed. ♦

Greetings everyone,

I wanted to take a minute to let you know, formally, of a new Center at Johns Hopkins University: The Charles Singleton Center for the Study of Premodern Europe.

Last semester, Fall, 2008, was the first of our formal existence. Time was spent figuring out procedures, defining possible Center trajectories, and beginning with certain programs.

Now that the new semester has begun, I wanted to update you on the status of various Singleton Center initiatives and most importantly to encourage your participation.

We created a website for the Center, which you can see here:

<http://krieger.jhu.edu/singleton/>

There you can find events, resources, and other information.

As to events, an important upcoming occurrence is our official inaugural event, which will include a public lecture by Anthony Grafton on Tuesday 3 March, followed by a reception. More information will be forthcoming very soon on the topic, location, and exact time.

I'd like to direct your attention to the "Graduate Opportunities" section of the website. You will see there the call for our next round of graduate fellowships. The deadline is March 13th, and the fellowships will be awarded both for Summer 2009 and Fall 2009. Please note: the Singleton Center Fellowships are intended to support graduate research in all of Europe.

We advertised for and chose our first class of Singleton Center Fellows in Fall 2008, and they are now pursuing research abroad.

While our graduate fellowships primarily support students who have reached ABD status and are pursuing dissertation research, please note a Singleton Center initiative directed at pre-ABD students: The Singleton Center Seminar Paper Prize. The prize is designed to encourage and reward graduate student research and writing of high scholarly quality; more information can be found on the website.

Part of the Singleton Center's mission is to help us connect with institutions abroad with whom our constituent faculty and graduate students have shared research interests. Various plans are in the works, and I look forward to sharing them with you as they develop and solidify.

Local interests are important as well. In Spring 2010, we hope to inaugurate the "Singleton Lecture Series". A visiting scholar will come, spend a week, and offer a series of lectures.

Other events will be announced as they materialize.

One final note: You, the graduate students of Johns Hopkins, represent one of the most important constituencies of this Center; indeed, the lion's share of our resources are devoted to your development and research.

So, needless to say, if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please do send them along. I look forward to hearing from you.

Again, welcome, and keep your eyes open for new events and initiatives.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Celenza, Director
Singleton Center for the Study of Pre-modern Europe

A number of JHU graduate students were invited [to New York City on November 1st] to participate in the first inter-institutional soccer tournament sponsored by the New York Academy of Science's Science Alliance, the postdoc and student arm of the Academy. This mini-tournament was a hit with about 130 participants from various institutions around New York City. They included Mt. Sinai, Columbia, NYU, Rockefeller, and Cornell, to name a few.

JHU brought a graduate student team of nine, comprised of members from many departments: CS, CE, Physics, Math, BioMed, BioTechnology, and Biophysics.

The trip allowed us to experience a little bit of NYC culture. We managed to check out the NYC Halloween parade on the first night. On the game day we started with a typical New York breakfast of bagels, cream cheese, lox, and coffee. Then we did some sight seeing on our way to the tournament, which was located on a small island between Manhattan and Queens. With the Manhattan skyline in the background we played three matches,

winning two and losing one. Eager to continue in the competition, we were disappointed to hear that, due to an unexpectedly large turnout, there would not be any playoffs. Either way, we had a wonderful time playing under stadium lights against a friendly mix of graduate students. The night finished up with a dinner at an outdoor Czech restaurant in Queens. At a large table we discussed many topics from

Did You Know?

The GRO has funds to support graduate student events.

If your group is planning an event that involves graduate students, be sure to visit <http://www.jhu.edu/gro/funding>



There are ~15 GRO-recognized groups on Homewood campus. Is your group one of them?

We want to showcase your club to the other grads. Volunteer to write an article and tell us about who your group is and what you do.

If you are interested, send an e-mail to gradnews@jhu.edu.

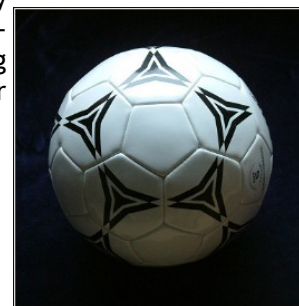
Articles can be anywhere from 300 to 1200 words.

physics to Middle East politics to the day's best goals. This was a wonderful experience, especially spending time with old friends and making new ones.

As participants, we not only experienced NYC (Halloween parade, touring around) but also established new friendships with other scientists on the East Coast. Networking through soccer was surprisingly easy and very enjoyable.

While the GRO summer sports league is excellent, we think that it could be extended to regional schools as well – perhaps having the winners of the GRO summer

leagues play in a small tournament that includes neighboring institutions. Another idea is to have a mini-tournament between a few teams from Homewood and the medical school. It seems that there is very little interaction between the two campuses in terms of graduate student networking. This could be a nice segway into establishing stronger relations. ♦



When Gustav Eiffel's tower was completed, the residents of Paris were outraged at the eyesore with which they'd been saddled. Constructed as a centerpiece for the 1889 World's Fair, the newspapers were filled with letters of condemnation, complaining that it would stick out in their fair city "like a black blot, the odious shadow of the odious column built up of riveted iron plates." When the Victorian-era French illuminati are so angry they start repeating themselves, you know things are serious. Nowadays, it's the artistic hinge of the continent. Parisians take picnic lunches in the Eiffel Tower's shadow and pay a premium for living quarters nearby.

Which brings us to the subject of the 51-ft hermaphroditic Janus that greets rail-borne visitors to our fair city. Commissioned by a private foundation, Jonathan Borofsky surely takes some comfort from the story of the Eiffel Tower when he reads the public reaction to his "Male/Female" sculpture. Without attempting to confirm my estimate, I'd say that the Baltimore Sun has contained more letters about it than about any other single subject since 2004. A couple times a year, the "Letters to the Editor" section explodes with passionate angry letters — most decrying the statue, and a few defending it. And you should see the comments section. (Oh wait! they outsourced that to some crappy message board. Good move; ad revenue is for suckers.) Every once in a while the spirit of compromise is invoked with suggestions to put a statue of Baltimore mayor W.D. Schaefer in its place in front of Penn Station and to put Male/Female in some other, more appropriate location... like the bottom of the Harbor.

The argument focuses on the aesthetics of the piece itself and the juxtaposition of such a "modern" piece with the more traditional

(Beaux-Arts) appearance of Penn Station. But the real controversy may be with what such a statue says about the changing culture of the city. While one featureless face overlooks the rail-yard, another gazes on MICA. While it guards the JFX, one arm reaches toward the Velopede Bicycle Co-op. And though the Washington Monument peeks into view above the skyline, Grand Central is right in the foreground.

You see, Baltimore is re-inventing itself. Gentrification, the process by which affluence moves back into urban areas, started picking up steam in the mid-to-late 90's. Environmentalism and fuel prices are bringing new value to proximity; and the election of an urban, non-white President and the disappearance of those who even remember segregation is slapping



and easing away the fear between races. With these and other factors, like the coming \$8-billion-dollar investment in high-speed rail, gentrification is roaring into the station with brash speed. So an industrial city is suddenly full of artists, an isolated world of cars is increasingly getting around without them, and a cultural tradition older than the nation is forced to incorporate a host of alternative lifestyles.

This shift is uncomfortable for some long-time residents. They haven't done anything different, and yet things around them are changing. And aside from emotional discomfort, this gentrification raises property values. Rents go up, forcing lower-wage folks to move elsewhere. Even those that own their homes can sometimes see increases in property tax large enough to force them out. We graduate students have roles in this as well. We come into town with the assumption that we'll be near the bottom of our career earning curve, so we pay the going rate without protest. Some graduate students are even able to purchase a home; a significant number will stay in Baltimore after they're done with JHU.

The president of the Municipal Arts Society of Baltimore, which commissioned the statue, is pleased with the controversy, because it's getting people to talk about art. But art that exists to make people think about art is a 1980's conceit that has been thoroughly mocked (for good reason). Perhaps Male/Female can do more than that. Perhaps it can be the start of an argument that makes people think about what's happening in Baltimore. And if we're arguing about it, we're thinking about it. And if we're thinking about it, maybe we can come together to really do something special with it. That, or we can chuck Male/Female in the bay and put up a statue of an old white man in a suit. ♦



The Graduate Representative Organization

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- Comments -
- Suggestions -
- Submissions -

gradnews@jhu.edu

Jason Labonte
Editor

Read the *Grad News* Online
www.jhu.edu/gro/
gradnews/
gradnews.html

Contact

Feb/Mar 2009						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
22	23 General Council Coffee Hour, Levering Lounge 3:00-4:00 PM	24	25	26 Happy Hour 6:00-7:00 PM	27 Juanita Jackson Mitchell Book Drive Ends	28
1	2 Travel Grant App. Deadline Coffee Hour, Levering Lounge 3:00-4:00 PM	3	4	5	6	7 SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Fellowship App. Deadline
8	9 General Council Coffee Hour, Levering Lounge 3:00-4:00 PM	10 <i>Purim</i>	11	12 Happy Hour 6:00-7:00 PM	13 Singleton Center Fellowship App. Deadline	14
15	16 Coffee Hour, Levering Lounge 3:00-4:00 PM	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19	20	21
<i>Spring Vacation</i>						
22	23 General Council Coffee Hour, Levering Lounge 3:00-4:00 PM	24	25 Student Video Competition Entries Due	26 Happy Hour 6:00-7:00 PM	27	28

National Graduate Student Crisis Line:
Immediate Help for Grads in Crisis.
Call 1-877-GRAD-HLP.

GRO
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