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Medical Institutions
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Student, Faculty & Staff
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The Global Connection

The Newsletter of The Johns Hopkins International Society

February / March 2009

Cold Weather Fun in (and around) Baltimore

Now that the weather has turned cold (at least on most days), getting outside for some fresh air does not sound like such a good time. However, for those of you who are already tired of sitting inside with blankets piled high around you, here are a few ideas for things to do during the cold months.

Stay inside...

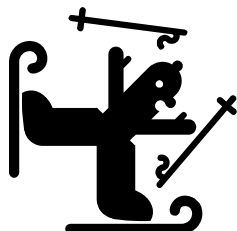
- **Visit the National Aquarium** on a Friday after 5:00p.m. and admission is only \$8. Compared to the regular admission charge of \$25, this is a steal! www.aqua.org



- **Check out one of the city's free museums.** The Walters Art Museum and The Baltimore Museum of Art continue to offer free admission to the public.

Or, embrace the cold and try out some winter sports!

- If you are a fan of the cold weather, check out one of these ski resorts (the closest ones to Baltimore). All offer beginner skiing and snowboarding instruction and tubing.
 - Liberty Mountain (www.skiliberty.com). Located in Pennsylvania, about 60 minutes from Baltimore.
 - Ski Roundtop (www.skiroundtop.com). Also located in Pennsylvania about 2 hours from Baltimore.
 - Whitetail (www.skiwhitetail.com). You guessed it, it's in Pennsylvania and it is about 60 minutes from Baltimore!
- **Ice Skating** at the Mimi DiPietro Family Skating Center in Patterson Park (www.pattersonpark.com/Skating/skating.html) or the Mount Pleasant Ice Arena (www.mtpleasanticearena.com)
Check the websites for days and times. Admission \$4 and skate rental only \$2.



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY NEWS

POSTDOC AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

In an effort to better serve the international postdoc community at The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, the International Society & the JHPDA are joining forces to initiate the Postdoc Ambassadors Program. Each international newcomer will have the option to be assigned to a Hopkins "Ambassador" in an effort to facilitate a smooth transition to Baltimore and Johns Hopkins. An Ambassador should be a current Hopkins affiliate and needs to do little more than contact the newcomer and answer their questions and concerns. We do hope, however, that this program will lead to the establishment of long-term friendships and excellent networking opportunities for all involved. Participating in the Ambassadors Program is a fun way to get involved in the Hopkins community and get to know new people.

How it works:

Send an email to internationalsociety@jhmi.edu with "Ambassador sign up" in the subject line and provide the following in the body of the email: name, work phone, email address, languages that you speak, hosting preferences (i.e. home country, department, etc.), if applicable

When we have a match for you, we will contact you to see if you can be an Ambassador at that time. If so, we will provide you with the new postdoc's contact info and you take it from there!

Duckpin Bowling, Hon!

A unique "Bawlrmer" experience.



When: Thursday, February 26, 6-8pm

Where: Patterson Bowling Center (2105 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore 21231)*

Cost: FREE!!! (Including shoe rental) You can bring your own food and drinks, including beer.

Space is limited! RSVP to Dacia Gauer by February 23:

internationalsociety@jhmi.edu or 410-955-3370

Sponsored by The Johns Hopkins International Society

- How is duckpin bowling different from ten-pin bowling?
• The bowling ball is fairly small, weighing about 2-3 pounds and does not have finger holes
• The pins are about 2/3 the size of tenpins
• You get 3 chances to knock the pins down instead of 2





Ask the Advisor

Dear Advisor,

I am a student in F-1 status and will be completing my program this May. I would like to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT). What are the procedures for making this application?

Sincerely,

F-1 Student

Dear F-1 Student,

Thank you for asking! This is a timely question and I'm sure that many students are wondering about this topic.

Optional Practical Training (OPT) is a benefit for students in F-1 status. OPT is defined as **"temporary employment for practical training directly related to the student's major area of study."** The maximum amount of time that can be granted is 12 months full-time per degree level.* A student can engage in OPT either during or upon completion of their academic program. Most students choose to take advantage of OPT after they complete their degree program, otherwise known as post-completion OPT. Below I have outlined the typical procedures for making a post-completion OPT application. [Please note: You do not need to have secured a position prior to applying for OPT].

1. **Read the OPT packet.** You can find it on the Office of International Service's (OIS) website (<http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/intlsvcs/f1information.html>).
2. **Meet with your academic advisor and ask them to complete the OPT Recommendation Form** (included in the OPT packet). You will need to discuss your intended start date with your advisor. The start date can begin at any time up to 60 days after the completion of your program.
3. **Complete form I-765** (can be found online, Google it!).
4. Have **2 standard passport photos** (2"x2" on a white background) taken.
5. Make an **appointment with an advisor** in the OIS.
6. **Bring all required materials** with you to your appointment (see OPT packet).
7. Once all of your OPT request materials are completed, the advisor will submit them to USCIS.
8. **USCIS will send an Employment Authorization Document (EAD card) to your home address.** You can begin working once you reach the start date on your EAD card.

*Depending on the field of study, some students may be eligible for a 17-month extension of their OPT period. Please contact an OIS advisor to see if you are eligible.

For info regarding pre-completion OPT, please see the OPT request packet and contact an OIS advisor if you have any questions.

Do you have a question for an advisor regarding visa status or related issues?

Please send us your "Ask the advisor" questions at internationalsociety@jhmi.edu and we will publish them (and our responses) in future issues.



Office of
International
Services (OIS)

Walk-in Advising

Monday and
Wednesday
1:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday
8:30 a.m.—12 p.m.



Celebrate Black History Month (February 1-28)



Free concert series. Lexington Market. Musical performances, exhibits and more. Monday-Saturdays from noon-1pm. in February. Free. (www.lexingtonmarket.com)

'Courage: The Vision to End Segregation, The Guts to Fight for It.' Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Art. Exhibit that tells the story of ordinary people who led the fight to end segregation in the South. Through March 1. \$6-8. (www.africanamericanculture.org)

'The Harlem Renaissance.' The Walters Art Museum. Multimedia presentation examining changes in the New York community between 1919 and 1935. Feb. 8. Free. (www.thewalters.org)

African Film Festival at Goucher College. A variety of feature and short films. Feb. 10-14. Free. (www.goucher.edu)

NAACP's 100th Anniversary. Reginald F. Lewis Museum. Celebration with musical performances. Feb 21, 1pm. \$6-8. (www.africanamericanculture.org)



[http://
www.hopkinsmedicine.
org/intlsvcs/](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/intlsvcs/)

About the Office of International Services (OIS)...

The mission of the Office of International Student, Faculty, & Staff Services (OIS) is to:

Provide competent and professional service to international students, scholars, faculty, and staff at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions concerning U.S. immigration laws governing and/or regulating their stay in the United States.

Ensure that The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions maintains compliance with all applicable laws and regulations set forth by the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service (CIS), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Labor, and other government agencies pertaining to our international population.

Assist The Johns Hopkins International Society in promoting international good will, assisting international visitors in adjusting to life in Baltimore and the U.S., and providing for cultural, social, and educational exchange.

Support and engage in advocacy efforts at the institutional, local, national, and international level to promote the importance of international educational exchange.

