

Johns Hopkins University:
Medical Institutions
The Office of International
Student, Faculty & Staff
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Summer is almost over!

The Global Connection

The Johns Hopkins International Society's Newsletter

August/September 2008

A Note from the Editor

At the beginning of July we welcomed over 90 international MPH students to the Hopkins community. Below are a few pictures from the International Society's Welcome Reception for MPH students that was held on July 1. Now it is time to extend another warm welcome to all of our incoming School of Public Health and School of Medicine international students and scholars!

If you are one of the "newcomers", please consider joining the International Society (JHIS) by sending an email to internationalsociety@jhmi.edu. We will put you on our listserv to keep you updated on events.

A word about JHIS: The Johns Hopkins International Society (JHIS) is the cultural outreach arm of the Office of International Services (OIS). Founded in 1959, the Society promotes international goodwill, helps international visitors establish social acquaintances, and provides programs for cultural, social, and educational exchange as well as sponsoring a variety of activities throughout the year.



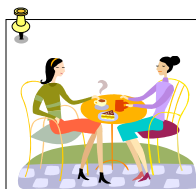
Language Tutors

We are compiling a list of language tutors who are available to work with JHMI affiliates and their families.

The greatest need is for English tutors however, we will collect and publish info from tutors of any language.

If you are willing to tutor someone, please contact us at internationalsociety@jhmi.edu. We will send you a questionnaire so that you can let us know when and where you are available, the age range that you are comfortable working with, and other details.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY NEWS



For Spouses

This section will provide information for spouses of international students, faculty, and staff at Hopkins.

JHIS recognizes that there are many spouses who have accompanied their husbands/wives to Hopkins and seeks to provide opportunities for these spouses to meet and develop contacts and relationships that will help to make their stay in Baltimore rewarding.

Potluck lunches: Monthly potluck lunches have been a popular activity for spouses in the past. Please let us know if you would like to attend monthly potlucks by sending an email to internationalsociety@jhmi.edu.

Special interest groups: We will help you start a group based on a specific interest such as travel, cooking, exercise. Just let us know what your interests are!

Q&A WITH INTERNATIONALS AT JHMI

Ripa Chakravorty



Nationality: Indian, from Gujarat state.

JHMI Department: Public Health, MPH.

Have you ever been to the U.S. before? No, actually I'd never left India before.

What is your favorite place in Baltimore? The 9th floor of the School of Public Health. The view is great and you feel solitude even though there are lots of people there.

Describe something that you found surprising after arriving in the U.S. The people are so accepting and interested in where I come from. They ask me questions about my culture. I didn't think they would be so interested.

What has been the most difficult thing to get used to regarding living in the U.S.? In India I never

(Ripa Chakravorty, continued)

shopped for my groceries like I do now and I found that there are so many choices in the grocery stores here.

What would you like for others to know about your country and/or culture? Vadodara, the city I am from, really encourages education, more than other cities in Gujarat. You can find the old culture and modern day life mixed together. Also, people there are very hard-working and sincere in their work.



Tao Jin

Nationality: Chinese

JHMI Department: Public Health, MPH.

Have you ever been to the U.S. before? Yes, I was a research fellow at the University of Pennsylvania in 2007.

What is your favorite place in Baltimore? The Inner Harbor. It is beautiful and there are many things to do. I like to go shopping and have lunch and coffee there.

Describe something that you found surprising after arriving in the U.S. Specifically at the School of Public Health, the faculty and staff respond to your questions very quickly, they always reply to your emails. I applied to other schools and they were not as impressive as Hopkins. It is easy to understand why Hopkins gets such high rankings.

What has been the most difficult thing to get used to regarding living in the U.S.? One is the language and also understanding the way of thinking and organization. For example, when you buy a cell phone in the U.S., you have a number of minutes and if you go over that, you pay a fee so you have to be careful. In China, you prepay for the minutes and when you use the minutes, the phone stops working.

What would you like for others to know about your country and/or culture? I think the Olympics this year are a good opportunity for the rest of the world to know about China. But some people look at Beijing and think "this is China." That's not true because most of China is not developed like Beijing and Shanghai. China wants to show its best side to the world but most Chinese people struggle in their daily life.



Ask the Advisor

Dear Advisor,

I am a student in F-1 status and my program ends on December 31, 2008 but I just realized that my visa stamp expires in two days! Does this mean that I must apply for a new visa??

Yours Truly,

Mae B. Expiring

Dear Mae B. Expiring,

Thank you for your question. This is a very common and important question! Since you are already in the U.S., you should refer to your I20 for the end date of your program. It should say December 31, 2008 and, as an F-1 student, you are permitted to stay in the U.S. for up to 60 days beyond the end date on your I-20.

The dates on your visa stamp are important when you are traveling in and out of the U.S. So once your visa stamp expires, the next time you leave the U.S. during your program you will need to get a new visa stamp before you can re-enter.

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

Please send us your “Ask the advisor” questions at internationalso-ciety@jhmi.edu and we will publish them (and our responses) in future issues.



Children of the World Co-op

Are you looking for a play group for your child?
Children of the World Co-op is an international play group for children ages 4 and under.

Located in the Cathedral of the Incarnation at University Parkway and St. Paul Street (near the Homewood campus).

The Co-op runs from 9:30—11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Check out the website for more info!

<http://www.cotwcoop.org/>

Fall session begins September 3!





Upcoming Events



*Events in red are JHU events.

\$ = admission fee

August

22 - 1 Sept. Maryland State Fair. An 11-day event featuring rides, games, livestock shows, demonstrations, horse racing and even pig racing! Timonium Fairgrounds. \$
(www.marylandstatefair.com)

23—Oct. 19 Maryland Renaissance Festival. Step back in time to the village of Revel Grove. Interact with villagers and courtiers dressed in costume and enjoy musical and theatrical performances as well as authentic Renaissance era food and drinks. Open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am—7:00 pm. Located in Crownsville, MD. \$
(www.rennfest.com/index.php)

September



1 Labor Day

13 Reggae and Brew Festival at the Maryland Zoo featuring the music of Jah Works and a wide selection of beer along with Caribbean food, arts, and crafts. Event includes free Zoo admission. 2—6 pm \$ (<http://www.marylandzoo.org/news/event-details.aspx?ID=183>)

17 SOURCE Volunteer Fair. Community organizations will be on hand to tell you about volunteer opportunities. 11:45am—3:00 pm School of Public Health, Feinstone Hall.

20—21 Maryland Wine Festival. Sample wine from local Maryland wineries. Also enjoy local food, live music and wine education seminars. Carroll County Farm Museum. \$
(<http://www.marylandwine.com/mdwinefest/index.shtml>)

20 Tour of Baltimore with The Johns Hopkins International Society. Climb aboard a unique amphibious vehicle from Ride the Ducks Baltimore and learn about the history of the city! Seats must be reserved in advance. Contact Dacia Gauer at internationalsociety@jhmi.edu for details.

26—28 Baltimore Book Festival. Over 150 authors will be on hand to meet their readers and sign books. Also featuring storytelling, panel discussions, poetry readings, walking tours and more! Mount Vernon. Free! (www.baltimorebookfestival.com)

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About our office...

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.

Office of International
Student, Faculty, &
Staff 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.

Visit us on the web at:

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

Office of International Student, Faculty, & Staff Services

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