

Dear

Congratulations on your decision to enroll at Johns Hopkins University. We know and understand the hardwork and effort you put forth in order to attend. Hopkins offers many possibilities and opportunities, but it depends upon what you do to unlock these options. To be honest, the academic work is rigorous and intense, but good grades are attainable. In order to attain those grades, your academic life will require great determination, dedication and effort. There are many resources on campus to assist you in all your endeavors, whether it's a classmate, upperclassman, the professor, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, or the Office of Academic Advising. But the key is you must be aware of their presence and seek them out.

Socially, Hopkins offers a great number of activities. There are over 100 clubs and groups on campus. For example, there is a debate team, several cartoon clubs, a band, varsity and intramural athletic teams, the Young Democrats and Republicans, religious and spiritual groups, and a variety of ethnic organizations. There are several which may be of interest to you as a Black student. These organizations are the Black Student Union, the NAACP Johns Hopkins Youth Chapter, the Hopkins Organization of Minority Engineers and Scientist affiliated with the National Society of Black Engineers, the Caribbean Cultural Society, and the Gospel Choir. There are also four historically Black fraternities and sororities on campus. Represented are Alpha Phi Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Kappa Alpha Psi, and Sigma Gamma Rho. And in order for us to have a support network while we attend and after we graduate, this year the Society of Black Alumni was founded. Most of these organizations exist for the benefit of all students on campus, but all exist for the benefit of Black students. That is why these student organizations exist, for the students. They will need your participation in order to continue to benefit our small, but diverse campus population.

Social life at Hopkins is what you make of it. On campus, there is always something going on. Movies are shown weekly, and various departments, symposiums, and organizations are continuously sponsoring programs and events. If you want to do things other than stay at Hopkins, Baltimore has a lot to offer. Baltimore has the Baltimore Zoo and the Inner Harbor which has shopping centers, the National Aquarium, and the Science Center. Baltimore offers many culturally based museums and concert halls such as the Blacks in Wax Museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Walters Art Gallery, and the Lyric Opera House and Meyerhoff. If you enjoy dancing, Baltimore has several clubs. There is a Canadian League football club which went to the championship last year in its inaugural season, the Orioles baseball team, and both indoor and outdoor soccer teams. If you would like to meet students from other campuses, Hopkins is in a consortium which allows you to register for classes at area universities. Coppin State, Loyola, the Maryland Institute of Art, Morgan State, Notre Dame, the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Towson State, and the University of Maryland Baltimore County are all nearby and offer a plethora of other social activities.

We hope that this letter offers more insight into Hopkins. We offer it as a token to demonstrate our desire to welcome you to our community. We look forward to meeting and developing a relationship with you in September. We hope that you will support us and our organizations as we support you! Smile, that was a plug for our organizations!

Sincerely,

Charles Sydnor III, 1996
President, Black Student Union

Marvin Tucker, 1996
President, NAACP