

## Baltimore Week

By *Kate Hannon-Ostbye*,  
SA VP for Community Affairs

Baltimore mayor Sheila Dixon addressed the students, faculty and staff of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health earlier this month, highlighting the public health burdens of Baltimore City and the path to resources with which the city can continue to improve itself as a “cleaner, greener, healthier and safer Baltimore.”

Mayor Dixon’s visit was a focal point of the third annual Baltimore Week, a week-long series of activities and events centered on recognizing the opportunities and struggles of beautiful Baltimore City. The event was organized and co-sponsored by SOURCE (Student Outreach Resource Center), the Baltimore Week Committee and Student Assembly.

Mayor Dixon referenced her consistent interest to improve the health of Baltimore and stressed the overwhelming statistics showing health disparities that must be resolved. “The average city resident dies six years earlier than the average resident of the state of Maryland,” Dixon said. “Six years... means a young person having to make his way in the world without the advice and support of an older generation.”

Mayor Dixon also cited improvements to the health of Baltimore, including decreased rates of death from heart disease, drug overdose, and homicide, praising community organizations for their roles. Dixon challenged the audience, including Dean Michael Klag, “On every single one of these efforts, we need your help... Baltimore’s strength is in its people and institutions, including hospitals and public health organizations that are the envy of the world. We must work together to move our city forward.”

To help, visit SOURCE at [www.jhsph.edu/source](http://www.jhsph.edu/source).



*Tim Fermin's winning Baltimore Week photo*

## Community News: MTA

By *Sorina Eftim*

Recently, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) announced that due to budget reductions, some MARC (Maryland Area Regional Commuter) Train and Commuter Bus services are proposed for elimination. Service reductions are proposed to take effect on January 12, 2009 or sooner if the service reduction is based on a holiday. A detailed description of the proposed cuts can be found at [http://www.mtamaryland.com/FINAL\\_MARC%20and%20Commuter%20Bus%20Hearing%20Proposal\\_102808.pdf](http://www.mtamaryland.com/FINAL_MARC%20and%20Commuter%20Bus%20Hearing%20Proposal_102808.pdf).

MTA will hold public hearings throughout the state soliciting public comments on these proposals. Verbal testimony relevant to the proposals will be accepted at the public hearings. Written testimony may be submitted at the hearings or via mail or email to [http://www.mtamaryland.com/Commuter\\_MARC\\_Hearings.cfm](http://www.mtamaryland.com/Commuter_MARC_Hearings.cfm). Please contact Sorina if you would like to participate in an initiative to respond to these service cuts.

## Baltimore Community Meetings

### **The Zoning Rewrite & YOUR Health:**

Nov. 13, 6-8 pm

Orleans Street Library (1013 Orleans St.)

### **MTA Meeting:** Nov. 18, Noon-2pm & 5-8pm

State Center Office Complex, Auditorium  
(301 W. Preston St.)

**Townhall Meeting - November 25**  
**Commuting**  
**Feinstone - Noon**

## Hispanic Heritage Month

### Terra Firma:

### A Talk with Dr. Quiñones

By Laura Goodman & Miriam Stewart

The JHMI tri-school Hispanic Heritage Month was highlighted by a lunchtime lecture from Hopkins' own Dr. Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa on October 8th. Sheldon Hall in the School of Public Health was full as Dr. Quiñones, recently featured on ABC's Hopkins 24/7, shared the story of his journey from his arrival in the United States as a migrant farm worker to medical school to his current passion for neurosurgery at Hopkins. He shared stories about his life as a tomato harvester ("the best in the country"), truck driver, medical student, neurosurgeon, and devoted family man. Dr. Quiñones also highlighted the problem of disparities in access to education and high quality medical services for people of Hispanic origin in America and made a compelling argument for the urgent nature of this problem given their current and projected numbers.

Other Hispanic Heritage Month events included a panel on health care delivery in Latin America, service provision among the Latino population in Baltimore, a JHSPH Wall of Wonder presentation, participation in the SOURCE tri-school day of service, and a salsa class that culminated in a night out at Club One to show off our new skills. Stay tuned for future volunteering opportunities with Bienestar Baltimore, Latin Student Network, and SOURCE.



## Chatting up SA

By Pritika Chatterjee, SA President

To talk about public health without talking or at least implying partnerships is impossible. Forging partnerships for better student quality of life on campus and beyond is the goal of Student Assembly (SA). We started this year by collaborating with the MPH office to run MPH officer elections and have continued to collaborate with administration across the the school. SA's Quality of Life committee is partnering with the Office for Student Affairs to run two quality of life surveys during this academic year. SA is featuring the top four student issues based on last



year's Quality of Life Survey results in dedicated town hall meetings. The first town hall partnered with the Office for Information Systems to address student questions on wireless printing, new portal and email, etc. The next townhall meeting addresses the broad topic of commuting and partners with Office for Support Services, JHU Sustainability Initiative and the Office for Student Affairs.

Our partnerships extend into the East Baltimore Community through our work with SOURCE, especially in coordinating Baltimore Week in October. Our Community Service Fund, which supports community service initiatives run by student groups, awarded grants to the Women's Health Action Group, Insoluble Fraction, Latin Student Network, Bienestar Baltimore and the Epidemiology Student Organization! Our student groups are an integral part of Student Assembly. Working with student groups, Student Assembly and Student Association members is such a humbling experience for me to see how tirelessly and unconditionally our fellow students work to bring in speakers, create opportunities for us to network and also have fun, organize great events and also do a stellar job in fulfilling their academic commitments!

We'll see you at the Fall Formal 2008 at the Maryland Science Center 8 PM on November 22nd!!

## Tech Tips

### Portal and Document Storage

Did you know that you can store private documents and share documents with others using the portal? Log on to [my.jhsph.edu](http://my.jhsph.edu) and click on Documents in the left-hand toolbar.

### Information Services Alert:

#### Rogue Security Software

<http://www.microsoft.com/protect/computer/viruses/rogue.msp>