Welcome Home
We hope we can make Graduate House our home away from home!!

We have a New Manager!!

Hello. I am Dick Chow, the new manager of Graduate House. It is my honour and pleasure to serve Graduate House and the fellow residents.

During my undergraduate study in the University of Hong Kong, I lived in Swire Hall and gained a lot from hall life. Most lifelong friends of mine were made during that time. Most beliefs of mine were also formed during the same time. After graduation, I studied a Master program in Social Sciences in the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology where I lived in a postgraduate hall. To me, I find the residency in a student hall is not solely residential, but, through sharing with other residents, it is full of adventures and challenges, knowledge and wisdom, colours and tastes, ups and downs, joys and pains; this is a supplement to the formal education and an essential part in facilitating students' whole-person development in university education.

I have been serving as a hall manager for more than 6 years (respectively in HKIEd and HKU). I really hope my experience could help the residents to gain what I have gained, to even greater extent.

I love chatting and discussing current affairs, religious and philosophical issues. I love astronomy and music as well.

If I could be of any assistance to you, please feel free to drop by the House Office to chat with me.

From Mr. Dick Chow
Manager

Editor: Mr. Chow joined us in the end of August, 2007. He has organised the Orientation talks and has co-ordinated the tendering matters of the Conference Centre.
The continuous road

So great is my passion for pursuing further study, that I am working hard toward it all along.

I come from a small mountain village of Anhui province. In my childhood, we need to climb up several mountains on foot on our way to school. Sometimes we would experience a hard process since the narrow way was very slippery and muddy during rainy days and winter seasons. The condition of our school is very simple and crude. There are only two dim lights for a classroom of more than fifty students. Just plastic membrane pasted on the windows for preventing quite cold wind. I still remember our silhouettes in the heavy fog, and the sound of reading books. It is a fertile land for us to cultivate good qualities of perseverance and bravery. There is a dream for me, for us, for the children from the remote mountain villages, that is learning more knowledge to construct our home. With this dream, I exerted myself to be a good student. In 1998, a catastrophic flood occurred at my hometown. I saw the flood submerged the houses. Lots of villagers were deprived of food and residences. This impressed me so much that I am stirred to learn knowledge on flood control. The next year when I took National College Entrance Examination, I selected water conservancy as my first choice. I got my bachelor degree after four years in Xi’an majoring in irrigation and drainage which is the state key discipline. In Hohai University which has great reputation in water conservancy, I got my master degree after three years in the State Key Laboratory of Hydrology-water Resources and Hydraulic Engineering.

I hold the view that to study in different environments will give me a chance to harvest more advanced ideas and methods to enrich my experiences and connotation. So I gave up the chance to work in a foreign enterprise which provides a high salary, and come to pursue further study. To be frank, I am unsure which choice is better. The final decision was strongly disapproved by some close friends. Yet, I am so pleased that I did remain faithful to my own aspiration and interest, and did take the risk and choose the path with more thorns. I do believe that it will cultivate me all around, and make me more competent to realize my dream and to do some contributions for making more people happy.

The first thing is that I need plunge into this environment, and enjoy the atmosphere. A distinguished university has an excellent learning and researching environment. So I can learn more and feel more step by step. The University of Hong Kong attracts a great number of excellent students all over the world. We can exchange our ideas, our interests, and our customs freely. Lots of good idea will be inspired, such as a flexible method to resolve a research problem, a useful way to learn a computer language, or a plan to achieve an objective and so on. Therefore, I need make efforts to get more knowledge and methods from this good large family.

Undoubtedly, achieving research outcomes is the main objective. For my major, I would do more research about drought and flood in the Pearl River Basin. I hope I can find the dominant hydrologic process of droughts and flood in the river basin to provide more information to decrease or prevent the disaster of droughts and flood. For example, a forecast on the future drought condition to farmers will help them make a proper irrigation schedule, arrange water storage and prevent fire disasters in some extremely drought regions. Flood prediction is expected to diminish the loss.

Studying in HKU is a good opportunity for me to improve my English. There is no doubt that English is very significant in research development, and it is also very important for working in mainland China because English is extremely necessary for obtaining more advanced techniques and management system as the globality is more emphasized today.

Another important point, being good at some sports is also my aim. It is quite necessary to do more body exercises besides accomplishing tense research tasks. To my happiness, the sports facilities in our university are very convenient. I often play ping-pong, badminton, and go swimming with my friends. Ping-pong is my favorite sport, and I am eager to be good at swimming. So I plan to practice swimming regularly. In addition, I want to try to play basketball and tennis. It is a pity that I am not adept at basketball since I feel I am not tall enough. When I watch an exciting basketball match, I always imagine that I could perform skillfully like them. I guess I need to have a try though it is not easy.

In addition, I have a passion for writing. Some of my essays and prose have been published in newspapers, and the essay "Mother’s Tears", "Saving Water, an Urgent Task" were republished by Xinhuanet of Xinhua news agency and China University Newspaper Net. Such processes support me considerably in steadily carrying on my research projects and satisfactorily accomplishing papers. I will continue to develop my hobbies though it is a challenge for me to express myself thoroughly in English, I have full confidence that I will eventually write coherently and smoothly.
The continuous road (Cont'd)

As is expressed above, I have many long- and short-term plans both professionally and personally. I should be down-to-earth, willing to sacrifice, firm in confidence and coordinate the steps of every aspect to achieve success.

Casting back the past road, looking forward to tomorrow, firstly, I myself will persist in the previous faith that is to do some contribution to water conservancy, to my hometown, and to more people. Secondly, more confidence and courage should be possessed. Whatever hardships I may confront, I will believe my choosing, and face a variety of challenges bravely. Thirdly, cherish time and work hard for every thing in hand, read more books and cherish true feelings and affections which are the spring of my life. I strongly believe that there is full of sunshine and smiles upon tomorrow’s road.

Niu Jun
July 18, 2007

A pleasant surprise!

This is a photo of the Tsing Ma Bridge (青馬大橋) taken last autumn. At that time, I have just been to HK for 3 months. It was a pleasant surprise for me when I took a random stroll in Sham Tseng (深井). Here is my story ...

Having seen the posters in MTR, showing many interesting places, I was attracted by the Lantau Link Visitors Centre, which was said to provide a good view of the Tsing Ma Bridge. I don't know why I chose the Lantau Link Visitors Center among many other places. I just want to go for an excursion.

I remembered that many professional photographers suggested that sunrise and sunset are the best time for sight – seeing as the sunlight changes a lot and make the scenery rich and colourful. And of course, it will not be too hot to travel too.

Anyway, I started one late Sunday afternoon and went through the route introduced by the MTR poster. After I arrived at the Tsing Yi (青衣) MTR station, I took the bus #308 and was disappointed to know that the bus will not go to the Center after 6 pm! I recall that Alain de Botton has mentioned in his book, *The Art of Travel*, “it is the novelty in your trip that interests you”. Therefore, I told myself that what I need is just a short time ramble. So, I took the bus to the terminus without any information on where exactly Sham Tseng (深井) is.

Now, I just know there are many restaurants selling very delicious roast goose. And, as you can see in the photo, I found an empty beach and enjoy an hour totally belong to me there.

Wu Jin
Editor: Wu Jin is interested in travelling and museum hopping. He has been making full use of his Museum Concessionary Pass ($25/half year; $50/full year). We plan to organise a visit to the Hong Kong Museum of Art for the Treasures of the World’s Cultures from the British Museum. Please watch out for the posters and email announcements. For more information, please visit:
http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/Arts/english/exhibitions/eexhibitions_s_20070701_2.htm

Pictures taken in Shangri-la, Yunnan, China – Yuan Tifei
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<th><strong>Stolen Ticker</strong></th>
<th><strong>The first encounter of the HKU kind</strong></th>
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<td>The ticker was ticking, and the owner sprawling. he was pale and the gray road turning red. vehicles whizzing along avoiding the unwanted trouble. Five minutes ticked in a void space where the jackdaw soared. The ticker ticked another ten as a seller shouted, &quot;Help him&quot; for he was busy counting. The owner at his last gasp, uttered a cry of pain, yet another two were ticked before he met his fate. And in a trice, it was revealed that the ticker was missing.</td>
<td>This is my first year as a student of the University of Hong Kong. I have been to Hong Kong several times; however, those are for traveling and shopping purposes. I think the good thing of Hong Kong is that it is not too big city. And due to good transportation system, it is quite convenient to travel around the city as well as other interesting places. There was one difficult thing for me during the first week in Hong Kong which is taking the bus. The reason is that I am quite familiar with underground rather than taking bus. Nevertheless, there is no MTR to HKU. Taking bus is the most convenient and proper way. I tried it with the help of my HK friend and now I prefer taking bus rather than using MTR because I can see the view of the city through taking bus. With regard to the HKU, I have to confess that I was confusing about the routes within the university during the first week. It is different from the university in Thailand that you can travel from Building A to Building B by going down to the ground floor of Building A and then walk to the ground floor of Building B. Here, for example, the ground floor of Building A may be the second floor of Building B. However, when you are familiar with it, walking through the same route everyday, it is not too difficult to remember. And those are the experiences as a newcomer I would like to share about Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong.</td>
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<td>R.A.P.M. PERERA (Mahen) Editor: Mahen is a M.Phil. student in Dentistry. He is originally from Sri Lanka.</td>
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**Do you know about the HKU Council?**

Greetings fellow residents!

My name is **Howard Tam** and I am a second year MSc. (Urban Planning) student. I just moved into Graduate House this year, and I thought I’d take this opportunity to introduce myself as your student representative on the University of Hong Kong’s Council. Not to be confused with the Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA) or the Hong Kong University Students’ Union (HKUSUA), the Council is the governing body of the university and is responsible for the overall management and strategic direction for the University. To give you a quick overview, HKU has three statutory governance bodies:

- **The Court**, which usually meets once a year to consider the university financial statements, and consider any recommendations regarding enacting, repealing, or amending University statues
- **The Council**, which usually meets monthly and has the power to set fees, set the university budget, manage human resources, manage university property, and draft statues for recommendation to the Court
- **The Senate**, which is responsible for all academic affairs and regulations, student welfare, student halls, libraries, and Faculty affairs.

As the postgraduate representative on the Council, my job is to represent your views to the Council, so please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or issues you would like me to bring up! Additionally, I am also working on a few campaigns of my own; these include trying to improve the nutritional quality and selection (including more vegetarian meals) of the food at the university canteens, looking at having the university adopt policies to invest their assets in a socially responsible manner, and encouraging the university to provide more assistance for international students. If you have any questions about any of these issues or would like to help out (new volunteers are always welcome!), please do not hesitate to contact me ([tamh@hkusua.hku.hk](mailto:tamh@hkusua.hku.hk)), or drop by my room – 112 on the first floor.

In the meantime, I hope everybody has a successful year and I look forward to meeting you soon!

Cheers,

**Howard Tam**
Resident Committee Election 07/08

2007 is a special year!! There are 10 residents running to be Resident Committee Executive Committee members. The candidates will tell us their vision and mission on the 14th October (9:30 pm Sunday). The election will be held on the 15th of October (Monday) from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm. This election is for formality and did not aim to eliminate any candidates. Please show them your full support!!

Recent Events

Welcoming Party – 7th September, 2007

The party was organized by the Residence Committee. It was well attended by >70 residents. It was a great occasion for the new and current residents to meet one another.

Orientation Talks – 15th September, 2007

To accommodate residents with different course and research schedules, two sessions of Orientation Talks were held. All residents are reminded to (1) learn the Fire Safety procedures, (2) follow the House Regulations and (3) participate in House activities. Postgraduate life is at times stressful and depressing! Please seek appropriate help when you encounter any problems. Talking to fellow residents will be a good way to share experience and relief your stress!

The Encounter of Two Culture – Mexican September 2007

In collaboration with the Consulate General of Mexico and the Faculty of Architecture, an exhibition on Mexican Architecture was held in Graduate House from 21st – 30th Sept., 2007. Instead of a traditional photograph exhibition, 4 plasma screens were set up to show selected projects in Contemporary Mexican architecture. These projects represent selected works by prominent architects who have in common only the originality and quality to their work. For more information, please refer to: http://www.sre.gob.mx/hongkong/mex_sept2007/index.html

Movie Nights

Ken Ho of the Resident Committee has been organising various movie nights on Fridays. If you are also a movie fan, please feel free to suggest your preferred titles to him. Even better, why don't you help out with the activity too?

Sports in Graduate House

We have a GH volleyball team which holds regular practises every week. There are also groups of residents who play badminton, tennis and table tennis regularly. If you are interested, please contact the residents who have signed up on the Orientation Board.

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If you have any ideas, articles, or images to share, please email the Editor (Helen Law) at hkwlaw@hkucc.hku.hk

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