Greetings from the new Master

As an academic that shares the same school calendar as the rest of the students, I often think that this is the most optimistic time of the year. After grueling months of hard work, students are finishing the semester and looking forward to a break with family and friends. It is also a time of celebration as people across different cultures honor their believes. I am very happy to begin my term as the Master of the Graduate House in such a promising season.

I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to all of you at Graduate House. I sincerely look forward to working and getting to know each and everyone of you. Graduate House is a very unique culturally diverse community, consisting of a large group of talented individuals that share a common goal of achieving academic excellence as well as personal growth. I believe that everyone here has something of value to share and contribute. By sharing and by respecting needs and rights of others, together, we can build a community with a sense of belonging. I wish that all the residents will genuinely think that the Graduate House is their second home, away from their homes thousands of miles away.

I strongly believe that open communication between people create the strongest communities. Good communication is the bridge that connects individuals which is the base of a successful unit. I therefore encourage frequent interaction and dialog so please feel free to contact me with your ideas and concerns.

Finally, I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Billy KC Chow
Master of Graduate House
High Table Dinner

Date: 1 June 2009
Honorable Guests:
  Mr. Tsang Yok Sing Jasper (Guest Speaker), President of the Hong Kong Legislative Council
  Prof. Lap-chee Tsui, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong
Speech Title:
  Powers and Functions of the President of the Legislative Council
Number of Guests and Residents: 98

Thank you for your participation!
See you at our future High Table Dinners.
Orientation for New Residents

Date: 17 September 2009
Number of Participants: 114
Venue: WGW Theatre, Level P4, Graduate House

Programmes:
1. Welcoming Speech
   Dr. Jennifer Gao, Acting Master, Graduate House
2. Safety Talk
   Mr. Rheo Lam, Assistant Director of Safety, Safety Office
3. Security Talk
   Mr. K.C. Sum, Senior Head Guard, Security Control Centre, Estates Office
4. Equal Opportunity Talk
   Ms. Angela Lau, Equal Opportunity Officer, Equal Opportunity Unit
5. Resident Committee Introduction
   Mr. Wilson Woon, Acting Student Representative, Resident Committee
6. House Orientation Talk (Part I)
   Mr. Dick Chow, Manager, Graduate House
7. House Orientation Talk (Part II)
   Dr. Jennifer Gao, Resident Fellow, Graduate House

Facility Enhancement

Replacement of Worktops in Laundry Room and Pantries

Date: 3-5 September 2009
Purpose of work: Original worktops were defective and rotten.
   They were replaced for sake of hygiene and safety.

The Management appreciates the involvement and suggestions of the Resident Committee in selecting the materials for the worktops.
Facility Enhancement

Replacement and Re-wiring Work for Corridor Lighting System

Date: 21 October 2009 – 11 January 2010

Purpose of work: To save energy for sake of environmental conservation

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Full Lighting (Optional)  Half Lighting (Default Mode)

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Facility Enhancement

WiFi network Cabling Works and Trunking Installation

Date: 9-16 November 2009

Purpose of work: To enable/enhance WiFi connection at Student Rooms and classrooms, for the convenience of our residents and classroom users.

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Revised Guest Policy

- taking account of Overnight Guest arrangements

Effective from 1 September 2009

Daytime Guest: between 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Overnight Guest: between 11:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. (newly introduced)

Details of the revised policy are stated in the House Rules, which could be found in our official website http://www.hku.hk/gradhse/. A relevant notice is also posted next to the Service Counter. The Overnight Guest Policy would be reviewed after six months of implementation.

We appreciate all residents who have expressed their different opinions during the discussions on the Overnight Guest Policy. Their feedbacks and suggestions have been very helpful for us to consider the concerns of all residents in revising the Graduate House guest policy.
Tutor Fellow’s Gatherings with Residents
- Faculty of Medicine & Faculty of Dentistry

Date: 29 June 2009
Venue: 7th Floor Restaurant, William Mong Block, Faculty of Medicine Building
Organized by: Graduate House Tutor Fellow (Faculty of Medicine) Dr. M. H. Sham
Graduate House Tutor Fellow (Faculty of Dentistry) Dr. H. K. Yip

Arrival of New Tutor Fellows

Two faculty members have joined the Tutor Fellow Team since the new residential year 2009-10.

Faculty of Business & Economics   Dr. Christine Chan
Faculty of Dentistry              Dr. G.S.P. Cheung

Graduate House welcomes our new Tutor Fellows and look forward to the close communication and collaboration with our Tutor Fellows in the coming year.

Tutor Fellows of Graduate House

Faculty of Architecture       Mr. Zhu Tao (tz@arch.hku.hk)
Faculty of Arts               Dr. C. M. Si (ems@hkucc.hku.hk)
Faculty of Business & Economics Dr. Christine Chan (mkchan@business.hku.hk)
Faculty of Dentistry          Dr. G.S.P. Cheung (spcheung@hkucc.hku.hk)
Faculty of Education          Dr. Li Hui (huiili@hkucc.hku.hk)
Faculty of Engineering        Prof. T. H. Tse (tjtse@es.hku.hk)
Faculty of Law                Ms. Jessica Young (jkyyoung@hku.hk)
Faculty of Medicine           Dr. M. H. Sham (mhsham@hkucc.hku.hk)
Faculty of Science            Dr. G. K. Y. Chan (hrsecky@hkucc.hku.hk)
Faculty of Social Science     Dr. P. T. Y. Cheung (tsyicheu@hkucc.hku.hk)

Thanks to all tutor fellows for your supports to Graduate House
Residents’ Committee (Residential Year 2009/2010)

I am Stephen Tsang (Zeng Shuai in Mandarin Chinese), Mphil student of Medicine Faculty, an easy going person. I like doing some exercise to keep healthy. I have strong desire to organize or join some activity such as climbing up the hill daily to keep us healthy and vigorous. It is a way to be energetic, a way to know more friends. I love classical music and dance and I am pleased to know someone who shares the same interests with me. We can hold ball together, go to concert together and go to dance classes together. Also, I wish to know more friends. Feel free to contact me: zengshuai95@gmail.com or 51861229.

I’m Fan Xiaoguang, a freshman both in Graduate House and in HKU. I’m from mainland China and my hometown is Tianjin. Currently I’m the first year PhD student in EEE department. As a new guy here, at first I’m not quite adaptive to the new environment in HK. However, I get a great help from both office staff and residents here. They treat me very friendly and give me lots of support on arranging my life in HK, which makes me feel to be part of the big family. I’m appreciated to have this precious chance to join in this big warm home and make contribution to Graduate House. Since I used to be the member of student union during my undergraduate time, I have some experience in arranging entertainment and social activities. Although I don’t have some great skill on instruments (maybe a little on drum), I think I can do my best to find guys who have skills and abilities to organize some parties to enrich our residents’ life. Through the efforts of RC, I hope Graduate House would become not only a residential place, but also a large family for all of the residents.

I’m formally known as Yang Teng Teng, but feel free to call me Teng Teng. I was born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I am an out-going and vibrant marine biologist and my passion is devoted to life on Earth as well as to mankind. I hope to bring changes to the Resident Committee with my personality. I want to make this place a home away from home and a better community to live side by side in. I foresee more exciting events and gatherings to be organized actively. Graduate House should be more outstanding not only in architecture but also, in the mode of living. You would definitely enjoy having me to chip in!! Cheers!

I am Feijuan Huang, a postgraduate student from department of chemistry. I am an honest, responsible and lively girl now reading for my Ph.D. degree at the beginning of the year 2. Since last September, I lived in the GH guest room for a half month. The pleasant surroundings of GH left me a deep impression. Since then I am dreaming of becoming a resident of GH and thinking of doing something for the GH community. Fortunately, this September I had the great honor to get the GH residential offer and moved into GH. As a member of RC, I would like to render a service to promote the communication and culture exchange between all the GH residents. For example, we can organize more indoor or outdoor activities regularly. For example, every week or every two weeks we can organize residents to play badminton, tennis, table tennis or just swimming. Also we can organize them for hiking. I will also take my responsibility well and do my job conscientiously. I am pleased to dedicate more for RC whenever it needs me. In one word, I will contribute my efforts to maintain the comfort, safety and the order of the GH community with all other RC member together.

I’m Zhang Li, Year-1 student of Faculty of Education, majoring in early childhood education. I feel honored and privileged to be a GH resident. The first or two years of life in GH will be a new start point and the most important for me to live and study in HKU. We will always feel depressed in face of heavy study load. In such a case, residents sometimes will feel helpless and are at a loss how to deal with the problem. If we can have an informal counseling center in GH, our residents can communicate and help with each other, and depression can be alleviated. I suggest that we can organize such a psychological service center. There are many newcomers in our GH this term. It takes them a lot of time to adapt life and culture in HK. In order to help our new residents accustomed to life here, some hiking or other group activities can be organized. I will also actively adhere to the rules and policy of GH and make good coordination between the residents’ needs and requirements from GH in order for a better life and environment in GH. I’m not an extrovert person, but I have great passion working
for our GH residents and I have always been ready to help others. I’m good at team working. Therefore, I’m looking forward to working with other RC members to create a better environment and life for all our GH residents.

My name is Wei Na (Tina), living in GH 709. I was born in Beijing and came to Hong Kong seven years ago as an exchange student from Peking University. After graduating from HKU as a Bachelor of Science with first class honor, I proceeded to postgraduate study. Currently I am a PhD student in department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology doing research related to ovarian cancer. I like traveling and sports, and might be too energetic and passionate. I was the volunteer, working as the National Olympic Committee assistant for Swiss national team during Beijing Olympic Games HK equestrian event in 2008, and will be working as a volunteer again in the coming HK East Asia Game this coming Dec. I am the project officer in Climate Chance, a student coalition aiming to promote climate change awareness in HKU. I used to live in Starr Hall and Morrison Hall. GH is new to me and the activities organized by RC in the past years sounds really fun and exciting. I wish to make more friends, help to organize activities, probably to promote climate change awareness among fellow residents, and probably also to invite my friends to give some inspiring talk on Antarctica Expedition, etc.

This is Eva Lau and I am a year-2 local Ph.D. student in the Faculty of Education. I obtained both my Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in USA. It has been a year and a half since I returned. During my leisure time, I play volleyball, play the piano and go to movies. I know all the wonderful places for dining, shopping, and doing other fun things in Hong Kong that I hope to share with you in the future!

I am Zhou Ning, Lily, from Department of Psychology. This is my 2nd year in Graduate House. Last year, I participated in some activities (BBQ, Halloween Party, Pingpong Game, Guilin Trip) held by resident committee and got to know many friends here. I love sports (badminton, pingpong, squash, hiking etc), watching movie and making friends. I would propose more sporting activities to help us maintain a good physical and mental condition. I am also interested in learning languages such as English and Cantonese. To make Graduate House a better place for making friends from all different countries. We could have some activities to share experience in learning English as well as Cantonese together. Let’s make our postgraduate life more colorful and fun!

I am Huijun Wu, from the department of Medicine. I have been living in the graduate house for a year and also been a member of resident committee for a year. In the past year, RC has organized many festival parties for our residents, welcomed the new comings and shown farewell to the graduates. RC is a team with creativity, vigor, happiness. I like the days I spent with all my friends in RC committee and I will stay in RC for the coming year, cooperate with our new comers and serve our residents better.

I am Sophie Liang, PhD student from Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy. I am an easy-going girl and like making new friends. As a one year graduate house resident, I think graduate house is the most comfortable and beautiful place to live. The life in graduate house is rejoiced and happy. Graduate house just like a big family gives us warm and fragrant. As I know, there are lots of sportsmen and artists in our family. Why do not we have more activities and competitions? If there is no organizer, I recommend Sophie Liang®. Also, some hobby salons could make our life more enjoyable. In short, I will try my best to service the brothers and sisters in graduate house. My aim is making everyone in graduate house feel we are family!
House Activities

The newly appointed RCs for 2009/2010 comprises of ten of us. As we embark on our new voluntary duties; parties and gatherings of sorts soon found its way to Graduate House with the support from co-operative management and residents. In a short period of time and very little preparation, RCs managed to pull off 4 floor parties ensued with a Christmas party to seal the year of 2009 happily.

FLOOR PARTIES

Although the budget was tight, but there’s always ample at each party. i.e. sushi, pizzas, KFCs, snacks and free flow of beverages. RCs played hosts for each party to break the barriers among residents and encourage everyone to make new friends. Residents found that they become more familiar with each other after the floor parties. We also get to know other residents that we have never encountered in Graduate House previously!
House Activities

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas party was a huge success as an unexpected number of residents have turned up to join the festive event. Some even bring along guests to our party. We have voluntary performances from spontaneous residents as well as a sing-along Christmas carol lead by RCs. It was thoroughly amusing to have residents standing up and sang together with us.

Santa Claus was a hit during the party as many took turns to snap pictures with him. Santa even went around helping distribute goods and entertain the residents. We found that the residents are very shy when it comes to games. Nonetheless, there are accompanying lucky draws with fabulous prizes given away that night! At last, we had mouth-watering catered food and pizzas for residents before ending the party after a long night of fun and cheer.

RCs are very grateful to some residents who volunteered to help us throughout the event, as you can imagine, it was a huge worthy struggle. We received appreciative remarks from residents which enhanced our voluntary passion to help make Graduate House a better community to live in. Thank you Residents! We look forward to a more fruitful year ahead!
Residents’ Sharing

Life in Graduate House: A Portrait
Golam Moinuddin
3rd year PhD student
The Kadoorie Institute

Living in Graduate House is an exciting experience – at least, that’s how it has appeared to me in the last fourteen month’s residency. The reason – numerous. In my five year long HKU life, I’ve lived in several dormitories meant for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. To me, these dormitories are uniquely different from each other in character - that shapes residents’ living in a befitting manner. Of all, my Graduate House residency has been most memorable.

Before moving into Graduate House, I used to consider myself as a quite individual who prefers to live by himself. However, after fourteen months of Graduate House residency, I’ve rediscovered myself as a person interested in community living and sharing. I presume this changed persona has encouraged me to spend more time in floor lounge chatting with neighbors, experiencing different cuisines – which I haven’t done before. Additionally, I have come across different cultures and developed greater sense of belongingness for the university because of this residency – which I intend to treasure for a long time. Two extreme views from Graduate House – the harbor in front and the mountains at the back; to me appears as the symbolic replication of what to strive for in life with peace and tranquility in mind.

In these fourteen months, I developed a strange kind of communication skill. At times, I ask questions to the cleaning staffs, watchman in English and they respond in Cantonese. However, we seem to understand each other and the “job” gets done!!

Two of my favorite sites at the P1 lounge are the fitness centre and the leisure reading materials shelf. I really enjoyed these facilities and collections. I wish there are more fitness equipments and leisure reading materials available.

For the new residents, I would urge them to enjoy their residency in a more proactive manner.

Residents’ Sharing

Graduate House and Me
Yancheng Cai
1st year PhD student
Department of Civil Engineering

About three months ago, one of my best friends said to me in the Graduate Ceremony, “Congratulations, Yancheng! I’m so proud of you that you will pursue your PhD degree in the very best university in China! Great!” It is indeed my great honor to continue my study in HKU. Meanwhile, based on my thirteen years’ campus living experience, the house life stories from my many friends studying in other universities and the hearsays about house living in universities, maybe I would have
to say that I am also lucky to stay in one of the very best Students’ House in China for its super facilities, excellent surroundings, friendly residents and warm-hearted staff!

Actually, I really enjoy the life here although I have stayed for just one month! I clearly remember the day when I moved in, the Security Guard, Mr. Cheng Ching Ming, is so kind. He not just passed me the necessary materials and keys, but also told me in detail about the things I should do and pay attention to after I move in. Then, I enter a clean and comfortable room with the seascape outside the bright window! Everything is well arranged! Later on, I find the cozy common room with super facilities for use and enjoyment of all of us. We could watch TV and videotape, read newspapers and magazines, play chess together, get the access to the internet, exercise in the fitness area, and enjoy with other friendly residents!

Furthermore, it is quite enjoyable to make friends here since the residents are diverse from education background, life experience, majors, hobbies etc. On the first weekend, I went climbing the Taiping Hill with some friends in our house (Dr. Rong from the 2nd floor, Dr. Zhang and Xiao from the 8th floor, Dr. Yang from the 9th floor, and Dr. Cheng from the 11th floor). We shared our experiences and talked about the interesting feelings here. Also, I find another football lover, Mr. Qian living on the 4th floor. We talked about our favorite players, teams, and the wonderful experience of the World Cup! On the National Day, I together with some residents went to Zijin Square for the Flag-raising Ceremony. After that, we came back and took pleasure in the student lounge to watch the “Military Review” with some other residents in the house. Everyone quite enjoyed the time at that moment!

Lastly, I should mention another cordial partner, my roommate, Dr. Liu who is on his second year studying in the Faculty of Engineering. He helped me a lot since the first day I moved in! He told me the university life he had experienced: about the university surroundings, course studies, laboratory life, research experiences, campus activities etc, all of which accelerates me to get used to the life here. Surprisingly, he plays quite well in Guitar and in fact, he made up a band with other guys to have fun together. He also teaches me how to play guitar when we come back from our office, which is the wonderful thing before going to bed!

All above are just part of my interesting life in Graduate House and I am sure that the more colorful time in our house will show up, which will enrich our life in HKU and bring more vigor to the research work.

As for me, an easy-going guy, born in Shantou city, Guangdong province, which is one of the Special Economic Zones in China and is also called the “Township of Overseas Chinese”. I have traveled to many interesting places for the distinctive study life in Shanghai and Beijing, where I have been lived for six and seven years! I enjoy playing table tennis and football very much!

Now for the PhD study in structural engineering in HKU, maybe I will stay for four years or longer for chasing my dream that is to be an engineer who could do something for the better construction of human being. I know it’s just the new beginning here and I hope that I can make new friends, helping each other, sharing our experience, enjoying our leisure time together, drawing our life map colorful! Let’s turn on the new page of our life in Graduate House and write down the wonderful experience for the memory storing in future!
Residents’ Sharing

Walking, Seeing, and Experiencing
- Our Journey in Western China
Yanhui Geng (Steven) and Qiong Sun (Joan)

Two days after passing my PhD oral defense, feeling both excited and exhausted, with my wife Joan, I stepped on our journey to western China, a place we have been dreaming of for a long time just for its rough beauty, unique culture and rich history.

Our first stop was Xi'an (西安), one of the oldest cities in China. Ever the capital of the strongest dynasties in Chinese history including Qin (秦), Han (汉), Tang (唐), and etc., Xi'an exhibits a cultural and historical significance. In Shannxi History Museum, we were so exhilarated when seeing so many national treasures that previously only appeared in our middle school history textbook.

The world-famous Museum of Terra-Cotta Warriors (兵马俑), praised as "the eighth major miracle of the world", will definitely wow you by its unmatchable masterpiece and magnificent scene. It is really a very special and complex feeling when you are closely facing those silent soldiers from thousands of years ago.

Our second major stop was Dunhuang (敦煌), an oasis located at a religious and cultural crossroads on the Silk Road, in Gan'su province. It is best known for homing the Mogao Caves (莫高窟), whose 492 cave and sanctuaries are invaluable for their statues and wall paintings of unparalleled historical value and craftsmanship, spanning 1,000 years of Buddhist art.
After visiting Qinghai Lake (青海湖), we headed for the final destination of our journey--Tibet via Qingzang railway, the highest altitude rail track in the world. The scenes along the railway are fantastic and we even saw tibetan antelope (藏羚羊) and wild ass (野驴) when crossing Hoh Xil (可可西里).

![Wild animals in Hoh Xil](image)

Tibet is so beautiful and mysterious that we spent several days travelling around various regions trying to read, understand, and feel her personally. Tibet is a holy place, where you feel happy just because of being there. With the bright blue sky, the pure snow mountains, the clear lakes and streams, the endless grassland with leisurely sheeps and yaks on it, and the devout pilgrims, you can totally unburden yourself from the boring and frustrating life, and finally enjoy the peaceful happiness of your inner heart.

![Potala palace](image)  ![Nyanqêntanglha (念青唐古拉山)](image)

![5190: Highest altitude reached](image)  ![Namtso (纳木错)](image)

Thank you for reading. We look forward to receiving your articles for our future issues of newsletter.