Message from Graduate House Master

“The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home”
- Confucius

“A house is not a home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as the body”
- Benjamin Franklin

For most residents, Graduate House will be their home for two years. Graduate House is on its way in building its own culture and rituals that makes it unique; it is indeed created and shaped by each and every one of its members. I have recently read a book that talks about the foundations of building a good home. The author was not talking about the structure that is made of brick and stones, but of the essence that is needed to create it: good relationships with family members and unity of spirit. How is that achieved? According to the author, the key to success is treating each member of the family with respect and kindness, very much like treating good friend. For one would not create a mess at a friend’s home without cleaning up, nor make loud noises in the middle of the night without care. This also includes respecting other’s property and house facilities. Taking anything that does not belong to you is theft and it is not tolerated. If one accidently breaks or damages something, please show integrity and speak up. With this in mind, it is easy to be thoughtful and courteous to those you share a living space with. More importantly, I think the most central element to a good home, on the other hand, is the ability to forgive those who have made mistakes. This gesture transforms the situation to a positive experience instead, and friendships may germinate to become lifelong treasures.

As the master of Graduate House, I have enjoyed watching our house spirit grow and strengthen in the past year. I see a new togetherness, which was not so apparent before but now blossoming with each event and activity. Residents are greeting each other with friendly smiles and being considerate of others. I have enjoyed our greetings and short chats, which has helped me to get to know you all better.

One key decision in the past year is the building of various interest groups. I really appreciate those of you who had shared your talents and demonstrated leadership skills by creating these interest groups for the residents to interact. It has really enriched the House. In the coming months, I would like to try and make Graduate House cozier with all your help. For each two floors that share a common area/pantry, you can now work together with your fellow residents to create an individualistic space that present your group (as long as it follows safety regulations). A few examples could be: special décor, events sharing white board, fund raising for charities or floor celebrations. More importantly, with proper management of the pantry, I believe that we should encourage cooking and hopefully sharing the joy of cooking and the wonderful food from different parts of the world or parts of China in our House. If you need help in any way, please reflect your opinions to your floor RC members, and the management will try its best to help creating your home away from home.

Professor Billy Chow
Graduate House High Table Dinner

Date: June 10, 2011

Venue: Loke Yew Hall, HKU

Guest of Honour: Mr. CHO Chi Ming

✧ Chief Consultant, Hong Kong Economic Journal
✧ Renowned investment trader and author
Tutor Fellow Gatherings with Residents

Three gatherings with the concerned Tutor Fellows were organized. These gatherings provided a good channel for residents to seek necessary guidance from academicians within their own Faculty.

**Faculty of Education** (held on 30 September, 2010)

Graduate House Tutor Fellow (Faculty of Education) Dr. Li Hui (first row 3rd from left) along with the Graduate House Master (first row, 2nd from left), Resident Fellow (first row, 1st from the right) and the residents.

**Faculty of Arts** (held on 11 October 2010)

Graduate House Tutor Fellow (Faculty of Arts) Dr. C.M.Si (3rd from the right) along with the Graduate House Master (4th from the right), Manager (3rd from the left), Resident Fellow (2nd from the right) and fellow residents.

**Faculty of Science** (held on 9 March 2011)

Graduate House Tutor Fellow (Faculty of Science) Prof. Rudolf Wu (4th from the left) along with the Graduate House Master (5th from the left), Resident Fellow (3rd from the right) and fellow residents.

**Faculty of Law** (held on 9 March 2011)

Graduate House Tutor Fellow (Faculty of Science) Ms Jessica Young (4th from the left) along with the Graduate House Master (3rd from the left), Resident Fellow (2nd from the left) and fellow residents.
New Appointments - Technical Officer and Honorary Resident Tutors

Mr. Chris Chow has joined as new Technical Officer on 15 February 2011. Two Honorary Resident Tutors Miss Liu Lin, Lucia and Mr. Yancheng CAI have been appointed in Graduate House on 1 November 2010 and 1 April 2011 respectively to replace previous Honorary Resident Tutors Miss Tina Wei and Miss Jessie Li who have successfully completed their contract.

Message from newly appointed Technical Officer

Mr. Chris Chow

Hello everyone! I am Chris Chow - the newly appointed Technical Officer of Graduate House. I am responsible for arranging the lecture theatre and seminar rooms' booking for departments, organizations and overseas companies and also to assist users in using audio and visual equipment. I am also the person responsible to provide technical support to staff, non-University users and hostel residents related to office networking, server system and Graduate House homepage updating and maintaining. I have great interest in homepage designing and in computer technology. Feel free to contact me by the following email address chrism@hku.hk.

Messages from Honorary Resident Tutors

Liu Lin, Lucia

Hi everybody, I am Lucia, Liu Lin, a PhD student at the Faculty of Education. As a veteran resident, you probably have come across me somewhere in Graduate House; for instance: in the pantry of 8th floor, table tennis interest group, the high table dinner and Christmas party, etc. I proudly consider Graduate House my “home sweet home” in Hong Kong, and now with this chance, I am so happy to be an Honorary Resident Tutor and contribute even more to the place I’ve come to adore. People always say, “Research is a long and lonely journey” (Lucia, 2007; Lucia, 2008; Lucia, 2009; Lucia, 2010; Lucia, 2011), which is why we need a place to find peace and tranquility and also to make friends to share joy and spread our happiness. So with this said, let us unite and make Graduate House a warm and welcoming family. And as a committed family member, I will always be willing to assist and support you when there is a need.

Yancheng Cai

Hi, everyone! This is Colin, Yancheng CAI, now pursuing my PhD degree in the Department of Civil Engineering, with a specific research interest in structural behavior of steel structures under fire conditions. Also, I like playing table tennis, football, pool game, cards and enjoy other extracurricular activities. I am an easy-going person, born in Shantou city, Guangdong province, which is called the “Township of Overseas Chinese”. I spent 7 years in Shantou, 6 years in Shanghai and 7 years in Beijing for studying, which exposed me to people from different cultural backgrounds. I hope to make new friends, helping each other, sharing our experience, enjoying our leisure time together, drawing our life map colorful in our "second home"-Graduate House and write down the wonderful experience for the memory storing in future! Please feel free to contact me whenever you deem it necessary.
Facility Enhancement

“Green” House
- Plants at main entrance, main lobby and lift lobbies

Common Room
- Guitar, electronic dartgame, massage chair, sofas, dumbbells, Karaoke DVD player, DVDs and books
  (some by the generous donation of the Master)

Student Lounge
- Communal refrigerators increased from at least one to two in each lounge
  - 37” LCD High Definition TV Set replacing the CRT TV Sets

Hygienic Facilities
- Replacement of Drainage Gratings for All Shower Cubicles
- New Liquid Soap Dispensers
A Date with the Fellow Residents and the Master

A series of gatherings were held for the residents to meet one another and the Master Professor Chow, Resident Fellow Dr. Gao and the Honorary Resident Tutors. These included BBQ Night, Pool Game and Ping Pong Night. These gatherings acted as a platform for the residents to bond with each other and the Master through friendly communication in a relaxed setting to build a sense of community.

BBQ Night: 22nd November 2010

BBQ Night: 23rd November 2010
Pool Game: 24th November 2010
Ping Pong Nite: 25th November 2010
Music Sharing Night - Concerto da Camera

The event took place on 10 September 2010 8:00 pm at Wang Gungwu Theatre. Nguyen Bao Anh and Karen Yeung played classical pieces and chamber music (Bassoon Duo). Residents along with the Master, the Resident Fellow, Honorary Resident Tutors and the manager were the audience. At the end of the event, the Master presented souvenir to musicians on behalf of the house.
Piano Concert by Kam Wing Chong

The concert was held on 19 November 2010 (6:00 pm - 7:15 pm) at Wang Gungwu Theatre. Kam Wing Chong played Mozart Sonata in A Major K.331, Chopin Waltz in E-Flat Op. 18, Chopin Scherzo No. 2 in B-flat minor Op. 31, Beethoven Sonata in D minor Op. 31 No. 2. Residents along with the Master, the Resident Fellow, Honorary Resident Tutors and the manager were the audience. At the end of the event, the Master presented souvenir to musicians on behalf of the house.
Barbecue Gathering (Winter solstice and Christmas)

A barbecue gathering was organized at the Graduate House Garden on 22 December 2010 for residents to celebrate for both Winter solstice and Christmas. 24 residents joined this gathering. Participants enjoyed foods in a joyous festival atmosphere and showered each other with their good wishes and warm greetings.
Barbecue Gathering with Committee of Management

A barbecue gathering was organized at the Graduate House Garden on 16 February 2011 for residents to communicate with members of Graduate House Committee of Management (GHCoM). The participants enjoyed meeting one another in a beautiful environment and warm atmosphere.
Barbecue Gathering and Music Sharing Nite

A barbecue gathering followed by a music sharing nite for residents was arranged on 13 May 2011. Over 30 residents and House staff participated in the barbecue gathering; 120 staff and students of HKU (including residents and staff of Graduate House) participated in the music sharing event i.e. the Chinese Ensemble Concert by Chambre de Teana.
Residents Committee (RC) Activities

Between September 2010 and April 2011, the Residents Committee (RC) has organized a number of activities. These include Karaoke Night and Welcoming Party (September 25, 2010), No-air-condition Night (September 28, 2010), Christmas Party and Masquerade (December 10, 2010), Inter-hall Tennis Competition (December 18-19, 2010), Chocolate Fondues (January 25, 2011), Lantern Riddles (February 16, 2011), Floor Gatherings (April 13-15; 2011), and Movie nights (between April 23 and May 14, 2011 – once every Sunday). In addition, it has been actively designing hall uniform logo and organizing Cantonese Boost and other activities.
Christmas Party and Masquerade
Organized by Residents Committee (RC)
December 10, 2010
Q & A: My Cross-Cultural Learning Experience at HKU
Roy Yew Hung Chan

1) What were your first impressions of Hong Kong and China?

I first came to China as an undergraduate student at Beijing Language and Culture University and was very much impressed by Chinese culture and the hospitality of Chinese people. I came back two years later as a graduate student at Peking University and got the opportunity to explore China further as well as teach English in a rural city in Hunan Province.

Chinese society in general has a very high moral standard and takes pride in respecting individuals and diversity. Moreover, China is at the forefront of research and development, especially in the field of education, which is quickly changing at a rapid pace. I have learned overtime why Hong Kong is renowned for its high standards in education and research. Overall, China is a very upbeat country, very congested (at times), and a safe country.

2) In what ways was studying in Hong Kong and China different from studying in the United States?

To be honest, there really isn't much of a difference. The education in both the United States and Hong Kong allows freedom of thought. I guess the major difference in Hong Kong compared to the United States is the Professors. In the U.S., I met Professors who were not very keen on teaching and would rather spend all their time on their own research. Here at HKU, the Professors are so passionate about their subjects and passing on their knowledge. I really learn how to think critically and analytically. I am very positive about my experience here in Hong Kong, and am very impressed by the Professors.

3) How well did HKU meet your expectations?

Yes, perfectly. The University of Hong Kong is the top ranked university in Asia and enjoys very high reputation for its leading academic research and for providing an open gate to China's educational system. At HKU, I had the chance to learn from the best in my academic field and to work with the very top Professors in Higher Education, together with a group of highly talented students from many different cultures and backgrounds. Additionally, I had numerous opportunities to network with a number of postgraduate students in my current residence at the HKU Graduate House.

What is great is how the city is well connected to the city life. I am really kept up to date with the Chinese educational system and that is extremely important. In addition, the university is small enough that there is a sense of community with other students, but large enough to offer a lot of opportunities. My advice to other international students coming to HKU is to buy a bike and travel around Asia.

4) How will your education in Hong Kong and China help further your career?

I see myself doing academia research in the future and I would like take my experience studying at HKU back to the United States when I decide to pursue a doctoral degree in Higher Education with a concentration on Academic Affairs and Student Development.
Dancing Angels in Graduate House

- Melody and her dance group

“On with the dance! let joy be unconfined;
No sleep till morn, when Youth and Pleasure meet
To chase the glowing hours with flying feet.”

These lines from Lord Byron’s *Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage* summarize my pleasure of leading the Dancing Interest Group in Graduate House. The cheerful smiles, fresh air, and pleasant melodies, keep us all well employed. The growing friendship with my group mates, combined with an entranced absorption in the music and dances, gives me a lot of inspiration to rethink about life and art. Dancing here not only engages me with the powerful force of relaxation and expression, but also allows me to develop a solid friendship with hall mates.

I am very much flattered by the commendation from my group mates. I was nearly driven to tears when I saw the cute sugar-loaves in my mailbox, the gift hanging at my gate, the puddings sent to me... To my utmost joy, their wonderful presentation of my choreography draws a lovely picture in my mind. Dancing with my group here becomes for me an immersion in the fantasy world of dance. I hope you will continue to give satisfaction.

Hereby I would like to thank Master, all tutors, staff and hall mates who have given us applause and help far and above. I especially feel pleased to have performed with my group mates in Christmas Party, where our interest and effort has been exalted and appreciated.

Graduate House is a lovely place where we can avail ourselves of the beauty of life. I shall be extremely anxious to hear that more hall mates are interested in joining us! I hope the following video clips can express my interest and gratitude in an honest manner as my words above:
Trip around Taipei

Tianfan Cheng (PhD candidate, Chemistry)

It’s the last year of both my PhD study and residence in Graduate House. I think it’s better to leave some memory here by writing something and the trip to Taiwan last November is the topic. It had been raining when I arrived in Taipei and drizzles were heavy enough to get you wet, and clouds were low and thick. My free time wasn’t sufficient even for the city of Taipei not to mention the whole Taiwan Island.

Next morning, I took on an early Tzu-Chiang (自強號) train at Taipei Station bound for Ruifang (瑞芳). The train was not very fast but I could enjoy the natural beauty outside windows. Drizzles made mountains greener and clouds veiled the top of hills, like those masterpieces by Chang Dai-Chien. Time elapsed fast and before I noticed it, I had already arrived at Ruifang Station. It is really a traditional tiny station but was clean. As soon as I went out the station, I jumped on a bus which would take me to my first stop, renowned Jioufen (九份). It was a very common small village on mountains earning her name during the late “gold rush”, but it became a popular tourist attraction owing to Hou Hsiao-hsien’s film “A City of Sadness” starred by Tony Leung in 1989.

Jioufen has become the representative of traditional old-time Taiwan. Dark wooden walls, black tilted roofs and bright red lanterns are the special feature here. Holding my umbrella in one hand and camera in another, I walked aimless through the main narrow lane and relaxed my minds. If walked onto a teahouse, sipped a cup of tea and took a look at the sea far below mountains, that would be the life in Shangeri-La. It didn’t take me much time to get around the village and after eating some well-known squid balls soup, I went back to Ruifang to get to my next stop, Yehliu (野柳). It is actually a cape on the north coast of Taiwan and now a geopark. After over-an-hour bumping rides, I got off the bus, and immediately a gust of wind blew on my face with the scents of sea and fish. I thought it as the characteristics of Yehliu. The cape was full of different forms of wave-cut rocks and encircled by sapphire-like deep blue sea and white waves. Whether it was cloud or mist atop the hill, you couldn’t distinguish. The overcast sky was also blued by the sea and had been diffused with the ocean at the horizon. On the road uphill, I met some camouflaged full-gear bird photographers. They were patiently waiting for those birds hidden among jungles. They were kind and shared with me their wonderful photos taken on that day. Rain and wind strengthened when the sun was setting down and I’d to leave there unwillingly.

Under the amazing opening firework show for Taipei International Flora Expo, I got back Taipei, a shining cosmopolitan in the north of Taiwan, guiding the modern trends while still preserving Chinese tradition and nature into the 21th century.