Celebrating 20th Anniversary

of

Graduate House
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MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR BEN YOUNG, MASTER OF GRADUATE HOUSE

Professor Ben Young

The Graduate House has been serving as an important hub at HKU for cultural and academic exchange since its establishment in 1998. For the past 20 years, the Graduate House has provided accommodation for approximately 200 postgraduate students every year. Currently, its residents come from 17 countries from all corners of the world. Graduate House is not only a physical building that provides accommodation for research students and conference facilities for rental. The House provides an excellent platform for talented residents with diversified background to engage in cultural and academic exchanges.

In celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Graduate House, we had many intellectual, cultural and social activities. For example, the Interdisciplinary Research Competition was organized jointly by the Graduate School and Postgraduate Student Association. We had a musical concert, “A Carnival of Song”, featuring beautiful Italian songs. We had a table tennis competition, T-shirt design competition, singing contest, BBQ nights and many other activities. Furthermore, we had many interesting activities organized by the 22 interest groups in the Graduate House. Indeed, we have had a colourful and fruitful year to mark this remarkable 20th Anniversary!

I have also initiated social service activities as part of the 20th Anniversary celebration. I am glad to have very strong support from the residents, tutors, staff members and my wife. We went to the St. Barnabas’ Society and Home in the Western District. Most, if not all, residents (our head count suggested 211), together with the tutors, staff members, my wife and I served two groups of people, the children and the elderly. Indeed, this experience of spending time with the children and the elderly has been one of the happiest moments in the Graduate House. I hope it is only the beginning, but not the end of our social services. We are not putting on a show to mark the 20th Anniversary, instead, we are going into society to serve the people. I hope that, one day, Graduate House will be identified as a House of social services.
WHAT CAN I SAY EXCEPT, “YOU’RE WELCOME!”: RC WELCOME PARTY

Miguel Antonio N. Lizardo

Every year, more than a hundred new faces tap their student cards in the security check and enter the glass doors of Graduate House day in and day out. These new faces come from different parts of the world, speak different languages, live from different cultures, and more importantly, bring different experiences.

For the first few weeks, these faces are but strangers to each other. To help break language and cultural barriers, the Residents Committee (RC) organized a welcome party held last 15 September 2017.

The occasionally quiet P1 Common Room was suddenly buzzing with chatter and laughter as new friends were made, WeChat contacts were exchanged, and food and drinks were shared. Trivia games and a very short singing contest were also organized to add colour and fun into the night where strangers became friends, and residents became family.
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY: ORIENTATION TALK AND WELCOME PARTY

Ben Young, House Manager Dick Chow then proceeded to orient the students on certain procedures and the usage of certain amenities in the House. Representatives from the Safety Office and the Hong Kong Police Force also gave a talk on certain laws and safety procedures that residents, especially those new to Hong Kong, ought to know. Resident Tutors and Resident Committee members were also introduced to the community.

The annual House Photo and a sumptuous dinner that served both Chinese and Western cuisine followed the more formal orientation.

Graduate House is both a house and a home. As a house, it has rules and regulations that ensure that things are in order for the well-being of everyone in the residence. As a home, we treat each other like family and look out for one another. The annual Orientation Talk, organized jointly by the Graduate House Management, Safety Office, and Hong Kong Police, and the Welcome Party that follows it both actualize this dual identity of the Graduate House.

In the Orientation Talk, new residents were formally welcomed to the House by Master

CAMARADERIE & COMPETITION: PING PONG & BBQ NITE

Only in Graduate House can you find two seemingly different activities – a BBQ feast and a Ping Pong tournament – coming together in a single night and work perfectly to celebrate some and family. Last 11 October 2017, residents as well as Graduate House staff came together for a night of camaraderie and friendly competition.

Everyone first gathered in the P4 Garden to partake in a BBQ feast lovingly prepared by the staff of Rome Café. A regular day of hard work in the offices and laboratories ended with warm chitter over a sumptuous dinner in the company of friends and family.

After everyone had their fill of delicious food, it was time to get competitive (in a fun way). Residents went inside the P4 Foyer to either take on their fellow residents in a friendly Ping Pong match or, if they weren’t playing, cheering their friends on. In a way, there were no losers that night. To dine and celebrate the spirit of family in itself is its own reward.
MOONCAKES MADE IN GRADUATE HOUSE: MOONCAKE WORKSHOP

Annabel He

A romantic Chinese poem describing the Mid-autumn festival goes that, “May we live long and share the beauty of the moon together, even if we are hundreds of miles apart.” During the Mid-Autumn Festival, Mooncake is a kind of must-have delicious food in Hong Kong, as the round shape of it symbolize the full moon in the sky as well as the moment for reunions with family.

Last year, Shen Lu and Yu Yiru organized a wonderful mooncake workshop, hoping that residents could make the delicious food together, and to have a nice memory with our family in Graduate House. This workshop was quite attractive to the residents, because everyone in Graduate House loves to taste the mooncake made by ourselves. Finally, nearly a hundred of mooncakes were made. At the beginning, many residents came here for delicious mooncake, while in the end they found the most enjoyable thing is to share the beauty of this full-moon night and the self-made mooncake with friends in Graduate House.

GHOST HOUSE: HALLOWEEN PARTY

Miguel Antonio N. Lizada

For one night, GH did not mean Graduate House but Ghost House!

Last 28 October 2017, the PI common lounge was cast in almost total darkness, illuminated only by some sources of light from the decorated desks. Residents set aside their usual comfy everyday wear to put on terrifying costumes, props, and grotesque make-up... all in the spirit of harmless fun and ghoulish camaraderie in the annual GH Halloween Party. Masks beside drinks, laughter mixed with delightful screams, warm-bodied camaraderie amidst plastic bones.

In the end, while there were make-believe ghosts running about, the real reigning spirit was one of family and fun.
IT IS OUR SHOW TIME: CHRISTMAS PARTY

Annabel He

Christmas party was lighted up by the dancing performance “Change your mind” by dancing group, in which our ladies showed their talent and beauty. After Master Ben’s brief opening speech, the coolest show by Hip-hop team “Almighty Panda” drew forth enthusiastic applause of the audience. Spirituality Group prepared a interesting drama of Christmas theme. A fashion show by the Cantonese group was quite attractive because they enriched the fashion show with a creative mix of singing, catwalk, dancing and even magic show. Apart from the brilliant performance, the party entertained the residents with lucky draw and interesting games, including “Sweet Fugs”, “Baloons” and “Wishing tree”. In the end, Singing Group ended up the Christmas Party with the charming chorus of “We are Young”, wishing everyone can be forever young.

GRADUATE HOUSE IDOL: SINGING CONTEST AND BBQ NITE

Miguel Antonio N. Lizada
American Idol, Britain’s Got Talent. The Voice. Popular shows such as these are among the best in the business. The beautifully styled platform allows contestants to shine in the limelight and perform for a large audience. If you are a talented singer and performer in Graduate House, you need not look far and wide to attain the same level of achievement. In fact, Graduate House brings the competition literally home.

Held every year, the Singing Contest seeks to bring together the most talented singer performers in Graduate House to participate in a friendly contest that is just as enjoyable as it is competitive. This year, in pairs and in solo performances, participants duked it out in a series of rounds where they were scored not only by the special judges but also by everyone in the audience as well via the Mentimeter. In the end, Mr. Zhang Ceng outlasted all the tough competition to emerge as this year’s winner.

More than crowning a champion, the Singing Contest was an enjoyable night for everyone as residents were treated to memorable songs from the East and the West, in different genres (from romance to rap) as these were sung and performed, not by strangers but by friends, by neighbours, by family.

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WALK OUT TO VISIT THE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY NEARBY: POK FU LAM VILLAGE GUIDED TOUR

Everyone knows that HKU is located at the Pok Fu Lam Road, but the minority of us have ever visit the lovely village nearby. Therefore, Pepper Lin and Guo Tianyang organized a spring jaunt to Pok Fu Lam Village, aiming to promote the residents’ understanding of the environment surrounding Graduate House.

The guided tour started from Lung Fu Shan Environmental Education Centre. With the professional introduction of the tour guide, residents had not only learned a variety of beautiful plant and animal species, such as the Bauhinia variegata, but also understand more about the history and culture of Pok Fu Lam Village. Residents showed great passion in this interesting tour, so they suggested that Tianyang and Pepper can organize this tour once a year.
MASTER OF THE HOUSE: WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS WITH THE MASTER
Miguel Antonio N. Lizada

The Master of any hall is an authority figure. So it is quite normal for residents to be intimidated by someone who is responsible for the maintenance of the House as well as the implementation of House rules. In Graduate House, we do things a little bit differently. Because we are family, we see Professor Ben Young not just as an authority figure but also as a father figure who looks out for the well-being of everyone under the roof.

This is why every year, residents are invited to the Master’s flat for a Wednesday Dinner with Master. Residents are treated to a casual, light-hearted dinner with Ben and his wife Heidi. Moreover, in order for us to get to know each other more intimately, residents are asked to bring a photo and tell the significant story behind it or tell us about a person we love. These stories are tales of enjoyable surprises as we get to learn about our housemates’ achievements, travels, and hobbies.

A the end of each gathering, residents leave Ben and Heidi’s flat with stomachs full and hearts lightened.

FAMILY MATTERS: FLOOR GATHERINGS
Miguel Antonio N. Lizada

Once every year, the Residents Committee (RC) along with representative tutors gather the residents from respective floors in order for residents to get to know one another and to also give feedback on Graduate House life. Topics for discussion included household matters such as pantry use and the physical state of our facilities Internet connection as well as administrative matters such as readmission policies and overnight guest policies.

Gatherings were done in a rather informal and casual setting. Light-hearted discussions were done over snacks and drinks. Business does not have to be too serious. And important residential life matters are best discussed when the one you are speaking with is someone you consider family.
PIZZA NIGHT WITH VP(GLOBAL)

Anuwat He

This year, the Graduate House and the VP(Global) office have partnered on projects related to campus climate, diversity and inclusion. The VP(Global) office and Graduate House office organized a Pizza Night for the residents, hoping to have a casual gathering with the residents. 47 residents accepted the invitation and attended the Pizza Night with the VP(Global). During the conversation, the VP(Global) Prof. John Kao have a short self-introduction. Then he warmly invited the residents have a brief self-introduction for themselves and share their thoughts on the memorable experience at HKU or one concrete thing that the residents want to see in HKU. In the casual atmosphere, residents felt relaxed when having pizzas and expressing their own idea. Some residents took the chance to share the opinions face-to-face, while others choose to write down on the card. The mutual understanding between the Prof. John Kao and the residents was enhanced during this informal conversation with the fragrance of pizzas.
BADMINTON GROUP

Badminton interest group in GH is used to be GH badminton & squash group and became a separated group in year 2017. Every week we hold regular activities on Saturday and Sunday with about 10-20 residents. As the name illustrates, it is a simple group where residents enjoy their time playing badminton and improve their badminton skills. It also provides a platform for residents to interact with and learn from each other regarding how to improve their skills and competences.

CANTONESE GROUP

Cantonese interest group, organised by Ning Ziyu and Li Zezhou, aims to promote members’ Cantonese communicative capabilities and to facilitate their Cantonese cultural awareness. This group is open to both residences living in Graduate House as well as other students and staff in the University of Hong Kong. Regular activities of this group include classroom learning and extracurricular activities like having local morning tea, engaging in Christmas party and singing Cantonese songs. There have been around 20 members attending every activity including several HKU students living outside Graduate House.
CARD GAME GROUP

The Graduate House Card Game group is one of the most active interest groups in Graduate House, which aims to provide an opportunity for residents to play card games together and make new friends. We have the Card Game Night every Friday when residents can participate and relax from stressed research work. Until now, more than 100 residents in Graduate House have been involved in the activities held by Card Game group.

We have regular activity every week and also held the after-party games as well as the second werewolf competition against Morrison Hall to promote communication among different halls. Card Game group is not only a place for games but more like a home for residents to relax from busy research work, communicate with residents, meet new friends and enjoy the fun together.

COOKING & EATING GROUP

Cooking & Eating group aims at providing residents in GH with a platform of sharing Cooking techniques and delicious Food. In the past several months, we have organized regular activities, such as Enjoying Crabs in Double Ninth Festival, Making and Cooking dumplings in Winter, Enjoying Cantonese Morning Tea in famous restaurant, etc. Enjoy life while making new friends! Cooking and Eating group will continue serve for residents and be willing to hear your voice.

Zhu Fan
FITNESS GROUP
—the Joys of Working Out

As research students, our days have been filled with hours chained to the desk—spent writing, tutoring, attending meetings and doing experiments. It is normal for most of us to break a mental sweat. Unfortunately, breaking a literal sweat is not as common, but it really should be.

Our goal is to help GH residents strike a balance between mental and physical wellness, and to build a supportive community that encourages our residents to develop regular working-out routines. We are not professional trainers, but we are more than willing to share with you our experience in various kinds of physical exercises, including yoga, body toning, ballet, beautiful sessions and night run. We also have a Nintendo Wii in the P1 common room, that every resident can borrow it from the front-desk.

Different workshops are held on different days each week. We normally start exercises around 8pm, so you will have flexible options after coming back from work. If you are still exploring, just come and try out, and we will help you find the activities that work for you. If you are talented in certain type of exercises and willing to initiate workshops, we would love to have you on our team!

Fitness Interest Group is your best work-out pal in the Graduate House.
Our Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1666-3907225330/

MUSIC GROUP

The Graduate House Music Interest Group gathers a group of music lovers with various kinds of joyful musical activities. Residents gather together on a weekly basis to share their passion and talents on music, refreshing themselves at the same time.

This year’s regular activity started with a Piano Workshop held by Mr. ZOU Yifan, introducing the fundamental theory of music, the piano score, as well as some basic skills to play a piano song. Followed the piano training was a three-session chorus workshop led by Ms. FU Yafan. We even built a chorus team of GH, which later gave a nice performance in the GH Christmas Party. GH singers also gather every week, singing along in the P1 common room; the singing was always touching and lively that as if we were really in the music.

WE ARE YOUNG
SIAO BAND VER.2 @ G1 MUSIC INTERESTING GROUP
NATURE & CULTURE EXPLORER GROUP

Nature & Culture Explorer Group was established not only to enrich leisure life of the residents, to relax them from stress, but also to enjoy the wonderful natural landscapes and the culture heritages in Hong Kong. This year, we organized tours to Tai Sin Temple & Chi Lin Nunnery. Meanwhile, we visit the lantern carnivals to celebrate Lantern Festival. We also go cycling from Tai Po Market to Tai Mei Tuk. Charming sceneries and remarkable experiences in the tours always tell us the attractive stories of Hong Kong.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The photography group of the Graduate House is an interesting group aiming at enhancing mutual communication among those who are interested in photography. The activities of our group are various, including regular photography trip, workshops on photography technique, and most importantly, servicing as helper for the activities hosted by the Graduate House.
SQUASH GROUP

Squash is a ball sport played by two (singles) or four players (doubles) in a four-walled court with a small, hollow rubber ball. The focus of GH Squash Group is to promote this sport and provide opportunities to all of the GH residents to participate in the sport of squash with leisure and entertainment, and meanwhile, build up our physical fitness. The regular activities of Squash Group are held at Flera Ho Sports Center from 4:30 to 5:30 pm every Saturday except holidays. Apart from the regular activities, GH Squash Group also organized a friendly match with Morrison Squash Team last year to exchange experience and improve skills in playing squash. More diversified activities with other groups or residential halls will hopefully be provided in the future.

Wu Zhaoyu

TENNIS GROUP

Basically, the main activities of Tennis group are divided by regular activity, contests with other halls and Tennis Workshop for Beginners. For regular activity, normally more than 6 persons will come to the Robert black tennis court weekly. And we have 2 time slots, 2 hours in both Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon to suit everybody. This regular activity is not only attracted to the current Graduate House residents. Previous residents even got married afterwards also come back to play with us and Jonathan de la Cruz, who was live in the Graduate House as fellow musician is one of the regular players. At the same time, we organized Workshops for Tennis Beginners and contests between Graduate House and Morrison. As the group becomes more and more bigger, surely it will affect other residents to join us and have a great experience with Tennis.

Lu Xu
Hiking group is formed by a group of energetic and passionate people in Graduate House. We conquer the mountains (such as The Peak, Lion Rock, and Sunset Peak) in Hong Kong, one by one, hand in hand, and side by side. We walk together, climb together, we sweat together, we laugh together, we enjoy a piece of nature in the Hong Kong! Anyone who is interested in exploring the scenic beauty in Hong Kong is welcome to join! Let's go!

SPIRITUALITY GROUP

Muhammad Sharofuddin Bin, Mohamed Khairulddin

Spirituality Group provides a relaxed and safe environment for members to discuss any topic! Each of our sessions often begin with a sharing session of the significant events members would like to share that have happened to them over the past week, be it a problem, or a happy event. Each session then continues by discussing topics related to ethics, morality, philosophy, culture, spirituality, religion, ideology, and many more. It is a unique opportunity to learn more about your fellow GH residents, as well as other perspectives and other cultures from people who come from many different backgrounds. We share, eat, laugh and destress every week to make our postgraduate journey a little more enjoyable. Join Us next time!
**DANCING AND CHEERLEADING GROUP**

Dancing and Cheerleading Interest Group provides basic dance training and dance routine tutorials. We have two subgroups. One focuses on jazz funk dance style, which is fierce, is cute, is powerful, is sensual and is a diva-like dance style. It takes elements from Hip Hop, Jazz, and Waacking. Another subgroup focuses on urban dance, which is associated with street dance styles like Popping, Waacking, Locking, House, and Krump. Both subgroups have regular activity every week. Dancing group always provides performance for events in graduate house such as Christmas party, singing contest and high table dinner.

**CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTING GROUP**

Calligraphy and painting interest group aims to provide a platform to gather residents with specialties and interest for calligraphy, painting and handwork and promote culture exchange in Graduate House. Apart from regular activities in small groups, we organized several open workshops including the traditional Chinese painting workshop to celebrate Double Ninth Festival in Oct 2017, Spring Festival couplets workshop in Jan 2018 and Easter egg painting in March 2018.
SWIMMING GROUP

Swimming & Diving group at Graduate House mainly provides two kinds of activities for the residents. The first is regular weekly swimming. Every resident who is interested in swimming and want to keep fit by swimming is welcome to join our weekly swimming. The second activity is boat trip party, which provides a boat for around 40 people to go to the sea at Sai Kung. In the trip, several activities are provided like swimming, card games, KTV, banana boat, beach volleyball and so on. Our goal is to provide both healthy and interesting activities for residents. Welcome to join us!

SOCIAL SERVICE GROUP

Social service aims at providing a more helpful and grateful environment in and out of the campus.
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRADUATE HOUSE

INTERVIEW WITH THE GRADUATE HOUSE RESIDENT COMMITTEES

David Zhang, Andrew Park, Yang Yi, Wen Yi, Chen Tong, & Annabel He

Graduate House (GH) has its own Resident Committees (RC), which is an independent and voluntary organization formed by postgraduate students in GH. It is constituted by democratic election among residents in GH. During their term of service, they worked as the representatives of students, speaking on behalf of the residents and collecting the feedback and suggestions from the students. Meanwhile, they organized and promoted various colourful events in GH, such as welcoming party, floor gathering, Christmas party and the High Table Dinner performance and a variety of mini-parties and workshops. This year, they even organized the T-shirt design contest, in which the residents designed their own House T-shirt as the special gift. We experienced the special and unforgettable 20th Anniversary of GH with the hard work and great help of the RC.

Our GH Newsletter editor Annabel is honoured to have an interview with the RC members, including David Zhang, Yang Yi, Wen Yi, Andrew Park and Chen Tong. In this interview, Annabel asks the RC members about their thoughts and feeling about working as RC members in GH.

Annabel: What was your first impression of each RC member?
David: Andrew impressed me for the first time is his excellent and fluent mandarin, without saying that his Chinese-like appearance. The impression about Tong is his persistence in the readmission forum last year. At that forum, residents raised that the number of active member is not very reasonable for the fixed 5 active members no matter how large the group is. Tong gave his opinion about this topic, and he even persisted to show his suggestion to Master personally after the forum. Wen Yi firstly impress me with her mother’s delicious...
food when I was invited to her birthday party last year. Yung Yi is the former leader of music group, so she is good at organizing activities.

Andrew: We only shook hands and exchanged our contact information when we first briefly met as RC members. I think my first impression for each member came from the official meeting at Starbucks to sort out the annual plan. As postgraduates, we are all busy with our research work, but that one-hour meeting works quite well. Everyone takes it very seriously. My impression about David in his work is that he really takes things seriously. He really thinks in the perspectives of the residents, whereas because I am in charge of the money for the RC, my perspective is to ensure we keep to our budget and save money and spend less. However, David said, “No, we should think about what is actually good for fostering a good spirit in GH.” These good debates on how we spend the RC money lead to a good outcome for RC and hopefully for the residents.

Annabel: Did that impression change after a year’s working together?

David: Wen Yi impressed me with another thing that she is very responsible and considerable for some detailed events. At the very beginning of our work, we didn’t decide who was particularly responsible for giving the reply in the WeChat group of GH. Wen Yi always gave timely responses for the residents’ inquiries in WeChat, which really helped a lot.

Andrew: Yes, and I think Wen Yi’s mother still cooks very well and the quality of her food did not decrease after a year (smiling).

Annabel: What are your aims for being a RC member?

Wen Yi: Actually, we represent all the residents, so we should make sure the benefits and rights of residents.

David: Yes. Broadly speaking, because we are selected by a democratic election, we are on behalf of the residents. It’s our duty to present the voice of the residents, to be the connection between the residents and the committee. But for me, I have another aim. I am more ambitious. I found there are three independent groups for students, mainly from Mainland in HKU, i.e., the QGSA, the CSSA and the GH. I’d like to have a connection among the three groups. That’s my final dream. I have been trying to achieve it. I have been thinking about a plan for more communication in leisure and study life to connect HKU students.

Tong: That’s a very big dream. I think the basic function of RC is to build up a harmony society for the residents living in the GH without any arguments and confliction. That’s the target of RC.

Annabel: How did the thought about being a RC member come out?

David: The reason I want to be a RC member is that I’d like to make more friends, to know whether I promote my capacity of being responsible for the residents and to giving the feedback to the residents’ inquiries, and communicative skills. That intrigues and motivates me.

Yung Yi: I was inspired by the previous RC. As one of them, Pan Mi is a senior student in my research group. She is full of passion and quite enjoys being a RC member. I saw her passion for this big family and I think I can do something for our family.

David: To be honest, I didn’t join the RC for the sake of readmission. I was an interesting group leader before being a RC member, so readmission may not be a big problem for me.

Annabel: How did you cooperate with each other in this team?

David: We have a very clear division of our work. At the first meeting, we discussed our individual strengths. According to our own strength, the work was divided into individual own work. Apart from that, we cooperate with each other. For example, Andrew is responsible for the money, but he is also the organizer of the Welcome Party. In other words, we have two levels. For another example, Yi and Yi (Yang Yi and Wen Yi) are mainly responsible for two major events, Christmas Party and High Table Dinner Performance, respectively. We transfer the main power to them, because there may be endless discussion for the details of those events if we don’t have the principal organizers. We called this action as centralization of the power on the basis of full participation and democracy among RC members. In the end, one RC member is a principal organizer of one activity, and at the same time, he or she is also the co-organizer or helpers of other events. Tong is responsible for T-shirt Design Competition as well as responsible for communication work such as posters and survey websites. He also supports Christmas Party. For me, I will be for the coming RC re-election forum and the Associate Master’s Forum as well as the co-organizer of Welcome Party. In a word, as long as one plays the role of principle organizer, four of us will become the helpers for cooperation.

Andrew: Although we have individual roles, we share information and we discuss things together. We are open to each other’s suggestions, which is very helpful because you can get different perspectives of what the residents in GH may think.

Yung Yi: I would like to add that we have an annual plan at first, in which all activities were listed, and each were assigned to a principle organizer. However, some unexpected events come out later. I would like to express gratitude to the three gentlemen. They always take the responsibilities for the reports, the forums and other unexpected events.

David: There are some events out of my plan like the Associate Master Forum. When we get the event we immediately discussed how to do and who was responsible for it.

Wen Yi: In addition to the works mentioned by David, if there is an incident that needs to be dealt with, we usually get together to discuss it and find the way to solve it. Take the special contributor survey as an example. This survey generated during the readmission forum which is an unexpected event. David and Tong draft the questionnaire and then we discuss it. After collecting all the feedback from the residents we reported it to the GH management team.

Annabel: We had very free discussion about the issues. I remember we were debating for a long time whether 300 HKD should be given to an interest group. Some said, “No, it is too much”. Some said, “No, it is needed”. In the end, it leads to better discussion. The meetings can be quite lively.

David: It’s very natural for each of us to have different perspectives on one thing. These discussions can help us to practice the negotiating and compromising skills. If we have different perspectives for one event, we can have a whole picture of it; otherwise it will be dangerous if we only have one side of the event. We have a general rule, like Andrew is for the money, Tong is for communication, like the posters of our events are made by Tong, the two major events were made by Yi and Yi. Wen Yi also replied WeChat group although it is not an official communicative approach. Replying the comments in WeChat group like a
part time job, but if you are really taking care of the residents’ needs and issues, you will give the feedback very quickly. That is why I say Wen Yi impressed me a lot in replying the WeChat Group about her strong responsibilities in GH’s work. I play the role in giving feedback to the committee meeting. Sometimes I will have to decide some urgent events on my own, like the first time attended the committee meeting. The committee proposed the new name, which is the stable partner for overnight policy which was raise by the RC members last year. I didn’t have enough time to discuss with the other members, but I should express my opinion whether the name of stable partner acceptable for the residents. That is my role in RC.

**Annabel:** Would you like to introduce your new thoughts of the framework for readmission points?

**David:** Well, that is a gift we prepared for the 20th Anniversary of GH. The story began at the readmission forum. One of the residents proposed the topic about whether we should have a special contributor in Interest Group. Those who did not attend frequently but still gave much contribution were special contributor. The forum discussed whether readmission points should be given to those kinds of residents. We think about it and take the chance to extend it to have a basic framework of RC work and interest groups in GH. We hope to write everything down. That is motivation of drafting that framework. We have a constitution for the framework to have a clear description of how interest group leaders could be elected, in what ways the active members can be elected and so on. This is firstly proposed by Andrew, I really appreciated it, and others all felt it was a really good idea.

**Annabel:** What do you find most challenging about your work in GH?

**David:** Well, everything is challenging (laughing). Preparing for the high table is challenging, for Christmas Party is not easy, for T-shirt design it is not easy, but we like challenges. Having Challenges is natural, but we seek for some creative ways to work out challenges. For example, there is some new ideas for high table performance. We arranged the performances in the cocktail session. According to the previous experience, extra performances were usually cut, combined or deleted because of the time limitation, but it was pity for not giving them the chance to show their full performances, which will in turn reduce the applicants’ enthusiasm. This time we take a completely new idea that we remain all the performances, so we didn’t delete any of them but remained the extra performances in cocktail session.

**Andrew:** I agree with David that everything is challenging. If you take everything seriously it would be challenging. If we don’t take things seriously, it would not be a challenge.

**David:** We’d like to do it better and even the best.

**Annabel:** What would you say are your strongest beliefs about being a RC member?

**David:** For me, the keyword is trust. We trust each other. I trust you, so I will give you my opinions honestly. I trust you, so I like to cooperate with you. I trust you, so I will transfer my power to you then you can be the principle organizer of each event. Also, to respect the others even though they are different. Trust them and you can seek for some shared parts.

**Andrew:** What I would say is similar. I quite enjoy working with everyone, although sometimes the meetings could be quite tough, and you have to really debate and discuss over things. In the end of the day, this is enjoyable with the other 4 colleagues. Trust is why you enjoy it.

**Wen Yi:** I agree with David. Trust is very important.

**Tong:** A RC member must be responsible and willing to help others.

**Yang Yi:** I totally agree that trust is our strongest beliefs. I would like to add that smart is also important for us. As we mention it is a challenging task, anyway we need to deal with a lot of challenging things. It is not enough when we only take it seriously. We need to think about a lot of things in different aspect. Sometimes we even need to developed plan A, plan B and plan C in the activities. We rust each other, and we deal with things with smart techniques.

**Annabel:** As RC members, what sorts of trends did you see in GH?

**David:** I have seen some improvement, like the framework, the T-shirt design, performance in cocktail session. These are only a part of the new changes.

**Tong:** I see more and more people are willing to go out of their own room and participate in the activities held by RC, interest group or other residents. Last year, there were fewer workshop than in this year. After we announce that residents have the opportunity of holding workshops, more residents decide to organize workshops to make contribution for GH this year.

**Wen Yi:** This year we support much more activities than before. Residents are much more active than last year and the quality are great. Take the dental workshop for an example. I attended that workshop and found
residents not only communicate with each other during the activity but also received knowledge of dental health. After that workshop, a lot of resident to appoint the dental service to give a comprehensive check of their teeth.

David: We had a very strict review of every workshop, but we totally support them because they make our lives more colourful and meaningful.

Andrew: It is not RC who is doing this. The increasing number of activities depends on all the residents. They are the ones who volunteer to organizing activities, which we only support. It is a good sign that everyone is involved. This is not something that the RC can control.

Annabel: We know that you have organized a brand-new activity in GH this year, the T-shirt design contest. What do you think about it?

Tong: Well, I think we can hold this kind of activity every year. We can establish regular fashion design competition every year. We can design different items like the house hat or house scar', etc. So after a few years, we are going to have a collection of special items for GH designed by the residents. This is good for unity of GH residents. Our experience tells us this kind of competition is very popular and practical. I am the organizer for this year’s T-shirt design competition. According to my memory, we have 60 participants in total. And they provided us with 36 T-shirt designs. 160 residents have finished the online voting. We selected the champion with the highest vote. This kind of competition provides the resident with great chance to use their talent and creativity to create some special items and show their love for GH.

Annabel: What's the best thing to be a RC member?

Andrew: I feel more connected to GH after being a RC member. It is a great chance to meet people from various areas that you normally may not meet. As residents, you may not be involved in some activities. Being a RC member, you are more involved. It is a good way to feel more at home in GH.

Ven Yi: Being a RC member, I not only do a contribution to our house but also polished my all kinds of abilities, such as to communicate with residents from different culture, to make the budget, to recruit the helpers and performance, and to cooperate with others. A lot of skills that I didn’t practice in my daily life were practiced when being a RC member. Thanks to the chance of being a RC member, I can become much more confident.

David: Actually, the RC work did make up my academic life, because we need to practice our social skills, like skills of compromising, skills of communication, and thinking from the others’ sides. These skills were seldomly practiced in academic work, however they are helpful in future.

Tong: I have learned a lesson in RC work. David and Andrew are very professional. They treat the RC work formally. Every decision we made is the outcome of a long discussion, in which transparency issues are major consideration. We are always trying to make our decision benefits the majority of the residents and optimize the welfare of all the residents.

Ying Yi: As a RC member I have more opportunities to create a platform, such as the parties, high table and competitions, so I can involve more people to make contribution to our family. And working with these great guys, I can do more valuable things efficiently.

WATOTO CHILDREN’S CHOIR AND LOCAL AFRICAN MUSICIANS IN CONCERT

Miguel Antonio N. Lizola

Who says Graduate House is just for postgraduate students based in Hong Kong?

Last 24 November 2017, the Graduate House played host to the beautiful upbeat sounds of Africa. The event began with something for both the eyes and ears as guests were treated to an arresting performance of drums and dress displays on stage. The actual performance featured the story of the continent of Africa told first through an African praises and then through a breath-taking performance of local African musicians and the Watoto Children’s Choir from Uganda.

The event was a show of support for the Faculty of Education which looks back at 100 years of service to Hong Kong, Asia, and the world. What better way indeed to celebrate such a milestone than to play host to an event that brings in voices and colors of vibrant cultures from across the world!
LET’S RETURN TO YOUTH TOGETHER: SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR THE ELDERLY

Annabel He

In the past few months, Graduate House have organized several Social Service Activities for the Elderly. The tutor, Hong Danyan, is the organizer for these activities. The residents whole-heartedly took part in these activities as helpers. With the help of the warm-hearted residents, excellent activities were carried out and everyone had a wonderful time.

Throughout these activities, the elderly had shown their strong passion in participating. They have great talents in making dumpling, Chinese calligraphy and singing beautiful songs.

Festival is coming, Calligraphy & painting Group prepared the writing brush, ink and some red paper, so that residents and the elderly can celebrate the Chinese New Year together by writing spring couplets. Singing group organized music show in front of these lovely audience.

As the first supporter, Dancing Group taught the elderly some easy dance movements so that everyone can enjoy the beauty of dancing. Eating & Cooking Group provided the materials and help the elderly to make some tasty dumplings. Card Game Group prepared some interesting riddles and games for the elderly, hoping to make them happy. When the Spring
Cantonese group assisted in all these activities to promote the communication, so they also received some messages from the lovely elderly that these activities are very enjoyable, and they really look forward to seeing us. A lovely granny even told us that she feels like returning to youth again.

KIDS AT HEART, KIDS AT OUR HEARTS: SOCIAL SERVICE WITH CHILDREN AT ST. BARNABAS

Miguel Antonio N. Lizada

Graduate school is adult stuff – we wrestle with big ideas, interact with like-minded peers, and every so often, scholars who are considered big names in our field. But deep down, we all have that inner child who wants to let out and play. For this year’s 20th anniversary, that inner wish from that child within was granted.

Once a month, volunteers from Graduate House literally went down from the hilly campus for fun, games, and an experience of a lifetime. As one of the two social services yearlong outreach activities for the year (the other being with the elderly people), afternoons with the children at St. Barnabas were a meaningful interaction with the children, the warm staff at St. Barnabas, the residents of Graduate House, and different sectors of the larger Hong Kong community. Such groups include The Good Cook Channel, Credit Suisse, and State Street Bank. Each group prepared a fun and engaging activity, such as making rice balls and mosaic making and the residents helped facilitate by making sure that their assigned children were learning and enjoying the activity. Another and much awaited part of the outreach program was the read aloud session where residents got to showcase their storytelling prowess by doing an interactive reading of a child’s story book.

Moreover, according to Mr. Barua, participation in such activities is an important aspect of our formation as future academics. He says, “I believe that this Program provided personal developmental teachings outside of academic institutions. Through such bold moves, we as future generations will be able to carry our goodwill to a wider people.”

In each activity, the children wowed the residents with their inquisitive nature, genuine curiosity, and remarkable talent in arts and crafts. According Dipen Barua, one of the residents who helped organize the activities, “All the activities of the Children’s Service Program truly inspired me. The most memorable things that I still remember are sitting next to kids listening to their ideas and thoughts exchanged. In one event, I felt a surge of surprise when a kid looking at my face spontaneously asked “I think you came from Pakistan,” though I am not. Personally, I was very impressed, when she, being a Hong Kong local, was telling me about South Asian countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh.”
A CONSTELLATION OF ROMANCE: A CARNIVAL OF SONGS CONCERT IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSSINI’S DEATH

Miguel Antonio N. Lizada

Life in Graduate House is a continuous experience of being exposed to a variety of vibrant traditions and cultural delights. Last 28 March 2018, just two days before Hong Kong enters the solemn and quiet period of the Easter holidays, residents and guests of Guest House were treated to the pomp and glamorous auditory delight of Rossini’s compositions. Dubbed A Carnival of Songs, the concert, jointly presented by HKU Graduate House and the Musica Viva, was a fitting commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Rossini’s death. The suite of songs were from Rossini’s collections Serate Musicali (Musical Evenings), La Regata Veneziana (The Venetian Boa Race), and Peches de Viellese (Sins of Old Age), as well as arias from his operas Il Barbiere di Siviglia (The Barber of Seville) and La Cenerentola (Cinderella).

Bringing these more than a century old romantic melodies to life we’ve renowned artists from Hong Kong: Miss Phoebe Tam (Soprano), Miss Carol Lim (Mezzo-soprano), Mr. Samuel Huang (Tenor), Mr. Sammy Chen (Baritone), and Mr. Alexander Wong (Pianist) under the tutelage and direction of Mr. Lo Kingman who has written, directed, and designed 200 stage productions in Hong Kong and around the world.

The performances proved that one does not need to know the actual language to perceive the range and depth of romantic tenor, to see the clarity of raw human emotions, to receive caws. This nocturnal journey into the colourful carnival of songs concluded with a final aria that saw all performers singing their hearts out on stage.

The program began with solo performances that showcased the singers’ talents. With artistic and auditory prowess, each one sang melodies of hope, grief, longing, and finally loving. A suite of heartwarming and occasionally humorous duets followed the solo performances. Particularly memorable was “Duetto di Due Gatti” (A Duet of Two Cats) which as the name implied featured two of the singers telling a story through a variety of ‘meows and feline with open ears and eyes the multifaceted color of humanity. Love itself is its own language and the human experience of longing, loving, and living is a universal one.
BIG BANGS AND BIG REVELATIONS: SEMINAR ON THE BIG BANG AND GENESIS

Miguel Antonio N. Lizada

Science and religion are often positioned at both sides of the table, supposedly contradicting and disproving each other. But a seminar, co-organized by Graduate House, the Postgraduate Student Association (POSA) and the Chinese Students and Scholars Association at HKU (CSSA-HKU), last 3 May demonstrates that such differences may be reconciled!

Through a thorough discussion on both the Physics of the Big Bang Theory and an incisive exegesis of the Book of Genesis, Professor Ron Hui, Chair Professor of Power Electronics at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and Imperial College London, showed an interesting connection between the science of the origin of the universe and the creation story that many know. Specifically, Professor Hui looked at how the various events in the universe – the emergence of stars, the formation of planets, the emergence of life – paralleled with the structure and framework of the Genesis story. A lively and engaging discussion in the open forum followed the lecture.

In the end, the talk which married the rigor of science and the poetry of literature and saw a cordial and collegial dialogue between Professor Hui and the audience demonstrated in my view the spirit of Graduate House as a hub for interdisciplinarity and meaningful scholarly exchange.

““The events so I don’t feel like a loner!” - Young Lo, Faculty of Science, Canada

“The opportunity to meet people from all over the world with whom you are united by a PhD experience. This reduces cultural distances and makes you feel part of the same family.” - Giudia Usai, Faculty of Arts, Italy

“The best thing is the location. It takes only 5 minutes for me to go to the office.” - Andrew, RC Member

“The best thing is the feeling at home no matter I am a RC member, an interest group leader or a resident.” - Yang Yi, RC Member

“Except the great convenience you will also get more beyond living, like sincere friendship and broad knowledge since GH is an international and comprehensive paradise.” - Zechou Li, Faculty of Engineering

“It is so impressive to see that all people in graduate house with diverse interests, backgrounds and majors can find the place that suits them, and the unique way to contribute to our share home.” - Lin Cong, Faculty of Education

“Warm people, good view and comfortable environment make me feel at home!” - Yi Wenting, Faculty of Engineering
GRADUATE HOUSE
- INDEED AN "EVENTFUL" HALL YOU CAN CALL HOME

LIU Yingqi

At the beginning of this article I would like to say that I am indeed lucky and privileged to be not only one of the PhD candidates in HKU but also the lucky guys who can take a seat in this Graduate House Family, not need to mention the feelings I have for the chances to meet so many lovely and talented new friends here with all the marvelous events I participated.

Event No.1: Party for the Christmas Eve (Performer)
It is hard to believe for a newcomer to Hong Kong like me that the Christmas could be in such "chaos", BUT GUESS WHAT? IT IS, IN A FUN WAY. All the performers and most of the audiences are residents in this Graduate House, they are just so talented.

Event No.2: Singing Contest (First runner-up)
Voice and smile express our feeling inside to the friends around us, pictures keep the unforgettable moments refreshing and the wonderful memory will never fade. It is true that the preparation in the process counts more than the results, after all, I’ve already obtained much in that process! With all these new friends I made along the way, I am pretty satisfied with the second prize!

Event No.3: Inter-Disciplinary Competition (Eighth person on the left, champion team)
On its second year, this Inter-Disciplinary Competition promotes the "3+1 Is" concept, i.e. Internationalization, Innovation, Interdisciplinary plus Impact, in HKU. Discovering new knowledge makes us inspired while thinking outside the box gives us chances to create the incredible! And do not forget that we are making new friends along the way.

Event No.4: High Table Dinner (Performer)
The HTD will definitely be a good chance for boy to behave with their incredible gentleness and for girls to show their graceful figures. And I regret not seizing the chance to behave well in front of the gorgeous ladies!

Event No.5: Boat Trip
Yellow sunshine, blue sky, white beach, pink boat green sea and red enthusiasm, this annually well-organized boat trip just perfectly met our needs for a colorful weekend. Laughter never stopped while the feast for the eyes continued from the natural sights to the charming figures.

Last 26 April, the Graduate House capped a most memorable year of festivities, commemoration, and vibrant intellectual exchange in a night which coincidentally had all three.

St. Barnabas whom we partnered with for the whole year. Special guests included members of the Graduate House Management Committee, the Tutor Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and most importantly, the Acting President and Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Paul Tam.

While the High Table Dinner is an annual formal function of the House, this year, being the 20th Anniversary, was extra special. Commemorative tokens were bequeathed to all residents and guests from the university and the residents shared their feast with friends from...
had done for the past year. Professor Paul Tam, in his next speech, echoed the sentiment by acknowledging the contributions of Graduate House to the vibrant, global intellectual community of the university. Capping the series of speeches was Residents Committee (RC) Representative David Zhang who briefly elaborated on the activities of the RC.

Afterwards, a suite of performances dazzled and entertained the guests for the next 30 minutes. From the Dancing Interest Group’s rendition of Rihanna’s Love on Brain to a sequence of singing performances of pop hits and musical classics to instrumental and dance performances from Chinese culture, guests were given front row seats in witnessing their friends’ talents and artistic prowess. A choral rendition of “Brighten Me with Virtue” a Cantopop song made especially for HKU’s centennial celebration was a fitting bookend to the suite of performances.

The High Table Dinner was formally closed with a communal singing of the House Song, “We are One.” A reminder to us all that despite our different backgrounds, our varied paths, our divergent intellectual destinies, the direction of our movement, now and for the next twenty years, will be the same: forward, as one.