Spring is here! Spring is everywhere!!

The weather is warm and humid — excellent for the mould to grow in our room. If you stay put for too long, I am sure you will become mouldy too.

I would have less worry if you had joined the RC for the Spring Gathering on the 9th of March! Oh! No, please don’t misunderstand!! ... We did not give out special blessing at the party but if you have joined, this may mean you have noticed our announcements.

Indeed, it was another night of big success!! A lot of residents came and shared their Chinese New Year experiences. We hope to see you in our next function!

Refrigerators as standard provision

The Graduate House Committee of Management has approved the purchase of refrigerators as standard provisions in Graduate Student rooms. We have contacted some suppliers and one model was delivered for test. Members of the RC were invited to comment on the suitability of use. This tall model (83 cm tall x 46.3 cm wide x 50 cm long), there is not enough room to place it on the floor. We have tried to place it on the window ledge but an extension that cost at least $450 per bedroom will need to be built. In view of the extra cost of the extension and the potential high electricity bill for the users as the fridge will be heated by the sun we decided it is not appropriate to place the fridge on the window ledge. We are now in the process of ordering a smaller model that can fit under the desk and depending on the availability of the stock; we may install the fridges in several phases. We apologize for the delay and appreciate your patience on this matter!

Smoke detectors

Recently, smoke detectors in student lounges and bedrooms have been triggered by smoke and humidity. (1) Some cooking oil (in particular vegetable oil) is not suitable for heavy cooking. Upon heating, white smoke will be generated and if ventilation is poor, it will trigger the smoke detector alarm. Please be reminded that heavy cooking is not allowed in Graduate House!! (2) When humidity is high, please close the windows in your bedroom. Leaving your windows open may not improve ventilation, but rather, allow humid air to accumulate. Turning on your air conditioner will help because it can dehumidify air by condensing the water vapour. To avoid unnecessary burden to the fire station in our neighbourhood, we need to be more aware of our activities in the residence!!

Air conditioners in Lounges

As the hot summer days are approaching fast, everybody is looking towards a good air-conditioning system in the lounges of Graduate House. It has been noted that the existing system in all the lounges has problems that cannot be rectified easily and the breakdown rate is so frequent that it almost happen during the hottest days of the year every summer. In September 2006, the Graduate House Management and Estates Office conducted a tendering exercise to replace the entire air-conditioning system. The cost for the project amounts to about $0.66M and approval from the Graduate House Committee of Management has to be sought. When the project was brought to the attention of the Committee in January 2007, a generous benefactor of the University expressed the interest to donate the sum of money to cover the replacement cost. As soon as the benefactor has made a decision, we will inform all of you immediately when the project would commence. By then, the long outstanding air-conditioning problems of the lounges will become history. We thank you for your tolerance throughout the times and we request your patience for a bit longer.

In-house Management Committee
Chinese New Year in Mainland China

This year, it was my first time to spend Chinese New Year in the village and everything is novel and interesting. Though people in the village are not rich, the New Year spirit was everywhere. Here are some pictures that I want to share with you.

Lucky inscriptions are important things that we put on the doors, windows, and everywhere you can imagine. The red lanterns indicate a bright and harvest New Year.

Before lunch start, everyone sit around the table waiting to start the firecrackers at noon which was very loud to frighten all evil things away.

After a light rain, the road was a little muddy. The joy of Chinese New Year seems to have arrived without any delay - no matter what kind of weather it was.

Mei Lei - leimei@hkusua.hku.hk
Beijing – My favorite City in China

This is Xiaomeng, a resident of GH studying in the Department of Social Work. Around this spring festival, I returned to Beijing—my favorite city in China. I can't remember how many times I have been to Beijing, but every time I can find new things from its old cultural heritage. The attached are the photos I want to share with friends in GH.

**Drum Tower**

Drums were musical instruments in ancient China. Later they were used to tell time and function like church bells in the West. Therefore, we can call the Drum Tower our “time-announcement center”. Located at the Dongcheng District of Beijing, it was initially built in 1272 and rebuilt in 1297 (during the Yuan Dynasty), and again in 1420 and 1539 (during the Ming Dynasty). The two-story structure was made of wood and span a height of 47 meters. Originally, there were 25 drums on its second floor. Among them, there were one big drum and 24 smaller drums. Now, only the big drum is left. The drum can be heard four times a day, for 15 minutes at a time. Although the Drum Tower has lost function of telling time (The function was completely lost in 1924 when the last emperor of the Qing Dynasty was forced to leave the Forbidden City), you can still hear the rings of this ancient timepiece in The Vast City of Beijing below.

**Trees in the Temple of Heaven**

The Temple of Heaven, (Tiantan), is located in the Chongwen district in the southern part of Beijing, about 6km away from the city center. It was built in 1420 during a time when many other important structures were constructed in Beijing. Tiantan served as a place of ceremony and ritual for the Ming and Qing emperors.

**Palace of Abstinence (Palace for Fasting)**

The Palace of Abstinence is located near the west entrance of the Temple of Heaven. Before each ceremony, emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties held a three-day fast during summer and winter solstice. The emperors would spend two days fasting in the Forbidden City and then completed the last day of fasting in the Palace of Abstinence. The beamless hall is one of the most famous architecture in Beijing.

Xiao Meng - h0593064@hkusua.hku.hk
Food Lovers

I am Harrison (Zhou Heng Yu). During the "short" Chinese New Year holidays, I went to Shanghai and Beijing to meet my friends and relatives. I also spent some time in my hometown Rugao, a little county by the Yangtze River in Jiangsu Province. I took many pictures of my delicious meals and some scenes in the county. I hope you are also a lover for Chinese food. Fancy to go out for meals together?

Harrison Zhou - zhhy@hkusua.hku.hk
Upcoming Events

Hightable dinner – 3rd April, 2007
Mr. Kevin McMahon, President and CEO from The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust (USA) will be invited as the Guest of Honour. The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust was formed in 1984 as both an arts agency and a real estate and economic development catalyst - to realize Jack Heinz’ fuller vision of a cultural district. For more details, please visit www.pgharts.org.

Classical Music Night – 6th April, 2007
Michael Cheung (11/F) will share with us Brahms’ Piano Concerto No. 1 from the HKU Music Library

Antarctica Night – Date to be advised
Zhou Yang will share with us her very special experience.

Volleyball practises - every week!

24+12 application

Due to the University’s centralised residence application and the year round open policy, we have processed many more applications than usual. As of the end of March, we still have more than a hundred applicants on the waiting list. Since we are anticipating a shortage of vacancies for new residents, the assessment for the 24+12 policy will be tightened too. Please apply at least 3 months before the expiration of your residency and kindly prepare detailed supporting documents as well.

In - out Board

A warm welcome to ...
Chen Wei Rong, Dong Chuo Yan, Gao Fang, Guo Jian Peng, Mei Lei, Ng Ka Ki, Shangguan Yu Jin, Sun Jie, Wang Chen, Wang Wen Li, Wang Xing An, Yang Zai Yue

A fond farewell to ...
Lee Eon Seong, Li Ji, Li Jiu Kun, Mitsuko Maeda, Wang Lun, Wang Zhen, Xia Le, Yang Feng, Yu Ying, Zhuang Huai Bin.

To find out who is living around you, please join our activities or check out the notice board in the lounges!
Have Fun Friend Searching!

Artwork by
Jean Yim

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

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