

OUTSTANDING
HALL'S
STUDENT
AWARD
2014





OUTSTANDING HALL STUDENT AWARD 2014

This award is to recognize hall students who have outstanding academic performance and distinguished contribution to the hall community.

ABOUT **HALL EDUCATION**



Hall Education is a learning process throughout years of hall life, during which students' learning experience can be enhanced and the university educational aims can be achieved.

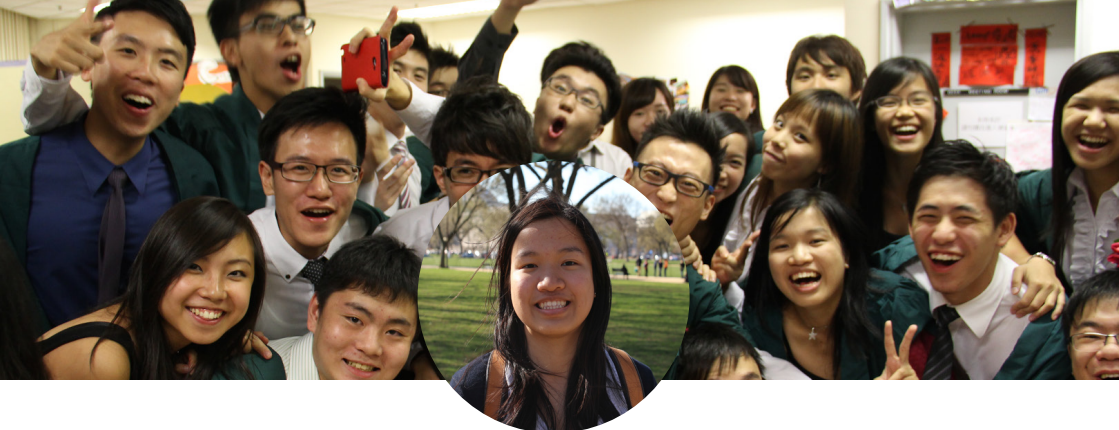
Students learn to gain, deliver & reflect in their hall lives. By participating in diverse hall activities, students will develop various interests and improve their communication and interpersonal skills. By organizing hall functions, students will understand the gist of leadership and management. By interacting with a large number of hall peers from different faculties and back-

grounds, students will gain life-long friendships and memories. Along with all the above elements, students will realize the importance of both passing the core values of hall education from generation to generation based on what they have experienced and making good use of the huge manpower within the hall community to fulfill their social responsibilities.

Critical self-reflection of students' different roles is of equal emphasis during the learning process, so as to allow them to enjoy a more fruitful and meaningful university and hall life.

LIST OF AWARDEES

NAME	HALL
Hu Tsz Fung	Hornell Hall
Cheng Tsz Kiu Janice	Lady Ho Tung Hall
Yuen Hiu Tong	Lady Ho Tung Hall
Chan Lok Yee Michelle	Lee Chi Hung Hall
Cheng Pui Chung Samson	Lee Chi Hung Hall
Lam Tin Kei Janet	Lee Hysan Hall
Tam Yat Long Matthew	Lee Hysan Hall
Tam Yuen Pui Cathy	Lee Hysan Hall
Daryanani Amrita Sanju	Simon K Y Lee Hall
Cheung Hoi Ching Jacqueline	St. John's College
Law Ka Mun Melissa	St. John's College
Ho Ka Hei Karen	Starr Hall
Lam Kwok Yiu Kelvin	Starr Hall
Yuen Wai Nga	Starr Hall
Chan Wai Hoi Ben	Suen Chi Sun Hall
Cheng Wilfred	Swire Hall
Chung Yik Hei Isaac	University Hall



Chan Lok Yee Michelle

Lee Chi Hung Hall

As a student from International Business and Global Management, I feel very fortunate to be part of Lee Chi Hung Hall to expand my interests outside my academic curriculum. Looking back at my past few years in retrospect, I realized that I accomplished most of my initial goals in university life without any regrets — an executive member of Photographic Society, Publication & Publicity Team Captain of Lee Chi Hung Hall, together with the IBGM Committee and internships in the summer — because these are the activities that made my life fruitful and worth living for at HKU. Last year, I was also fortunate enough to be sponsored by HKU to go to Yale University for a one-year exchange through the Yale Visiting International Students Program.

Some people may argue that

hall life conflicts with academic studies: but interestingly I discovered the opposite. Lee Chi Hung Hall is the place where I relief my stress from academics and achieve balance in social life. The remarkable experiences I had in hall gave me reason to work hard at school, as they were always full of joyful memories and amazing surprises: apart from leading the Publication & Publicity team, I tanned my skin brown in the interhall Dragon Boat Competition (first-time life experience!), constructed props together with engineering people for the interhall drama, came up with interesting games for the upcoming Orientation Camp and took over 100GBs of photos as the “official photographer” for most hall events, including high table dinners, Inauguration Ceremony, interhall sports competitions and various social gatherings. I could hardly imag-

ine how life would turn into without these activities; I might linger in the library all day long.

To sum up my contributions and experiences in hall, my unconventional university life in a non-residential hall was one of the best decisions last year. While many students may wonder how non-residential halls are different from residential halls, and whether they could still gain a similar hall

experience, I would have to say that it is pretty much very similar except the residential part if you are dedicated to its activities.

The dedication I gave to my hall and the fruitful experiences I got out of it commensurate with that of other traditional halls. It's only a matter of give and take — if you give more to your friends and hallmates, the more you get out of it.





Chan Wai Hoi Ben

SUEN CHI SUN HALL

I have been living in Suen Chi Sun hall for more than 3 years and I am glad to be one of the Sunnians. I have learnt a lot from Hall life and I truly believe that it would be one of the most memorable experiences for me in my life. Hall life has also offered me a chance to make new friends in different faculties, with different backgrounds and from different countries.

As a student in HKU, I think “work hard and play hard” has always been our motto. The phrase “搏盡無悔” is well-known for all HKU students. Living a hall life, I think work hard and play hard are equally important and I have tried my best to make a good balance between work and play. Being a medicine student is never easy, but I would not want to sacrifice hall experience for that either. I study whenever I have time, even between hall functions. Anybody who knows me should know that my iPad Mini is always on my hand, as I can refer to

my notes for revision anytime I want. For instance whenever I am on public transport or waiting for someone, I would revise with my iPad. Sometimes I had to revise while having lunch and dinner. Sacrificing some rest time was inevitable, but I have gotten used to it by now. I found that joining floor activities, or hall functions, actually help me relax and take a break. I would have energy for study again after a bit of fun. So “work hard and play hard” is not only teaching you how to make your university life more colorful, it is also a very useful life-tip.

The most memorable moment in my hall life is the interhall hockey competition in year 3. There were significant improvements in our performances and result as compared with previous years. In the past, our hall gave others the image of only emphasizing cultural teams but less on sports. We used to lose in most interhall and

league competitions. But in that year, our hockey team was able to draw with a hall that we thought were so much stronger than us. It was our first draw game in the interhall competitions. I still remember running for 70 minutes straight without a second to catch my breath. I still remember how my teammates played hard together to defend the attack of the opponent. I still remember how emotional and thrilled we were when the umpire blew his whistle to signal the end of the game. Although we could not win, I think it was still a memorable moment to prove that the sports of Suen Chi Sun Hall is improving and someday we can win the final.

stances. However, hall life made that possible and surprisingly easy. I got to share all my joys and also my troubles with my floormates, and help each other out even if it is 3 a.m.

For anybody out there who is hesitant about whether to live in a hall or not, I would say do not wait. This experience cannot be better described and you can only experience it for yourself. Force yourself out of your comfort zone, and try out things you have never tried. You would be surprised and definitely gain something.



I have gained a lot from my hall life. If I had not lived here, I would have miss out so much. Knowing some of my best friends from my floor, having to meet non-local hall mates from different countries or even sharing a drink or two together. I would never have enough courage to walk up to a non-local student in other circum-



Cheng Pui Chung Samson

Lee Chi Hung Hall

To strike a balance between academic works, entertainment, and self-enrichment activities is often a challenging task for a university student. This problem is prevalent among us – students living in a hall, in particular. Most of us, who had committed to excel in study and to be a contributing hallmate simultaneously, have subsequently found things easier said than done, and have been frustrated by the reality. Facing this problem, some of us survive while the other are forced to quit to save other commitments. As an awardee of the Outstanding Hall Students Award, I would like to share how I manage my hall life along with different tasks. I wish my sharing could be a helpful reference for anyone who suffers from similar time management problems. Besides, I would also like to share how important hall life is to me, by talking about a memorable moment in my hall life and what I have gained in the last three years.

How I “Work Hard and Play Hard” in Hall

In my first year, I joined several student clubs and became a hallmate of Lee Chi Hung Hall. I believed I could manage time well so that my academic results would not be affected by these activities. After the release of my first semester GPA, I realized having the confidence to win is far from an actual victory. I started to reflect on why my study failed. No answer was thought of until the next semester, during which I changed my attitude and strategies to work unconsciously.

In the second semester, I assumed the office as the chairman of my Hall’s Students’ Association. I was at first reluctant and had considered seriously not to take the post. However, I stayed because of my colleagues, a desire to develop the Hall, and most importantly, the refusal to surrender. In the semester, our committee held a number of activities, while my works were

mainly about coordination inside the team and representing the committee externally as a figurehead (for example, I needed to give speeches, make briefing notes, etc.) At the same time, I was the debate team captain, and a member of the drama team and the acapella team. An even larger amount of time on non-academic matters was spent than the first semester, and I guessed my GPA would get worse. However, it turned out my second semester GPA had increased significantly.

Again, I asked myself the same question “why?” I finally realized my GPA improved because I could use the knowledge and skills acquired in hall matters in academic works practically, especially on occasions about doing group projects, making presentation in classes, and debating in tutorials. In addition, I had successfully changed the hall’s atmosphere by trying to study in the Hall rather than the library (where many of my hallmates would choose to revise there before) in the exam period. My hallmates were then influenced, and chose to

study inside the Hall as well. We could then ask one another when we do not understand the texts, and discuss some exam strategies more frequently. The change in hall atmosphere was also helpful to our academic results.

A Memorable Moment in Hall Life

Many moments in the life in Lee Chi Hung Hall are memorable to me. One of them I want to share here is about the interhall debate final in the last semester, which was also my last competition. Before the competition began, I was given the chance by my teammates to talk about my feeling in front of the audience as a hallmate and a debater. I have never imagined I can talk about any personal matter on the debate stage. Besides, from preparation to the release of results, our hallmates have been very supportive in every part of the competition. They not only helped to deal with several administrative matters about the contest, they were also willing to listen to us and reduce our teammates’ stress. The unity in our team and among our hallmates has much impressed me.



What Have I Gained in My Hall Life

I truly have gained a lot in the three years in Lee Chi Hung Hall. Started from the very beginning of my hall life, I had enormous opportunities in participating intrahall and interhall events such as performing in singing contests and competing in inter-hall competitions. Afterwards, I got the chance to lead the Hall Students' Association as the Chairman and Vice-chairman and contribute to the Hall and the hall community further. These experiences allowed me to enhance my knowledge and problem-solving skills, and gave me chances to practice what I have learned in class as a business and law student. Furthermore, after working and mingling with my hallmates these years, I made true friends in the Hall and I have gained their trust, support, recognition, and care. In particular, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude here to my "jongyaus" (which means friends and colleagues in an executive committee) in the Hall's Students' Association I served in the past years. Without their understanding and company, I cannot

imagine how much less I would have achieved in personal and emotional growth in the university journey. It is my honor to have known all of them, and become a part of their life in these few years.

Lee Chi Hung Hall aimed to make herself "the place to feel the warmth" and "the place to find true friends", and even put this vision into the lyrics of our hall song. Stayed here for years, I am proud to say I successfully feel the warmth and find true friends as a hallmate here. For me, it is also a place for my own personal growth.

In sum, as I can find out possibilities to make things we learned in hall life coincide academic tasks, and create an atmosphere of studying inside the hall. I believe everyone of us can do the same, no matter which role you take in the hall, or which hall you live in. It is important for us to work hard as a student and play hard in the hall at the same time. If we can do it, we will be able to pursue our dreams and find out our own memorable moments without sacrificing many responsibilities.





Cheng Wilfred

Swire Hall

Working hard and playing hard in hall life was always about time management.

What I did was to be engaged in a few hall activities which I really liked, which was Hockey, Squash and Band, maintain high commitment in all of them, and still leave enough space in between to do my studies. Since the team practice sessions are pretty much fixed, I will have to squeeze time to do my studies, sometimes even bringing my notes around so I can read them on the bus. Of course, it was all worth it since I was able to meet a much more diverse group of people through hall activities, as opposed to only people studying the same subject.

I think the fondest memory in hall life was when I was performing with the band, where I played the bass guitar. The most memorable performance was also my first performance with Swire Hall, playing at the high table dinner celebrating the 30th anniver-

sary of our hall. It was especially memorable because it was before Swire had a proper band room, and we actually had to go all the way to some industrial buildings in Aberdeen for practices. Although such an arrangement was fairly inconvenient, I thought it actually increased the bonding between our band members. Moreover, the theme for that high table dinner was nostalgia, so we played songs like “Wish You Were Here” and “激光中”. Also because it was a big anniversary, many former Swirians, even some who graduated during the 1980s, came back to attend the high table dinner. Of course, it was great to perform in front of so many people, but it was also the thought of why so many Swirians from so long ago would still come back, that made me realize what a special night it was. This was one of the moments that made me truly feel a sense of belonging for this place.

It is hard to say exactly what I gained in hall life, but I will try to put some examples. One of the points I mentioned above is that, I have a much wider circle of friends I met in university, such as hallmates who are studying various subjects, like medicine, engineering, science or arts. That enabled me to more easily see things more easily from a non-legal technical perspective, and I think this would be a benefit for my future career as a

solicitor when I explain things to lay clients.

Another thing is membership of a community where trust is highly valued. I find that I can be totally frank when talking to other hallmates, which is not possible with other people other than your closest friends. As often times in halls, we are striving towards a common goal, so it is rare for people to have a conflict of interest.





Cheung Hoi Ching Jacqueline

St. John's College

Striking a balance between hall life and study is never an easy task at HKU, especially when you are studying in a double-degree program. During the last few years, I have been a very active member at my hall. This can be shown not only by the sports teams that I have joined (softball, swimming and athletics), but also through my involvement in the executive committee (being the Publicity and Publication Secretary (External) in the first year, and Chairperson in the second year).

After these years, I would say the key to 'work hard play hard' is setting a clear goal and being self-disciplined. For me, hall is not simply a place for living while university is also not merely for studying. Trying to per-

form the best at both sides, while at the same time, remember your own principles and keep reminding yourself. For example, even sometimes you may have to stay late for meetings and hall activities, persist in attending lectures and going to the library in the morning.

I am really thankful about all the things and people that I have encountered during my hall life. If I have to recall, one of the most memorable moments would be the time when my team has won the softball championship in year three. It is a game that we all learnt from zero in year one. Through countless practices, many ups and downs, it was the last chance for us to shine on the field together. One of the reasons why I am so passionate about

this sport is that it requires both individual skill and teamwork. Your own performance does matter, however, it is not about playing solo as well, no matter how skillful you are, without the support of other members on the field, or even the bench players, the team will never win. I burst into tears immediately the moment we won. We, fighting as one team, with one goal, finally achieved our dream.

In these three years, apart from the friendship, I would say the most

important thing that I have gained would be the attitude I learnt. I always remember a motto said by my softball coach, 'if you are not sure that you can win by 100%, even it is a 99%, keep practicing until the day you finally win.' Striving for the best in all aspects and being dare to dream. Living in hall is a process to figure out who you really are and make yourself a better person. I have gained so much through this three-year journey and it is definitely one of the best parts of my life!





Daryanani Amrita Sanju

Simon K. Y. Lee Hall

From all the lessons I have learnt during the two years that I have spent in Simon K. Y. Lee Hall and hopefully another two more years, one thing I always remember is that “Nothing is Impossible” because “Impossible is I’m Possible”. I believe once obstacles and fears are replaced with faith and determination, and then impossible is nothing and dreams can be achieved.

This is indeed a very essential belief that allows me to balance my academics with my hall and beyond hall extra-curricular activities. So, as Walt Disney said, “if you can dream it, you can do it”. Therefore, I work hard and play hard in the hall by organizing a to-do list which allows me to manage my time properly and also, work more efficiently.

Simon K. Y. Lee is indeed the place where I have made so many new friends, where I have enhanced my

leadership skills and where I have raised my awareness about issues taking place in Hong Kong and the world. Through this, I would like to share with you my supercalifragilistic-expialidocious journey in the hall and mainly how I gained my one-of-a-kind-lifetime experiences in the hall.

On my first day in the Hall, there was a knock on my door by two local students who introduced themselves as the group parents of the Non-Local Orientation Camp (NOC) and invited me to join the event. The purpose of this camp was to introduce me to the life in the hall, and also, tours around Hong Kong. As a non-local student who was unwilling to immerse with the diverse surrounding, I decided this would be a great opportunity for me to learn about my surroundings. Through this camp, I gained many friends from different floors and we would meet for Superpass dinners before the examination, high table

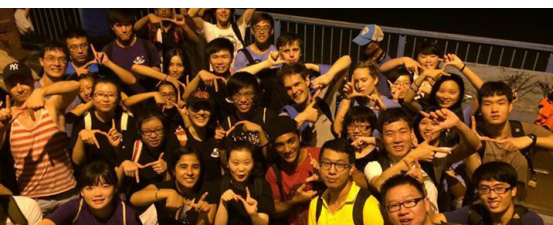
dinners and Lunar New Year festival. One of the most memorable moments with my groups was the superpass dinner where I learnt about the “Ging Guo” tradition. I found it very interesting that we got red pockets which only had HKD 1.3, and I found out that it meant “Guo Sam” (over 3.0 GPA).

By joining the social sub-committee, I was able to organize an event during Halloween in addition to tram parties and the Farewell High Table Dinner. This way I got the opportunity to meet hallmates and we would greet one another whenever we passed by even if we didn't know each other's names or floors. I believe this is indeed unity within the hall, where everyone was active and sincere to approach others.

When the recruitment process for Non-Local Orientation Camp Organizing Committee members started, I decided to join the team as the NOC had given me so much and I felt it was time for me to give back to the incoming freshmen what I received when I was a freshman. I was selected as the Chairperson of the committee as there were relatively few Students' Association members. Through this position, I enhanced my leadership

skills as I became aware of the insides in the hall such as who to contact if I faced any problems, planning process of the orientation camp and what are the “dos and don'ts”. My team and I worked really hard day and night for the camp to be a great success. We surpassed all the challenges that came forth and made it at the end. Together, we were able to ease the adjustment period for the incoming freshmen and seeing the strong relations that were built within the group was evidence that the camp was a success in achieving its goals. One of the most memorable moments for me was when we had our BBQ party at the beach, it was a great time for all the organizing committee members, group parents and children to have fun and relax while enjoying an amazing view.

Another recent experience I had was in the Non-Local Orientation Camp 2015 as the Group Mother to 11 Non-Local students. It was a really fun experience and at the same time a very pressurizing experience as I had to be responsible to ensure food was ready before the children arrived, nobody went missing and most importantly, everyone was happy with what was going on. It was a really challenging but fulfilling experience.



I decided to expand my role in the Hall by establishing an integration committee which would act as a bridge between local and non-local students, a platform that provided them with the opportunity to gather during events such as welcoming parties, board game night and excursion along with a link between the non-local students and the Students' Association members. One of the most rewarding experience I had was organizing the 3/F Floor Integrated Camp 2015, where local and non-local floor sisters would have an opportunity to play games, learn about the floor culture and have fun together.

The most important aspect of my hall journey is how it allowed me to raise my awareness about issues taking place locally and globally. I joined the Social Education Group that provided me with the opportunity to learn about the lives of the homeless people in Hong Kong, women empowerment issues and environmental sustainability issues. As a member, I became the person in charge of two main activities, which was to invite a guest speaker for high table dinner to talk about women empowerment and arranging a domestic worker's

visit to the Hall, which was one of the enlightening moments within the Hall. Through this, I began to increase my understanding about the problems faced by ethnic minority domestic workers in Hong Kong plus learn about challenges that women face even though we are in the 21st century. By participating in the other environmental projects including green recycling and soap recycling, I understood the severity of the upcoming sustainability issues. I am currently the Chairperson of the Social Education Group and I hope that together my team and I will be able to increase more awareness about the issues that affect us the most.

Overall, I have given my time and effort to the Hall to bring changes, but what I have been given is a lot more, friends to turn to, memories that will last with me forever and strength to continue believing what I believe in. Therefore, my experiences has once again proven to me that nothing is impossible, because "Impossible" is simply "I'm Possible". As the hall motto says, Simon K. Y. Lee members are always "Active and Sincere" and so I am proud to say I am a Skyer.





Ho Ka Hei Karen

Starr Hall

Within the HKU community, students living in halls are often labelled as the ones who skip lessons, never show up for group projects and forfeit their GPAs. In reality, this is certainly not the case. Academic excellence and involvement in hall and extracurricular activities are not mutually exclusive. To the contrary, it is the very essence of hall education that trains us to manage time well and strive for all-rounded development.

As cliché as it sounds, a fair balance between studies and hall life can be maintained as long as we get our priorities straight and know our own capacity. While given countless opportunities and the freedom to make decisions, we can easily be overwhelmed by temptations and lose sight of our goals and aspirations. It is therefore vital to keep our priorities in mind and stay focused to implement them in daily life. Knowing our own capacity is also crucial in hall

and university life. There may be a lot for us to try and experience, but we should never overestimate our abilities and make choices that we are not capable of bearing. We should ensure that we can fully commit ourselves and be responsible for our decisions. Extracurricular activities and hall life should be an enjoyable learning experience, rather than a burden to our hectic schedules.

I have been fortunate enough to be able to strike a good balance between academics, extracurricular activities and a vibrant hall life. In addition to actively engaging in floor and unit activities, hall teams and functions, I am also heavily involved in external student organizations. These experiences have no doubt widened my perspective and enriched my university life immensely, they have also taught me the true meaning of “give and take”. Compromises have to be made inevitably. For instance, I wake up early in the morning to study so as to make

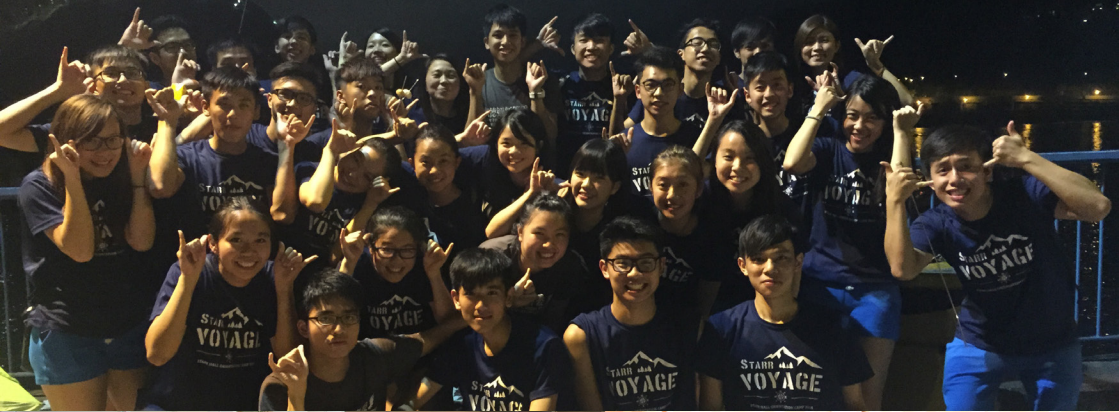
up for the time spent on practices, meetings and other hall activities. Playing hard has its consequences and we must learn to accept them.

Looking back, I realise that many of my fondest university memories are in fact from Starr Hall. One that stands out particularly is the Interhall Choir Competition during my freshman year. As the person-in-charge with relatively more choral training, it was an unforgettable scene as I had never witnessed so much growth and gained such a great sense of achievement in any other choir. The main difference between the hall choir and other choirs I have sung in is that most members have no prior experience and truly start from scratch, learning the basics of reading scores and voice projection. I still recall the frustration I shared with the conductors, as we were worried that the repertoire was too demanding. Yet, the choir's subsequent improvement and performance in the competition proved that our decision to take up the challenge was right. I remember vividly the overwhelming flow of emotions as we sang the last line "Y por vos e de morir y por vos muero" (For you I must die, and for you I give my last breath). The lyrics spoke to my heart as it was the epitome of my feelings and dedication towards my fellow choristers. I was deeply touched by how we had pushed our standards to greater heights and achieved the seemingly impossible.

We managed to touch the hearts of many, which is really what music is all about. I could not possibly ask for more from this extraordinary choir.

Hall life has taught me many important lessons that cannot be learned elsewhere. One of my major take-aways would be learning to live with hallmates of unique personalities and backgrounds. Not only have I acquired the necessary interpersonal skills to communicate and get along with hallmates, I have also learned to better understand and respect diversity in cultures and voices. Hall life has nurtured my sensitivity towards others' feelings and trained me to always step into their shoes. Moreover, my self-discipline has been enhanced, as I am held fully accountable for the decisions I make. In a hall setting where we can freely plan our activities, it can be tempting to prioritize rest and play over work. However, knowing that I cannot afford to waste time or leave regrets, I constantly push myself to adhere to my plans and attain goals that I have set for myself, even when there is no one to spur me on.

The meaningful lessons I have experienced and the assets I have acquired in hall life will no doubt stay beneficial for many years to come. Stepping into my third year, I look forward to sharing these assets and my personal experience with others. I will continue to strive for excellence and pursue an all-rounded education at HKU.





Lam Kwok Yiu Kelvin

STARR HALL

The Outlier in HKU

Robin Dunbar, an evolutionary anthropologist from Oxford, has conducted a study about the social circle. Surprisingly, the result was just a single number, which is also called the Dunbar's number "150". Over the past two decades, he and other researchers have discovered groupings of 150 nearly everywhere they looked. Anthropologists studying the world's remaining hunter-gatherer societies have found that clans tend to have 150 members. In the same way that human beings can't breathe underwater or run the 100-meter dash in 5 seconds, most cannot maintain many more than 150 meaningful relationships. Cognitively, we're just not built for it.

However, Starr Hall and even other halls in HKU are definitely the outliers of the above study. Here is a place where amazing happens. There are 500 Starrians living in the 24-storey building with unisex and both local

and international students. Every month, we have high table dinners, where all Starrians can gather at the dining hall networking with others and listening to the guest speakers. Every year, we have the Starr Festival where each unit (1 male and 1 female floor) can demonstrate the talents to all the other Starrians and enjoying different activities like mass games and bazaars.

It's all about priorities

Once we entered HKU, we need to make choices. From choosing the suitable orientation camps to choosing a study major, a wise choice would definitely ease your U-life. After I have chosen to live in hall and entered Starr Hall, I realized there are much more choices I need to face, and sometimes, falling in the dilemma is not unusual. Therefore, priorities in U-life and hall life are of the utmost importance to help make a wise choice. In my freshman and sopho-

more year, I was engaged in different hall activities as well as university activities. I am keen on sports and joined different hall sports teams such as the basketball, softball, lacrosse, athletics, aquatics etc. Time clash of practices is unavoidable and choices have to be made. For sports team in hall, interhall competition is the place for teams to showcase their abilities and fight for glories. Therefore, I prioritize the team practices according to the number of days left for the competitions. Meanwhile, there has long been a myth saying that playing sports would sacrifice the time for study and leading to unsatisfactory result. Being a student-athlete, “student” always comes first. Attending trainings is never an excuse for skipping lessons or meeting deadlines. Moreover, exercises do help refreshing our brain and boost our academic performance.

Memorable moment

There were many memorable moments in hall life such as being an organizing committee, winning the first inter-hall match, being the MC of the hightable dinner etc. But these are not uncommon for those who have lived in halls. For me, the most special one would be hiking to the tallest hill in Hong Kong with my “brothers”. How special is it? We hiked to the highest point in Hong Kong on the coldest night in the year and we have recorded a historical - 2°C and observed frosting on leaves. We spent a whole night on the hilltop with our tent, gas stoves and some beverages to keep us warm. The trip is indeed impromptu as we borrowed all the stuff from hall in the morning and then make it happened at that night. Though it was exhausted, I am really glad to find this group of people to do phenomenal things together.



“ 港大五男生到大帽山山頂感受寒凍。(黎志偉攝)



Lam Tin Kei Janet

Lee Hysan Hall

Frankly, I have never contemplated staying in hall before entering University. I still vividly remember how I drift through the two zones on Registration Day three years ago and landed upon the crowded Zone 3, where current hall residents cheered loudly and promoted their halls enthusiastically. Eventually I chose my residential hall because of its uniqueness in co-educational floors, the Lion Dancing Team, and its proximity with the medical campus, where I was going to spend my subsequent six years studying in.

To “work hard and play hard” in Hall requires time management, as many of my forerunners have incessantly reminded me. I think the key to balance well my studies and hall activities is to participate only in events and teams that truly interest you, while still bearing in mind the basic responsibility of a hallmate.

Throughout my years of staying in

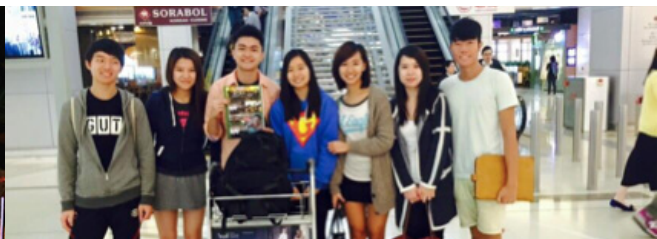
Hall, I have tried almost all cultural teams, and have developed interest in many of the novel ones I took up. For example, I was the team captain of Lion Dancing Team, a cultural team that dates back to the time when residents of the Old Halls brought their tradition to the newly established Lee Hysan Hall, without any prior experiences. I became enthusiastic about it quickly, and took delight in participating in the practices, rehearsals and internal or external performances. Being the team captain of Debate Team was also one of my fond memories about Hall. Sure enough, interhall competitions were a main focus for most Hall teams, sports or cultural, but I relished more the time when I prepared for the debate matches with my teammates. Working hard till midnight was, at that time, thorough enjoyment and full of laughter. Even though I had to catch up with my studies afterwards, and often discovered that my revision lagged behind my classmates, I never

regretted putting so much effort into hall activities. Because of my genuine interest in all the activities I voluntarily joined, I never, for one moment, felt pressurized or stressed because of the obligations I had in Hall. Instead, they fueled me to work harder and explore more opportunities in the platform Hall has given me.

To work hard also means to try bringing in new perspectives and cultures to my Hall. One example was to establish a Social Service Group with other enthusiastic hallmates. When I was a freshman in Hall, I often wondered if there could be any means for us to really do something useful for society, as we, as a layer-organized large student body, could mobilize manpower and resources easily. The establishment of the interest group was one way to make my “dream” come true. Through joint effort from hallmates in various programmes, years and with different strengths, we, in the first few years of our establish-

ment, successfully organized a field trip to Gansu in the Mainland China with help from the Mainland Affairs Office. It subsequently led to a service project where we filmed videos with public health knowledge for the impoverished students in the rural China.

Some may consider Hall and village (as we call our floor) activities boring and meaningless, yet they provide prime opportunities for us to interact and build relationships with our villagers (as we call our floormates). As our participation and support in many of these events are crucial for passing on our tradition, I would view them as a way to foster better relationships among hallmates, instead of compulsory, time-wasting activities. Indeed, with this perception in mind, every occasion I spend with my friends at hall, like our Hall Festival, Hall/Floor Orientation and Fresh Camp, becomes enjoyable moments for me to “play hard”.



Medical students may be reluctant in joining halls or hall activities just because they fear that they might not be able to catch up with their studies as well as their classmates do, with all the hall activities at late night. There have been many rumours that we have to do revision right after each lecture, in order not to lag behind too much. My fellow classmates, most without a hall place, study diligently and often excel in every single word on the lecture notes. Indeed, Year 2 was a challenge for me because of the early lessons at 8:30am, which were “not skippable” because of the tight schedule of MBBS. My classmates kept being more superior than me in terms of academic performance during tutorials, a stark contrast with what I used to experience in secondary school.

But in the end, I think it all depends on your self-discipline. I had hallmates studying MBBS too and we pushed one another to work harder.

They gave me all the support I needed when I was “drown” in the lecture notes during the revision break. I could never thank my fellow hallmates more for helping me to strive for my best in my academic studies.

In my opinion, balancing academic and hall life is not impossible. Just make sure you know what you expect to get in University and strive your best for it. I would encourage my junior hallmates not to skip lessons just because you can, or use hall activities as an excuse, but be self-disciplined. Although I am no longer a residential hallmate because of private reasons (I am still an affiliated member of my Hall), I still go back from time to time, and treasure my friends at this unique place really much.





Law Ka Mun Melissa

St. John's College

We have our own values, values dictate our priorities, priorities shape our choices, and choices determine our actions. Entering university and living in hall help us find our own values, but it was not as easy as it sounds. We might make wrong choices, we might get lost and others might say we are being brainwashed by hall values. We might want to seek advice and might search for mottos about life, “work hard, play hard” is only one of them. Throughout our hall lives, we could learn from one another, filter what we were told, reflect on what we have done, and become a better person.

One of my favorite hall cultures of HKU is that we have chances to evaluate one another. We would sit together, recall what we have done throughout the past semester, evaluate our performances with the whole person concept, and give advices or comments on one another. We would not be praised for academic excel-

lence or for winning a trophy alone. The attitude we treat each other, the performance in our teams, the time we reserved for our family, the way we think, everything is included. Each experience or each comment could be a great inspiration, and one day you could become the inspiration.

Living in halls in HKU was never easy. There are traditions and cultures to be followed, sports team practices and floor events to participate. In order not to waste any opportunity or time spent, make the most of what you do is the most important. One of the memorable moments in my hall life was the opportunity representing the Hong Kong Hockey team to participate in the 2014 World Hockey League. You might wonder what was the connection between this with my hall life. First, hockey was the “new ball game” that I have chosen during my first year of hall life. Entering the Hong Kong Hockey team was the result of 2 years of blood, sweat and



tears. Second, 3 other players from the team were seniors of mine. We were all captains of different generations of the SJC female hockey team. They are my inspirations and I felt so honored to play in the same team with them. Third, few of my hallmates came to watch our match. Their support was important to me. They might not know how to play hockey and might not even be able to spot me on the pitch. However, they made banners of our names, brought sports drinks for us, most importantly was they came in person to show their support, I was

really touched. The word "friends" can no longer describe us, the relationship with my hallmates and me are more like "sisterhood".

Although there were hard times during my hall life, I had companions. We knew each other's beauty, ugliness, strength and weakness. They made me continue, learn, improve and grow. The memories and the "sisterhood" are definitely my biggest gains in my hall life.





Tam Yat Long Matthew

Lee Hysan Hall

As I experience what is probably the final year of my hall life, not one day goes by that I regret the decision to apply for Lee Hysan Hall. I never could have imagined that I would devote a year to serve as the Chairman of my hall's executive committee, nor that I would perform drama on the stage of Lok Yew Hall (given that I had zero experience). I enjoyed my time in the softball field and singing bass in the choir. I've met people important to my life, including some who would hopefully be lifelong friends. Looking back, it has been quite a ride.

Every year on Registration Day, HKU freshmen face the choice of whether they should apply for halls. Many feel that a fruitful hall life, in which they

get to be independent, participate in various activities and make friends, to be an attractive component of their university lives. However, many more are concerned, rightfully so, whether their academic performance will suffer as a result of the burdens of hall activities. There seems to be a lack of confidence when it comes to working hard & playing hard at the same time. Well, the answer lies in our hands.

Halls are never meant to be the graveyard of our GPAs. One of my friends from Starr Hall once told me, she believes that halls are where you get out of your comfort zone and maximize your capacity. Halls are where we try to achieve more than what we thought was 100%. To this day, I cannot agree more with what she said. Too often





do we assume our limits and underestimate ourselves. In my hall, we are always encouraged to try new things and explore our limits. After a few years of hall life, we emerge as a person capable of managing more.

Though confidence and determination are important, the key to the co-existence of working hard and playing hard is self-discipline. It is in universities and halls where our freedom and independence are at an unprecedented level. No longer will our parents be there to take care of our daily lives and push us. Long gone are the days in which schools would arrange our timetables and teachers would closely monitor our academic progress. We are the ones left to the task of disciplining ourselves, to do the right thing at the right time and with the right amount of time. It is by no means a walk in the park, for there are temptations everywhere. Can we resist the temptation to play video games with hallmates when there is a test right around the corner? Can we resist the desire to procrastinate and

be a deadline fighter for every piece of assignment? It can be challenging, but in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.

A memorable moment in my hall life was when the term of office of my executive committee cabinet was drawn to a close during the Annual General Meeting of 2015, in which we join our hallmates to review our year-long performance. Efforts were appreciated and gratitude was shown. I was proud of everyone in my cabinet 'Apex'. Some who struggled with words a year ago were able to answer questions and speak their minds fluently. Some who lacked confidence previously were able to hold their heads high. We have all matured and grown. As the Chairman, the experience of public speaking, problems solving and crises management have equipped me to be a better leader. At the end, the torch was passed on.

Nobody can guarantee us what hall life would bring. It is for us to take a leap of faith and write our stories.



Tam Yuen Pui Cathy

LEE HYSAN HALL

I regard hall education as the best way to maximize my learning in university. However, 'work hard and play hard' in hall is easier said than done. Here I take great pleasure to share my personal views on hall life.

Planning & Priorities

A good planning is essential to experience university life at its fullest. When I was a freshman to HKU, I made a to-do list for the coming four years. Achieving academic excellence, living in hall, taking up roles in students' society, going exchange, doing internship and so on. The next step was to set a timeline for accomplishing these items. After all, we need to have different priorities at different years of study or else we will be easily overloaded. For example, during junior years when academic workload was relatively low, I tried several sports and cultural teams which were new to me. Now in my senior year, I focus on a few aspects to make contribution to hall.

Attitude is Altitude

There has been a myth going around the hall community about the negative impacts of hall life on study. It is undeniable that you have to spend a certain amount of time at hall, but I think hall life does not necessarily deteriorate academic results. Hall education should be a supplement for your learning experience, but not a barrier to academic study. I think the key to success is attitude. Striking a balance among various engagements is never easy, but I personally take it as a challenge. I always have strong eagerness to prove that I am able to excel even with heavy workload. Self-discipline is also important to prevent yourself from procrastination and wasting time doing nothing. One effective way is to keep yourself motivated with a goal. I have seen some friends whose one and only goal was to enter HKU or choose a particular major. When this goal was accomplished, they lost directions in university. Therefore, always set a goal for yourself to sustain your passion and push your limits.

Learning at Lee Hysan

Summarizing my two-year hall life, I have learnt and grown a lot. Immersing myself in such a huge social circle made me a better team player. Not only being considerate to people around you, but also trying hard to be altruistic for the sake of the community's common interest. I believe that these are valuable qualities that make our society a better one. In addition, I feel glad to have countless opportunities to meet great people at hall. Some are devoted to community services; some are very knowledgeable in current affairs. They remind me to stay humble and reflective, to realize my own inadequacies and transform them into motivation for self-improvement. More importantly, hall-

mates' active participation in current affairs and social movements inspired me to reflect on the role of university students in society.

A Memorable Moment

The most memorable moment was leading fellow freshmen to sing the hall song in the Sassoon Cheers during hall orientation. That moment marked the beginning of hall life of a new batch of Hysanians. They were going to experience what I have experienced in the past years. Be they sweet or bitter, they will become important pieces of memory in their university life. And that's how our hall education and good traditions are passed from generations to generations.





Yuen Hiu Tong

LADY HO TUNG HALL

Every time in HKU, when I mention my hall life to my new friends, they always have the same reply, “Staying in halls is so time-consuming! Don’t you worry about your GPA?” Furthermore, when I mention my hall life in Lady Ho Tung Hall, they always have the same impression, “Have you evolved and become a boy yet?”

Misconception about Hall-life

Many students in HKU agreed that staying in hall is one of the five things you need to accomplish in universities. However, it is often linked with some bad impression like poor academic results, not enough rest, no time for revision, etc. I must say that it is not true. There are students having poor academic results that are living in halls, but certainly not all of them are staying in halls as well. It is all about your own planning, priority setting and time management. Staying in halls gives you valuable opportuni-

ties to join different activities, which you would not have by just being a student who go back home straight away after lectures. Back in secondary schools, we would know all the classmates in our class, or even the whole year, but in universities, do you know the one sitting next to you in the grand lecture hall?

Hall life is like a community, a chance for you to meet friends and play sports, or cultural activities with them. If you are worried about your academic results, you could always set it before hall activities. For me, studying is at a high priority in my list, but I also value the chance to take part in hall activities, or even take up the leading role.

In addition, many students in HKU have an impression of my hall, which is “Where girls become men”. Indeed, as Lady Ho Tung Hall is the only female residential hall in HKU, and one of the traditional halls, we have to

take up the boys' role. But that does not mean we "evolve" and become men. That only means that we could be independent on our own and we are willing to take up challenges. I came from a girls' school, and I enjoy having a part in a girls' community, as long as I could balance my social life well. As all residents are girls, we could face one another as who we really are, which is more comfortable for me.

Work Hard & Play Hard

Hall life is all about priority setting and time management. Time is limited, and it is impossible for us to achieve every goal we set. For me, staying in hall is not time-consuming at all. I save the travelling time for other purposes, like doing assignments, playing sports, practicing bridge and extending my social circle. To "work hard, play hard", it is all about being flexible. For example, meeting new hallmates at the beginning of semester, practices during interhall competitions, and studying and rest at exam period could take turns to be top priorities at my list.

I work hard for my study and the two majors I am taking, but I do not wish that studying and attending lectures will be the summary of my university life, as these four years could probably be my last years to play as a student. Then, why not both?

I play hard in my hall, and I join every sport teams and cultural teams that I am interested. I enjoy my leisure and my times with my girls, and I treasure all the wonderful memories I have gained for the past three years, like every exhausting practice for interhall competitions, the chit-chatting during high table dinner, and the reparation and dress up for Presentation Night. I also work hard in my hall, not just studying with my hallmates, who are taking the same courses as I do, but also devoting my time to my hall by taking up leaders' role. I am not saying that the balance is easy, but it is not impossible.

A Memorable Moment in Hall Life

What could be more memorable, than the moment when everyone looks down on you, and you manage to achieve your goal? Interhall competitions are the goals for many hall members. They recruit new teammates and have practices regularly for competing with other halls in those competitions.

Last year, I was the team captain of Bridge Team in Lady Ho Tung Hall. A great limitation ahead is that bridge is actually not that common among girls. I must admit that boys are somehow more talented with strategic card games and probabilities calculation. However, as Lady Ho Tung Hall is a female-only residential hall, all our teammates, who have no

prior knowledge of bridge, find it very challenging to acquire the skills to play bridge. Bridge is never easy for girls, especially when all of us start to learn, to practice, and to participate in competitions after joining the team in LHTH. Our competitors could have more male teammates as players, but we cannot. Others could recruit affiliated members, who have participated in Bridge Competition since secondary schools, but we cannot. Being the one to lead a team with limitation is really challenging for me.

As you can predict, in previous years, we always came as the last few in bridge interhall competitions, and it was really frustrating to see that the efforts of my seniors did not pay off. Last year, at the beginning of the semester, we set a goal: the first 10th. Then my partner and I started to have some changes and reforms. We had more practices, and more fundamental workshops. As bridge is more about logic and deductions, it is important to help teammates build a clear mindset. After all those practices and the 3-day interhall competitions,

you could not imagine how exciting it was when a rank of 9th was given to LHTH on the score sheet, as it had always seemed so unreachable. Though it was far from champion, it surely served as a token of our effort.

A Lesson from Lady Ho Tung Hall

Hall life for HKUers is more than just accommodation, or a room to sleep. In LHTH, I got the chance to have a part in a community of girls. As a Hotungnian, hall culture means something else for me. We have fun together, we support one another, and we get through tough times together. For example, there are always rumors attacking my hall, and Ho Tung girls are frustrated and helpless to see them every time. We try to show others as the living examples, and all we wanted to show is “unity, striving for the best, tough and strong”. But what I appreciate the most is their open-mindedness. Ho Tung girls try to break the rumors and explain, and all of us do it together, to support, and show our unity.



