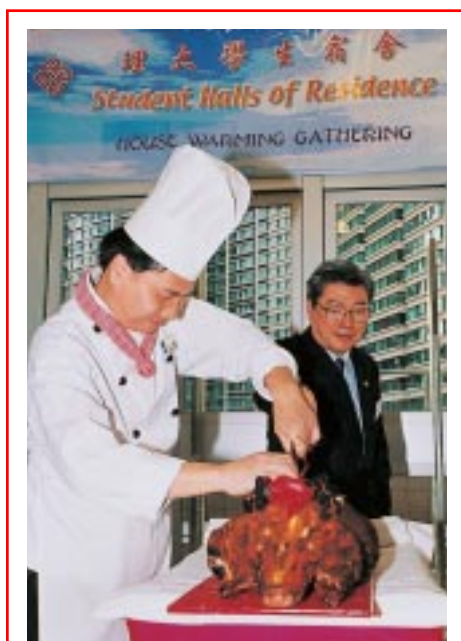


# Students find home away from home



*The Halls are open: Prof. Leung Tin-pui performs the roast pig cutting ceremony.*

PolyU has steadfastly held to its belief in providing an all-round education and a truly authentic university experience for its students. This summer, the opening of the brand new Student Halls of Residence is no doubt a big step forward in this direction.

Against the glittering lights of the Victoria Harbour, the Halls first opened its door in mid-August, beginning a new chapter in the University's history.

The striking red brick tile facade of the 22-storey high rise makes the halls a stand-out from the other residential blocks in the Hung Hom Bay Reclamation area. Located just 15 minutes away from the main campus via a covered walkway, it's a place where a maximum of 3,000 students can call "home away from home".

It has taken more than six years' preparation and the support of many to turn the Halls from idea to reality. The seeds of this important project were sowed years back when the University Management persistently worked to gain government support for granting additional space for building the halls.

The green light was finally on in late 1996 when the Government announced its policy of providing student hostel places for the three institutions which assumed university status in 1994/95 — PolyU, the City University and the Baptist University. While 75 per cent of the construction cost of the Halls is covered by government funding, PolyU is fortunate to have the support of the Hong Kong Jockey Club in pledging a generous donation of up to \$117 million — exact amount to be adjusted based on the actual construction cost. This makes



Orientation is great fun for the first residents of Wuhua Hall.



Sir Gordon Wu: Hall life is a very important part of university education.

close to half of the 25 per cent cost borne by PolyU through private funds.

But that is only half the story. The rest relied on a group of individuals whose guiding principles and tireless efforts have brought the student halls project to fruition. A key person who has nurtured the project since its germination is **Sir Gordon Wu Ying-sheung**, Chairman of the University Council. He himself lived for four years in the residence halls at Princeton University when he studied for his BSc in Engineering.

A firm believer in all-round education and a famous engineer-businessman who has pioneered infrastructure projects around Asia, Sir Gordon's enthusiasm towards the project has prompted him to go through the construction plans in extensive detail to ensure that the Halls are constructed with the utmost concern for students' well-being. Features that have evolved from his suggestions included bay windows to allow maximum sunlight into the rooms, a spacious dining hall for hosting social activities, and an amphitheatre which can further be upgraded to become an auditorium.

"University education represents an important phase of development for youths," Sir Gordon says. "It's more than just passing on knowledge — the pursuit of knowledge is a life-long business. It's also about enhancing personal growth, including one's moral, intellectual, physical, and social development. Hall life is very important in terms of the social dimension."

After all, he speaks from experience. "In many prestigious American universities, such as some of the Ivy League schools, students are actually required to live in halls."

Working closely with Sir Gordon is a team of PolyU administrators. **Prof. Leung Tin-pui**, Vice President (Student and Staff Development), is among the first to immerse in the project. Prof. Leung says he is immensely proud and gratified to see the completion of the project: "Hall life will make our students' university experience more complete."

"With so many residents living together under one roof, students can learn, for example, how to express their personal views while accommodating others'. They can learn to develop team spirit and mutual respect."

"Hall life will make our students' university experience more complete."



Prof. Leung



**Mrs Dorinda Fung: the Halls have been designed with students' complete well-being in mind.**

**Mrs Dorinda Fung Chan Man-chi**, Director of Student Affairs, concurs. "We can erect the building, but it is the students that create the hall culture," she says. According to Mrs Fung, a recent study conducted by the university on new students' living environment at home reveals that 61 per cent of the students didn't have their own rooms. Some 35 per cent didn't have their own desks, while close to nine per cent made long commutes from home to PolyU.

"For the modest fee we are charging students, they are getting a place of residence designed with their complete well-being in mind," Mrs Fung says. "Compared with many residential halls of other universities, PolyU can certainly hold its own in terms of facilities and design. For example, few student hostels in the territory have a swimming pool so conveniently located within their own premises like ours."

All full-time undergraduate students on public-funded programmes, full-time taught master's degree students and non-local students are eligible to apply for hall residence, while others with special accommodation needs are also considered. After two rounds of admission for the Halls came to a close, current students who started to move in around late August was joined by freshman students in early September.

These residents are grouped into nine halls, with each hall taking two floors. Decked out in neutral hues, the hall building, with its H-shaped design, evokes a cozy atmosphere with all the convenience of 21st century technology. Smart cards allow students access to a host of amenities, including laundry rooms and individual room air-conditioning. Two students share a room, fitted with study desks, beds, closets and shelving, as well as a refrigerator. Two rooms are connected with a shared bathroom. Each room boasts Internet connection and there are computer labs located in the building. Recreational needs are also high on the agenda. In addition to a swimming pool, there are activity rooms, conference centres, as well as a roof garden. The spacious dining hall can be converted into a social activity place, and the amphitheatre will nurture a diversity of cultural programmes.

But a building on its own cannot manifest a dream. A team of hall wardens, tutors and administrators will live closely with students and make the difference. **Mr Wilson Lam Kin**, Section Head (Hall Management), is one of the facilitators. "I want to adopt a participatory management style. We are very open and we want students to take the initiative to make these halls their home."

Thanks to the co-operation of various departments, Mr Lam and his team survived the pre-opening pressure. Following an informal house-warming gathering for staff and students on 15 August, the phased occupation has progressed smoothly. "Roommates selection were done on a random basis, so that students from different backgrounds can learn to live together."



**Mr Wilson Lam is busy co-ordinating a host of orientation activities.**

## The Halls and the PolyU Motto

The names of the Halls expound the meaning of the University's Motto, "To learn and to apply, for the benefit of mankind" **開物成務 勵學利民**, as reflected by the first Chinese character in each of the names of eight of the Halls. The "Boyan Hall" accommodates postgraduate students. Chengde Hall is for men only while Xuemin Hall is for women. The seven others are all co-educational.

- Kaiyuan Hall 開元堂** : 勇於探索求新，開創知識新領域。
- Wuhua Hall 物華堂** : 成為人中俊傑，如諸物之精華。
- Chengde Hall 成德堂** : 互相砥礪，成就高尚品德。
- Wuxian Hall 務賢堂** : 致力於美善賢德之事。
- Lizhi Hall 勵志堂** : 振奮志氣，追求學問及力爭上游。
- Xuemin Hall 學敏堂** : 勤勉好學，以學問提升一己之才智。
- Lisheng Hall 利生堂** : 以所學為眾生謀福祉，貢獻社會。
- Minyin Hall 民殷堂** : 為社會民生的豐盛富饒貢獻一己力量。
- Boyan Hall 博彥堂** : 致力成為學識廣博之英才。

"Part of the fun is that the younger students and ask the older students about various subjects in their studies," he says. "Our meeting rooms are available for study groups too."

The Hall Wardens are presently largely teaching staff from departments including Computing, Accountancy, Electronic and Information Engineering, English and Nursing.

The team of wardens is led by Chief Warden **Dr Catherine Tang Kim-chow**, who is also Head of the University's Educational Development Centre. Her special interest in student learning certainly brings in tremendous insight into her role as Chief Warden. Hall education, as she sees it, is made up of purposeful student activities which is aimed at facilitating hall residents' development in three aspects: academic, social and cultural.



**Dr Catherine Tang calling on all wardens and tutors to help the students in each hall build its own unique culture in a gathering held on 3 July.**

As a warden, Dr Tang will take a proactive role in encouraging student involvement while respecting his or her individuality. "I see my role as providing pastoral care and intellectual guidance, support and encouragement to hall residents," she says. "My team of hall tutors will strive to support and collaborate with students to achieve the objectives of hall education and help each hall build its own unique culture."

Students choose to live in the residential halls for many reasons. **Mr Cheuk Man-kit**, a year-two accounting student, was among the first to sign up because he feels that "university life would be incomplete without hall experience." Originally living in Tsing Yi, Man-kit used to spend about an hour commuting to and from school.

"With the Halls so close-by to the campus, I can spend more time in the library after class," he says.

An only child, he feels that hall life will give him much needed exposure for personal development. "My parents were initially worried that I won't be able to eat properly," he laughs. "But after reviewing the hall facilities and amenities, they are very supportive."

To pay for his tuition fees as well as the hall fees, Man-kit took on a summer job. He thinks the experience is well worth it. "I am lucky to be one of the first to experience this brand new hall."

As he and many other students prepare to start their hall life, they are also preparing to step into a world of possibilities. But for Sir Gordon, it is not unlike the final piece of the puzzle. "PolyU has been missing out on hostel life before, I am glad the University has it now," he says. "This is the fruit of the University's and particularly the President's persistent efforts in making the halls a reality. We are very grateful for all supporters of this project."

*"My parents were initially worried that I won't be able to eat properly"*



**Student Cheuk Man-kit looks forward to enjoying his new hall life.**

# 走進學生宿舍 揭開校園新景象



**香**港理工大學一直竭力為學生提供全人教育及全面的大學生活體驗。隨著全新的學生宿舍最近落成啟用，理大又向這理想邁前一大步。

樓高二十二層的學生宿舍座落紅磡灣填海區，步行約十五分鐘便可直達校園，最多可為三千多名宿生提供「一個家以外的家」。是項建築工程由籌備至完成歷時六年多，經過大學管理層鏗而不捨爭取政府撥地興建宿舍，至一九九六年，政府正式首肯提供宿舍用地予包括理大在內的三所大學。興建學生宿舍的費用方面，四分之三由政府資助；另理大喜獲香港賽馬會慷慨捐贈餘數的一半，最高達一億一千七百萬元，另一半則由大學自行籌募。

要數整項工程的核心人物，一定不能不數本身為基建工程大師的校董會主席胡應湘爵士。他熱心地就宿舍的設施，提出不少寶貴意見。事實上，胡爵士本人十分珍惜他當年就讀美國普林斯頓大學的四年寄宿生活。他說：「大學教育是年青人成長過程中一個較重要的階段，除了知識的傳授之外，亦包括在德、智、體、群方面的發展。而宿舍生活對群體生活方面便極為重要。」

同樣為學生宿舍工程付出不少心血的，還有理大副校長（員生發展）梁天培教授。他認為宿舍生活的可貴之處，在於使同學共處同一屋簷下，學習互相包容、互相尊重。學生事務處處長馮陳敏慈女士亦深有同感：「我們把宿舍建成，但創造宿舍文化的卻是學生。」宿舍管理組負責人林健先生則認為宿舍生活有助學生之間的學術交流，讓他們可與學長互相切磋學問。

凡修讀政府資助學士課程及深造課程的全日制學生與非本地生均可申請入住宿舍。採用H字形設計的宿舍大樓分為九個舍堂，每個舍堂佔兩層，內設先進的智能保安系統、洗衣房及房間獨立空調。房間為雙人房設計，設施齊備，每兩房相連共用一洗手間及浴室。房內設有電腦網絡連接埠，舍內另設有電腦室。其他的文康設施計有游泳池、活動室、會議室及一個平台花園。舍內的大型餐廳及圓形劇場更能配合學生舉辦不同活動的需要。

新出任總舍監的鄭劍秋博士是理大教學發展中心總主任，她對研究學生學習這課題有濃厚興趣。投身總舍監一職的她，表示會鼓勵學生積極參與寄宿生活，同時會尊重他們的自主性。她期望透過與各舍監和導師群策群力關顧宿生的發展，達致舍堂教育的目標，並協助各舍堂建立自己獨特的文化。

剛入住宿舍的會計學系二年級生卓文傑，亦對寄宿生活寄望甚殷。家住青衣的文傑說入住宿舍可讓他省卻往返校園的交通時間，使他更能善用時間到圖書館溫習，並享受更全面的大學生活。



舍監和多位導師早於七月初已聚首一堂討論各舍堂的路向。