

Valedictorian Address by Mr Chi Yeung Yau, Final Year Psychology Student

Dear distinguished guests and fellow residents, thank you so much for the opportunity and of course the honor to deliver the graduation address on behalf of the Class of 2016. This is a very precarious position that I've been placed in, because by virtue of me giving this speech it also implies the promise that I'll be graduating this year. And as our resident tutor Belinda would know very well by now, never say you're graduating until you have actually graduated.

But all jokes aside, I can't promise that I'll do justice to our experiences here at the college, because I believe each and everyone of you here tonight has your own stories to tell. So instead I've opted to share a few memorable moments of my time here at the college with you all, and share with you some thoughts from my past four years of being here at the college and personally witnessing its growth.

I remember the first day when I arrived at the college, I was greeted by two black couches from IKEA in the lobby, as well as a blank wall across the elevators decorated by notices from the college office teaching you how to use your smart card to turn on the air conditioning in your room. There were no signs of any student activities or gatherings of any sort, and if you didn't know you were at a student dormitory you probably would've thought this was a very fancy motel instead.

It wasn't until when I heard of the Junior Common Room that I started becoming aware of the development that the college was undergoing. At the time, the Junior Common Room, or what is now known as the College Committee, was a collective of students who simply wanted to organize social activities at the college, and to also enrich the culture of this building by getting everyone involved. Our slogan at the time was to "Start Something"; it was a simple premise, but also one that became instrumental to the development of our college culture.

During their first meeting I attended, I got to meet a very diverse group of talents, who all had their own ideas regarding events that we should organize at the college. Since we weren't familiar with the tutorial team at the time, it was difficult to really determine what events were appropriate for the college. But as we eventually came to find out, the tutorial team was extremely encouraging of all the ideas we had, and they played a huge supporting role in making these events a reality at our college.

Since then, many interest groups and events have come together out of sheer volition and passion of our residents. Just a few examples from our graduating class of 2016: the Artelier Artists, organized by our very talented artists Daisy and Eda, illustrated to us the possibility of turning our favorite Pokemon Pikachu into serious artistic muse; the Coding workshops organized by Yee Ling, deciphered for us this brand new language that we should all learn; the Yoga workshops organized by Hanna stretched our motivation to wake up early for a Sunday morning workout. And of course we have my personal favorite, the Dance workshops organized by Charlotte, Laura, and Samantha, which swayed us into thinking that bodily coordination can be taught, which as I found out the hard way, cannot be taught.

All these came to be, because our residents had an idea to start something, and was able to make use of the college as a platform for them to turn these ideas into fully realized activities. And this, to me, is the epitome of college education here at Chi Sun. It's not simply the act of passively being here that makes the college an educational experience. It's how you take advantage of the environment, the people, and the resources here in further developing yourself and exploring your interests, that makes this a fulfilling journey. I am so proud of the legacy that we have all helped achieve in this short amount of time by actively being a part of the college. I believe this spirit will continue to live on and be embodied by each new generation of Chi Sun-ers, and I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for the college and for all of us.