Talking about hostel life, HKU is a melting pot, it takes all kinds. Some get up early to go to lecture, others get up just before lunch so they could go to sell insurance and mutual fund in the afternoon, still others do not get up at all.

Most hall members are supporting hall functions, particularly inter-hall competitions such as the 2nd Union Night which sometimes turn out to be martial art demonstrations on stage, others specialised in more peaceful activities such as Barn-Dances and buying 食夜 (midnight snack) for girls in Lady Ho Tung.

You’ll find the same liberal attitude in attending lectures. Some would always come early, sit in the front row, copy down all the notes and put up their hands fast to answer any questions. Others would come in late, still yawning, snacks and magazines to beat the boredom. Occasionally, 15 minutes into the lecture, one lost soul would wander in, sat down for 5 minutes and got up and left, ‘Sorry, wrong classroom’.

What sort of people can such a system produce? The answer is all of us - the movers and shakers of Hong Kong. Government Secretaries, ExCo Members, heroes and rebels, professionals, captains of industry and union leaders, officials and street fighters, politicians in all directions left, right or depending on where the wind blows...

HKU graduates are destined to lead, right from the start. It you think I am shoe-shining, just remember our most prominent graduate, Dr Sun Yat Sen. Without him, we will still be wearing pigtails. From Dr Sun to Peter Wong and Shirley Chan who graduated last summer, over the 90 years of its existence, HKU has turned out generations of graduates who have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, architects, engineers, administrators, businessmen, teachers or simply housewives bringing up children. Whatever their position, whether high and mighty or meek and humble, HKU graduates are known for their dedication to HK and their pursuit of the truth, justice & excellence. They have all played their part in bringing about Hong Kong’s phenomenal social and economic development in the past decades.

Hong Kong is again at the cross roads. The economy is going through another transformation. HKU will again take the lead, so, graduates hold your head up high. It is now up to all of us and future generations of HKU graduates to bring about the next miracle.

At this point, the script says I should stop talking, go and sit down, but being a business graduate, I cannot go without selling you something.

As part of the 90th anniversary celebrations, we have put together a book entitled “Growing with Hong Kong – The University and Its Graduates, The First 90 Years”. Going into 300 pages with photos and historical records, the book will make a serious attempt to document the impact of our university on Hong Kong, mainland China and elsewhere through the contribution of its graduates.

As you can see from the order form in front of you, the book is offered now at a huge discount. Cheque or cash is welcomed but no immediate payment is required. Your credit is good at least for $280. If you do not pay up, we will track you down, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue is here or I will take it from your Octopus smartcard. I hope you order a copy but I don’t guarantee your name is there. I am sure you will enjoy reading it and treasure it as a priceless souvenir to commemorate your happy days in HKU.
Order Form

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