City University & OSU Resident Assistant Exchange

Sam Settemeyer, McNary Hall RA
Sophie Wilson, ILLC SRA
Residential Assistant Exchange
What is it?

• Through a partnership between Oregon State University and City University (City U) in Hong Kong, two students from each university will spend between 1-2 weeks at the other’s institution every other year.

• The students selected represent housing services through their role as a Resident Assistant or Resident Tutor (the equivalent at City U).

• The exchange not only aims to increase awareness of different housing and dining structures internationally, but to also provide a cross-cultural experience for those involved.
Hong Kong & City University

Map of the residence halls

The residence hall we stayed in: Hall 11

A view of Hong Kong from the Peak
Where we lived: Hall 11

- Population of resident are all local (Hong Kong) and nonlocal (China) students
- Hall 11 officially opened this January 2012
Hosts at City U

Mike
- Computer Science
- 3rd year undergrad student
- 1st year Resident Tutor of Hall 5

Kevin
- Marketing
- 1st year PhD student
- 1st year Resident Tutor of Hall 6
- Returning student
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| 22/3/2012 (Thur) | 2245   | - Arrival (KE607), pick up from airport  
- Settle down at the Student Residence  
- Accommodation:  
  Sam: Hall 11 – 1109A  
  Sophie: Hall 11 – 1309A  
- Pick-up & Check-in: Kevin, Mike  
  Contact Sam & Sophie: Mike | - Hong Kong International Airport  
- Student Residence – City University of Hong Kong | H11 – 1109A (Tel: 2592 2536)  
H11 – 1309A (Tel: 2592 2573) |                   |
| 23/3/2012 (Fri)  | 1230 - 1400 | - Picnic lunch with RAs of CSU (Chico), SRO staff, CityU Residence Tutors & Residents' Association student leaders  
- Tour to the Student Residence | Kevin (together with the Chico team & SRO staff)  
Lawn outside Homey Kitchen, or MFH B (for rain plan) |                     |                   |
|               | 1400 - 1630 | - Festival Walk  
- Tour to the CityU Campus | Kevin |                     |                   |
|               | 2200 - 2330 | - Chinese traditional dessert | Kevin, Mike | Meet at the lobby of Hall 11 |                   |
| 24/3/2012 (Sat)   | 1000 - 1400 | Visit to Hong Kong Island (Central, Peak) together with Chico RAs (PENG Yu) | Mike (contact PENG Yu) | Meet at the lobby of Hall 11  
WEI Jie (66715289)  
PENG Yu (96079996) |                   |
|               | 1500 - 1630 (TBC) | Afternoon tea with Dr. Johnson, Residence Master of Hall 11  
Visit to Tsim Sha Tsui (Starry Nights of Delight-Victoria Harbour), Star Ferry | Mike | Hall 11 |                   |
|               | 1900 - 2100 | Mike (contact PENG Yu) | Meet at the lobby of Hall 11 |                   |                   |
| 25/3/2012 (Sun)   | 1200 - 2100 | Visit to Tung Chung Town, Giant Buddha, Tai O | Kevin, Mike | Meet at the lobby of Hall 11 |                   |
| 26/3/2012 (Mon)       | 1900 - 2200 | Sam's & Sophie's self-arrangements  
Dinner with the Residence Master of Chan Sui Kau Hall (Hall 5), Mrs. Bonny Ip | Mike | Hall 5  
NO formal attire required |                   |
| 27/3/2012 (Tue)      | 1930 - 2100 | Sam's & Sophie's self-arrangements  
Hall 5 voluntary service event | Mike | Hall 5 |                   |
| 28/3/2012 (Wed)      | 1430 - 1630 | Visit the Creative Media Centre  
Shopping and Japanese Food in Mong Kok/Temple Street | Kevin, WEI Jie  
Mike, WEI Jie | Creative Media Centre  
MK, YMT |                   |
|               | 1900 - 2230 | | | |                   |
| 29/3/2012 (Thu)      | 1430 - 1730 | Hong Kong Museum of History, Hong Kong Science Museum | Kevin, WEI Jie | Hung Hom |                   |
|               | 1900 - 2230 | High Table Dinner of Cha Sui Kau Hall (Hall 5) | Mike | MHA  
Formal attire required |                   |
| 30/3/2012 (Fri)      | 1900 (TBC) | Dinner with Mr. Alex Tham, Residence Master of Lee Shau Kee Hall (Hall 6) | Kevin | Hall 6 |                   |
| 31/3/2012 (Sat)      | 1900 (TBC) | Check out from CityU | Kevin, WEI Jie |                   |                   |
| 7/4/2012 (Saturday) | 0800 | Departure (KE604, depart at 1225) | Kevin, WEI Jie | Hong Kong International Airport |                   |
Comparisons: Similarities in Resident Life

- Live in positions for Resident Assistants (RA)/Tutors (RT)
- Live in positions for Resident Directors (RD)/Masters (RM)
- 300-350 students per building
- 11 residence halls
- 2 dining facilities (canteens)
- Residence Hall Association (elected positions)
- Building wide programs (e.g. Hall Parties, High Table Dinners, All Hall Singing Competition)
- All residence hall wide programs
- Lounge on every floor and a functional kitchen on every floor
- Single and double rooms
- Security
Comparisons: Differences in Resident Life

- Living on campus is cheaper than living off campus
- Size of campus and residence halls (tallest hall is 15 floors)
- High levels of competition between halls
- Housing application process is very competitive
- Front desk staffed by contracted security company
- All bathrooms suite style and are cleaned weekly by a contracted cleaning company
- Visitors only allowed in the building until 12:00 AM (midnight)
- RD/RM required to hold another full-time position (e.g., teaching, research, etc.)
- Number of Resident Tutors in a building 1:100 (in undergraduate halls) and 1:45/50 (in the graduate hall)
- Resident Tutors must be at least 3rd year students with a 3.00 GPA
- Duties of RA/RT:
  - Enforce visitor policy, address noise issues and program for the hall (no facilities duties)
- RA/RT do not get meals paid for
- Monthly staff meetings for RA/RT
Plan of Action

• Talk to a lot of people on campus about our experience
• Relate better with international students, specifically with students from HK and China
• INTO representatives suggestions
• Introduce more all residence hall wide competitions
  • Example: All hall wide singing competition
• Introduce more competition within a residence hall
  • Example: Best decorated floor competition
• High Table Dinner concept
  • Annual formal meal and celebration for each hall
• Building security policies
• Volunteer service events
Additional Travels: Cambodia

- 3 full days
- Stayed in Siem Riep
- Eat, shopped, toured Angkor Watt temples, took boat tour and adventured
Additional Travels: Vietnam

- 1 full day
- Stayed in Ha Noi
- Eat, shopped, attend a water puppet show, explored Old Town, toured Ho Chi Minh’s memorial and adventured
Questions?