

Hello everyone. My name is Eugene Young, and I am a rising junior majoring in applied math and economics. I like to play tennis and I hate public speaking, which is why I'm feeling very nervous now.

I often tell people that my freshman fall semester is one of two happiest school periods I've ever experienced, the other being my form 2 year in Lasalle back in Hong Kong. I arrived here at Hopkins without visiting the school before, so everything was new to me. My connection with HKSA started at the annual SAC fair. Back then it was held in the gym. I remember seeing Amy Fu and Sandra Ho on the HKSA booth, who invited me to join their mailing list. I also remember talking to Alison Chan, who invited me to go bowling with GLC that Friday. Then there was the mixer, which was in 604 in UniOne, and there I met Joe, whose face was abnormally red that night. I think he said he went drinking before coming to the mixer. I also found out there are a lot of Diocesans in Hopkins, including Irene Pang, Vivian Yang, Charlotte Chung, and Clifford Lok. For those who don't know, Diocesan Boys School and Lasalle are often seen as rival schools in HK. Thankfully, I sensed no such hostility at all and Clifford even said that I'm very polite. On the third day of school, on Monday, I discovered that Eleen Shum and Amy Chan are in Intro Java as well. It was a class that brought us very interesting memories, and even a scary one. Eleen and Amy often invited me to their apartment for soup or food, although most of the time they're leftovers barely enough to fill a bowl. I also remember helping Amy make a souffle that tasted like grass in the end. And how could I forget Vivian, who likes to meet new people, seems to be curious about everything but at the same time genuinely care about your progress in school. In different ways, these people gave me support and made boring days here more interesting. I know they were the people I could depend on and could lend support from when I need it, whatever the situation is.

Based on these experiences and memories, I hope to re-establish HKSA as a club characterized by sincerity and support. HKSA is a very closely knit group, and we aim to make everyone welcome. Yet, every year there are always a few talented HK people who came here and wish to transfer to other universities. I believe 50% of their decision is because of Hopkins itself, for example, the food, the city, the dorms etc, and the other 50% is based on their level of happiness here. In my freshman spring semester, I had brief dreams of becoming an architect and thought of transferring, but in the end, when I reminded myself of the friends I've made and the happiness I experienced, I did not want to risk losing it and go to a place as isolated and cold as Cornell. Sometimes joy and happiness really depends on the type of people around you. Perhaps if we give the new freshmen enough support and happiness, they may not have such an urge to leave Hopkins.

To other people, HKSA may seem very exclusive. For example, no matter how many times Derek and I ask his current roommate, Lihan, to join HKSA to dinner, he would say no. One reason is that he wouldn't understand what we're saying in cantonese. Another reason is because we have too many inside jokes. In a sense, it will be hard for HKSA to transform into a big, inclusive club. Also, as the name Hong Kong Students Association suggests, it is meant to be a club for hong kong students, just like how CSA is meant for chinese students. There is simply a smaller population of hong kong students here. In short, I believe HKSA should stick to what it currently is, improve on it, and at the same time, welcome others who are keen on joining us.

In short, I aim to give HKSA members the same level of happiness and support I experienced. To those who are thinking of voting for me, thank you for believing in me. To those who are not thinking of voting for me, please get out. No no, I'm just kidding. To those graduating this year, good luck on your endeavors, go reach for the stars.

Thank you for listening.