

Freezer

Gabrielle Cheng

When entering a completely new environment such as university, there are many uncertainties to be had. I was unsure as to what my life was going to be like, whether it was my academics, social life, and faith. Although I had many worries, especially after the stories of students drifting from their faith in university, I put my faith in the God that he will provide and was excited at the prospect of a fresh start. I had planned to attend many different fellowships to see what they offered, but my few experiences in CCF initially had impacted me like no other. Before I knew it, God had provided me with a chance to experience what true fellowship meant when I felt like I was unable to find it in the past. One of the parts of CCF that made my experiences so fulfilling was my time in Freezer. Going to such a large fellowship all alone can be very daunting, but having an opportunity to spend time with other first years who share the same beliefs and struggles really helped in my transition. One of my worries was being able to integrate myself into the fellowship, but Freezer really helped give me a sense of belonging. It was such a welcoming community, where I made many memories and friends. Freezer was one of the happiest aspects of my first year, being able to relax and hang out with amazing people away from the stress of life. It really helped to mold my first year experience, and I never missed a day of it even if I had an exam or assignment due the next day. I feel truly blessed to have been part of such a tight-knit community, and these are the feelings that I want to pass on to the upcoming first years.

My vision for the upcoming Freezer is to provide an open community for the first years to have the opportunity to mold their experiences here to be what they want it to be. The basis of Freezer will always be a God centered ministry geared towards helping first years integrate into CCF and university in general, but my overarching goal is that every first year that comes to Freezer feels like they achieved what they consider to be a truly fulfilling time in this ministry. I believe that everyone experiences things differently, and that the effort or intentions they come into Freezer with can really make each person's view on Freezer unique. My hope is that we can create a close community of openness and acceptance, and be able to create lasting bonds within Freezer and eventually CCF and be able to guide the first years along into shaping it into what they want it to be. It can be more light hearted, serious, or having the chance to grow more personal relationships, I hope that it can help become what the first year needs in their life and for them to experience the love and passion that Freezer can offer.

Ivan Yan

I remember stepping into my dorm room for the first time. I was excited, hopeful, happy, but lingering at the very back of my head was a sort of fear. For the first time I was no longer at a Christian school, I was far away from the people that knew me like the back of their hands. I felt like an outsider at first, doing things my own way, until I met a group of Christian friends when I stumbled through a door one day, got a bottle of orange juice, and the rest is history. People who were at first weary of our religion soon grew fond of us, they confided their trust in us to help them and support them, because we would always offer a helping hand. When I was asked to write my vision, these moments struck strongly in my head, and the verse Mark 2:17 came to mind.

I believe University is filled with bountiful opportunities to grow deeper in our faiths through the challenges and the sheer variety of people we encounter on a day to day basis. And I hope that those who are in Freezer will grow in their identity and character through interactions and the display of what we say we believe in, and in doing so, we open our hands as Christ did and invite all to our dining table.

Although I cannot stress the importance of reflecting the light of Christ towards our fellow peers, it is always fun to sit around and just enjoy the company of friends and fellow travelers in our faith. That is what I found in Freezer in my second year, an experience that I hope I can provide to this year's Freezies.

So my vision for this year's freezer is a metaphorical dinner table open to all that is willing to come after a metaphorical long day. As one encounters the many challenges and tests that occur during the week, Freezer will be a place to look forward to and find comfort in. To have a place where ears are willing to listen, mouths willing to support and offer advice, and people willing to put down their many duties to just hang out and relax, supplemented by my many ship analogies. This 'dining table' that fosters deep and meaningful relationships and conversations, while also being a place of carefree and well-deserved rest. A place where we can be vulnerable, have fun, get to know each other, enjoy good food, and perhaps even watch a Blue Jays Game (I'm only in it for the hotdog).

The opportunities should be endless and flexible, a welcoming environment where all is invited to become part of the community. At the end of the day, what happens at the dinner table is what you make it to be, and Freezer shall be whatever we end up fostering, or as I like to say, lets wing it and see how it goes; and hopefully it's smooth sailing.