In my first year, I have received extremely valuable help and advice from my colleagues in the department. I have never hesitated to consult with them when I had any doubt on various issues and I greatly benefited from their experience to improve my teaching. I would advise any new faculty to seek advice from senior colleagues. Talking to other new faculty was also useful to share teaching ideas.

Compared to my previous teaching experience in a state university, I found that small class sizes at SJU made a big difference in effectiveness of my teaching. It allowed me to observe each student’s progress much more closely. One challenge for me was the wide range of students in the same class: there were some extremely good students together with some weak students. It was difficult at times to determine the pace of the lecture.

In general, I think that SJU students are very polite; I have not witnessed any behavioral problems. I believe I had good interaction with my students during this first year. However, I found some students too demanding in the sense that they would like all solutions to be handed to them without spending much effort on their own. By time, I learned to be firmer dealing with these cases.