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Lizhi (勵志) consists of two Chinese words. The left, and the more complicated looking, one can be decomposed into two main Chinese words: 萬 (ten thousands) and 力 (strength). Therefore, 勵 usually means “encourage” or “make great effort.” The right one is composed of two other words: 士 (soldier or officer) and 心 (heart), and it is usually referred to the “will,” “determination,” or “ambition.” To live up to the name, Lizhi Hall should therefore be a place where everyone encourages one another to do their very best with what have been given to them. Many of you heard about Nick Vujicic, and his life is such a great encouragement and blessing to us all, because he is determined to live his life fully even he was born without limbs. This is a 勵志 story: determined to live limitlessly without limbs.

The pastoral team

The pastoral team at Lizhi consists of myself (舍牧) and a team of six tutors (導師), one of them is a senior tutor (導師長). You could meet the six tutors—Ruoxi (the senior tutor), Easy, Tracy, Evan, Roy, and Xiaofan—and Orange, the just retired senior tutor, in the picture above. The pastoral team is charged with the responsibility of providing pastoral care for all hallmates. The tutors are very friendly people; please introduce yourself to them (and myself) whenever you see them (and me). At the beginning of the term, it would be quite difficult for us to even recognize your face.

We would like to bid farewell to Orange who had served Lizhi for the last two years. Besides his tutor role, Orange has also represented Lizhi in the inter-hall table tennis and badminton competitions for the last two years, and helped win awards in both competitions this year.

The past year

We also bid farewell to many Lizhi hallmates who graduate this year. Some of them (notably Man Hin, Leo, Elvis, Kate, Yam, Huang Yang, Francis, and many others) had been living in Lizhi for many years

and made significant contributions to the hall. We wish each one of them the very best in their further studies and professional career.

The 9th Lizhi Hall Student Association was successfully elected by the hallmates last October. The 11-member Hall Association, led by PP Fung, Agnes, and Nat, was called upon to facilitate communications among the local and non-local hall residents, and to enrich the hall life through different types of hall activities with high education values.

We are very proud of our sports teams and individual hallmates for their contributions and achievements in extra-curricular competitions and academic studies. In the past year, we continued to maintain very good track records for the inter-hall sports and cultural activities. Both men and women sports teams received the second-runner up in the overall sports awards, and our men table tennis team and women badminton team emerged as the champions. Moreover, other hallmates received awards in the singing, poster design, Marathon, photography, and essay competitions. The details can be found in the Student Hall's Year Book. We also congratulate Luo Man and Jin Shuang for receiving the outstanding student awards in the Faculty of Business and Faculty of Engineering, respectively.

How big is Lizhi hall?

In terms of number, each hall has roughly the same number of residents. Based on the statistics last April, Lizhi hall hosted 341 residents, but when taking into account the hallmates' background, the 340+ Lizhians were more than a global village. About half of the Lizhians (170 to be exact) were local students, and the other half came from outside Hong Kong. Out of the second half, 142 of them came from different provinces in the Mainland China, and the rest from over a dozen places, including UK, USA, Canada, Czechoslovak, France, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand, and Taiwan. While some of the international students are exchange students, many others are doing an entire program at PolyU.

How big is your Lizhi hall?

This question is meant for each Lizhi hallmate to answer. It is also better to answer it as soon as possible after you move in, because your answer will determine how you will live your hall life. Each Lizhian, in one way or another, will reduce the Lizhi hall (or Hall). Many will reduce the hall (or Hall) to a relatively small clique in which they feel secure and important. To a more extreme, some may choose to shrink the Lizhi hall to the size of his own room (or even to his own side of the room). While it is important and healthy to form close friendships with like-minded folks, it is equally important to continue enlarging our comfort zone and to venture out by knowing and accepting others who are different from us. The Hall is a perfect place to facilitate this process of personal growth. As a final note,

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8)

「凡是真實的、莊重的、公正的、純潔的、可愛的、聲譽好的，無論是甚麼美德，甚麼稱讚，這些事你們都應當思念。」(腓立比書 4:8)

Enjoy the bigness of Lizhi hall life!