

My Unpublished Last Warden Message

Rocky K. C. Chang
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Congratulation if you are staying in LiZhi (LZ) hall—whether by your own choice or being assigned—for you will find many friendly and talented residents in this hall! At LZ, we embrace cultural diversity. We will go extra miles to break the curse of the language and cultural barriers, and to achieve unity in our cultural differences. LZ is also a hall where all residents learn to respect others by cultivating a safe and nuisance-free environment. Finally, all residents are encouraged to strive for their best in their academic studies, their duties as committee members in the hall and elsewhere, and their participation in the inter-hall and other competitions.

The LZ community

The most important people in LZ are the residents. It is **NOT** because they pay their hall fees and are therefore entitled to enjoy all the services here. The Hall is not a hotel, although some cleaning service is provided. The residents are not guests, although they are provided with various services. The Hall is not a playground, although we will have a lot of fun here. The most important people in LZ are the residents, because they are the ones forming this community—living in close proximity and sharing common core values (<http://www4.comp.polyu.edu.hk/~csrchang/sharing-12.pdf>) and heritage. Preserving and further cultivating this community is the responsibility of every resident.

A small number of residents, known as the LZ Hall Student Association, with a team of six tutors and myself are called upon to facilitate the forging the LZ community. The 11st Hall Association led by Kyle Lau, a year-two student, will serve their term till this December. The six tutors Evan (senior tutor), Ruoxi, Yin Zhi (Easy), Roy, Tracy, and Casey are PhD/MPhil students from different departments. They also represent diverse cultural backgrounds: Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Mainland China.



Figure 1: The six tutors and I.



Figure 2: Some recent hall association members and I.

The past year

Thanks to our Hall Association and residents, our records in various inter-hall competitions in the past year are outstanding. First, we won a place in the men 4x100 running relay for the first time in our hall's history. Second, it is also our first time that both men and women tug-of-war teams won the first runner-up. Third, our LZ creativity and talent once again impressed the judges and hallmates by a "panda show" which captured two of the three awards in the variety show of the Hall Festival: Most Creative and Best Performance. Fourth, we also won the championship in the photo competition, and second runner-up in both singing contest and energy saving competition. As a result, we were the first runner-up in the overall inter-cultural competitions.

In the High Table dinner last November, we witnessed the changeover from the 10th LZ Hall Student Association to the 11st. Unlike previous years, the 10th Hall Association was confronted by many challenges, even in the process of running for the election. Working alone without previous Hall Association members living in the hall added extra burden to them. Therefore, seeing them finally finish their good race brought us special joy and comfort. Another heartening aspect of the dinner was seeing many old boys and girls. There was unspeakable joy to see them return home after almost one year of being apart. "Love is patient, love is kind ... Love never fails." (I Cor. 3:4-8)



Figure 3: Some 8th hall association members and I.



Figure 4: The 6th hall association and I.

My past five years

Five years ago, with my family's encouragement, I responded to the University's call for hall wardens, and I was subsequently assigned to become a LZ warden. At the end of the five years, I am surprised to find that it is my life that was impacted the most. I thought I had a lot of knowledge and experience to offer to the students, but in the end I find out that they need my acceptance and encouragement the most. I thought I could steer their lives to a "healthier" direction, but in the end I better understand the issues that the young people of this generation are constantly struggling with. In the beginning I focused on *what to do* as a warden, but in the end I realize that *being* a warden for them is all I need to "do."

I am writing this warden message for the last time as I will step down at the end of this year. Five years is not a long period, but many things took place in this period. I am very grateful for being entrusted this role to serve the students in this special way. I have known many of them over the years, and they are all very fine young men and women, having tremendous potential to succeed in what they set out to do. The last line of the musical *Les Misérables* perhaps serves a good endnote to my time with LZ: "To love another person is to see the face of God!" I will miss LZ.