

*1,200 mourn victim
of Marathon blasts*

BU Remembers Lu Lingzi

Beneath her formidable intellect—juggling four courses while studying the piano and getting excellent grades—Lu Lingzi was a woman who could be endearingly silly, her burnt breakfasts often setting off a smoke detector, her fear of kitchen mice requiring roommate Jing Li to become her “brave warrior.”

“We felt sad that we were too busy to go out to meet some nice boys,” Jing (SED’14) told mourners, including Lu’s family from China, at a tear-tinged tribute to Lu (GRS’13), one of three who died in the Boston Marathon bombings April 15. Others

“We believed that we could co-fight for the beautiful future together,” Jing Li (SED’14) (above) told mourners who gathered at the GSU Metcalf Ballroom on April 22 for a tribute to her roommate, Lu Lingzi (GRS’13) (right). Lu died in the April 15 bombings.



spoke of the 23-year-old statistics student's love of blueberry pancakes, green tea ice cream, and violinist Itzhak Perlman, and of her hopes: ultimately for a financial analyst's career, more immediately for an internship and fine meals during this summer's Restaurant Week in Boston.

"Her dream was very simple," friend Zheng Minhui (GRS'15) told 1,200 people in the George Sherman Union on April 22. "She wanted a not necessarily rich life, but a peaceful life, with a stable job, a happy family, and a lovely dog."

Zhong Ruiming, deputy consul general from China's New York consulate, offered condolences from the speaker's podium, where an enlarged

WEB EXTRA

Watch a video of the memorial service for Lu Lingzi at bu.edu/bostonia.

photo of Lu beamed at a crowd that included Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. Musical selections threaded the memorial, including one of Lu's favorite pieces, Chopin's Nocturne in C minor, op. 48, no. 1, performed by her piano teacher, Son Han Nah (CFA'17). A horseshoe table in the rear of the GSU's Metcalf Ballroom was laden with white bouquets and two teddy bears in BU sweaters, while a gong was placed at the entrance doors, which were draped in white.

"We know that a memorial service cannot bring closure to the grief that parents who lose a child must endure," University

President Robert A. Brown said. "Nothing can be as it was before; the grief is too immense. We hope tonight in our words and prayers to show our understanding of the magnitude of the grief. We also hope to assure Lu's family that she was very much a cherished member of our community."

The memorial came one week to the day after the bombings, which injured nearly 300 and shut down several blocks of Boston for days.

Lu Jun, Lu's father, recalled a confident, fun-loving little girl who had been "the family's Shirley Temple," in a eulogy delivered in Chinese and later read in English by Willis Wang, a BU vice president and associate provost for global programs. Lu Jun cited a Chinese proverb: "Every child is actually a little Buddha that helps their parents mature and grow up.'...We as parents admire and appreciate her kindness, courage, and her yearning for a beautiful life."

As much as the speakers lauded what Lu had been, they spoke of what she had hoped to do. "Your sign is Leo and mine is Cancer," Jing said of her roommate. "Your sign ruler is sun and mine is moon. We believed that we could co-fight for the beautiful future together as we combined the lights from both the sun and the moon." RB

Jing Li (left) and Lu Lingzi met through an online chat group for prospective BU students.

Scholarship Will Honor Lu Lingzi

University trustees have established a fund to endow a memorial scholarship in the name of Lu Lingzi, the BU graduate student who was one of three people killed in the Boston Marathon bomb attacks on April 15.

"It's a fitting tribute and the right thing to do," says Kenneth Feld (SMG'70), a BU trustee, who proposed the memorial scholarship at a meeting of the executive committee of the Campaign for BU, which he chairs. Before the meeting adjourned, its seven members had committed \$560,000 to the fund, which has since grown to \$835,000, with contributions from 1,125 donors from 25 countries.

After learning of the death of Lu (GRS'13) and of the severe injuries to another BU graduate student, alumni, residents of Lu's hometown in China, and others around the world asked through Facebook, Twitter, and several US consulates in China what they could do to honor the students and memorialize the tragic events of the day, according to Feld.

"There was no central place to donate, so we asked ourselves, 'What could we do to honor her memory, today and tomorrow?'" says Feld, who is chairman and CEO of Feld Entertainment. The answer was clear, he says. "A scholarship fund in her name will be there forever; people can contribute to something that is ongoing." Within 10 minutes of Feld's proposal, the committee had raised the initial funds.

Feld says the scholarship also honors the memory of a tragedy that has hit home for the BU community and will become, like September 11, 2001, a day that will never be forgotten. "There isn't an individual at BU who didn't have some connection to people who were there," he says, and by honoring Lu, the scholarship also recognizes BU's profound connection to the people of China, which is sending a growing number of students—this year there are 2,065—to the University. ss



COURTESY OF JING LI (GED14)