

Mr Reinaldo Maria Cordeiro (Uncle Ray)

Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa* Citation

“The past is another country. They do things differently there.” My father would have been 100 years old on 12 May this year, and my sisters and I celebrated his centenary, accompanied by his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren, from whom that utterly different era is impossibly distant. The 1920s are so close to the end of the First World War that even my sisters and I, three of us grandparents ourselves, cannot readily connect with an era that is now so foreign.

Precisely two years and seven months after my father’s birth, on 12 December 1924, a baby took his first breath in Wan Chai. His parents were Portuguese. He was christened Reinaldo Maria Cordeiro. And it’s my privilege to present him as one of today’s honorands. He is our Go-Between (the title of L.P. Hartley’s novel from which my opening quote derives).

In the year that I was born myself, not long after the end of the Second World War (which will itself seem impossibly distant to many) Ray Cordeiro gave up his job as a clerk at HSBC and started broadcasting on

the radio. He kept on doing so for 72 years. He was already in the Guinness Book of World Records in its millennium edition. At that point, he had only just breached the half century, and he still had another 21 years to go. He finally retired on the night of 14 May 2021. Predictions are always rash, but here’s one that I’m confident in making: his record as “The World’s Most Durable Radio DJ” is going to stand for a long, long time.

So far, you could say, we have been focused on width — but shouldn’t we also feel the quality of the cloth and, if so, where should we start? I am going to head to the canteen to listen to the sounds of the kitchen — and if someone starts to play jazz drum riffs on the pots and pans, then that will be him. His life’s trajectory was set up after he had heard the Pinky Pinetta band play at a Christmas Ball in a Macau refugee facility — an interest in music turned into a passion for it. The die was cast. He became the drummer in his own band, and by 1947 his trio was playing in a Kowloon-side restaurant — he particularly liked Buddy Rich’s drumming style so the customers should

have had a real treat – but that was really just the beginning.

We live in a Golden Age for at least some of the pleasures in life. If you live in Hong Kong you know that we're in a golden age for food and, take my word for it, we're in a golden age for wine, as well. People are making better wine than ever before, even though global warming poses a threat to that unless you're an English champagne maker (and don't laugh – they do exist and it's very good). But we're also in a golden age of access to music; tastes may vary on whether we should say the same about music composition, but our opportunities to hear the music we love have become extraordinary. Sound recording and sound reproduction have become amazingly good. I first listened to my parents' scratchy 78s, but life changed with 45 singles (and turntables with autochangers!), and Vinyl LPs, CDs, cassettes, FM radio, Walkmans, iPods, and streaming, along with affordable amplifiers and speakers and then quality headsets gradually gave us the means to listen to almost anything, of any length, almost

anywhere. But these are recent developments. My mother's grandparents would have waited in vain all their lives for an orchestra to come to their provincial town so that they could hear a Beethoven symphony. We pick at will from libraries of the very best recordings; Schubert never heard a public performance of his own, final string quintet in C major.

When I was in my mid-teens, "pop" music was still a minority specialism on the BBC – I would have to tune into Radio Luxemburg (wonderful 208) which broadcast to the UK only at night, or into a Pirate Radio station (Radio Caroline or Radio London) to listen during the day. There was so much going on in the music scene, but it was so hard to keep up. When might one even hear about, let alone actually hear, the latest and most exciting groups as they formed, flared up (also a description of the fashions of the time) and fizzled out? And the bands were asking just the same question: how do you get heard?

Many of the answers lay with the radio DJs. They didn't just discover bands – they gave

them airtime, so that others could hear them too, and judge for themselves. And really successful DJs were adopted by the new, pop aristocracy. They knew – they talked to – they even went to parties with – people we idolized who we would be lucky even to see on a stage. They were vital components in what became a world-wide ecosystem through which popular new movements in music flowed, without whom it could never actually have happened. They were also arbiters of taste – an alternative to but a target for the record labels’ publicity teams – Spin Doctors, but who really did what it says – the heard-but-not-seen Influencers of my adolescence. If you had access to a good radio station with good DJs, you could keep up.

Reinaldo Cordeiro became Hong Kong’s Uncle Ray not only because he was one of these people who changed our world (though of course he was), but also, surely because he went further. His decades of broadcasting shows made him a friend to millions. That status meant he could go further. While his shows could offer would-be stars their first

break, not only would those new talents get airtime from him but, beyond that, they could get advice and they could get connections. That is real support. Success in show business needs more than just talent – backing singers include some of the most skillful musicians you will ever hear but they remain twenty feet from stardom (that’s the title of a wonderful film on this topic). You need a sprinkling of stardust as well, and as people move among the stars some of that dust swirls around and sticks. Uncle Ray knew an astonishing list of major stars, and this enabled him to pass on more than just knowledge to his own discoveries: they could glitter too.

Hong Kong is lucky to have had him: his fame extends far beyond the city; Queen Elizabeth II awarded him an MBE in 1987 – admittedly twenty-two years after The Beatles (and thirty-two years after my father), but I suppose news took time to travel in those days. Hong Kong is especially lucky to have had him for so long. Radio Luxembourg finally went off air in 1992, after 59 years of memorable broadcasting, but Ray Cordeiro adds another

thirteen years to their, already admirable, record. Width and Quality both – a man cut from the finest cloth. Mr Chairman, it is my privilege to present to you Mr Reinaldo Maria Cordeiro, a Spinner of Sounds and an Uncle to Many, for the award of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.

This citation is written by Professor Nick Rawlins

Professor Hao Ping

Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*

Citation

“Progress in your studies lies in assiduous effort; wasting the opportunity lies in treating studies as play. Success in your studies emerges from thinking deeply; failure comes from indolence.” These are the lines from Han Yu’s prose that Mr Ji Xianlin quoted in his farewell message 17 years ago for Professor Hao Ping when the latter left his vice president position at Peking University (PKU) to take up the presidency of Beijing Foreign Studies University. Han Yu’s words are indeed a truthful portrayal of how Professor Hao conducts his life.

Professor Hao comes from Shandong. He completed his undergraduate studies at the History Department of PKU in 1982, majoring in World History. Upon graduation, he remained at his alma mater and worked in a number of units, before leaving for the US in 1992 to enrol in a master’s degree programme in History at the University of Hawaii. Three years later, Hao Ping returned to pursue doctoral studies at the School of International Studies of PKU. In 1999, he received his PhD degree and thereafter, began taking up various

administrative positions at PKU, including Assistant President and Vice President. In 2005, he was installed as President of Beijing Foreign Studies University. In 2009, he was appointed Vice Minister of the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and, in that capacity, he also took up concurrently the directorship of the National Commission of the PRC for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). In 2013, he was elected President of the 37th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO. In 2016, Professor Hao returned to his alma mater to assume the position of Party Secretary and Chairman of the University Council. Two years later, he moved over to the role of the President of PKU. Since June 2022, Professor Hao was appointed again the Party Secretary and Chairman of the University Council of PKU. Besides his academic role at PKU, he was member of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, delegate of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and alternate member of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

A tireless scholar with great zeal for knowledge, Professor Hao has attained academic eminence through his tireless efforts in research. He specialises in historical studies and has published, among others, the following books: *Peking University and the Origins of Higher Education in China*, *Sun Yat-sen and America*, *An Unfortunate Ending: John Leighton Stuart and China*. In the preface to the book *Peking University and the Origins of Higher Education in China*, Mr Ji Xianlin narrated the academic mindset of Professor Hao: *A serious scholar, Professor Hao always pursues research relentlessly, leaving no stone unturned. While others would take their lunch break in a leisurely manner, he would use the time simultaneously to achieve breakthroughs in scholarly work. It is not uncommon for him to burn the midnight oil in order to squeeze in time to work on his publications, which is how the manuscript of this book was completed.* In the preface to *An Unfortunate Ending: John Leighton Stuart and China*, Mr Hou Renzhi, a pioneering researcher in the modern historical geography of China, applied the following encouraging words to Professor Hao: *The conscientiousness and*

diligence shown in Professor Hao's scholarly work have cast a deep impression on me. I must say I am delighted to see such a fine scholar flourish in the academia. I know that Professor Hao has, amidst his busy administrative schedules, continued to allot time for academic work, and am pleasantly surprised by his tenacity and doggedness in scholarly pursuits. The remarks of these two eminent scholars can aptly be summarised in one word: *industrious*.

Professor Hao has always been heedful of his own work, and deals with important tasks with care and thorough consideration. Due to his extensive experience working both in China and abroad, he has amassed judicious administrative skills. He cares for his alma mater and motherland, and commands a global perspective on education. He harbours deep love for the well-being of the nation, and at the same time stresses that the future of the tertiary education sector in China lies in innovation and the upholding of academic integrity. Most important of all, he has dedicated himself whole-heartedly to educating the young, making self-sacrifice that is warranted.

Professor Hao is of the view that the building up of a strong faculty team is the key to developing higher education in China. He places special emphasis on nurturing talents that are not only competent in their field of study but are also compassionate and upright, and most important of all, will serve as leaders in society. To him, building up a strong foundation of disciplines in a university is of paramount importance. He also advocates cross-disciplinary studies. Moreover, he promotes the notion that university research work should align with the strategic developments of the nation. Today, PKU has developed into a world-class comprehensive university, well recognised both within the country and abroad, and is designated by the Ministry of Education as one of the “Double First-Class” universities. On the internationalisation front, Professor Hao has spared no effort in promoting collaborations with other institutions for more cooperation opportunities, such as those between PKU and CUHK. In 2019, the two universities signed a cooperative agreement on the offer of dual bachelor’s degree programmes respectively in

Chinese Language and Literature, Linguistics, and Financial Technology. Through this joint venture, the two universities will work together to nurture talents for the nation and advance further collaborations on various fronts.

When Professor Hao took up the presidency of the 37th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, it marked the first time that a Chinese national held that office at the United Nations. During Professor Hao’s two-year presidency term, he championed the principle of cohesiveness among nations, promoted equitable quality education, and helped the underprivileged to get more and better educational opportunities. He strongly believes in forging social cohesion among nations so that collectively, all nations can achieve better outcomes. With his joint efforts, UNESCO was able to expand its impact on the global management of UN member nations. This admirable act of Professor Hao represents the contribution made by China to the world, and helps exemplify China’s effort in promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Mr Chairman, Professor Hao Ping is a conscientious and assiduous academic. An upright educator who has always devoted himself selflessly to higher education and the nation at large, he champions innovation while treading a practical path for Peking University, marking him as one of those typical Peking University alumni that are known to be happy and ready to shoulder heavy responsibilities for both the academia and the country. In order to commend Professor Hao for his outstanding contributions to the academia and the country, Mr Chairman, it is my privilege to present to you Professor Hao Ping for the award of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.

Ms Irene Lee Yun-lien

Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*

Citation

In 2018 Causeway Bay became the most valuable shopping region in the world, relegating New York's older Fifth Avenue to second, and the Crown Estate's much older Regent Street in London to third place. It arose from East Point Hill at the edge of the early City of Victoria which was purchased from Jardine Matheson in the 1920s by Lee Hysan—with a plan to level it and use the gravel to reclaim land nearby for development. That plan stalled and instead the land was used for the local community, for entertainment and recreation—including, a theatre, gardens and a skating rink. A former taipan's house became a venue for art and literary gatherings, called Bei Shan Tang, which later gave its name to a Foundation that promotes Chinese art and culture, and supports education too.

After World War II, the original plans were revitalized. What was now known as Lee Garden Hill was levelled, and a succession of building developments under the guidance of the Lee family and the Hysan Development Company led to that 2018 triumph. You might suppose that a programme on such a scale

would leave no time for any other activities. For most people, at most times, you would be right. But in this case, you would be wrong. In parallel with these extraordinary developments in the property world, the Lee family and their foundation were also finding time to follow other interests, and these included CUHK.

CUHK had its own levelled hill. Our University Mall was built on the resulting plateau and from the start, and ever since, our development involved the Lee family. Amongst the buildings along the edges of the Mall at the heart of our central campus are the Institute of Chinese Studies and the Art Museum—both made possible through the generosity of the Bei Shan Tang Foundation—with the East Wing of the Art Museum further benefiting from the munificence of the Lee Hysan Foundation. In 2001 they provided funding for the beautifully designed Lee Hysan Concert Hall where, in 2019, I had the enormous privilege of jointly hosting the extraordinary soprano, Renee Fleming when she presented *Music and the Mind* to a packed audience of people who had been lucky enough to “win” one of the

hugely over-subscribed tickets. And the Lee family connection is still very much with us, as exemplified today by today's honorand, Ms Irene Lee.

She is a Hong Kong native, the eldest of three surviving children. Her education took her overseas, to a girl's convent boarding school in Sussex, England. I don't know that that must have been like, but if I generalize from my own experience at boarding school (I first went when I was seven) it may well have been educational but it would also have been pretty tough (and my home was only twenty miles away, so I could spend a couple of half-term nights there and go there for lunch on two or three Sundays each term). At least Ms Lee could get home during the long holidays. She clearly didn't just sit about. Indeed, her days sound no less full than they will have during term time. She still studied—albeit with a very different curriculum: Classical Chinese; Classical Chinese painting; Chinese calligraphy; Classical Chinese Dance; piano and ballet; and the Chinese dulcimer—the Yangqin. Despite her overseas education she

was intimately connected to China's rich cultural heritage. This motif will recur.

Her formal education took a further twist. She moved to the United States, where she made new, lasting friends and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Smith College. It was then, as now, one of the country's outstanding liberal arts colleges; their general mission is to provide a broad education that opens minds and keeps options open too, rather than providing narrow training. Smith is an all-women college whose watchwords are Audacity, Agency, and Authenticity; this motif will also recur.

From there it was back to Britain where Ms Lee became a member of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn. She was called to the Bar in England and Wales, and from which she duly became a Barrister-at-Law. Qualifications in law, like liberal arts degrees, have more potential applications than might at first meet the eye. Their ability to cut to the chase gives the most able lawyers an invaluable tool. Ms Lee deployed it in finance. She joined the highly sought-after Citibank international

management programme in New York, which not only enhanced her formidable skill set but added some core friendships and set the course for her career.

She spent 30 plus years working in banking and finance in New York, London and then Sydney, where she brought up her two children. Notably, among their languages, they are native Cantonese speakers—that recurring motif of valuing and maintaining the link to Chinese culture. That is an extraordinary outcome for children growing up within an English- (or I might say Australian-) speaking society. It speaks volumes for them. It must also have depended on an extraordinary degree of determination and devotion of resources. She finally returned to Hong Kong ten years ago, bringing with her decades-worth of distilled experience—and put it to still better use.

Some women thriving in what are typically men's worlds become honorary men, like Margaret Thatcher. Others, having demonstrated what's possible, try to enable other women to do what they have done. Ms

Lee's personal achievements are extraordinary. The Hang Seng Bank made its 88th anniversary truly memorable by appointing her as its first woman chairman—a true milestone in corporate Hong Kong where all-male boards were still prevalent. The data tell us that Boards with women on them do better, and as the Chairman of the 30% Club she is a leading voice pushing Hong Kong companies to raise their game. Ms Lee is the executive chairman of the Hysan Development company as well as a board member of HSBC and a member of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. She recently joined the board of the Alibaba Group. This is already a truly demanding life, but it is by no means all she does.

She devotes time to painting; to organic farming (which must be particularly hard in mould- and insect-rich Hong Kong); to Tai-chi; to hosting dinner parties (like her parents) and to cooking; and to being a grandmother. Ms Lee is also an avid supporter of the arts. You will find her at most concerts and at most art events. Her passion for travelling and her

ability to cover vast distances across multiple countries, at lightning speed, is legendary. She is known to return home with, at least 100 kilos of food shopping, after a mere 36 hours on the ground. If you conclude she must work 24 hours a day to do all this, you would be wrong. She manages it all in a mere 22. And beyond even all of this, she has kept her family's link to CUHK. There is a daring new design for the Art Museum to project out over the edge of the University Mall plateau—a new, space, which will be its largest gallery ready for CUHK's 60th anniversary year. It will be named the Harold and Christina Lee Gallery, and is in the true spirit of Smith. That cantilevered design—Audacity; the will and the means to do it—Action; the expression of a lifelong commitment to Hong Kong, and the Art and arts of China—Authenticity. Mr Chairman, it is my honour and my pleasure to present Ms Irene Lee Yun-lien, for the degree of Social Science, *honoris causa*.

This citation is written by Professor Nick Rawlins

Professor Sir Michael Marmot

Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*

Citation

Whitehall—principal residence of the English Monarchs for just over one and a half centuries and, in its time, the largest palace in Europe with its 1,500 rooms. The first known performance of Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* was here, in 1611. Sadly, the palace was largely destroyed by fire in 1698, yet its Banqueting House, built by Inigo Jones with a ceiling painted by Rubens survives. This is its only substantial remnant, with a history of its own. In 1649 King Charles I stepped through its first-floor windows onto a raised scaffold to have his head “severed from his body” as his sentence demanded, watched by a crowd of Londoners including the 15 year old Samuel Pepys. Whitehall was a name in the land; and although its role has changed it is still a name in the land.

The Monarchy moved elsewhere, but Whitehall remained at the heart of government as the citadel of Britain’s civil service. Here, in this ghost of a palace, Sir Humphrey, as a fictional Permanent Secretary, managed his Minister; but he did not do that unsupported. Below him were a myriad other career civil servants, above him a mere handful, all going about their allotted tasks, from doorkeeper and messenger to the most senior Advisors. In the 1960-70s most civil servants were male and white and they managed the administration of the country

much as they had for more than a century. They lived highly structured lives on predictable trajectories with secure employment, and solid pensions awaiting when they finally retired. This highly homogeneous, some might say positively dull, group of people working within a single organisation became the subjects of one of the most influential population studies ever to be conducted. It was called the Whitehall Study, and it is famous around the world.

The study followed, initially for ten years, the lives (and sometimes deaths) of 17,530 men in the British Civil Service, aged 40-64 when the study began. The results were dramatic.

What might we have expected? In 1958 an American military psychologist, Joe Brady, working at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Bethesda, Maryland, conducted a study on rhesus monkeys now notorious as the ‘Executive Monkey’ experiment. He reported that in pairs of monkeys in which one worked to avoid shocks which both simultaneously received if the ‘Executive’ monkey made a mistake, the monkey that suffered from stress-induced ulceration, and in some cases death, was the monkey in charge, not its powerless companion. (You can extrapolate to the hard lives of generals having to make decisions

about when and how their comparatively luckier enlisted men should be ordered to engage the enemy.) This publication has been rightly criticised on several grounds, but it had an impact when published and it fitted —while perhaps also helping to create—a stereotype: decision-making is what’s really stressful.

The Whitehall Study observed nothing of the kind. The civil servants who were least healthy—on many measures—were the most junior grades: the cogs in the system, not the policy-makers. As the study continued that picture remained consistent, even on that starkest of measures: death rates. Those in the highest grades lived longest; those in the lowest grades had the shortest lives; intermediate grades showed intermediate mortality. This was a clear and robust effect—and it was startling. The principal investigator for the study was Dr (now Professor) Michael (now Sir Michael) Marmot. He was born in England and raised in Australia, educated at The University of Sydney and the University of California, Berkeley and then returned to London. He has spent over forty years there working on socioeconomic determinants of health—and of health inequity.

Homogeneous study groups are a mixed blessing in experiments. There is less random noise in the results; and if you do see something interesting then many extraneous factors are ruled out. On the other hand what’s true of a particular, homogeneous group may not be true of the wider world population, in the same way that highly reproducible results obtained with in-bred laboratory rat strains may not hold true in less controlled conditions. The Marmot group

therefore followed up by looking for similar effects in quite dissimilar populations. They also sought to understand the underlying cause(s) of their finding—now often referred to quite simply as ‘The Whitehall effect’. And they started work on a third topic, too: what can you do about it? Could you give everyone that long life enjoyed by top grade civil servants?

A plethora of studies has confirmed the generality of the effect across very different countries. Health and life expectancy go with social status not just across Western Europe; increased education—in some ways a proxy measure—is associated with reduced mortality in Bangladesh, in Chile and in Russia. Deprivation means worse health, including right here in Hong Kong. The size of this difference within countries can be huge. Travel 2.7 miles in London from Somers Town, where my son lived as a student, to Hampstead where the former Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, lived and male life expectancy goes up 11 years (fortunately my son has now moved). Take the metro from downtown Washington DC to Montgomery County, Maryland (where I used to live) and male life expectancy jumps a shocking 20 years (unfortunately, I too have moved...).

The Whitehall Study and its successor, Whitehall II which extended the work to women, identified cardiovascular disease, smoking, obesity and metabolic syndrome (precursors for diabetes), and mental illness amongst other features of low social position. Social primates, including us, are attuned to social status; low status goes with high stress levels across a variety of species and this, in turn, affects

crucial features from cardiovascular markers to adult neurogenesis in the brain. Moreover, stressful events are exacerbated or ameliorated by the control we have—or think we have—over them. At its simplest, painful heat doesn't hurt as much if we are told we have a switch available to turn it off, whether or not we ever actually choose to press it.

Minds matter and minds affect matter.

Experiences don't just change our thoughts and behaviour: they affect our hormones, our neurochemistry—even our adult brain structures. So there are good, *a priori* reasons to expect social and political interventions to help to tackle inequities in both mental and physical health. But for science to effect change, it must drive policy. This has been a key part of Professor Marmot's life's work, within the United Kingdom and beyond—indeed, globally.

The Royal Society for Public Health ranked the United Kingdom's Government-commissioned Marmot Review, published in 2010, as number three in its top twenty public health achievements of the 21st century. (Competition was fierce: the ban on smoking in enclosed public places took first place). A commissioned follow up, the Marmot Review 10 years on, reassessed the position in 2020. It remains a topic in focus, and particularly so post-Covid as the pandemic has, if anything, exacerbated health inequity. Across the wider world, Professor Marmot chaired the World Health Organisation's 2005-08 Commission on Social Determinants of Health, and in 2016 the Pan American Health Organization appointed him chair of its 2016 Commission on Equity and Health Inequalities

in the Americas. Through appointments like these; through his Institute of Health Equity in London which now has a partner here at CUHK; and through a regular flow of books and articles for the more general public, Professor Marmot has been instrumental in effecting change for the better by enabling political initiatives that will give people control of their own lives, regardless of their social status.

Honours are rightly heaped upon him: it is our privilege today to join the long list of those who have recognised his extraordinary and continuing contributions. Justice is—or should be—blind; but his work has opened our eyes to how social justice in health may be achieved—and here vision, not blindness, is what we need. Mr Chairman, it is my privilege to present to you Professor Sir Michael Marmot for the award of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

This citation is written by Professor Nick Rawlins

Professor Joseph Sung Jao-yiu

Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*

Citation

The conference room of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is spacious, brightly lit and dazzled by a line of neighbouring green landscape. During autumn time in particular, a gentle evening glow will seep into the room that helps make it cosier and even more comfortable. All these years, a couplet is displayed there, with lines originated from the inspirational poem of Lin Zexu, a famous minister of the late Qing Dynasty. The couplet reads: *Engulfing hundreds of rivers is the enduring ocean; vast, tolerant and virtuous. Standing tall and indestructible is the eternal cliff; upright, unassuming and mighty.* The calligraphy of the couplet is written by no other than Professor Joseph Sung Jao-yiu, the seventh Vice-Chancellor of CUHK. The strokes of the couplet show the calligrapher's charm, strength, as well as grace. The message of the couplet aptly enunciates what a university is for, that is, it should, like the vast ocean, embrace different views in order to advance knowledge, and be liberal and tolerant of views from different sectors. When searching for answers, it should look far and beyond, like standing on top of a

towering cliff. For a university, the sky is the limit. The couplet is indeed also the reflection of Professor Sung's solemn pledges he made when he was installed as the Vice-Chancellor of CUHK, connoting his great magnanimity and vision, and his aspiration to do his best for the University.

Professor Sung is an accomplished physician who practises medicine in order to help people, whether rich or poor. A world renowned scholar, he pioneered the use of endoscopic techniques in treating ulcer bleeding, asserting the relationship between H.pylori and ulcer bleeding and also reducing the need for operative surgery. Later, he led other Asian countries to conduct colorectal cancer screening programme and set up screening standards for the procedure. The community-wide programme helps to identify people with disease or people at increased risk of the disease for prompt treatment and thus improves the treatment outcome. For his outstanding contribution in this regard, Professor Sung was honoured by the Prevention Cancer Foundation of the United States with the Laurel Award. In 2003, Hong Kong was plagued by the

outbreak of SARS, causing untold misery among people from all walks of life. Professor Sung took the matter into his own hands, and fought hard day and night without much rest to find a way to halt the spread of this deadly disease. In the end, he helped Hong Kong win the battle. The *Time* magazine named him a *Time* “Asian Hero” for having successfully contained SARS. CUHK installed Professor Joseph Sung Jao-yiu, a laureate researcher in the medical field, a towering figure in the eyes of his peers, and a national hero, as its seventh Vice-Chancellor in July 2010. After more than seven years’ dedicated service, Professor Sung bade farewell to CUHK. During his seven-year stewardship, he cared for his colleagues and students, and spared no efforts in promoting teaching and research, and making positive contributions to the long-term development of this great institution.

Among the distinguished deeds at CUHK by Professor Sung is the implementation of a seamless switch from the three-year to the four-year undergraduate curriculum. The new curriculum places emphasis on cross-discipline studies and expands exchange opportunities

for students, enabling students to diversify their learning needs. In 2014, Professor Sung started the CUHK Medical Centre project, which aimed at building Hong Kong’s first non-profit private teaching hospital, helping advance clinical research and train more medical staff for Hong Kong. All these are instrumental in taking the Faculty of Medicine to new heights.

Furthermore, Professor Sung orchestrated, in 2010, the setting up of the School of Life Sciences, followed by the Department of Biomedical Engineering in 2017. From 2010/11 to 2017/18 academic year, he helped roll out more than twenty new undergraduate programmes to align with global development and to meet society’s needs. These include: gender studies, mathematics and information engineering, sports science, early childhood education, biomedicine, energy and environmental engineering, earth and environmental sciences, China studies, global economics and finance, etc. Along with the development of new academic programmes is the establishment of a number of research centres and institutes. To name but a few: the Institute of Environment, Energy and Sustainability,

Shenzhen Research Institute, CUHK T Stone Robotics Institute, etc. The fields of research are diverse and all-embracing, covering environment, medicine, science and technology. Within the framework of *Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running Schools*, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen (CUHK(SZ)) was set up in 2014, which aims at extending both the vision and academic system of CUHK into the mainland. CUHK(SZ) now provides high quality tertiary education for students from Shenzhen, the Pearl River Delta Region and across the nation.

During Professor Sung's tenure, he guided the University towards the frontiers of research. He brought in new measures in place of some traditional practices, all with good reasons. What is more known to us is the fact that he is absolutely against chasing blindly after university ranking. He once said, "If we have invested our best for people and put resources properly into research and teaching, our ranking should not be any worse." Without doubt, running a good university depends on the sincerity and conviction of the people concerned, not on the rank order it is assigned. New study programmes offered should gear to the need of society, not to chase after high ranking. He is of the view that university education should help people pursue both virtuousness and life-

long self-improvement. He also rejects unhealthy competition among universities. The terrain of CUHK is such that it stands high facing the Ma On Shan, staying away from the hustle and bustle of the city. In such an academic milieu, both staff and students are absorbed in studies to help advance, and transfer, knowledge for the benefit of society. Once in a while, there comes tough times for Professor Sung. In such rare moments, he would either make peace with them by practising Chinese calligraphy, or relax himself by jogging. "I usually get up at six, and go jogging from the Science Park to Taipo. Along the way, there are few people. The tranquility, coupled with the serene morning haze, provides a good opportunity for meditation." he said.

Professor Sung champions research and yet puts more emphasis on traditional humanistic values. He hopes that university education would help guide students through moral values and ethics, inculcate in them the ability to think critically, encourage them to be innovative, and train them to become a global citizen. During his term, he practises what he preaches. In 2011, he introduced the *I-Care Programme*, which aims at inspiring students to actively partake in social and civic services, and infusing in them broad-mindedness, civic responsibility, the notion of global citizenship, and aesthetic judgement. During student gatherings, Professor Sung, for many a time, would leave the platform to sit

with students so as to share with them the way to conduct themselves responsibly in life. His words of wisdom: *Listen with patience, and be tolerant of others.* He would also quote the famous lines of Su Dongpo's poem: *Viewing the mountain from the side loses its panorama view. Capturing the scene from various angles yields a different look.* He often encouraged students to approach an issue with no preconception, and consider various viewpoints from multiple angles before making a decision. In such a way, they will, like the vast ocean that admits all rivers and streams, get to the bottom of the issue.

After saying goodbye to CUHK, Professor Sung joined the Nanyang Technological University as its Dean of the School of Medicine and Senior Vice-President. In his farewell message to old friends at CUHK, he expressed his love and care for the University and Hong Kong. "One day, if we meet unexpectedly on a jogging track somewhere in Hong Kong, you shouldn't be surprised, because I will come back often to visit friends and Hong Kong."

It should be a warm early morning, with the first appearance of the budding dew under the early morning red. Outside the Science Park, next to Tolo Harbour, a long shadow would glide through the light breeze at the crack of dawn. A range of elevations stands adjacent to the shadow, accompanied by two high-rise water

towers on the top reaching for the sky. Meeting an old friend from afar, we would greet each other. The benevolent spring rain, silent and tender, moisturises the plants and everything without notice. If the grass knows, how could it not express its gratitude in return. For the CUHK fraternity, how could we not thank Professor Sung for his valuable contributions and selfless devotion to the University over the years. Mr Chairman, it is my privilege to present to you Professor Joseph Sung Jao-yiu for the award of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa.*