

## Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa* A Citation



### **Dr Ho Tzu-cho, David, DSocSc (Hon), BA, MA**

The Chinese University of Hong Kong is especially fortunate to have won the loyal support of Dr David Ho and the Ho family who have contributed to the University's development in many different areas over many years. The S.H. Ho Foundation Limited, of which Dr Ho is Chairman, has made very significant contributions to the University's distinctive college system. Not only has the Foundation funded student hostels for the three founding Colleges, as well as a non-residential hall for students at New Asia College, it has this year donated HK\$170 million towards the founding of a new College. This historic new College will cater for 600 students on a fully residential and communal dining basis. The University is proud that it will be called S.H. Ho College, in honour of Dr David Ho's father.

The Chinese University has benefited in many other ways from the generosity of the S.H. Ho Foundation. It contributed to the Ho Sin-Hang Engineering Building, as well as to the building of the Madam S.H. Ho Hostel for Medical Students and its extension at the Prince of Wales Hospital. The Foundation also donated funds towards the establishment of the C.N. Yang Visiting Professorship Fund. In 2005 the Foundation supported the setting up of two innovative and superbly equipped research centres: the S.H. Ho Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Centre and the S.H. Ho Centre for Gerontology and Geriatrics. Through these highly strategic investments in the University's medical research capacity, the Foundation is ultimately making important contributions to the delivery of patient care in Hong Kong and well beyond.

The Ho family has also established the Ho Sin Hang Education Endowment Fund at the Chinese University, of which Dr Ho is a Trustee. This Fund has played a very significant part in the support of research at this University, across many disciplines during the past decade. Key in the "Ho Sin Hang Education Endowment Fund" and the first thirty or so items captured by a computer search engine will be research papers and homepages in which CUHK scholars acknowledge the support of the Fund in enabling their work. The projects span the whole range of programmes at CUHK, including such diverse areas as business studies, architecture, computer engineering, English literature and psychiatry. Such funding is of incalculable benefit to the consolidation of research at the University and a much-needed supplement to funds supplied by the Research Grants Council.

Dr Ho completed a B.A. at Yenching University in 1947 and then an M.A. in Economics at the Catholic University of America, Washington. On his return to Hong Kong he joined Hang Seng Bank, which had been founded by his father. With Dr David Ho's guiding hand, the Bank continued to prosper as Hong Kong itself prospered, taking shape as one of Hong Kong's leading banks, and one with the very closest links to the local community. Dr Ho worked to further the principles laid down by his father, emphasizing the fundamental importance of service to clients and the training and education of staff. Dr Ho continues to be a Director of Hang Seng Bank, as well as Chairman of the family company, Bethlehem Management Limited.



It was from his father that Dr Ho learned the importance of making a contribution to the community, especially in ways that enhance educational opportunities for the young. He is Vice-Patron of the Community Chest, a former member of the School Management Committee of the Buddhist Sin Tak College, a Member of the Former Directors Committee of the Community Chest and an Advisor to the 50th Anniversary Committee of Hong Kong Baptist University.

With Dr Ho's wholehearted endorsement, the recent support of medical research at this University by the S.H. Ho Foundation has been focused on two areas of high community need that are at the same time fields in which the University has achieved high levels of research excellence. The first of these is the area of cardiovascular disease and stroke, conditions which kill 16.7 million people worldwide every year. In Hong Kong, more than 8,000 people per year or 20 people per day die of these two diseases. These conditions trigger on average 50,000 hospital admissions annually in Hong Kong and produce a heavy economic burden on the whole community. It was to combat these diseases that the S.H. Ho Foundation gave HK \$10 million to the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, in which two divisions have an excellent track record.

The S.H. Ho Centre for Gerontology and Geriatrics similarly addresses an area of acute and growing community need. According to recent survey findings from the Census and Statistics Department, about 70% and 95% of elderly people living in domestic households and institutions respectively are reported to have chronic diseases. To promote healthy ageing and effective health service delivery to the elderly, better knowledge is needed about changes in life expectancy and the prevalence and effects of chronic diseases and disabilities.

The Chinese University values all these generous gifts. At the same time we are inspired by the spirit in which they have been given. Dr Ho's father was a man of spiritual wisdom, drawing on a lifetime's reading of the Chinese classics, and taught his son to give back to the community the wealth he earned through his work. Like Dr David Ho, we can all learn from the insights his father drew from his long experience. As Dr S.H. Ho said in his book: "The ancient Chinese respected heaven and earth, king and teacher ... . Similarly, we should never forget where we are from, and should always be grateful for what we have." Dr S.H. Ho and now his children have donated selflessly and generously to help young people benefit from a good education so that they may not only thrive in their scholarly pursuits, but also become responsible citizens who are trustworthy and dedicated to their work. The Chinese University is proud to be naming one of its new Colleges after Dr S.H. Ho, whose values so deeply accord with its own. It is grateful and proud to have friends such as Dr David Ho and the Ho family.

Mr Chairman, it is my privilege to present to you Dr Ho Tzu-cho, David, distinguished banker and benefactor of the University, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.

*This citation is written by Professor David Parker*