

OBITUARY

Professor Hu Shiu-ying

The Chinese University of Hong Kong records with deep sadness the passing of Professor Hu Shiu-ying on 22 May 2012, at the Prince of Wales Hospital, at the age of 102. Professor Hu was an Honorary Professor of Chinese Medicine, an Honorary Senior Research Fellow of the School of Life Sciences, and a Senior College Tutor of Chung Chi College of the Chinese University.

Professor Hu is a botanist of great international renown. She took her first degree at Ginling College in Nanjing, then the Master of Science at Lingnan University. In 1946, she went to Harvard to further her studies and was the first Chinese woman to obtain a doctoral degree in botany at that University. After completing her PhD studies, she devoted herself to the research of plants at Harvard. In 1968, Professor Hu took up a Senior Lecturership in Biology at Chung Chi College and continued her research work. In 1999, Professor Hu was appointed an Honorary Professor of the Chinese University. She was also awarded a Bronze Bauhinia Star by the HKSAR Government in 2001.

Professor Hu is recognized all over the world as a leading authority on hollies, daylilies, paulownias, daisies and orchids. Having devoted a lifelong career to research on plant taxonomy, Professor Hu produced over 160 academic treatises and collected over 30,000 specimens. In the process, she came to be affectionately known to colleagues as a walking botanical dictionary. Professor Hu is also a much beloved teacher and she will be long remembered by the members of the University.

The funeral service for Professor Hu will be held on Friday, 15 June 2012 at 11:30 am, in the Universal Hall, G/F, Universal Funeral Parlour, Hunghom. The vigil service will take place the night before, on 14 June 2012, at 8:00 pm. Members of the University, alumni and friends are kindly invited to attend the vigil and funeral services.

A memorial service for Professor Hu is tentatively scheduled in October 2012, and will take place at the Chapel of Chung Chi College, the Chinese University. Further details will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

In lieu of flowers, please make cash donation, payable to "The Chinese University of Hong Kong", to support the establishment of the proposed "Shiu-Ying Hu Herbarium". Enquiries about the services may be directed to the Communications and Public Relations Office of the Chinese University at 3943-8893 (tel).

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