

Philanthropy as Part of a Top University's DNA

HKU celebrates 54 Endowed Professorships;
One New Endowed Professorship is named
to Honour Physicist Zhou Guangzhao

明德教授 港大卓越傳統

五十四項教授席，首度以中國
著名科學家周光召命名

On a rainy afternoon in March 2011, Zhou Guangzhao, the respected Chinese physicist, paid a rare visit to The University of Hong Kong. At age 81, Zhou, the former head of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was in good health and spirits. He visited to mark the announcement of the Zhou Guangzhao Professorship in Natural Sciences, a part of HKU's Endowed Professorships Scheme established with a donation from the Zhou Guangzhao Foundation.

The donation was spearheaded by Dr Chung Kin-Kwok, an entrepreneur, and the professorship was created by the Zhou Guangzhao Foundation, where Chung serves as Council President.

This is the first time in the history of the Endowed Professorships Scheme that an Endowed Professorship has been named after an academic in Mainland China. Professor Zhang Fuchun, the head of HKU's Department of Physics, has been named the inaugural holder of the Zhou Guangzhao Endowed Professorship.

For the Zhou Guangzhao Foundation, the occasion is also a milestone, the first time that the Foundation has given an award to a Hong Kong recipient.

今年三月，一個乍暖還寒的下午，八十一歲的周光召教授專程造訪香港大學校長府邸。在港大百周年之際，為表彰中國著名物理學家周光召教授的卓越成就，得工業家鍾健國博士慷慨支持，周光召基金會在港大新設「周光召基金教授席（自然科學）」。周教授乃傑出的基本粒子物理學家、中國科學院前院長，對周光召基金來說，成立此明德教授席具有特殊意義，這是基金會首次資助在中國內地以外的項目，也是該基金自2006年成立以來最大額的一項資助。接受該明德教授席的是港大物理學系主任及講座教授張富春，他也曾聽過周光召教授講課，此次藉明德教授席又再締結兩人的緣分。

當日出席的也包括大學教育資助委員會主席史美倫、教育局常任秘書長謝凌潔貞，以及港大的其他中國科學院院士和學者。在這簡單而溫馨的聚會裡，徐立之校長宣布成立「周光召基金教授席」：「明德教授席首次以中國著名科學家命名，這是港大的光榮。港大至今已成立共54項明德教授席，希望朝著一百席的目標邁進。」

周光召教授於1995年獲香港大學頒授科學榮譽博士銜，自此和港大結緣。他有感多年來港大推動研究發展、培養人才不遺餘力，遂決定乘港大百周年的契機，設立明德教授席。他向來賓推崇獲委任的張富春教授，在超導體研究成就傑出，更笑言：「他應向諾貝爾進發！」



Professor Zhou Guangzhao
周光召教授

“We are extremely honoured that such a prominent scientist and scholar as Zhou Guangzhao joins us today, and that the foundation that carries his namesake grants us this Endowed Professorship,” said Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, Vice-Chancellor of The University of Hong Kong. “We are proud that we have 54 Endowed Professorships and we are aiming at creating 100 Endowed Professorships, and I am gratified that we are moving towards our goal.”

The Zhou Guangzhao Professorship in Natural Sciences is the 54th Endowed Professorship at HKU. This year marks the fifth inauguration ceremony of the Scheme, which now also includes three Distinguished Visiting Professorships. Inside the University Lodge, a stately Art Deco-styled house, Zhou was accompanied by Chung; Vice-Chancellor Lap-Chee Tsui; Professor Zhang Fuchun; and honoured guests including the University Grants Committee (UGC) Chairman, Laura Cha; the Permanent Secretary for Education of the Hong Kong Government, Cherry Tse; and academicians from HKU and members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, all of whom celebrated the occasion with a toast.

Zhou is no stranger to HKU; he was awarded an honorary degree in science from HKU in 1995. “Since then I’ve seen how far the University has come in terms of its talent and research, and I wanted to present the award in this very special Centenary year for HKU,” Zhou said.

港大建校百年，捐獻以回饋社會的傳統，為港大奠下基業，也為高等教育立下楷模。港大於2005年開展計劃，明德教授席是大學授予校內學者的崇高榮譽。每項教授席所獲捐款最少為一千萬港元，香港大學以等額配對，成立至少二千萬港元的永久基金，基金的投資收益用作支持該教授的研究經費。至今共設立了54項教授席，包括三項傑出客座教授席，永久基金累積達十億元。

徐立之校長參考北美經驗，建立以捐款支持卓越研究的模式，籌備三載，港大終於在2005年舉行首屆明德教授席就職典禮。至今年四月，典禮已是第五屆，受惠學院範疇也由醫學、工程、經濟、牙科及社會科學，逐步延伸至人文及自然科學。今年，除理學院首獲頒授四項明德教授席外，大學預期不久將來，建築學院及教育學院將也受惠於明德教授計劃。專責大學發展的副校長周肇平教授，對代代相傳的捐獻傳統，感受尤深：「每一份捐贈，都代表一份心意，是感恩也是祝福。這也是大學對社會的承諾、對世界的承擔。」

捐贈者在不同範疇設立教授席，當中有的為紀念前人，也有以夫婦、家族成員命名，甚至以佚名捐獻，都是懷抱惠澤社群的美好願望。其中約三分之一捐贈者為港大校友。教授席涵蓋醫療、佛學、法律、社會工作、人文、科學等，標誌著對社會的深遠影響，如治療癌症、推動社區健康、環境保育、文化研究、開展課程、長者計劃、房屋政策、憲法研究 肯定了港大在學術上的領導地位。

每年四月的明德教授席就職典禮，捐贈者和履任教授一起出席在陸佑堂舉行的盛典。譚華正基金牙科醫學教授西門雅慨

「明德教授席首次以中國著名科學家命名，這是港大的光榮。港大至今已成立共54項明德教授席，希望朝著一百席的目標邁進。」

徐立之校長

“We are extremely honoured that such a prominent scientist and scholar as Zhou Guangzhao joins us today ... we have 54 Endowed Professorships and we are aiming at creating 100 Endowed Professorships”

Lap-Chee Tsui, Vice-Chancellor

Zhou lauded the Zhou professorship holder, Professor Zhang, for his work on superconductivity. “I have all the faith in Professor Zhang’s research and fully encourage him to go for the Nobel,” Zhou said to the roomful of academics and scholars.

HKU is in many respects a pioneer in philanthropy in higher education. While historically-named professorships have always been a part of HKU’s legacy of giving, the

(Lakshman Samaranayake), 道出了背後的精神：「每位明德教授，都是歲月長河中手持火炬接力的一員，戰戰兢兢、一棒一棒的，繼承和延續這薪火。」


大學為表謝意，向每一位捐贈者致送鑄有教授席全名的「明德椅」。明式設計的酸枝椅，刻有港大校徽校訓「明德格物」。

「明德教授計劃，是對學者的肯定和鼓舞，也是大學追求卓越的使命。」徐立之校長說。



(from left) Dr Chung Kin-Kwok, The Hon Laura Cha, Mrs Chung Kin-Kwok, Professor Zhou Guangzhao, Professor Zhang Fuchun, Professor Lap-Chee Tsui and Mrs Cherry Tse

(左起) 鍾健國博士、史美倫女士、鍾健國夫人、周光召教授、張富春教授、徐立之校長、謝凌潔貞女士



“I realise indeed that I am merely a transient holder of the torch of the Endowed Professorship, to be passed on to those who follow me for years to come”.

*Lakshman Samaranayake
Tam Wah-Ching Professor in Dental Science*

Endowed Professorships Scheme remains novel in Hong Kong. Currently, a minimum of a HK\$10 million donation is matched dollar for dollar by the University to create a permanent endowment, and the interest from the fund goes to the professor to support their research and teaching initiatives.

“This is really a win-win combination where the donor wants to see the maximum impact, and it is in a field we were going to invest in ourselves. Immediately the impact is doubled,” said Tsui, who introduced the idea to HKU in 2003.

This April marks the fifth inauguration event within HKU’s Endowed Professorships Scheme, a model of fundraising in higher education that allows donors to give in the form of a professorship in the direction of research as an alternative to the traditional mode of bricks and mortar. There are now 54 Endowed Professorships including three Distinguished Visiting Professorships, which fund visiting professors and promote academic exchange.

The Scheme is an essential component of a top university’s DNA – a significant investment in learning and discovery, which ultimately contributes to the University’s legacy in research and philanthropy.

Holders of the professorships understand the weight of the honour and their impact has been seen in the research produced and the initiatives introduced, some of which are shared in the pages to come. “That person becomes a custodian of that area of development, we are entrusting

that person to do that. So it’s not just a recognition, it’s a mission too,” Tsui said.

Reflecting and Celebrating

This year the Endowed Professorships Scheme welcomes 11 new chairs in disciplines such as mathematics (Edmund and Peggy Tse Professorship in Mathematics), and stem cell biology and regenerative medicine (S Y and H Y Cheng Professorship in Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine). In addition, HKU celebrates the debut of the Sin Wai-Kin Distinguished Visiting Professorship in the Humanities, which is the third distinguished visiting professorship to date.

The roster of awardees is a mix of seasoned scholars and rising stars.

As of March 2011, the fund was worth over HK\$1 billion and notably about a third of the donors are alumni, proof that the Scheme attracts and fosters a tradition of giving. “The heritage of giving in a family extends to a heritage at the University, and comes full circle when the research and projects that it funds gives back to society,” said Professor S P Chow, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for institutional advancement. Some of the Endowed Professorships have been bestowed by families who named the chair in memory of great grandparents, grandparents, parents or siblings, or a spouse, while some chose to remain anonymous.

Each Endowed Professorship also comes with an impact story, whether it is funding research staff and resources to assist in the discovery of a new treatment for cancer,

promoting community health campaigns, preserving the heritage and history of the Chinese language, launching a community project for the elderly, designing University courses on how government policy directly impacts housing, or examining emerging areas such as jurisprudence in law, and organising international conference, which shows that HKU is at the forefront of research and teaching.

Looking Forward

April is always a special month for the Endowed Professorships Scheme as holders and their respective donors are honoured at the cap and gown ceremony held at the celebrated Loke Yew Hall. The pomp and circumstance and the growing procession of colourful gowns and tassels are a tribute to how far the Scheme has come and a reminder of its potential. Holders of the special honour understand that

the only thing guaranteed is their passion and commitment to using the funding for research and discovery.

“I realise indeed that I am merely a transient holder of the torch of the Endowed Professorship, to be passed on to those who follow me for years to come,” Professor Lakshman Samaranayake, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, said when he was named the Tam Wah-Ching Professor in Dental Science at the 2010 dedication ceremony. Samaranayake’s speech speaks directly to the heart and soul of the Scheme.

In the end, the presence of the Endowed Professorship commemorative chair, which is presented to each new donor, serves as a reminder that while the holder of each Endowed Professorship at times changes and research areas evolve with society’s transformations, the spirit of discovery and exploration and the joy of giving is timeless.