

## 方潤華博士 Dr FONG Yun-Wah

The dimensions of Dr Fong Yun-Wah's long life may be measured by the numerous causes he has championed, the organizations he has supported and the honors he has garnered. Now in his golden 86th year, Dr Fong simply wants to be known to the world as a 'servant of society' — bent on serving his community and humanity. In a life framed by service, he aspires, above all, to being an inspiration to teachers, students and the younger generation.

The Fong Yun-Wah story began in earnest more than half a century ago when he made his first donation to education in Dongguan in 1956, an act of charity frowned upon by the colonial authority of the day. During the war, he witnessed daily the suffering and starvation of his fellow citizens in Hong Kong. This planted in him the seeds of his personal compassion to help the needy, and to relieve suffering wherever he finds it. His own secondary education was interrupted by the war. This explains his passionate support of educational causes over the years. It also instilled in him a patriotic fervor and a belief that individual dignity is predicated on national dignity.

Nearly every level of education in Hong Kong has benefited from Dr Fong's and his family's generosity. From his Hong Kong base, his support of education spreads north, establishing dozens of schools in various parts of the Mainland, including his ancestral township in Guangdong Province. More recently, he financed the setting up of computer centers on the Mainland, especially in the remote northwestern areas of the country, so that geography would not be a hindrance to being plugged in for the economically disadvantaged. His spirit of generosity encompasses the Greater China donation circle, as he calls it, including a university in Taiwan. In doing good, he has never sought any leverage from any authority. Respect shadows him wherever he extends his helping hand.

Dr Fong has a special fondness for HKUST, which is demonstrated time and time again over the past 14 years. In 1997 he supported the building of a walkway between student halls. The Fong Shu Fook Tong Foundation also funded a scholarship to help recruit outstanding Mainland undergraduate students for our Business School. In 2008 he gave the university a replica of the Armillary Sphere to educate the young about the scientific achievements of the ancient Chinese. Last year, he made a multi-year pledge for the establishment of the Fong Shu Fook Tong Foundation Mainland Internship Program. And this year, to mark our 20th Anniversary, he successfully lobbied for an asteroid to be named after HKUST.

From education, his support in recent years has turned to healthcare and medical research, from the setting up of a breast cancer research center at the Sun Yat-sen University to the funding of research at the University of Hong Kong for the prevention of infection of fetuses by HIV-positive parents.

方潤華博士,事業上出類拔萃,仁風廣被,備受讚譽。方博士現值86歲之齡,他只希望世人視他為一位熱心服務人群的「社會工作者」。他秉持「非以役人 乃役於人」的理念,矢志為老師、學生和年青一代帶來啟廸和鼓舞。

方潤華早在半個多世紀前便已熱心公益,於1956年 首次對東莞的教育事業作出捐獻,令當時殖民地政府有 所不滿。早在戰亂期間,他每天目睹同胞歷盡苦難,飽 受饑餓煎熬,培養出悲天憫人、扶助貧弱的情懷。由於 戰亂關係,他無法完成中學學業,致使他多年來熱心教 育事業。戰亂激起了他的愛國熱情,使他相信個人榮辱 乃繫於國家尊嚴。

方博士和家人的善心,惠及香港教育界。方博士更以香港為基地,北上支持教育事業,在內地興辦數十所學校,包括他在廣東省的家鄉。最近,他在中國內地,特別是偏遠西北部,贊助多間電腦中心的工程,讓貧困人士不致因地域阻隔而失去接觸外界的機會。他的樂善精神遍及大中華,包括台灣的大學。他行善從不依仗權貴,在各地都同樣受到尊重。

方博士對香港科技大學厚愛有加,過去14年間他一直大力支持大學發展。1997年,他資助興建連接學生宿舍的行人道,而方樹福堂基金也設立獎學金,協助科大商學院招收內地傑出本科生。2008年,他向科大捐贈一座仿照渾天儀的藝術裝置,向年青人宣揚中國古代的科學成就。去年,他承諾設立為期多年的「樹華內地實習計劃」,連續多年為學生提供到內地實習的機會。今年,為慶祝科大20周年紀念,他成功爭取以香港科大為一顆小行星命名。

近年來,他的善舉由教育領域擴展至醫療及醫學研究,包括於中山大學設立乳癌研究中心,以及提供經費幫助香港大學研究如何避免愛滋病患者將病毒傳給胚胎。

儘管方博士未受高深教育,但他對科技有濃厚的興趣,特別鍾情於航天科學,因而向中國著名火箭發射中心西昌的一所小學提供捐助。他還呼籲增加科研經費。 方博士認為,偉大的大學不在於其建築硬件,而是取決於是否擁有優秀人才。他熱切期望看到大中華地區有一所真正匯聚全球領導精英的頂尖大學,並在世界穩佔領導地位。方博士認為,中國未來取決於科技,而香港科 Despite his educational deficits, Dr Fong has a robust interest in science and technology, with a special soft spot for aeronautics, having donated a primary school at China's famous rocket launch center at Xichang. He has called for greater support for research funding to science and technology. To Dr Fong, a university's greatness is not in its buildings, but in having a critical mass of tip-top talents. It is his one fervent wish to see the emergence of a top-ranked university in Greater China that is truly global in its leadership. China's future greatness, in Dr Fong's view, lies in the state of its science and technology, for which HKUST is a frontrunner. He has nothing but high praise for this up-and-coming university, now ranked first in Asia after only 20 years. This dream of national academic greatness is the new focus for his financial goodness.

His history of generosity notwithstanding, Dr Fong believes that good deeds should not be solely measured by money. For years, he has been spending part of his day compiling newspaper clippings for Mainland schools, while setting aside 10% of his business earnings towards underwriting worthy causes. He has published two books for the moral education of the young, a distillation of his wisdom from years of living, reading and learning. Over his long life, he has followed the dictates of his conscience, embracing modesty, not the profit motive, while maintaining a keen interest in social issues critical to the healthy development of society.

Much good has been done through the Fong's Family Foundation, and its Fong Shu Fook Tong Foundation, named in honor of his late father. Notably, Dr Fong was the Principal Director of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and Chairman of Po Leung Kuk, the venerated advocacy agency for orphans. He has earned all the honors there is to be earned, from a Silver Bauhinia Star from the Hong Kong SAR government to an MBE by the Queen, a Gold Medal from the University of California at Berkeley, to honorary doctorates variously from the University of Victoria in Canada, the Russian Academy of Sciences Far Eastern Research Center and The University of Aberdeen in the UK. Finally but not exhaustively, he was awarded honorary citizenships all the way from Plains in Georgia, Corpus Christi in Texas, Winnipeg in Canada, not to mention his own native town. He was bestowed the honor of Top Ten National Poverty Alleviator at its 4th Award Ceremony. His long list of honors is as international as it is multifarious. But there is one personal and private honor he truly cherishes in his heart — the longevity of his marriage. This year, he celebrates the 66th year of his marriage to the love of his life. To spend quality time with his ailing spouse, he has even sacrificed his beloved golf game. This is the kind of man we honor today: loyal, giving and universally caring. He can indeed wear the title of 'society's servant' with modest pride and inner satisfaction.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, on behalf of the Council of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, I have the high honor of presenting to you Dr Fong Yun-Wah, Chairman of the Hip Shing Hong Group, for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

技大學正是科技領域的先驅。他對科大讚譽有加,對大學 成立僅20年便成為亞洲第一學府,感到欣慰。他最新的 慈善資助目標,就是幫助國家取得非凡的學術成就,一 圓他的夙願。

方博士行善多年,相信善舉應超越金錢界限。多年年來,他每天花時間為內地學校彙集剪報,並將業務收入的百分之十投入他認為有意義的活動。他出版了兩本以年青人為對象的德育培養專書,分享多年來他從生活、閱讀和學習中所累積得到的智慧。他一生憑良心行事、謙遜自持、不為利益所動,並對影響社會健康發展的社會問題十分關注。

方博士透過方潤華基金及紀念其先父的方樹福堂基 金,廣施善心。方博士曾任東華三院首任總理,也是以 保赤安良為宗旨的保良局主席。他獲得的榮譽來自全球 各地,而且十分多元化,包括香港特別行政區政府的銀 紫荊星章、英帝國員佐勳章,以至加州大學柏克萊分校 的金章、加拿大維多利亞大學的榮譽博士、俄羅斯科學 院遠東研究中心的榮譽博士、英國阿巴甸大學的榮譽博 士等,此外他更獲美國喬治亞州平原市、德克薩斯州基 斯德市、加拿大溫尼伯市以及其家鄉頒發榮譽市民稱號 及榮獲第四屆全國十大扶貧狀元。不過,他心中珍如拱 壁的榮耀,還是他歷經多年、恩愛逾恒的美滿婚姻。今 年,他與愛妻慶祝結婚66周年紀念。為爭取與妻子共聚 的時間,他甚至放棄了至愛的高爾夫球運動。今天,我們 表揚方潤華博士忠厚摯誠、樂善好施,彰顯大愛精神。 他以「社會工作者」自居,並以此得到無比滿足,引以 爲傲。

副監督先生,本人謹代表香港科技大學校董會,恭請閣下頒授榮譽大學院士予協成行集團主席方潤華博士。