



余同希教授
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About to turn 80, Prof. YU Tongxi shows no sign of slowing the phenomenal work rate that has cemented his status as an internationally renowned authority on Impact Dynamics and Plasticity. The jewel in the crown of Prof. Yu's lifelong dedication to research and education, his creative and influential research papers are still cited a thousand times annually by his academic peers.

Born in China's Sichuan Province in 1941 to a family of educators – his father was a college president and his mother a teacher – Prof. Yu seemed destined to enter academia from day one. Encouraged by his parents to study science after he was awarded a prestigious mathematics prize at the age of just 15, Prof. Yu was admitted to Peking University's Department of Mathematics and Mechanics in 1958, eventually going on to study solid mechanics at postgraduate level.

The coming of the Cultural Revolution caused Prof. Yu to spend the next decade serving as an army-farm laborer, and later a factory worker. Sustained by his academic passion and always determined to put a positive spin on life's upheavals, he credits the latter experience as giving him valuable first-hand insights into mechanical engineering.

After the socio-political movement ended, Prof. Yu passed China's National Examination and was able to study overseas. He then re-embarked on his academic journey at the University of Cambridge and earned a PhD degree in Engineering Plasticity in 1983. He subsequently carried out further research into Impact Dynamics at Brown University in the US.

In 1984, Prof. Yu returned to China as Professor of Mechanics at his old alma mater, Peking University. His distinguished record of original research later led to an offer to become a Reader in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology from 1991 to 1995. 1995 was also the year Prof. Yu embarked on his long career with the then fledgling HKUST. After serving as Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, he went on to hold various key senior positions such as Associate Vice-President (Research & Development).

Throughout his pioneering 40 years of research, Prof. Yu has been pivotal in transforming the formerly niche topic of Plasticity and Impact Dynamics into a major

身為國際著名的衝擊動力學及塑性力學泰斗，年近八旬的余同希教授仍然工作如常，步伐從未停下。他畢生致力於科研與教育，成就斐然，其別具創見的研究論文珍如瑰寶，至今仍然每年獲同儕引用逾千次，影響力毋庸置疑。

余教授1941年末生於中國四川，父親乃戲劇學院院長，母親亦為人師，春風化雨。出身書香門第，他生來似乎已跟學術結下不解之緣；年僅十五，他已奪得上海市中學生數學競賽獎項，更增強了獻身科學的夙願。他於1958年入讀北京大學數學力學系，隨後繼續修讀研究院課程，專攻固體力學。

文革中，余教授先是被下放到部隊農場勞動鍛鍊，其後被分配到三線工廠當工人，共歷十載。面對突如其來的人生跌宕，余教授始終積極面對，一直沒有忘記致力學術的初心。回首往日，當年在工廠勞動的艱苦歲月也不失為親身接觸機械工程的寶貴機會。

文革結束，余教授通過國家考試，得以負笈海外，在劍橋大學重啟學術旅程。他在1983年以工程塑性力學領域的出色研究完成博士學位後，轉赴美國布朗大學，繼續從事衝擊動力學領域的研究。

1984年，他重返母校北京大學，擔任力學系教授七年；之後憑著卓越的原創研究，獲英國曼徹斯特理工大學聘任，於1991至1995年出任機械工程系教授。1995年，余教授加入當時創校未久的香港科技大學，擔任講座教授暨機械工程學系系主任，後來出任協理副校長(研究及發展)等多個重要職位，服務科大多年。

余教授投身創新研究四十載，對工程塑性力學和衝擊動力學的發展作出了國際領先的貢獻。他把科技應用於不同層面，他參與的研究影響深遠，小如工地安全帽，大至交通安全、太空探索與核能發電，皆可見其身影。他啟迪了眾多科研人員，對有

Engineering sub-discipline. Protective helmets, transportation safety, space programs and nuclear plants are just a few of the far-reaching applications Prof. Yu has helped to advance. The inspiration for numerous researchers, his textbooks and scientific monographs remain essential reading for all students and researchers following in his footsteps.

Prof. Yu received numerous academic accolades throughout his long and distinguished career. Notable examples include Cambridge University's Doctorate of Science in 1995, and the prestigious China Higher Education Science and Technology Award (First Class) in 2001.

The highlight of Prof. Yu's quarter-century service at HKUST is undoubtedly the establishment of the HKUST Fok Ying Tung Graduate School (FYTGS) in Nansha, Guangzhou in 2007. Having to integrate both the Mainland and Hong Kong educational systems and build a brand-new institute in the Mainland from scratch, the project posed not only academic but also administrative and financing challenges.

As the founding Dean of FYTGS, Prof. Yu led a team to identify and implement effective lobbying and communication strategies. Greatly appreciated by his colleagues, Prof. Yu's devotion has seen FYTGS go from strength to strength. In the 14 years since its inception, the School has initiated ground-breaking research projects spanning everything from engineering and computer science to environmental modeling and Chinese culture. Prof. Yu's leadership has laid a solid foundation for the sustainable long-term development of HKUST's postgraduate education and knowledge transfer activities in both Hong Kong and the Mainland.

Despite having retired in 2010, Prof. Yu continues to publish paper after paper in respected journals and regularly accepts his academic peers' requests to leverage his expertise. He continued to serve different roles such as Senior Advisor to the President, Senior Advisor to the Vice-President for Research & Development, and Acting Dean of Engineering after his retirement, and is currently HKUST's Professor Emeritus in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

It is our great pleasure to honor Prof. Yu for his lifelong commitment to education and research and for guiding promising youngsters new to his field of expertise. We are also delighted to recognize his dedication in helping HKUST nurture emerging scientific and engineering talents whose innovative research will eventually benefit all mankind.

志鑽研相關學問的學生及研究員而言，他所編寫的教材與科學專著，至今仍是必讀之選。

在悠長的學術研究生涯中，余教授成就傑出，屢獲褒獎，包括於1995年獲劍橋大學頒發科學博士（榮譽）學位，以及於2001年獲頒中國高校科學技術獎（一等獎）。

余教授服務科大四分之一世紀，期間經歷精彩的一頁，就是2007年受命擔任創院院長，在廣州南沙成立霍英東研究院。要在內地由零開始，建立一所融合內地與香港制度的新型研究學院，除了要應對學術和技術上的挑戰，更需在行政及財務問題上披荊斬棘。

面對難關，余教授帶領團隊，進行有效的遊說及溝通協調工作。他竭盡所能，全力以赴，領導霍英東研究院茁壯成長，其努力深得同儕敬重尊崇。該院創立十四年來，持續開展各類創新研究，從工程學、計算機科學、環境建模以至中華文化，無所不包。余教授所付出的努力與汗水，為香港科大在內地發展研究生教育，以及推動知識轉移積累了寶貴的經驗。

余教授於2010年榮休後，依然著作不斷，接連發表專著和學術期刊論文，也定期應學術同儕邀請分享心得。他退休後曾出任校長資深顧問、副校長（研究及發展）資深顧問及工學院署理院長等不同職位；現為科大機械及航空航天工程學系榮休教授。

余教授終生貢獻教研，扶掖後進，協助科大培育科學及工程人才，為世界帶來創新研究，造福人群，我們謹此衷心予以表揚。