

Honorary Fellow A Citation

Mr Lam Wai-hung Enders

In his poem *Ou Cheng Shi* (literally ‘an extempore poem’), Zhu Xi writes: Youth slips away, but learning is less of a breeze: Take not the briefest of times lightly; Barely has the dream of spring, of the meadow by the pond, begun. When the falling leaves sound the dirge of autumn. In the blink of an eye, the green grass of spring gives way to the yellow leaves of autumn. Youth comes and goes just as quickly, yet learning—growing as a person—takes time and labour. The takeaway: seize the fleeting moment, start seeking the good life when one is still young.

Born into a modest family, Mr Enders Lam has been industrious from the beginning. Upon graduating with a marketing major from United College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), he joined the watch and clock industry, which could not have been more fitting for someone as time-conscious as he is. He simultaneously knew he needed to further his studies to take his career to the next level. In 1996, he received an MBA from the University of Strathclyde, and in 2015, he was awarded an MSc from the University of Warwick. Refusing to let any of his time go to waste, he worked around the clock towards his vision of the good life. As a novice, he took part in the manufacturing and sales of watches and clocks. He excelled in every aspect, from merchandising to marketing management. In the 90s, he co-founded Time Industrial Manufactory Limited, putting his training to broader use. He built an extensive network on which his company was swift to capitalize, and with his insights into watch and clock design, he managed to pinpoint the needs of the market. Starting off with only one employee, Time Industrial grew in an instant into a cross-border manufacturer boasting a workforce

of nearly 300. In the years that followed, Mr Lam remained zealous in keeping an eye on the clock and making every minute count, taking his business to ever-greater heights.

Looking back at the start of his career, Mr Lam said, ‘As more and more orders came in, I decided to move our production line to Shenzhen in 1997, where the size of our factory grew from 7,000 square feet to 30,000.’ The market took a hit around then, but Mr Lam was not set back. He demonstrated perseverance and resilience. By participating in the Hong Kong Watch and Clock Fair and the Baselworld Watch and Jewellery Show in Switzerland, he opened up new markets and attracted buyers from all corners of the world, including the United States, Japan, France, Brazil, Argentina and India. The Disneylands in Shanghai and Hong Kong, too, came to get their brand timepieces from Time Industrial. A man of his word, a champion of his customers, a stickler for punctuality—Mr Lam is all of these and more. It was not by luck that he succeeded.

Hong Kong is home to a world-famous watch and clock industry. As of 2019, it is by value the world’s top importer of complete watches, the second largest exporter of complete watches and the fourth largest exporter of complete clocks. Since 2019, Mr Lam has been Chairman of the Watches and Clocks Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, where he has actively contributed to empowering and advancing the industry. He is an innovator, who has been encouraging his peers to adopt such disruptive technologies as 3D printing and a personalized approach to manufacturing to cater to the dynamic market. Over the years, he has established himself as the tireless flagbearer

for the trade, serving as President of the Hong Kong Watch Manufacturers Association Limited (2017–2019), rotating Chairman of China Horologe Industry Federation (2018–2019) and Honorary President of the Hong Kong Watch Manufacturers Association Limited (2019–2021). The United College Song sings: ‘Do good as others do; learning makes a person’. This line has long resonated with Mr Lam, who has given much attention to nurturing the next generation of watchmakers and boosting the industry’s productivity. Currently Vice-chairperson of the Watch and Clock Industry Training Advisory Committee of the Education Bureau, he is an advocate of vocational training, which he considers to be paramount to the sector’s long-term development. His dedication to the industry has earned him the respect of his fellow industry participants. In recognition of his contributions to the sector, he was made a Fellow of Management and Business Administration and an Honorary Fellow at the Professional Validation Council of Hong Kong Industries in 2014 and 2018.

As much as Mr Lam puts his heart and soul into building a successful career, his alma mater is always on his mind. Grateful for his education at CUHK, where he was a diligent student, he has become a frequent donor to United College, his home college. He was the year patron of the Shum Choi Sang Mentorship Programme 2019–2020 and a donor to the Ming De Xin Min Alumni Prizes. He also set up the Enders Lam Alumni Prizes and sponsored the Enders Lam College Service Prize. His giving reaches far and wide. Meanwhile, he has been an active player in University and College affairs. He has served as a member of the Council, Chairman of the Convocation, a member of the United College

Board of Trustees and a member of the Governing Board of CUHK (SZ). His efforts to move CUHK forward, be it appealing for donations from his fellow alumni or offering insights into the University’s future, have been invaluable.

Mr Chairman, let us take this opportunity to celebrate this outstanding alumnus of ours, who, understanding the transience of time more deeply than anyone else, has spared no effort at school, at work, in serving his industry and in giving back to his alma mater. His achievements are exceptional, and his generosity embodies the spirit of United College. Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present to you Mr Lam Wai-hung Enders for the Honorary Fellowship.