

Honorary Fellow A Citation



Professor Lee Pui Leung, Rance, OBE, BSSc, PhD, JP

After leaving school, Professor Rance Lee came to Chung Chi College in Shatin for further education. Since then his business at The Chinese University of Hong Kong during the past half century had included teaching, administration, courtship, propounding his views and ideas and passing them on to his disciples, writing for the academic press, and conducting empirical research. His inseparable ties with the Chinese University have thus occupied the best part of his life.

Professor Lee was admitted to Chung Chi College in 1962, and graduated in Sociology in 1965. During the course of his undergraduate years, he witnessed the founding of the Chinese University as a member of its second graduating class. Upon graduation he proceeded to the University of Pittsburgh for further studies in Sociology, and undertook research at Harvard University on social factors in mental illness. In 1968 he obtained his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh, after which he returned to his alma mater to take up a teaching position at the tender age of 25, being the youngest lecturer with a doctorate in his department at the time. The young Rance Lee, radiant in youthful exuberance, was an eloquent discourses, and his lectures were inspiring. He worked hard at research, and never lacked innovative ideas, always bringing gushes of fresh air and new energy into the Sociology Department of the Chinese University, and into sociological studies in Hong Kong at large. In 1975 he was promoted to senior lecturer, and appointed reader in 1980. In 1984, he was elevated to the Chair Professor of Sociology.

Professor Lee is a diligent and meticulous scholar who also publishes prolifically. Faithful to the tradition of empirical sociology, he specializes in sample surveys and quantitative analysis. He has published eight specialist volumes and over a hundred papers on a diverse variety of subjects. These include (1) the development of traditional and modern medical and health services; (2) the socio-cultural factors affecting the mental health of the Chinese, and the Chinese ways of dealing with social stress; and (3) family problems and social networking in Hong Kong and neighbouring areas. Together with his colleague and good friend, Professor Ambrose King, Professor Lee has been instrumental in advancing sociological research in Hong Kong, and made valuable contribution to the studies of the subject. Professor Lee's efforts are particularly pioneering in the study of the sociology of medicine and health, and in survey research and analysis in this particular area.

Professor Lee has been active in helping to rebuild sociology as an academic discipline on the mainland and, since the reforms that opened up the country began in 1978, he has been frequently invited by major universities and research institutions on the mainland to lecture on sociology and social research methods, to give seminars, and to assist various universities in re-establishing their sociology departments and training their postgraduates. Today countless pupils of Professor Lee are found in various universities or in government agencies in mainland



China, offering their contribution to society with what they have learnt. Professor Lee has been invited by a number of academic institutions to serve as a consultant, honorary research fellow or a visiting professor such as Fudan University in Shanghai, Zhongshan University in Guangzhou, Jilin Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, and the Heilongjiang Province Institute of Social Science.

Professor Lee is also an avid participant in the international academic arena, having been the secretary-treasurer of the Steering Board of the Research Committee on Sociology of Medicine/Health, International Sociological Association, a Member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia, and an International Advisor to the Institute of Environment, Health and Development for the Asia-Pacific at Griffith University in Australia, etc.

Professor Lee specializes in medical sociology, and he puts the fruit of his study and research to good use in society. He was involved in a large number of medical, health and social service projects, including the Health Services Research Committee, the Council for the AIDS Trust Fund, the Human Reproductive Technology Council, the S.K. Yee Medical Foundation, the Social Welfare Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee on Social Work Training and Manpower Planning, The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, and The Society of Rehabilitation and Crime Prevention. Professor Lee also participated in the Central Policy Unit, the District Council, the Police Education and Welfare Trustee Committee, the Release Under Supervision Board, the Chinese Christian Universities Alumni Association, the Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fund Council, the Statistics Advisory Board, and the Research Grants Council. He also supported the social science teaching and research development programmes of other tertiary institutions including Baptist University, Lingnan University, Open University and Shue Yan University. In 1992 Professor Lee was appointed a Non-official Justice of the Peace by the Governor, and in 1997 he received the Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire from the Queen of the United Kingdom.

Those who are proficient in learning, govern. Professor Lee has taught at the Chinese University for more than 40 years, and during this long career of teaching and research, he has also shouldered many administrative appointments. He was the director of the Social Research Centre, the director of the Institute of Social Studies, the dean of Social Science, the chairman of the Department of Sociology, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Physical Education, the director of Part-time Degree Studies, the chairman of the Management Committee of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, the chairman of the Committee on the Universities Service Centre for China Studies, the chairman of the Advisory Board of Continuing and Professional Studies, a member of the Steering Committee on Campus Master Planning and the Planning Committee for Wu Yee Sun College, as well as a member of the University Council. During the decade between 1994 and 2004, Professor Lee was Head of Chung Chi College, and in that capacity he promoted with great enthusiasm a series of cultural and manpower training programmes for students. He also directed a lot of energy and effort to improvements



in campus landscaping, building bridges and paths, and causing the Lake *Ad Excellentiam* to be excavated. He sought to enhance solidarity among academics and students, and promoted the sense of loyalty of the College's alumni. All these were done in manifestation of the holistic and humanistic education that is at the heart of the College spirit. All these outstanding achievements have prompted the University authorities to persuade Professor Lee, after his retirement, to give his views and opinions on the planning work for the Wu Yee Sun College, and then to be the Master-Designate of the College. It is anticipated that, with his great wisdom and experience, Professor Lee will help move the collegiate education of the Chinese University forward, and to launch a new phase of development.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong occupies a campus backed by the hills and looking towards the sea. It is a propitious site where outstanding talent is nurtured. Professor Rance Lee had first studied at Chung Chi College which was situated at the foot of the hills. Later he worked at the Chinese University, which required him, over all these years, to travail up and down the hilly terrain of the campus. Over the years he has absorbed the essence of the celestial bodies, and gathered the benevolent vapours of the hills. To this day he is still perched on the peak, planning for and watching over the affairs of Wu Yee Sun College. He is the Chinese University's veritable "Legend in the Hills"!

Mr. Chairman, to recognize the contribution he has made to the development of Chinese sociology, and to the learned community of the world at large, and to celebrate his distinguished services to Hong Kong society and teaching and research at this University, in particular his achievements in collegiate education, may I present Professor Lee Pui Leung, Rance for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University.