

# Mr Lee Kwok-chung Simon

## Honorary Fellow Citation



Representing the concept of 'friends', the Chinese character *yǒu* is formed by combining two *yòu* characters, symbolising a connection between individuals. This meaning is beautifully depicted in *Shuowen Jiezi*, which states that 'people who interact with each other become friends'. It is truly delightful to have the presence of virtuous companions and honourable friends who share similar aspirations and noble objectives, and such a gathering calls for joyous celebration. Regarding the concept of virtuous companions, *The Analects* provides valuable insight: 'There are three types of friends that can inspire one's moral character: those who are sincere and truthful; those who uphold the highest standards of integrity; and those who possess vast knowledge'. When like-minded individuals come together, they form exceptional groups that are dedicated to the advancement of noble causes. Mr Lee Kwok-chung Simon is an exemplary individual whom we all aspire to have as a companion, one who embodies the very attributes highlighted in *The Analects*. As the President of the United College Alumni Association (UCAA) at this University, he has consistently dedicated his time and efforts in support of the honourable objectives of the Alumni Association, as well as advocating for the welfare and growth of the College. Under his leadership, UCAA has spearheaded transformative projects that have greatly benefited the entire College community, leaving an indelible mark on its history. His contributions are truly commendable and serve as an inspiration to all.

An esteemed alumnus of this University, Mr Lee graduated from the Faculty of Science majoring in biochemistry. Following the completion of his Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree, he pursued further studies in legal studies, where he obtained a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) degree from the University of London. After completing the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws programme at HKU, he started his professional journey in Hong Kong. In 1997, he became a solicitor gaining the rights of audience in the High Court of

the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Later, he established his own legal firm. Today, Mr Lee is the partner of two legal firms: Lee & So, and K.M. Tang & Co. Besides, he is also an appointed Civil Celebrant of Marriages, and a panel solicitor under the Legal Aid Department in Hong Kong. These esteemed services underscore Mr. Lee's reputation as a respected and accomplished legal professional.

A man of integrity, Mr Lee first studied biochemistry before venturing into the realm of law. Biochemistry, as a scientific discipline, delves into the intricate chemical processes within living organisms, unraveling the laws that govern nature itself. Conversely, the study of law encompasses statutory rules and regulations that govern human behavior, serving as a framework for enforcing ethical conduct in society. Be it the laws of nature or the laws that regulate human conduct, both necessitate an inquisitive mindset and a scientific approach to discern between right and wrong. Mr Lee's unique blend of scientific acumen and legal expertise equips him with a comprehensive understanding of the complexities inherent in both realms, enabling him to navigate matters of morality and legality with discernment and precision. As Mr Lee aptly pointed out, 'Biochemistry and law share commonalities as disciplines that revolve around logical thinking and the analysis of facts and pertinent issues'. Embracing this fundamental principle, he approaches his work with meticulous attention and unwavering moral rectitude. Equipped

with a wealth of professional knowledge, Mr Lee has not only served the legal profession well but has also demonstrated his desire to give back to his alma mater by actively assisting younger students through various means. It is his enthusiastic and obliging nature that has earned him the trust and admiration of his fellow alumni. Recognising his years of dedicated service to the alumni community, he was elected to several esteemed positions within the United College Alumni Association (UCAA), first as member of its executive committee and subsequently chairperson of both the executive committee and board of directors of UCAA. Through his remarkable contributions to alumni affairs, he has successfully brought together alumni from diverse backgrounds, and fostered closer collaborations between the alumni community and the College. Mr Lee's efforts have greatly enhanced the sense of camaraderie and cooperation among United College alumni, leaving a lasting impact on the institution and its graduates.

A trusted friend to all, Mr Lee said he was profoundly influenced by numerous senior alumni during his tenure of service at the UCAA. These esteemed individuals exemplified values such as hard work, dedication, and integrity, which promoted a timeless sense of trust and partnership among the alumni community. Mr Lee has the privilege of serving together with many of these senior alumni at the UCAA. According to him, these exceptional role models within the UCAA have

played an instrumental role in shaping his character, instilling in him a profound sense of belonging and connectedness to the College. Their influence has helped transform him into a servant leader committed to serving both his alma mater and the community at large. Upon reflecting on his career journey, Mr Lee once expressed, 'During the early stage of my career, I had the good fortune of learning from the exemplary conduct of senior alumni such as Dr Thomas Cheung Huen-cheong, who carefully chaired and guided each and every alumni committee meeting to solve issues and problems in hand with sincerity and integrity. His forthright approach and ability to lead by example have been invaluable sources of inspiration and learning opportunities for all. Another remarkable individual within the UCAA is our esteemed senior comrade, Mr Ho Man-sum. His vibrant energy and selfless dedication to alumni affairs serve as a guiding beacon for all alumni.' These warm and affable individuals have not only been Mr Lee's cherished companions but have also set lofty goals for him to aspire to in all facets of his life, including alumni work. Despite his demanding legal commitments, Mr Lee generously allocates a significant portion of his time in alumni work at CUHK. At the College level, he has played a pivotal role in spearheading various projects that have proven immensely beneficial to students. Among these initiatives are the Shum Choi Sang Mentorship Programme and the United College Summer Internship Scheme. Guided by the belief that 'life influences life', he ardently hopes

that students will cultivate a positive outlook towards life through the impactful actions of alumni and the transformative programmes driven by the UCAA. A resident of Adam Schall Residence (ASR) recalled in an interview a few years ago that Mr Lee, then chairman of the resident association of ASR, was instrumental in organising the inaugural singing contest between male and female residents of the student hostel. The event may seem trivial, but the dedication and enthusiasm invested in its organisation served as a powerful source of inspiration for, and promoting collegiality among, all resident students on campus. This remarkable new initiative within the resident halls underscored Mr Lee's entrepreneurial spirit and unwavering commitment to the welfare of residents. The singing contest, with continued support and encouragement from Mr Lee even when he stepped down from the chairmanship of the resident association, has since evolved into a cherished College tradition, passing down through generations. This exemplifies yet another powerful illustration of the principle 'life influences life', as it sows the seeds of love and collegiality in students and alumni through commendable acts of service.

Building friendship with trust and sincerity, the accomplished Mr Lee has successfully harnessed the collective efforts of alumni from various generations to better serve their alma mater and in turn the wider community. He remarked: 'A person's life should be venturesome and all embracing, and only through

practising this conviction can one truly understand societal needs and development. .... By actively engaged in alumni work, I was able to expand my social network and forge connections with individuals from diverse backgrounds. The venture also enabled me to gain valuable experiences that I could not have gained elsewhere.' Motivated by this belief, he also consistently encourages students to fully utilise the university's programmes, facilities, and experiential learning opportunities to expand their perspectives and foster connections with the larger world. Mr. Lee said, 'I firmly believe that the academic discipline at college should never limit one's future career path. With this conviction, I always encourage students I meet to actively engage in extracurricular activities to broaden their horizons and better prepare themselves for future challenges.' Quoting the adage 'If you look far and beyond, you become knowledgeable; if you shut yourself up, you become ignorant', Mr Lee urges students to embrace a mindset of exploration and life-long learning. With this mindset, Mr. Lee himself consistently seeks out life experiences beyond his professional realm. Mr Lee's own successful examples have inspired students and alumni to step outside their comfort zones and embrace new opportunities.

Since graduation, Mr Lee has consistently made numerous donations to United College, establishing scholarships and providing support for student activities, and actively encouraging fellow alumni to do the same. His

kindness has not only benefited many students but also made important contributions to the overall development of his alma mater. In addition, he spends an inordinate amount of his time in taking up various key positions within the university's important committees, including serving as the vice-chairman of both the United College Assembly of Fellows and the United College Endowment Fund Committee. Additionally, he has served as member of the CUHK Council and held the esteemed position of chairman of the CUHK Federation of Alumni Associations. Through his unwavering dedication and commitment, Mr Lee exemplifies the true spirit of giving back to the institution, and helps foster a vibrant and supportive community within the University.

Today we have the privilege of honouring Mr Lee Kwok-chung Simon, a man of great integrity and esteemed reputation. Not only is he a highly respected and erudite lawyer, but he also stands as an exemplary alumnus of United College. His visionary outlook and unwavering commitment to alumni work have made significant contributions to the advancement of his alma mater. The impact of his selfless dedication extends beyond United College to the broader development of CUHK, benefiting countless generations of students and graduates. Mr Chairman, it is my great pleasure to present Mr Lee Kwok-chung Simon for an Honorary Fellowship of the University.