

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Literature, *honoris causa* A Citation



Professor Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth, DLit (Hon), MFA

"I know not how love grows, but my love is determined and profound." A famous quotation from the immortal masterpiece *The Peony Pavilion* by Tang Xianzu, the Master of Yumingtang, and the most apt summation of the life, imbued with love and sensibility, led by Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth. Professor Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth is a novelist, an essayist, a critic, and a playwright, and has devoted his entire career to creative endeavours in literature. He writes to assert his views, promote culture, and save fast vanishing literary genres from extinction. He is firmly committed to the business that he is about, and nothing less than an absolute perfectionist. Once he has taken up a task, he spares no effort, labouring day and night until its flawless completion materialises. His commitment is, as noted before, determined and profound, and his resolve is unmovable, greatly to the admiration of all who know him.

Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth was born into an illustrious military family in Nanning, Guangxi province, in 1937. His father, the General Pai Chung-hsi, was a soldier of immense renown. General Pai was famous for the stern uprightness of his character and his military distinctions, in particular the triumphs achieved in the Battle at Longtan during the Northern Expedition against the warlords, and at Taierzhuang, a spectacular episode of the Battle of Xuzhou, a major event in the war against Japanese aggression. His mother, Madam Ma Pei-chang, was a woman of extraordinary courage and understanding, most remarkable among ladies of rank in her era. It was under the virtuous and benevolent influence of his parents that Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth grew up: his unswerving firmness of purpose and indefatigable steadfastness would have come from his father, and his passionate love for life and the living he would have inherited from his mother. With such a fine personality in which firmness is tempered by tenderness, and with the gift of a most outstanding intelligence, Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth, dedicated as he was to his studies, had the foundation of his prominent literary career laid early in his life.

In 1946 the war against Japanese aggression was won, and Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth moved to Shanghai with his family. The Pai family had a brief sojourn in Hankou and Guangzhou in 1949, and then settled in Hong Kong. Between 1950 and 1952 he was a pupil first at Kowloon Tong Primary School, and then La Salle College. He moved to Taiwan in 1952, and enrolled at Jianguo High School in Taipei. In 1956 he was admitted into the Department of Hydraulic Engineering at the Cheng Kung University, Taiwan, but his love for literature prompted him to join the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures of Taiwan University in 1957. In 1958 his first novel, *Madame Chin*, was published, and a lifelong, colourful and love-filled pilgrimage in literature commenced.

In the spring of 1960 Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth joined his fellow-students Ouyang Tzu, Wang Wen-hsing and Chen Jo-hsi in founding the magazine *Modern Literature*. The magazine evolved to be the most influential literary journal in Taiwan during the 1960's, and served both



catalytic and pioneering functions in the development of Taiwan literature. From that time on, new ground was broken on the Taiwan literary scene which admitted of no specific schools or barriers, but which welcomed with open arms young writers of good literary promise and creative potential. Many of the early works of Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth were published in *Modern Literature*, and most of the great names in the Taiwan literary community that would emerge in subsequent years had some form of association with the magazine. Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth once observed that the founding of *Modern Literature* ranked topmost among his personal literary achievements, and critics rightly recognize him as the "torch-bearer of modern literature."

In 1963 Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth went to the United States to further his studies and entered the Writers' Workshop at University of Iowa. He received his Master's degree in 1965, and then proceeded to the University of California at Santa Barbara to teach Chinese language and literature. He has since made his home there.

The literary cosmos of Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth is magnificent and expansive, and this originated from the influence of classical Chinese literature that he received in his youth, which gave him an acute sensibility for the dream-like transience of life, the unpredictability of human affairs and the fleeting passage of one's youth and prime. His migration from the mainland to Taiwan with his parents made him a first-hand witness of the mutability of affairs of the state, and the displacement of the old order by the new. The sea changes in recent Chinese history had also had tremendous impact on him, and this interacted with the influence of western civilization, after he settled down in the United States, to develop in his psyche a growing, melancholic nostalgia and an anxiety about his native country. With a timeless cosmic vision and a grey-tinted purview of human existence, he began to write *New Yorkers* and *Taipei People*, within an ethos of the integration of the Chinese and the western, and the continuation of the ancient in the modern.

The works of Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth are known for their refined diction and impeccable structure. All characters in his works, whatever their station in life, appear with the greatest vividness and verisimilitude. By deploying the techniques and spirit of modernism, Professor Pai chronicles historical happenings as well as human feelings, providing for the finest delineation as well as the grandest magnificence. Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth possesses great empathy for human feelings, and at the same time he reserves the greatest commiseration for the beauty of life. However, feelings and beauty are both transient, and can be captured only through well-wrought language which gives eternal meaning to the short-lived and the momentary.

The literary creations of Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth are distinguished by a beautiful variety. From *New Yorkers* and *Taipei People* which first earned him literary immortality, to the epic *Crystal Boys*, and the essays *Mo Ran Hui Shou (Suddenly Turning Back)*, *Even Trees Wither* and *The Sixth Finger*, and countless other writings and speeches, we find literature of a very high order that is truly worthy of the highest praise. In addition, his novels have often been adapted for



the stage, television, and the cinema, giving diversity and a three-dimensional aspect to his *oeuvre*. His influence has been extensive in Taiwan, on the mainland and in Hong Kong, as well as in other countries in the world. At present there is an ongoing and enthusiastic interest in research on Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth's works. In the past three decades the mainland saw the publication of three books, close to 200 theses and over 10 special chapters in various histories of literature dedicated to the study of Pai's works. In Taiwan there were four books, a collection of critical essays, close to a hundred critiques, and over 40 master and doctoral theses on his literary output. In 2003, Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth's achievements were crowned with the Seventh National Literature Award in Taiwan. The publication of the collected works of Professor Pai has been a thriving industry over the years, and reached its pinnacle in terms of scale and volume in 2008 with the release, by Bookzone Publications in Taiwan, of *The Complete Works of Pai Hsien-yung* – a veritable gathering of the entire family of Pai writings. The works of Professor Pai have, by now, been translated into English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Czech, Dutch, Hebrew, Spanish and Serbo-Croatian.

In 1994 Professor Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth took early retirement from the University of California to devote himself completely to creative activities and cultural promotion, in particular, that of *kunqu* opera. Since his youth, Professor Pai has been deeply charmed by *kunqu*, and on his first return to mainland China, in 1987, after a lapse of 39 years, he was much moved by the fact that *kunqu*, a literary and operatic gem which he believed to have long met its demise, was still in healthy existence. The emotional upsurge soon translated into action, and it became his avowed intent to restore and promote this art form, in which literature, dance and music are integrated into a unique and coherent whole. In 2001, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) declared *kunqu* to be the first Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. This gave fresh impetus to the efforts of Professor Pai to conserve the art form. In 2004, Professor Pai returned to Taiwan to concentrate on the production of the *kunqu* classic, *The Peony Pavilion*. Those who took part in this staging of the great work, whether the cast or the production team, were professionals of the first rate at the time. While he respected the classic, Professor Pai was not confined by its conventions and, through an appropriate and by no means excessive application of modernist techniques, he created *The Young Lovers' Edition of The Peony Pavilion*. The "intimacy and ultimacy" of love in the original were expressed in the fullest terms in this adaptation, and *The Young Lovers' Edition of The Peony Pavilion* has been staged over a hundred times in various parts of mainland China. It made its American debut in 2006, drawing packed audiences and rave reviews. In 2008 the opera was presented in a number of British cities as well as in Athens, all to very high critical acclaim. In 2009 it travelled to Singapore. By this time *The Young Lovers' Edition* has been staged 166 times worldwide and received the highest accolades wherever it went. Its appearance has touched a collective awareness deeply inherent among Chinese people all over the world, and triggered off a cultural nostalgia. At the same time it won the heartfelt appreciation and sincere praise of foreign audiences. Further to the success of *The Peony Pavilion*, Professor Pai is actively engaged in the production of *The Jade Hairpin*, another *kunqu* classic of the Ming Dynasty.



Through Professor Pai's sincere and tireless effort, *kunqu* blooms in all its radiant splendour on the world stage.

Professor Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth has maintained a long and fruitful collaboration with The Chinese University of Hong Kong. In 2000, the Chinese-English edition of *Taipei People* was published by the Chinese University Press, and Professor Pai attended the launch and gave a seminar at the University. In the Global Youth Chinese Literary Award for the New Century organised by the Faculty of Arts in 2000, 2003 and 2006, Professor Pai served as an adjudicator for the Fiction Class and gave very encouraging comments to the young participants. A DVD set recording the rehearsals and production details, right up to the 100th performance, of *The Young Lovers' Edition of The Peony Pavilion* was produced by Professor Pai and released in 2007, and the Chinese University was the beneficiary of part of the proceeds from the project.

Throughout his outstanding literary career Professor Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth never sought rest. While he has written masterpieces that are now universally revered as classics, he also demonstrated the foresight of the pioneer and, in his twenties, became the founder of *Modern Literature*, an undertaking that launched nothing less than an entire literary movement. At the age of 30 he produced the stage play *Wandering in the Garden, Waking from a Dream* and initiated an innovative style of dramatic presentation. He soldiered on, having passed his sixtieth year, by taking up the cause of *kunqu*, and the result was the restoration of this prototype of all regional operas in China to its former youth and glory. The sheer will to overcome myriad difficulties, and the selfless dedication he demonstrated in his efforts, have both been extraordinary and beyond the capability of lesser mortals. Mr Chairman, to recognise his distinguished achievements in literature, and in the revival and promotion of Chinese culture, it is my privilege to present to you Professor Pai Hsien-yung, Kenneth for the award of the degree of Doctor of Literature, *honoris causa*.

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa* A Citation



Professor Alison F. Richard, MA, PhD, DL

Few jobs in academic life can be more challenging than the Vice-Chancellorship of the great and ancient University of Cambridge. To give leadership to an institution consisting of over thirty autonomous colleges, many of them with wealth, prestige and jealously guarded traditions of self-governance going back centuries, requires a great sense of mission and purpose and more than an ordinary degree of moral and intellectual authority. The person whose achievements we are privileged to be honouring here this evening possesses these qualities in abundance. Professor Alison Richard is Cambridge University's three hundred and forty-fourth Vice-Chancellor, and the first woman to hold the position full time.

When Professor Richard took up the position in 2003, proposals for more strongly centralized governance had just been divisively and inconclusively debated and the University was millions of pounds in deficit. Putting aside the divisions, Professor Richard set about galvanizing the institution, achieving commonality of purpose and putting the University's finances on a firmer foundation. Leading from the front, she focused on the institution's core academic mission and values and defined its challenges with a clarity and firmness that has eventually carried the whole University community with her. She launched an ambitious and highly successful campaign to raise a billion pounds, centered around the University's eight hundredth anniversary in 2009. Her themes have been investment in the future of teaching and research; reform in the sphere of intellectual property; the elimination of social disadvantage in undergraduate admissions; an enhanced bursary scheme to assist underprivileged students with fees and living expenses; streamlined admission procedures; the creation of more international connections and greater diversity in the University population; enhanced participation of women and minorities in academic life. Professor Richard is, in short, a visionary, a reformer.

Professor Richard is personally unassuming and down to earth. She famously rides to work on a bicycle. The respect she commands comes from her achievements and her qualities of character. For her, academic leadership turns on transparency, openness to initiatives and ideas from below and the capacity to stimulate debate about the key strategic questions. When she left Yale University after 30 years' service, eight of them as Provost, the University President described her in the following terms: "In nearly nine years as Provost, Alison has inspired deans, faculty, and administrators by her unwavering commitment to excellence and her unfailing good judgment. She listens; she cares; she reflects; and she acts with a decisiveness based on both reason and compassion. She has become a master of finances, but at the core she is a leader of people. Yale is profoundly grateful for her 30 years of service, and Cambridge is fortunate beyond measure." Thus it has turned out. In recent years Cambridge is inevitably ranked among the top three or four universities in the world and the leading university in Europe. In 2007, the University was named as *The Sunday Times* University of the Year, especially for its capacity to compete with its richer American counterparts. Professor Richard has inspired a



new belief in the University of Cambridge and its future that reaches well beyond the University itself.

Professor Richard was herself educated at Cambridge, moving to the University of London to do her PhD on primate social systems among primates in Madagascar. She took up her first academic position in 1972 at Yale University, in the Department of Anthropology. In 1986 she became a full Professor and Chair of the Department. Later she served as Director of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, where she oversaw one of the most important university natural history collections in the United States. In 1994 she was appointed Provost of Yale, the pivotal leadership role beneath that of the University President, where she had great success in, among other things, strengthening Yale's financial position and expanding its academic programmes. In 1998 Professor Richard was appointed to the Franklin Muzzy Crosby Chair of the Human Environment.

The primates of Madagascar have been one of the great passions of Professor Richard's life. Every year she sets aside two weeks in which she returns to study the lemur communities on which she has done her most notable research. One fascinating characteristic of the communities she works on is that they are dominated by females. Professor Richard strenuously denies that any easy inferences can be made about human behaviour from such studies. To understand human beings, she says, you must study humans. Since 1977 Professor Richard has been significantly involved in attempts to conserve Madagascar's threatened natural heritage and to enhance socio-economic opportunities for people living in around the great forests there. She has also been involved with professional bodies and scientific advisory councils, such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). In 2005 she was appointed Officier de l'Ordre National (Madagascar).

Professor Richard has received honorary doctorates and other awards from several leading universities, which include Peking University (2004), the University of Antananarivo, Madagascar (2005), York University, Canada (2006), the University of Edinburgh (2006), Queen's University Belfast (2008), Anglia Ruskin University, UK (2008), and Yale University (2009). In 2008 she received the prestigious Addison Emery Verrill Medal from the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.

Since Professor Richard assumed the Vice-Chancellorship of Cambridge, collaborations in academic and research activities have increased significantly between Cambridge and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). In July 2006, the Vice-Chancellor of CUHK visited Cambridge and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Professor Richard. In September 2007, a 10-member CUHK delegation also led by the Vice-Chancellor visited Cambridge to explore new academic partnerships and foster ongoing collaborative research projects between the two universities. CUHK has been exploring student exchange programmes with three colleges of Cambridge. Both universities are members of the East-West Alliance, which was formed in April 2007 to explore collaborative research opportunities, foster academic exchange, and promote healthcare and care for humanity. Since 2006, CUHK has also participated in the



establishment of the International Study and Research Centre at Clare Hall, Cambridge. A Task Force on New Colleges of CUHK visited Cambridge among other places in 2006 to conduct an on-site review of different models of College education and formulated major recommendations on the formation, mission, characteristics and features of the new colleges. Based on this study, five new colleges have been established at CUHK. Professor Richard has visited CUHK on many occasions. She has also made significant contributions to the governance review of CUHK by providing valuable advice to the Council's Task Force on University Governance as a member of the Panel of External Experts.

Mr Chairman, it is my privilege to present to you Professor Alison Richard, distinguished researcher and visionary leader of one of the world's great universities, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.

This citation is written by Professor David Parker

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa* A Citation



Dr Wu Po-ko, Michael, LLD (Hon), DBA (Hon), BSME

Hong Kong has seen significant developments in tertiary education in recent years, surpassing not only many cities, but also many countries. Within this context, The Chinese University of Hong Kong has demonstrated impressive achievements during its short history of forty-five years.

Hong Kong is a city of a little more than a thousand square kilometers in area and with a population of some seven million. Yet its amazing – some might even say astounding – success in tertiary education has justifiable reasons to be proud of. Broadly speaking, such distinction may be attributed to three major factors: the efforts of academics and students, the support of the Government, and the contributions of benefactors from various quarters. Using the theatre as an analogy, the hard work of the academics and the students, and the support of the Government, are the goings-on on stage, upon which the audience focuses its attention. The donations of benefactors are backstage support, which usually happens outside the gaze of the spectators. Be that as it may, the benevolent acts of the benefactors backstage are not any less important to the performance, and play a pivotal part in the development of higher education in Hong Kong. The remarkable accomplishments of The Chinese University of Hong Kong owe themselves significantly to the benefactors who donate to the University over the years, and today we are honouring one of the most outstanding of these benefactors, Dr Wu Po-ko, Michael.

Dr Wu Po-ko, Michael is a distinguished philanthropist and entrepreneur in Hong Kong. He joined Wing Lung Bank in 1978 and was appointed as an executive director within the same year. In 1982 he was elected to the chair of the Bank's board, and held the Chairmanship and Executive Directorship until 2008. Dr Wu is a graduate of Mount Allison University and the University of New Brunswick in Canada, and a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario. Dr Wu's career is studded with honours and accolades: in 1989 his alma mater, the University of New Brunswick, conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws upon him, and in 1997 he was appointed a Guest Research Professor by the Nanjing Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. In 2005 his other alma mater in Canada, Mount Allison University, bestowed an honorary Doctor of Laws on him. In 2008 Hong Kong Baptist University presented him with an honorary Doctor of Business Administration. Currently he is a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers, a member of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, and an honorary member of the Chinese Club.

Dr Wu is an enthusiastic participant in services for the community, and has held a good number of public offices both in Hong Kong and Canada. He is a particularly keen supporter of educational enterprises. He was the Treasurer of the Council and Court of Hong Kong Baptist University from 1993 to 2006, and he also sat on the Board of Governors of Lingnan College and later the Court of Lingnan University. From 1998 to 2008, Dr Wu was a member of the Board of



Inland Revenue of the Hong Kong Government. Apart from these public services, he was also the Chairman of Wing Lung Bank Foundation Limited, and currently the Secretary of the Wu Yee Sun Charitable Foundation.

No appropriate mention of Wing Lung Bank can be made without acknowledging the late Dr Wu Yee-sun, the father of Dr Michael Wu and the founder of Wing Lung Bank. Dr Wu Yee-sun was an elder statesman in Hong Kong banking who witnessed and took part in the spectacular development of the industry. Wing Lung Bank opened on 25 February 1933 at Number 37, Bonham Strand East, Central, with a capital of HK\$44,500. Its initial businesses included money exchange, remittances, deposits, general banking between ports, trading in shares on behalf of clients, as well as dealership in gold and bonds issued in the Mainland. The bank has since grown from strength to strength and its new headquarters building, which sits astride Des Voeux Road Central and Connaught Road Central, was completed in 1973. Branches multiplied in subsequent years and, as at 31 December 2007, the assets of the bank totalled HK\$93 billion – having appreciated by over two million times in a span of 74 years. Through the dynamic growth of the bank we are shown, in the most convincing terms, the entrepreneurial spirit of Dr Wu Yee-sun and his family. As the bank celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary in 2008, the Wing Lung Bank network of branches grew to 42 and, with a staff exceeding 1,600 officers, continued to provide a full and comprehensive range of banking services. Apart from being an outstanding entrepreneur and banker, Dr Wu Yee-sun made tremendous contributions to economic and financial development in Hong Kong. He was also well known to the community as a benefactor of charities, and over the years he followed the precept that having obtained resources from the people, it is only appropriate to spend the resources on the people. His contributions and concern for the welfare of the general public made him a most endeared name among philanthropic circles.

As the son of Dr Wu Yee-sun, Dr Michael Wu followed the benevolent steps of his father, perpetuating the older man's excellent work in promoting community welfare and contributing to the common good. Over the years he has made generous donations to the educational sector for the nurture of youthful talent. During his term of office as the Chairman of Wing Lung Bank Foundation Limited and Secretary of Wu Yee Sun Charitable Foundation, Dr Wu displayed a tireless and selfless dedication – rare even among philanthropists – to the cause of providing for educational organizations, social welfare institutions and hospitals, both in Hong Kong and the Mainland. In 1995 the Wu Yee Sun Charitable Foundation generously donated towards the rebuilding of the Wu Zhongpei Memorial Hospital in Foshan City of the Shunde District. The hospital, with the donation from the Wu Yee Sun Charitable Foundation, has become the only hospital with psychiatric medicine as its principal specialization in the Shunde District, and is now a teaching hospital in the provincial network of advance medical schools in Guangdong.

In 2006 Dr Michael Wu and his family established the Wu Yee-sun Scholarship in support of research, teaching and management activities in the Nanjing Branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Such and many other initiatives make up the outstanding work that Dr Wu, the



Wu family and their charitable trusts have undertaken for the improvement of the education opportunities and the general welfare of society, much to the admiration and praise of the community.

In addition to these acts of benevolence, Dr Michael Wu, Dr Wu Yee-sun and their families have, over the years, made munificent contributions in support of the development of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and other local institutions of tertiary education. As early as 1973, the foundation for these efforts was laid by Dr Wu Yee-sun and his brothers who established the Wing Lung Bank Chinese Culture Development Fund at CUHK, through which many research and publication projects of the Institute of Chinese Studies came to be facilitated. These included the Chinese-English academic journal on translation, *Renditions*, co-founded by the late Mr George Gao and Mr Stephen Soong. Over the decades *Renditions* volumes have featured some of the most outstanding works in Chinese-English translation. The translators have come from Hong Kong, Taiwan, mainland China and overseas, and included a wide range of eminent scholars and illustrious names. The works published run the whole gamut of poetry, fiction, drama and prose, and the journal is now firmly planted as a major influence in the realms of translation and sinology. At a time when cross-cultural research and cross-cultural activities were the order of the day in the international academic community, The Chinese University of Hong Kong had the foresight to inaugurate *Renditions*, with the financial support of the Wing Lung Bank Chinese Culture Development Fund, thus establishing itself as a pioneer in the promotion of Chinese culture. The illustrious efforts of Dr Michael Wu, Dr Wu Yee-sun and the Wu family will certainly be remembered with the greatest respect and esteem by the translation and sinology communities, and the entire cultural community, for a very long time.

In the course of over thirty years, Dr Michael Wu and his family have provided incessant support to academic development at the Chinese University, and their contribution to research activities in the field of medicine has been particularly significant. In 2007, the Wu Yee Sun Charitable Foundation, in fulfilment of the worthy ideals of Dr and Mrs Wu Yee-sun, donated handsomely to endow the foundation of Wu Yee Sun College at the Chinese University in an act of tremendous benevolence.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his abiding interest and outstanding contribution to the development of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, I present Dr Wu Po-ko, Michael for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.