

Professor Ching Pak-chung

Honorary Fellow Citation



The history of this University is vividly evident through the space of its campus. Two decades ago, Professor Ching Pak-Chung (P.C.) was already a key figure in two places in the University: the Faculty of Engineering and Shaw College. Today, it is no exaggeration to say that our transformed campus has been shaped by Professor Ching in such a way that every moment we walk through a world bearing his dynamic and imaginative stamp.

For someone who has so profoundly influenced not only a Faculty and a College, but also the whole University, as well as the development of CUHK-Shenzhen, it bears a moment's thought to consider that Professor Ching did not in fact go directly from school to university. Instead he studied through practice, going out into the workforce with a position at Cable and Wireless. The British-based company was then a monopoly telecommunications supplier, and typified the city's transition from manufacturing to the service economy we see today.

At that transitional moment, the young P.C. became a trainee technician, and was pitched in to the whole range of activities in which the company engaged. Spending a few months at Kai Tak Airport, he became entranced by air traffic control and radar as they enabled the notorious experience of landing at the old airport. Visiting Stanley Point, familiarising himself with the city's first satellite receiver dishes at Earth Station, Professor Ching became fascinated by the possibilities of long-haul communication. For him, engineering was a part of the city's lived fabric before it was a course of studies.

Recommended to consider university study by an engineer from the north of England, Professor Ching studied

engineering at the University of Liverpool, receiving the highest honours and going on to study a PhD. Once again, however, there was a moment of “what might have been”, as he nearly took a job in England’s “Silicon Corridor” on graduating with his B.Eng. Fortunately, inspired by a teacher who himself wanted to learn more about signal processing, Professor Ching got to work imagining uses for technologies on which we all rely today. To stay at the University of Liverpool, it no doubt helped that his favourite sport is football, and then as now it was a great time to be a Liverpool FC fan.

The essential problems on which Professor Ching has worked relate to data compression in digital signal processing, important especially for speech. His work has focused on enabling speech for everyone, allowing us all to speak, hear, and communicate better. Far from his own family, he could understand the burgeoning appetite for technologies that enhanced communication-at-a-distance. At the same time, Professor Ching was influenced by new perspectives from living in a different culture, working to his own schedule, and developing his independence.

Professor Ching's teaching and research cover communication systems. Today, he is Director of the Shun Hing Institute of Advanced Engineering. He researches spoken

language processing, including work on the recognition of emotion in speech, and the capacity to analyse the Cantonese-English code-mixing that is so distinctive of the city. In our “AI moment” it is also worth understanding that Professor Ching's research, involving for example neural networks and machine learning, has played a part in innovations that to us may seem to have sprung out of nowhere.

Much of this work has taken place in the Faculty of Engineering at the Chinese University, where he served as both a department chair and also Dean of the Faculty. Professor Ching has been an active member of the University for more than four decades, and from the 1980s he has been part of its growth into a powerhouse of research as well as teaching. In his work, the two will always be intertwined. There is nothing like spending weeks working with your graduate students to soundproof a research lab. Such experiences produce the close relationships on which a university truly depends.

Such relationships are also evident in Professor Ching's long association with Shaw College, where he was a warden for fifteen years, before becoming College Head. At a time when it was the newest college, Shaw had an independent and highly participatory spirit, no doubt shaped in part by Professor

Ching's entrepreneurial drive. This drive also informed his role in CUHK-Shenzhen, first as Director of the CUHK-Shenzhen Research Institute, and later serving on the governing body of the CUHK-Shenzhen campus. Professor Ching had a longstanding sense that engaging society means engaging the city's natural partners in the Greater Bay Area.

Such deep connections with College and University remind us that we are fortunate that Professor Ching did not pursue his passions outside formal education. In fact, his early entry into the workforce shaped his approach to taking on roles in the University, and also shaped his understanding of its role in society. Today professors think about how their research can make an impact on the world, and lead to real societal change. Professor Ching has always had a keen belief that university research cannot be cut off from the outside world. He was a key driver in developing the University's outward-looking capacity to pitch projects and coordinate resources that make a real difference to people's lives.

This grasp of the University's role reflects Professor Ching's own personal qualities. His year working for Cable and Wireless, involved with different tasks, fostered his ability to take on diverse projects for the University. At a time when momentous changes were underway in

the educational landscape of Hong Kong, with the shift to the four year curriculum, Professor Ching became Pro-Vice-Chancellor/Vice-President with a very broad portfolio indeed. During his appointment, he was responsible for the Campus Master Plan, the development of new colleges, revamping the Hong Kong Internet Exchange and the Information Technology Services Centre, and also promoting technology transfer.

The explanation for this wide range of responsibilities was that they were all “engineering problems” in the broadest sense, and so there could be no better guide than such an eminent engineer. The whole Chinese University community today can attest to Professor Ching's ability to make sure that, in so many different domains, form follows function. Every day we unthinkingly depend on his ingenuity in designing systems that truly work for their users.

Professor Ching's ability to address just about any problem is also reflected in the range of service he has done for the city. His community work is united by an emphasis on “quality assurance”, whether as Founding Chair of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification, chairing the city's Veterinary Surgeons Board and the Nano and Advanced Materials Institute (NAMI), working on the Museum Advisory Committee, or serving

as President of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences or a panel member for the Research Grants Committee. In recognition of his community work, Professor Ching has been awarded the Bronze and Silver Bauhinia Stars.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the city as a whole have benefited immensely from the boundless energy for innovation and service shown by Professor Ching Pak-Chung. It is accordingly my great honour to present Professor Ching for an Honorary Fellowship of the University.

Citation is written by Professor David Huddart, Chair of the Department of English and Director of the Research Institute for the Humanities

Professor the Honourable Leung Mei-fun Priscilla

Honorary Fellow Citation



*To climb over the tall mountain
and cross the vast ocean
be it endless scorched earth
or desert most desolate
I still hold high my ideal
my hope
even at the cost of my last drop of energy
I still must reach the other end of the universe*

These simple and innocent lines, penned over four decades ago, foretold the story of a daring and iron-willed individual who would go on to make invaluable contributions to both country and city.

Priscilla Leung's story began in Fuk Loi Estate, Tsuen Wan, where she lived through the everyday challenges and struggles of a working-class family. Her early academic distinction, combined with her desire to receive the best education, soon won her a place at St. Paul's Co-Educational College in Mid-Levels. However, unlike many of her peers who would invariably enter the University of Hong Kong, she opted for the Chinese University of Hong Kong instead. She started off reading English Language and Literature at CUHK, but was soon hit with an existential crisis in her year of exchange at Dickinson College, USA, where she took courses in international relations, and soon discovered she could not speak as adequately about her motherland as her European peers could about theirs.

Upon her return to CUHK, Leung promptly switched to the Department of Government and Public Administration. There, inspired by her mentor Professor Chang Chak-Yan, and driven by an urge to understand China first-hand, she took

the then very bold step of heading north – to pursue postgraduate studies in law at Renmin University of China, forgoing seemingly more attractive opportunities for further studies overseas. At Renmin University, she studied with Professor Xu Chongde, one of the most prominent law professors of China and a key drafter of the Hong Kong Basic Law. Her peers were now the best and brightest of the entire country. She immersed herself in the complex realities of China, harsh in terms of material conditions, but stimulating and liberating in intellectual atmosphere. Her intimate encounters with China at the end of the first decade of reform and opening up, and her direct experience with the turbulent student movement in 1989, gave her a longer-term perspective on the country's development, and a full understanding that a huge country with a population of over a billion can only accomplish its reform through technological development and with the abundant patience, endurance and perseverance of its people.

Leung joined the Faculty of Law at the City University of Hong Kong in 1989, dedicating herself to mediating between China's socialist civil law system and the common law system since. At the beginning of her academic career, she saw the urgent need for the wider world to understand the complexities of China law. Hence, she initiated the monumental project of translating select court judgments

of China into English. The significance of the *China Law Reports*, which provided the English-speaking world access to the court judgments of China, was manifold. The reports would help the world understand how a socialist country is ruled under the rule of law, how a judicial system with Chinese characteristics works in practice, and the progress of legal reform in China. They would also promote legal research, legal education and the training of legal personnel concerning foreign matters related to China, making a critical contribution to judicial reform during China's opening up to the West. For her contributions to the project, which was completed in 1995, Priscilla Leung was honored with the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award in 2000. An important extension of the project was *Selected Edition of China Law Reports 1991-2004*, which covered additional court judgements from 1996 to 2004, many having to do with economic issues, intellectual property, real estate and cases involving foreign investors. As editor-in-chief of the English edition, Leung presented a succinct overview of Chinese legal concepts, the Chinese legal hierarchy and landmarks in legal reform since 1979.

Priscilla Leung has distinguished herself by helping the local community understand aspects of China law relevant to their concerns. She has compared in detail China's

Administrative Procedure Law and the judicial review process in Hong Kong, highlighting differences in legal concepts as well as the role of the court. She has also researched on the laws of marriage, inheritance, adoption, and intellectual property of mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, to help resolve legal cases involving the three regions. Shortly after China announced the Belt and Road Initiative in 2016, Leung helped establish the International Academy of the Belt and Road, to enhance understanding of the laws of Belt and Road countries and facilitate the setting up of dispute resolution mechanisms. She is currently an arbitrator of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission and an internationally recognized mediator, in addition to being a barrister-at-law.

Priscilla Leung's contribution to the law extends to legal education. She has been a fierce advocate for understanding the Hong Kong Basic Law in conjunction with the National Constitution of China, and the relationship between the two laws. Her monographs on the Basic Law, in both English and Chinese, have been an essential reference on the Basic Law and the tensions between Chinese and Anglo-American approaches to its interpretation. She has been a member of the Hong Kong Basic Law Committee of the National People's Congress Standing Committee since 2018.

After almost two decades of total devotion to legal practice, research and education, Leung decided to take on another role to serve the community. In 2008, she was directly elected to the Legislative Council to represent the Kowloon West constituency. She has brought her wide expertise in legal scholarship and higher education to her role as legislator, which she holds to this day. She has served as chairperson of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services and of the Panel on Education. She was instrumental in bringing about changes to the Legislative Council Ordinance and the Rules of Procedure.

Priscilla Leung's commitment and passion for the welfare of both China and Hong Kong have been admirable. She would boldly defend the nation in times of challenge even if her stance may have been unpopular at the time. She was vocal in condemning the violence and the unlawful activities carried out under the pretext of civil disobedience in 2019. She has been resolute in enhancing mutual understanding of China and the world in a trying political climate worldwide. She was a rightfully staunch defender of Hong Kong in her 2021 and 2024 video addresses to the United Nations Human Rights Council, in which she calmly, objectively, and resolutely clarified the strengths of "One Country, Two Systems" and the rationale for the Hong Kong

National Security Law.

Priscilla Leung's active engagement with the University dates back to her student days when she served as President of the United College Student Union and as Deputy Editor of the CUHK Student Magazine. Her decades of work bridging the legal traditions of China and the West is testament to the University's proud mission "to bring together China and the West". She readily responded to the University's call for service when she was invited to lecture on "The Rule of Law under 'One Country, Two Systems'" in the General Education China Programme as recently as March this year. She took the opportunity to share with the new generation of CUHK students her youthful dreams and the unconventional decisions she made, encouraging them to have the courage to strive for their dreams as well.

A well-known quote from Lu Xun, the leading figure of modern Chinese literature, sums up Priscilla Leung's career succinctly: "...the earth had no roads to begin with, but when many people pass one way, a road is made."

Citation is written by Professor Lee Hun-tak Thomas, Director of the Office of University General Education

Professor Wu Ting-yuk Anthony

Honorary Fellow Citation



The Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon, or Huangdi Neijing, stated: "The sages usually do not treat illnesses that have already developed, but rather those that have not yet arisen; they do not rectify disorder that has already occurred, but rather prevents it before it happens." This embodies the wisdom of the true sages who understand the crux of medicine and pay dual attention to both disease prevention and the development of forward-looking healthcare strategies. By pushing forward such proactive policies, public health is secured, medical governance streamlined, and future crises averted, thus laying the foundation for a flourishing and harmonious society.

Born in Hong Kong in 1954, Professor Anthony Wu Ting-yuk is a paragon of versatile expertise. In 1979, he qualified as a Chartered Accountant in the UK, earning top honors in the professional examinations. By 1985, at the age of 31, he had risen to prominence in the accounting profession, and was already the youngest partner at Ernst & Young (EY), then one of the world's Big Eight accounting firms. In 1996, Professor Wu was invited to join EY's Global Executive Board, making history by becoming the first Chinese to serve on the international board of a major accounting firm. The native son of Hong Kong has maintained unwavering loyalty to his motherland. As early as 1985, he was among the first batch of Hong Kong accountants who crossed the border, assisting in training mainland intern accountants. He also helped align mainland accounting practices with international standards, making significant contributions to the field. Today, Professor Wu is a Fellow of both the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public

Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, as well as the Honorary Chairman of the Institute of Certified Management Accountants (Australia) Hong Kong Branch.

Having excelled in the accounting field, Professor Wu extended his contributions to the broader business community. Notably, he assisted numerous mainland enterprises in listing on Hong Kong and overseas stock markets, while also helping attract multinational corporations and foreign investment to Hong Kong. As a trailblazer in the listing of H-shares and red-chip companies, he demonstrated exceptional strategic vision and business acumen, earning enduring respect from his peers. From 2010 to 2012, he served as Chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, where his exemplary leadership garnered widespread acclaim from the business community.

Having served the broader business community, Professor Wu went on to make a lasting impact through public service. In 2003, Hong Kong was struck by the SARS outbreak, which placed tremendous strain on its healthcare system. The following year,

Professor Wu was invited by then-Chief Executive Mr Tung Chee-hwa to serve as Chairman of the Hospital Authority (HA)—a position he held until 2013. Assuming leadership during the critical post-SARS recovery period, Professor Wu carried out his responsibilities with unwavering dedication and visionary leadership. Over his decade-long tenure, he revitalised the HA's financial and administrative systems while proactively strengthening public engagement. He also championed greater collaboration among healthcare professionals across sectors, significantly improving the efficiency of medical services in Hong Kong. Under his stewardship, the HA implemented timely and effective reforms that systematically enhanced public healthcare delivery. These improvements not only bolstered public trust but also earned widespread societal recognition. His outstanding contributions were commended by all three Chief Executives under whom he served.

Among his many notable accomplishments was his effective management of multiple crises during his tenure at the HA, including resolving labour union disputes and alleviating public anxiety during outbreaks

of avian flu, swine flu, and the melamine-contaminated milk scandal. His strategic foresight and exceptional leadership earned the HA widespread community recognition. A proactive advocate for healthcare innovation, he championed the integration of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) into Hong Kong's healthcare system, successfully establishing TCM clinics across all 18 districts. Known for his hands-on approach, he regularly engaged in extensive consultations with medical unions and stakeholders to improve HA services. Notably, he became the first to propose to the government the establishment of a Chinese medicine hospital — a visionary initiative that garnered profound respect. Under his leadership, the HA forged significant partnerships, signing collaboration agreements with China's Ministry of Health (now the National Health Commission) and several leading mainland hospitals. These efforts strengthened cross-border cooperation between mainland and Hong Kong healthcare sectors.

Since 2009, Professor Wu has served as a senior adviser to China's Ministry of Health and the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine. In 2010, he was appointed

to the National Healthcare Reform Committee under the State Council, chaired by Vice-Premier Liu Yandong, where he contributed expert recommendations on healthcare policy to the central government. Drawing on his extensive experience in healthcare administration, Professor Wu was the sole representative from Hong Kong invited to join this high-level advisory body.

Driven by patriotism and deep compassion for others, Professor Wu has consistently stood in solidarity with the nation during times of crisis, offering unwavering support. In the aftermath of the devastating 2008 Sichuan earthquake, he led a team of over 60 Hong Kong medical volunteers to Chengdu within a week of the disaster, dedicating themselves to emergency rescue and recovery efforts. His team performed more than 50 major amputation surgeries and initiated training programmes for mainland clinical psychologists and rehabilitation personnel to support long-term aftercare services. Beyond immediate relief, Professor Wu was the founding patron of the StandTALL Project, which raised funds to support advanced prosthetic surgeries, trauma rehabilitation, and psychological counselling, helping survivors rebuild their lives and restore

hope. Long after the disaster, the Project remained a steadfast source of support for those in need. For his distinguished contributions to earthquake relief and the Foundation's lasting impact, Professor Wu received high commendations from the central and local governments.

The sight of innocent children with faces brimming with purity but battling devastating illnesses is profoundly heartrending. Deeply moved by their plight, Professor Wu became patron of the Little Life Warrior Society in 2011, an organisation dedicated to supporting children with cancer and their families. Far more than a generous benefactor, he actively participated in the Society's activities, even putting on a Santa Claus costume to sing carols with young patients during Christmas celebrations. His genuine compassion earned him the affectionate nickname "Uncle Wu", bringing moments of joy and comfort to children during their most challenging times. Professor Wu's humanitarian commitment extended further through his founding of the Hainan Sunshine Baby Foundation, which provides critical support to families of thalassemia patients while facilitating access to advanced medical treatments. His tireless

advocacy for vulnerable children attracted support from the Run Run Shaw Foundation, enabling the expansion of this vital programme to reach even more young patients in need.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Wu quickly recognised both the potentially devastating impact of the virus on the community and the urgent need for large-scale testing. At the time, Hong Kong faced a severe shortage of testing facilities, and the then-high cost of testing, ranging from \$2,500 to \$3,500 per test, made it inaccessible to many. Taking decisive action, Professor Wu collaborated with China's National Health Commission and BGI Group to expand PCR (polymerase chain reaction) testing capacity while drastically reducing costs. Through his relentless efforts, testing capacity increased from just 2,000 tests per day in early 2020 to a scale capable of supporting the government's mass community testing programme, through which 1.7 million tests were completed within two weeks. By late 2022, the cost per test had plummeted to just \$150, making testing both affordable and widely available. Professor Wu's timely contribution proved pivotal during the critical moments of the pandemic, exemplifying the power and wisdom of early

intervention in averting crisis and restoring order before chaos escalates.

Professor Wu provided steadfast assistance on multiple fronts when the government was struggling to tackle the challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. He established efficient testing stations at border crossings, airports, quarantine hotels and residential communities, delivering fast and accurate services that strengthened the government's containment efforts. Leveraging his advisory role with the National Health Commission, Professor Wu facilitated crucial collaborations between the central government and the Hong Kong government in their joint efforts to cope with the pandemic. When there was severe shortage of masks, he coordinated donations of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) for use by public hospitals and doctors in private practice. These timely and low-key provisions brought essential relief when it was most needed, protecting not only front-line medical personnel but ultimately the entire community.

Mr Anthony Wu Ting-yuk has made outstanding contributions to Hong Kong's healthcare sector. On account of his expert

knowledge in the field, he was appointed Honorary Professor of the Faculty of Medicine at this University in 2014, having previously been conferred the title of Honorary Fellow of the School of Public Health and Primary Care within the same Faculty in 2009. In 2024, he was named Honorary Professor of the School of Chinese Medicine at Hong Kong Baptist University. His national impact on medicine has been equally significant, earning him the title of Honorary Professor from Peking Union Medical College Hospital and appointment as Distinguished Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University. For his exceptional community service, Professor Wu was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star by the HKSAR Government in 2008 and has served on the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) since 2013.

Mr Chairman, Professor Wu possesses strong expertise and has made wide-ranging contributions. He has excelled and made outstanding contributions across multiple professional domains, including accountancy, business, and healthcare. His remarkable achievements have earned him widespread recognition and acclaim in Hong Kong and across the nation. On

account of his unparalleled service to Hong Kong and steadfast commitment to societal advancement, it is my great privilege to present Professor Anthony Wu Ting-yuk for an Honorary Fellowship of the University.
