

GIVE AND TAKE

– A THANKFUL JOURNEY

*Major Achievements*

- Chairman of Harvest SCP Group Company Limited
- Council Member of The University of Hong Kong
- Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of The University of Hong Kong Foundation for Educational Development & Research
- Chairman of The University of Hong Kong Convocation Standing Committee
- Chairman of Advisory Committee, Lap-Chee College
- Chairman of Shing Cheong Charitable Foundation Limited
- Independent Non-Executive Director of Hang Seng Insurance Co. Ltd.
- Court Member of Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Honourary Chairman of Hong Kong Polytechnic University Foundation
- Member of the Board of Governors of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
- Chairman of Foundation Management Committee of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
- Charter President of Rotary Club of Hong Kong Harbour
- President of The Association of Zhong Shan Siulamese in Hong Kong

DR PATRICK SUN-CHEONG POON

1970 BSc Graduate

“I was admitted into the HKU Faculty of Science in 1967 as an undergraduate for Physical Science. I studied Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics in my first year and selected Chemistry and Mathematics for my second and third year studies. I took Statistics as one of my Mathematical subjects and never thought that it was the basis of my lifelong career as I was passionate with Chemistry at that time of my life.

In my HKU days, like today, our professors and teachers were all dedicated to help us to succeed in our studies and future careers. Even staff in our residential halls and administrative departments treated us as family members. I must say that I was transformed after my three years in HKU from a mere student to an open-minded adult with plenty of confidence to go into society.

Besides the knowledge and wisdom I gained from my three years in HKU, the network of teachers and alumni helped me greatly in my whole life. This network is very powerful, not only in Hong Kong, but in many parts of the world. As an English speaking University, HKU graduates easily communicate internationally and many opportunities can be presented to us as a result.

After two years working in Hong Kong government, I got a place in an insurance company and started from the bottom as an actuarial trainee. I consider the promising three years

were the most memorable years of my life. I focused on my daily work and night studies. I got married but had time with my wife on Sundays only.

The scientific methods I learned at HKU helped me to manage my time and limited resources. I failed in my first actuarial professional examination but my experience at HKU (I failed in my first Mathematics test in HKU first year too) helped me to recover. My HKU Chemistry teacher, Professor C K Poon, gave me a lot of encouragements at that time. He is my lifelong mentor.

Eventually I was qualified as an Actuary, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries in 1975 and started my career in the insurance industry with a solid professional qualification behind me. And I retired after 40 years in the insurance industry.

I am always thankful to HKU. So I was very happy when I had the opportunity to start giving support to my alma mater. Starting from donations to scholarships, research and student accommodation, I also became members of various HKU working and governance committees, in Council, Court and Foundation.

My new role as the Chairman of the HKU Convocation gave me the opportunity to work with the over 180,000 HKU alumni worldwide. Although I took this role exactly 50 years after my entry to the HKU Faculty of Science, it is never too late to make more contributions to the University.”