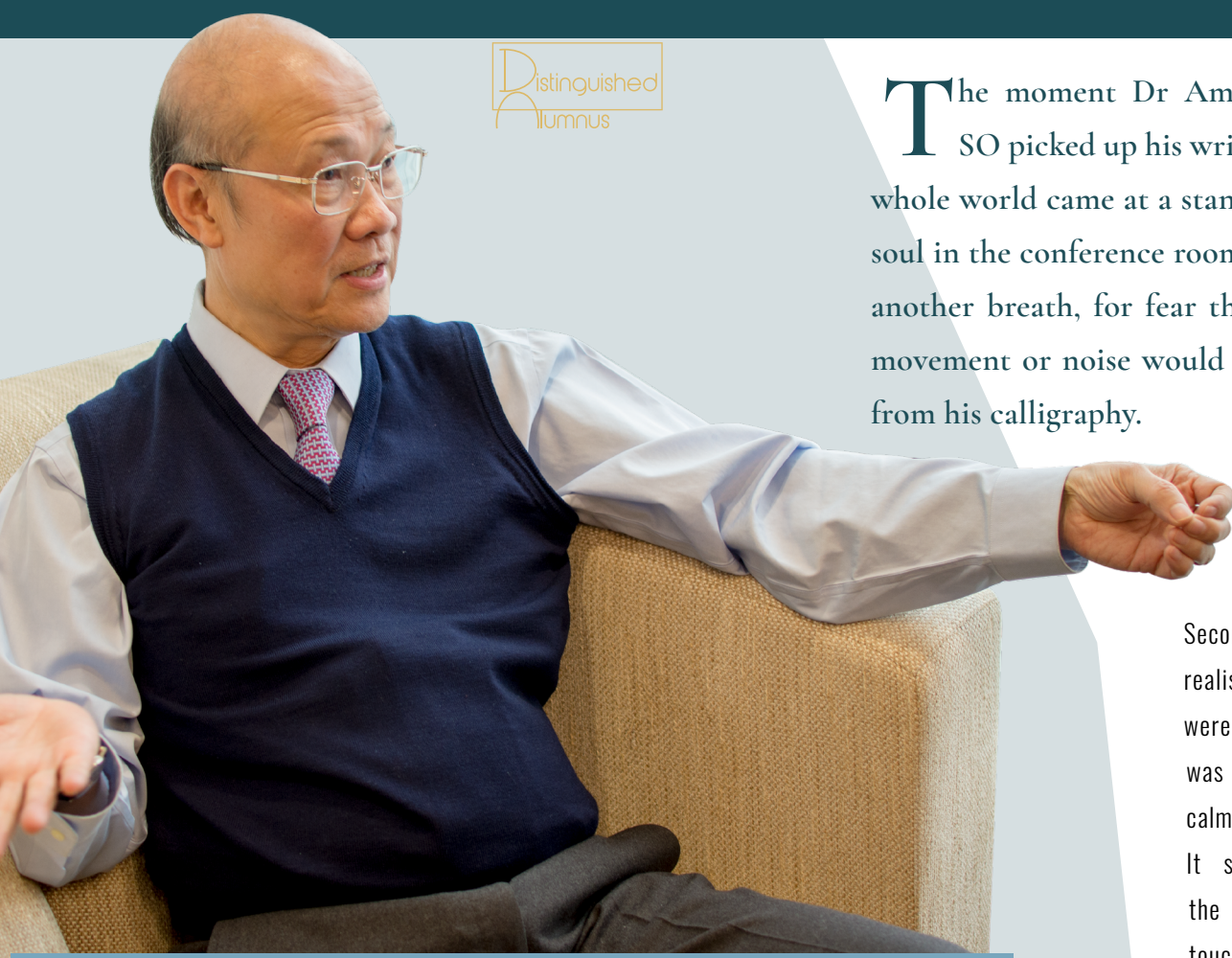


A MODERN DAY RENAISSANCE MAN

INTERVIEW



Distinguished
Alumnus

The moment Dr Ambrose Shu Fai SO picked up his writing brush, the whole world came at a standstill. Not one soul in the conference room dared to take another breath, for fear that any sudden movement or noise would distract Dr So from his calligraphy.

DR AMBROSE SHU FAI SO
1973 BSc Graduate

Major Achievements

- Executive Director and CEO of SJM Holdings Limited
- Chairman of Board of Directors of Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, S.A.
- Consultant of Economics Development Council of the Macau SAR Government
- Committee Member of 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
- Vice-President of Chinese Culture Promotion Society
- Director of The University of Hong Kong Foundation for Educational Development and Research
- Secretary General of Stanley Ho Astronautics Training Foundation

Seconds later, we realised that our fears were unfounded. Dr So was a picture of inner calm and tranquillity. It seemed that from the moment his hands touched the stroke, the whole world became irrelevant to him; in that room, it was just him, his writing brush, the ink pad, and the paper. We watched in silent awe as his every stroke exuded both elegance and confidence — not a single stroke too thick or too shallow. “Everything is just how



it should be,” was how Dr So described it. Not too long after, he had finished scribing the Faculty’s 80th anniversary motto in Chinese: “明德於樸; 格物以理 (Science founda Sapientia; Oak sprouts Virtus)”.

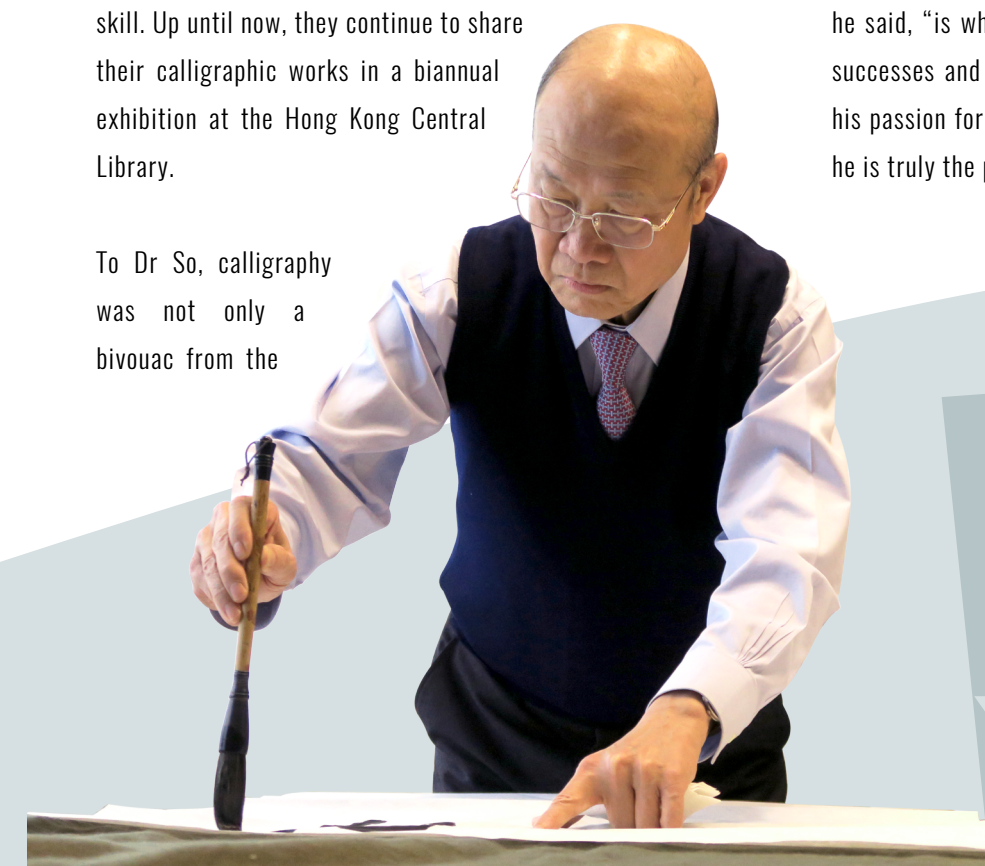
Dr So first came into contact with calligraphy during primary school, just as most people still do nowadays. However, it was not until after graduation that he decided to enrol in a calligraphy class in HKU SPACE to relearn everything from scratch, from seal script (篆書), to clerical script (隸書), to regular script (楷書). Together with the people he met in the class, they formed the Jiazi Society of Calligraphy (甲子書學會) to further refine their technique and skill. Up until now, they continue to share their calligraphic works in a biannual exhibition at the Hong Kong Central Library.

To Dr So, calligraphy was not only a bivouac from the

vicissitudes of daily life. It was also a state of mind — a realm of existence where, as we witnessed earlier on, one was simultaneously in the same plane of reality with everyone else, but also in a reality where all that exists was oneself, the brush, the ink, and the paper. The sense of being able to control one’s brush stroke and develop his idiosyncratic style of calligraphy also gave Dr So a great deal of satisfaction.

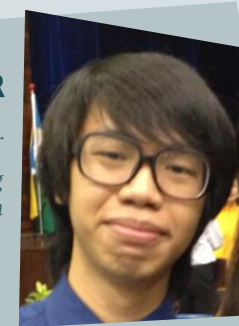


When asked what advice he would give current university students, he broke into a mirthful chuckle. “Lifelong learning,” he said, “is what I have always believed in.” He attributed his successes and accomplishments both in business and in art to his passion for constant learning. As an alumnus of the Faculty, he is truly the paragon of the Faculty’s anniversary motto.



STUDENT REPORTER

“I was excited about meeting Dr So and personally witnessing the scribing of the Faculty’s 80th anniversary motto in person.”



John Joson Ng, BSc Student
(double major in Chemistry and Biological Sciences)

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Calligraphy is not only an art, it is also a state of mind.
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