

SHARING BRINGS JOY AND MEANING TO LIFE



DR EDDY WAI CHOI LEE

1978 BSc Graduate

Major Achievements

- Senior Scientific Officer of Hong Kong Observatory
- Assistant Curator of Hong Kong Space Museum
- Outstanding Young Person of Hong Kong (1985)
- HKU Community College Vice Principal
- Chairperson of Hong Kong Science Fiction Club
- Author of science fiction and non-fiction books
- Founder of 350HK (Raise awareness of climate change issue)
- Host of RTHK radio show

“A dream that became a reality and spread throughout the stars” was the classic quote from the film *Star Trek*, which was the film that had drawn Dr Eddy Wai Choi LEE into the fascinating world of physics and astronomy.

Ever since primary school, Dr Lee had been mesmerised by the mysterious stars and horoscopes, and started borrowing books about astronomy from the public libraries. After watching the *Star Trek* film series, his interests in stars and realm of astrophysics had further deepened. His strong passion towards astrophysics helped him to conquer his fear of darkness and brought him to The University of Hong Kong in 1975 to study Physics.

Dr Lee’s university life was very fruitful and exciting. He absorbed specialised Physics knowledge in formal classes as well as by reading countless books in library to self-study; yet he was not the sit-down-and-read style, he at the same time actively engaged in different societies to promote science literacy to the public. For instance, he joined the astronomy club and volunteer service club, became the academic secretary of Science Society, in which he organised summer science tutorial sessions for secondary school students, created science bi-week event named “Spotlight”, and became the editor of university science publication *PROBE*. HKU was the platform where Dr Lee developed his leadership skills and public speaking skills, it was also his starting point to promote science to the Hong Kong community.

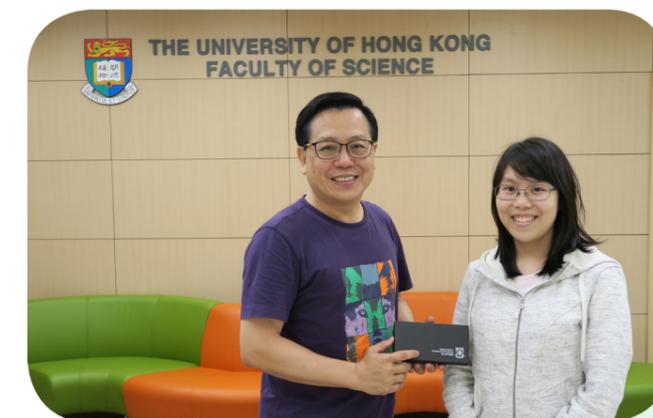
Upon graduation, Dr Lee explored different career paths, yet all of those did not deviate from astrophysics and science. For example, he was a Science teacher in local schools and senior scientific officer of Hong Kong Observatory; he also designed curriculum of local community colleges, wrote science fictions and hosted radio shows. Looking back, Dr Lee indeed lived with Science, and lived to popularise it.

Dr Lee is not only a scientist, but also a writer. One may wonder how science and literacy can be linked up, or to put it accurately: how could a scientist excel in writing fiction? Dr Lee elaborated that writing science fiction was more challenging than science non-fiction, because coming up with a logical and interesting story plot was never an easy task. More challenges included translating his thoughts from English into Chinese and keeping himself abreast of latest scientific development, it was also crucial to be open-minded to all sorts of imaginations and possibilities, for Dr Lee may get inspiration from the everyday news around the world, yet imagination had no boundary.

At this point, you might wonder what was Dr Lee’s drive of being so devoted to and enthusiastic about popularising science, rather

than merely conducting scientific researches like many others do? Dr Lee responded that “Life is about sharing, and sharing knowledge with people brings joy”. He enjoyed being the bridge among the realm of academia, complicated world of science and the public. By sharing the scientific knowledge and his boundless imagination, he felt a sense of satisfaction and meaning to his life. The joy and fulfillment naturally pathed the ways he did to promote science; the passion sustained until now and we could foresee that it will go on in the future. Even now after his retirement, Dr Lee remains active in popularising science by being the Chairperson of Hong Kong Science Fiction Club, and in raising the awareness of the problems with climate change by being the founder of 350HK.

Dr Lee has devoted over 30 years of his life popularising science in Hong Kong, and his mission will continue. His story demonstrates the meaning and possibilities of being passionate about your interests. Indulgence could also positively create impacts. Let’s conclude with a life motto of Dr Lee – “Expand your thoughts, enlarge your world”.



STUDENT REPORTER

“I was enlightened by a quote Dr Lee had shared with me – ‘Knowledge makes one humble, ignorance makes one arrogant.’ It taught me, as a student, that we should always be humble and never stop learning, just like how Dr Lee keeps reading books of different genres and abreast of global news.”



Bernice Chow, BSc Student
(Major in Food & Nutritional Science and Psychology)

“Expand your thoughts, enlarge your world.”