

My Hopes and Aspirations for S. H. HO College

Lawrence J. Lau, Ph. D.

Ralph and Claire Landau Professor of Economics, The Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong
and
Kwong-Ting Li Professor in Economic Development, Emeritus, Stanford University

S. H. HO College
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
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Tel: (852)3710-6888; Fax: (852)2104-6938

Email: lawrence@lawrencejau.com; WebPages: www.igef.cuhk.edu.hk/ljl

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Introduction

- ◆ Everyone of you here are pioneers. You are the vanguard of a new educational experiment for not only CUHK, and not only Hong Kong, but for Greater China and Asia.

The Ideals of a "College System"

- ◆ The College System originated at the University of Oxford. There are currently 38 Colleges at Oxford.
- ◆ The oldest of Oxford's Colleges are University College, Balliol College, and Merton College, all of which were established between 1249 and 1264, although there is some dispute over the exact order and precisely when each began teaching. The most recently established College is Kellogg College, founded in 1990.
- ◆ There are 31 Colleges at the University of Cambridge. Peterhouse, founded in 1284, is the oldest and Robinson College, founded in 1979, is the youngest. Peterhouse is also the smallest College, with 260 undergraduates, 110 graduate students and 45 Fellows, .
- ◆ Both Oxford and Cambridge Colleges are fully residential with communal dining and they practice small group-teaching known as “supervisions” or “tutorials”

The Ideals of a "College System"

- ◆ Fully residential with communal dining—undergraduate students spend their entire undergraduate career in residence in the college and they dine together most of the time.
- ◆ Education outside the traditional classroom (whole-person education)
- ◆ Multidisciplinary exposure and outlook
- ◆ Diversity of backgrounds—students are drawn from the entire spectrum of society without regard to income, wealth or pedigree.
- ◆ There is intense open exchange and interactions among students and faculty members of the college.
- ◆ Members of the college (faculty and students) are able to develop lasting bonds of friendship and mentor-mentee relations.
- ◆ Enduring values of devotion, honesty and integrity are developed.
- ◆ A university with a college system combine the best features of a comprehensive research-based university and a liberal arts college.

An Example: Successful Alumni of Peterhouse at the University of Cambridge

- ◆ Eminent Petreans include the following:
- ◆ Charles Babbage - Originated the concept of a programmable computer
- ◆ Henry Cavendish - Discovered hydrogen and measured the Earth's density
- ◆ Sir James Dewar - Inventor of the thermos flask and cordite
- ◆ Lord Kelvin - Developed the Kelvin scale of temperature measurement
- ◆ LEE Kuan-Yew, Former Prime Minister of Singapore
- ◆ James Mason - Film star
- ◆ Lord Stern – Economist and author of the Stern Review

The Opportunity at the Chinese University of Hong Kong

- ◆ The pre-existence of a “College System” at CUHK with New Asia College, Chungchi College, United College and Shaw College
- ◆ By 2004, these Colleges have grown to 2,500 undergraduate students each. By comparison, the largest college at Oxford and Cambridge has only 1,200 students.
- ◆ The expected increased enrolment of a further 3,000 students resulting from the conversion from a three-year to four-year normative undergraduate curriculum in 2012 will make each of the pre-existing Colleges at least 3,250 strong.
- ◆ Such a large size will nullify many of the advantages of the “College System”.
- ◆ Thus, the establishment of new, smaller Colleges at CUHK that adheres more closely to the traditional ideals of a college system.

My Hopes and Aspirations for S. H. HO College

- ◆ Honouring the late Dr. S. H. HO, a successful banker and a great philanthropist who supported education and health care.
- ◆ Offering the best undergraduate education anywhere in the World (and thus helping to retain the best talents in Hong Kong).
- ◆ Nurturing the future elite of Hong Kong, China, Asia and the World (The responsibility of the elite--Culture, Morals, Devotion, Trustworthiness—Honour and Duty).
- ◆ A new model for higher education in Greater China and Asia for their leading universities.

My Hopes and Aspirations for S. H. HO College Graduates

- ◆ That they will learn to think independently, to question accepted orthodoxy, to dare to be different, and to march to their own individual drum beats (Galileo, Einstein and T. D. Lee and C. N. Yang all questioned and overturned well-established beliefs). Truth is much more important than popularity or political correctness.
- ◆ That they will be both passionate and compassionate—passionate in what they pursue and compassionate to others not as fortunate as themselves.
- ◆ That they will appreciate that with privilege comes responsibility.
- ◆ That they will never stop learning.

Concluding Remarks to Students of S. H. HO College

- ◆ Make the most of your time here—This is your “other” home and “other” family.
- ◆ Honour your College and the memory of the late Dr. S. H. HO—Be proud of S. H. HO College and let the S. H. HO College be proud of you.