

# The Founding of Morningside College

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Lawrence J. Lau, Ph. D.

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

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Tel: (852)3550-7070; Fax: (852)2104-6938

Email: [lawrence@lawrencejlau.hk](mailto:lawrence@lawrencejlau.hk); WebPages: [www.igef.cuhk.edu.hk/ljl](http://www.igef.cuhk.edu.hk/ljl)

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# Introduction

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- ◆ Morningside College is the first new college founded at the Chinese University of Hong Kong since Shaw College opened in 1990. It is the first College at the Chinese University established in the image of the Colleges at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. It is the vanguard of a new educational experiment for not only CUHK, and not only Hong Kong, but for Greater China and Asia.
- ◆ The model is now emulated by quite a few universities in the Mainland—Peking University, Fudan University and Xian Jiaotong University, and also the University of Macau, which plans ten new colleges at its new campus at Hengqin.

# The Ideals of a "College System"

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- ◆ 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.

# The Ideals of a "College System"

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- ◆ 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”. They also have “live-in” Masters (who sometimes go with different titles).

# The Ideals of a "College System"

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- ◆ 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 and with graduate students and Faculty Fellows.
- ◆ The Master (Head) of College resides in the College
- ◆ 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.

# The Ideals of a "College System"

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- ◆ 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, integrity and loyalty are developed.
- ◆ A university with a college system combines the best features of a comprehensive research-based university and a liberal arts college.

# The Rationale for New Colleges at CUHK

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- ◆ 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 if no new college were established.



# The Rationale for New Colleges at CUHK

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- ◆ Such a large size will nullify many of the supposed advantages of the “College System”.
- ◆ Thus, the establishment of new, smaller Colleges at CUHK that adhere more closely to the traditional ideals of a college system has saved the “College System” from becoming just a “Dormitory System.”

# The Introduction to Dr. Gerald CHAN, Founder of Morningside College

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- ◆ Introduction by Prof. Shing-Tung YAU, Fields Medallist and Distinguished Professor-at-Large, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- ◆ The Fields Medal, officially known as International Medal for Outstanding Discoveries in Mathematics, is a prize awarded to two, three, or four mathematicians under 40 years of age every four years.
- ◆ Dr. Gerald CHAN was interested in establishing a liberal arts college in Mainland China but found it difficult to do so for various reasons.
- ◆ Meeting in Shanghai—Dr. CHAN was convinced of the advantages of establishing such a college in a research-based comprehensive university in Hong Kong. It will have the best of both worlds.
- ◆ Dr. CHAN has supported Morningside College every step of the way.

# The Recruitment of the Founding Master, Professor Sir James A. MIRRLEES

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- ◆ Prof. James A. Mirrlees was awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1996. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh and Trinity College, Cambridge. and taught at both University of Cambridge and University of Oxford.
- ◆ He is a Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge.
- ◆ He is intimately familiar with the college system as practiced at Cambridge and Oxford, and is himself interested in college life.
- ◆ Because of his professional stature, Prof. Mirrlees is ideal as the Founding Master of the first new College at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He inspired confidence in the eventual success of the new college.

# The New College Task Force led by Prof. Pak-Wai LIU

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- ◆ A New College Task Force, consisting of faculty, staff and student, was formed to conduct study tours of colleges at the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, Princeton and Yale Universities, and Claremont-McKenna College. It was headed by Prof. Pak-Wai LIU, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.
- ◆ The Task Force recommended the formation of new colleges that are smaller, fully residential with communal dining, and have a full-time Master in residence.

# The Hiring of the “Architect”—Mr. Benjamin WOOD

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- ◆ The system of architect selection used by the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region meant that the initial design for Morningside College was not usable.
- ◆ Recruitment of Mr. Benjamin WOOD, the Architect of the heritage restoration project, Xintiandi, in Shanghai.
- ◆ Benjamin Wood came up with the design, deviating from the government requirement that all three hundred beds must be in one building for reasons of efficiency.
- ◆ Additional design costs and cost-overruns covered by foundations affiliated with Dr. Gerald CHAN and his family members--Dr. Ronnie CHAN and Dr. Thomas CHEN--as well as donations by non-family members such as Alex Yasumoto and Maurice Greenberg.

# The Opposition from the Existing Colleges at CUHK and Their Alumni

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- ◆ Inertia and preference for the status quo
- ◆ Potential competition for faculty, students and resources— faculty members and students are now given a choice for their college affiliation whereas they were mechanically assigned previously
- ◆ Equating size with excellence and influence

# My Hopes and Aspirations for Morningside College

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- ◆ 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 in both knowledge and character (duty, honour and country).
- ◆ A new model for higher education in Greater China and Asia for their leading universities.

# My Hopes and Aspirations for Morningside College Graduates

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- ◆ 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). That they understand 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 (volunteer work as a college requirement).
- ◆ That they will appreciate that with privilege comes responsibility.
- ◆ That they will never stop learning.