It Runs in the Family

Successive Generations at HKU
With over 90 years of history, HKU and its graduates have had a deep impact on society. This history and heritage is also rooted in the many families who have had different generations study at the University. Being sentimentally attached to one’s alma mater is not a rarity. But three or two generations of a family attending the same university is very special indeed. In this special feature, we bring the tale of families who have achieved that special recognition of “It runs in the Family”.

The Alumni Office is grateful to the many alumni who have generously contributed their precious family photos, documents and efforts in providing family trees. We also thank those who have referred us to their fellow alumni with two or three generations of HKU in their families. In this issue, we will bring you the “Three and Two Generations of HKU” (as of July 2002).

THREE Generations

Lynn Yau’s Story

Lynn Yau (BA 1981) and her family are indelibly linked with HKU and she recalls her family members (grandfather, mother and father, two uncles and a cousin) who attended the University.

The tradition began with Lynn’s grandfather, Yeow Tuck-onn (BScEng 1924). Originally from Malaysia, Tuck-onn came to HKU to study Electrical Engineering in the 1920s. Lynn reminisces:

“I was a young child, my grandfather told me that he took five years to graduate from HKU because the girls were very pretty and he deliberately failed his finals so that he could keep on chasing them! His father, my great grandfather, decided to put a stop to all this romance by threatening withdrawal of funding for his studies. He passed the next year, returned to Malaysia and worked there as an engineer until he passed away in the 1970s. He was affectionately nicknamed “Blackie” as he was very dark.”

The stories of the pretty girls at HKU may well have convinced Tuck-onn’s two sons, Stanley Yau Meng-fai and Arthur Yau Meng-choy (MBBS 1957) to follow in their father’s footsteps. Stanley and Arthur both studied to be doctors in the 1950s at HKU’s Faculty of Medicine, rooming in Old Halls. Lynn says fondly of her Uncle Stanley,

“I always remembered him as a very dapper fellow and I believe he was passionately fond of drama, so much so that he was always around the Arts Faculty. He practiced as a doctor in Malaysia after graduation. He passed away in the 1980s.”

Lynn’s father, Arthur, kept his links with the University after graduating and was previously Head of Orthopaedic Surgery and Pro-Vice-Chancellor at HKU. A keen cricketer in his undergraduate days, he has since taken up golf with the same passion.
Also in the 1950s, Lynn's mother, Gan Bee-lay (BA 1956) was studying Geography and residing at Lady Ho Tung Hall. Bee-lay reminisced that students did not have much money for leisure in those days and sometimes they had to walk back to the University from Central as they had spent all their money feasting. Bee-lay loves dancing, theatre and music, giving Lynn the love of the arts from a very early age.

Completing the second generation of Lynn's family to attend HKU is Poh Beng-kong (MBBS 1954). Lynn's maternal uncle, he was also a doctor-in-training.

Lynn says:
“M y second uncle from my mother's side loved dancing and I believe he met his wife at a barn dance in H K U. He practiced as a doctor in Malaysia and Hong Kong until he retired to Vancouver to be with his grandchildren. He also looks after 3 dogs.”

Carrying on the tradition, Lynn herself joined her parent's alma mater and studied English & Comparative Literature, graduating in 1981. She is a keen lover of music, dance, theatre, visual arts and photography.

Rounding out the three generations, Lynn's cousin, Wendy Gan Kim-see (BA 1987) also studied Comparative Literature and graduated in 1987. She is the current Chairman of HKU Convocation.

May Cheng's Story
May Cheng (PhD 1997) recounts:

“Wong Kwok-kun (MBBS 1918), my maternal grandfather, attended HKU Medical School during 1912-1918 and was among the first batch of MBBS graduates of the University. Kwok-kun was very proud that he had classes with Dr Sun Yat-sen and had made it through Medical School with very limited financial resources.

Yuen-kat, my mother, was admitted to HKU as an undergraduate in Economics in September 1941. Female students were few in those days and they had a lot of fun. She recalls a very good-looking American professor teaching a class of Lingnan University's students on the HKU campus. In order to catch the attention of this handsome professor, Yuen-kat and her classmates would walk into his classroom to borrow chairs every time the professor was giving a lecture!

The Japanese started bombing Hong Kong on the day Yuen-kat had her examinations for the first semester. Because of the war, she and five other girls from HKU were then transferred to the Zhongshan University as special students. When she was about to complete her studies, she again had to run because Canton (Guangzhou) also fell to the Japanese.

I think the HKU legacy that runs in my family must have contributed to my decision to do my PhD studies here. I received my PhD in Sociology in 1997 and was awarded the Li Ka Shing Prize for the best PhD thesis from Architecture, Arts, Education, Law, and Social Sciences in 1995-1997. For three generations, we have been educated in the same famed University. The University of Hong Kong is very impressive, even to our next generation who were born and live overseas.”

Chiu Family

Daughter
Chiu King-chu (BA 1941)

Father (below)
Chiu Chu-san (MBBS 1922)

Son (right)
Chiu Iu-hung, Albert (BA 1955)
(Founding Ordinary Member of HKU Foundation)

Granddaughter (left)
Joaquina Lorraine Chiu (PCLL 1991)
(Daughter-in-law of Andrew Lee King Fun (BA 1956)
Lee Family

Fang Family

1st Generation
Fang Chao-ling
方召靈
(BA 1955, HonDLitt 1996)
Harry Fang
方家龍
(MBBS 1949, HonLLD 1977)
Marion Fang
方珍珍
(HonssocSc 1995)

2nd Generation
Anson Chan
陳安生
(BA 1962, HonLLD 1996)
Ninson Fang
方基康
(BA 1962)
David Fang
方宗生
(MBBS 1973)
Frank Fang
方澤生
(MBBS 1974)
Elena Fong
方靜生
(CentEd 1977)
Christine Fang
方敏生
(BsocSc 1980)
Anthony Christopher Fang
方振生
(MBBS 1980)
Anne Fang
方孝生
(MBBS 1981)
Daniel Fang
方健生
(MDS 1998)

3rd Generation
Sean Fang
方欣然
(LLB 2000, PCLL 2001)
Stephanie Fang
方潔麗
(LLB 2002)
Christian Fang
方智石
(MBBS year 4)
Benjamin Fang
方德鈞
(MBBS year 1)

The Fang family at Dr Fang Chao-ling’s solo exhibition in Hong Kong in 2001.
TWO Generations

Chang Family
Father: Chang Chung-keung, Gary 張中強 (BSc (Eng) 1970)
Son: Chang Tsun-wai, Adrian 張俊偉 (BSc (Actuarial Sc) 2001)

"Son is doing better than father."

Law Family
Daughter: Law Wan-chi, Vincci 羅端芝 (BEcon & Fin year 2 student)
“He did it, I've done it. We've made the dream come true.”
Father: Law Chi-kwong, Steven 羅志光 (BSc 1978)

Yim Family
Father Yim Chun-nam, Patrick 嚴鎮南 (BSc (Eng) 1970; MPhil 1972) and his Daughter Yim Lai-shan, Hilda 嚴樂珊 who is a BBA (Law) second year student.

Ho Family
(From left) Mother Ho Chan Suk-yee, Rita 何淑儀 (BA 1971),
Son Ho Chia-hsing, Kevin 何嘉行 (BcogSc 2001) and Father
Ho Wing-huen, Frederick 何永煜 (BScGen 1966; MSocSc 1989)
who is the Commissioner for Census and Statistics of HKSAR.

Lee Family
(From left) Amanda Lee (Daughter-in-law, BSc 1993),
John Lee (son, BSc 1993), Annie Lee (Mother, BA 1967) and
Dominic Lee (Father, BSc 1967)

“Son is doing better than father.”
Wong Family
(From left) Father Wong Hon-kit with his Daughter Jacqueline Wong Wing-Chee, Mother Karen Wong Law Kwai-wah (BA 1972) and son Kenneth.

Lee Family
The two St. Johnians, Father Lee Ming-ching, Stephen (BSc (Eng) 1970) and Son Gabriel Lee (BBA (Acc & Fin) 2001).

Cho Family
Father C H Cho, a PhD graduate of the Department of Pharmacology in 1978, joined the University in 1984 and is now the Chair of Pharmacology in the Faculty of Medicine. Daughter Carmen is a third year Medical student.

Lam, the medical Family
‘We hope to have a third generation HKU graduate when the University’s 100th Anniversary comes around!’
(From left) Mother Nina Lam Chan (MBBS 1954) and Father Lam Sim-fook (MBBS 1953; MS 1967) with their Daughter Linda Lam (MBBS 1982) at her graduation ceremony.

Mother and son of the Class of 2000
Mother Yeung Ching-han, Katy and Son Chan Sing-hing, Jeff were both admitted in HKU in 1997 and graduated in 2000. Katy attended the MEd course while Jeff attended the BEng course. The mother and son find it a pity that they could not attend the congregation together since Jeff had to further his studies in Manchester that year.

Chemistry father and daughter
Father: Ng Hok-kit, Chris (Chemistry graduate 1976) Daughter: Ng Siu-yan, Angel (Chemistry year 3 student)

Lee Family
Father: Lee Kai-ming, Earnest (BSc (Eng) 1970) Daughter: Lee Jun-yu, Phoebe (BA 2001)

Lam Family
Father: Lam Hau-chung, Kenneth (BSc (Eng) 1970) Son: Lam Yuk-fai (MBBS year 1 student)
Lam Family
Father: Lam Poon-wah (BSc (Eng) 1976, Riccian)
Mother: Lam Lau Wai-yung, Esther (BSocSc 1976, Hotungian)
Daughter: Lam Chi-wan, Joanne (MArch student, St. Johnian)

Lo Family
Father: Lo Tze-shut (BSc (Eng) 1974; BSocSc 1989)
Daughter: Eusie Ng (FNSc, Science Faculty, year 1), "After a lapse of thirty years, I followed my father’s footsteps and was admitted into the same faculty of University of Hong Kong. All along, he has had great influence on me, and I sincerely hope that I shall surpass him in both academic pursuit and career."

Ng Family
Father: Ng Kwok-wai (BSc 1974; MSocSc 1989)
Daughter: Eusie Ng (FNSc, Science Faculty, year 1)

Pang Family
Father: Pang Teng-cheong (MBBS 1941; MD 1960, 2nd right)
Son: Roger Pang (MBBS 1970, President of HKU Alumni chapter in Singapore, right)
Daughter: Hilda Pang Yuen-sin (BA 1974, left)

Man Family
Father: Dexter H C Man (BSc (Eng) 1940, HonDSocSc 1998, right), Daughters: Irene Man (BA 1968, left) and Evelyn Man (BA 1971, middle) had always been very involved with their alma mater since graduation. Dexter was formerly President of the HKU Alumni Association (HKUAA), and although he is now 86 years old, is still currently an active committee member. He initiated the purchase of the HKUAA club premises in Central which is frequented by many members today. Irene was also previously President of HKUAA and is now the President of the UK chapter. Evelyn was a long-time committee member of the Ontario chapter and is currently the President of the Old Halls Alumni Association. Dexter was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University in 1998 and Irene an Honorary Fellowship in 1999.

It Runs in the Family
Loong Family
Father: Loong Hon-biu, Louis 龙永彪 (MBA 1985) with wife Grace.
Son: Herbert Loong Ho-fung 龙浩峰 (MBBS year 4 student) taken in Edinburgh earlier this year during his elective (special study module) in Clinical Oncology in Scotland.

Lim Family (sons fulfilling father’s ambition)
Daughter-in-law Lim Shih Yee-man, Yvonne 乐诗文 (BSocSc 1971), “My Father-in-law Lim Soo-tsu attended the University in 1939. However, he did not complete his medical studies because of the outbreak of the War. He brought his family from China to Singapore in 1946 to be in charge of the family business. Two of his six children, Sons John Lim Thuan-lok 林健麟 (my husband) and Stephen Lim Thuan-kiang 林健强 did their medical studies at HKU from 1964-1969 and 1965-1970 respectively, and fulfilled my father-in-laws’ ambition.”

Lam Family
Father: Lam Kam-hing (MBBS 1970; MS 1981, left)
Mother: So Pik-han, Kathleen (MBBS 1971, 2nd left)
Son: Lam King-ho, Howard (PCLL 1997; LLM 2001, 2nd right)

Ooi Family
Daughter Vicki Ooi 黄慧霞 (BA 1965), “My Father’s name: Ooi Khay-bian (BA 1925). He came to HKU on the Colombo scholarship Plan, double-majoring in English and Mathematics. My mother thinks he was in the first batch. His hall of residence: Eliot Hall. My father was bound by the Colombo Plan to return to Penang, Malaysia to teach. He taught at the Penang Free School, one of the best known schools in Malaysia for about 20-25 years before he became the Inspector of English Schools in Penang. Unfortunately he died before he knew I was entering HKU.”

Chan Family
Father: Daniel Chan 陈俊光 (MBBS 1976)
Daughter: Chan Sze-rok 陈詩樂 (BA year 2 student)

Lilian Kwan, her son and daughter
Mother: Kwan Lee-ping, Lilian 關麗萍 (BSc 1971; MPhil 1976; PhD 1984)
Son: David Vrijmoed (LLB 1996; PCLL 1997)
Daughter: Christine Vrijmoed (BBA 1997)

Medical Father & Son
Father: Chung Ka-Leung 陈家亮 (MBBS 1977)
Son: Stephen Chung 陈家俊 (MBBS year 2)

Tong Family
Father: Tong Chun-wan (BA(Arch Studies) 1975, BArch 1977)
Son: Tong Sze-i, Sydney (BSc(ENS) 2001)
Daughter: Serena Tong (BA year 1 student in 2002-2003)

If you also have a story of “Successive Generations at HKU”
to tell us, send us photos and a short paragraph for “It Runs in the Family - Part II”.
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