Sir Oswald Victor Cheung, passed away on December 10, 2003, at the age of 81. In 1938, at the extraordinary young age of sixteen, Sir Oswald was admitted to the University with King Edward VII scholarship. In 1941 when the war broke out, he left Hong Kong and later studied in the United Kingdom. He was called to the Bar in Hong Kong in 1952 and was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1965. Apart from being an eminent and well-respected barrister, he was also a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils in the 1970s and 1980s and made tremendous contribution to public service. He was a member of the University Council and Court and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa by the University on 1979. He was knighted in 1987.

“He was one of the few life members of the Hong Kong Bar. ... I am sure that those old enough to have had fortunate of seeing him in action would all agree that he was a very good lawyer and an extremely powerful advocate. ... He was always fair to his opponents and courteous to the court. He was never repetitive and was always concise and to the point. In short he was the model of an outstanding barrister.”

Eulogy by Mr Edward Chan (LLB 1972)

“His education was interrupted by the War. But in adversity one sees the true character of a man. Even amidst the deprivation of war, he was always ready to lend a helping hand. Thus, Rayson Huang had no doubt that it was because of O side that Ossie’s father gave him money to support his research project during the War. Another friend, Clifford Matthews wrote about a postcard which Ossie managed to get to him over the barbed wire of the concentration camp and a gift of almon. The postcard was signed with a fictitious name “Jimmy Victor. ... In public service, Ossie was known for his dedication and fearless integrity. To him, public service always came first. Even at the expense of his profession. ... He took his duty seriously but wore the honour lightly.”

Eulogy by Mr Robert Tang

“Hong Kong is fortunate to have been blessed with such a talented and dutiful son. ... Ossie enjoyed good food and fine wines... However, he was not just a gourmet. On more than one occasion in Hong Kong, I noticed that he would choose a restaurant that was not up to par to his usual standards. I asked him the reason for such choices and his answer was that some restaurants needed the business more than others. His compassion for others was apparent even in such small decisions.”

Eulogy by Dr Chiu Shin-chak

Professor Tan Sri Guan Bee Ong, passed away on January 10, 2004, at the age of 82. Professor Ong was appointed by the University to the Chair Professor of Surgery and Head of Department in 1963, and was the first ethnic Chinese to hold this distinction. He led the Department of Surgery to achieve international recognition until his retirement in 1982.

“Remember our friend - a dear friend - whose life inspired many; and saved many lives with his dedication to the art and craft of surgery.

G.B. was born in Sarawak in 1921, one of the eight children in the family. He wanted to be an electrical engineer, but his father ordered his son to take up medicine. G.B. said, ‘If I cannot be an electrical engineer, I will electrify people’s lives by becoming a doctor.’ He certainly did.

Shortly before the start of the Second World War, young G.B. Ong enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine at HKU. His first great challenge came in 1941, when the Japanese invasion of Hong Kong dispelled any hopes of completing his studies uninterrupted. Under the devoted tutelage of the late Professor Gordon King, the then Dean of the Medical Faculty, G.B. Ong and others made the hazardous three-month journey to the relative safety of Chungking to continue his studies under the most trying circumstances and where he subsequently received his medical degree. ...

Immediately after graduation, he joined the Department of Surgery, Queen Mary Hospital as a house surgeon, and took the first step in what was to be a long and distinguished career as a surgeon.

In 1957, he was appointed Surgeon-in-Charge of Kowloon Hospital, a position that he served with distinction and held until 1963, when his achievements brought him back to his alma mater as Professor of Surgery. ... For his services to the University and to the Community, he was awarded the O.B.E. in 1966. ... Many honours and medals were bestowed on him throughout his life - all around the world - they would take a long time to narrate.

G.B. always felt that there was no greater honour for him than to see his patients come out of their dreaded illness and walk home with their families... He was a man with passion for surgery and compassion for his patients. He worked tirelessly. He never tolerated second best. He expected the best from himself and from his staff.

G.B. left a resounding legacy to the surgical profession in Hong Kong. He was our graduate whose determination, dedication and discipline made us proud.”

Eulogy by Dr George Choa (MBBS 1947)