On November 10, 2004, graduates, students, staff and former colleagues gathered at the Chong Yuet Ming Chemistry Building to pay tribute to the life of Mrs Dorothy Ada Collins. She will be fondly remembered as a devoted teacher, a beloved warden, a tireless colleague and a firm believer in HKU. Mrs Collins’ sincerity towards the University was demonstrated not only by over half a century of teaching and scholarship, but especially by her moving bequest of over HK$1.8 million to the University’s Department of Chemistry.

Even after her retirement, she would still walk up to visit the campus as often as she could. Such was her affection for the University, she would have walked there everyday if she could.

Dr Sarah Liao, Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Her students will always remember her rapid, ambidextrous blackboard technique: with a duster in her right hand, and chalk in her left, Mrs Collins would wipe and write at the same time.

Professor Tam Sheung-wai, Professor Emeritus, The Open University of Hong Kong

Remember, in those days, women teaching staff were a rarity, and Mrs Collins was one of these pioneers, along with Dr Hui Wai-haan, and Professor Ada Chung (mother of Professor Ma Chung Ho-kei, former Dean of Medicine).

Professor C K Poon, President, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Mrs Dorothy Collins and staff of Department of Chemistry at the retirement of Professor D S Payne (Dean of Science from 1968 - 1974 and Head of the Department of Chemistry from 1966 - 1982) in December 1982.

Back row: (from left) Dr Y S Fung, Dr M K J Lie, Professor C F Ng (current President and Vice Chancellor, Hong Kong Baptist University), Dr F H Allen, Dr M P Sammes, Professor K F C heng (current College Principal, HKU SPACE Community College), Dr K K C heung, Dr K W Fung, Dr R S Tse. Front row: (from left) Professor C K Poon (current President, Hong Kong Polytechnic University), Dr Sarah Liao (current Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works, HKSAR Government), Dr W H Hui, Professor D S Payne, Dr T F Lai, Mrs Dorothy Collins, Dr R M Letcher.
On September 23, the opening ceremony for the “Anita Mui ‘True Heart’ Digital Multimedia Studio” was held. It was attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Chairperson (Mrs Irene So) and members of the Board of Trustees of the Anita Mui True Heart Charity Foundation, and Mr Alan Tam, amongst others.

Established in memory of the late artist and performer Anita Mui, and sponsored by The Anita Mui ‘True Heart’ Charity Foundation, the studio aims to prepare our student teachers for the information age, arming our graduates with the knowledge, attitudes and skills to fully utilize new technologies. With state-of-the-art equipment for digital multimedia production, a comfortable environment, and large resources of archival digital multimedia materials available, student teachers will be able to learn professional digital video and audio editing and production systems.

Dr Ho Tim 何添博士 (HonLD 1999), Honorary Patron of the HKU Foundation, passed away on November 6, 2004. Dr Ho Tim, a founding member of Hang Seng Bank, is a philanthropist with special commitment to education, medical and health services. His generosity to the University is commemorated in the building of Ho Tim Hall, a multi-purpose venue for students of Lady Ho Tung Hall and Starr Hall.
The Miracles that Make a Man

After graduation, Mr Lam Sum-Chee 林森池 (BA 1967) became one of the first generation of financial analysts in Hong Kong. As a History graduate who worked in the financial field for over 30 years, Mr Lam believes that what he learnt during his time at HKU has brought him lifelong benefits.

More than once, he has expressed his gratitude to his alma mater, and declared that without a full bursary, he would have never been able to complete his tertiary education, or to acquire the tangible and intangible benefits of higher learning that would serve him so well in the years to come. “I could spend a life-time repaying the bursary I received during my days at HKU, and that would still not be enough”, he said on one public occasion.

The Three Miracles

Our University happens to have given me THREE miracles for which I feel so strongly that I could spend a whole lifetime repaying, and that would still not be enough.

For me, a poor boy coming from Tung Tau Estate, going to university was an impossible dream, but one that was made possible by this University because I was given a bursary, covering all the tuition and hall residence fees. This was the First Miracle.

In the following three years at our University, I stayed happily at St John’s College and chose to major in one of the easiest subjects to read for – History. Honestly, I spent more time fooling around than reading. Somehow, I got my Bachelor of Arts degree in three years with second class honours. So, this was the Second Miracle.

After graduation, I was a schoolteacher for a while, and as of the early 1970s, a financial analyst – or to be exact, a securities analyst – for over a quarter of a century until I retired a few years ago. Don’t forget that during my days at our University, I had no training in economics or accountancy. I never had an MBA degree or CFA qualification.

You may ask how I managed to survive in the competitive world of finance for so long. My answer is simple. It is the Third Miracle given to me during my days at our University. It is what I would call the ‘transferral of learning and lifelong learning’. This miracle is not my sole propriety. Every one of you going through university training will have the same opportunity to learn how to transfer your learning technique from a subject you know well to something completely new as it comes along.

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Actions speak louder than words

Since 1986, Mr Lam has set up a number of scholarships and bursaries for undergraduate Arts students, founded on a theme of “Evergreen Scholarships”. He strongly believes in the importance of education as a fundamental way to help people out of poverty. The scholarships aim to alleviate the financial burden of students, so that they can spend more time preparing for future challenges. He hopes to encourage the younger generation to develop their full potential during their years of university study by investing them with a sense of vision, and a feeling of responsibility for the community.

Recently, Mr Lam has pledged his entire private trust fund to the University, an action taken now which he hopes will continue to benefit future generations and inspire others to follow suit.

Helping to repair a village road in 1966 (at right, with hat).
Another Standing Testimony to HKU!

The William M W Mong Block 蒙民偉樓 on Sassoon Road is named in honour of Dr William Mong Man-Wai (Hon LLD 1994) in appreciation of his contributions to HKU. It accommodates various state-of-the-art teaching facilities including lecture theatres, seminar rooms, tutorial rooms and clinical skills training centres. It also accommodates the Department of Nursing Studies, Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Office, and a floor designated to alumni. The William M W Mong Block provides a sophisticated learning environment for students and staff.

Dr Mong’s support for the University has been as wide-ranging as it has been generous. In 1996, the Shun Hing Education and Charity Fund contributed towards the establishment of the Chair of Otorhinolaryngology at the Department of Surgery. In 2001, a donation was made to the Queen Mary Hospital for the Mong Man Wai Cardiac Catheterisation laboratory, facilitating breakthrough treatments for cardiovascular diseases. Recognising the significant impact of the Faculty’s medical research and education on the region and beyond, the Fund has further established a Medical Endowment recently, partnering with the Faculty to scale new heights.