Dear Fellow Members,

As the statutory body for the University’s graduates and teachers, Convocation has a unique role in the University family: to foster a closer relationship with our alumni and provide a bridge between the University and the community.

Convocation has been in existence since 1958, and has performed its role well over the years. But we can only continue to do this with the support of the 88 alumni groups and our alumni in general, which number well over 120,000 in Hong Kong and elsewhere.

This is an exciting time for the University which has embarked on a major development programme to put its name firmly among the top universities of the world. We in Convocation look forward to contributing to this endeavour, and to mustering our combined strengths and talent to support the University in its quest for excellence. The 100th anniversary is of course just around the corner.

To rise to the challenges ahead, Convocation will need the support of fellow alumni who can contribute in whatever way they can, especially in time and effort. You are welcome to join one of our sub-committees, University Affairs, Alumni Affairs or Community Affairs, or seek election to the Standing Committee itself at some point. If you are ready to help, please let us know.

Convocation held its annual Ordinary General Meeting on June 28, with several new members being elected to the Standing Committee, and a few others re-elected. A hearty welcome to all of them and a sincere thanks for their commitment.

S Y Choi
Deputy Chairman of Convocation
BSocSc 1972

Highlights of Chairman’s Report:


- **Alumni Survey**: Convocation will conduct a comprehensive alumni survey in 2008.
The Politics of Heritage Conservation

“Heritage conservation is not about the preservation or display of history, but is about the interpretation of historical significance based on different values identified.”

After the Ordinary General Meeting, Professor David Lung, Professor of Department of Architecture and founding director of the Architectural Conservation Programme at HKU, shared with the audience his personal journey in heritage conservation.

Some 30 years before the recent public protests concerning the Star Ferry and Queen’s Pier, Professor Lung had advocated the preservation of the former railway station terminus in Tsim Sha Tsui where, today, only the Clock Tower remains. More recently, he assisted Macao and Kaiping in Guangdong in applying for UNESCO World Heritage status.

Professor Lung defines the value of heritage conservation in terms of economic and cultural aspects. He believes heritage should move up on the political agenda as it deserves more support, otherwise heritage will disappear and it will be too late to re-create it. He ended the talk with a critique of the conservation policy in Hong Kong and how the people of Hong Kong can become involved in the preservation of its heritage.

The audience was captivated by the informative and insightful talk till late in the evening.

Professor David Lung assisted Kaiping, Guangdong, in successfully applying for UNESCO World Heritage status.