IN MEMORIAM

Professor Tony Sweeting
(PhD 1989)

Professor Tony Sweeting, Honorary Professor in the Department of History and Honorary Research Fellow in the Centre of Asian Studies, passed away in Oxford, England on July 30, 2008.

Professor Sweeting was born in Newport, Wales in 1938 and attended Jesus College, Oxford. He went to the Institute of Education in London for teacher training. He worked as a school master in Wales and Kenya before securing a lectureship with the Department of Education at HKU in 1969.

He was a founding member of the Faculty of Education in 1984 and, until his retirement in 1998, he had been Professor (Reader) in the Faculty of Education. His greatest contribution was to the teaching and examining of history in the Hong Kong school system; his books and articles on the subject have defined the field for current and future generations of scholars.

He continued to work and publish in his retirement and, over the past ten years, published a major monograph and a stream of articles and book chapters. At the time of his death, Professor Sweeting was completing two book projects and was co-author of the University’s centenary history.

Professor Mary Turnbull


Mary was an Honorary Professor in the Department of History, having previously held a personal chair in the Department until her retirement in 1988. She came to HKU from the University of Singapore in 1971, but prior to that she had pursued a groundbreaking career in the Malayan Civil Service and was the first woman to be appointed as an Administrative Officer in the British Empire’s Overseas Colonial Service.

After joining HKU, Mary rose quickly through the ranks from Lecturer in 1971 to Professor in 1982, and was Head of Department during a period of rapid growth. Her most important book was a history of Singapore (1975), for many years considered to be the definitive account of that other British city-colony, of which she was revising a new edition at the time of her death. She was also assisting with the University’s Centenary History Project, having contributed a much-quoted chapter on HKU’s Straits Chinese graduates for a volume published at the time of the University’s ninetieth anniversary in 2002.

Dr Yau Ka-fai 邱加輝

(BA 1996; MPhil 2000)

Dr Yau Ka-fai, a Post-Doctoral Fellow and Honorary Assistant Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature passed away on September 5, 2008, at the age of 34.

He published widely in the areas of Chinese literature and film, and his work can be found in Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Positions, Tamkang Review, Textual Practice, Wide Angle, and Modern Chinese Literature and Culture.

“Dr Yau Ka-fai was one of the brightest and sharpest of Comparative Literature students in the mid 1990s. I will always remember his enthusiasm and probing questions and willingness to learn in a course I taught on the body of western culture.

Had he lived, he would surely have had an interesting career, and contributed much to the study of literature — Chinese, American, and European.”

Professor Jeremy Tambling
School of Humanities, HKU
Dr Chan Wai-kwan 陳偉群
(BSocSc 1980; MSocSc 1983)

Dr Chan Wai-kwan passed away on October 8, 2008, at the age of 50.

Dr Chan was Senior Director for Business Policy at the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce which he joined in 1990. He headed the Chamber’s service policy think tank, the Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries, and was a strong lobbyist for free trade through his work on various WTO issues.

He was also an active and passionate environmentalist and was well known for his efforts to green Hong Kong, and pushing through the Chamber’s Clean Air Charter.

Andrew Poon Chung-shing 潘忠誠

Andrew Poon passed away on September 4, 2008, at the age of 62.

After 34 years’ service in education, Poon retired from the post of Principal Assistant Secretary of Education Bureau in 2006. Over a decade and a half he had built up an enormous network of contacts with overseas experts and a huge reservoir of goodwill towards Hong Kong.

He was a staunch supporter of his alma mater. He was a former Member of the Court, and also a Mentor to our students with whom he shared his wisdom and life-experience.
Johnsman Au Chung-man 歐中民
(BSocSc 1972; MPA 1993)

Johnsman Au Chung-man passed away on November 5, 2008, at the age of 58.

Johnsman, former Deputy Director of the Government Audit Commission, was a great supporter to his alma mater. He participated in the Mentorship programme from 1997-2002 and 2004-2007. His kindness and vision inspired many of his mentees and gave them a broader horizon: from Lao Zi to flying techniques, from international relations to domestic politics.

He was a dedicated St Johnian who was deeply involved in the 80th Anniversary of St John’s College. Johnsman had a special way to show his gratitude to HKU by giving $1,972.XX every year on his birthday since 2000. “1972” was the year of his graduation and the cents “XX” was his age.

JOE CHEN 陳任
(BA 1995; MPhil 2001)

Joe Chen, a renowned disc jockey, passed away on November 1, 2008, at the age of 63.

Chen started in the broadcasting industry in the late 1960s. He worked for Commercial Radio, RTHK, and Metro Broadcast. His radio programmes 《青春交響曲》之「三個骨頭」were so popular that he was considered a pioneer among Chinese radio disc jockeys. His fondness for music also led him to become the vocalist for Menace, one of the local bands in the sixties.

At the age of 47, he graduated from HKU and completed his thesis 《香港中文播音史 1928-1997》in 2001.

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