Honorary Degrees

In recognition of their distinguished service and commitment to the community and to academia, and their valuable intellectual, social and cultural contributions to society and the world...

Dr Evgeny Igorevich Kissin 祈辛
Doctor of Letters honoris causa
Dr Evgeny Igorevich Kissin was a musical child prodigy, entering the Moscow Gnessin School of Music when he was six. He has played with leading orchestras and conductors, and his recordings have won many awards, including the Shostakovich Award and the Herbert von Karajan Music Prize.

Dr the Hon Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai 范徐麗泰
Doctor of Social Sciences honoris causa
Dr Fan (BSc 1967; MSocSc 1973) was first appointed as a member of Legislative Council in 1983. Dr Fan was a member of the Preliminary Working Committee and the Preparatory Committee for the HKSAR. She was President of the Legislative Council and is currently a Member of the Standing Committee of the Eleventh National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China.

Dr Robert Ho Hung-ngai 何鴻毅
Doctor of Social Sciences honoris causa
Dr Ho is known for his work at Kung Sheung Daily News 工商日報, the newspaper started by his late grandfather, Sir Robert Ho Tung. Since his retirement in 1987, Dr Ho has focused on philanthropic endeavours, founding the Robert H N Ho Family Foundation in 2005 to foster Chinese arts and culture, and to promote Buddhist philosophy internationally.

Dr Lam Shan-muk 林山木 (筆名林行止)
Doctor of Social Sciences honoris causa
Dr Lam Shan-muk, also known by his pen names Lam Hang-chi and Shih Wei-de, founded the Hong Kong Economic Journal 信報 in 1973 and the Hong Kong Economic Journal Monthly 信報財經月刊 in 1977. For 25 years, he wrote a widely acclaimed daily column in which he gave his insightful analyses of Hong Kong and international affairs. Dr Lam was awarded an OBE in 1991.

Dr Mok Hing-yiu 莫慶堯
Doctor of Social Sciences honoris causa
Dr Mok (MBBS 1947) joined the Medical Faculty of HKU in 1939 as a King Edward Scholar and received a wartime MBBS degree in 1947. He was an Honorary Lecturer at HKU from 1951-52 and served both as Vice-President and President of the HKU Alumni Association. He established the Mok Hing-Yiu Professorship in Respiratory Medicine in 2007 and the Mok Hing-Yiu Distinguished Visiting Professorships in 2008.
The legend of Eileen Chang, considered by scholars to be one of the best Chinese writers of her era, has once again been rekindled with the launch of her book *Little Reunion*, the autobiographical novel which has received overwhelming response in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Eileen Chang studied at HKU’s Faculty of Arts between 1939 and 1941 where she excelled academically and received two scholarships. When Hong Kong was occupied by the Japanese, she was forced to suspend her studies and return to Shanghai. However, the two years she spent in Hong Kong were critical to her later emergence as a legend in the world of literature. She passed away in 1995.

Dr Roland Soong, the executor of Ms Chang’s estate, decided to set up a HK$1 million scholarship fund at HKU to support female undergraduate students from the Chinese Mainland or Taiwan to pursue studies in the arts and humanities. Soong felt that it would be Eileen Chang’s wish to create opportunities for students with backgrounds similar to hers, so that they could be freed from financial constraints and able to prosper and excel.

The Legend Continues…
Fabrica Cultura: Hong Kong in Venice

Hong Kong participated in the Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition in 2008 taking Fabrica Cultura (Culture Fabricate): Hong Kong in Venice as its theme.

The Hong Kong exhibition, located in the Campo della Tana in the Arsenale neighbourhood of Castello, was chosen by the Guardian newspaper (September 18, 2008) as one of ten things not to miss at the Biennale.

The curators stated, “Remaking Hong Kong: Architecture as Culture urges us to re-examine the meaning of the city in terms of both its hard- and soft-ware in the challenges of creating and re-creating itself as a great metropolis”.

Four teams from the Faculty of Architecture, HKU, were selected to present their works:

**control tower**
Jason Carlow, John Lin 林君瀚 and Jonathan D Solomon (in collaboration with Stefan Krakhof)

**urban courtyardism: re-fabricating city**
Wang Weijen 王維仁

**city recognition**
Juan Du 杜簡 and Nicola Borg-Pisani

“The Venice Biennale has been referred to as the Olympics of the art and architecture world. With HKU’s participation, we will be reaching out to international audiences in a completely new manner.”

Professor Ralph Lerner, Dean, Faculty of Architecture
First Hong Kong Scholar Awarded a Fellowship of the China Central Research Institute of Culture and History

“I am interested in many things, and I cannot stop chasıng the truth. I find much joy in learning.”

Professor Jao Tsung-I in an interview with the South China Morning Post

Professor Jao Tsung-I is a worldwide renowned scholar and a versatile talent in Chinese learning. He has contributed to many various aspects of the humanities, including archaeology, literature, philology, musicology and history.

Founded by the Chinese government in 1951, the Central Research Institute of Culture and History is an institute for senior intellectuals and honorary purposes. “To respect elders and to promote culture”, the fellowship is directly appointed and conferred by the Premier of the State Council, with the awards only going to the most respectable and honourable names.

A ceremony was held to celebrate the honour bestowed on Professor Jao and was attended by distinguished guests, including Mr Gang Li, (front row, 3rd right), Deputy Director of Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in HKSAR 中央駐港聯絡辦公室副主任李剛先生（前排右三）.

Jao Tsung-I is a renowned scholar and a versatile talent in Chinese learning. His contribution to various fields, including archaeology, literature, philology, musicology, and history, is widely acknowledged.

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Drama Lab II for the Young and Very Young

In the late 1960s, Professor Alan Green, a professor of English, started an innovative course in Contemporary English. The course was stimulating and both the teachers and students thought it would be even more effective if it was acted out in context as drama. So, three lecture rooms in the English Department were converted into a performance space thus, the Drama Lab was created.

Under the leadership of the late Mr Jack Lowcock (BA 1961; MA 1966), Professor Jane Lai Chui-chun 黎翠珍 (BA 1961; MA 1966) and Professor Vicki Ooi 黃清霞 (BA 1965), all of whom taught at the English Department, the Drama Lab inspired a whole generation of professional directors, actors, translators and creative/production teams. Many of them, at various stages, have contributed to the development of Hong Kong professional theatre productions in their careers.

In 2008, the Absolutely Fabulous Theatre Connection (AFTEC), a consortium of Shakespear4All Co. Ltd., Seals Players Foundation Ltd. and Eduarts Ltd which founded by Dr Ooi, Lynn Yau 邱歡智 (BA 1981; MEd 2008) and many former members of Drama Lab, launched the project of Drama Lab II.

Its first production Double Bill, jointly organised by HKU’s General Education Unit and the Faculty of Arts, sowed the seeds of a new bilingual Hong Kong Youth Theatre in which young people can come together in a creative and stimulating environment.

“This (Drama Lab II) is bigger project: for the young and the very young; in English and in Chinese. My heart goes out to them in a warm welcome to fun and adventure, and to one of the best learning experiences in the whole wide world.”

Professor Jane Lai

“Drama Lab II is an ideological re-creation of the space with young artists from many different walks of life waiting in the wings for a journey down the roads of some of the greatest plays ever written.”

Professor Vicki Ooi