The 14th Vice-Chancellor
Professor Lap-Chee Tsui
Professor Lap-Chee Tsui served The University of Hong Kong as its 14th Vice-Chancellor from September 2002 until he completed his tenure on March 31, 2014.

He had a clear vision of building a strong HKU: enhancing the University's academic excellence in research and teaching, raising its global presence and visibility, and developing the HKU Family to contribute to humanity.
At The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto
“Lap-Chee has helped nurture a supportive culture in which our researchers have been able to excel. We now have 125 scientists ranked within the top 1% by ISI. Arts and humanities have also thrived, including receiving prestigious international awards and playing key roles in international projects. We have been most successful in external funding schemes including Areas of Excellence, Theme-based Research, and State Key Laboratories. Multi- and inter-disciplinary research collaboration is emphasised. Developments over the past decade include enhancing research integrity, promoting knowledge exchange and developing research initiatives in the Mainland.”

**Professor Paul Tam**  
*Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)*
“Congratulations on your achievement in lifting HKU’s world standing and your lasting contributions to human genetics and genomics.

I thank you for all you have done for my alma mater.”

Professor Yuet-wai Kan
L K Diamond Professor in Hematology, University of California, San Francisco

“The sine qua non of an institution of higher learning is its mission and spirit, and nothing beats ‘in search of excellence’, which I clearly see is what HKU has been doing under Lap-Chee’s leadership. HKU was very fortunate to have you, and your leadership has certainly enriched its legacy.”

Dr Rocky S Tuan
Director, Center for Cellular and Molecular Engineering, University of Pittsburgh

At the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine Symposium “Frontiers in Biomedical Research, HKU 2013 – From Gene Hunting to Genomic Medicine: a Celebration with Lap-Chee Tsui and Friends”
December 13 & 14, 2013

During Professor Tsui’s tenure, HKU has consistently published the largest number of refereed research output items in Hong Kong, increased its research output by 80% and its competitive research funding by 50%, and was awarded the largest amount of research funding by the Research Grant Council. The University currently has five State Key Laboratories.
“In these trying times, the self-sufficient ones will survive. However, the leaders among you will use this lesson to bring out the best of humanity.”

Lap-Chee Tsui
*April 2003 during SARS*

A world-renowned researcher, he led the HKU team, sharing his global network and resources, in the fight against the SARS coronavirus during the 2003 outbreak in Hong Kong.
DISEASE DETECTIVES
The university in a global battle against SARS

In February, an elderly medical professor visiting from mainland China checked into Yau Ma Tei's Hong Kong Hospital with mysterious symptoms.

The patient, Liu Jianjun, exhibited a raging fever, warned he was highly infectious, and died shortly afterward, giving us further clues. Puzzled doctors turned to experts at Hong Kong University.
“The University has faced many crises during the past 12 years, yet through these crises he has led the HKU community to safeguard and reaffirm the University’s core values.

I admire his modesty, humility, civility and integrity. Lap-Chee (a name he prefers to be called) always leads by example and he leads by standing behind the people he cares about. He has instilled a strong sense of team spirit over the years, and placed the University in an extremely strong position and with an internationally respected standing.

The University could not have achieved so much without his vision, leadership and selfless devotion to it.”

**Dr C H Leong**  
*Chairman of Council*
“In the past decade, HKU witnessed a historic reform of its undergraduate education. The scale of the changes and the extent to which the entire HKU community was engaged in the deliberation were unprecedented. In the past decade, HKU also witnessed a shared commitment to excellence in teaching and a concerted effort by academic, administrative and technical staff to create a stimulating environment for learning. All this would not have been achieved without the unfailing support of the Vice-Chancellor.”

Professor Amy Tsui  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)

With HKU’s new four-year undergraduate curriculum, students now are immersed in a total learning experience that includes the new Common Core Curriculum and Experiential Learning.
He reformed human resource management at HKU to retain talent and excellence, recognise performance and support professional advancement. During his Vice-Chancellorship, the University increased its faculty numbers by 20%.
With his leadership the University’s Centennial Campus was built, increasing HKU’s academic space by 40% to cater for a student body that had grown by 35% and creating a teaching and learning environment fit for the 21st century.
Led by Professor Tsui, the University grew its international networks and strengthened its reputation for world-class academic and research excellence by collaborating with over 300 universities and institutes worldwide and in Mainland China, and by supporting student overseas exchange and internship programmes. In the past 12 years, the number of non-local students at HKU has increased nine fold, and the University has asserted a strong presence on the Mainland by establishing a study centre, a hospital and two research institutes.
By partnering with society and serving the community, he has raised over HK$10 billion in donations from 50,000 alumni and friends, a record unmatched by any institution in Hong Kong.
On behalf of all the professors that benefitted from the Scheme, and all those who come after us, may we gratefully thank Professor Lap-Chee Tsui who initiated the Scheme nine years ago together with the then Council Chairman Dr Victor Fung.”

Professor David S H Wong
Albert Bing-Ching Young Professor in Ophthalmology

The Endowed Professorships Scheme began in 2005. Through the Scheme, the spirit of giving comes together with the will to excel, creating a permanent contribution to a university’s, and a society’s, pursuit of academic excellence. To date, we celebrate the establishment of a total of 80 Endowed Professorships.

Each of these 80 gifts came with a story, and a dream.
“I come from a single-parent family. Without the First-in-the-Family Education Fund (FIFE Fund), my plan to go on academic exchange to Korea would not have been possible. Thank you, Professor Tsui – you opened up my world.”

Cheng Kam-ling
FIFE Fund recipient

At “To Sir With Love”, an evening celebrating the 6th anniversary of the FIFE Fund
March 21, 2014

The FIFE Fund was established by Professor Lap-Chee Tsui in 2008 and to date, has benefitted 1,800 grass-roots students.
A poem, a piece of music and an art piece dedicated to Professor Tsui by the Faculty of Arts’ Dr Page Richards, Dr Chan Hing-yan and Professor David Clarke respectively.

At the concert “An Anthem for HKU”
February 7, 2014
On March 16, the annual University Foundation Day, students, staff, alumni and friends gathered to bid a fond farewell to the Vice-Chancellor.

Hosted by
HKU Students' Union
HKU Postgraduate Student Association
The University of Hong Kong Staff Association
University of Hong Kong Employees Union
HKU Convocation
HKU Foundation
“感謝徐立之校長
貢獻港大十二載
你是如此的難以忘記”
香港大學學生會
HKU Students’ Union
Session 2014-15

“You are the best, Professor Tsui!”
香港大學研究生會
HKU Postgraduate Student Association
“You have brought in new dimensions to our vision of what makes a magnificent university. You have created a new paradigm of charity at home, a new culture of a spirit of donation from alumni and friends alike in diverse, innovative but equally effective ways.”

Tse Sik-yan
President
Hong Kong University Alumni Association
“Twelve years ago, when I was wondering whether to join HKU, I walked by University Hall. I wanted to see inside but the janitor refused to let me in. Then a passing student not only happily signed me in but also showed me around. I decided a university with students who generously embraced strangers must be great, and later I joined HKU.”

Lap-Chee Tsui
At his last High Table at University Hall
“...What I miss will be all of you – the people here, the University Family.”