

**DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,
*honoris causa***

Professor Yuk-Shan WONG, SBS, BBS, JP



Mr Pro-Chancellor,

The expression “Spring breeze and rain moisten things silently” (春風化雨 潤物無聲) best captures the education philosophy of Professor Yuk-Shan Wong, who has had an exemplary career as a prominent educationist, a visionary University President, a renowned Biochemistry scholar, and an influential leader in public service.

Professor Wong was brought up in Hong Kong and received his higher education in Canada, obtaining a PhD in Plant Biochemistry on the Dean’s Honour List from McGill University in Canada in 1979. After returning to Hong Kong in 1980, Professor Wong began his academic career at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University from 1980 to 1985 and at The Chinese University of Hong Kong from 1985 to 1988. After gaining substantial academic and administrative experience in these positions, Professor Wong then took on various leadership roles in a number of universities: namely, Associate Vice-President for Research and Development at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) from 1997 to 1998, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement and Chair Professor of Biological Sciences at City University of Hong Kong from 1998 to 2006, Vice President of Administration at The HKUST from 2006 to 2014, and President of The Open University of Hong Kong, now Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU), from 2014 to 2021. His dedicated service and contribution to university education over the past four decades has had a crucial impact on Hong Kong’s higher-education development.

Professor Wong’s research interests have focused on the areas of environmental biotechnology, plant biochemistry, and mangrove conservation and utilization. He is currently a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology in the UK and a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institution of Science. Professor Wong has had over 170 papers published in international journals and has written eight academic books, making an immense and widely recognised contribution in various

important fields in the biological sciences. He has been appointed an honorary or visiting professor at many universities, including Nanjing University, Xi'an Jiaotong University, and Sun Yat-sen University.

Professor Wong was a visionary University president, with a deep, far-sighted understanding of the needs of society and education. Under his presidency, The Open University of Hong Kong, now HKMU, made great strides in offering signature programmes in nursing, physiotherapy, testing and certification, and in creative arts to cater for society's need for talent. In leading the University, he always upheld the notion "seek truth from facts" (實事求是). He emphasized that we could not achieve everything, and he encouraged the management team to think thoroughly about what the University's goals should be and what we could do best to serve our students and the community. A case in point was his determination to build the Jockey Club Institute of Healthcare, which provides cutting-edge equipment and facilities to train nursing and physiotherapy students to cope with the rising demand for health professionals in Hong Kong. Under his leadership, the full-time undergraduate student number rose remarkably from about 7,900 in 2014 to more than 10,000 in 2020, ranking HKMU sixth among local universities in terms of full-time undergraduate enrolment. The steady increase in enrolment created a healthy financial position for the university, enabling it to improve campus life and enhance the students' learning experience through the expansion of the Student Affairs Office and the improved provision of various student support initiatives. Students were provided with ample exposure through the Global Immersion Programme, internships, overseas study tours, and numerous co-curricular activities. His foresight was further illustrated by his spearheading the development of the Hong Kong Metropolitan University Zhaoqing campus, which strategically puts HKMU's footprint on our country's higher-education map. Professor Wong was acutely aware that HKMU could not confine its development to Hong Kong, but had to tap into the development potential of the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Professor Wong is a courageous and responsible leader for change, who tackled daunting challenges and initiated constructive changes, provided the changes were beneficial to the long-term development of the University. Though HKMU has put much emphasis on teaching quality, Professor Wong fully realised the importance of lifting the research profile of the University. Taking the opportunity offered by the Research Grants Council (RGC) Competitive Research Funding Schemes for the Local Self-financing Degree Sector, he took the lead to motivate his colleagues to submit applications for research grants, particularly in the areas of practical and applied research. Professor Wong successfully nourished a research culture and expanded the research infrastructure of the University. As a result, for a number of years, HKMU has topped the

list of self-financing institutions in terms of the number of funded projects and the total funded amount, and in the remarkable increase in the number of papers published by faculty members in international journals.

Parallel to the enhancement of the University's research profile, Professor Wong insightfully saw the need to devise a proper performance-based Pay and Reward System (PRS) to motivate staff to reach higher. The process was by no means easy, but Professor Wong listened patiently to diverse views and chaired a series of consultations and briefing sessions. A new PRS was eventually implemented with wide acceptance. Of vital importance, a performance culture was firmly established in the University.

Amid his tight work schedule, Professor Wong never stopped scrutinising the fundamental issues of the University. Considering the notable increase in full-time undergraduate and postgraduate students and the thoughts from staff, students, alumni and other major stakeholders, Professor Wong concluded that the University's longstanding original name 'The Open University of Hong Kong' no longer accurately reflected the broader mission and characteristics of the University. Professor Wong considered it essential to have a new university title to convey the full picture of the University's scope and transformation. A lengthy consultation process on retitling was launched in 2019, which was met with wide enthusiasm and support. After a stringent selection process, a widely accepted new name – Hong Kong Metropolitan University – became our University title. We were fortunate to have Professor Wong initiate and oversee this transformation, given his many valued qualities and unswerving commitment to taking HKMU to new heights, thus placing the University in an indispensable position in Hong Kong's higher-education sector.

Professor Wong distinguished himself in his ability and willingness to communicate with students, and to listen and address their concerns. When facing disagreement with students, Professor Wong demonstrated exceptional patience and a desire for inclusiveness. He convinced the students with reasons and guided them to think thoroughly about issues from a wider perspective. His education maxim "spring breeze and rain moisten things silently" proved very successful, as shown by the high regard the students have for him.

Apart from his academic and administrative leadership, Professor Wong's enormous contribution to public service is equally impressive. He has provided invaluable input to the formation of policy for basic education and the local higher-education system over the past decades. He served as the Chairman of the Curriculum Development Council and a member of the Education

Commission from 2001 to 2007, a member of Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications from 2003 to 2007, and a member of the University Grants Committee from 2005 to 2011, to name just a few positions. Professor Wong's retirement from HKMU did not put an end to his commitment to public service. Instead, he has spent even more time and energy serving Hong Kong and the country. He is currently a Hong Kong Deputy to the National People's Congress of China, Emeritus President of Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Chairman of the Research Grants Council, Chairman of the Society of Hong Kong Scholars, and Chairman of the Academic Committee of the Hong Kong Scholars Program.

Professor Wong's remarkable contribution to public service has won much admiration and recognition. He was appointed Justice of the Peace (JP) in 2001, and received the Bronze Bauhinia Star (BBS) in 2004, the Asian Social Caring Leadership Award in 2015 and the Silver Bauhinia Star (SBS) in 2018. The sketch above is far from a complete summary of Professor Wong's lifetime achievements. Warren Bennis, a world-renowned scholar on leadership, said, "leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality." Professor Wong is a true leader and a multi-faceted role model in academia, education leadership, and public service. His visionary leadership at Hong Kong Metropolitan University furnished the University with prominent progress in academic enhancement, student nourishment and campus development. His profound contribution and influence in education and public service has boosted education and social development in Hong Kong and beyond.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, in recognition of Professor Wong's distinctive, wide-ranging contribution to our University, scholarship, education and public service, may I invite our President to present Professor Yuk-Shan Wong for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

Citation written and to be delivered by Professor Charles Kwong Che-leung

榮譽社會科學博士學位

黃玉山教授

副校監先生：

「春風化雨，潤物無聲」是黃玉山教授教育哲學的最佳寫照。黃教授的成就出類拔萃，堪為楷模。他既是傑出卓越的教育家、高瞻遠矚的大學校長，也是赫赫有名的生物化學家，更是公共服務極具影響力的領袖。

黃教授在香港成長，其後負笈加拿大接受高等教育。1979年，他以「院長榮譽」的優秀成績於加拿大麥基爾大學取得植物生化學博士學位。黃教授於1980年回港後，先後在香港理工大學（1980至1985年）及香港中文大學（1985至1988年）開展學術事業。黃教授憑著豐富的學術與行政經驗出掌多所大學，包括香港科技大學協理副校長（研究及發展）（1997至1998年）、香港城市大學副校長（大學拓展）兼生物科學講座教授（1998至2006年）、香港科技大學行政副校長（2006至2014年），以及2014至2021年香港公開大學（今香港都會大學）校長。過去40年，黃教授為大學教育不辭勞苦、鞠躬盡瘁，為香港的高等教育發展產生了舉足輕重的影響，貢獻卓著。黃教授的研究興趣集中在環境生物科技、植物生化學，以及紅樹林保育和資源利用等範疇。他現為英國皇家生物學會及香港科學會院士。黃教授曾於國際學術期刊發表超過170篇論文、撰寫八本學術論著，在多個生物科學的重要領域建樹卓越，備受推崇。他曾獲多所大學委任為榮譽或客席教授，包括南京大學、西安交通大學、中山大學等。

黃教授是富有卓識遠見的大學校長，對社會和教育的需求眼光遠大。在他擔任校長期間，香港公開大學，即今香港都會大學（都大），取得了長足發展，提供護理學、物理治療、檢測和認證，以及創意藝術等優勢課程，以緊貼社會對人才的需求。黃教授在領導本校時，一直秉持「實事求是」的理念。他強調我們無法涉足每一件事，於是帶領管理團隊全盤思考大學的前進和努力方向，以祈更有效地服務學生和社會。他對興建賽馬會健康護理學院所付出的決心與魄力便是其中一例。這所學院配備尖端儀器和設施，旨在培訓護理學和物

理治療課程的學生，以回應社會對健康護理專業人才日益殷切的需求。在黃教授的領導下，都大全日制本科生人數從 2014 年約 7,900 人激增至 2020 年逾 10,000 人，數字在全港各大學中位列第六。收生人數穩定增加為都大帶來穩健財政，大學得以擴展學生事務處、優化學生支援服務，從而改善校園生活、促進學習體驗。學生有更多機會參與海外沉浸課程、實習、海外遊學團與無數聯課活動，學習生活更豐富充實。黃教授的遠矚高瞻，從他牽頭發展香港都會大學肇慶校園得到進一步印證。就策略發展而言，項目使都大在國家高等教育版圖上留下足印。黃教授充滿睿智，深明都大發展不能限於香港，更應善用大灣區的發展潛力。

黃教授不畏艱難、勇於擔當，是一位銳意求變的領袖。他多番克服嚴峻挑戰，並積極倡議多項改革，推動大學長遠發展。黃教授充分了解到都大不應只滿足於教學質素，也須增強學術研究實力。他緊握大學教育資助委員會「本地自資學位界別競逐研究資助」的機遇，鼓勵同事申請研究資助，重點發展實用和應用研究，成功為都大培養了活躍的研究文化，並且擴展了學術研究基礎設施，使本校研究發展卓有成效。就研究資助總額與資助項目總數而言，都大在本地自資學位院校中一直位居榜首。教學人員在國際學術期刊發表論文的數字也有顯著增加。黃教授識見非凡，在提升學術研究實力的同時，也洞察須設立績效為本的「薪酬獎勵制度」來激勵員工更上層樓。設立新制度的過程並非一帆風順，但是黃教授耐心聆聽各方意見，並主持連串諮詢會與簡報會，最終落實廣獲員工接受的全新「薪酬獎勵制度」，讓績效文化植根本校。儘管黃教授工作繁重，但從不停止推進都大精益求精。有鑑於本校全日制本科生和研究生人數明顯增多，並充分考慮到教職員、學生、校友和主要持份者的看法，黃教授認為本校沿用已久的名稱「香港公開大學」不再準確反映其使命和特色。黃教授認為學校須冠上新名才能反映其格局和蛻變轉型的全貌。本校於 2019 年展開全面的重新命名諮詢，獲得各方熱烈支持。經過嚴謹的甄選，終於敲定一個獲廣泛認同的新名字：香港都會大學。黃教授德才兼備，堅定不移地帶領都大攀向新高峰，使本校在香港高等教育界穩居要位，實是本校、學界，以至社會之福。

黃教授擁有非凡的感染力，與學生溝通時總是細心聆聽他們的心聲，並解決他們關心的問題。遇到意見分歧時，黃教授會秉持「春風化雨，潤物無聲」的精神，以無比耐心和包容引導學生以更廣闊視野思考問題。他以理服人的風範更是深受學生愛戴。

黃教授不但是學界的卓越領導人，對公共服務同樣貢獻良多，令人欽佩。過去數十年，他對基礎教育的政策制定及本地高等教育制度提供了寶貴意見。他曾擔任香港課程發展議會主席及教育統籌委員會成員（2001 至 2007 年）、香港學術及職業資歷評審局委員（2003

至 2007 年)，以及大學教育資助委員會委員（2005 至 2011 年）等重任。黃教授從香港都會大學退休後仍繼續熱心公益，盡心盡力服務香港和國家。黃教授現時為港區全國人大代表、香港都會大學榮休校長、研究資助局主席、香港學者協會會長，以及「香江學者計劃」學術委員會主席。

黃教授在公益服務的傑出建樹獲各界嘉許。他於 2001 年獲委任為太平紳士、2004 年獲頒銅紫荊星章、2015 年獲頒亞洲社會關愛領袖獎、以及 2018 年獲頒銀紫荊星章。黃教授的畢生成就當然不只於以上美譽。正如世界知名學者華倫·班尼斯所說：「領導才能就是將願景轉化為現實的能力。」黃教授在學界、教育領導力和公共服務等領域，便是把願景實現的領袖榜樣。他在香港都會大學前瞻擘劃，使本校在學術發展、學生培育和校園發展進步超卓。黃教授對教育和公共服務的貢獻別具意義、影響深遠，大大促進了香港境內外的教育和社會發展。

副校監先生，為表揚黃教授對本校、學術、教育和公共服務等不同範疇作出非凡貢獻，本人謹恭請校長引介黃玉山教授接受本大學榮譽社會科學博士學位。

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