

Mrs Jennie Lee Mui Yee-Ching
Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*
Citation

"Cultivating talents for society!" Such is the ultimate goal of Lingnan University's liberal arts education, and this ideal of ours is best exemplified and carried forward by the honorable Mrs Jennie Lee Mui Yee-Ching (who is with us today).

Ms Mui was born and brought up in Hong Kong. She graduated from the English Department of Hong Kong University with an honors degree. She speaks beautiful, fluent English aside from Cantonese, Mandarin, Shanghai and Toishan dialects. To realize her childhood dream, she embarked upon a career of teaching, first in her native land, shortly after graduation. Two years later, she left for Canada and the United States of America to pursue further studies in English literature. After that she worked as an English teacher at a famous private girls' school in the US and her ability to teach English to native Middle School students was acclaimed by students and staff alike. Concluding her illustrious teaching career abroad, she joined the Rochester (New York) YWCA and served on its International Liaison Committee whereby she made great contributions to the local communities.

In the meantime, Ms Mui never forgot about Hong Kong where she was nurtured, and after her return to the city she took up a series of public duties. In 1975, she was invited to serve as a director of the Hong Kong YWCA, acting as chairperson of its various committees, including nursery (for 6 years), retirement, hotel and hostels, and food services. While she was in charge of the reconstruction projects of the organization, one of her major achievements was acting as chairperson of the Rebuilding Committee, which produced a new hostel - the YWCA Lodge - in Yau Yat Chuen, Kowloon. Ms Mui happily and tirelessly devoted herself to the charitable causes (all of which she loved) at the YWCA continuously for 28 years. As for services at Hong Kong's YMCA, Ms Mui was elected President of its Y's Men's Club of Hong Kong, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, working actively to promote youth leadership as well as raising funds annually to help non-government organizations each year, such as Haven of Hope, Home of Loving Faithfulness, and Breakthrough Youth Village.

Ms Mui has always been deeply concerned with youth development and therefore attaches great importance to education. During her tenure as a member of the Scholarship Committee of the American Women's Association, she paid numerous visits to various schools and tertiary institutions and attended many of their graduation ceremonies so as to obtain a better understanding of the education system in Hong Kong. In recent years, she first served as an academic advisor to the Lingnan University Alumni Association Primary School (LUAAPS) and now as a School Manager of the Lingnan University Hong Kong Alumni (LUHKA) DSS Primary School. It was due to the relentless effort made by Ms Mui and other school managers that LUAAPS was resurrected from the brink of closure caused by insufficient student enrollment and

therefore also lack of direct subsidy. Ms Mui also made personal donations to face-lift existing school facilities and even provided subsidies voluntarily out of her own pocket to an English teacher from America whom the school and parents wanted very much to retain for his excellent teaching performance. As a result, the school has benefited tremendously from Ms Mui's personal involvement.

Prior to the return of Hong Kong's sovereignty to China in 1997, Ms Mui and her husband Dr Lee Shiu had already envisioned a future in which compatriots on the mainland and in Hong Kong would treat each other 'like one family'. To fulfill that vision, they actively promoted the idea of bringing together students from the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and North America with the purpose of broadening their mind and turning them into potential community leaders with international ideals, a loving heart, and a strong desire to serve their societies. This eventually gave rise to the annual "Lee Shiu Summer Institute", funded by the Lees, co-organized by and jointly run with Lingnan University. Since 1998, the Lees have been giving donations to run three summer cultural exchange programs, co-organized by Lingnan University, the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong respectively. Each year, this socially very meaningful scheme enrolls dozens of university students from the mainland of China and Hong Kong and a relatively smaller number from North America, who then live together for 4-6 weeks, exchange ideas on political, economic and social issues related to their cities and regions, and go on field trips to some major Chinese cities in the Pearl River Delta, Yangtze River Delta and Beijing, to broaden their horizon. Of the three summer programs mentioned above, the "Lee Shiu Summer Institute" co-organized by Lingnan University is the only one that is conducted entirely in English, and this is particularly useful in enhancing the English proficiency of Mainland and Hong Kong students on the one hand, and enabling American students without much competence in Chinese to join on the other hand. Thus, the project is bridging the gap between the oriental and occidental cultures. Quite a number of Mainland Chinese students go overseas for further studies upon graduation, while some of their North American counterparts choose to revisit China either as teachers of English or simply as new fans of Chinese language and culture. This testifies to the trans-cultural spirit of the institute and further enhances Lingnan University's reputation overseas. Apart from making financial donations, Ms Mui also provided valuable input on the general content as well as its detailed implementations of the program. She gave lectures herself to students on the moral qualities required of today's leaders and the quintessence of the traditional Chinese culture, placing particular emphasis on one's strong sense of social responsibilities, revealing herself as an example of a tireless and dedicated educator.

For its centennial anniversary celebration held in September 2005, Fudan University (in Shanghai) invited many university presidents from different parts of the world to a

Forum and Dr Lee and Ms Mui were the only "non-presidents" among the distinguished guests. The Lee Shiu Summer Cultural Exchange Programs were described in Fudan's Centennial Brochure along with well-known universities like Oxford and Cambridge, Harvard and U.C. Berkeley. Fudan University shares the Lees' vision that today's university students should open their eyes to the whole world while maintaining a firm foothold in home affairs. From this we can see that the "Lee Shiu Summer Institute" and its originators command respect in the area of international exchange among tertiary institutions.

In addition to her work on education, Ms Mui has also been heavily involved in different kinds of charitable causes other than those described above. She spared no effort in helping the fast-food chain McDonald Hamburgers' US Corporation to set up a Ronald McDonald House in Hong Kong - its first in the Far East, which is specifically devoted to providing accommodations for young cancer patients and their families in the vicinity of a hospital. She had a hand in almost every task ranging from the conceptualization and design of the hostel to the recruitment of the architect, all for the purpose of making it easier for patients and their families to visit the hospital, and then to support one another while staying in the Ronald McDonald House next to the Prince of Wales Hospital.

Furthermore, Ms Mui is very committed to the preservation of historical sites and traditional culture in Hong Kong. After many twists and turns, she and her husband finally managed to purchase the Dragon Garden, created by Dr Lee's late father Dr Lee Lu Cheung, in Tsing Lung Tau, to be made available and donated to the city for the enjoyment of the people of Hong Kong. Dating back to the middle of last century, the garden with its many structures boasts a good combination of the Chinese and Western architectural styles and, thanks to the selflessness on the part of Ms Mui and her husband, it has been spared from property developers' bulldozers. At present they are continuing talks with the government on issues of restoration and renovation to the garden.

Mr Chancellor, Ms Mui has made immeasurable contributions not only to the education sector but also to various charitable causes in society. Her selfless spirit and tireless effort best illustrate her own idea of "one world, one dream". Such an exemplar of "cultivating talents for society" perfectly echoes Lingnan's concept of liberal arts education for the whole world. For this and many other achievements she has made, please allow me to present to you Mrs Jennie Lee Mui Yee-Ching for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*.

李梅以菁女士 榮譽社會科學博士 贊辭

嶺南大學的校訓是「作育英才，服務社會」，其具體實踐表現於博雅教育的推行，能身體力行並將之發揚光大者，李梅以菁女士無疑乃其中之佼佼者。

李梅以菁女士生於香港，英語精湛嫻熟，畢業於香港大學英文系。為實現少年夢想，大學畢業後隨即在港執教鞭，踏上獻身教育之路。兩年後負笈北美，在美國和加拿大深造英國文學。學成後在美國著名女校執教，以華人身份教授美國青年英語，廣受學生愛戴及同事讚賞。在海外春風化雨多年，後加入紐約羅徹斯特基督教女青年會，事奉於國際聯誼委員會，積極回饋當地社會。

梅女士始終沒有遺忘撫育她的香港，回港後擔任多項公職。一九七五年獲邀出任香港基督教女青年會董事，先後擔任會內託兒、退休、賓館、膳食等多個委員會的主席，又主管重建工程，又一村女青雅舍的建成便是其重大成就之一。梅女士敬業樂業，無私奉獻二十八載。去年及本年均獲選擔任香港中華基督教青年會聯青社之香港社社長。

梅女士一直關注年青一代的成長，因此最重視教育。在擔任美國婦女協會獎學金委員會成員期間，她多次探訪多所中小學和高等院校，並出席各校的畢業典禮，加深了對本港教育體系的了解。近年先後擔任嶺南同學會小學學術團顧問及嶺南大學香港同學會直資小學校董會成員，前者曾因收生不足而出現停辦危機，後經梅女士及眾校董全力挽救，學校最終轉為直資而得以重生，渡過難關。此外，梅女士還捐資改善禮堂及增加設施，更向一位深得校方及家長讚賞的美籍英語教師發放津貼，讓他安心留校任教。梅女士凡事親力親為，積極投入，學校因而獲益良多。

在香港回歸中國前夕，梅女士及其夫婿李韶博士認為港人和內地同胞將會「一家親」，於是積極擴闊內地、香港和北美學生的思維，以培養具抱負、有理想、將來以愛心服務社會的領袖，由嶺南大學協辦的「李韶暑期研習所」乃應此而生。自一九九八年起，李韶博士伉儷每年都贊助分別由嶺南大學、香港大學及香港中文大學協辦的暑期計劃。該計劃饒富意義，每年均招收內地、香港和小部份北美的大學生，讓他們在四至六星期內共同生活，探討香港和內地的政治、經濟和社會問題，並到內地主要城市考察，以增廣見聞，擴闊視野。嶺南大學「李韶暑期研習所」更是唯一全用英語交流的學府，能提高內地和香港學生的英語溝通能力，並成為溝通中西文化的橋樑。不少內地學生大學畢業後順利負笈海外升學，北美學生則熱愛學習中文及中國文化，更立志到中國擔任英語教師，可見研習所的教與學都是跨越國界的，也同時提高了嶺南大學在海外的聲譽。梅女士不但在金錢上贊助有關計劃，更為課程內容及各項細節出謀獻策，甚至親自向學員講解領袖應有的品格和中國傳統文化精神，並強調奉獻社會的責任，盡顯諄諄善誘和誨人不倦的教育家風範。

二零零五年九月，上海復旦大學舉行百週年慶典，廣邀世界知名大學的校長出席，芸芸賓客中只有梅女士及其夫婿李韶博士並非大學校長。大會場刊更重點介紹李韶暑期計劃，因為復旦大學和李韶博士伉儷都認為當代大學生在立足本國的同時，必須放眼世界，李韶暑期計劃之享譽海內外及李韶博士伉儷在高等教育界中之崇高地位於此可見一斑。

除了教育事業，梅女士還熱心公益，全力協助美國麥當勞快餐集團在本港籌建遠東地區首間「麥當勞叔叔之家」，專門為癌病兒童及其家人在醫院附近提供住宿院舍。從構思到院舍設計，甚至聘請建築師，梅女士都殫精竭慮，務使患者及其家人往返醫院更為便利，讓各病童家庭能在院舍內互相支持。

此外，梅女士及其夫婿更致力保護本港古蹟和傳統文化，幾經波折，終於購下位於深井青龍頭的龍圍花園，以捐贈社會，供香港市民參觀和欣賞。這座建於上世紀五、六十年代、糅合中西建築風格的大宅，能夠避過發展商的推土機而得以保留，梅女士實在功不可沒；日後還會不斷與政府磋商有關古蹟的修復問題。

監督先生，梅女士多年來身體力行，不單在教育方面貢獻良多，對社會公益事業也盡心竭力，抱著鍥而不捨的精神，積極貢獻社會，充分體現了她「同一個世界，同一個夢想」的理念，堪稱「作育英才，服務社會」的典範，與嶺南大學博雅教育懷抱天下的理念不謀而合，我謹此恭請閣下頒授榮譽社會科學博士學位予李梅以菁女士。