



Mathematics Maestro Prof. YAU Shing Tung Speaks at CUHK Science 60th Anniversary Distinguished Science Lecture

Press Release

In 2023, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and the CUHK Faculty of Science (CUHK Science) are both celebrating their 60th anniversaries. On 24 April 2023, CUHK Science was honoured to have Professor YAU Shing Tung, a Distinguished Professor-at-Large, CUHK and the Wolf Prize and Fields Medal Laureate, to deliver a lecture entitled “Tolo Homecoming - Reunion for CUHK's Diamond Jubilee” in celebration of the Faculty’s 60th anniversary. Around 300 scholars, staff, students and members of the public attended the lecture. In addition to the live audience on-site, over 600 of audience from Mainland China joined the lecture online, eager to hear Professor Yau’s sharing.

Professor Yau’s talk took the audience back in time, starting from even before CUHK was established. His late father, Professor CHIU Chin Yin, used to teach at Chung Chi College, thus began Professor Yau’s connection with Chung Chi, and later, CUHK. While studying at Chung Chi College, Professor Yau had a thirst for knowledge, and eagerly took up opportunities to further his understanding of mathematics by taking advanced courses and discussing with his teachers, such as Dr. CHOW Hing Lun and Professor Stephen SALAFF.

Since his graduation from the Department of Mathematics at Chung Chi College in 1969, Professor Yau has solved many important mathematical problems, and is widely considered to have made remarkable contributions to the development of modern differential geometry and geometric analysis. His achievements won him multiple prestigious awards, and he recalled happily during his talk of being conferred the Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, by the University in 1980.

By 1992, Professor Yau returned more frequently to CUHK to give talks as part of a weekly lecture series. He was glad to witness the critical development of the Department of Mathematics, starting with the recruitment of Professor CHENG Shiu Yuen as Department Chairperson. The next critical point was the establishment of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, which was made possible thanks to the support of the Department and a generous donation, followed by recruiting Professor XIN Zhouping’s help to steer the Institute. Over the years, the Department continued to attract and recruit a number of promising young faculties despite having limited resources. For some time, CUHK’s Department of Mathematics even became No. 1 in Asia in terms of citation index. At the closure of his lecture, Professor Yau hoped that the Department would continue to nurture future generations of mathematical talents, strengthening the development of fundamental sciences for many years to come.

About Professor YAU Shing Tung

Professor YAU Shing Tung is one of the most influential contemporary Mathematicians. He is now a Distinguished Professor-at-Large and Director of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences at CUHK, as well as an Emeritus Graustein Professor of Mathematics at Harvard University. In 1969, he graduated from the Department of Mathematics, Chung Chi College, CUHK, and was then admitted to the University of California, Berkeley, where he completed his PhD degree two years later under the supervision of Prof. CHERN Shiing Shen. He spent a year at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and also taught at Stanford University, Stony Brook University, and the University of California, San Diego. He has been a faculty member at Harvard since 1987.

Professor Yau has made major contributions to the development of Mathematics in China. He has led a number of research institutes in China, including Hong Kong where he grew up, for research and nurturing young mathematicians. Professor Yau has received numerous awards and honours. At the age of 33, he was awarded the Fields Medal, which is regarded as the Nobel Prize in Mathematics. He continued to receive multiple awards in recognition of his contribution to the advancement of Mathematics, including the Veblen Prize in Geometry (1981), the MacArthur Fellowship (1985), the Crafoord Prize (1994) and the US National Medal of Science (1997). In 2010, Professor Yau received the Wolf Prize in Mathematics in recognition of his lifetime contribution to geometric analysis, and his enormous impact on many areas of geometry and physics.

About CUHK Faculty of Science

For the past six decades, CUHK Science has been striving to become a world-class, research-oriented Faculty, leading scientific innovations across a wide range of disciplines. The impressive list of faculty members and distinguished alumni attest to the fine level of research, teaching and learning at the Faculty. Members of the Faculty have committed themselves to their research areas with the aims of expanding the frontier of human knowledge and contributing to the improvement of human life.

For further information about CUHK Science, please visit: <http://www.sci.cuhk.edu.hk/>.

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Figure 1 Professor YAU Shing Tung recalled his lifelong ties with Chung Chi College and CUHK as part of the Science Faculty 60th Anniversary Distinguished Science Lecture Series.



Figure 2 Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Rocky TUAN (right), together with Dean of Science Professor SONG Chunshan (left), presented souvenirs to Professor YAU Shing Tung in gratitude for his lecture.



Figure 3 Invited guests took a group photo with Professor Yau (7th from left in front row).



Figure 4 After his talk, Professor Yau (5th from left in front row) took a group photo with the audience.



Figure 5 The talk attracted many young people to hear Professor Yau's candid recollection of his lifelong connection with CUHK.