



HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Science
Sharing from Prof C F Ng

It gives me great pleasure to be invited to write a few words of sharing at the 50th Anniversary of the Science Faculty of Hong Kong Baptist University.

In its existence of 50 years, fate had it that I had the honour and privilege to be associated with this great Faculty for sixteen years – four years as the Head of the Department of Chemistry, twelve years as Dean. Looking back, it is difficult to describe my experience as simply “fond memory”. It goes much beyond that. Macroscopically, it was a period of golden expansion for Hong Kong higher education. For BU and our Faculty, those were really eventful and exciting years. We were moving so fast – first, the spearheading of the HKBC degree course development (the 1st two degree courses accredited were BSc (Hon) in Combined Sciences and Bachelor of Social Science in Social Work), then MPhil and PhD programmes. With substandard undergraduate laboratories and virtually no research facilities to speak of, we gradually built up modern undergraduate laboratories and a variety of modest research facilities and research infrastructure. In a short span of three years after offering BSc degree, we were granted permission by UPGC to admit MPhil students and in another two years, PhD students. During this period, the Faculty also established the Department of Computer Science and the first degree programme in Chinese Medicine for the University (and for Hong Kong).

In the intervening years, we were very fortunate to be able to attract many outstanding scientists to join us and no less gratifying that many of the existing staff could rise to par by taking advantage of improved funding and facilities. We were mighty proud that the rapid surge in our research reputation was contributed by both existing and newly recruited colleagues.

Behind this moving story, it was the selfless dedication, the togetherness “can do” spirit and capability of science colleague that propelled the Faculty (and the university) ahead. For that, I shall never forget and forever gratified.

Taking this opportunity, I should like to mention two individuals. First is Jerry W Barrett, my predecessor. Under Jerry’s leadership, the Faculty was already in good shape and when he took up the position of Academic Vice President, he had always been supportive of the Faculty’s endeavours. It was really a blessing to work with Jerry whose honest, sincere, easy going style impacted me greatly in my career at BU and elsewhere. The other person is MH Mok who served as Dean



of the Faculty before Jerry and subsequently Vice President of Administration; it was he who led me into the BU's family. Of course I would always remember the pleasure and fortune in working with my science colleagues like WH Chan, Albert WM Lee, NH Cheung, Bambi Hu, MH Wong, MJ Li, Fang Kai Tai, Fred Hickernell, Tang Tao, Rick WK Wong, Earnest Lam, Jiming Liu, YY Tang, Zhang Jianhua, Ricky Wong, Mildred Yang, Jonathan Wong, Cai Zongwei, CT Au, SY Lai, just to name a few (this order is completely unscientific).

Thanks are also due to Prof Rick Wong and Tang Tao for moving the Faculty further and higher. Unfortunately, presently UGC and RGC are adopting policies about which we have reservation, and the challenge we face is undoubtedly considerable. However, I am confident that our dedicated science colleagues, under the able leadership of Prof Tang Tao, will continue to make our Faculty shine.

Congratulations! Faculty of Science!

C F Ng
President

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