

### **Prof Christine FANG Meng-sang BBS, JP**

Prof Christine Fang Meng-sang graduated from the University of Hong Kong in 1980 with a Bachelor in Social Science degree in social work. She later attended the University of Chicago, earning a master's degree in social service administration in 1998.

Her life has been deeply influenced by her father, Harry Fang Sin-yang, a prominent orthopaedic surgeon who devoted his career to the treatment and rehabilitation of his patients, many of whom were disabled. Her father instilled in his daughter important values such as personal integrity, compassion and service to the community. One of the things she has observed from her father's medical practice was that it's not only about curing people, but rather, helping them return to a normal decent life, with the ability to work and to participate equally in society.

As a manifestation of her lifelong commitment to community service, Prof Fang has devoted her career to the task of creating a fair and just society. In her own words, "No one should be deprived of fair access to resources because of his/her social class, skin colour or disability."

Prof Fang's career and outlook on life can serve as a lesson for many. Commencing her formal career as a community worker in Sham Shui Po, where she assisted families in a temporary housing area, she drew both experience and inspiration for what was to become her lifelong work in fighting poverty and empowering the disadvantaged. One of the aspects she has gained from this work can be summed up as follows: "Life choices are all too often narrowed by the circumstances of one's birth. It is when you are cared for and loved by another human being, that you have the strength to change and hang on in difficult situations."

Prof Fang later joined the Hong Kong Red Cross in 1989, and in 1993 was appointed Secretary-General, involved in raising public awareness of and support for international humanitarian actions, including assisting victims of the genocide in Rwanda and natural catastrophes in Mainland China and other locations. "I believe in humanity in action. As global citizens, we can contribute to saving lives and helping people in crises and disasters, not just in Hong Kong," she said.

In 2001 Prof Fang was appointed Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Council of Social Services, an umbrella group that consists of over 400 non-government organisations providing some 90 percent of the social services offered in the territory. Her mission was to build the capacity of civil society organisations, which she believes are elements vital to the foundations of a "good and sustainable society".

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Through her work, Prof Fang has fostered a spirit of cooperation and partnership among different sectors of society, involving them in service to the community. In her own words, “We help people see things eye to eye and foster solidarity to find solutions together. Helping the disadvantaged isn’t just the responsibility of social workers.” She has been a tireless advocate for the disabled, the poor and the disadvantaged, and her accomplishments to date are substantial.

In 2013, Prof Fang took early retirement from her public posts, in order to return to frontline service and work on causes that are closest to her heart. Since that time, she has rejoined the Red Cross, heading their committee on international service. As a Professor of Practice at The University of Hong Kong, she has also renewed her advocacy for the disadvantaged and of improving lives and care for the elderly. In different positions now, Prof Fang continues her mission in helping non-governmental and charitable organisations to deliver better services to the needy people they serve.

Mr Chairman, for her distinguished contributions to public services in the community, for her commitment to empowering the disadvantaged and strengthening civil society organisations which exemplifies the University’s motto of “Education for Service”, may I present Prof Christina Fang Meng-sang to you for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

*English citation written and delivered by Prof James Rice*

### 方敏生教授

方敏生教授1980年畢業於香港大學，獲社會工作學士學位；其後於芝加哥大學深造，1988年獲社會服務行政碩士學位。

方教授深受父親方心讓醫生所薰陶。方醫生為著名整形外科醫生，一生竭力為病人提供治療和復康服務，其中不少為傷殘人士。父親循循善導，為女兒的生命灌輸了重要的價值觀，例如正直誠信、關愛他人和服務社群。細察父親行醫的歷程，讓她留意到父親不單醫治病患，更幫助他們重過有尊嚴的正常生活及重獲工作能力，跟別人平等地參與社會事務。

方教授矢志服務社群，這份心志體現於她一生致力的目標上：創造一個公平公正的社會。用她的話說，「任何人都不應該因為社會階級、膚色或殘疾而被剝削公平取得資源的權利。」

方教授的工作和人生觀可以作為大家學習的楷模。她最初在深水埗臨時房屋區擔任社區工作人員，服務該區的家庭，當中的經驗啟發她日後致力減貧和幫助弱勢社群的心志。以下是她從事社區服務員的其中一番體悟：「人生的選擇往往受制於個人的出生條件。惟有得到別人的照顧和關愛時，你才有力量改變過來，克服困境。」

方教授於1989年加入香港紅十字會，並於1993年獲委任為秘書長。她的任務是提高大眾對國際人道救援行動的認識和支持，其中包括協助盧旺達種族滅絕大屠殺中的受害者，以及內地和其他地區遭受天災的不幸人士。「我相信用行動去彰顯善心。作為世界公民，我們可以為拯救身處危難中的人作出貢獻，而受助的地區亦並不只限於香港。」

方教授於2001年獲委任為香港社會服務聯會總幹事。聯會轄下有四百多個非政府組織，為香港提供約九成的社會服務。方教授的任務是提升這些組織的能力，因為她相信在一個「良好而可持續發展的社會」中，非政府組織是重要的基礎元素。

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方教授的工作，鞏固了來自不同界別的人士在參與社會服務時的合作和伙伴精神。她說：「我們協助大家對事情取得一致的看法，並將大家團結起來合力解決問題。幫助弱勢社群並非只是社會工作者的責任。」她多年來一直努力不懈地為殘疾人士、貧苦大眾和弱勢社群爭取權益，成果豐碩，影響深遠。

2013年，方教授提早從公職中退下來，為的是重回前線服務，為最關心的事情作出貢獻。她再次加入紅十字會，領導專責國際服務的委員會。作為香港大學的專業應用教授，她亦再次為弱勢社群爭取權益；為長者爭取改善生活條件和護理服務。今天身處於不同的位置，方教授仍繼續她的使命，幫助非政府組織和慈善機構為所照顧的對象提供更好的服務。

主席先生，方教授的努力正體現了本校「作育英才·服務社會」的校訓。為表揚方教授對公眾服務所作出的傑出貢獻；對幫助弱勢社群自力更生和對提升非政府組織能力所作出的承擔和努力，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予方敏生教授。

英文贊辭由James Rice教授撰寫及宣讀

## **Prof Christine FANG Meng–sang *BBS, JP***

Council Chairman The Hon Bernard Chan, President Prof Leonard Cheng, Honorary Fellows, Lingnians, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am deeply honoured to receive this Honorary Fellowship from Lingnan University, and I am delighted to deliver this address on behalf of the other five distinguished honorary fellows, who received this honour together with me today.

My maternal grandfather was a graduate of Canton Christian College. Upon graduation he was recommended to compete for a national scholarship (the Boxer Scholarship) to pursue university education in the United States. He succeeded and attained a doctoral degree in chemistry in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, USA, returning to his home town Hong Kong in the early 1920s. This was my first-hand experience of Lingnan's commitment to supporting the pursuit of high aspirations in life and whole person development of generations of young minds under their care and guidance.

Today, five honorary fellows and myself share the honour of becoming Lingnians. We espouse the University's vision of "Education for Service" and commitment to humanity.

The current political tension and increasing polarisation in our society are worrying to everyone that cares for the community. The challenge is immense but we should not lose hope. Hong Kong has weathered worse circumstances like the Japanese occupation, and the health and economic crises in the recent decade. It is in these trying times that we reflect on what we really value and strive to uphold. High ideals stem from simple beliefs.

I believe in humanity. I see the actions and power of humanity in the work of the honorary fellows present today, in helping the disadvantaged, preserving our history, inspiring our youth and advocating a better society. We believe in people and we work to make livelihood better, our society better. It may be back to basics, that is what we need now. We need to work to bring hope, enrich lives, build aspirations and empower people to strive for their dreams.

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Integrity, freedom and justice, rule of law, compassion and respect for humanity are core values we treasure and uphold. Civil society, including academics, professionals, grassroots organisations and businesses, should come together to affirm these values in action. We need to profess and translate these high ideals into activities and programmes, that people can see, participate in and contribute to. The construct of a fair and prosperous society is not just the responsibility of the government or the politicians. Every small step that each can take forward together will become a great leap of progress for society. As the emblem of Lingnan shows, the road to the summit is there through the clouds and by virtue of hard work.

With this, may I call upon all Lingnians to take the future into our hands and work together to make Hong Kong a society that can bring hope, love, prosperity and pride to the people.

In closing, on behalf of Dr Alman Chan, Dr Adrian Cheng, Mr Shen Jinkang, Dr Daniel Waters and my dear friend Ms Fermi Wong, may I express once again our gratitude to Lingnan University and its Council for conferring this honour on us, and to everyone who has given us support and encouragement along the way. We wish the University and all Lingnians every success. Thank you.



## 方敏生教授

校董會主席陳智思先生，鄭國漢校長，各位榮譽院士，各位嶺南人，各位嘉賓：

今天，我深感榮幸獲得嶺南大學頒授榮譽院士銜。我很高興能代表同時獲得榮譽院士銜的五位傑出人士，向大家致辭。

我的外祖父是廣州嶺南學堂的畢業生。畢業後，他得到推薦去競爭一項國家級獎學金(即庚子賠款獎學金)，到美國升讀大學。外祖父成功拿到獎學金，到了波士頓，在麻省理工學院取得化學博士學位。在上世紀二十年代初，他學成歸國，回到自己的家鄉—香港。就是這樣，我親身感受到嶺南的教育抱負。通過悉心關懷及督導，嶺南培育了一代又一代有志追尋遠大志向及全人發展的學生。

今天，我和五位榮譽院士一同分享成為嶺南人的光榮。我們對嶺南「作育英才·服務社會」以及她對人文關懷的願景，深表認同。

對於目前社會上的政治分歧以及日趨兩極化的情況，關心社群的人無不憂慮。我們面對的挑戰是巨大的，但不應該就此失去希望。香港曾經渡過更惡劣的情況，例如日本佔領香港的歲月，以及過去十年的衛生和經濟危機等。正是這些艱難的時刻，讓我們反思我們所珍惜的以及所努力堅持的是什麼。崇高的理想，源於簡單的信念。

我相信仁愛。在今天獲頒院士榮銜的幾位人士身上，我能親見仁愛的行動和力量，扶助弱勢社群，保護歷史傳統，激勵年輕一代，以及推動改進社會等等。我們相信人力，我們協力改善生活，改善社會。這或許是回到基本課題上，也是我們目前需要著手處理的。我們需要致力為社群帶來希望，使他們生活充實、志向遠大，並讓他們有能力追尋自己的夢想。

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誠信、自由、正義、法治、同情，以及對人的尊重，是我們珍惜並且堅持的核心價值。公民社會，包括學術界、專業人士、草根組織及工商企業等，應該團結起來，以行動確認這些價值。我們需要宣揚這些崇高的理想，把它們轉化為各項活動和計劃，讓其他人了解、參與，並作出貢獻。建立一個公正和繁榮的社會並不單單是政府或政客的责任。每個人同時踏出一小步，就能促成社會發展向前的一大步。正如嶺大的校徽展示，必須憑着努力的工作，才可以通過雲彩走向高峰。

有了這個目標，我呼籲所有嶺南人把握未來，共同努力，使香港成為一個能為人們帶來希望、愛心、繁榮和足以自豪的社會。

最後，我代表陳兆焯博士、鄭志剛博士、沈金康先生、華德斯博士和我好朋友王惠芬女士，為嶺南大學及大學校董會頒授這個榮譽給我們再次表示謝意，也向所有給我們支持和鼓勵的同路人表示感謝。衷心希望嶺南大學和嶺南人事事如意，一切順利。謝謝。