

Honorary Degrees Conferral

The University conferred Honorary Degrees upon five outstanding individuals in March at Loke Yew Hall.

Degrees were conferred upon:

Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, former President of South Africa

Dr Mandela was South Africa's first black President. He gained almost legendary status in the 1980s as South Africa's leading anti-apartheid figure, assuming the forefront of the black struggle after his release from prison in June 1990. The following year he became president of the ANC and in 1993 he received the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1994 he was chosen as President of South Africa. Dr Mandela retired from public life in 1999. He has been conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is the third child of Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit of Thailand. She speaks several languages including English, French, German, Chinese, Khmer, Pali, Sanskrit and Latin. She is an accomplished writer and poet. Best known for her development work in remote areas of Thailand. She has lent her support to HKU's Thai programme. In recognition of her valuable intellectual, social and cultural contributions Her Royal Highness has been conferred the degree of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*.

Professor Wang Gungwu, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong

Professor Wang Gungwu, Vice-Chancellor at the University from 1986 to 1995, is an internationally-renowned authority on Chinese history, in particular on overseas Chinese. A firm believer in the benefits of globalisation, Professor Wang strongly encouraged international activities and exchanges with overseas institutions. Under his guidance the University established the HKU Foundation, to foster stronger links with the community and enhance the University's capacity for teaching and research. Professor Wang has been conferred the degree of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*.

Mr Gary Stephens, Founder of Mother's Choice

Mr Gary Stephens and his wife, Helen, came to Hong Kong in 1979 with Youth With A Mission (YWAM), a multinational trans-denominational service organisation. In the late 1980s the Stephens recognised the plight of teenage girls with crisis pregnancies. In co-operation with Ranjan and Phyllis Marwah, they founded Mother's Choice, which started as a home for young girls facing crisis pregnancies, and providing counselling services for the girls and their families. Mr Gary Stephens has been conferred the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

Mr Edmund Tse (BA 1960), Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the American International Assurance Co., Ltd and Senior Vice-Chairman of American International Group, Inc.

Mr Tse received his BA in mathematics from HKU in 1960. In 1997, in recognition of his contributions to the insurance industry and to Taiwan, he was honoured with the Distinguished Businessman of the Year award. The following year he was made an Honorary Fellow of HKU. In 2001 he was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star. Mr Tse has helped establish an Institute of Mathematics at HKU and sits on the honorary panel for the BSc (Actuarial Science) Programme. Mr Tse has been conferred the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.



Nelson Mandela



HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn



Wang Gungwu



Gary Stephens



Edmund Tse