

Twenty-Seventh Graduation Ceremony of Lingnan College
Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*
A Citation


Mr Wong Hoo-chuen

Mr Visitor,

Mr Wong Hoo-chuen is a renowned entrepreneur and philanthropist. His unswerving commitment to the social development of his home town and unfailing support for the promotion of educational and public services have made his story a widely known one.

Born in Baisha Town of Taishan Municipality in Guangdong Province, Mr Wong came to Hong Kong with his father at the age of three. His life-long relationship with Lingnan started when he was enrolled in Lingnan Primary School, graduating in 1931, and in Lingnan Middle School where he graduated in 1937. He then joined the Faculty of Business of Lingnan University but terminated his studies on 21 October 1938 when the Sino-Japanese War broke out and Guangzhou was occupied by Japanese troops. Although Lingnan University later resumed classes on the campus of the University of Hong Kong, Mr Wong's academic pursuits were again interrupted when Hong Kong fell to the hands of the Japanese in 1941. Thereafter, Mr Wong turned his energy towards developing his family business.

His late father, Mr Wong Ming-hin, received wide recognition at his native village, even at a tender age, for his great wisdom, vision and entrepreneurial skills, all of which were requisites for establishing his reputable business. Following his late father's footsteps, Mr Wong was being groomed for a successful business career. The family business, with partnership from close relatives, grew steadily under his care and diversified into other areas such as banking, insurance, property development and being sole agents for the British and American Tobacco Company until 1980. In 1972, Mr Wong set up another business enterprise, Hoo Wah Company Limited, at which he serves as Chairman and Managing Director. With greater flexibility in managing the family business, Mr Wong is able to spare more time in contributing to social, educational and public services. Throughout Mr Wong's business career, he adopts "honesty" and "integrity" as his mottos. He truly distinguishes himself as a respectable entrepreneur with solid Confucian values.

Mr Wong adheres to the precepts of "rather be betrayed than betray others" and "to serve and not to be served", which has earned him considerable praise. He has striven to give back to society what he has gained and this personal attribute deserves widespread commendation.

The contributions Mr Wong has made towards Lingnan's educational enterprise and the development of his native town are amply demonstrable. Soon after the Second World War, when the Hong Kong economy suffered recession, Lingnan Primary School was in serious financial constraints owing substantial debts to a bank, which threatened to take legal action and auction the School premises at Stubbs Road. When Mr Wong learned this, he volunteered to repay the debt and was thus able to retain the school premises.

Mr Wong has long served on the Board of Governors of Lingnan schools. Since 1969 when the Lingnan Education Organization Limited was first established, he had served as Member and Vice-Chairman of its Board of Directors. Between 1970 and 1985, he was one of the three-member fundraising committee of the Organization, dedicated to boosting further developments of Lingnan's educational enterprise. He assumed all these responsibilities and gave generous donations.

Lingnan College was founded in 1967 as a private post-secondary College. In 1978, the College was registered under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance and received partial financial assistance from the Hong Kong Government. Many alumni of Lingnan University in Hong Kong have been more than prepared to contribute to the continuous developments of the College since its establishment, and Mr Wong is among such alumni. Before admission into the aegis of the University Grants Committee, Lingnan College being unable to provide lodgings for local and overseas academics was beset by difficulties in recruiting high-calibre staff, Mr Wong, when he learnt about the situation, donated a great sum of money to build a block of staff quarters in the campus, which was completed in 1980. The block of staff quarters was named "Ming Hin Hall" by the College Council.

In 1995, Lingnan College moved to its present campus in Tuen Mun. Mr Wong together with his friends carried the same surname of Wong, including Dr Wong Bing-lai, Dr Abraham Wong Tat-chang, Mr Samuel Wong Tat-sum, Dr Philip Wong Kin-hang and Mr Wilson Wong Kin-lae, made a huge donation towards the development of the new campus. To express appreciation for their generous contributions, the magnificent administration building "Wong Administration Building" was named after them. At present, the College aspires to become an internationally recognised liberal arts university. One of the important tools to help realise this aspiration is the offering of a rich campus life, of which hostel life is an indispensable part. To help realise this mission, Mr Wong set up a special fund to generate several bursaries for needy students.

In addition to his great care for Lingnan's educational enterprise, he has also offered unstinting financial assistance to the development of his native town. He has financed many public service projects in Taishan and his native town Baisha. A few notable examples may include cement roads ("Song Xi Road" and "Ming Hin Road"), "Wong Ming Hin Memorial Building", "Culture Building", waterworks in Baisha Town, Ming Hin School, "Wong Hoo Chuen Building" in Ju Zheng Secondary School, and an "Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Building of Taishan People's Hospital". Meanwhile, Mr Wong, together with Mr S T Wu, Dr Wong Bing-lai, Dr Philip Wong Kin-hang, Mr Wilson Wong Kin-lae, who are collectively known as the "Five Friends of Taishan" to the local and neighbouring communities, unflinchingly exerts great efforts in promoting education in his home town. They have generously contributed towards the construction of Wu Yi University's "Five Friends of Taishan Building", "Ten Friends of Wu Yi Building" (Literature Centre), Institute of Adult Education and "Five Friends Building" (Science Museum) of Taishan Institute of Education. Mr Wong is also the sole donor of the "Wong Hoo Chuen Building" (a language training centre) in Wu Yi University, and the "Cultural and Art Museum" in Taishan. The latter is dubbed "Flower of the Southern Guangdong Culture" for its splendid architectural style and modern facilities.

In 1987 when Lingnan (University) College was established within Zhongshan University, Mr Wong was appointed Honorary Member of the College's Board of Governors. He made donations towards the construction of "Wong Ming Hin Building". As a firm believer that a strong country with prosperous people is built on education, he endlessly devotes his energy to the development of cultural and educational activities in his hometown and of his *Alma Mater*. He has made every endeavour to put his beliefs into practice, making generous donations to social, cultural and educational causes, which have amounted to tens of millions of dollars. He has performed great feats to society and to his country. His meritorious services have won him many awards and honours, which include "Special Contributory Prize of Rejuvenating Taishan", "Special Contributory Prize of Jiangmen City" "Honorary Citizen of Jiangmen City" and "Honorary Citizen of Taishan City".

Mr Visitor, for the splendid services he has rendered in educational development and public service in both Hong Kong and China, and for his dedicated and selfless efforts toward the consolidation of Lingnan's educational enterprise, may I present Mr Wong Hoo-chuen for the award of the Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

嶺南學院第二十七屆畢業典禮

榮譽法學博士黃浩川先生讚辭

監督先生：

黃浩川先生是一名熱愛桑梓、熱愛教育、熱愛社會公益事業的慈善家和企業家，他的一生經歷，為人稱頌樂道。

黃浩川祖籍廣東省台山市白沙潮境眾亨村松溪里，三歲隨父親來港，弱冠之年進入香港嶺南小學分校就讀，從此開始與嶺南結下一生不解之緣。浩川先生於一九三一年完成小學課程，繼往廣州嶺南中學就讀，一九三七年畢業後隨即進入嶺南大學商學院深造。其時適逢中日戰爭爆發，日軍不時空襲廣州。一九三八年十月二十一日日軍佔領廣州，嶺南大學不久亦遷校香港，借香港大學課室上課，而浩川先生亦隨嶺南大學南下。一九四一年香港落入日軍之手，浩川先生亦因戰亂而輟學，自此專注家族生意。

黃浩川先生之先翁黃銘衍年青時在鄉下為才俊之士，識見宏遠，逕赴萬商雲集之地的香江營商，開仁昌銀號與萬興行，經營金銀業及地產等業務。因運籌有策，未幾成為港粵殷商。黃浩川先生輟學後追隨父親營商，秉承父業，並拓展光大。多年來浩川先生與親屬及友好合營多項企業，業務遍及銀行、保險、地產投資，進出口貿易等，均取得豐碩成果。此外，亦曾與姻親長期擔任英美煙草公司香港總代理，直至一九八零年為止。一九七二年，浩川先生自行創立浩華有限公司。由於公司純屬家庭性企業組織，經營靈活，先生更更多抽出餘暇從事社會文教公益事務。綜觀浩川先生一生營商，以誠與信為其座右銘，加上其勤奮及長袖善舞，成為本港一名著名的殷實儒商，現在仍任浩華有限公司董事長。

浩川先生一生秉持“寧人負我，毋我負人”及“非以役人，乃役於人”之處世哲學贏得友輩讚譽。其取諸社會，回饋社會之高風亮節，亦為人稱頌。

浩川先生功在嶺南教育事業，功在桑梓，可由以下數例可見。二次大戰剛結束不久，百廢待舉，而嶺南小學香港分校亦陷入財政困境，拖欠銀行一筆可觀之債項，債權銀行擬採取法律行動拍賣司徒拔道之校園以償還巨債。浩川先生從母校校長處得悉此事後，自願代母校還債救校，母校之校產因而得以保存。

浩川先生長期出任嶺南中小學校董。一九六九年嶺南教育機構成立，黃氏乃任校董，並曾出任機構副主席等職。一九七零年起至一九八五年，浩川先生出任嶺南教育機構籌款委員會三人小組成員之一，為嶺南教育事業籌劃，任勞任怨，並親自捐獻巨款。

嶺南學院於一九六七年創校，初為私立書院，經費短絀。一九七八年嶺南根據“專上學院條例”註冊為專上學院，並接受香港政府部份津貼。廣州嶺南大學在港校友自嶺南學院創辦之日起一直熱心捐獻，對學院的發展貢獻巨大，而黃浩川先生即為其中之一人。嶺南學院未加入大學教育資助委員會之前，因經費問題未能提供宿舍予本地及海外教員居住，影響招募工作。浩川先生聞悉遂捐巨資在司徒拔道校園建教員宿舍一座，並由董事會命名為“銘衍堂”，該堂於一九八零年落成。

一九九五年，嶺南學院遷入屯門新校園，浩川先生與黃炳禮、黃乾亨、黃乾利、黃達漳、黃達琪、黃達琛等黃氏友好合力捐獻巨款，校方總其成以富麗壯觀之行政樓命名為「黃氏行政大樓」。目前，嶺南學院正致力發展成為國際馳名之博雅大學，豐富校園生活為達至此目標的重要方法之一，而宿舍生活則為校園生活不可或缺之一部份。有鑑於此，浩川先生又再捐助巨額基金，設宿舍獎學金多名，供經濟條件欠佳之莘莘學子能入住宿舍。

黃浩川先生對嶺南教育事業關懷備至，對桑梓之發展亦大力資助，德澤廣被。浩川先生在台山及故鄉白沙鎮捐資興辦之公益事業不勝枚舉，舉其大者計有水泥公路（“松溪大道”、“銘衍大道”），“黃銘衍紀念樓”，“文化樓”，潮境自來水廠，銘衍學校，居正中學之“黃浩川大樓”與“台山人民醫院內科小兒科大樓”。同時浩川先生又與伍舜德、黃炳禮、黃乾亨、黃乾利（五邑人稱他們為“台山五友”）合力在家鄉興學辦校，如捐贈五邑大學“台山五友樓”，“五邑十友樓”（文學中心），成人教育學院及台山師範學院“五友樓”（科學館）等。浩川先生又在五邑大學獨資興建“黃浩川樓”（語言培訓中心）及在台山市興建“文化藝術館”，後者美侖美奐之建築及設施，已被譽為“南粵文化一枝花”。浩川先生的義舉，深得鄉民額手稱慶。

廣州中山大學嶺南（大學）學院於一九八七年成立，黃浩川先生被聘為名譽校董，並捐建“黃銘衍堂”。浩川先生關心桑梓文教建設及母校發展，均建基於其民富國強，須以教育為本之信念。先生身體力行，在各文教社會事業先後捐資達數千萬元之譜，可謂功在社會，功在國家。浩川先生之功績已為他帶來多項榮譽，其中包括“振興台山特別貢獻獎”，“江門市區特別貢獻獎”，“江門市榮譽市民”和“台山市榮譽市民”等，可謂實至名歸。

監督先生，黃浩川先生的多年功業惠及本港及內地教育及公益事業，並以其無怨無悔及大公無私的精神為嶺南教育事業服務，使嶺南根基更為鞏固。為此，謹請頒發榮譽法學博士學位予黃浩川先生。