

Hong Kong Rotary Scholar Rosanna Wong Yick-Ming

invested Dame Commander by Queen Elizabeth II in 1997

by Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

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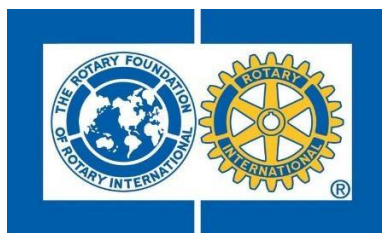


Hong Kong native Rosanna Wong Yick-Ming (王葛鳴), who studied social work on a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship in 1977-1978, was appointed Dame Commander by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom, in Her Majesty's 1997 New Year Honours List--Diplomatic Service and Overseas. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West (香港西區扶輪社) in Rotary International District 345, Rosanna studied at the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada (Rotary International District 707).

Rosanna, the then Convenor of the Executive Council of the British Crown Colony Hong Kong (英國殖民地香港行政局召集人), was honoured for her strong record of public and community service, specially her role as chairperson of the Colony's Housing Authority. She was the second Chinese woman to earn the title of "Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (DBE)". At age 44, she was one of the youngest individuals to be so recognized.

Dame is an honorific title, in the United Kingdom, given to women who have been admitted to certain orders of chivalry. It is the female equivalent of "Sir", the title used by knights. A woman appointed to the grade of Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire becomes a Dame. There is the Chinese translation of the title "Dame" as "女爵士". Women receive all their honours in the same fashion as men receiving decorations or medals, even if they are receiving a damehood, but there is no female word equivalent of being "knighted".

To be made a Dame is to receive one of the highest honours in the United Kingdom, and is usually granted to those who have made a significant contribution to their field, usually on a national level. While in past centuries knighthoods used to be awarded solely for military merit, today they also recognize significant contributions to national life. Recipients range from actors to scientists, and from school head teachers to industrialists.



November 1996 -- During a visit to Hong Kong and Macao (Rotary International District 3450), Rotary International President Luis Vincente Giay met with former Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar Dr. the Hon. Rosanna Wong-Yick-Ming, CBE, LLD, JP, and presented her with a plaque that recognized her contributions to international understanding. Prior to that in 1989, Rosanna was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Tolo Harbour Rotary Club, Hong Kong, of which supported US\$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. That was a recommendation made strongly by Charter President Herbert K. Lau.

A sketch of Rosanna Wong

Doctor The Honourable Dame Rosanna Wong Yick Ming, DBE, *HonDSocSc (HKIEd)*, *HonDSocSc (HKU)*, *HonDSocSc (HkPolyU)*, *HonLLD (Toronto)*, *HonLLD (CUHK)*, PhD (*UCDavis*), MA (*UCDavis*), MSc (*London*), MSW (*Toronto*), BSocSc (*HKU*), JP, was born on 15 August 1952 in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong. Her father Wong Chun-Chung (王俊聰) was an ethnic Chinese from Singapore. Her mother Poon Chor-Ying (潘楚英) had been a journalist in Vietnam and in Hong Kong was a teacher at St. Stephen's Girls' College (聖士提反女子中學). The couple was considered well-educated since both were graduates from universities in the Chinese mainland.

Rosanna is the fourth child in the family. She has three elder sisters and two younger sister and brother. She spent her early years with her family in Shatin (沙田) and later moved to Kowloon (九龍). After entering secondary school, the Wong's family resided on Lyttelton Road (列堤頓道) in Mid-levels on the Hong Kong Island.

Rosanna entered St. Stephen's Girls' Primary School in 1962 and followed her sisters to enter St. Stephen's Girls' College, where their mother taught, in 1965. Rosanna had some classes with her mother. As a student and a Christian, she did voluntary work for the underprivileged, and her active involvement in this work testified to an early call to the vocation of social service. Right from the start, Rosanna was sure of her calling, and her subsequent educational training, and professional and political achievements all bear witness to a life that has been lived in fulfilment of her vocation and in justification of her faith.

Rosanna was admitted to the University of Hong Kong (香港大學) in 1972 to read for a degree in Social Science. At first, she was not given a room in any of the residential colleges because she lived too near to the campus. Only when she became a social secretary of St. John's College Students' Association in Year Three of study, she had the chance to move into St. John's College (聖約翰學院). In the University, Rosanna was something of a student activist and in 1973 joined a university visit to the Communist China in mainland. All these experiences influenced her deeply and she decided to commit herself to the field of social work upon graduation.

Career Social Worker

Upon graduation in 1975, she was offered a job of social worker at the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG) (香港青年協會) --- her only job application. She was sent to Kowloon West at first and became a supervisor responsible for affairs of teenagers and counselling services in districts including Yau Ma Tei (油麻地), Sham Shui Po (深水埗) and Tsuen Wan (荃灣). Rosanna later received HSBC Scholarship for 1974-1975, The Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship for 1977-1978, and PEO International Peace Scholarship for 1978-1979. These 3 scholarships allowed her to further study in the University of Toronto in Canada from 1977 to 1979.

After further training at the University of Toronto where she obtained a Master degree in Social Work in 1979, Rosanna became, at the young age of 28, Executive Director of the Federation.

In 1979, Rosanna was married to pediatrician Dr. Alfred Y. C. Tam (譚一翔醫生).

Before their divorce in 1992, Rosanna have been a Rotary Ann when Alfred was an Active Member of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社) for some years.

In the early years when she was Executive Director with HKFYG, Rosanna had to negotiate with government agencies who dealt with youth problems as a law and order issue. The Federation's remedial work for young criminals provided a much-needed human dimension to the official approach. At the same time, she planned and established new programmes that were preventative and developmental. These include counselling services for young people at risk, a hotline service for problem youth, social skills training, moral and civil education in schools, and leadership development. The Federation offered Rosanna a place and an opportunity to serve the community, and especially, its young, and in turn, her organizational skills and ability to inspire and motivate enabled the Federation to expand progressively under her leadership. Today, the Federation of Youth Groups is one of the biggest organizations and most comprehensive provider of youth services in Hong Kong. In

over 4 decades of service, Rosanna did not waver in her belief that it is in the nurture of its young that a society affirms its commitment to a better future.

To better co-ordinate the human and other resources she deploys so that those under her care can be best served, Rosanna sought to improve her own managerial skills through further study. In 1983, she obtained a Master of Science degree from the London School of Economics, followed by a Diploma in Executive Management from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1985, and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from the University of California in Davis, in 1997. During this period, rigorous formal training went hand in hand with increasing participation in public affairs and political life in Hong Kong. Her achievements both within the academy and in the public sphere demonstrate a capacity for hard work and a single-minded devotion to duty, qualities that ensured her recognition by all with whom she came into contact.

Lawmaker and Public Affairs Services

On 16 January 1989, Rosanna was appointed an Unofficial Justice of the Peace for Hong Kong (JP) (香港非官守太平紳士) by Hong Kong Governor Sir David Clive Wilson (香港總督衛奕信爵士).

Prior to that on 30 October 1985, Rosanna was appointed by Hong Kong Governor Sir Edward Yude (香港總督尤德爵士) to serve the Legislative Council as an Unofficial Member (立法局非官守議員) until 25 August 1988. Subsequently, she was appointed again on 12 October 1988 by Hong Kong Governor Sir David Clive Wilson (香港總督衛奕信爵士) to serve one more term until 31 July 1991.

For part of these six years, from 1988 to 1991, she was also appointed by the Hong Kong Governor a member, and later Convenor, of the Executive Council (香港行政局) before 1 July 1997, and her appointment to the Executive Council (香港行政會議) continued until 2002.

Rosanna also chaired the Hong Kong Housing Authority (香港房屋委員會) between 1993 and 2000, and served also as Chairperson of the Education Commission (教育統籌委員會) from 2001 to 2007.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, in the face of much wariness, doubt and hesitation, Rosanna fought hard for the establishment of a Commission on Youth (青年事務委員會), and for the lowering of the voting age to eighteen. In these hard-won successes, she fully demonstrated her confidence in the ability of the young people of Hong Kong to shoulder responsibility, and the need to open up channels for their social and political participation, and for inclusiveness in government planning of youth policies.

Her contribution to the community has reached out from youth services to other sectors, and in the performance of duty, Rosanna shows a fundamental respect for the people she serves, whatever their class or status. As she says in an article, “In any social service policy, the most important issue is that it must protect and respect individual dignity...In Hong Kong, we have to be careful in ensuring that whatever system we adopt will not injure individual self-esteem, and will not bring social discord. As long as the citizens understand clearly that their enjoyment of appropriate social service is a right, and that the government is caring and recognizes the provision of such service is a responsibility, then problems can be resolved.”

Rosanna understands that sometimes citizens need to be reminded of their rights and governments need to be reminded of their responsibilities.

The trials and tribulations of public life take their toll on even the most able. In moments of adversity when even her best efforts seem to be of no avail, Rosanna would turn temporarily away from active life to contemplation and self-reflection. She finds help and succour from her religious faith, especially from the Old Testament: “In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength” (Isaiah, XXXI, 15). It is in her faith that Rosanna finds constant inspiration and constant renewal. Rosanna has devoted her energies to the welfare and well-being of the people of Hong Kong, and in her, Hong Kong has also nurtured a strong leader who is loyal, open and humane.

Community Services

Rosanna continues to serve the community in various capacities. Other than the above mentioned, she has been the Chairperson of World Vision Hong Kong (香港世界宣明會); Working Group Member of the United Nations High Level Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor; Member of the United Nations High Level Panel on Youth Employment; Member of The Asia Foundation Hong Kong Leadership Council; President of the English-Speaking Union (Hong Kong); Member of the Cyberport Digital Entertainment IncuTrain Centre Advisory Committee; Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Governor of Our Hong Kong Foundation (團結香港基金理事); Chairman of Asia International School Limited, etc.

Services in the Chinese Mainland

Invited by the Communist Party of China (中國共產黨) in 2003, Rosanna served as a Member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (中國人民政治協商會議全國委員會香港地區委員) for 4 terms of 5 years each.

On the other hand, Rosanna serves as a Board Member of the Charities Research Centre (明德公益研究中心), Beijing---a tripartite initiative of the China Foundation of Disabled Persons (中國殘疾人福利基金會), Tsinghua University (清華大學) and World Vision China (世界宣明會 (中國)).

Service in the Commercial Sector

Rosanna serves also the commercial sector as Independent Non-Executive Director of certain public companies listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange:

- (1) The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
- (2) CK Asset Holdings Limited
- (3) CK Hutchison Holdings Limited
- (4) Hutchison Telecommunications Hong Kong Holdings Limited
- (5) The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels Limited

Awards

- (1) 1985 – [Ten Outstanding Young Persons] by Junior Chamber International Hong Kong
- (2) 1989 – [Paul Harris Fellow] by the Rotary Club of Tolo Harbour (吐露港扶輪社), Hong Kong.
- (3) 1992 – [Global Leader for Tomorrow] by the World Economic Forum, Switzerland.
- (4) 2003 – [Beta Gamma Sigma Chapter Honouree Award] by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (香港科技大學), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Decorations

- (1) 1990 – Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE)
- (2) 1994 – Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE)
- (3) 1997 -- Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (DBE)

Honorary Doctorates

- (1) 1996 – Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (香港中文大學), British Crown Colony Hong Kong.
- (2) 1999 – Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, University of Toronto, Canada
- (3) 2002 – Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (香港理工大學), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China.
- (4) 2003 – Doctor of Social Science, *honoria causa*, University of Hong Kong (香港大學), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China.
- (5) 2004 – Doctor of Social Science, *honoria causa*, Hong Kong Institution of Education (香港教育學院), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, China.

Honorary University Fellow



2006 -- Honorary Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London, United Kingdom.



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Rosanna Wong

Master of Social Work (MSW) 1979 Hon. Doctor of Laws (Hon. LLD) 1999

Dame Rosanna Wong Yick-ming's distinguished career as a top-level administrator in Hong Kong included positions on the island's executive council, where she played a prominent role during Hong Kong's handover to China in 1997.

That same year, Wong was made Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, becoming only the second Chinese woman, after Baroness Dunn, to be awarded this honour. Wong also holds a doctorate in sociology from the University of California, Davis and has been the recipient of numerous honorary doctorates. Wong is currently the executive director of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, the largest youth service organisation in Hong Kong.

Wong began her career with the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups after graduating with a degree of social work from the University of Hong Kong in 1975. In 1977, she became a student at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1979 with a Masters of Social Work.

Wong credits U of T with broadening her world view and exposing her to new cultures. "The strongest point of U of T is its multiculturalism," Wong said. The University is "a community of different nationalities and traditions" which she considers a crucial aspect of education.

"I was able to meet friends from different parts of the world [at U of T]" Wong recalled "This University always gives the impression that it [is] open, considerate and committed to service, thus helping lay the foundation of my lifelong professional and personal commitment to public service."

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A Citation



The Honourable Rosanna Wong Yick-ming, CBE, JP

The Honourable Rosanna Wong Yick-ming is a distinguished personality in Hong Kong's political and social service arenas. Born in Hong Kong of Fukienese descent, Ms. Wong completed her primary and secondary education at St. Stephen's Girls' College, where her mother taught. Brought up by broad-minded and liberal parents, she was already very active in voluntary work while still a secondary school student. Motivated by her genuine care for the underprivileged and empowered by her sincerity and ardour for service, she laid the foundations for the role she has been playing in welfare services.

Upon graduation from the University of Hong Kong with a Bachelor degree in Social Sciences in 1975, Ms. Wong became a front line youth worker. In the ensuing 21 years, she has dedicated her time, energy, and more importantly, her intelligence and love to thousands of young people in Hong Kong.

Ms. Wong believes that trust, respect, and sympathy for the way young people think and feel are prerequisites for engaging in youth service. To survive the rapid changes and fierce competition in Hong Kong, young people have to be persevering and optimistic. And in this ongoing struggle, Ms. Wong has been their comrade. As they mature together she deeply understands young people's joys and sorrows. She keenly feels the pulse of this society and the rhythm of life and living.

It is precisely this sense of mission and commitment to Hong Kong that drove Ms. Wong to re-enter academia after gaining years of working experience. She managed to make time out of her busy schedule to study for self-improvement, as a result of which she now holds three Master degrees — in Social Work, Social Policy and Planning, and Arts — from the University of Toronto, London School of Economics and Political Science, and University of California, Davis respectively. Ms. Wong's quest for knowledge and her perseverance make her an ideal mentor and example for young people. She was elected one of Hong Kong's Ten Outstanding Young Persons in 1985, and named a Global Leader for Tomorrow in 1992.

Apart from engaging in youth service full-time, Ms. Wong is heavily involved in public service. She was Legislative Councillor from 1985 to 1991, Chairman of the Social Welfare Advisory Committee from 1988 to 1991, and Chairman of the Commission on Youth from 1990 to 1991. In 1993, she became Chairman of the Police Complaints Committee. She is currently Executive Director of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, Convenor of the Executive Council, and Chairman of the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Independent Commission Against Corruption Complaints Committee and the Children's Thalassaemia Foundation Limited. Each and every one of these posts carries great responsibility and calls for total dedication and commitment. And each and every one of these duties Ms. Wong performs with admirable ease and efficiency, thanks to her outstanding abilities and vigour.

Of all the years of Ms. Wong's career in youth service, which is the career of her choice, 1985 is the most memorable, for it was in that year that she became further involved in the local community by participating in politics. For 12 years now, she has been through thick and thin with Hong Kong citizens in her capacity as member of the Legislative Council and the Executive Council. Ms. Wong believes that, like money, politics per se is not evil. And if its participants keep open and positive minds, allowing public benefit from their foresight and optimism, Hong Kong will no doubt be a better place in the future.

Among her many public duties, Ms. Wong finds the chairmanship of the Hong Kong Housing Authority most challenging. As chairperson, she has to tend to each of the multifarious aspects of the organization, which can be most time- and energy-consuming. To discern the true needs of the population and to understand the plight of those at the grass roots requires a sympathetic ear. With limited resources on the one hand and huge demands for housing services on the other, she has to maintain a balance between empathy and principles. Decisions made have to be abided by despite criticisms and accusations. To be responsible for and to society, therefore, requires infinite courage and confidence.

However momentous the decisions are that Ms. Wong has to make in her different capacities, she is always calm and self-composed. This is indicative of her shrewd time-management and her ability to restore wholesomeness of mind and body under pressure. As a highly family-oriented person, Ms. Wong likes to spend the little free time she has at the weekends with her children. She also enjoys meditating as a means to explore the true meaning of life. Her book, *We've Walked along the Same Path: Letters to the Youth of Hong Kong*, written during her stay in America, speaks to youth in words of sincerity, truth and intelligence. It is every young person's guide and companion.

Graceful and elegant, Ms. Wong has the gentleness and subtlety of the traditional woman as well as the social consciousness and positiveness of the modern female. She is pacific amidst turbulence; she tempers hardness with a soft approach. For her, no coercion need be exercised to establish authority, no show-off of abilities is required to command respect. She debates with flair and eloquence; she writes with wisdom and insight. The glory of life shines through her as she persistently pursues truth and beauty and yearns for the consolation of Nature.

As a result of Ms. Wong's many achievements in local legislation, housing, youth service, and social welfare, she was appointed a Justice of the Peace (JP) in 1989, and made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1990 and a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1994. Because of Ms. Wong's ardent support of tertiary education, her concern for the development of young people in the territory, and her significant contributions to society, Mr. Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present the Honourable Rosanna Wong Yick-ming for the award of the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.



香港中文大學
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

香港中文大學 第五十二屆頒授學位典禮



榮譽法學博士王菟鳴議員讚辭

王菟鳴議員為本港政壇翹楚及社會福利界知名人士，原籍福建，於香港出世，自小就讀於聖士提反女校，而其慈母亦於該校執教。由於父母思想開通，胸襟豁達，故王議員幼承庭訓，於中學期間，就在課餘積極參與多項義務工作，以關懷體恤的心情，熱誠懇摯的態度，為貧苦大眾服務，亦為日後投身社會福利界，奠定了良好的基礎。

中學畢業後，王菟鳴女士進入香港大學，專攻社會科學，於一九七五年，獲得學士學位，自此即加入青年工作的行列。二十一年來，全心全意，無悔無怨，為香港一代又一代青少年的成長與發展，貢獻出無限的時間與精力，以及無比的智慧與愛心。

王議員認為，獻身青少年工作，首先必須了解青少年的思想與感情，並予以同情與諒解，信任與尊重。隨著香港社會的急劇變遷，香港的年輕人在競爭激烈的環境中，為了適應，為了求存，必須積極樂觀，堅毅不拔，而王議員多年來在人生道上與香港的年輕人共同成長，並肩前進，不但深深了解年輕人的喜與憂、樂與怒，也真正感受到社會的脈搏與生命的節律。

就是憑藉這股與香港休戚與共，與社會息息相關的使命感，使王議員自強不息，努力不懈，在工作數年之後，整裝上路，再創學業的高峰。王議員在繁忙的公務之餘，曾先後遠赴加拿大、英國及美國深造，獲多倫多大學社會工作學碩士、倫敦大學倫敦經濟及政治科學學院社會政策及計劃理學碩士，以及加州大學文學碩士學位，其鍥而不捨、好學不倦的精神，足以成為青年人的楷模與典範。王議員於一九八五年獲選為香港傑出青年，一九九二年更獲頒「明日世界領袖」榮銜，的確是實至名歸。

除全職擔任青年工作之外，王菟鳴女士更身兼無數公職：一九八五年至九一年，曾出任立法局議員，一九八八至九一年，出任社會福利諮詢委員會主席，九零至九一年，出任青少年事務委員會主席，一九九三年擔任投訴警方事宜監察委員會主席；目前，王議員更身兼香港青年協會總幹事、香港行政局召集人、香港房屋委員會主席、香港廉政公署事宜投訴委員會主席及地中海貧血兒童基金會主席等要職，每一項工作，都舉足輕重，任重道遠，必須全神貫注，悉力以赴，方能勝任愉快，而王議員不但面面兼顧，且應付裕如，其傑出的才幹與充沛的精力，不得不令人衷心欽佩。

在王菟鳴議員服務社會的繁忙生涯之中，最令其印象深刻的莫過於自一九八五年起，從自己熱愛的青年工作出發，層樓更上，進一步深入社會，參與政治。十二年來，因適逢其會，在立法、行政兩局的工作層面上，與港人齊心合力、同舟共濟，一起渡過驚濤駭浪、風雲變幻的日子。王議員深信政治正如金錢，本身並不醜惡，從政之士，若能胸懷世界，放眼未來，以樂觀進取的精神，貢獻社會，服務大眾，則必能為香港締造美好的明天。

王議員認為目前最具挑戰性的工作，乃在於出任香港房屋委員會主席一職。此項工作，雖為公職，但需時最長，耗力最多。身為主席，必須事事任勞任怨、親力親為，無時無刻不以同情的心，聆聽的耳，去仔細體察民間的疾苦，悉心照顧市民的需求。然而由於資源有限，需求眾多，因此時常要在包容諒解與堅守原則之間，作出取捨；而一旦有所決定，則須堅毅果敢、當機立斷，縱使遭受譴責批評，亦不畏不懼，務必以無比的勇氣與信心，來擔當社會賦予的重任。

王議員身兼多項公職，日理萬機而遊刃有餘，從容不迫，必然有其長於調度時間、善於養精蓄銳的過人之處。在日常生活中，王議員熱愛家庭，不喜應酬，在週末有限的休憩時間之中，盡量爭取與子女共享天倫之樂，或冥想靜思，追尋生命的真諦。王議員學識淵博，才思敏捷，其在留美期間所著《也曾同路——給香港青少年的書信》一書，字字珠璣，情真意摯，而言辭之間，對年輕人循循善誘，不啻為青少年的良師益友。

王議員舉止優雅，氣度雍容，既具備傳統婦女溫柔敦厚、謙遜含蓄的美德，又兼有現代女性積極進取、獻身社會的抱負。凡事以靜制動，以柔克剛，不必恃強而威信自立，毋庸逞能而才德服人。畢生以錦心繡口議事論政，以巧思睿智著書立說，更以愛美求真、崇尚自然的詩情，發揮出生命的姿采與光輝。

監督閣下，王菟鳴議員歷年來在本港行政、立法兩局、公共房屋、青年事務及社會福利政策方面建樹良多，貢獻超卓，因而於一九八九年獲委為太平紳士(JP)，一九九零年，獲授英帝國官佐勳章(OBE)，一九九四年更獲授英帝國司令勳章(CBE)。王議員對大專教育的發展與青年學生的成長，更極表關懷。有鑑於王議員對大學及社會的鼎力支持與傑出貢獻，本人謹恭請監督閣下頒授榮譽法學博士學位予王菟鳴議員。



榮譽社會科學博士

王葛鳴博士

讚辭



第10屆畢業典禮

校董會主席先生：

本人深感榮幸，能為王葛鳴博士宣讀讚辭。王博士是本港教育界、社會服務界和政界的英傑。她現任教育統籌委員會主席、香港青年協會總幹事，在這個充滿挑戰的時代裏，堪稱中流砥柱；她對服務社群的全情投入，為我們眾人樹立了絕佳典範。

王博士胸懷熱忱，忘我委身，以謀求他人的福祉為己任。這種對社群的終身事奉明顯有其家學淵源，尤其是任職教師的母親，以及在聖士提反女校教導她的音樂和宗教老師。受到他們的鼓勵，王博士在求學時期便開始參與義務工作，這些經驗給她留下不可磨滅的印象。老師發揮的深遠影響，特別是在正規課程範疇以外的薰陶，對我們每一個人的成長和發展，實在不可低估。

早年的義工經驗驅使王博士決志投身社會工作，且專注青年事務。一九七五年，她自香港大學畢業，獲頒社會科學學士銜後，先後考獲多倫多大學（一九七九年）、倫敦大學倫敦經濟及政治科學學院（一九八三年）和加州大學（Davis）（一九九三年）的碩士學位，為個人與事業積極裝備。一九九七年，更取得加州大學（Davis）的社會學博士學位。除此之外，又獲本港及海外多所大學頒授榮譽博士學位。學術的鑽研，顯然更確定了她致力的方向，有助詮釋文化、次文化、家庭、同儕和個人在不斷變遷的社會、經濟和政治環境下複雜錯綜的互動關係，並加以融會貫通。學術的榮譽，則是對其努力探求恰如其份的認同。

王博士歷年獲頒獎譽無數，包括一九九七年的英帝國爵級司令勳章，一九九四年的英帝國司令勳章和一九九零年的英帝國官佐勳章。一九八五年，她榮膺十大傑出青年。此外，她也是本港的太平紳士。

王博士和香港青年協會的深厚淵源，最能突顯她對本港青年憂樂與共的深切關顧。她服務協會幾近三十年，自一九八零年起即出任總幹事，憑着樂觀、信任、開誠、尊重、堅信要活出生命意義的理念，把香港青年協會發展成今日國際知名的一所多元化機構，活躍於研究、領袖訓練、青年交流學習計劃、教育及鄰舍服務。協會能有今日的地位，無疑得力於王博士對本港青年的熱誠和傾力承擔。

王博士的貢獻和影響遍及其他公共服務，她曾任香港立法局和行政會議成員，歷任香港房屋委員會、投訴警方事宜監察委員會、香港廉政公署事宜投訴委員會、青年事務委員會和社會福利諮詢委員會主席，其他公職包括本港數所大學的校董和顧問。她更以不同身份參與多個慈善和福利團體的工作，現又為中國人民政治協商會議全國委員會（全國政協）委員。

自二零零一年出任教育統籌委員會主席開始，王博士即被委以重任，以透過終身學習促進學生的全人教育為宗旨，領導各項教育改革措施的具體推行。這些改革涵蓋全面，廣及幼兒教育以至持續教育。現時委員會正積極協調各項教改政策的緩急先後，可見王博士才識俱備，長於掌握教育脈搏，凝聚眾心，策動群力，為本港塑建美好前景。在教育面對前所未有的挑戰之際，王博士奮身而起，擔負重責，領導香港教育制度邁進二十一世紀。

最近在本校校園舉行的「香港創意思維活動」，讓我有機會在較為個人的層面認識王博士。為了鼓勵我們的年輕人敢於創新、善於協作、精於解難的理想發展，她一手把這項饒富意義的活動引進本港。當日參與的中、小學生不下數百，當我和王博士在他們的參賽場地之間穿梭時，學生那股對學習的熱誠、解決問題的能力，還有那種勇於分享創見的自信，讓我感到非常震撼。同樣令我感動的是王博士在整個過程裏全情代入、忘我參與的精神。對我來說，那天目睹的一切讓我更深刻瞭解何謂有內涵的學習，是所有教育工作者都值得深思的。

主席先生，王博士對本港社會承擔之深、貢獻之巨，本篇讚辭僅能述其皮毛。她以個人的超卓才情，透過不同的途徑，在不同的崗位，無私而謙遜地用自己的生命服務人群。為了表揚這種竭誠奉獻的精神，本人謹請閣下頒授榮譽社會科學博士學位予王博士。



2004 香港教育學院第十屆畢業典禮授予王葛鳴(右)榮譽社會科學博士學位

