

Honorary Fellow Ms Jenny Chan Pik-ha

Public Orator Professor Paul Lam Kwan-sing

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President:

Ms Jenny Chan Pik-ha remembers very well the excitement that she felt when she enrolled on the Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) programme at City University of Hong Kong (CityU) in 2007. At that time, she was already firmly established in her profession in futures and securities trading, when such a degree may well have been just another feather in her cap. Yet Ms Chan, Sales Director at KGI Asia Ltd, was genuinely thrilled by the prospect of broadening her horizons and exchanging ideas with colleagues from other fields. Sparks flew during class discussions, she recalls, when book learning and practical experience came into contact, and sometimes clashed. She did so well on the programme that she was nominated to study for a semester at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) where she became a Stanley Wang Fellow, a highly regarded fellowship conferred by UC Berkeley.

Considering her later accomplishments, it is difficult to imagine that Ms Chan suffered great distress at the start of her university education. Due to a technicality in her visa application, she was denied entry into the US where she was planning to begin her undergraduate studies. This temporary suspension of her schooling, however, turned out to be a blessing in disguise. When she began her career, Ms Chan had the good fortune of working in the banking sector under an open-minded employer who patiently initiated her into the intricate world of finance, capital markets, sales and trading, and global relationship banking. Today Ms Chan is well respected in her field, a member of the Hong Kong Institute of Directors and the Hong Kong Securities & Futures Professionals Association.

Open-mindedness thus became a running theme in Ms Chan's life. She sees the same traits in her parents whose approach to bringing up their children consisted of reasoning with them and setting limits on their behaviour. As long as they did not fall below the bottom line, carefully weighed their options, assessed risks, and understood that they should shoulder the responsibility for their outcomes, her parents allowed Ms Chan and her siblings free rein.

In the same way, Ms Chan is enlightened and egalitarian with her children, always seeking to communicate and build consensus. Just like her parents, she imparts the message that, unlike other transient things in life, knowledge, once acquired, stays with you forever. It is important to bear in mind that, in learning as in other endeavours, effort counts as much as results. Rather than aiming exclusively at earning good grades, you should learn to enjoy the process of learning and appreciate education for the opportunity it affords for entering a new world.

Ms Chan enjoyed studying at CityU and was deeply impressed by the teaching excellence of faculty members. Since graduating from the EMBA programme, she has become a strong advocate for CityU. She is a CityU Court member, a member of the CityU Foundation, and a member of the CityU Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma. She is also a former Chairman of the CityU Eminence Society and has been involved in all the accreditation exercises of the College of Business (CB), including the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, Association of MBAs, and the EFMD European Quality Improvement System. Ever thankful for the selfless dedication of many teachers, she has spent considerable effort in helping CB to establish its first Teaching Excellence Awards and Research Excellence Awards as a way to promote accomplishments in teaching and research. In recognition of her contributions, the multimedia studio Chan Hok Yan Executive Classroom in CB was named after her father.

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President, Ms Jenny Chan Pik-ha's support for CityU has helped to advance our educational mission. At the same time, her commitment to promoting the image of the University and strengthening our relations with the community has served us well. Therefore, I present Ms Chan to you for the conferment of an Honorary Fellowship of City University of Hong Kong.