

The Fourth Inauguration Ceremony of Named Professorships 27 October 2017

“ The world-class faculty members at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) innovate, shape, and propel forward understanding of today’s rapidly changing world and the driving forces of tomorrow. The University’s Named Professorships, generously supported by donors, honor and encourage the achievements of our first-class scholars. In an era of global competition for talented academics, these distinguished titles provide vital recognition as well as additional funding to attract, foster and retain the very best minds.

The named professors we honor today are from a comprehensive spectrum of fields and emerging areas that are set to have a major impact on the future. Their expertise ranges from cosmology to energy technologies, environmental engineering to musical composition, observational astrophysics to business adoption of mobile technologies, and many other areas. They are eminent international award-winners, including a Nobel Laureate; leading members of their respective fields; and dedicated teachers of the next generation.

We gratefully thank our donors. We applaud our eminent faculty. And, together, we joyously celebrate this far-sighted partnership for excellence. ”

Prof Tony F Chan
President
HKUST



Newly Appointed Professorship Holders

• HKUST Jockey Club Institute for Advanced Study •

Lam Woo Foundation Professor

Prof Andrew Cohen

Director, HKUST Jockey Club Institute for Advanced Study
Chair Professor, Department of Physics

Prof Cohen is a leading theoretical particle physicist, who has made seminal contributions to understanding the principles that govern physics at short distances. His key discoveries include the uncovering of Cohen-Glashow radiation and limits on the maximum speed of neutrinos; a novel mechanism for electroweak superconductivity, called the “Little Higgs”; and a new form of special relativity. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and currently Chairman of the Board of the globally celebrated Aspen Center for Physics. Leading the IAS, Prof Cohen is seeking to further raise the Institute’s local and global presence as an interdisciplinary research powerhouse.



“ There have been tremendous breakthroughs in all fields of technology, engineering, and medicine. Most are due to the wonderful advances in science. We should appreciate what science has done to improve the world and encourage young people to go into scientific research. ”

Lam Woo Foundation

IAS Helmut and Anna Pao Sohmen Professor-at-Large

Prof Bright Sheng

Leonard Bernstein Distinguished University Professor of Composition,
University of Michigan

Learning never stops, according to Prof Sheng, world-renowned composer, conductor and pianist. There is always a novel interpretation or fresh synergy to explore. This philosophy inspired him to launch the now internationally acclaimed *Intimacy of Creativity*, an innovative partnership between emerging composers and established musicians held annually at HKUST since 2011. Prof Sheng is a graduate of Shanghai Conservatory, with a doctorate in musical arts from Columbia University, and the late Leonard Bernstein as a mentor. He is a recipient of an elite MacArthur Foundation “genius” grant and his works have been performed by top international artists and at the Beijing Olympics. As coordinator of music courses at HKUST, his courage and originality have shown students of all disciplines the importance of striding beyond their comfort zones if they wish to become the creators of the future.



“ Sohmen family members are currently associated with 20 universities around the world, as graduates, as benefactors, and as members of governing bodies. The family acts in the belief that good education at all levels is instrumental for progress, and that the expansion of opportunities to gather knowledge and understanding is one of the most positive ways to help society at large. We are delighted to congratulate Professor Bright Sheng on joining the HKUST Jockey Club Institute for Advanced Study. ”

Dr Helmut Sohmen and Mrs Anna Pao Sohmen

IAS TT & WF Chao Foundation Professor

Prof George Smoot

Professor of the Graduate School, University of California at Berkeley
Chair Professor, Department of Physics

Experimental astrophysicist and Nobel Laureate Prof Smoot is dedicated to sharing scientific discoveries and their significance. Along with 500 academic papers, he is the author of *Wrinkles in Time*, a popular science book, which turned his award-winning insights on the blackbody form and anisotropy of cosmic microwave background radiation into the more straightforward “seeds” of today’s galaxies. In his adventurous career, he has worked with instrumentation on high-altitude balloons, satellite experiments involving NASA’s Cosmic Background Explorer, and made visits to Antarctica and the Brazilian rain forest. Prof Smoot is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the American Physical Society, and the recipient of the Albert Einstein Medal.



“ The IAS TT & WF Chao Foundation Professorship was established by TT & WF Chao Foundation founded by my parents. It is the first major gift from overseas to HKUST since its establishment in 1991. The University has built its world-class name as a fine education provider and a powerhouse for scientific discoveries, and the Chao Family is proud to be a partner of HKUST. Through this Professorship, we hope to help HKUST IAS galvanize top talents into playing a key role in scientific innovation, and develop China into a preeminent scientific and technological center. It is our honor that such a distinguished faculty and Nobel Laureate Prof George Smoot, also a graduate of my alma mater, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the first holder of this professorship. ”

James Chao
Chairman of the Board
Westlake Chemical Corporation

• School of Science •

David von Hansemann Professor of Science

Prof Peiyuan Qian

Chair Professor, Division of Life Science

Prof Qian is a larval biologist and marine ecology expert, studying the workings and impact of organisms ranging from shells and coral (marine benthos) to barnacles and algae (a cause of anti-fouling on ships). It has been 30 years well spent and of significant value in the drive for sustainability and understanding of the impact of climate change, with more than 400 research papers published and many patents based on his discoveries. As founding director of the University’s pioneering Coastal Marine Laboratory, Prof Qian established a leading-edge marine science research facility for Hong Kong and southern China. He is also the recipient of a prestigious State Natural Science Award for his breakthrough on the impact of biofilm on marine benthos and their colonization of a seabed.



“ The drive for entrepreneurial excellence, service attitude and strong ethical beliefs form the very foundation of the principles instilled by our late Director of Jebsen & Co. Ltd., David von Hansemann. He was a man of commitment, to both the company and to Hong Kong, for which he had deep affection and to which he contributed in so many ways. We are committed to carrying on his legacy through fostering academic research that can transcend economic and environmental development. We are delighted and honored that one of the most eminent scholars in his field, Professor Peiyuan Qian, has accepted the David von Hansemann Professorship, to inspire young individuals of HKUST in cultivating new heights in educational advancement and innovation. ”

Dr Hans Michael Jebsen
Jebsen Group

Padma Harilela Associate Professor of Science

Prof Xuhui Huang

Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

Prof Huang’s cutting-edge focus is the structural dynamics of proteins and the application and evolution of chemical theories to develop algorithms and computer simulation techniques to make “movies” of how these complex workhorses of our cells go about their business. His interdisciplinary work leads the world in modeling the motion of such molecular machines, with his research group recently achieving a major breakthrough on how cells self-correct errors during the RNA polymerase transcription process, which is implicated in diseases such as Alzheimer’s and in aging when things go wrong. Prof Huang joined HKUST from Stanford University in 2010. He has received an Early Career Scheme Award from the Hong Kong Research Grants Council and American Chemical Society OpenEye Outstanding Junior Faculty Award.



“ I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to Prof Xuhui Huang on receiving the Padma Harilela Professorship from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. I hope the professorship will enable Prof Huang to continue his research further in the field of alternative energy and other areas for the betterment of the society. My best wishes are with him for his continued good health and success in all his endeavors. ”

Mrs Padma H Harilela

Dr Tai-chin Lo Associate Professor of Science

Prof Vic Law

Associate Professor, Department of Physics

Prof Law is a home-grown world-class scholar making major waves with his discoveries related to unconventional qubits, the basic units of information that can power forward super-fast quantum computation. The HKUST alumnus is looking at topological superconductors, which could support Majorana fermions, exotic particles with different properties to regular electrons. Breakthroughs include fathoming “Ising” superconductivity. Prof Law was the first joint postdoctoral fellow at the HKUST Jockey Club Institute for Advanced Study and MIT, a Croucher postdoctoral fellow at MIT, and is now the recipient of a Croucher Innovation Award. He wishes to be able to perform world class research at his alma mater and nurture new generations of outstanding physicists. He thanks Dr. Tai-chin Lo for her generous financial support so that he may focus more on his research and use the new funding available to cultivate students and postdocs.



“ The Dr Tai-chin Lo Professorship, which is dedicated to Associate or Assistant Professors, carries a special meaning for me. As one of the founding faculty of HKUST’s former Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (now Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering), I understand how important it is to support young faculty members’ teaching and research as well as their early-career development. Through this named professorship accorded to young scholars like Prof Vic Law, a devoted professor of Physics, we hope to enlighten preeminent faculty members and give the University a competitive edge to innovate in teaching and research. ”

Dr Tai-chin Lo
Vice Chairman
W Haking Enterprises Limited

S H Ho Assistant Professor of Life Science

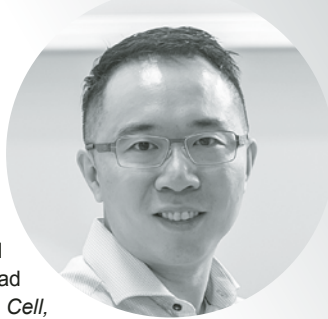
Prof Tom Cheung

Assistant Professor, Division of Life Science

Prof Cheung has taken up the exacting challenge of why we age and how to live a healthier and longer life. He is probing the workings of somatic (adult) muscle stem cells in relation to tissue regeneration and diseases such as sarcopenia, a degenerative loss of skeletal muscle mass and strength during aging, with the Cheung Lab at the forefront of such studies globally. Using flow cytometry, the group has pioneered muscle stem cell isolation and provided a muscle stem cell gene signature and epigenetic landscape for the field. Prof Cheung has already had articles published in top-tier journals, including *Cell*, *Nature*, *Cell Stem Cell*, *Developmental Cell* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and received valuable support for his work through a prestigious Croucher Innovation Award.

“ The S H Ho Foundation has partnered with HKUST since 1992. This is the 4th project after S H Ho Sports Hall, S H Ho Tower, and Alzheimer’s Disease R & D Project. The Foundation has the most pleasure in endowing a named professorship aiming to foster and recognize academic excellence through recruitment or retention of outstanding faculty members. We are delighted to have Professor Tom Hiu Tung Cheung as the holder of S H Ho Professorship in Life Science. Professor Cheung is a remarkable scholar focuses on muscle stem-cell research, with the goal to devise new regenerative medicine approaches for age-related diseases. We are hopeful that his work helps relieve the medical and social burdens from the ageing population of Hong Kong. We wish Professor Cheung every success in his endeavor.”

The S H Ho Foundation Limited



• School of Business and Management •

Fung Term Professor of Accounting

Prof Mingyi Hung

Chair Professor, Department of Accounting

Prof Hung has long been fascinated by the effect of institutions on financial reporting and capital market development in global markets. This has led to an impressive body of research on the information and monitoring roles of accounting in international capital markets and how country-specific institutional factors interact with accounting information. Her innovative insights have resulted in numerous articles in prestigious academic journals, including the *Journal of Accounting and Economics* and *Journal of Accounting Research*, along with international honors and awards. Beyond academia, her research has received coverage in *The Economist* and *Financial Times*. She is also a winner of multiple teaching awards in the US and Hong Kong.

“ In today’s world of constant change, Li & Fung sees education as the key to success in the business world. The HKUST Business School has been nurturing talent, many of whom are now taking on senior leadership roles across various industries. I would like to congratulate Professor Mingyi Hung for receiving the Fung Term Professorship. Her in-depth research experience and insights into the role of accounting information in global markets will help groom our next generation of business leaders in the latest business thinking with a global perspective.”



Dr William Fung
Group Chairman
Li & Fung

• School of Engineering •

Chinese Estates Professor of Engineering

Prof Mohamed Ghidaoui

Chair Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Fluid mechanics expert Prof Ghidaoui is now leading a top international interdisciplinary research team in the exciting Smart Urban Water Supply System theme-based project that is seeking to deliver a world-first diagnostic technology in Hong Kong to tackle the complex, huge and pressing global problem of urban water wastage from leakages and inefficiencies in pipelines. He is a recipient of the Arthur Thomas Ippen award, the most prestigious prize presented by the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) and the first non-European- or US-based editor of the IAHR’s flagship *Journal of Hydraulic Research*.

“ Tertiary education is playing a more significant role in this knowledge-driven economy than ever. It is my honor to support the HKUST Named Professorships Program which recognizes individuals for their academic performance. I am so proud of Professor Mohamed Ghidaoui’s and other professors’ excellent achievement and dedication. Through knowledge sharing, the Chinese Estates Professorship in Engineering will continue to inspire all to work for the betterment of Hong Kong. To make this come true, HKUST will always have my and our Group’s wholehearted support.”



Mr Ming Wai Lau
Chairman
Chinese Estates Holdings Limited

Elman Family Professor of Engineering and Public Policy

Prof Joseph Hun-wei Lee

Chair Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Prof Lee is renowned for his world leading research in environmental hydraulics – prediction and control of water quality, water management and emergency preparedness. He has been deeply involved in Hong Kong’s multi-billion dollar Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, urban and drainage flooding schemes, beach water quality and red tide forecasting. He was the first Asia-based academic to receive the eminent Hunter Rouse Hydraulic Engineering Award and a recipient of a State Science and Technological Progress Award, Second Class. Prof Lee also now chairs the Assessment Panel for the Hong Kong Public Policy Research Scheme and recently spearheaded the first joint Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE)-HKAES independent policy study on innovation and technology development in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta.

“ It is very clear that one of the key issues that we face both now and into the future, whether in Hong Kong or globally, is how we manage and develop water resources and adopt the appropriate public policies to achieve the outcomes we desire. It is in that context that we are delighted to be able to support in the environmental hydraulics field Professor Joseph Hun-wei Lee who is recognized and whose advice is sought internationally. He has already made significant public policy contributions to Hong Kong, a place where he grew up, and we look forward to his continued commitment to the betterment of our local community.”



Mr Richard Elman
Elman Family Foundation

CLP Holdings Professor of Sustainability

Prof Charles Ng

Chair Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Associate Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies
President, International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

Prof Ng is a global authority on advanced unsaturated soils mechanics and eco-friendly green slope engineering and a frontier explorer of geo-energy and geo-environmental engineering. In the past 20 years, he has made numerous theoretical breakthroughs, invented patented and internationally adopted engineering research tools, and pioneered innovative applications, including using the “natural engineering capabilities” of plants as slope stabilizers. Prof Ng is currently leading a large-scale research project on debris flow damage and sustainable mitigation as extreme weather events multiply landslide hazards. The project has won two major awards already. Prof Ng is also a recipient of a State Scientific and Technological Progress Award, Second Class, an Overseas Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge University, and a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences. He recently became the first Chinese person to be elected President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (2017-2021) since its establishment in 1936.

“ We very much admire HKUST’s academic excellence. It is our honor to be able to support a professorship in sustainability, which is the first of its kind for HKUST and among universities in Hong Kong. Sustainability is important to CLP’s values and we believe one of the ways that we can make communities more viable is through supporting quality education. We are confident that Professor Charles Ng will continue to nurture many young talents in his new position and develop innovative solutions that will benefit our future generations.”



Mr Richard Lancaster
Chief Executive Officer
CLP Holdings Limited

Cheong Ying Chan Professor of Engineering and Environment

Prof Tianshou Zhao

Chair Professor, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Director, HKUST Energy Institute

Solving the pressing global challenge of finding truly practical alternative technologies to fossil fuels is Prof Zhao’s research goal. This has led to seminal contributions to renewable energy storage devices, including direct fuel cells, flow batteries and lithium-air batteries, and now an innovative e-fuel storage system, which is the focus of a theme-based research project funded by Hong Kong Research Grants Council. Prof Zhao has received two State Natural Science Awards in consecutive years, a Croucher Senior Research Fellowship, and a Thomson Reuters’ highly cited researcher listing (2014, 2015, and 2016). Under his leadership, the HKUST Energy Institute is also powering ahead on next-generation solar cells, energy policy and energy-efficient smart green buildings, and will launch Hong Kong’s first bachelor program in sustainable energy engineering in 2018.

“ The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology has always held a dear place in my family’s heart and we cherish our longstanding partnership with the University. We are tremendously proud of the establishment of the Cheong Ying Chan Professorship in Engineering and Environment, named in honor of the father of my late husband, Stephen Kam Chuen Cheong. It is my personal and my family’s hope that the University can continue to create breakthroughs in the realms of science and engineering which would ultimately lead to the betterment of humankind.”



Mrs Joan Cheong
Stephen Kam Chuen Cheong Education Fund

Synergis-Geoffrey YEH Professor of Business

Prof Jaideep Sengupta

Chair Professor, Department of Marketing

Prof Sengupta is fascinated by the human mind, a fascination that forms the cornerstone of his research into consumer reactions to marketing information. His work has provided ground-breaking insights into areas such as flattery, decision-making, and gender differences, with his research excellence making him one of the most highly published scholars in leading journals in his field. He has gained international honors and recognition from renowned bodies, including the Marketing Science Institute and American Marketing Association. He is a long-standing Associate Editor of the *Journal of Consumer Research*, the flagship publication in his field, and is a repeat winner of teaching awards, including the Best Professor award in the top-ranked Kellogg-HKUST Executive MBA program.

“ I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist... Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit.” — John Steinbeck
I was lucky enough to have benefited from great teachers throughout my life. They awakened me to the joy in learning and opened my eyes to the world around me. The Named Professorship is an excellent opportunity for me to give back and pay it forward by helping HKUST to attract and retain the best, brightest and most passionate to teach and mentor its students.”



Dr Geoffrey Yeh
(1931-2016)

Michael Jebsen Professor of Business

Prof James Thong

Chair Professor, Department of Information Systems, Business Statistics and Operations Management

Prof Thong has spent the past two decades addressing intriguing questions related to technology adoption, e-government, privacy concerns, and human-computer interaction. These include how companies encourage successful adoption of mobile internet, mobile apps, e-commerce and other new technologies; and the impact of website designs on human behavior. His significant insights have been published extensively in the most renowned business journals on information systems, including *MIS Quarterly*, *Information Systems Research*, and *Journal of Management Information Systems*, and he is among the most highly cited academics in his discipline. He is a recipient of the Association for Information Systems Fellow Award in recognition of his dedicated professional service in providing impactful academic leadership as Head of ISOM at HKUST Business School.

“ The bedrock of civil societies is education. It is what Hong Kong’s success as a service platform for Asia and the world is made of. This conviction was also deeply rooted with the late Chairman of Jebsen & Co., Ltd, Michael Jebsen, who shared his lifelong dedication to the development of Hong Kong and cross-cultural bridge building with his forebears, who first established a shipping and later in the mid-19th century, a trading business. We are deeply honored that the world-renowned academic Professor James Thong has consented to accept the Professorship set up in the name of my late uncle and predecessor Michael Jebsen. Hong Kong is indeed fortunate as a hub of scientific research and academia to attract individuals who, owing to their world-class caliber, will take our community to new heights.”



Dr Hans Michael Jebsen
Jebsen Group

• School of Humanities and Social Science •

Elman Family Visiting Professor of Jewish and Israeli Studies

Prof Rehav Rabin

Professor, Department of Geography, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Prof Rabin is a historical geographer and expert in the Holy Land in the Middle East, the hugely significant area which encompasses today’s Israel, Palestinian territories, and parts of Jordan and Lebanon, and is sacred to three of the world’s major faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. He is also a world authority in historical cartography, in particular antique maps of Jerusalem, the city where he was born, educated, and has worked as an academic for the past 30 years. Prof Rabin’s unique insights have led to over 70 papers and five books. He is a member of the Royal Geographical Society and Israel Geographical Association as well as the International Conference on the History of Cartography and International Conference of Historical Geographers.

“ In a world that is becoming ever more complex as the new emerging global players look to take their positions on the stage of international politics, communication and the sharing of our different cultures and histories becomes ever more important as a means through which we can gain a common understanding of our fellow man. In this context, we are delighted to be able to support Professor Rehav Rabin as Visiting Professor of Jewish and Israeli Studies, as his appointment marks a very tangible initiative to foster closer connections between our two parts of the world, both inside and outside the academic community.”



Mr Richard Elman
Elman Family Foundation