

UPEI's Twenty-third Recognition of Founders Ceremony

UPEI Performing Arts Theatre and Residence

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 2:00 pm

Citation for Dr. Michael Liu

Read by Dr. Nola Etkin, Dean of Science

Good afternoon,

I am honoured to present to you Dr. Michael Liu—Professor Emeritus, philanthropist, talented photographer, and dedicated alumnus of Saint Dunstan's University, one of UPEI's two founding institutions.

Dr. Liu came to Prince Edward Island in 1957 from Hong Kong to attend Saint Dunstan's University. He graduated in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science degree, followed by an MA from Saint Francis Xavier in 1964, and a PhD in Chemistry in 1967 from the University of Ottawa. He then received a National Research Council Overseas Post-Doctoral Fellowship to the University of Reading, United Kingdom.

In 1968, he joined the Department of Chemistry at Saint Dunstan's University as a full-time faculty member. When UPEI was created in 1969, he remained with the department, teaching generations of students until he retired in 1997. At Convocation that spring, he was honoured with the designation of Professor Emeritus.

Dr. Liu's impressive career included appointments to and lectures at universities and research centres around the globe including the University of Bordeaux, University of Toronto, National Research Council, University of British Columbia, University of Geneva, and Kyushu University, to name a few. He achieved his 150<sup>th</sup> publication in 2006, received special recognition from NSERC in 2004 as an award recipient of 25 years or more, and was named a Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada in 1980.

In addition to teaching and research, Dr. Liu has contributed to the University in numerous other ways. He has been an intermediary and advisor to UPEI presidents and officials, helping to cultivate and steward other Hong Kong alumni, donors, and prospects. He has provided invaluable advice on how to keep in touch with international alumni and has helped to maintain and grow support for UPEI in and around Hong Kong.

From 1986 to 2007, Dr. Liu made monetary donations to several fundraising campaigns at UPEI, including—the Potential Within campaign, Faculty Annual Fund, Dr. Robert Haines Graduate Research Award, Dr. Ninian LeBlanc Alumni Award, Dr. Regis Duffy Academic Achievement Award, Campus Revitalization Fund, University Priorities, Robertson Library, Dr. Leon Loucks Memorial Award, and Challenge of the 80s.

While Dr. Liu is renowned for his work in the field of chemistry, he is also a talented photographer who has won national and international awards. In fact, photography paid his way through university. Many of his photos have been purchased by the National Film Board of Canada, and some have been on display in the New York Museum of Fine Art and the Kodak Pavilion at the New York

World Fair. Two of his striking black and white photographs hang in the concourse of the W.A. Murphy Student Centre.

As well, he and his wife Betty are passionate about travelling, including many trips to Lourdes, France, to meditate. "It's the best place on Earth that you feel you're close to heaven," he says. "I find it's very spiritual when you go there."

Today, we are proud to name Dr. Michael Liu a Founder of the University of Prince Edward Island for his dedicated and long-standing service to and support of the University and its predecessor, Saint Dunstan's University.