

This year, Lingnan University celebrates its 120th birthday. So it is especially appropriate that we also celebrate, today, the achievements of an intellectual and administrator who has Lingnan in her blood. It is not just that Dr Shirley Mow is Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Lingnan Foundation, an American philanthropy that originated in the establishment in 1893 (some say 1888) of Canton Christian College, later Lingnan University in Guangzhou, China. It is also that she follows in the footsteps of her father, the esteemed Allan Lau (Lau Hin Sheung, Class of 1933, Lingnan College, Canton). It was Allan Lau who, in the 1970s, was pivotal in securing a US AID grant to build an auditorium for Lingnan College on Stubbs Road. When funds ran short, Mr Lau, Mr Wai Kee Kau and other devoted alumni worked tirelessly to raise the money necessary to finish the building's construction. Their efforts succeeded.

Thirty years later, Mr Lau's daughter, Shirley, picks up where her father left off, "building" not a physical auditorium but constructing another kind of space in which students can thrive. In her capacity as Chair of the Lingnan Foundation's Board of Trustees, Dr Mow continues the mission of advancing higher education in the "Lingnan region" of South China (including Hong Kong) and widening the horizons of Chinese and Americans. The Lingnan Foundation has provided grants to our University for the purchase of equipment and library holdings. It has facilitated the development of the Centre for Asian Pacific Studies and the establishment of the Centre for Modern Literature in Chinese. It has furnished teacher scholarships (LiFTS), postgraduate student conference travel scholarships, and supported the Visiting Tutor Scheme. Finally, the Lingnan Foundation has been instrumental in advancing student international exchange and, more recently, promoting the Service-Learning Centre and the writer-in-residence programmes. This is a formidable contribution. And, fittingly, the Chair of the Foundation's Board of Trustees is a formidable individual in her own right.

How do we know the essence or core of another person? How do we know ourselves? One answer was provided by the nineteenth-century American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), who famously observed that a "man is what he thinks about all day long." There is cogency in that. Identify what preoccupies an individual, day in and day out, and you have a clear indication of what is most important to him or her. Even so, I find more persuasive the measure suggested by an English poet Alexander Pope (1688-1744). If you wish to understand someone, he remarked, if you really wish to see what animates and drives them, search for the "ruling passion". This is how he satirically put it:

Search, then, the Ruling Passion: There alone,
The Wild are constant, and the Cunning Known;
The Fool consistent, and the False sincere;
Priests, Princes, Women, no dissemblers here.
(*Moral Essays*, Epistle I)

Dr Mow's ruling passion is service: service to women in particular and service to students in general. Her commitment to women is evident in a range of posts and accomplishments. Dr Mow is Director of the National Science Foundation's Women Writing Science Project. She is the co-editor of *Holding Up Half the Sky: Chinese Women Past, Present and Future* (published by the Feminist Press, CUNY). Her commitment to students – of both genders – is also conspicuous. Until 2002, Dr Mow was Director of the School University Partnership at the University of California, Santa Cruz, a partnership between UCSC and middle and high schools in five counties in the Bay area. Before that she was Executive Director of the Westchester Education Coalition, a collaboration involving multiple school districts, colleges, universities – and Fortune 500 companies in Westchester, New York. Dr Mow has also served as Associate Dean of University College (Pace University). And at Hunter College, New York, she was Executive Assistant to the President. In 2008, she entered the Hunter College Hall of Fame.

And then there is Dr Mow's Chinese connection which, in the context of Lingnan University's own internationalization endeavours, has a particular resonance. As previously mentioned, Dr Mow has for many years sought energetically to expand educational exchange between the U.S. and China and, with it, opportunities for students to understand widely different cultures. Again, one witnesses a personal connection: Dr Mow's paternal grandfather immigrated into the U.S. in the late 1890s; I am told that his portrait still hangs on the wall of a dwelling in Taishan where he lived. Dr Mow is also a champion of ethnic minorities in China, as witnessed by her visit in 2004 to remote villages in Yunnan, where she spent several weeks in the remote villages of Yunnan interviewing ethnic minority women for a book project.

Universities are places of learning. They are sites of intellectual and emotional discovery. They are also places where, if we are fortunate, we come across exemplary models of pedagogy, administration and service. Dr Shirley Mow combines all three models. That is why we are honoured to welcome her on this occasion to Lingnan University today.

今年嶺南大學慶祝建校120週年。藉此良機，我們特地表揚一位與嶺大淵源深厚、成就卓越的傑出人士。她是嶺南基金會董事會主席劉瓊鳳博士。嶺南基金會由一間美國慈善團體在1893年（一說1888年）與廣東格致書院一起成立，書院其後遷往中國廣州成為嶺南大學。除了在基金會的工作外，劉博士對嶺大的貢獻，在於她傳承了父親劉顯相先生的善舉。劉先生於1933年畢業於廣東嶺南書院，在1970年代成功促使美國國際開發署批出撥款，興建位於司徒拔道的嶺南書院的禮堂。當款項不足時，劉先生連同韋基球先生及其他熱心校友，鏗而不捨地籌募所需餘款。他們的努力終見成效。

三十年後，劉先生的千金劉瓊鳳博士繼承父志，繼續父親的事業，不是“建造”禮堂，而是構建另一種可供學生茁壯成長的空間。作為嶺南基金會董事會主席，劉博士肩負著推動華南嶺南地區（包括香港）的高等教育使命，拓闊中美兩國人民的視野。嶺南基金會多次撥款予本校，添置儀器及圖書館藏書，還幫助發展亞洲太平洋研究中心及設立現代中文文學研究中心。基金會一直資助訪問教師獎學金、研究生學術會議獎學金及客席導師計劃。此外，嶺南基金會亦致力推動學生海外交流計劃、服務研習中心活動及駐校作家計劃。這些廣泛的貢獻反映出作為嶺南基金會董事會主席的劉博士的過人之處。

我們怎樣從根本上瞭解一個人？又該如何認識自己？十九世紀美國作家拉爾夫·艾默生(1803-1882)提供了一個答案：「一個人是他終日所思的內涵。」此言不虛。你先找出一個人每天所想的，便會知道甚麼對他最為重要。不過，我覺得英國詩人亞歷山大·蒲柏(1688-1744)所建議的衡量方法更具說服力。他說，假如你想真正瞭解一個人，或者想知道其動力的來源，就要找出甚麼最能激起他的熱情。他不無諷刺地寫道：

尋找，那主導的熱情：只有在那裏，
狂野的變得穩定，狡猾的也可知；
小丑顯得始終如一，虛假的亦誠懇；
牧師、王侯、女人，此際都沒有偽善者。
（《道德文集》，第一封書信）

劉博士以熱心服務為己任，對象主要為婦女及學子。她對婦女服務的承擔，從她擔任的各項公職及成就可見一斑。劉博士是美國國家科學基金會婦女寫作科研項目總監，亦合編了《撐起半邊天：中國婦女的過去、現在和將來》（紐約市立大學Feminist Press出版）。此外，劉博士亦對學生（不論男女）關愛有加。直至2002年，劉博士出任加州大學Santa Cruz分校之大學與學校夥伴協作中心總監，負責該大學與「灣區」內的初高中夥伴合作計劃。在此之前，她曾任職Westchester Education Coalition 的行政總幹事；該聯盟涵蓋的機構包括學校、書院、大學、以及位於Westchester的《財富》雜誌500家大企業。劉博士亦曾任職佩斯大學的大學書院副教務長以及紐約亨特書院校長的行政助理。2008年，她獲列入亨特書院的名人堂。

劉博士的中國情結，在嶺南大學國際化的背景下尤見突出。前面提到，劉博士多年來都孜孜不倦地拓展中美學術交流，藉此為學生提供機會，讓他們深入瞭解不同的文化。這裏亦有個人因素：她的外祖父在1890年代末從中國移居美國，據說他的畫像至今仍掛在台山舊居的牆壁上。劉博士亦專注幫助中國少數民族，曾在2004年訪問雲南數星期，其間採訪了當地少數民族婦女，為一部著作搜集材料。

大學是學習的地方，亦是開啟心智及發現情懷的地方。如果運氣眷顧的話，我們可以遇到優於教學、行政及服務的典範人物。劉博士卻集三者於一身。因此，我們十分榮幸今天能夠進一步歡迎劉博士加入嶺南大學的大家庭。