

# Distinguished Alumni

## Distinguished Alumnus Award - 2003

### David Pun Chan '68

A Hong Kong native, you decided to attend Cate after visiting the Los Angeles area with your father in the early sixties. You excelled academically at Cate, and were particularly inspired by your math teachers Alan Gunther and Sandy (Doc) Smith. You admired Mr. Cate for his devotion to education and developed a close friendship with Mrs. Woodworth, who looked after you and the other foreign students.

After graduating from Cate in 1968, you went on to MIT where you majored in mathematics and took a strong interest in biotechnology, as the field was just emerging. While you pursued a career in business, you have kept your interest in science alive over the years by reading about scientific advancements in your spare time.

After you graduated from MIT in 1972, you returned to Hong Kong where you pursued real estate and investing by joining Tai Cheung Holdings Limited. Since 1981, you have served the post of chief executive and chairman, leading the company in its real estate investments in the Far East and venture capital in the United States.

Since you graduated from Cate, you have enjoyed serving as an unofficial ambassador for Cate alumni, parents, and faculty as they have traveled through or moved to Hong Kong. Your receptions for local Hong Kong Cate alumni are well attended, and your hospitality for visitors provides a crucial link between Hong Kong and the Cate community.

In 1995, you stepped up your involvement in Cate by becoming a member of the Board of Trustees. During your three-year term, you regularly made the ten-hour plane flights across the Pacific to attend the three annual board meetings and offered seasoned perspective.

You have demonstrated your commitment to Cate's motto, *Servons*, through your volunteer obligations in Hong Kong. You have devoted yourself to assisting with modernization in China by serving as a committee member of Hong Kong Pei Hua Education Foundation Limited since 1991 and the Hua Xia Foundation since 1994. You are proud of the work of both organizations.

Pei Hua Education Foundation develops training programs for Chinese officials, especially in the poorer parts of China. Through this program, officials from the western part of China come to Hong Kong for three-week immersion programs where they meet with professors from the local universities and executives at major companies, as well as visit the ports and stock exchanges. The work is meaningful to you because it opens the eyes of many western officials to capitalism for the first time.

Hua Xia Foundation is aimed at promoting educational and health programs in China. Through leveraging satellite technology, this foundation provides distance-learning training courses for

teachers and health-care providers in the poor Western Provinces. This program has provided a crucial role in providing training to teachers and health-care providers who do not have adequate instructional resources in their provinces. In your own words, "my hope is that we can help some poor rural children in China get a better education by providing their teachers with instruction that they wouldn't otherwise receive."

You were awarded a doctorate degree of Laws Honoris Causa by Lingnan University, Hong Kong in 1997 and you are now a member of Dean's Advisory Council of MIT Sloan School of Management and Council of Lingnan University, Hong Kong.

You and your wife Viola live in Hong Kong with your four children.

In recognition of your devotion to Cate and your professional accomplishments, the Cate School Alumni Association is proud to honor you, David Chan '68, with the Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2003.