

HKIEd to Confer Honorary Doctorates on Distinguished Educators

25 September 2008

Four distinguished educators from around the world – the Reverend Father Alfred J. Deignan S.J., Professor Michael A. K. Halliday, Professor Lu Jie and Professor Max van Manen - will receive honorary doctorates at the 14th Graduation Ceremony of the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd).

The Honourable Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, GBM, Chancellor of the Institute and Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR Government, will preside over the Graduation Ceremony to be held on 13 November 2008 at the HKIEd Tai Po campus.

Legend takes education beyond academic learning

The Reverend Father Alfred J. Deignan S.J.

~ **Doctor of Education *honoris causa***

Father Deignan will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Education for his dedication to education in Hong Kong and the region. He has contributed his effort and love to the nurturing of young people for more than 50 years, and many of them now play key roles in all walks of life.

Father Deignan began his education service at Wah Yan College, in which he served both Hong Kong and Kowloon schools in a number of capacities, including teacher, principal and supervisor. During his long service at Wah Yan College, Father Deignan put into practice the pedagogical principles of the Society of Jesus, introduced various education programmes, and made both schools two of the most respected ones in Hong Kong.

His active participation in social and community service has won the respect of society. His service on education and community service bodies included being Chairman of the Appeals Board (Education) (1982 - 1987), Member of Advisory Council on AIDS (1990 – 1993; 1996 - 1998), Member of Executive Board and Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation (1991 - 1995), Chairman of the Expert Panel for HIV Infected Health Care Workers (1994 – 2003), Member of the Catholic Board of

Education (1980 – 1986; 1993 - 2008), Chairman of the Religious Schools Council (1980 – 1986), and Vice-Chairman of the Grant Schools Council (1978 - 1992).

Father Deignan believes education goes beyond academic learning in the classroom. He cooperated with leaders of religious bodies and school principals to urge the government to revitalise moral education, resulting in the release of the official Guidelines on Moral Education in 1981. In 1997 he gathered educators, school principals and teachers to start the Hong Kong International Institute of Educational Leadership. Since then the group has been promoting the development of the whole person, and in particular the learning of positive values, in schools.

Prominent linguist puts linguistic research in social context

Professor Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday

~ **Doctor of Education *honoris causa***

Professor Halliday is a prominent linguist who has developed an internationally influential grammar model, Systemic-Functional Linguistics (SFL), which examines how language functions in a social context. His work has stressed the point that language cannot be disassociated from meaning, and has sparked considerable interdisciplinary study that incorporates the values and diversity in multicultural societies.

Professor Halliday was born and raised in England. While serving in the army during World War II he was taught Chinese for military intelligence purposes. He went on to study linguistics in China at Peking and Lingnan universities, returning to take his Ph.D. degree at Cambridge in 1954. After teaching at Cambridge and Edinburgh he was appointed to the first Chair of General Linguistics at University College London. In 1976 he moved to Australia as Foundation Professor of Linguistics at the University of Sydney, Australia, where he remained until he retired in 1987. He has since held visiting appointments in Singapore, the UK, Japan and Hong Kong.

Professor Halliday has published broadly in educational, computational and sociological linguistics, in Chinese language, the theory and teaching of intonation, stylistics, the discourse of science, and in the development of protolanguage and mother tongue in children.

Outstanding woman educator promotes moral education in China

Professor Lu Jie

~ Doctor of Education *honoris causa*

Professor Lu is a renowned woman educator in China with remarkable contributions to the country's teaching and research development in the areas of moral education and principle of pedagogy.

Professor Lu graduated in 1953 from Nanjing Normal University (as the College was later renamed), where she has spent her entire academic career, beginning as an education assistant instructor and rising to professor of education, head of the department of education and later head of the institute of educational research. Professor Lu is currently Professor and Dean Emeritus of Faculty of Education at Nanjing Normal University. She is also the director of Moral Education Academic Committee of China National Education Academic Association.

For a long time Professor Lu has been committed to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of moral education in China and she has made a profound contribution to the establishment of a moral education system there. She wrote a number of prize-winning textbooks, which are widely used in normal universities. They include: *The Study of Education*, *In The Sociology of Education* and *A New Theory of Moral Education*, which were awarded various first class prizes at the national level.

In recognition of her dedication and contribution to education in the country, Professor Lu was honoured as one of the Country's Young and Middle-Aged Experts with Outstanding Contributions in 1988 and National Pioneer by the State Council in 1995, among various national and provincial awards she has received.

Renowned scholar emphasizes uniqueness in teaching

Professor Max van Manen


~ Doctor of Education *honoris causa*

Professor van Manen is a leading scholar in the fields of curriculum studies, pedagogy, hermeneutic phenomenology, teacher education, and human science research methods. He has had a profound impact on the conduct of educational research with his work on phenomenological research in understanding human perception and experience, which is considered to provide a major alternative to the "objectivistic" experimental approach to education.

Professor van Manen believes pedagogical thoughtfulness is the condition for effective teaching and for ethical or moral practice. In his popular books for parents and teachers, *The Tone of Teaching* and *The Tact of Teaching*, he unveils how educators nurture children with caring attentiveness to the uniqueness of each child, an orientation which is not normally found in teaching texts.

Professor van Manen currently teaches courses in qualitative research methods and pedagogy in the University of Alberta, Canada. He has been visiting professor and taught at several universities in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and China. He also helped establish the collaborative International Research Center for Phenomenological Pedagogy and Teacher Education at the China National Institute for Educational Research in Beijing, China.

The exceptional quality of Professor van Manen's research has been recognised by prestigious awards, including the Award for Outstanding International Accomplishments in Research in Pedagogy from the Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies, and the Lifetime Achievement Award offered by the American Educational Research Association.

	The Reverend Father Alfred J. Deignan S. J.
	Professor Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday

 A portrait of Professor Lu Jie, a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt, with his arms crossed. The background shows a cloudy sky and some distant hills.	Professor Lu Jie
 A portrait of Professor Max van Manen, an older man with white hair and a mustache, wearing a dark blue polo shirt. The background shows a green landscape with buildings and trees.	Professor Max van Manen

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For media enquiries, please contact Miss Janice Man at 2948 6053 / 9197 7876 or Ms Reali Cheung of HKIEd at 2948 6041 / 9181 4021.