



Chancellor

It is my great pleasure to stand before you today to present Mrs Yuanlian Lee for the award of “Honorary Fellow”.

The last decade has seen a steady growth in the international education activities of the University of South Australia, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

In that time, many travelling University staff often commented to me on the development needs of some parts of the region, often with particular reference to the state of the education facilities.



Of course, where there is poverty and need, there is often philanthropy and it is indeed an extraordinary example of community philanthropy which the University is here to recognise today.

Mrs Lee and her husband Zhou Kang previously resided in Adelaide for 10 years where they educated their three children, two of whom are graduates of UniSA.

Mrs Lee is at the centre of a very committed group of Hong Kong business people who have been very active not only in growing economic links between the two, but in addressing the social and economic development in rural and remote south western provinces.



Mrs Lee has always dedicated herself to social and volunteer work and became an active campaigner in the upgrading of education facilities.

Mrs Lee is one of the founders of the Grace Charity Foundation Limited, a company established in 1999 which seeks to improve access to basic education by building schools and overseeing their development.

The Foundation's purpose is to promote education for underprivileged children in the remote districts of Guizhou, an economically disadvantaged Province in China.

The Foundation has financially supported or built over 600 primary and secondary schools and over 10,000 disadvantaged students receive funding annually from the Foundation. Mrs Lee has personally been involved with over 70 of these schools.



In 2004 Mrs Lee approached Tsinghua University's Anti-Poverty Project and, in conjunction with the Grace Charity Foundation, three Tsinghua Long Distance Learning Centres were established.

UniSA also works with Tsinghua's School of Continuing Education in a pathway program into the Masters of Marketing.

Mrs Lee's contribution to improving the social and economic wellbeing of deprived rural and remote communities through the Grace Foundation, is in keeping with the strong access and equity values of the University of South Australia.

By honouring her in this way, we recognise the work not only of Mrs Lee, but also more broadly the commendable work of the Grace Foundation.



On behalf of the UniSA community, I congratulate Mrs Lee on her achievements. Today, the University is proud to acknowledge her ongoing contribution to society and, more importantly, to publicly her ongoing philanthropic and humanitarian efforts.

Chancellor, I present Mrs Yuanlian Lee for the award of Honorary Fellow.