



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Dr Mervyn Peart

SEPTEMBER • 2023



Message from

HKU Geography

to

Dr. Peart



In the Memorial Book for Dr. Mervyn R. Peart

Although I did not have the privilege of knowing Dr. Mervyn R. Peart personally, I have come to appreciate his remarkable legacy within the Department of Geography and the broader academic community. His passing has left a profound sense of loss, but his contributions to the fields of hydrology, sedimentology, pedology, and sediment geochemistry will continue to be remembered, celebrated, and cherished for years to come.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Peart demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and a passion for environmental education. As the Head of the Department of Geography for two terms and the Chief Examiner of our Undergraduate Programmes, his leadership and vision played a significant role in shaping the department's success and fostering a vibrant academic community.

Dr. Peart's dedication to his students and colleagues has left a lasting impact on countless lives. His ability to inspire and engage with others, even beyond the classroom, is a testament to his genuine care for those around him. I am truly grateful for the legacy he has left behind, which will continue to motivate and guide future generations of students and researchers.

It is our hope that this memorial book serves as a fitting tribute to Dr. Peart's incredible legacy. As we come together as a community to celebrate his life and honor his memory, may his spirit continue to inspire us to strive for excellence in our work and to cherish the bonds we form with our colleagues and students.

As we pay our respects to Dr. Mervyn R. Peart, let us be reminded of the indelible mark he has left on the Department of Geography and the entire University of Hong Kong community. His dedication, passion, and warmth will be sorely missed, but his legacy will live on through the achievements of those he inspired.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Shunlin Liang
Head and Chair Professor
Department of Geography
The University of Hong Kong

Message & Photographs from

Ms. Carol Terry

Mervyn was such a nice man, whenever he came to North Norfolk (England) his home base, he would always call round to see all his remaining relatives for a chat.

From Trevor Pells, Cromer, Norfolk, England and families.



Dr. Peart as a young lad (on the right) with his twin brother Keith (on the left) and their father George and Mother Eileen.





Dr. Peart on his graduation day



Dr. Peart (right front) talking to his cousin (my brother) Roger Pells, (in the background Rogers daughter Joanna (nee Pells) Thompson and her husband Neil Thompson) taken on 05.10.2019 at my golden wedding celebrations.



Message from


Dr. Lincoln Fok BA 1998
Many but too few

Dr Peart is my teacher, mentor, and friend forever.

Everyone knew he was a hydrologist. I confess my fond of water did come from him. These includes snow, onsen, clouds, rainy days, a pond on a dirt path, and the use of a lot of water to clean dishes.

I still remember in my first year of undergrad, he was the first professor who can call me by name. With only brief moments of interaction, his students can quickly notice his unique ability to connect with each of us. He listened, understood and valued his students, regardless of their learning abilities.

More important than knowledge, is that he taught me about empathy. Once he told me "I treat people how I like to be treated". And in it, is so much more than being a nice guy. Later, I found out it is the power of empathy that makes him a natural leader, to resolve conflicts, and be very patient. All of us also knew Dr Peart is a people person, but he doesn't like the crowd. I suppose that is because genuine empathy requires one to take on the feelings and emotions of others, and that can be overwhelming at times.





At the time he took up headship of the department, he taught me the importance of responsibility, commitment, and fairness. Dr Peart's friends will know although he does not like administration, he will step up upon the call. My PhD coincide with his term of headship. Once, I asked him to purchase a piece of lab equipment. And he told me he can get it for me easily, but only when before he was the head.

And I learnt all his teachings not only from his words, but also his actions and role modelling. His influence goes beyond academic and has shaped us into better individuals we are today. While I mourn the loss of this incredible person, I find comfort in the many memories we shared. I am sure that his spirit will continue to inspire and guide us in our journey through life.

Mary, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

With deep sympathy,
Lincoln



Message from

Professor Ian Holliday


I was shocked and saddened to learn of Mervyn's passing. He was a lovely man, a great and devoted teacher, a committed researcher, an outstanding and principled administrator, and a colleague valued by all who knew him.

I was privileged as Dean of Social Sciences to work with Mervyn during one of his spells as Head of Geography. He was superb in the role, dedicating himself to transparent, fair and even-handed leadership in the best interests of all staff and students. I always enjoyed meeting with him and profited greatly from his support and advice. I was enormously impressed by his absolute devotion to the Department and all its members. As a teacher, he was of course a legendary figure.

I am always grateful to have known and worked with Mervyn. He was a superb HKU colleague. May his memory be for a blessing.



Message from
Professor John Spinks



Mervyn and I shared a common passion in football. We both supported the same team in England, and we both loved our games playing for our University staff team, the Strollers. He was a joy to play alongside, not just because he was a gifted footballer but more because he was a lovely person. He was both a gentle man and a gentleman. He was honest, true, trustworthy and reliable. A friend and great colleague. HKU and many beyond will be truly saddened by this loss. We all loved his modesty, his easy smile, and his genuine warmth. My sincere condolences to his family.

Message from

Professor Samson Tse

In loving memory of Dr. Peart,

It is with a heavy heart that we remember the life and legacy of Dr. Peart, a remarkable individual whose gentle nature and passion for his work touched the lives of many. Our journey with Dr. Peart began with chance encounters near the lift (we went to the Dept around similar time), as we crossed paths during our daily routines at the KKL Building. Little did we know that these chance encounters would blossom into meaningful conversations and a cherished friendship.

One of the things that truly stood out about Dr. Peart was his unwavering love for his work. He approached his profession with a dedication and enthusiasm that was infectious. It was evident that his heart lay in nurturing the minds of his students, guiding them towards a brighter future. His leadership in organizing overseas trips for students, including places like New Zealand, revealed his commitment to broadening their horizons and providing them with invaluable experiences. The fact that I had lived in New Zealand for over 20 years further deepened the connection and provided a common ground for our conversations that were filled with fond memories and shared experiences.



Dr. Peart's professionalism was nothing short of inspiring. As a teacher, he went above and beyond to ensure that his students received the best education possible. His commitment to excellence was evident in his role as the chair of the exam committee, where he diligently worked to uphold the highest standards. He was not one to simply adhere to superficial wordings or policies; instead, he delved into the essence of each matter, striving to make a positive impact on the lives of those he encountered.

As we bid farewell to Dr. Peart, we carry with us the memories of his gentle nature, his love for nature, his work, and his unwavering dedication to his students. His impact on our lives will forever be cherished, and his legacy will continue to inspire us in our own pursuits. May his wife and family be comforted by the Lord.

In loving memory,

Samson Tse

24th September 2023, Hong Kong

[Dept of Social Work and Social Administration, HKU])



Message from

Professor C Y Jim

BA (Geography and Geology) 1975

Mervyn stays in our hearts

Dear Mervyn, you epitomize proudly the finest qualities of a teacher and a human, serving as a role model of the paragon order for colleagues and students. Where there are controversies and gains, one can rest assured that you will be conspicuously absent. Your kindness, benevolence, compassion, selflessness, humour, camaraderie, and consummate soccer skill will forever dwell fondly in our inner sanctum. Your admirable legacy of pastoral-cum-avuncular care of undergraduate and postgraduate learners will be earnestly emulated. Your perseverance and industry in conducting fieldwork are legendary, a trait that can hardly be surpassed. Your amazing ability to find genuine order out of apparent chaos is second to none. However, this extremely rare and remarkable talent is not inheritable and unlikely to be bequeathed, but it will be decidedly and fondly remembered.



You embrace nature with enthusiasm and passion all your life; in return, nature will take tender loving care of you and your loved ones. As your beloved rivers are in good hands, please alleviate your concerns and discard your worries. If you like, you may continue to search for the rains, light or torrential, and roam the lands and rivers they nourish altruistically in your blissful heavenly abode. You may be pleased to know that climate change will, in due course, bring more frequent and abundant drops from the sky. Find some good restaurants up there after your hydrological sojourns to relish your fried chicken and classical Coke. Once in a while, you may wish to peep down to reminisce about the verdant trails in the sublime Nepal mountains. Rest well, and farewell,

Grace and C.Y. Jim

23 September 2023



Message and Photographs from

Professor PC Lai & Dr. J. J. Wong

Mervyn was foremost a dedicated and extremely popular teacher of physical geography. He was also an excellent head of department and a good friend. Over the years, my son and I joined the UK and local field trips led by Mervyn many times because he was a walking encyclopaedia and he made learning fun.

As a colleague, he was supportive and considerate. The Chinese has a saying “君子之交淡如水”. Our friendship was insipid as water but I could always rely on him for immediate advice and encouragement. Likewise, I was ready to lend a helping hand whenever he called. He was a true scholar and very much devoted to his research in hydrology.

He was not a choosy eater, and he appreciated all the meals, especially meat dishes, I prepared for him during our UK field trips. I later learnt that he liked meats a lot. I also learnt how often he trimmed his beard...

We shall miss him dearly.

PC & JJ









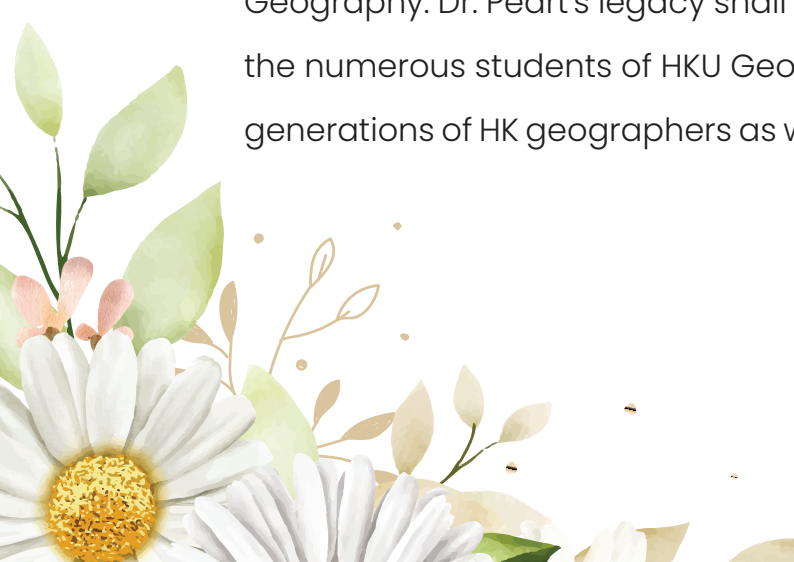




Message from

*Professor
George C.S. Lin*

Mervyn will be fondly remembered as an enthusiastic and energetic professional geographer, a passionate and devoted teacher and a wonderful colleague very pleasant to work with. I still hold vivid memories of the happy occasions when we worked together on the annual compulsory geography field trips to the UK, the glory era when we served HKU Geography Department as a team, and the many Sunday afternoons when we both worked in our office to beat deadlines and to find solutions to many unsolvable problems of university politics. When the moon was rising high and the two of us still couldn't find out solution, Mervyn had to comfort me in his caring words--"Whatever will be will be!" We were extremely fortunate to have Mervyn around at the time when we experienced unprecedented structural changes for good or for bad. Mervyn has set an incredible role model of integrity, conviction, solidarity and resilience. We are deeply indebted to Dr. Mervyn Peart for his unparalleled contributions to HKU Geography. Dr. Peart's legacy shall live on to inspire and enlighten not only the numerous students of HKU Geography he had taught but many future generations of HK geographers as well. May Mervyn rest in heavenly peace!





Message and Photographs from

Professor Lishan Ran

These photos were taken in May 2017 in Lai Chi Wo where we conducted a field trip with our GEOG205 students. After the field trip, Dr Peart generously paid for the lunch for all students.

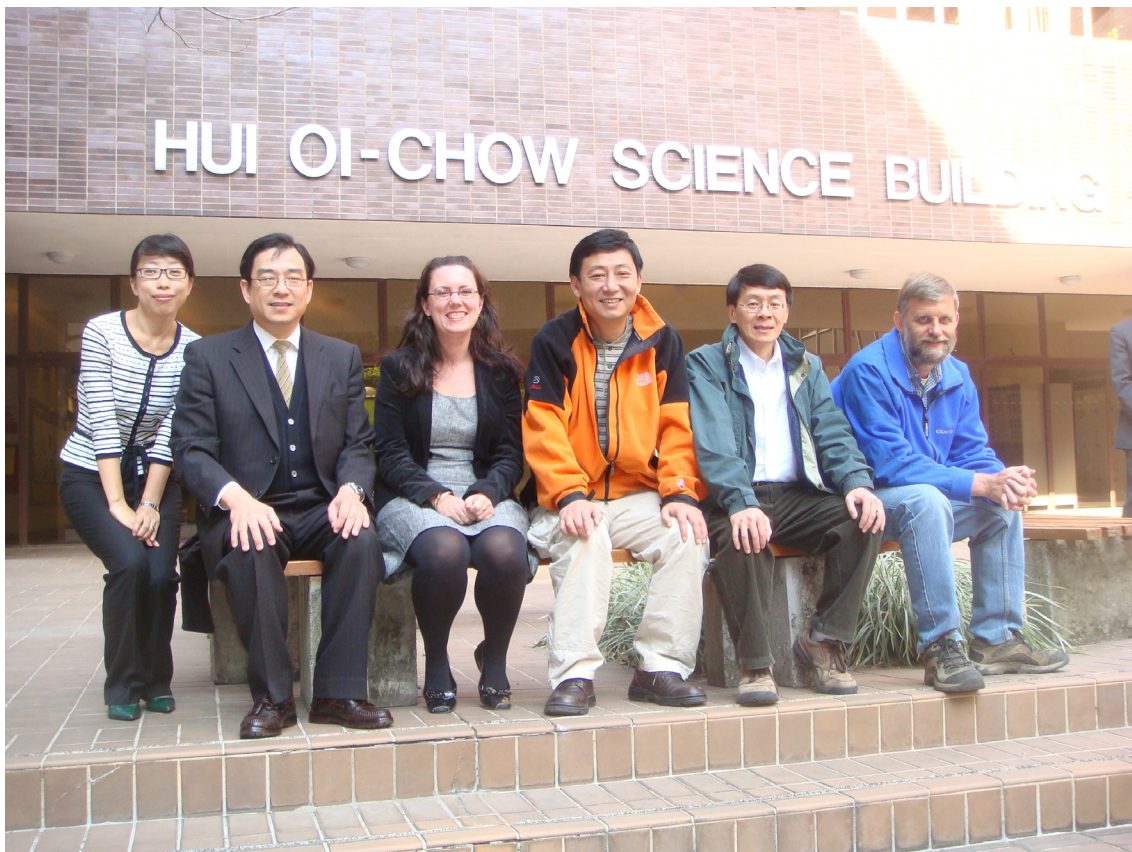
Dr Peart was a very nice colleague, always optimistic and positive. I learned quite a lot from him and I greatly appreciated the great help he provided to me since my first day at HKU. I'll continue to rekindle our memories in Hong Kong and the UK. He will always be among us. RIP, my dear friend and colleague.



Message and Photographs from

Professor David D Zhang

My dearest friend and colleague, Mervyn. Your sudden departure is such a huge shock to me. I can't explain how much I'd miss you. We had happily worked together for twenty two years. The candle may go out, but the memory of its light remains. In last a few days, I remember many things that we enjoyed in our HKU life. In the times in field trips, football games, expeditions, co-author, co-management and co-teaching, you have accomplished many good things in life and always followed the path of honesty. I am sorry that my poor English vocabulary cannot express my painfulness in this moment. Anyway I am better for knowing you, better for loving you, better for having met you. I wish you farewell in your journey to eternity. You'd never be forgotten. Rest in peace, dear friend.

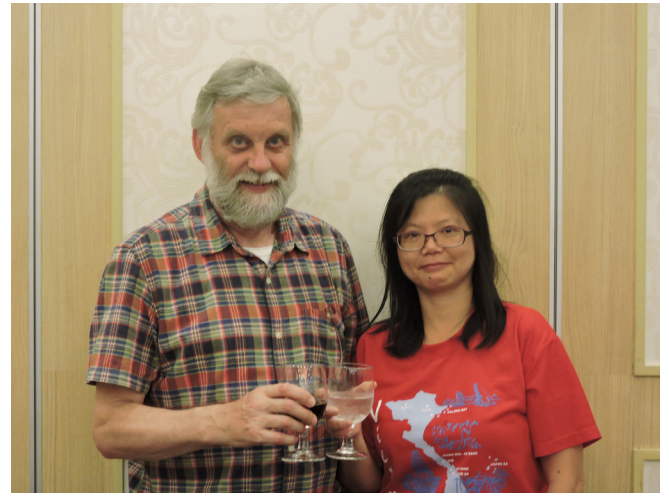
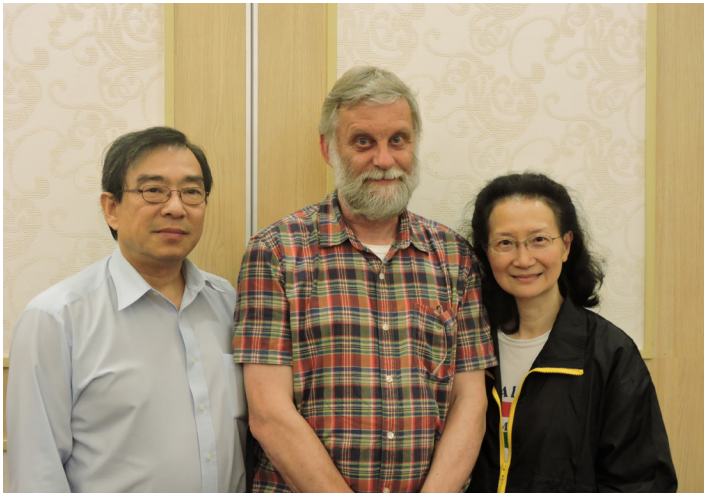




Photographs from

Mr. Tommy Liu

Former Executive Officer of the Department of Geography





Message from
Dr. Michael Chan

BA 1998

GEOG 5117 Landscape, Climate and Human Interaction, Tutorial group



It is so sad that me and Jacqueline just visited Dr. and Mrs. Peart in July this year. We received a very very welcome from them and stayed in their Villa for a very happy and memorable time... We talked about the past, the Villa and B&B, the beautiful scene and snow... and after all, we did mapping for planning the route, just like the old days when we got in the Fieldcamp in Kadoorie Agricultural Camp, Kam Tin, nearly 28 years ago...

You will be in our prayers always...



Message from

Dr. Ernest Lee

BA (Hons) 1973; PhD 1991

As a part-time teacher (dissertation supervisor) in the Geography Department, Dr Peart and I did not meet each other that often. He was approachable as we saw each other, easy to recognise by his friendly facial features.

I still retain copies of the Departmental Christmas Card signed by him as Head of the Geography Department HKU. Rest-in-Peace, Dr Peart! You will always be in my heart. My sincere condolences to your family.

Dr Ernest Lee, PhD, SBS, JP



Message from
Mr. Graham Reels

I'm deeply saddened to learn of Mervyn's passing. I got to know him a bit in the early 1990s, when I lived at Kadoorie Agricultural Research Centre. He was a frequent visitor there, collecting water samples from the stream when it was in spate, and he gave me some much-needed research assistant work at the same stream in 1992. I remember him as an extremely kind and sympathetic chap, whose innate decency was very obvious to anyone who met him. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Mervyn's family.



Message from

*Professor
William Hayward*

I was very sad to hear the news of Mervyn's passing. He and I were Heads of Department in the HKU Faculty of Social Sciences at the same time, and I learned a lot from him about how to place a commitment to students and their education at the centre of everything we do. I also had the good fortune to play football with Mervyn for the HKU Strollers, where we both served in the defence and where he bailed me out many times! He deserved a much longer retirement to roam the hills and wild spaces he loved so much. I will think of him fondly as I move through the trails in Hong Kong's country parks where he spent a lot of time.

Message & Photographs from

Ms. Teresa Leung

Senior Project Manager, The Hong Kong Countryside Foundation

I hold many fond memories with you, taking the boat rides together to Lai Chi Wo and enjoying the meals with you and your team at Sha Tau Kok market on your treat. You taught me the simple techniques to measure the river flow. It was just like yesterday. I see a picture of you smiling and chit-chatting with Dr. Ng Cho Nam somewhere over the rainbow.





Photographs from *Dr. Winnie Law*

Centre for Civil Society and Governance

Our team worked with Dr. Peart on the revitalisation programme at Lai Chi Wo. We attached two photos of Dr. Peart when he was doing hydrological research in Lai Chi Wo for the project.

We are all very sad learning that Dr. Peart has passed away and sincere condolences from our team to Dr. Peart's family and his loved ones.

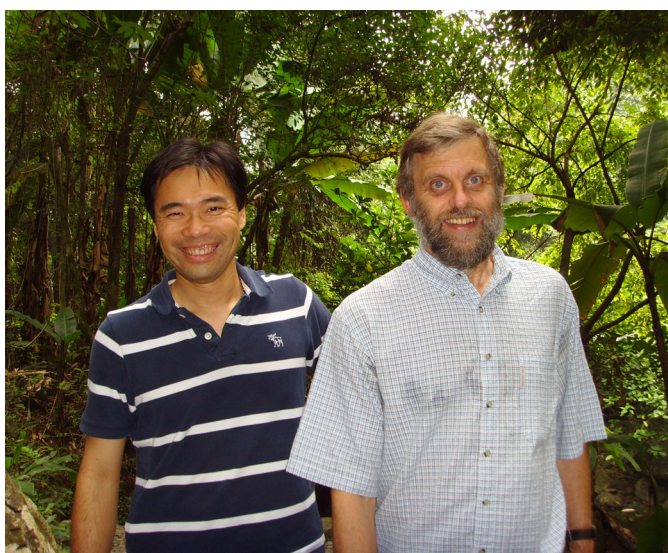


Message & Photographs from *Professor Kaimin Shih*

These are the photos Mervyn went with us to Xinfeng River in October 2007.
He was bringing students to do sampling in that trip.

We had a really great time with you, you'er a great educator and colleague.

We will miss you forever.



Message from

Dr. Charles Lam

BA 2002

Rest in peace. Always remember our great time in outdoor field trips!



Message from

Dr. Lewis TO Cheung

MGIS 2004, PhD 2010

I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing of our beloved teacher, colleague, and friend, Dr. Peart. His unwavering dedication to his students and colleagues left an indelible mark on our hearts. Dr. Peart was always available, with an open door and a warm smile, ready to offer guidance and support whenever we needed it. His significant contributions to the Department of Geography are immeasurable, shaping the way we understand and appreciate our world. I am filled with a profound sense of regret that I terribly missed the opportunity to meet him in person in Scotland last summer due to my sickness. Dr. Peart's legacy will continue to inspire generations of students and educators, and his memory will forever be cherished in our hearts. May Dr. Peart be with God and rest in peace. I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to Mary and his family and loved ones during this difficult time.



Message from

Dr. Irene NY Cheng

BA Geography 1984

You were our role model who never felt frustrated or bored when circled by students for answers and feedback during the UK field trip. Even our student teachers were not your HKU students, you still taught them with patience, tender and care. You got the love and respect of our students and me. You are forever in our hearts. Greatly missed.



Message from

Dr. Caroline Man Yee Law

BA 2000

Overseas Field trip (New Zealand)

Dr Peart brought us, a group of 7 Geography major students to New Zealand in the summer of 2000 for overseas field trip, he drove us around in a small van, we walked on a glacier, and learnt the geomorphology of the enchanted landscape. We had some much fun with Dr Peart, we all know he is a humorous guy. I took some courses taught by Dr Peart, related to physical geography and especially hydrology. Sometimes, we knocked on his office door, and asked him questions. I forgot our conversation, but I still remember the stacks of books and notes in his office. Thank you for your dedication for teaching us, you are always one of my favourite teachers.



Message from

Annie Man

BSocSc 2016

Living in a hazardous world, Countryside Recreation and Management, Overseas field trip

It was a great privilege to be taught by Dr Peart. He gave me my first A+ in my first year of study, which means a lot to me. He was a demanding professor, but he generously offered his compliments. I still remember how I struggled to get good grades from him. We had a great time during the overseas field trip, he kindly arranged everything for us, and his sense of humour made the whole trip remarkable. My gratitude to him is beyond words. My deepest condolences to his family.



Message from

Vincent Szeto

Bsocsc (Geography)

Hydrology

Rest in peace my dear teacher.



Message from

Ray Yeung

BA 2006

Hydrology, flooding

Your passion on Geography moved me a lot. Rest in Peace.



Message from

Lina

Geography

Fieldtrip and Water Management



In loving memory of Dr. Mervyn Peart, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for his exceptional teaching during my time as his undergraduate student. Dr. Peart was not only a brilliant educator but also an incredibly supportive mentor. His cheerful smile always brightened our days, and it was a delight to see him in the lecture room.

As a geography student, I was fortunate to have such a supportive figure like Dr. Peart in my academic journey. His guidance and encouragement were invaluable, and I am truly grateful for the impact he had on my education.

One of the highlights of my experience with Dr. Peart was the fieldwork we conducted together. His extensive knowledge in both physical and human geography made the fieldwork not only educational but also enjoyable. His expertise and passion for the subject were evident throughout, and I learned so much from him during those experiences.

Dr. Mervyn Peart's teaching and support will always be cherished, and his memory will continue to inspire me in my academic pursuits. He was a remarkable educator, mentor, and friend, and I am forever grateful for the time I spent learning from him. Dr. Peart, thank you for everything!

Message & Photographs from

Simon Lee

BA 2001-2004



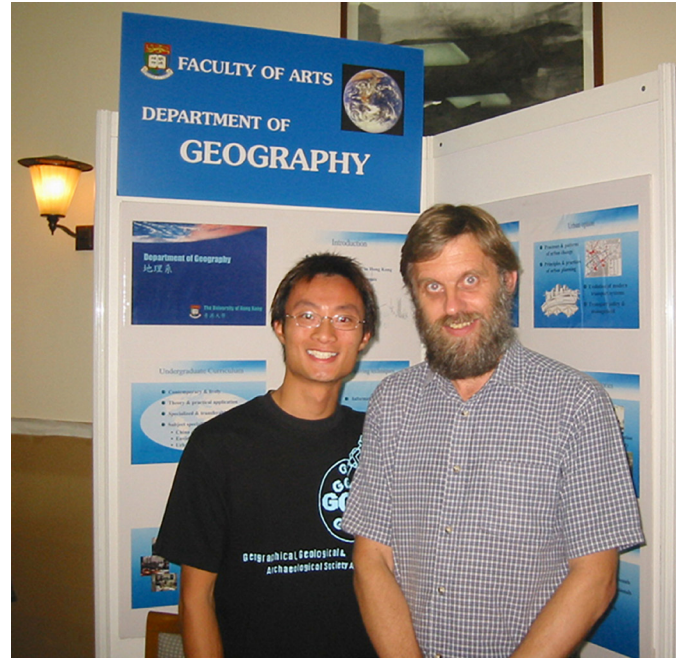
I met Dr. Peart in Spring 2001 for the first time. I came to Main Building for my non-JUPAS application interview that Dr. Peart was one of my interviewers. As I was one of the inaugurate students of HKU SPACE Community College which it started the Associate Degree Programme in 2000, I showed my passion of studying Geography during the interview to Dr. Peart and introduced my eligibility to obtain an offer through Associate Degree by non-JUPAS application. Since the Associate Degree Programme had just been developed in Hong Kong in 2000, Dr. Peart was interested in my academic background and he fully understood what I was looking for in the field of urban Geography. I was obtained an admission offer for Bachelor of Arts (Year 1) in May 2001.

Everytime I met Dr. Peart at campus in the past, I sincerely thanked him for giving me a chance to be a student of HKU Geography. I joined GGAS as one of the executive council members (External Secretary) in 2001-2002. That is why I continued to provide assistance at HKU Open Day 2003 for the Department (the second photo). In 2014, I came to Centennial Campus for visitng the new home of HKU Geography. Surprisingly, I met Dr. Peart again and I was thrilled that he recognized me (the third photo). I told Dr. Peart that I was most grateful to his kind consideration in my non-JUPAS application interview in 2001, for giving me the chance of being a Geographer. His support and encouragement to me will always be remembered.

Dr. Peart, without your kind consideration for giving me the chance of being a Geographer in 2001, I think my life and career would be totally different today. Thank you and may you rest in peace. You will always be missed.



This first photo was taken during the overseas field trip to UK on 14 August 2003.



This photo was taken at Main Building on 18 October 2003, at HKU Open Day 2003.



This photo was taken at Centennial Campus on 8 September 2014.

Message from

Tim Fung

Research Assistant under Dr. Peart



Thanks for your kindness and guidance when I was a research assistant you offered me while studying town planning in HKU in helping research on impact of acid rain in HK. Those times in Kadoorie Farm research centre were so memorable and grateful. You are truly respectful scholar. May God give you rest in peace and bless to your family.

Message from

Vera Fung

Overseas field trip



Dr. Peart, thank you for your teaching and support in my university life. The time that spent with you in the UK field trip seemed like yesterday, I know your love and passion to the nature and I have many happy memories in your class. It was so shocked to hear the news and I express my deepest condolences to your family.

Message from

Ms. E W

BA 2005

Geography



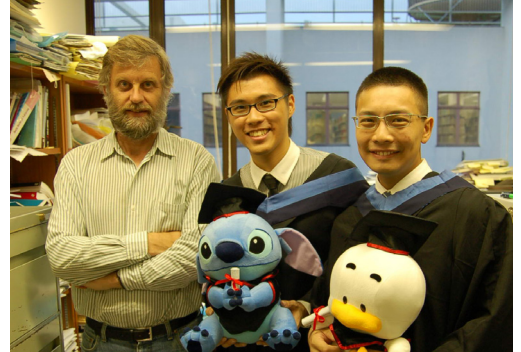
Thanks for being such a great teacher!! You will always in our mind.

Message & Photographs from

Mr. Newton Kwan

Geography 2007

Thanks for your kind support to GGAS when I held the office as the Chairperson. Thanks for your teaching of the two undergraduate courses related to hydrology and country parks.



Message from

Dr. Ernest KS Lee

PhD 2018

UK Fieldtrip Course

Heartfelt thanks for your teaching and loving kindness. May you rest in peace and reincarnate to continue the role of greatest educator to enlighten many more.



Message from

Yeung Long Fung Jeffrey

BSocSc 2025

Currently taking CCST9034 Living in a Hazardous World, unknowingly being part of your legacy until now, and I am immensely honored.



Message from

Susan Ngai

BA 1992

Hydrology

Dr. Peart's gentleness and kindness is above anyone I have ever known. He was extremely patient and always showed his care on his students. It was such a great fun to be led by Dr. Peart in the fieldwork. His wisdom and teachings deeply imprinted on my mind. I will be missing him always.



Message from

Tsoi Wing Kwong

BSocSc and Bachelor of Liberal Studies Education 2015-2020

CCST9034

Dr Peart, Rest In Peace. I stil remember your passion in teaching Disaters and Catastrophe. You make me to know what is the exact meaning of "Catastrophe". Thank you very much. Take a good rest.



Message from

Chow Lok Man Desmond

BA 1994

Hydrology

Dr Peart, you were a professor who created an impact to your students. We still miss you after graduating for 30 years. Thank you.



Message from

Wendy Yip

BA 2013

GEOG2014 Countryside recreation and management, GEOG3204 Urban hydrology and water quality,
GEOG3028 Overseas field trip



Dr. Peart had always been greatly loved by students, and will forever be deeply missed. Thanks to Dr. Peart's guidance and leadership, the two-week overseas field trip for GEOG capstone in the summer of 2016 is definitely one of the most invaluable experiences of my university life! May his soul rest in peace.

Message from

Dr. Ann Mak

PhD 2000

You have not only been an exceptional educator but also a genuine English gentleman. We are eternally grateful for the immense knowledge and kindness you have generously shared with us, particularly when it came to editing the egeogbook. Your willingness to go above and beyond to ensure our edits are consistent and free from errors.

We will always hold you on the highest regard, as likening to a saint. We are committed to carrying on your legacy and learning from you, ensuring that your teachings and values live on through our actions.



Message from

Christy

May you rest in peace, you exist in your beloved heart forever.



Message from

Matilda Ko & Eric Chan

BA Geography 2007

Dr Peart, your kindness and patience will always be remembered. Thank you for your contributions to the Department of Geography.



Message from

Chi Ho Chan

BSc 2017

Overseas field trip

Thank you Dr. Peart for leading the UK field trip. It is the best memory I had in university. I am very grateful to have this opportunity following a Brits travelling in UK for 2 weeks. You'll be missed Dr. Peart.



Message from

Mark Chan

BA Physical Geography 2000

A number of them



Dr Peart - made field trips enjoyable. I learnt most of the sillier side of field work from him.

He was the friendliest teacher there was to me.

I sought his professional and personal advice during my studies and long after graduation. Dr Peart was always ready to chat with a smile amidst that messy and dusty room of his. I'd voice out frustrations, happy occasions, ponder academic matters. It was refreshing and enjoyable.

I'll always remember the hammer you threw off the boat - absolutely nonchalantly; just choosing to doze off anywhere and everywhere on those trips out in the field. Those moments weren't a lot, but they helped make me how I am as an educator.

I am forever thankful for your mentorship and friendship.

I had hoped to visit you in the UK. Am at least thankful Lincoln had!

Thank you. Thank you for being there.

Message from

Edwin Chan

BBA 1994

R.I.P. still remember your smile and blue eyes...



Message from

Ngai Yuen See

BA 1990

Physical geography

Dr Peart was the first teacher that we met in Year 1. He was kind and diligent and always wore a smiling face during class. Thanks, Dr Peart. We will remember Dr Peart.



Message from

Tina Tsang

I have been working here for over a decade now. This is my first job, and you were my first department head. This book has been the most challenging task I've undertaken during all these years. Every photo, every message, brings back memories of everything you were. You generously gave me a large red envelope on my wedding day, and you always enjoyed your daily milk tea. Your passion for geography and the warmth of your smile will always be remembered and cherished in a special place in my heart. Rest in peace, Dr Peart.





Rest in Peace

TOO WELL LOVED TO EVER BE FORGOTTEN



DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

