

Dr. Paul C. W. Chu
President's Distinguished Lecture Series

Odyssey: From Houston to Hong Kong and back to Houston – A Journey of Discovery and the Future”

Paul C. W. Chu, University of Houston, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Taiwan Comprehensive University System



Abstract

According to Mark Twain, the famous American author and humorist, man's noblest delight in life is DISCOVERY – to know that you are walking where no others have walked; that you are beholding what no human eye has seen; that you are breathing a virgin atmosphere. Indeed, what better joy can there be for a scientist than to discover a new material, phenomenon or theory; for an engineer than to build Millay Viaduct; for a philosopher than to give birth to new thought or paradigm; for an entrepreneur than to create new wealth; for a university president than to develop a haven for innovation and creativity; or for an explorer to find a new world? Discovery goes beyond science. It is discovery that has changed this world for the better and brought us a brighter future. To discover involves pushing back the frontier, thinking outside the box, dreaming the impossible dream and taking the unthinkable risk. The human spirit, courage and ingenuity displayed by these discoverers are always a great inspiration for us all. Ben Franklin, a scientist, a statesman, a diplomat and an entrepreneur, is an embodiment of these all. The path of discovery is full of excitements of triumph, although often dotted with agonies of defeat. In this lecture, I would like to share with you some of the exciting moments of a scientist oscillating between discovery in his lab in Houston and development of an intellectual powerhouse at institutes in Hong Kong and Taiwan in past decades. Life is full of dreams, hopes and excitements and I am confident that more are yet to come to us all.

Bio

Dr. Paul C. W. Chu is currently serving as Professor of Physics, T. L. L. Temple Chair of Science, and Founding Director and Chief Scientist of the Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston; and as Honorary Chancellor of the Taiwan Comprehensive University System. He is President Emeritus and University Professor Emeritus of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He has been elected as a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Beijing), the Academia Sinica (Taipei), the Third World Academy of Sciences, the Electromagnetic Academy, and the Russian Academy of Engineering. He has received honorary doctorates from a dozen top universities. In 1990, he was selected the Best Researcher in the U. S. by *US News and World Report*. He has received numerous awards, including the National Medal of Science, the International Prize for New Materials, the Comstock Award, Texas Instruments' Founders' Prize, the Leroy Randal Grumman Medal, and the World Cultural Council Medal of Scientific Merit.

1 Seminar type: President's Distinguished Lecture Series - ME

Where: Livermore 101, **When:** 10-13-2014, 2:00 p.m.