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一生緣結文化 半世閱歷官場的蕭顯揚



蕭顯揚
Stephen Siu

除了那些含著銀匙出生，一早接受家人預先安排的人以外，絕大多數人一生的際遇都是起伏跌盪的。獲選為2009年「紅楓傳奇」人物之一的蕭顯揚(Stephen Siu)，曾對人生歷程作出以下的描述：「我們是社會前進中的大小齒輪，互扣互動，傳送動力，作出貢獻，不斷創造自己的故事。生命中的際遇也如大小齒輪，我們享受生命齒輪和諧運作的喜悅，但也承受齒輪脫落的哀傷。」

不惑之年選擇移民

1988年，剛屆「不惑之年」的蕭顯揚選擇了移民加拿大，給了自己人生一個最大的挑戰。他捨下在常人眼裡「如日中天」般的事業；捨下日後唾手可得的數以百萬元計的高級公務員退休金。除了藍天白雲和唐人街川流不息的華人同胞面孔以外，楓葉國裡沒有任何工作或職位等待著他，這是一條不歸路，如果沒有勇氣和決心，是抬不動腳步的。跟著他的是相互扶持的妻子和一雙年幼可愛的女兒。但是在跨越這道門檻時，他相信自己的選擇是「不惑」的，因為「人生奇妙之處，在於不知道還有多少空間可以容納新的挑戰」。只不過再怎麼瀟灑，總難免對自己成長、生活、工作了四十年的地方回首一望吧！移民前夕，他望著空室殘燈，淚盈於眼，奮筆而書，寫下了這首「別」：「舉目寒霜冷，日暮風雲急，臨行心膽顫，夢眼看人生，孤掌迎飛雪，持劍血奔騰，不須人惜別，何用客傷神，來時空赤赤，去亦自然貧，他朝臨風酒，不用灑我墳，茫茫今上路，悠悠寄此生，不作還鄉想，歸路夢裡尋。」

蕭顯揚自稱，小時候深受五四新文化思潮影響，希望有朝一日成為作家，對數理化等科目沒有興趣，文科的成績特別突出，但他的父母也不能免俗，總覺得文科的出路有限，希望他遷就現實，但是他實在對理工方面的課程提不起興趣來，考試成績總是

不理想，在蘇浙公學讀到中四終於選擇了輟學，然後白天打工，晚間上夜校，終於在半工半讀之下完成中學及大學預科課程，這個階段是他一生的轉捩點。由於當時夜校的教師多數都是由香港大學學生課餘兼職擔任，師生在年齡上相差無幾，而同學之間的环境亦差不多，不乏「自力更生、艱苦奮鬥」之輩，師生之間，亦師亦友，相互激勵，產生一股學習的興趣與動力。

考入合眾社成傳媒人

讀完大學預科，蕭顯揚進入尚未成為中文大學成員的聯合書院的夜間部(聯大書院)鑽研新聞傳播，同時考入美國「合眾國際新聞社United Press International」(簡稱合眾社UPI)駐港分社，先後擔任翻譯、監聽無線電廣播、記者及編輯等工作。合眾社曾經是全球最大的新聞通訊社之一，與路透社等齊名。當時由於大陸正處於文革動亂的年代，除了蘇聯的「塔斯社」以外，幾乎沒有准許其他國際媒體派駐中國的。他除了經常要到九廣鐵路沿線車站訪問一些旅客，了解大陸的情況以外，最常做的例行工作就是收聽大陸「中央人民廣播電台」及各省市台的新聞廣播，從中判斷有新聞價值的部份，將其改寫為新聞稿，發送全球。這些工作就是所謂China Watching的一部份。當時報導的新聞，軟性硬性均有，從中國發射第一枚人造衛星、領導階層的改變，到社會經濟的狀況。他回憶當時世界各地對大陸的許多事物都非常好奇，甚至包括上海女孩子流不流行穿裙子等。遇到大陸釋放「美諜」、「英諜」，更是與國際傳媒爭逐獨家追訪的時刻。他還回憶當時任職「文匯報」記者的現任特區政府民政事務局局长曾德成，在這些採訪中，有時是他的合作伙伴，但有時亦是競爭的對手。合眾社的口號是「Deadline Every Minute」，發佈的新聞要快而準，蕭顯揚就是這環境下渡過了數年的「新聞第一線」工作。

1972年，美國總統尼克森認識到必須解凍與中國的關係，他和當時的國務卿季辛吉展開對華的乒乓外交，希望打開中國這一道門戶。當美國乒乓球隊過港時，蕭顯揚亦被指派採訪工作。在此同時，作為國家新聞發佈機構，新華社的「地位」備受重視，

外國媒體嘗試向新華社伸出友誼之手，身為美國合眾國際社的一員，蕭顯揚是最先與香港新華社接觸的外國傳媒工作者之一，他現在還珍藏著一幀在灣仔香港新華社總部打乒乓球的相片。

赴美進修後轉投「讀者文摘」

在「合眾社」的工作期間，由於表現不錯，他申請到「世界新聞研究院World Press Institute」的獎學金，與來自全球13個不同國家和地區的新聞工作者，來到美國明尼蘇達州Macalester College，接受為期差不多兩年的新聞專業培訓和實習。在這裡，蕭顯揚跑遍美國的東西南北，眼界大開，經常有機會出席重要的記者招待會，訪問政要及跨國機構，進一步磨練他對新聞的專業素養，對美國的「偉大」和「危機」，有更深入的了解。結束學習返回UPI在香港的亞洲總部，他這時已升任香港區的總編輯，漫長的越戰已將近尾聲，但紅色高棉正如火如荼進行大屠殺，國際新聞通訊社的工作忙碌且有挑戰性。期間他也經歷了戰爭的震盪，看到幾位自己熟悉的戰地記者，一個一個的倒下。就在這時刻，向被視為高水平的「讀者文摘」中文版招聘編輯，須要有良好中英文寫作能力的人加入，他以亮眼的經歷被錄用，步入他人生最重要的第二份職業，從74到80，前後6年，主要負責撰寫有關香港和台灣方面的故事。當時「讀者文摘」中文版在國學大師林語堂女兒林太乙的主持下，集港台傳媒界的優秀人才，成為一份港台和東南亞最受歡迎、最健康、銷路最好的中文期刊之一。

接受挑戰 再任新職

蕭顯揚承認自己在職業生涯上是一位「不安份」的人，他喜歡新事物、勇於接受新挑戰，當然，待遇也是考慮因素之一。在1980年，他考進香港政府新聞處，先後被派駐市政局、及文化事務和政府宣傳等部門，負責推廣工作，一做八年多，曾負責過多項大型的國際藝術文化和體育推廣活動，包括香港國際電影節、亞洲藝術節、來自歐美的樂團、舞蹈團及音樂劇演出、國際性球類比賽、紅館及伊館開幕等。後期升任為首席新聞主任，領導手下40人，預算動輒都是近千萬港幣，更不時與電視台合作，如利

用「歡樂今宵」等普及節目，宣傳政府訊息。對於許多人來說，也許這就是職場上「安樂窩」了。不過不失，混到60歲，可拿到一筆豐厚的退休金。但他不作此想，他不滿意當時的官僚制度；覺得應在苦短人生中，多點閱歷，於是申請移民加拿大，沒想到三個月就批准，連準備工作都還沒有做好，只好在報到後留下妻子和兩個女兒，隻身一個人再返回香港遞辭呈，處理善後。

移民講起來容易，舉家連根拔起，來到這兒重新安置，可不是一件輕鬆的事。初來乍到，光是找一份既對口、待遇也合理的工作就夠頭痛的。他「屈就」過照相器材行的「最低工資」工作，利用本來是自己業餘愛好的攝影來糊口，他也曾替香港的一些報章雜誌撰稿，以掙取一些稿費。其後他創立了「自雇」的公關廣告業務，並盡量參與社區義務工作，擴展網絡。柳暗花明，在1992年，他接受首任香港駐加拿大經濟貿易辦事處總新聞主任袁金浩之邀，以「公關顧問」的名義協助經貿處主辦「香港節」，在全加從東到西十一城市推廣香港的國際形象，非常成功。他擔任「公關顧問」期間，經歷九七回歸等大事。蕭顯揚的工作能力和人際關係早被許多華人社團肯定。在千禧年，「大多倫多中華文化中心」請他跳槽擔任行政總監，他也認為文化中心的工作適合他，在往後的四年任內，他為文化中心開展了許多搭橋鋪路的工作。他自己喜歡文藝，與華社許多藝術家結為好友，他最得意的是為許多領養中國孤兒的加國家庭搭建與華人新移民之間的橋樑，鼓勵「老外」支持華社在中國的慈善活動；同時他亦鼓勵華社支持主流社區的慈善活動，發揮互助互愛的精神。

為認養中國孤兒家庭搭橋

他對於一些無私認養中國孤兒的加拿大家庭十分敬佩，有小部分孤兒生下來就有潛藏性毛病的，但領養的父母可能不清楚，回來經過一段日子後才發現孩子不健全，但是養父母仍然很有愛心地把孩子的病醫好，送孩子學中文。這些孩子長大之後，將成為中西文化的重要橋樑，蕭顯揚非常明白這一點，所以他很願意為這一類家庭作搭橋的工作。

聚散本無常，文化工作雖是他的摯愛，但終於在2004年，

蕭顯揚揮別「大多倫多中華文化中心」總監之職，重返香港經貿辦事處，擔任助理處長一職，負責加國的公關工作。物移星換，人事俱非，辦事處處長自林瑞麟首任，已經歷梁展文、唐智強、余呂杏茜、蘇植良，到現任的蕭慕蓮。經歷了「林」、「梁」和「唐」三朝的他，以豐富的經驗重返辦事處，接受蘇、蕭兩位處長的領導，自然是工作勝任愉快。

他了解到積極參與、善用人生的重要，無論在任何工作崗位，公餘之暇，經常是「身在社區」。他擔任過過頤康基金會籌款活動的宣傳主席及「龍宴」顧問、士嘉堡慈恩醫院董事、多倫多義工中心董事、華諮處董事等。他協助加拿大基督教兒童基金會、福慧基金會、及康福心理健康中心等籌款工作。在「沙士」高峰期，他更協助華社60多團體組成「社區關注沙士聯盟」，出任聯盟秘書長，集社區力量對抗沙士的挑戰。他現為加拿大保護中國文物基金會、多倫多大學加港圖書館、中華青少年學藝及若干文化音樂團體的顧問，亦曾在中央電視台「同一首歌」等大型演出中擔任顧問工作。他義務在Shaw Cable電視第十台主持時事討論節目期間，積極鼓勵新移民通過參與來投入社會。他吃過移民苦，樂於幫助新移民。他認為「做好這份工」是不夠的，他經常提醒自己要「超越」自我。

蕭顯揚談到妻子兩個女兒時，臉上的笑容將他的眼睛眯成一線，他感謝妻子對他這塊Rolling stone的包容和扶持，他以兩個女兒的獨立自強為榮。兩個女兒並不像許多來自香港的移民一樣「迷戀」那一塊遙遠的土地，她們是屬於加拿大年輕的一代，長女嘉林畢業於多大微生物科技系，現任職於加國馳名的Sanofi-Pasteur藥廠；次女寶林畢業於懷雅遜大學時裝設計系，目前在溫哥華開創<http://www.floraandfauna.ca/>的網上時裝品牌，所用的都是有機材料，具有強烈的環保概念，每售出一件產品，都會撥出一部份收入捐給保護動物組織，非常有愛心。

蕭顯揚說，兒時讀到王勃《滕王閣序》「覺宇宙之無窮…識盈虛之有數」每有感動，希望自己能做到文中所說的「窮且益堅，不墜青雲之志」，「達人知命」但不認命，豁達地面對人生的盈虛。



As Co-chair of the 25th Anniversary fundraising ball of the then Chinese Information and Community Services. 擔任華諮處25周年籌款餐舞會共同主席。



Hosting a charity event for the Christian Children's Fund of Canada together with Mrs Canada Anne Marie Sweeney. 與「加拿大太太」史雲妮一起主持加拿大基督教兒童基金會的慈善活動。



Visiting orphans in Sichuan Province with volunteers of the Fu Hui Foundation. 以義工身份參與福慧基金會在四川涼山的援助孤兒工作。



Pictured in his Publicity Office at the Hong Kong City Hall. Behind him are posters on "Shakespearean Festival in the Park" and exhibition "In the Footsteps of Buddha". 攝於他在香港大會堂的文化宣傳辦公室。他背後的是莎翁節、及《佛祖的足印》展覽的海報。



Visiting Taiwan's President Chiang Ching-kuo as a member of the Reader's Digest delegation, led by the magazine's Chief Editor Lin Tai-yi, and ex-US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird. 作為「讀者文摘」訪問團成員，與該雜誌主編林太乙及顧問（前美國國防部長）賴爾德在台北拜會蔣經國總統。



With the then Toronto Mayor June Rowlands at the launch of the Toronto-wide "Serve Your City Day". 作為多倫多「社區服務日」宣傳主席，與當時多市市長羅倫絲一起主持義工出發儀式。



Interviewing Roger Moore who was famous for his acting roles in the James Bond and the Saint series while working as a UPI reporter in Hong Kong. 在合眾社當記者時，於香港文華酒店為當年風流倜儻的《鐵金剛》007羅渣摩亞做獨家訪問。



Interviewing US Senator Mike Mansfield, the longest-serving Majority Leader and Ambassador to Japan, while interning in Washington DC. 在美國國會實習期間，訪問了曾任美國駐日大使的參議員曼斯菲。



Welcoming the arrival of the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre for fundraising performances for the Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation. 與頤康基金會負責人在機場迎接香港話劇團梁家輝、蘇玉華、劉雅麗等籌款演出的成員。



A recent family picture. 全家福近照。



Playing table-tennis with the "comrades" at Xinhua News Agency's Hong Kong bureau in December 1972. 1972年12月中美關係解凍後，在新華社香港分社的毛主席肖像前與「同志」們比賽乒乓球。



Speaking after receiving the 2008 Rotary 4-Way Test Award for being a role model in demonstrating truthfulness, and for contributing experience and knowledge benefiting the community. 獲扶輪社頒發「四大考驗」獎後發言。得獎人須符合「維護真理」、「處事公正」、「促進友好」和「惠及他人」的原則。

MR. STEPHEN SIU

Few are born with a silver spoon in their mouths, with their future well being taken care of by their families. For most of us, as our wheels of life move on, we have to find our own path, through despair and hope, through faith and love. Stephen Siu, one of this year's Chinese Canadian Legend Award recipients, describes his life as a journey with dreams and hopes. He says: "We are all interlocking gears of the society. Though different in size, each one plays a vital role to keep the machine running as a whole, while each of us creates our own legacy. We enjoy the harmony of the smooth rotation, yet we have to bear with the sorrow when the gears are disengaged."

In 1988, just when he turned 40 - an age of wisdom and maturity, one might say - Stephen chose to uproot and immigrate to Canada with his wife and young daughters. As he says, paraphrasing the lines from Robert Frost's "Road Less Travelled", "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less easy to travel by, trying to make a difference and taking it as a challenge upon myself." He gave up a bright and shining career, and a lucrative retirement pension. Here in Canada, the woods are lovely, but dark and deep. This northern country offers him white clouds in a wide open blue sky, and familiar faces in the streets of Chinatown, but nothing else. If one does not have courage and determination, one cannot take this road, for it is a road of no return. In taking this move, he believed his decision was a wise one. But, no matter how nonchalant Stephen was about his decision, he could not help but gaze back on a place where he enjoyed every single moment of his existence. "Farewell to my birthplace, from my soul torn away. Pearl of the Orient, my Eden lost..." His eyes were brimming with tears.

As a school boy, Stephen dreamed of becoming a writer - sharing stories, experiences, and knowledge with the world. He has accomplished that and more. But, his journey in pursuit of his dreams was met with many challenges - he made mistakes, learned from them, and persevered. During his school days, he was not interested in science subjects, but excelled in arts and literature. Like many other Chinese parents, his father felt that

there would be limited opportunities if his son did not follow the streams of physicians, engineers, accountants or lawyers. However, even as he tried, he just could not feel any excitement about mathematics, physics, chemistry or biology, and his test results were always disappointing. After finishing grade 10 in Kiangsu-Chekiang College, he chose to quit his studies and find work.

Stephen didn't give up on his dream. While working in a bookstore by day to make a living, Stephen attended night school to complete his high school education before he moved on to studying journalism in the evening division of the United College, which was one of the predecessors of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. This phase of his life was a critical turning point. Many of his fellow classmates, including some of his night school teachers, came from a similar background; struggling against all odds, while learning to be self-reliant. Among them, friendships blossomed as they motivated and encouraged each other to move on and to reach their stars.

Stephen's hard work paid off, as he was soon hired by the Hong Kong bureau of the United Press International (UPI). He started by monitoring radio broadcasts from China, and took on translation. He was later given reporting and editorial assignments. UPI was one of the largest news agencies in the world, right up there with the Associated Press in the United States and Britain's Reuters.

At that time, Mainland China was going through the Cultural Revolution, and the so-called bamboo curtain was out of reach by foreign journalists. Hong Kong served as an important outpost for the non-Chinese media. One of Stephen's assignments was to go to the Kowloon-Canton Railway stations to interview visitors from China to understand the situation in the Mainland. Based on the national, provincial and municipal news casts from the Mainland, he analyzed the reports and tried to determine their news value, before turning them into news dispatches for the rest of the world. This work was part of "China Watching" at the time.

Both hard and soft news were covered, ranging from the first satellite launching, to changes in political leadership, to economic and social conditions in China. He remembers that foreigners were very curious about China, even to the point of wanting to know if girls in Shanghai were into wearing skirts or not. The most exciting moments were when China was releasing foreigners from prison through Hong Kong. The reporters, especially those

from the international media, were fighting for their exclusive interviews, resulting in paparazzi fervour. He remembers the reporter from Wen Wei Pao on that beat was Tsang Tak-sing, now the Secretary for Home Affairs in Hong Kong. During those times, sometimes Tsang was his partner, and sometimes he was his competitor. UPI's slogan was "Deadline Every Minute", and news had to be fast, precise and accurate. Stephen spent four years in this frontline of news reporting.

In 1972, American President Richard Nixon paid his first visit to China, recognizing that "we simply cannot afford to leave China outside the family of nations." In fact, it was about a year before the presidential visit, when a team of US table tennis players stepped across a border bridge from Hong Kong to the Chinese mainland, ushering in an era of "Ping Pong Diplomacy". This was described well by Chinese Premier Chou En-lai that, "Never before in history has a sport been used so effectively as a tool of international diplomacy." When the American ping pong team was passing through Hong Kong, Stephen was one of the reporters interviewing them on board the train. At the same time, international media organizations extended a hand of friendship to Xinhua, the highly regarded national news agency of China. As a member of UPI, Stephen was one of the first "foreign" journalists to get in touch with the Xinhua News Agency in Hong Kong. He still treasures a picture taken of him playing ping pong at the Xinhua's headquarters in Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Stephen's dedication and success in his early journalism career did not go unnoticed. He was awarded a scholarship by the World Press Institute, and together with selected reporters from 13 different countries, he went to Macalester College in Minnesota to receive journalism training for almost two years. The program, with internships on Capitol Hill and with American media across the country, allowed him to have a closer look at the United States, observing its grandeur and failure. It opened up his horizons, as he often had opportunities to participate in important press conferences, and to interview political, business, and even human rights leaders. This training and experience laid the groundwork for his promotion as the Chief Editor of UPI's Hong Kong bureau upon his return.

During this period of time, the Vietnam War was coming to its end, but a massacre was raging in Cambodia. International news reporting was both hectic and challenging, since Stephen had to take "dictation" from those war correspondents from time to time. He experienced the turbulence of the

war, and saw some of his closest journalist friends vanish in the battlefield. At this time, the Readers' Digest, one of the largest circulated monthly magazines in Asia in the mid-1970s, was recruiting and found a writer/editor with proficient reporting, writing and editing skills in Stephen. From 1974 to 1980, Stephen was responsible for researching and writing stories about Hong Kong and Taiwan for the Chinese Edition of the magazine. Lin Taiyi, the daughter of one of the greatest Chinese scholars, Lin Yutang, was his Editor-in-Chief, and he also had a team of the high-calibre media professionals as his colleagues.

Stephen admits that he is not a person easily contented in his career. He enjoys new things, and dares to take up challenges. Of course, salary is also one of his considerations. In 1980, he entered the Government Information Services, and was responsible for government publicity campaigns and various cultural promotions. During the eight years with the government in Hong Kong, Stephen orchestrated publicity for many large international arts and cultural festivals, as well as sports events, including the Hong Kong International Film Festival, Festival of Asian Arts, dance and musical performances by European and American groups, international sports competitions, as well as the openings of the Hong Kong Coliseum and Queen Elizabeth Stadium. He was also responsible for the marketing of major Hong Kong museums and the city council's libraries.

He was promoted to be Principal Information Officer of the Government's promotions division, supervising a staff of 40 and a budget of a few million Hong Kong dollars. He frequently collaborated with television stations, taking advantage of popular programs such as "Enjoy Yourself Tonight" to soft-sell government messages. To many people, this would be the zenith of a career. If one coasts along until 60 years old, one can retire with a handsome pension. But Stephen did not want to think that way. His motto is to "drink life to the lees". It's the experience, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important. He thrived on challenges and wanted more. So, he applied to immigrate to Canada, and was approved in about three months. Not having enough time to finish his preparations, he had to report to Canada and then return to Hong Kong to finish his work, initially leaving his wife and two daughters behind.

Immigration seems easy, but uprooting one's family to move to a new land is in fact tormenting. Just to find a suitable job with reasonable pay upon arrival is an enormous challenge. Stephen applied for jobs in advertising,

public relations, and publishing, but was rejected because potential employers were hesitant to hire those without Canadian experience. However, Stephen believes that so long as he keeps driving forward, there's nothing to lose. Humbled, and more determined than ever to succeed, he took on voluntary work with charitable organizations. Impressing others with his work ethic and the quality of his work, Stephen quickly established a network in Toronto and across Canada.

In 1992, the Hong Kong Government was setting up its representative office in Canada. Stephen was hired as public relations consultant, helping the office launch Festival Hong Kong in 11 cities from Vancouver to Halifax to promote the international image of Hong Kong. It was a very successful event, with a combination of business, cultural, sports and academic activities, promoting more exchanges between Hong Kong and Canada. Stephen's capability and interpersonal relationships have been recognized by many Chinese organizations here. In year 2000, the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto asked him to take on the job of Executive Director. Stephen felt that the work would be perfectly suited for him because of his strong cultural background. During his term of four fruitful years, he opened up many channels and laid a foundation for the future. He himself is fond of arts and literature, and is a good friend with many Chinese Canadian artists. What he finds most satisfying is that he has built a bridge between new immigrants from China and the many families who have adopted Chinese orphans, encouraging them to share each other's experience, culture and provide support for each other.

Although working for Chinese culture is his love, Stephen's career continued to thrive. In 2004, Stephen left the Chinese Cultural Centre, and returned to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office to take on a more important role as the head of its public relations. Stephen understands the importance of active participation and living life to the fullest. No matter what he is doing, when he has time after work he often volunteers for different charities. He has helped Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation, University of Toronto, Scarborough Grace Hospital, Christian Children's Fund of Canada, CICS, and Hong Fook Mental Health Association, in different capacities. He helped start "Serve Your City Day" with the Volunteer Centre of Metro Toronto. He volunteered as the Secretary-General of the Community Coalition Concerned About SARS (CCCS), a coalition formed by over 60 community organizations to fight SARS. He

has been the momentum behind some major cultural projects, including the record-setting CCTV (China Central Television) "Same Song" concert at Rogers Centre. Currently, he is an adviser for the Canadian Foundation for Chinese Heritage Preservation and Canada-Hong Kong Library of the University of Toronto, and several other cultural organizations.

When he was a volunteer TV program host with Shaw Cable 10, he advocated participation. New immigrants should first participate before they can really integrate with the community. Stephen experienced the hardship of being a new immigrant, and is happy to help new immigrants. He always says to himself that one's goal is not only to do a job well, but to excel, going farther and flying higher. Earlier this year, he travelled to Sichuan Province in China with the Canada Fu Hui Foundation's charity mission, where he visited hundreds of orphans. He worked as a volunteer photographer to document the foundation's work there.

When Stephen talks about his wife and his two daughters, he cannot stop grinning from ear to ear. He is thankful to his wife's support and understanding all these years. He is also proud of the independence of his two daughters. They do not stay beholden to the past and a distant land, as many Hong Kong immigrants do. They belong to the next generation of young Canadians. His elder daughter, Karen, graduated from University of Toronto in microbiology, and is now working at Sanofi-Pasteur, a leading vaccines manufacturer. His younger daughter Pauline, after graduating from Ryerson University in fashion design, moved to Vancouver and has since founded flora&fauna designs (www.floraandfauna.ca), an eco-fashion label where all the pieces are ethically made with sustainable materials. Sharing Stephen's values in humanitarianism, Pauline's business contributes to her community by working closely with nature conservation and animal welfare organizations, proudly donating a portion of proceeds towards funding the charity groups.

Stephen says that for many years, his favourite song has been "The Impossible Dream" from "Man of La Mancha": "To dream the impossible dream; To fight the unbeatable foe; To bear with unbearable sorrow; To run where the brave dare not go...."

"This is also my quest," he says. "To follow that star... no matter how far."