



# 義工生活體驗之點滴

## Reflections on Volunteering at Developing Virtue Secondary School

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在我內心深處一直蘊藏著一個想法，那就是到學校幫忙，別小看這個願望，我可是過了好久才鼓起勇氣辭去原來的工作

，如願以償的到培德中學服務的。那時離美西院校協會來校評鑑視察的日子只剩短短的四星期了。我深深的知道時間有限，而待做的工作還很多，於是帶著手提電腦

、有限的教育經驗和一大堆世間習氣往萬佛聖城。

爲了體驗學生的住宿生活，我決定與廿位女生一起住大通舖。直到現在我都還不敢相信鬧鐘要那麼早就響起、天一大早就那麼亮了！努力的試了幾次想起身，和她們一起去吃早餐，最後還是放棄，一直睡到她們朝會結束才起來。

經過一段時間的相處，我發現學生是多麼慈善與好施，直到現在想到男女同學給予我的時間、協助和心愛物仍覺得很溫馨。更令我感動的是：曾看見有學生在七點鐘用自習室來懺悔、或利用下午空堂清掃、或者放學後大家一起佈置教室。她們的自制、自省能力、忠於作息時間、對修行，和學校的投入都讓我深受感動。

有一天午餐時，有些女同學來跟我說，她們在對世界宗教聯合會的人致謝詞時禁不住感動而泣，（請參閱上期何心安同學所作：世上一道明亮的光）此時此刻我發覺善良是多麼的有傳染性。又當我看到女同學在學生自治會選舉時投票給對手，並在選舉後陷入想辭職或和對手同時工作的矛盾中，我



I had wanted to help out at the schools for a while, but it took me a long time to gather up the nerve to quit my job. When I finally did, and fulfilled that wish to serve at the Developing Virtue Secondary School, we were only four weeks away from the WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation visit. Knowing how little time we had left and how many things we still needed to do, I brought my laptop, my limited experience in education, and a lot of worldly habits with me to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB). I decided to stay with the nearly twenty girls in the big dorm room in order to spend time with them and experience dorm life from their perspective. I still can't believe how early the alarm goes off and how bright the light is in the morning. After a few attempts to wake up and have breakfast with the girls, I gave up and learned to sleep through their morning routine.

With time, I came to see how genuinely kind and giving the students are. It warms my heart thinking of the times the girls and boys offered me their time, their help, and the best of their belongings. I saw students use their 7:00 a.m. study hall to do repentance and other students spend their afternoon free time to clean up and decorate the classrooms after school. I was moved by their discipline and devotion



是既驚奇又歡喜，我感覺學校真的把謙虛與合作的價值觀蘊育在學生的胸懷中。此外，我也有機會跟男同學溝通，他們有時很傻，有下午卻聽到了他們不僅坦率而且樂意分享的心聲。儘管他們有時抱怨，但總體而言，我覺得學生都受到了良好的教育。老實說，培德中學每位學生的品德遠比我在高中時都超出很多。

由於我的工作大部份是行政方面的，所以多數時間我都得跟老師或行政人員溝通。因為美西院校協會有許多過去沒有或不重要的新要求，因此老師和行政人員增加了很多額外的工作。看到老師在上課之餘，為學生準備大學課程的分班測驗、期末考、批作業，除此之外又要因應評鑑工作而做種種準備，如此繁重的工作，對大家而言都是一項挑戰。當然我也觀察到很多在兩校和教職員之間的趣事。在和幾位工作量大而累壞了的職員談話後，我終於了解個中滋味。

在最後一個月裡，與老師共事和學習的經驗是最令我提昇的因素。我真不了解男校校長怎麼可以教這麼多課程、做校長同時又要準備評鑑。我不明白女校校長怎能吃、睡這麼點、參加法會，還能如此精神抖擻；我不解宿舍裸姆怎能同時還在校教書。我無法想像在學校任教的老師們到底做了多少犧牲奉獻。最重要的是，法師們付出這麼多，卻從不求取任何回報，凡此種種，真令我感動！

我很榮幸有此機會在學校義務服務，並與這麼多高貴有德的人共事。我直接看到美西院校協會如何幫助學校強壯並鼓舞學校的精神，希望同學們能體會自己置身在多麼好的環境，努力學習，並能將所學用之於世界。我也希望男女校和教職員之間能加強彼此的溝通，並且我們大家都繼續培養良好的品德。

to the daily schedule, to their spiritual practice, and to the school. When the girls came up to me one day during lunch to tell me about how they couldn't stop crying while making a thank you speech at the United Religions Initiative Global Council meeting [Ed. note: See the article by student Julia Ha in the last issue], I realized how contagious goodness can be. When I saw the girls voting for their opponents at student government elections and trying to resign or share their position with their opponents after the election, I thought that was so odd, yet I was happy to know the school had really instilled the value of humility and cooperation in them. I also got a chance to interact with the boys school students as well. Although boys can be goofy at times, I got a chance to listen to them speak their mind one afternoon. They expressed their thoughts and feeling so candidly and eloquently, I realized that we have taught these kids well despite their complaints. In my opinion, the students have developed more virtue than I ever had when I was in high school.

Since most of my work was on the administrative side, I spent most of my days interacting with teachers and administrators. Since the WASC process introduced many new requirements that were either not in place or had not been emphasized before, a lot of additional work fell on the teachers and even more so on the administrators. It was amazing to see the faculty trying to juggle getting students ready for advanced placement exams, preparing finals, grading homework, taking care of their own families, and trying to fulfill the WASC requirements. I observed many interesting dynamics between the schools and among staff. After meeting some of the stressed-out staff who have too much on their plate, I started to get a sense of what it must be like to be in their shoes.

The most transforming experience for me in the last month was working with and learning from the faculty. I don't know how the boys' school principal can teach so many classes and be a principal and work on WASC all at the same time. I can't comprehend how the girls' school principal can sleep and eat so little and do so many ceremonies and yet still be able to keep up her spirits. I don't understand how some dorm parents and dorm counselors can also be classroom teachers. I can't imagine how many sacrifices the teachers have to go through in order to be a teacher here. Most importantly, I am overwhelmed by how much the Dharma Masters give yet ask for and take nothing.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to volunteer at the schools and to have worked with so many noble and graceful people. I experienced first-hand how WASC has helped make the school stronger and reenergized our school spirit. I hope the students realize what a cool place they are in and can apply what they learn here to the world. I hope the communications between the two schools and among staff continue to strengthen and that we all continue to develop our virtue.