

2016 BOYS SCHOOL GRADUATION

2016培德中學男校畢業典禮



葛親孝文 / 張敏 中譯

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At 4 pm, June 9th, 2016 in the Confucius Hall, six young men in bright blue robes –Aaron So, Alejandro Gracia, Alvin Chui, Ted Yap, Tiger Li, and Tom Tieu tossed their caps high in the air amid resounding applause and loud cheers. How exciting it was to graduate from the Developing Virtue Boys School and go on their new lives! A seventh senior, Trent Ly, also graduated but had earlier given his farewell speech and received his diploma in order to leave in time to attend his cousins' graduations in Santa Barbara and San Diego.

After years of hard work, endless tests, and sleepless nights, the class of 2016 finally made it to graduation. Throughout the event, the audience was moved to tears and to laughter as people delivered speeches, presented awards, and gave farewells.

Dr. Steve Setera, a long-time volunteer teacher, presided over the ceremony. He asked the assembly to begin with a few moments of silence to honor Dharma Master Jin Fan's mother, who passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 93 the night before the graduation. Dharma Master Jin Fan was not present at the graduation, since he had already left for Taiwan. Mr. Juan Gracia, the principal of the Boys School, was also absent as he was in Spain visiting his mother.

2016年6月9日下午四點鐘，道源堂裏六位青年身著鮮亮的藍禮服蘇緯濱、葛漢鐸、趙宣全、葉泰源、李鎔洲和蕭明通將頭上的畢業帽向空中高高拋去，與會大眾歡呼不已。從培德中學畢業，走向新的生活是多麼興奮的啊！另外還有第七位同學李明光今年也畢業了，他因為要趕著參加在南加州表親的大學畢業典禮，就早早發表畢業感言，也領取了畢業證書。

經過多年的辛苦付出，沒完沒了的考試和熬夜，2016班終於畢業了！同學和家長們在淚花盈盈又歡笑陣陣中致詞、領獎、告別，圓滿完成又一場感人的畢業典禮。

今年的畢業典禮由學校長期義務教師史蒂夫·塞特拉博士主持。他首先請大眾在靜默中緬懷近梵法師的母親，老人家前一天夜裡在睡夢中平安吉祥往生，享年93

Dr. Steve Setera spoke first to the seniors, giving a few pieces of solid and pragmatic advice. He stressed the importance and benefits of service to the community. He then illustrated a method of dealing with challenges--synchronicity, an act of "sending love and purpose out into our surroundings, out into the world (so that) we will also benefit ourselves by drawing to us harmonious conditions and relationships."

Mr. Chanh Tieu, father of graduate Tom Tieu, recalled the difficult experience of sending a 12-year-old boy away from home. But he concluded that it was well worth it. For the graduates, he underscored the importance of proper time management and making good choices, and gave real life advice for not getting behind in college. "You have to know when to drop a class." He went on to explain that if a class is too challenging, it should be dropped in time to avoid a W (Withdrawal) on your permanent record.

Alumni speaker, Mr. Nakula Hertz, spoke about his own experience encountering this "rare and unique school". He explained that "as students in the school, we are very fortunate to be taught by direct disciples of the Venerable Master Hua." In addition, "As graduates of the school, it is important to know that we have been given very valuable jewels in the form of seeds of instruction and exemplary behavior. As these seeds mature and bear fruit, it is our responsibility to serve and share these instructions."

Keynote Speaker Dharma Master Heng Shun, discussed the purpose and goals of the school—developing students' moral integrity. He related how, in the past, some administrators wanted the school to become an International Baccalaureate (IB) school in which the 11th and 12th grade took only advanced AP-like courses. "This," said Dharma Master Shun, "was not in accord with the vision the Master had for the school. The Master stressed teaching students to become good, virtuous individuals above all else." Nevertheless, he praised the graduates for their high academic achievement as well as their exemplary character. He also praised the family-like environment of the school and hoped that in the future the graduates will "always treat others with kindness and compassion in the same way."

Of course, the highlight of the event was the seven heartfelt speeches given by the graduates themselves. "I'm finally graduating," said Trent Ly, "and though this is the end of one chapter, there are more chapters to come. Thank you to all those who have made my life here at the City and school amazing. My last message to all of you including my classmates: Just keep smiling. I wish the best to all of you here young and old."

"Now is time for us to say goodbye—" Aaron So reflected, "I say goodbye to everything familiar and safe, leaving behind great

歲。近梵師因此臨時赴台奔喪，不能如期參加畢業典禮。男校校長葛親翰也不在場，他已回西班牙陪伴母親。

史蒂夫·塞特拉博士首先向畢業生提出幾項實際有效的忠告。他強調為社區服務的重要性及其裨益。他然後闡述了解決困難的一個好方法同步感應，即是「向周圍散發愛心及意向，以致我們自己因和諧的環境和人際關係而自然受益」。

畢業生蕭明通的父親蕭政先生，代表家長發言。他回憶起當年送12歲兒子離家的不捨，但認為這些付出是非常值得的。他勸告畢業生要注重有效安排時間及做出合理的選擇，還特別指出一項非常切實的經驗：「你們應該知道何時放棄一門課」。他解釋說應該提早放棄一門太過困難的課程以免成績單上留下「W」（退選）的永久紀錄。

校友代表納庫拉·何茲先生講到自己在這個「少有的、別具一格的學校」的親身體會。他表示作為此校的學生，我們有多麼難得的機會，可以接受上人嫡傳弟子的教導。而作為此校的畢業生，我們應該明瞭我們所受的種種言傳身教就是無價寶的種子。這些種子將來會發芽結果，那就是我們為大眾服務與大眾分享我們之前所受的教導時候。

典禮主講人恆順法師簡短地闡述了培德中學的建校宗旨培養道德品質高尚的學生。他回憶有校友曾經想幫助學校成為一所國際文憑大學預科（IB）學校，IB學校的11、12年級學生上的課完全是高級課程。「但那並不是上人建校的願景。上人強調的是，教育學生最重要的是教他們成為品德高尚的好人。」儘管如此，他在稱讚應屆畢業生的美好品德的同時，也認可了他們學業上的成就。他還讚揚我們學校的家庭式氛圍並鼓勵畢業生將來能夠同樣「慈悲友善地待人待物。」

不用說，大會最受人矚目的是七位畢業生感人肺腑的發言。「終於熬到畢業了！」李明光說，「雖然人生這一章結束了，後面還有更多哪。感謝大家使我在這裡過得這麼美好，我對大家包括同班同學們的最後一句話是：一直微笑下去吧！祝你們一切如意。」

「該道別了，」蘇緯濱說，「再見了，一切熟悉安全的、美好的記憶，就要面對一個全新的環境了。不能老是害怕道別，害怕開始新的生活，因為害怕是沒用的。高中時代結束了，但我們對彼此的感情永遠不會結束。讓我們在開始新生活的同時，

memories, as I now begin to be exposed to a new world. What we can't do is live our lives always afraid of the next goodbye and the upcoming beginning, because chances are they're not going to stop. Although high school has to end, our love for each other does not. Let us begin our new chapter but not forget our roots!"

"It is difficult, to put into words how much this experience has changed me," Tiger Li said, "But I can guarantee you that I've surpassed my younger self and become more fulfilled as a human being."

Alvin Chui gave advice from personal experience. "What if the time machine doesn't exist?" he asked. "Then don't do anything you'll regret." He then humorously alluded to the world of video games saying, "Even now, I am not able to resist the power of these negative influences."

"We made it in one piece." Said Tom Tieu brightly, "We survived all those exams, essays, and final projects we thought we would never finish. This school has inspired us to do things that we wouldn't have done elsewhere. From sneaking up to the back mountain, to staying up past midnight and waking up before morning ceremony to photograph the Milky Way, I learned to appreciate the beauty of everything."

Ted Yap recounted with emotion the cool summer night 6 years ago when he first came to live at the City of 10,000 Buddhas as a boarding student. He was amazed by the beauty of the night sky and fell asleep on a bare bed in the boys' dormitory. Half in tears, yet with his usual humor, he expressed his gratitude to the assembly. "I want to thank you, you, you, and you," he said, "As well as you, you, and you."

Alejandro Gracia humorously related his eleven years at the school to food. "The food I've eaten the most of is everything that was stuffed into me during my time at IGDVBS. I had bitter food—physics equations and Laplace transforms. I had food I could not digest. And I had sutras and mantras: food that seemed very awesome but that I could barely taste and understand. All teachers and Dharma Masters, thank you very much for giving me all of this!" He concluded by inviting his mother to the stage and presented her with his favorite food—a small red strawberry!

Warm smiles and tears were etched on most audience member's faces as the graduates received their diplomas from Dr. Steve Setera. The Class of 2016 will now embark on their separate journeys. This fall, the graduates are going to Harvard, Cal Poly, Illinois Wesleyan University, St. Louis University, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, California Northstate University, and University of Nottingham-Malaysia. They will pursue various majors including Mechanical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Finance, Health Services, and Pre-med/Biology. ❀

不要忘記自己的根！」

「說起這裡對我的改變，真是一言難盡。」李鎔洲真切地說道。「可我敢保證我已經遠遠超越了過去的那個我，在做人上，我是進了一大步。」

趙宣全完全是從個人經驗說起。「要是世界上不存在能讓時間倒流的機器怎麼辦？」他問道。「那就不要做使自己後悔的事。」他非常幽默地暗示自己對電子遊戲的鍾愛：「哪怕就是在這裡，我也不能完全抵抗得住負面影響力的誘惑。」

「總算還能全身而退，」蕭明通開心地說。「熬過了那麼多考試、寫作、期末作業，還以為永無盡頭哪。在這所學校我們做到了在別處根本做不到的，像偷偷溜到後山，或者熬過半夜，或者早課前爬起來去拍攝天上的銀河。我學到要感恩這裡給予我的一切。」

葉泰源感性地回憶起六年前在他第一次來聖城的那個涼爽的夏夜，他是怎樣發現了美麗的星空，又是怎樣睡在男校宿舍涼颼颼的光板床上。半含著淚水，卻又不失平日的幽默，他對與會大眾深深感恩。「我要說謝謝您、您、您、和您，也謝謝你們、你們、和你們！」

葛漢鐸詼諧地將自己11年的學校生涯比喻為食物。「我吃的最多的都是些硬塞給我的食物。苦的食物像物理公式、數學上的拉普拉斯轉換。也有不消化的。還有佛經、佛咒高品質食物，可我很難品嚐，更不理解。老師們，法師們，謝謝你們給予我這一切！」他最後邀請自己的媽媽上台並送給她自己最喜愛的食物一顆鮮紅的小草莓！

在熱淚和微笑中，大家注視著畢業生從史蒂夫·塞特拉博士手中領取各自的畢業證書。2016班就這樣走向新的征途。今秋，他們將奔赴哈佛大學、加州州立工學院、伊利諾韋斯利大學、聖路易大學、伊利諾大學香檳分校、北加州大學，及諾丁罕大學馬來西亞分校。他們所學專業包括機械工程、電腦工程、金融、健康服務、醫學預科及生物學等。❀