

## DVGS Graduation of 2016 2016年 培德女中畢業典禮



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In the nice weather of June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, a day that was sunny yet not too hot, eleven beautiful, young ladies graduated from Developing Virtue Girls School. They are the Class of 2016: Margarita Diaz, Cynthia Chan, Abigail Setera, Taylor Lin, Cherry Chong, Grace Yang, Kara Tan, Pam Qian, Mai Do, Crystal Chen, Angela Wu. Quoting their core teacher, Jin Xiang Shr, they are a class representing different cultures.

As the class of 2016 set foot onto the stage, they entered a broader plane, into society, where they can spread their wings and show the world their talents. Standing on the stage, delivering speeches to eager ears, the audience witnessed their transformation: from adorable caterpillars into magnificent butterflies.

From heartwarming to tear jerking, the graduates' awe-inspiring speeches evoked a range of reactions—from laughter to tears. By listening to their speeches, we could tell that they all possessed the important virtue of being a good person, as well as the key to survive and thrive in society—gratitude. They all started their speeches by thanking everyone who has contributed in bringing them up and onto that podium. Quotes from their speeches are as follows:

Abigail: I would like to thank the Venerable Master for everything, for letting me have the chance to make CTTB my home with my family, to go to school in DVGS, to meet such amazing and wonderful people I would have never thought of meeting all the years before I moved here. I don't give him enough credit for the things that he has done.

在晴空萬里的二零一六年六月九日，十一位青春煥發的女生從培德女中畢業了。他們就是2016年的畢業班：麥吉·迪亞士、陳美君、謝也人、林嬋宇、鍾圓鈴、楊關曉、陳念宣、錢沛竹、杜梅、陳怡璇、以及吳昕璇。以他們的班導師近祥師的話來說，他們是一個代表不同的文化的班級。

當這些畢業生踏上他們畢業典禮的講臺時，他們進入的是一個更廣闊的社會平臺。在那裏，他們可以張開他們蓄勢待發的翅膀，勇敢飛翔。當在臺上為誠摯的聽眾演講時，所有聽眾都見證了他們的轉變：他們從可愛的毛毛蟲化繭成蝶的華麗轉變。

畢業生的演講既溫馨又催淚。從她們的演講來看，我們可以看出這群畢業生都擁有人類最重要的特性，也是在現今社會生存的關鍵，那就是感恩的心。她們的致詞開頭都是感恩養育她們成人、讓她們可以站上高中畢業講台的那些人。畢業生的演

Angela: A few words to the dorm students: Work hard and play hard! Help lao shr (teachers) out whenever you guys can and make the best of your school and dorm life. It can get hard at times, but it will all pass. Cherish the dorm and the people because once you graduate and leave, you might not see them again for a really long time.

Cherry: I appreciate my family for supporting me financially as well as emotionally. I appreciate the patience my teachers had in finding a simpler way to explain complicated theories and ideology. I appreciate Heng Dzu Shr, my dorm mother, for taking care of and teaching me throughout these 5 years.

Crystal: In an interview for the ethics project with Dr. and Mrs. Yeh, Professor John Vu reminded us as we move on to always keep in mind the six great principles, which are no fighting, no greed, no seeking, no selfishness, no pursuit of personal advantage, and no lying. Prof. Vu said that what belongs to you will naturally come, so don't fight for benefits for ourselves, but instead for the greater good.

Cynthia: Coming to this school also meant that I could finally become a vegetarian, ...I think the biggest gift I have received in these 17 years is, not that I was given the opportunity to study here, but to have such great and awesome parents.

Grace: The five years in DVGS is the turning point of my life... The process of reflecting and eliminating my shortcomings was made easier with the guidance of Buddhist teachings, and supports from my teachers, classmates, and friends.

Kara: Thank you, Venerable Master, for creating this school that turned out to be more of a haven than I could ever have dreamed...I would say this place is just simply a home where you can find who you are.

Maggie: Out there in the world, life is hard...But when you wish upon that star and you're true to your heart, there's nothing in this world that can stop you.

Mai: It's okay to get lost. It's okay to feel scared, vulnerable, and confused. What's not okay is to let it take over you, to let it conquer you.

Pam: I would say our teachers in Developing Virtue Secondary School are the best. I think, they are the most selfless people I have ever met in my life. The graduates from our school should come back to help in the future, so we can continue passing the legacy of the Venerable Master and the teaching of virtue.

Taylor: If you are tired, remember to take your time, and don't be afraid to stop and listen to your heart. And if you are lost, think of CTTB, think of your dream, think of your goal, and think of us.

It was a wonderful class of good students all along and a class that brought happiness to many people. They were the focus of those who were invited to speak at their graduation. The principal of the girls

講佳句摘錄如下：

謝也人：我要感謝宣公上人所做的一切，讓我們全家有機會在萬佛聖城安居；讓我在培德女中上學；還有，在搬來之前不可能想像會遇到的這些精采人物。我的感謝遠遠無法表達上人的恩德於萬一。

吳昕璇：我要對住校生說幾句話：好好努力、玩得痛快；儘可能多幫老師的忙。善用妳在這裏的學習生涯和住宿日子，過上最充實的生活。雖然有時不容易，但困難終將過去。珍惜宿舍生活，以及這裏的人。因為你一旦畢業離校，可能會有很長的時間無法相見。

鍾圓鈴：感謝我的家人在財力與精神上的支持；感謝各位老師的耐心，找出最簡單的方式解釋複雜的理論與意識形態；感謝我們的舍監恆足師，在過去五年中照顧我、教導我。

陳怡璇：在葉祖堯博士夫婦帶領我們進行的道德計劃中，我們訪問了武親道教授。他提醒我們在未來的人生要記住六大宗旨：不爭、不貪、不求、不自私、不自利、不妄語。他並說，該是你的終究是你的；因此，計利當計天下利，不必爭一己之私利。

陳美君：在本校求學也意味著我最後終於成了素食者...我想這十七年當中，我所收到最大的禮物不僅是有機會來這裏念書，更在於有這麼棒、這麼偉大的父母。

楊關曉：在培德女中的五年，是我人生的轉捩點...在佛教教義的指引，以及老師、同學、朋友們的支持下，自我反省、改正缺點的過程，變得容易得多。

陳念宣：感恩宣公上人創辦這所學校，比我所能夢想的更像一個避風港，為我們遮擋狂風暴雨。我要說這裏就像家一樣，你可以找到真正的自己。

麥吉·迪亞士：在這個世界上，人生充滿了艱辛困苦。但當你真心向星星許願時，沒有任何事物、力量能夠阻擋你。

杜梅：人可以迷失、可以感覺害怕、脆弱、迷惘。但不能讓這些情緒現象掌握你，不能被這些情緒現象所左右。

錢沛竹：我要說培德中學的老師是最好的老師，我認為這群老師是我至今所見過最無私的人。本校畢業生將來應該回到母校幫忙，將上人的功業以及品德教育流傳下去。

school, Jin Jr Shi, in her speech, spoke of “teaching and learning at DVGS as a gift;” and Jin Xiang Shi, the graduating class core teacher, shared her insight with the acronym GPA: Gratitude, Perseverance, and Accountability. Alumni speakers, Unica Yopez and Minah Le, recounted how much they missed the school and CTTB after graduating.

Parent speaker Dr. Steve Setera, also being a teacher of the graduating class, expressed how much he would miss the girls after they leave. He commended the graduating class for their spirit of service. Keynote speaker Dr. Raymond Yeh offered his words of wisdom, a survival tool kit, for the graduating class: “learn to understand, learn to work, learn to live together, and learn to BE.” In the end, he concluded his speech with a poem by Marianne Williamson, that teaches all of us how to be a better person:

*... We are all meant to shine, as children do.  
We were born to manifest the glory of God  
that is within us.  
We unconsciously give other people permission  
to do the same.  
It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.  
And as we let our own light shine,  
As we are liberated from our own fear,  
our presence automatically liberates others.*

This fall these graduates are going to Stony Brook University and Union College in New York, University of New Haven in Connecticut, Simmons College in Boston, Oregon State University, San Jose State, St. Mary's College of California, University of British Columbia in Vancouver, and Monash University in Malaysia (a branch university of the main campus in Australia); and will pursue various majors.

Finally, let us once again congratulate all the graduates. Like what many people say, once a DVGSer, always a DVGSer. Although many people would focus on the point that this is the end of their high school career, in fact, this is the very beginning of their promising futures; futures that are going to be full of opportunities. Nothing is impossible. May they continue to persevere through life's obstacles, continue to give and love, and continue to be who they are today! ❀

林嬋宇：當妳疲倦時，記得要從容慢活。不要害怕停下腳步，傾聽內心的聲音。當妳迷失時，請惦記著萬佛城、惦記著妳的夢想、妳的目標，也請惦記著我們。

作為一個美好的班級，所有的畢業生一直都是很上進的學生，他們的班級也給很多其他人帶來了許多歡笑。很多人都來到了他們的畢業典禮，為大家分享這些畢業生與他們之間發生的趣事。我們的校長近智師，談到在培德女中教書與學習都是一種賜予。畢業班的班導師近祥師，談到感恩、堅持、負責。致詞的兩位校友妙如和黎米娜都說，畢業後才感受到對本校和萬佛城的深刻懷念。

史蒂夫·塞特拉博士，身為畢業班的家長代表，流露出他未來會有的對這個班級的思念之情。並且，他也讓大家知道了這個班級的大方，他們總是願意布施以及做社區服務。最後，擔任主題演講貴賓的葉祖堯博士，大方的與大家分享了一些智慧之言。他教了大家在現今社會生存的四個要點：學會瞭解、學會做事、學會與他人一起生活、並學會做自己。在他致辭的尾聲，葉博士採用了瑪麗安娜·威廉森的一首詩來教大家如何做人：

「我們每一個人都會發光，  
就像小孩子一樣。  
我們每一個人出生時，  
都有上帝給予的光環。  
這並不是只有一些人擁有，  
而是每個人都擁有。  
當我們讓自己發光時，  
我們同時也給予 人權利做同樣的事。  
當我們可以摒棄恐懼時，  
我們的存在同時也帶給別人自由。」

今年秋天，畢業班同學將分別進入紐約石溪大學、紐約聯合學院、康州紐海芬大學、波士頓的西蒙斯學院、奧瑞岡州立大學、加州州立大學聖荷西分校、加州聖瑪麗學院、溫哥華英屬哥倫比亞大學、澳洲摩納許大學馬來西亞分校等校深造，攻讀不同的專業。

最後，讓我們再一次恭喜所有的畢業生。像很多人所說的一樣，只要一天是培德的學生，那麼終其一生永遠都是培德的學生。雖然很多人都只會注意到這是他們高中的結束，但是，更重要的是，這其實是他們光明未來的開端，一個有更多機會的未來。這世界上沒有不可能。希望畢業生們會繼續勇敢地面對生活中的困難與障礙，繼續布施與關愛，並繼續做他們最真實的自己！❀