



# 2019 Commencement Speech to the Graduating Girls' Division of Developing Virtue School

## 2019年培德女校畢業典禮來賓致辭

By Professor John Vu on June 7, 2019 in the Wonderful Words Hall  
Chinese Translated by Xue Wei

武親道教授2019年6月7日講於妙語堂  
薛衛 中譯



**Editor's Note:** Professor John Vu was the director of the Masters of Science in Biotechnology, Innovation and Computing program and a distinguished career professor of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. He retired in the summer of 2019. Prior to being a professor, he was a technical fellow and chief engineer at the Boeing Company where he led several successful aerospace programs including software improvement for the 777 aircraft.

編按：武親道教授曾任卡內基美隆大學生物科技、創新與計算碩士研究院主任，於2019年夏退休。在這項職位之前，他是波音公司總工程師，領導數項航空計劃，包括波音777機型的軟體改進項目。

Dear Students,

I was asked to give you some advice in this graduation ceremony but many of you have received a lot of advice from your parents, your teachers, your relatives, and your friends. So I will not give you any more advice. Is that OK?

As graduates from this special school, you are all special because you have been educated in a place that is entirely unique there is no other place like this. You have learned things that students in other schools do not even know. You have been taught

親愛的同學們：

女校要我在畢業典禮上給你們一些忠告。不過你們中的許多人都已經從父母、老師、親友那兒得到了許多的忠告。所以我不再給你們更多的忠告了。好嗎？

作為這所特殊學校的畢業生，你們都非常特殊。因為你們所接受教育的這所學校獨一無二。你們在這兒學

about the principles that students in other schools have not even heard of. And that is why I think you are all very special.

As a professional engineer and educator, I spent over 45 years working and teaching. What I have noticed is that the current education system has failed many students already. The goal of education has been narrowed down to win, win, and win and that is why many schools focus on developing students to win without developing any moral character.

These students are taught to compete, to fight, to get ahead so that they can win at all costs. These students have no concept of loyalty, honesty, respect, and righteousness. In many schools, students even cheat to pass exams compete for high grades, and get ahead. Once they begin working, they compete for a higher salary and a better position without any shame. In life, they compete for more money, a bigger house, better cars, and keep on competing to get whatever they can get without remorse or consideration of the consequences.

But you are all special because, in our school, you are taught to develop a solid foundation for character, allowing you to understand the principles of propriety, righteousness, honesty, loyalty, filiality, and compassion. You learn about principles such as “not fighting” and “not being greedy”; sometimes this could be seen by others as not being competitive enough. But do not let this discourage you.

When I was working as a young engineer, there was an opportunity for a promotion to a senior position. Many people wanted that position, can you imagine how they competed against each other? They used to work well together but suddenly they began to look at each other enemies. There was backstabbing and political maneuvering that became increasingly ugly day by day.

Seeing that kind of fierce in-fighting among people who used to be friends, I told them that I was not interested in the position and would not apply for it, even if I was the most qualified. After hearing that, people left me alone since I did not want to compete with them. The competition was so fierce it went to the point that these people would no longer be able to work together if one of the others got the position. The senior manager decided to select a neutral person that could satisfy all of the competing factions. Guess whom they selected?

Every time I recite the six principles, especially the principle of “no fighting” I think of this experience.

Several years later, as a senior engineer, I worked on a large project worth many millions of dollars. It was a complex project; so every six months, the customer would come and review the project for progress, and then determine whether they could continue paying for the project or not.

到的東西，其他學校的學生根本就不知道。這所學校教你們的處世原則，其他學校的學生根本就沒有聽到過。這就是為什麼我認為你們非常特殊。

作為一名專業工程師和教育工作者，在過去的四十五年中，我都在工作與教學。我注意到目前的教育系統已經讓許多學生人生失敗。教育的目標已經狹窄到只求贏、贏、贏。這就是為什麼許多學校都專注於培養學生不顧人品地去贏。

這些學生受到的教育是去競爭、去鬥爭、衝在前面，不惜一切代價地去贏得勝利。他們不懂得什麼叫忠誠、誠實、尊重和正義。在許多學校，學生們為爭得高分數，甚至於以作弊來通過考試。工作中，他們毫不羞地爭高工資和好職位。生活中，他們爭更多的錢、更大的房子、更高檔的車，並且不斷地去爭任何能爭到的一切，毫無悔恨、不計後果。

但你們非常特殊，因為我們的學校教你們在品德上奠定堅實的基礎，讓你們懂得禮、義、誠、忠、孝和慈悲的道理。你們學習一些人生原則，如「不爭」和「不貪」。這些原則有時可能會被別人看作是沒有足夠的競爭力。但不要因此妨礙你去實踐。

當我在公司還是個年輕的工程師時，公司有一個升遷到高級職位的機會。許多人都想要那個職位。你能想像到競爭的情形嗎？他們原本合作融洽。卻忽然間成了仇敵。種種背後暗算、政治操作，日勝一日、醜陋不堪。

看到這些曾經是朋友的人們的激烈鬥爭，我向他們表明：雖然我最合格，但我對那個職位不感興趣，不去申請。他們知道後，就不來打攪我了，因為我不跟他們競爭。最後，他們之間的競爭激烈到了如果提升其中的任何一位，大家都無法再共事的地步。高層管理者決定選一位中立者來任此職位，以使所有競爭者滿意。猜猜看他們選了誰？

One year, the project was not progressing as expected. Data indicated that it could even fail. Unfortunately, it happened just a few days before the review. The project manager was worried because it means a possible project cancellation and a loss to the value of the company. After attempts to fix it with no result, the manager asked me to modify the data to make it look like the project has been progressing well. He said, "No one knows and if we do that, we can keep the job." I told him that I could not do that. He was angry and transferred me to a different project and threaten to fire me afterward.

Another person was selected to do it. The results were modified to make everything look much better. However, during the review, the customer found many inconsistencies and concluded that there was something wrong with the project. Next, there was an investigation that eventually discovered the data modification and resulted several of the engineers and the manager being fired.

To salvage from this disaster, the company executives had to find someone to manage the project? Guess who they selected? After several months, my team was able to fix the problem and the customer was very happy, and then I was even got promoted to a higher position.

Every time I recite the six principles, especially the principle of "No lying," I think of this experience and ask myself: "What will happen to me if I lie?"

As students, many of you have goals in life, but no matter what goals you set for yourselves, they can be achieved through knowledge, experience, and character. Through education and learning, anyone can develop their own knowledge. Through working, anyone can gain working experience.

But character can only be developed from a proper education.

Of course, your parents have helped you to develop your character since you were young, and then they sent you here to further develop that character of goodness and virtue.

Personally, to me, character is everything. It is much more important than money, position, appearance or successes. People with a moral character can do anything and everything. Even if they fail, they do not have to accept criticism because they did their best. They will continue to do what they believe in, not preoccupied with that failure and they continue to learn and to grow. They believe in themselves without questioning, doubting, fearing because they know what is right and what is wrong.

每次讀誦聖城的六大宗旨，尤其是「不爭」這一條時，我都會回憶起這段經歷。

幾年後，作為一名高級工程師，我效力於一個項目，該項目價值百千萬美元。因為項目很複雜，顧客每六個月就來公司評估項目的進展程度，以決定是否繼續投資。

有一年，項目進展未達預期。數據顯示，項目甚至可能失敗。不幸的是，這正好發生在評估的前幾天。項目經理很擔憂。因為這可能導致項目被取消，從而使公司的利潤受損。在數次試圖解決失敗後，項目經理要我修改數據使項目看起來進展良好。他說：「這沒人知道。如果我們這樣做，就能保住工作。」我告訴他我不能這樣做。他非常生氣，把我調到另一項目，並威脅說以後要解雇我。

另一人被選去修改數據。修改後的結果看起來好了許多。但是，在評估中，顧客發現了許多不一致的地方，他們總結此項目有問題。隨後，公司進行調查。最終發現數據被改過。結果項目經理和幾位工程師都被解雇了。

為了搶救此項目，公司高層得找人來管理此項目。猜猜看他們選了誰？幾個月後，我的團隊解決了項目中的問題。顧客非常高興，我因此升遷到更高的職位。

每次讀誦六大宗旨，尤其是「不打妄語」這一條時，我都會想到這次的經歷，我自問：「如果當時我打了妄語，那會怎麼樣呢？」

作為學生，你們中的許多人都有生活的目標。但不管什麼目標，你都需要通過知識、經驗和品德來達到。通過教育和學習，任何人都能學到知識。通過工作，任何人都能積累經驗。但良好的品德，唯有通過適當的教育才能養成。

當然，從你們小的時候，你們的父母就幫助你們培養良好的品德。然後，他們送你們來這所學校來繼續培養你們善良和美好的品德。

對我個人而言，品德就是一切。它比金錢、地位、外表和成功重要。有高尚品德的人能辦成一切事。即便他們失敗了，他們也無須受到他人的指責，因為他們已盡力了。他們不會沉溺於失敗而會繼續按信念去做。他們會不斷地學習和成長。因為他們對是非非常清楚。他們對自己有信心，不會質疑自己，也沒有懷

The education that you have received here gives you a solid foundation for that positive character.

You are all future leaders of this country and people who will propagate the Buddhadharma in the future. That is why I think you are all special.

Congratulations to all of you on this special occasion. ❀

疑或害怕。

你們在這兒接受的教育為你們培養良好的品德打下了堅實的基礎。

你們都是這個國家未來的領導，也是未來佛法的傳播者。這就是為什麼我認為你們非常特殊。

在此祝賀所有你們這些畢業生！ ❀

## 2019 Developing Virtue Girls School Graduation Ceremony 2019年培德女中畢業典禮

By Sophia Liu • Chinese Translated by Rui Liu

劉自遠文 • 劉睿中譯



The Girls School's 37th Annual Commencement Ceremony, held in Wonderful Words Hall, at 1 pm, on Friday, June 8. The ceremony opened grandly with the procession of graduates: Alice Aw, Brisa Yopez, Chris Ruan, Cindy Han, and Emily Van, who entered amid enthusiastic applause.

The principal then awarded diplomas to the graduates as well as Presidential and Honor Roll awards to the students. This fall, the graduates are matriculating to UC Davis, UC Merced, Santa Rosa Junior College, Oberlin College, and The One Academy, and are majoring in International Relations, Business, Astrophysics and Music, and Graphic Design. ❀

培德女中第三十七屆畢業典禮於二零一九年六月八日週五下午一時在妙語堂舉行。五位畢業生：區瑞蓮、小薇、阮詩慧、韓錦坤和文慧心在大家熱烈的掌聲中列隊入場，開始了莊嚴的典禮。

之後校長向畢業生們頒發了畢業證書，及總統獎和優良學生獎。在秋天，畢業生們將分赴加州大學戴維斯分校、默塞德分校、聖塔羅薩大專（專科學校）、歐柏林學院和馬來西亞黎萬國際美術學院攻讀國際關係、工商業、太空物理、音樂和圖形設計專業。 ❀