

# 萬佛聖城培德中學2023年畢業典禮

## CTTB IGDVS 2023 Graduation Ceremony

### 男校畢業典禮

葉碧文/譯

### Boys School Graduation Ceremony

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萬佛聖城培德中學男校，於6月1日在道源堂舉行2023年畢業典禮，歡送兩位高中畢業生高煒源、黃淞偉展開求學的新里程。

曾在男校任教的退休律師約翰·裴根，是這次男校畢業典禮的主題演講來賓，他送給畢業生的話是「感恩」。裴根先生說，從培德中學畢業，意味著你們正走在培養德行的路上，為此，你們要感恩有這個獨特的機會。

校友代表白鴻飛建議同學們「把別人當人看」，密西根大學一項針對14,000名學生的研究顯示，公元兩千年後，大學生的同理心比起從前的大學生要降低40%。另一方面，也不要為了迎合別人的標準而改變自己，白鴻飛建議：「中道就是要考慮別人的感受。」

Developing Virtue Boys School (DVBS) at The City of Ten Thousand Buddhas held its 2023 graduation ceremony at the Daoyuan Hall on June 1, sending off two high school graduates Justin Gao and Soongwei Wong to embark on a new journey in their studies.

John Pegan, a retired lawyer who once taught at DVBS, was the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony. His words for the graduates were “gratitude.” Mr. Pegan said that by graduating from DVBS—be grateful—you are walking on the path of developing your virtue. So be grateful for the unique opportunities here.

Alumni representative Hong Fei Bai’s suggestion for the graduates was to “take others as human.” He said that a study conducted by University of Michigan researchers shows that since the year 2000, university students have 40% less empathy than those who came before them. This study includes data from over 14,000 students. On the other hand, don’t change yourself to fit other people’s standards, but “still consider people’s feedback — that’s the Middle Way.”

黃淞偉的父親黃德威醫師指出，每個人都有自己的痛苦和挫折，克服之道有三：一）感恩，並珍惜自己所擁有的；二）服務助人，因為幫助別人可將自己的負面情緒轉為正面；三）運動，這比吃藥的效果好得多。黃德威也建議同學們有問題時，要跟好朋友商量，因為「三個頭腦比一個頭腦好；五雙手也比一雙手強」。

高煒源的父親高新航表示，萬佛聖城六大宗旨：不爭、不貪、不求、不自私、不自利、不打妄語，這些深深打動他的心，當時就是想讓高煒源在這樣的理念中成長和學習……希望在未來的日子，煒源能夠把在培德中學學到的這些德行，在大學生涯和工作中能時時用得上，嘉惠一生。

高煒源回憶九年級入學本校時，全班有八位同學，當時以為大家將有四年的相處時光，肯定一起畢業。沒想到幾個月後疫情來襲，改成網路上課。11年級回到校園上課時，班級人數已縮減成原來的四分之一。這讓他明白要珍惜當下，否則相聚的機會可能永遠不再，相處的時光也將成為遙遠的回憶。

黃淞偉則說，萬佛聖城就像篩子，將雜質篩掉，留下金子，這些金子正是萬佛聖城的住眾。黃淞偉歷數男校所有師生的特色：「順法師對學生提出的各種要求總是很有耐性；聰法師會挑選最佳時機罵我和其他同學，讓我們停止胡鬧；近巖師要求我們舉止合宜，例如在佛殿不能大聲喧嘩嬉鬧……」

兩位畢業同學今秋將分別進入紐約市立大學和愛爾蘭國立都柏林大學，都打算攻讀電腦科學。✻

Dr. Teck Wee Wong, the father of Soongway, pointed out that everyone has suffering and frustration. There are three ways to overcome them: 1) Be grateful and cherish what you have. 2) Offer service and help others. By helping others, you can turn negative emotions into positive ones. 3) Exercise works much better than taking medicine in reducing negative emotions. Dr. Wong also suggested when encountering problems, better talk to good friends because “three brains work better than one brain and five pairs of hands are better than one pair of hands.”

Sinhang Gao, Justin's father, noted that the six guiding principles of the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas—not fighting, not being greedy, not seeking, not being selfish, not pursuing personal advantage, and not lying—especially moved him. He wanted Justin to grow up and learn with these concepts in mind...I hope in the future, Justin will use these virtues in his college years and his career to benefit his entire life.

Justin Gao recalled that when he was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, there were eight members of the graduating class of 2023 and it seemed that nothing was going to stop that. Then a few months later, COVID-19 hit. They had to convert to online and when they were able to come back to CTTB for their junior year, the class size was now one-fourth of the size of our class in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. “It made me realize that we need to focus on the moment, if you don't take the time to appreciate it, you might never get that chance again or it will be a distant memory.”

Soongway said that CTTB is like a sifting basket, filtering out the bad stuff and what's left is gold, which is the people in CTTB. He listed every faculty's and student's characteristics, such as “Dharma Master Shun is always patient in all our requests; Dharma Master Tsung knows the most appropriate time to scold me and others so that we stop goofing around; Dharma Master Jin Yan wants us to be orderly good manner individuals, such as not being loud and not fooling around in the Buddha Hall...”

The two graduating students will enter the Queensborough Community College, New York, and University College of Dublin in Ireland, respectively, this fall, both intending to study computer science. ✻