

Chancellor Gordon, President Ono, Faculty and Staff,  
Friends and Family, and Graduating Class of 2019,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. It is a great honour for me to be here with you today, and I am truly grateful to receive this distinction from the University of British Columbia.

I came to Canada more than half a century ago as a new immigrant, I spent 7 years in Canada earning my B.Sc degree from UBC and M.Sc degree from University of Toronto before returning to Hong Kong to start my career.

Sailing was never smooth for the last 40 years or so, I had many ups and downs. My mother always held high hopes and expectations for me, and I am happy and proud to tell everybody that I have not let her down.

UBC holds a very special place in my education. The years of studying here were inspirational and have

greatly shaped my life, and the person who I am. It is time to show my gratitude to UBC for all the knowledge that I have learned during my four years of studies.

To respect the elderly and care for the young have always been my lifelong undertaking since my teenage years and it is also the objective of the charitable foundation that I have set up a few years ago.

After all these years of hardship in building up my own business, I can now give back to society by setting up the Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program at UBC and the Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Children Centre at the University of Toronto.

Through the research from these two world class Universities in Canada, I am confident that as a result we will be able to enhance and improve the quality of living for our elderly and children in communities around the world. Moreover, this program when it becomes successful will greatly enhance UBC's recognition as a global leader in the area of geriatrics.

To all the 2019 graduates, I offer you my sincere congratulations for all your years of efforts and accomplishments that are being recognized today, and like all honorary degree recipients, I will share with you some of my experiences after I graduated from the University.

First of all, there is no Rose Garden outside of UBC. So don't be disappointed or get disillusioned with what you will see or encounter. Be patient, stay calm and be persistent. Seek advices from your seniors and especially your parents for their experiences in life are as important as the knowledge that you have now acquired.

Secondly, don't trust to luck because it is highly unlikely that someone will be lucky all the time. Be prepared, keep learning throughout your life, and always take educated risks in your career.

Thirdly, do not bank on certainty as Winston Churchill once said "The potential loss when gambling on

certainty is infinite''. Be fully aware that Murphy's Law is working out there at all times. Always have a backup plan whatever you do. Hope for the best but really prepare for the worst.

Lastly, for the fortunate ones that have achieved their goals in life, do not forget to give back to your society and create a legacy for yourself as a successful model for the generations to come.

I wish all of you success in all your future endeavors and live a fulfilling life with joy and good fortune.

Thank you.