

The Education University of Hong Kong
23rd Congregation
Words of Appreciation by Ms Lee Suet Ching
(Session 5)

Professor Lee, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon!

Hello everyone! I am Lee Suet Ching, from the first batch of graduates of the Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Chinese Language) (Five-year Full-time) degree programme. I am honored to be able to speak on behalf of this year's graduates.

Time flies. So we have already spent five years at EdUHK. Since the first day on campus, we have become closely connected with the people and things here, and now when it is time to leave, we have mixed feelings....

I still remember when we first arrived, we were just a bunch of confused and ignorant secondary school graduates. Even though we might get carried away by flights of fancy and vision for our upcoming university life, we were not quite sure what would be learnt and experienced at EdUHK. I guess we all began our life at the university with this kind of feeling.

People often talked about these five things in university life: “studies, hall life, joining Ex-Co, part-time jobs, dating”. I believe all of you and maybe even our teachers would have tried at least one of them. We all came from different secondary schools, each carrying with us a different experience and story and together we were connected by this thread called “fate” to learn and mature in EdUHK.

I will never forget how I was amazed when seeing a sea of people on campus during the registration day; the first time leaving home and taking my luggage to the hall, feeling uneasy and yet with expectations; for the first time becoming a deadline fighter and feeling remorseful in the Library all night to finish a paper; the first time to come across with him/her in the classroom, bringing a heart-throbbing moment; the first time going on an immersion/exchange programme in a foreign country with university mates and feeling the joy of companionship; the first teaching practice and the apprehension that followed us when walking towards the classroom...

There are so many “first time” happened over the years when studying at EdUHK. I cannot say my university life is perfect, because youth is a poem written in an imperfect way. However, with sweat and tears we recorded these happiness, sadness, gains or regrets; each and every of these poems is so unique. And to decide on what we will become is not our ability but our choice. I remember once when a teacher asked me, “Ability and attitude, which is more important?” At that moment I did not hesitate to choose ability, but today I will choose attitude. I think everyone will have a different answer to this question. The university is a place to develop our independent thinking. The choices we make will bring us different experiences.

There is no compass to guide us the direction to move forward in life. Five years ago we gathered here through fate, and now the feast is over. And yet the relationship between teachers and students and peer friendship will last. EdUHK is where our youth is. What we gained in the past five years will be the best luggage we have packed. Let us carry these memories and continue to brave the journey of life. Thank you!