

Address at the School Graduation Ceremonies for the Class of 2019 and the Class of 2020

March and April 2021

Today is a momentous occasion which testifies the commitment and efforts graduating students have put in over the past few years. My warmest congratulations to the Class of 2019 and the Class of 2020 for reaching an important milestone in life!

At this exciting and unforgettable moment, I trust you will also thank all those who have supported you all the way through your learning journey at HSUHK. They include your family members, teachers, mentors, fellow classmates, and friends. Their care, insights and experience are invaluable. I suggest we give them a round of applause!

The past two years were indeed times with unprecedented challenges. I believe most of you have gained some real work experiences in society. While you have had a taste of new life after graduation, you may soon find that life is by no means a straight path. You have set goals for yourself, but things may not go according to plan. There may be times you doubt your capabilities, feel lost, or encounter major obstacles. These are natural and common experiences in life. Facing an increasingly changing world, we always need a positive mindset and resilience to turn seemingly disruptions or challenges into new opportunities. Further, as an HSUHK graduate, the University has striven to nurture in you five humanistic qualities through our “Liberal + Professional” education model. I believe these 5“C” qualities will help you handle many future challenges in work and life confidently.

Let me quickly remind you these 5“C” again here.

1. Critical Thinking

Exercise open, free, rational and reflective reasoning. Stay skeptical about information that are not proven. Listen to and respect others’ viewpoints; debate rationally and make independent judgement. By adopting a cross-disciplinary analysis, you will build a wider horizon and see further and beyond. Being critical also means to be constructive. Always be mindful that freedom cannot be separated from responsibility in our expression of views.

2. Creativity

Rather than just accepting well-established norms or seeing problems on a binary decision basis, approach problems by thinking out of the box. Creativity is not only for talented people. Based on good knowledge gained, you can be creative by experimenting, exploring, questioning assumptions, using imagination and synthesizing information. You can then find hidden patterns, make connectivity between seemingly unrelated phenomena and produce solutions to problems.

3. Communication and Collaboration

Communication and collaboration are important interpersonal skills that go hand in hand. Effective communication enables us to connect with others, build robust relationships and foster trust. Collaboration enables us to work as a team that no single individual can achieve alone.

4. Caring Attitude

Think and act from a humanity perspective. To create an inclusive society, it is important for us to have compassion for others. We can show our genuine care and help others. Be grateful and treasure every moment you meet with your family members, colleagues and friends.

5. Community Engagement

A 'community' implies a large group of people in the vicinity sharing common goals and interests, establishing mutual care and trust, partaking a sense of identity and belonging, and feeling like members of a big family. It can be our campus community, your organization community, or the area you live, etc. As responsible members of a community, it is our duty and honour to engage and serve, to enhance the civic foundation and the well-being of the community.

If you embrace these 5“C” qualities as you march forward with your new goals and aspirations, I am confident that you will be able to overcome many hurdles that come in your way and lead a life of fulfilment.

Once again, my heartiest congratulations to the Class of 2019 and the Class of 2020. I wish you can find your personal values, achieve life satisfaction, and all the best in your future endeavours. I do hope that in the future, you will often come back to campus and share with us your life experience as proud HSUHK alumni!

And good health to all of you. Thank You.