

## Professor Simon S. M. Ho

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### Address at the Graduation Ceremony 2022

8 and 9 December 2022, College Hall, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Ms. Diana Cesar, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dr. Moses Cheng, Chairman of the Council, Governors, Council Members, Graduating Students, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2022! I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to our graduates this year for reaching an important milestone in your life. The Graduation Ceremony is a special opportunity to show your gratitude to those who have cared for and stood by you along your learning journey at HSUHK over the years. They include your teachers, family members, mentors, fellow classmates and friends.

Before I go further in my remarks, I would like to share with you a blockbuster film I watched half a year ago - Top Gun: Maverick (2022). I was inspired by the main character Captain Maverick performed by Tom Cruise. Over 30 years of very hard work in the Navy as a fight pilot, Maverick was still a Captain while his peers had been promoted to major generals. Maverick chose to remain as a captain because his passion lay in flying instead of being a ground commander. He mentioned in the movie that “it is where I belong” and “being a fight pilot is not what I do, it is who I am”. He showed that he is the fastest man in the world by piloting prototype futuristic fight jets and this allowed his team to continue experimenting expensive new projects. He was also committed to training and leading an elite group of Top Guns for a special combating mission, searching, testing and maximizing each member’s performance limits.

I talk about this film as I want you to think about a question. While you are eager to jump start your new pursuits in life, do you know the differences between a job (工作), a career (事業), and a calling (志業)? To Maverick, being a fight pilot was not just a job or a career, it was his answer to his calling.

A “**job**” is something you do mainly to earn your livelihood. You might not have much interest or enthusiasm in the job contents and will leave your workplace soon after the defined work hours pursuing your other priorities. Your job is not your main source of happiness and fulfilment. Nevertheless, if you pursue a career, you will generally have

more interest and passion in it and are willing to put in extra time and efforts. You will set career goals and constantly strive for longer-term advancement, actualizing your talents and abilities with a higher sense of satisfaction.

To pursue further, when you discover and engage in a “**calling**”, you will see what you do as one of the most important missions in life and will work on it continuously and tirelessly. You will adhere to the values you firmly believe in, tackle challenges with perseverance, and be willing to devote yourself selflessly for the wellbeing of others. Rather than material rewards, your biggest goal is to find meaning, values and fulfillment in what you do. It is gratifying if you are able to incorporate callings into your jobs or career.

Often, whether you pursue a job, a career or a calling is your own choice. The same piece of work can inspire different feelings and meanings in different people. For example, a plasterer can see his/her work as laying bricks (a job), or constructing a nice school (a career), or building a shared learning space for better educating the next generations (a calling). If one cannot incorporate his/her calling into his/her primary job/career, sometimes he/she may pursue such calling in a part-time job or volunteer social service.

As I mentioned earlier, like Maverick, if you stay true to your passion, choose to take on a role you enjoy, and make the most of your talents and potential, you will find values in what you do, rather than the so-called “success” in terms of fame, power and fortune.

Our University aims to nurture students to become future responsible global citizens with critical thinking, innovative minds, human caring attitudes, moral values and social responsibility. I hope that after you graduate, you will always exhibit to others the above qualities you have earned in HSUHK. Be brave to chart your own course, follow your heart, uphold your values and beliefs, and try to merge your calling with your job or career. You will then find the most fulfilment in life and work!

Once again, my heartiest congratulations to the Class of 2022. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Thank you and good health to all of you!