

USJ CONGREGATION 2019 – 13 JULY 2019

SPEECH BY STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – WILSON FERREIRA LEI

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Representing the class of 2019 graduates, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to all those who have aided us on our journey here, all those who have supported us and nurtured us. Four years is quite long in my opinion, but that is perhaps due to my inexperience and youth more than anything else. In these four years some of us have tried and failed, but many more have succeeded, those are the people I see here in this room together with me, and we should all be proud of ourselves, but more so than that, grateful to those with us.

To the professors: your patience and wisdom, although we may have been but one of many batches you have seen and will continue to see. To us students: you have left an everlasting impression and through your guidance we stand here today, a better version of ourselves compared to yesterday, and incomparable to us four years ago.

To the management: our dear Rector and Vice-Rectors, I thank you on behalf of all students for your hardwork in bringing about such a wonderful University, one of diversity and integrity. As well as our gratitude for the continual improvement of USJ. Despite some ups and downs, I firmly believe that USJ as a whole will only get better as we move forward, and such spirit will only help us students, fuelling our improvement.

To the staff of USJ: your dedicated service to the functioning of the University, and its betterment. It is an unglamorous job sometimes, with many forgetting your contribution. I would like to thank the OSAA, PIRO and the Library in particular. I have worked together with or been helped immensely by all of the wonderful people there and they were largely why I felt USJ was such a welcoming and enjoyable university. Us students do get pampered, and never have I felt that we were not the focus of their hard work. Whether it was helping out with the Rectors' Forum, heading out with the alumni on a cultural exchange or simply working intently in the study rooms, these were all treasured memories of mine that added depth to my stay in USJ. I was not only a student but also an active participant, learning along the way whilst broadening my horizons.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the parents and friends present today. Without your support and encouragement, we would not be here now. I cannot possibly properly represent each individual so I will leave it up to them.

To my fellow graduates: there is not much I can share with you all that you do not already know. On the contrary, there is far more that you could teach me, and I do hope we get a chance to know each other - those that do not -, and to continue our friendship - those who are already acquainted. To the architects: please fix our housing problem. To the entrepreneurs and managers: help in making Macao

even more prosperous. To the designers: lift Macao out of its status of cultural wasteland. To educators and teachers: our future is in your hands. To those advancing into the creative industries: bring joy to us in the form of entertainment and media. To the translators and academics: help bring Macao closer to the global stage. To the devout Christians: spread God's word and His love. To the social workers and psychologists: help all those you can, and let us strive to make Macao a better place, if only ever so slightly.

Four years is quite long, a little more than a fifth of my existence, but many four years do we have to look forward to. Take care of your health, even more so your mental health, do not disregard your finances, and continue to learn and educate yourselves.

Thank you.