

**USJ Congregation 2020 Speech by
Ms. Lou Nga I, Fashion Design Graduate**

12th September 2020

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Distinguished guests and students,

Hello everyone, I am Lou Nga I, a graduate of the Fashion Design Department. Today I am very grateful that the University is doing its best to arrange this physical congregation for us despite the epidemic. I am also honoured to give the speech on behalf of all graduates.

First of all, on behalf of the graduates, I would like to extend a warm welcome and heartfelt thanks to all the guests who took time out of their busy schedule to attend our congregation!

At this important moment, I would like to thank the Rector, Vice Rectors, and every administrative staff of USJ for their hard work to build us a beautiful, diversified and harmonious campus, which provides us possibilities for various development. Besides, I would also like to thank all the professors and lecturers. In addition to teaching us professional knowledge, your tireless spirit, persistence and enthusiasm for the profession have not only guided us to become a better person, but also gave us more confidence and expectation for the future.

Meanwhile, I would like to thank all parents. Although they are not present here today, I believe they are watching the live broadcast to witness our important moment. Thank you, Mom and Dad. In my life for more than 20 years, you have been my safe haven, sheltering me from the wind and rain. Starting from today, we will grow gradually and strive to become a safe haven which you can rely on. We will protect you from the wind and rain thereafter.

2020 is undoubtedly an extraordinary year. With the impact of the epidemic, as graduates of this year, our future is more difficult than before. Everyone may feel fear and uneasy. Therefore, I want to share my experience. As a graduate of the Fashion Design Department for the first year, we have no reference experience from seniors. Many courses are newly established, and the Fashion Design Department can be said to start from scratch. However, as it started from scratch, it has given me more possibilities and space that I can boldly realize my unconstrained ideas. Besides, it cultivated my self-discipline and indomitable learning attitude. Indeed, I have encountered many frustrations and confusions, and doubted of myself in the past four years, but I never consider giving it up. I would say to myself: I'm tired, I can take a break, but I must stick to the end because I believe there are better scenery there.

Dear graduates, beyond the comfort zone in campus, the situation may not be as expected, especially in this post-epidemic period. When we explore the future, we will face more uncertainties and challenges. As difficulties are impossible to avoid, instead of waiting for luck, why not face it bravely, and seize the opportunity to give it a try? Mark Twain once said that in twenty years, you will regret what you haven't done more than what you have done. We must believe that as long as we have enthusiasm for life, maintain a humble heart, and go all out in every moment, we will not be discouraged or give up when facing failures and blows. As a Chinese saying goes, "Those who are determined to pursue goals that are not easy to achieve can achieve success, and those who do not avoid difficulties and obstacles can keep moving forward." All the efforts will not go in vain, and they will show their value at a certain moment in life.

Regardless of how others define success and failure, I believe that our value is created by ourselves. I hope everyone can bravely follow their hearts, be the designers of their own lives, and design their own works.

Finally, I wish you all stay healthy and safe, keep enthusiastic and be yourself. See you in the future! Thank you.

Disclaimer: All views expressed on this speech are the author's own and do not reflect the views of the University of Saint Joseph, Macao.