

# National University of Singapore Commencement 2007

4 July, 1500h  
University Cultural Centre

Speech by LIN Liang  
Valedictorian for  
Pharmacy Class of 2007



Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, the Senior Deputy President of NUS, Professor Andrew Wee, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, our Science Alumnus, Ms Rosemary Chng, our lecturers, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, ladies and gentlemen, a very good afternoon to you. It is my honour and privilege to address you on behalf of the graduating Class of 2007.

Today marks a milestone in our pursuit of a world-class education at NUS - the culmination of several meaningful years of learning, growth, character building and shared memories. We are gathered here now to have our degrees conferred upon us. Each of us has earned this moment and the right to be proud of our accomplishments.

Over the years, many have asked me my secret to doing well. To this, I would like to share 3 incidents to illustrate that we owe our success to the people around us.

Let me recount the first incident. Several weeks ago, I rejected an offer by a hospital to undergo a training programme to obtain the pharmacist's licence, as well as an overseas posting in quality assurance work with a leading biotechnology company. In my mind, I wondered if I had made wrong decisions and gave up opportunities that had come my way. But I was not alone. Professor Chan Sui Yung, head of Pharmacy department, called me back to school and discussed other career options available, including pursuing postgraduate studies with the department. Another professor readily offered to get in touch with his contact from a certain Pharma company to get me a position with the company.

These are our lecturers. They do not desert us when we are helpless. They do not scold us when we make mistakes. They kindly and patiently enlighten us and direct us to the correct path. Throughout our years in school, they have bestowed upon us the most valuable gift anyone can receive: the gift of knowledge. When we were students, we often asked them, "Why do we need to study this?" But at the end of the day, we are more intelligent and prepared for the working world because of them. To all our lecturers, we thank you for showing faith in us, compelling us, and teaching us to explore the strengths and potential that lie within ourselves.

The second incident- It was another of those Fridays when my class was scheduled to take a test in the afternoon. I was early for school that morning and I wanted to take out my revision notes to read. To my alarm, I realized I had left the file containing the entire set of notes at home. I called home and related to my mother my folly. She asked me to wait in school and she would deliver the file to me. My mother does not drive so she had to take the bus and travel to school and back home, at 7.30 in the morning, just to pass me a set of notes. It was a simple gesture, but it reflected the greatness of a parent's love. Whatever she had to do at that moment was secondary; her daughter was foremost priority.

Our parents give unconditionally, and expect nothing in return. Their only wish is that we do well in life. When we were young, they nagged at us, making sure we had completed our homework before we could play. Looking back, we owe who we are today to them. They pushed us to do things we did not like to do, so that we could achieve things we wanted to achieve.

And now, allow me to share the last incident - There was one weekend when I stayed overnight in the lab to work on my honors year project. I was tired, and in low spirits. But the next morning at 7am, I was greeted with my favourite food, freshly delivered. It was a simple breakfast dish, but this thoughtful act by a friend warmed my heart and lifted my spirits, and gave me motivation to persevere and complete my work.

Indeed, our friends stand by us during the most difficult times and are our pillar of support and encouragement. To the pharmacy class, we are of diverse personalities but we have been united as one over the past 4 years. The sparks amongst us revived the tradition of Pharmacy participating in Rag and Flag Day as a faculty club. Some of you big-hearted ones initiated the Pharmacy Class of 2007 Fund, and our donations, whether big or small, will impact future generations. We have achieved so much together, and I am proud to be one of you.

Fellow graduates, as we embark on our future, the journey may not be easy, but we can count on the support of our teachers, families and friends. Work hard towards your goals. And when you have attained them, remember these people- who believed firmly that we have what it takes to succeed, gave unconditionally and granted us strength and motivation to face adversities.

May all of you find success! Thank you.

About LIN Liang - The 4 years of excellent all-rounded Pharmacy education at NUS has helped Lin Liang develop a good blend of scientific, clinical and social skills. The training has provided her with an extensive in-depth knowledge of pharmacology and therapeutics, honed her analytical skills and cultivated a thinking mind in her. She envisions that she will be able to contribute actively to the healthcare profession and make a meaningful difference to people's lives. A conscientious student, she is graduating with BSc (Pharmacy) First Class honours and receiving a record-breaking number of 7 awards for her outstanding performance:

- Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal, for award to the best graduate throughout the course of study
- Lijen Industrial Development Medal, for award to the Honours student with the best project in Pharmacy
- Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore Book Prize, for award to the student who has achieved the best overall performance in all the examinations of Pharmacy Practice modules throughout the course of study
- P. S. S. (Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore) Prize for Pharmaceutics, for award to the student who has achieved the best overall performance in all the examinations of Pharmaceutics modules throughout the course of study
- Robert Lin Memorial Medal (Gold), for award to the best student in Pharmacology modules,
- T. H. Elliot Book Prize, for award to the student who has achieved the best overall performance in Pharmaceutical Chemistry modules
- T. H. Elliot Gold Medal, for award to the student who has achieved the best overall performance in Pharmacy modules