

Dr David Wong Yau-kar *BBS, JP*

Council Chairman Mr Bernard Chan, President Yuk-Shee Chan, Honorary Fellows, Lingnanians, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Today I am deeply honoured to receive an honorary fellowship from Lingnan University. And I am doubly honoured to have the opportunity to address this distinguished audience on behalf of the other three honorary fellows, namely Mr Ho Hei-wah, Mr Samuel Tsien, and Mr Lincoln Yung. Along with Mr Dominic Ng, who was conferred an honorary fellowship in a separate ceremony, these gentlemen have all made tremendous contributions to the Hong Kong community. What is particularly notable is that the contributions they have made in their respective professional and business fields are well recognised not only here in Hong Kong, but also internationally. I think that the international profile of these honorary fellows is very fitting of Lingnan University, which is devoted to instilling in its students an international outlook and cross-cultural perspectives. To this end, the University offers exchange programme places for half of its undergraduates to study at more than 100 overseas or Mainland partner institutions. This effort by the University is highly laudable, because Hong Kong being an international city in a highly integrated world, there is nothing more important than for our students to connect globally.

Indeed, the broad-based interdisciplinary curriculum offered by Lingnan University is a direct product of its mission as a liberal arts university. Its whole-person approach to education, and I quote with liberty, “aims to cultivate values, skills, competence, and sensibilities that enable graduates to realise their full potential and to pursue their life and career goals in a rapidly changing social, cultural, and economic environment”.

These are of course admirable goals that I fully agree with. But, coming from the business community, allow me to elaborate on these goals in more worldly terms. Students—and their parents—are often anxious to know what course of study to pursue, so that the students would acquire the necessary knowledge for them to survive, and prosper, in their career. Well, here's the problem. The typical university student is acquiring knowledge that they will need for the next, say, 50 years. But nobody really knows what knowledge our students will need in the next 50 years. After all, the typical university student today will change not only his job, but his entire career, several times during his lifetime. So, what that shows is that what is important is not so much the specialised knowledge per se that our students get in the university. What is important is for them to acquire the necessary skills of reading, writing, critical thinking, and, above all, keeping an open and inquiring mind. That's because it is with these skills that they could continue to acquire the knowledge that they will need in the future, and to apply it to solve problems in an ever-changing world.

Put differently, fulfilling one's life and career goals will depend not on one's specialised knowledge, which will become obsolete, but on one's ability to continually acquire new knowledge and adapt to new situations. That is the goal of liberal arts education, and I think Lingnan is fulfilling that goal with tremendous success.

In closing, on behalf of Mr Ho Hei-wah, Mr Samuel Tsien, Mr Lincoln Yung and myself, let me once again express our gratitude to Lingnan University and its Council for conferring this great honour on us, and to everyone who has given us support and encouragement. We pledge to do our best to contribute to the future development of Lingnan, and we wish the University and Lingnanians every success. Thank you very much.

黃友嘉博士

校董會主席陳智思先生、陳玉樹校長、各位榮譽院士、各位嶺南人、各位嘉賓：

今天，本人深感榮幸獲嶺南大學頒授榮譽院士銜，更感榮幸的是能代表其他三位榮譽院士何喜華先生、錢乃驥先生及榮智權先生致辭。聯同於另一典禮獲頒榮譽院士的吳建民先生，各位榮譽院士對香港社會都貢獻良多。尤其難得的是，各位在所屬的專業和商業界別所作的貢獻在香港以至國際都獲得認同。我認為，各榮譽院士的國際經驗，跟嶺南大學致力為同學逐步建立國際視野和跨文化思維的理念非常切合。為達到這個目標，大學提供交流計劃，讓半數本科生到訪逾一百所海外和內地的夥伴大學學習。香港作為在高度融合的世界中的一個國際城市，對我們的學生來說，沒有什麼比跟全球聯繫更為重要。故大學推行這項目，值得我們大力讚許。

嶺南大學以提供博雅教育為使命，其內容廣泛、跨學科的課程正正體現了這使命。在這裡，容我引用大學的全人教育理念：「旨在為畢業生培養價值、技能、能力和敏感度，讓他們能夠在急速變化的社會、文化和經濟環境，盡顯所長，並努力地追求自己的人生和事業目標。」

毫無疑問，我完全贊同這些崇高的目標。但就著我的商界背景，請容許我從實際的角度來闡析這些目標。同學們（和同學們的家長）一般都會為選修學科而焦慮，主要的考慮是獲取的知識是否足以讓他們生存以及發展事業。然而，這便是問題所在。一名典型大學生吸取的知識要足夠未來使用，比如說未來五十年。然而，沒有人知道，我們的同學在未來五十年需要什麼知識。畢竟，今天一般的大學生在一生中不

只轉換工作數次，更會轉變其職業幾回。這點說明，同學進大學時所獲取的專業知識，並不一定是最重要的。重要的是，讓同學學習閱讀、寫作、作批判性思考這些必備的技能；而最重要的是培養他們開放及求知的精神。擁有這些能力後，他們以後能繼續吸取所需的知識，並把知識應用在不斷轉變的世界，以解決問題。

換句話說，追求人生和事業理想，依靠的並非專門知識，因為這些知識會過時。所依靠的，是不斷吸取新知識和適應新環境的能力。這便是博雅教育的目標，而我認為嶺大非常成功地實踐了這目標。

臨近結語，請容我再次代表何喜華先生、錢乃驥先生及榮智權先生和我本人，衷心感謝嶺南大學及校董會頒授榮譽院士銜予我們，亦感謝每位曾給予我們支持和鼓勵的人士。我們承諾盡己所能為嶺南的未來發展作出貢獻，並祝願嶺大百尺竿頭、更進一步。謝謝各位。