



The World's famous speeches

世界名人励志演讲

——生命真义



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世界名人励志演讲典藏

——生命真义

Meaning of Life

Laura Bush

Commencement Address to High Point University

May, 2012

Thank you very much. Thank you, all of you. Thank you, Dr. Qubein, for that very nice introduction. Thanks everybody. Thank you all. Meaghan, thank you for your thoughtful remarks on behalf of your class and congratulations to you. Congratulations to the two distinguished faculty members Professor Shore and Professor Simpson for the awards that you received today. Thank you to all of the distinguished faculty, to the Board of Trustees, the **alumni**, the parents, and the families for your very warm welcome. Most of all, thank you and congratulations to the High Point University Class of 2012.

I'm thrilled to be with you for this very happy day. Members of the Class of 2012, you represent nearly 75 different majors, 14 states, and six countries, but tomorrow you'll be unified by one distinction. You'll all be graduates of High Point University. And that's an **accomplishment** worthy of celebration. You can see it in the faces of your parents. They're happy and they're proud of you. And we congratulate your parents and families and teachers whose love and support brought you to this

生命真义

劳拉·布什

海波特大学毕业典礼演讲

2012 年 5 月



非常感谢,谢谢大家。谢谢库比恩博士的热情介绍,谢谢大家,谢谢所有人。梅根,谢谢你代表班级所做的发人深省的演讲,祝贺你。祝贺两位著名大学教授——肖恩教授以及辛普森教授,祝贺你们今天获此殊荣。谢谢所有教师、董事会、校友会、毕业生家长以及所有家庭,谢谢你们热情的欢迎。最重要的是感谢你们,同时祝贺你们——海波特 2012 届的毕业生们!

在这个无比欢欣的日子里能和你们在一起,我感到无比激动。2012 届的毕业生们,你们来自 72 个不同专业、14 个州以及 6 个不同国家,但明天你们会因共同的荣誉团结在一起。你们都是海波特大学的毕业生。这是多么值得庆贺的成就!你们可以从父母脸上看到他们发自内心的喜悦。他们十分开心,他们为你们而自豪。我们要祝贺你们的父母、亲友以及老师,正是他们的爱与支撑让你们走到了今天。

alumini /ə'lamnai/ *n.* 男毕业生;校友

accomplishment /ə'kamplifmənt/ *n.* 成就

happy day. One thing I've learned from being a parent is that it's **irresistible** for people of my age to offer advice and it's impossible for people of your age to pay any attention to it. So I promise I'll tread lightly today and I won't lecture you about what you should do with your lives after graduation. Besides, if your life turns out anything like mine, it won't go exactly according to plan, and that's a good thing.

As I reflected on what to say to you, I remembered my own graduation from SMU[®] in 1968. It was the height of the Civil Rights Movement. Young people were questioning the values of their elders and the United States was struggling against the spread of communism. Today the cold war is long over. We've elected an African – American as President of the United States and there are more **democracies** in the world than ever before. Though you can't know what the coming years will bring, I assure you that they'll bring progress and change and that you'll be a part of it, just as my class of 1968 was part of what's occurred over the last 40 years.

The commencement speaker at my graduation was Dr. Willis Tate, President of SMU, and he probably called us to greatness. But I don't remember much of what he said. I just remember how I felt: Relieved that finals were finally over, excited to **embark** on the next adventure, and impatient for him to finish. So then I reflected on the speech when I received my master's degree. I couldn't recall who gave that commencement address, that's because I skipped the ceremony. But I did look it up, and you can imagine my surprise when I discovered it was some guy named George Bush[®].

Four years after that speech, I married his son. In 40 years

为人父母,我学到了一件事情,我们这个年龄的人不可避免地想给你们一些建议,而你们这个年龄的年轻人根本不可能关心我们在讲什么。我保证今天会小心翼翼,绝不长篇大论,告诫你们毕业后应该如何生活。此外,如果你们的生活和我有相似之处,生活是不会完全按计划走下去的,这是件好事。

当我在回想该给你们讲些什么的时候,我突然记起来自己 1968 年从南方卫理公会大学毕业时的情景。那时正值民权运动高潮,年轻人质疑老一辈人的价值观,美国正在和日益发展的共产主义斗争。如今,冷战早已结束。我们选举一位非裔美国人为总统,整个世界比以往任何时候更为民主。尽管我们不知道接下来的几年会发生什么,但我可以保证未来将会发生巨大进步和改变,而你们必将参与其中,就像过去 40 年发生的一切我们 1968 届毕业生也参与其中一样。

我的毕业典礼上的演讲者是威利斯·塔特,南方卫理公会大学的校长,他那时好像是激励我们要做伟大之事。但我记不太清他说了些什么了。我只记得自己当时的感觉:大学终于毕业了,感觉无比轻松;马上就要开始下一段冒险,又无比激动,所以很不耐烦地听着演讲,希望他快点结束。然后我又记起来硕士毕业典礼的情形。我记不起来当时的演讲者是谁了,因为我没去参加典礼。但我查了查,你们可以想象,当我发现演讲者是一个叫乔治·布什的家伙时,我有多么吃惊。

演讲结束后 4 年,我嫁给了他的儿子。再过 40 年,你们可能不记

irresistible /iri'zistəbl/ *adj.* 无法抗拒的

democracy /di'mokrəsi/ *n.* 民主国家;民主;民主制

embark /im'ba:k/ *v.* 着手;从事

you may not remember who spoke at your graduation, but I know you'll have many memories of your time at High Point University. Even as you go to new places, you'll discover you never truly leave a place that you love. And no matter where you go or how long it's been since your graduation, returning to this place will feel like coming home.

One of our nation's first presidents, John Adams⁽⁴⁾, knew that education was **vital** for the development of our country and for the development of our character. He once said there are two educations. One should teach us how to make a living, and the other should teach us how to live. Since its founding in 1924, High Point University has taught students both. When the doors opened to High Point College, 122 students attended classes taught by nine faculty members in just three buildings. Today more than 4,000 students learn from several hundred faculty members in 40 buildings all across this **gorgeous** campus. Many things have changed over the last century, but the core values that guide this school have not. High Point University remains dedicated to giving students an extraordinary education that prepares them to live lives of significance in our increasingly global world. Class of 2012, your four years of college are short in the scope of your whole life, but what you learn here will be influential for the rest of your life. During your time at High Point, you learn from your academic discoveries, from your disappointments and your **triumphs**, and from the friends you cherish. Some of the first people you met during orientation four years ago are now your best friends, and they'll be your best friends long after you leave. The friends I met in college are still some of my best friends today. Some of the most

得谁在你们的毕业典礼上做了演讲,但我知道,你们会记得很多在海波特大学的美好时光。即使去了新的地方,你们也会发现,自己从未真正离开那个深爱过的地方。不管你们去哪儿,不管你们毕业多久,回到海波特大学来仍会像回家的感觉一样。

美国第一任副总统约翰·亚当斯清楚,教育对国家和个人品质的发展至关重要,他曾说过,世上有两种教育,一种教我们如何生存,另一种教我们如何生活。自从1924年建立伊始,海波特大学就致力于对学生进行这两种教育。海波特大学的大门打开时,仅有3幢教学楼、9名教师和122名学生。如今这个美丽的校园里有40栋教学楼、几百名教师和4000多名学生。上个世纪发生了很多变化,但指导这所大学的核心价值观没有改变。海波特大学仍然致力于教书育人,指导学生在日益全球化的世界发挥人生价值。2012届的毕业生们,大学4年和你们的一生相比何其短暂,但你们在这里学到的东西将终生受用。在海波特的这4年里,你们获得了学术上的进步,在成功与失落中受益匪浅,从珍惜的好友身上受益良多。4年前经人介绍你认识的某些人,现在已经成了你最好的朋友,即使离开多年以后,他们仍然是你最好的朋友。我在大学时认识的朋友如今仍是我的好友。一些

vital /¹vaitl/ *adj.* 至关重要的

gorgeous /¹gɔ:dʒəs/ *adj.* 华丽的;灿烂的;极好的

triumph /¹traɪʌmf/ *n.* 凯旋;成就;胜利

important lessons, the ones that will guide you through life, are less **tangible**. Maybe it was something that was said during your first year seminar or an especially **compelling** professor, or maybe it was what you saw while serving overseas in a High Point alternative break program. Whatever it is, you know you've matured since those first days of orientation four years ago. And the next chapter of your life has been shaped by the time here at High Point University. I can trace much of my life's work to my college experiences. I remember many of my favorite professors including my favorite literature professor, Dr. Harryette Ehrhardt, who's still a friend of mine. Her children's literature class inspired me to become a librarian. The books I read in her class I later read to children in my own classrooms and to children in the classrooms I visited across our country and around the world.

When I graduated from SMU, I wanted to do what I could for the Civil Rights Movement. So I requested to teach in an inner-city minority school. I wanted to work with children who'd been left out and too often left behind simply because of the color of their skin. But I wasn't prepared for the poverty I encountered in an inner-city Houston school. Most of the students lived on narrow side streets behind the school building. Some were hungry, and they would come to school in the morning with their bellies rumbling and **ravenously** attack the free breakfast and lunch that we gave them. I wanted to help those children so badly, to reach into their lives and somehow make a difference. But it was an uphill fight. Before I left my job in Houston to go to graduate school, I invited a few of my favorite students to Astroworld amusement park near the old Houston