

英汉  
对照



SPEECHES IN FAMOUS UNIVERSITIES

# 名人名校演讲精粹

——Go for Your Dreams

## 追逐梦想

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(美) 阿尔·戈尔等◎著

聆听各界精英的铿锵之声  
找寻铸就梦想的不懈动力



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## 追逐梦想

(美) 阿尔·戈尔等◎著

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## 政界精英

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当我们错失良机或惨遭失败的时候,只要我们努力,事情肯定会朝好的方面发展;一旦贪图享乐,事情将会变得不可收拾。

——苏珊·E. 赖斯

我希望你们能在追逐梦想的时候保持坚毅,消除障碍,勇往直前,并充分发挥自己的才智。

——米歇尔·奥巴马

回首过往如此多的经历,失败的感觉令人深恶痛绝。不要因为失败而破灭希望。跟成功一样,失败也不是永恒的。

——约翰·麦凯恩

# Go for Your Dreams

Al Gore

Speech at Union University

April 10, 2000

President Dockery, Vice President Duduit, **faculty**, family, and friends:

This is a special day for our family, because Union has always been a special place for our family. My uncle Everett, who passed away last year, went to Union. My uncle Whit's wife, Nell LaFon, taught at Union. My mother has always said that her greatest regret is that she never actually received her Union **diploma**.

I'm told this is only the second time in Union's 177 years that you have granted a **Baccalaureate** Degree to someone who did not complete his or her **coursework** here. The truth is, my mother not only **skipped** forward to law school, she earned her Union degree through a much harder course. She earned it through a lifetime of service to others.

My mother was born into a poor family here in West Tennessee — at a time when poor girls weren't supposed to dream. Her parents had married when they were just seventeen. Neither of them had the chance to get the education they wanted. Her father ran a small country store in Cold Corner — in the



## 追逐梦想

阿尔·戈尔

美国联合大学演讲

2000年4月10日



尊敬的道克瑞校长、迪由杜伊特副校长、老师们、家长们、朋友们：

今天对于我和我的家人来说是个特别的日子，因为联合大学对我们来说是个特殊的地方。我去年辞世的叔叔埃弗雷特就曾就读于联合大学，舅舅维特的妻子内尔·拉丰也曾在这里任教。我的母亲常说她最大的遗憾就是没能拿到联合大学的毕业文凭。

今天，母亲终于拿到了毕业证书，虽然她并没有真正完成学业。据我所知，这在联大 177 年的历史中是第二个特例。事实上，母亲直接转学到了法学院，学习了一门更难的课程，为他人服务了一生，以此获得了联大的学位。

我的母亲出生于田纳西西部的一个穷苦家庭——那个年代的贫穷女孩儿还没有追逐梦想的权利。我的外祖父母 17 岁就结了婚，都没有机会接受自己想要的教育。外祖父在田纳西西北部经过商，在

**faculty** /'fækəlti /n. 全体教员

**diploma** /di'pləʊmə /n. 文凭

**Baccalaureate** /'bækə'lɔːriət /n. 学士学位

**coursework** /'kɔːs:wɜ:k /n. 课程作业

**skip** /skip /v. 跳过，掠过

First District of Weakley County in Northwest Tennessee — a store that went **bust** during the Great Depression<sup>①</sup>.

What motivated my mother to **strive** on was not the dream of money, but the dream of opportunity. As a young girl, she was deeply troubled by stories my grandfather told her about his struggle to help my grandmother and my great-grandmother inherit land that was rightly theirs. Instead, it went entirely to their brothers. Women weren't supposed to own land in those days. They certainly weren't supposed to go to college. Those **inequalities** made a deep impression on my mother. So she set out to change them.

She started her education in a one-room schoolhouse in Cold Corner. And in her words, “it never occurred to me that I couldn't go to college. I just knew it was up to me to find a way.”

She did find a way. She got a \$100 loan from the Jackson Rotary Club — which she later repaid. She **enrolled** at Union in the fall of 1931, waiting tables at Miss Snipes' Restaurant in **downtown** Jackson to help pay her way. She insisted on bringing her blind sister, my aunt Thelma, with her to Union. She took notes and read lessons for both of them — something that would have been nearly impossible without the kindness and **goodwill** of her professors.

A lot has changed at Union since my mother's time. Back then, it was a small college with about 700 students, most of them from West Tennessee. Today it's a university with more than 2,500 students from all across America. Back then, street-cars cost a nickel<sup>②</sup>, taxis anywhere in Jackson cost a dime, and a year's **tuition** at Union was just ninety-nine dollars. Today —

当时维克利县一区的一个叫冰角的地方开了一家小乡村杂货店，但这家店在大萧条时期便倒闭了。

激励母亲努力前进的不是对金钱的渴望，而是对机遇的追求。她小时候经常听我外祖父讲起一些事，比如他曾费尽千辛万苦帮我的外祖母甚至外曾祖母继承自己应得的那份土地，结果地最终还是分给了家中的男性继承人。母亲对此感到愤愤不平。那时候，妇女还没有土地拥有权，也不能上大学。这些不平等现象给母亲来了很大的触动，于是她开始着手改变这一切。

母亲在冰角的一个只有一间房的校舍，开始了她的求学生涯。她这样说过：“我从未担心过自己可能上不了大学；我只知道路是自己走出来的。”

母亲确实走出了一条路。她从杰克逊旋转俱乐部借了 100 美元——当然后来还清了。1931 年秋天进入联合大学学习，在杰克逊市中心的斯奈普斯小姐餐厅做服务生赚取学费和生活费。她还坚持带她失明的妹妹，也就是我的姨妈西尔玛一起在联大读书。母亲每次上课要做姐妹二人共同使用的笔记，为姨妈朗读课文——如果不是教授们心肠好，非常友善，在课堂上做这些几乎是不可能的。

和母亲在联大上学的时候相比，现在的学校有了很大的变化。那时，这儿还只是个学院，规模很小，学生也只有 700 个左右，而且大部分来自田纳西西部。现在这里已成为一所大学，有来自全国各地的 2500 多个学生。在以前，乘坐市内电车只需要 5 美分，杰克逊城的出

**bust** /bʌst/ *adj.* 破产的

**strive** /straɪv/ *v.* 努力，奋斗

**inequality** /ɪni'kwɒləti/ *n.* 不平等

**enroll** /ɪn'rɒl/ *v.* 登机，入学

**downtown** /daʊn'taʊn/ *n.* 市中心

**goodwill** /'gʊd'wil/ *n.* 善良，有好

**tuition** /tju:'ɪʃən/ *n.* 学费

well, let's just say that tuition is a bit more than ninety-nine dollars.

A lot has changed in America as well. When my mother enrolled at Union, it wasn't long after women had won the right to vote in this country. The Tennessee Valley Authority<sup>③</sup> hadn't even been created. Herbert Hoover<sup>④</sup> was still in the White House, and millions of Americans faced **crushing** poverty.

There weren't many opportunities for a poor girl like Pauline LaFon to get an education. But she dreamed of becoming a lawyer. And despite all the **obstacles** before her, she refused to let go of that dream. So after two years at Union, my mother came to Nashville and enrolled at Vanderbilt Law School.

This time, she **scraped** her way **through** by waiting tables at the old Andrew Jackson Hotel, working for 25-cent tips. She lived at the downtown YWCA<sup>⑤</sup> for two dollars a week, took a **trolley** to her morning classes, and then rushed back to the Andrew Jackson for the dinner **shift**.

That's where she met my father, who had just started YMCA night law school — even as he worked as Smith County Superintendent of Schools, and each day had to wake up well before dawn to tend his crops. Every night, after a long day of work and study, he faced an hour's drive to return from Nashville to Carthage on old Highway 70. So he went looking for coffee — and he found it at the Andrew Jackson. He loved to tell the story of how the coffee didn't taste good unless it was poured by that beautiful young woman named Pauline LaFon.

From the day they met, my parents were partners. They studied together for the bar exam and passed it on the same

租车也只要 10 美分，联大一年的学费只有 99 美元。而现在——嗯，学费比 99 美元不只是多出一點吧？

我们的国家也今非昔比。我的母亲进入联大读书的时候，妇女刚刚在国内获得了选举权，田纳西流域管理局还没成立，前总统赫伯特·胡佛还未卸任，相当多的美国人民仍面临着极度的贫困。

那时候没有几个家境贫穷的女孩子能像我的母亲波琳·拉丰一样有受教育的机会。但母亲梦想成为一名律师，不管任何艰难险阻，都绝不放弃。因此在联大读了两年，母亲便去了纳什维尔，就读于范德比尔特法学院。

这次，她在当时的安德鲁·杰克逊旅馆做服务生，收入主要来自每次 25 美分的小费，就这样勉强将学业和生计维持了下来。她曾住在市中心的基督教女青年会，每周支付两美元的房费，早上坐电车去上课，然后又赶回旅馆上夜班。

母亲就是在这家旅馆和我父亲相遇的。那时，父亲刚刚开办了青年会的法律夜校——即使在史密斯县做教育官员的时候，他也必须天不亮就起床照料庄稼，而且天天如此。经过一整天的工作和学习，父亲每天晚上都要开上一个小时的车，从纳什维尔经老 70 号公路回到迦太基。为解除困乏，他便四处找卖咖啡的地方，有一天发现安德鲁·杰克逊旅馆里卖。他后来常常提起这件事，而且津津乐道。他说，如果不是一个名叫波琳·拉丰的美丽少女为他倒咖啡，那晚的咖啡会令他大失所望。

从相识之日起，两人便成了亲密的伙伴。他们一起学习，准备司

**crushing** /'krʌʃɪŋ / *adj.* 极度的

**obstacle** /'ɒbstəkl / *n.* 障碍，阻碍

**scrape through** 勉强通过

**trolley** /'trɒli / *n.* 电车

**shift** /ʃɪft / *n.* 转换，轮班

day. In fact, I remember them joking about who got the higher grade. If I interpreted the jokes correctly, my mother did.

When my mother graduated from Vanderbilt, it was **virtually** impossible for a woman to find a legal job in Nashville. So she left for Texarkana, and put up her **shingle**. As far as we know, she was the only female **attorney** in Texarkana at the time — there were not very many in the entire nation. She practiced oil and gas law, and also took on divorce cases — **unprecedented** for a female attorney back then. The next year, my father persuaded her to come back as his wife. Soon after, he decided to run for Congress in the old Fourth District.

At that time, politicians' wives stayed far in the background. My father wanted my mother right up front with him. And my mother took as her role model Eleanor Roosevelt® — who had made it respectable for women to be involved in a **campaign**. And so, in my mother's own words, "off I went, almost charting a new course."

It was lucky for my father that she did. There will never be a better campaigner than Pauline LaFon Gore.

In that first campaign, my mother would talk with any voter she could find, and speak at any club meeting that would have her. She'd heard that in another election, the **candidate** had lost by just thirteen votes. So whenever she got tired, she kept thinking to herself, "thirteen votes." She walked the dirt roads of the district — from Franklin County to Clay County, and all points in between. On rainy days, she'd pull off her shoes and **wade** through the mud to reach people's homes.

That year, a lot of people supported my father's campaign because they saw my mother's heart — how she listened to people,

法考试,并在同一天通过。实际上,我至今还记得他们曾相互打趣,争论到底谁得的分高。如果我没理解错的话,应该是母亲的成绩更好。

从范德比尔特毕业后,由于女性当时很难在纳什维尔找到一份合法的工作,母亲便去了特克萨卡纳挂牌开业,开始了她的律政生涯。就我们所知,我的母亲是当时特克萨卡纳唯一的一名女律师——那时在全国也没有多少女律师。她主要处理与石油和天然气法律相关的案子,也经手一些离婚案件——这在当时对女律师来说也是史无前例的。第二年,父亲向她求婚,母亲便回到纳什维尔与父亲结了婚。不久之后,父亲决定竞选老四区的议员。

那个年代,从政人员的妻子都待在幕后,从不露面。而我的父亲想让母亲走出来,和他一起面对选民。母亲效仿了她的偶像——为女性争取选举权的埃莉诺·罗斯福。于是,用她自己的话说:“我就去了,结果几乎改写了历史。”

母亲的参与给父亲带来了好运。的确,没有人会比波琳·拉丰·戈尔更擅长搞竞选运动了。

第一次竞选中,母亲亲近选民,和他们每一个人交谈,去任何一个可以进入的社团组织进行演讲。她此前听说过有人曾仅仅因 13 票而落选,所以疲惫的时候就会不断提醒自己:“13 票,13 票……”她走遍了区里的土路——从富兰克林县到克莱县,不落下一个地方。下雨天,她便脱下鞋子,趟过泥泞的小路,走到选民的家中。

那年有很多人都支持我父亲的竞选活动,因为他们看到了母亲的

**virtually** /'vɜ:tʃuəli/ *adv.* 实际上,几乎

**shingle** /'ʃɪŋɡl/ *n.* 屋顶板; put up one's shingle 意为挂牌开业

**attorney** /ə'tɜ:nɪ/ *n.* 律师

**unprecedented** /ʌn'presɪdəntɪd/ *adj.* 空前的,前所未有的

**candidate** /'kændɪdɪt/ *n.* 候选人

**wade** /weɪd/ *v.* 涉水,趟

how she understood their concerns, and how she could speak with anyone. The people she met on all those early campaigns formed a powerful personal **bond** of friendship with her, and many of them have helped our family for decades. Some of them are helping me in this election — more than half a century later.

It was in 1952, during my father's first race for the Senate, that my mother's political skills truly came to the **rescue**. Some of you have heard me tell the story before.

My father was challenging a powerful **incumbent**, Senator Kenneth D. McKellar, who was the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. McKellar sought to remind the voters of his power to bring money to the state with his **omnipresent** slogan: "The thinking feller votes McKellar." My father would never allow his supporters to tear down those McKellar signs. And so my mother came up with the perfect solution. Every time we found a sign that said "The thinking **feller** votes McKellar", we put a new sign directly **underneath** it: "Think some more and vote for Gore". Without that slogan, he might not have won the race. And by the way, mom — I'm still waiting for this year's slogan.

My mother has shown that same talent and tenacity in my campaigns. She used to tell a story about my first race in 1976, when an old friend and supporter of my father's came up to her and said: "Mrs. Gore, if your son is as good as his old man, we'll be for him." To which my mother replied that she had trained us both — and had done a better job on me, for she'd corrected some mistakes.

Of course, my mother was much more than a campaigner.



心——她是那么用心去倾听，了解人们关切的问题，和每个人交流。在这些早期参加的竞选活动中，母亲结识了不少朋友，与他们结下了深厚的友谊，有些甚至数十年来一直帮助我们的家庭。在五十多年后的今天，有些人还在我的此次竞选中给予了帮助。

1952年，我父亲第一次参选参议员，这时母亲才真正施展了她的政治才能，在竞选中起了巨大作用，帮父亲化险为夷。有人可能早就听我说过这件事了。

当时我父亲的竞争对手是在职参议员肯尼斯·D. 麦凯勒，他实力强大，同时担任参议员拨款委员会的会长。麦凯勒一直向选民们宣扬自己的能力，说可以给国家带来财富，他的标语“有思想的同胞就选麦凯勒”也随处可见。由于父亲绝不会同意他的支持者去破坏麦凯勒的标语，母亲便想出了一个绝妙的方案，那就是每看到一个写有“有思想的同胞就选麦凯勒”的标志，我们就直接在下面附上新标语：“再想想，选票投给戈尔”。没有这个标语，父亲很可能会在那次竞选中失败。对了，我现在很想对母亲说：“妈妈，我还在等我今年的标语呢。”

母亲在我的这次竞选中也展现了同样的才能和坚韧的品格。以前她常常提起1976年我人生中的第一次竞选。那时父亲的一位老朋友，也是父亲的支持者，找到母亲对她说：“戈尔夫人，如果令郎和他父亲一样优秀，我们一定选他。”母亲回答说，她同时调教了我和父亲两个人，而对我的调教更为成功，因为她改正了我的一些缺点。

当然，我的母亲并不只是一个活动家，她还是我父亲的贴身顾问。

**bond** /bɒnd/ *n.* 联系，情谊

**rescue** /ˈreskju/ *v.* 营救，拯救

**incumbent** /inˈkʌmbənt/ *n.* 在职者

**omnipresent** /ɒmniˈprezənt/ *adj.* 无处不在的

**feller** /ˈfelə/ *n.* 小伙子

**underneath** /ˌʌndəˈniːθ/ *prep.* 在下面