



ABOUT GRADUATION

Graduation is the single event that marks the culmination of many years of academic achievement. This annual tradition serves as a celebration to honor the graduate. The ceremony itself is a respectable and dignified event. It allows students to celebrate their accomplishments with family and friends.



The presentation of the diplomas is the “heart” of the commencement exercises. During this presentation, the reality of transitioning from one part of life to the next is made apparent to the graduates and the witnesses at the ceremony.

A diploma represents the hard work and effort put forth by the students, family members, and teachers. In conclusion, this much-respected tradition only works best if students treat it with the reverence that graduation deserves.

Last summer, I shared with the students in our French school in Paris, my excitement about UUC; it’s unique vision, and the fact that as we join together, I will be assuming the role of Dean of the French program. What a joy that was as we all started praying not only about the future of our school, but also the future of UUC and yet we had no idea of the



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UUC ENGLISH COURSES

Module 1, begins on July 14 and ends on September 20

EVG-501: Evangelism in Context: Taught by Professor Benjamin Cocar. This course is designed to help students develop a special sensitivity to the religious/spiritual background and cultural context of the people being evangelized. The course also aims to develop students for effective leadership in evangelism that is informed by critical engagement with the nature of the Gospel, Christian life and thought, and the cultures of the contemporary world.

SLP-501: Spiritual Life Practices: Taught by Professor Deborah Loyd. This course is designed to introduce students to spiritual growth resources and spiritually reflective processes. The emphasis will be on developing a deeper inner life through increased understanding of the theological, biblical, and historical basis of spiritual formation prac-

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About Graduation (continued)

impact this would have in our lives!



Universite Biblique Des Nations, founded in Paris in 2006, not only was going to become part of UUC, but was to have its 2014 graduation at UUC, in L.A!

Many students realized that from then on, success was not an option... They wanted to make it to L.A. And to them, God himself had extended a special grace to them.

Graduation week came, and as the international students arrived in CA, they were immediately conquered by the love at UUC...

The « D Day » came almost by surprise as we were so much enjoying our fellowship with one another... The graduation ceremony was beautiful and all students were touched as they heard the various testimonies, singing during our Friday Evening dinner.

Wow! What an experience! What an achievement! Were among the various phrases that were heard from the French group.

To the students, families and friends, thank you for coming to this year's graduation ceremony.

You overcame significant challenges in both financial and intellectual areas of your life to come to this point in time and we are confident that you will take advantage of the wisdom and resources we have made available to you throughout your many years of studying.

To God be the glory! Thanks to UUC and its entire faculty.

Dr. Lesly Joseph

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

July 2014

Never Give Up

"Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."

Galatians 6:9

This was a verse that my mother counted on when she was young. She believed it in a very important way regarding her children, and she believed for 15 years before God confirmed to her that the verse was true.

When my brother, sister and I were all 4 years old or

younger, my family was poor. My father, the 10th of 11 children, was working 10 hours a day as an electrician at a low wage; and before and after work going to his father's farm to do all the chores that his elderly father could no longer perform. My father was rising long before dawn and going to bed long after dark to support his own family and to keep his father's farm alive. And every spare dollar he earned he was putting into farm repairs, farm equipment, farm costs for my grandfather.

While my mother felt it was right to support the farm, she was also distressed about all the spare money going to the farm. She believed the way out

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Message from the President (continued)

of poverty for her children was not the farm, but a university education. And no money was being put away for an educational fund. As she agonized and prayed over this situation, she came upon Galatians 6:9. To her the personal meaning of the verse, the assurance God was giving her, was this. “Don’t be anxious about the money going into the farm. Your husband is doing his best to do the right thing, to honor his father and mother and to be a good son. Don’t become weary with this. At ‘harvest time,’ when it is time for your children to go to university, you will reap a harvest of the goodness that you have sown.” So my mother stopped worrying about the money, or at least she worried much less.

Fifteen years later, when my older brother graduated from high school (I was only one year behind, with my sister a year behind me), our family still had no money for a university education. But my mother had been hired as a secretary at the Christian university 3 blocks from our house. And the board of trustees of the university, in the spring of my brother’s senior year of high school, made a policy that the children of university staff could go to the university tuition free. So I lived at home, walked to university classes, and paid only for books. God provided my university education at a cost I could afford.

This is one of the reasons I am grateful to God to be in the position of President of Union University. I could never have afforded the full cost of my education; and my education opened doors for me to prepare me for ministry. I want to give back to other students, who are in the situation I was in, the gift of affordable education.

My mother believed Galatians 6:9 for 15 years before she experienced the promised harvest. She went on doing what was right for all those in between years. And for the rest of her life she went on working for the good of all at every opportunity, as

Galatians 6:10 says. She did not grow weary, and she did not give up. She trusted God’s goodness and faithfulness, and walked by faith when there was no education fund bank account in sight.

This was not the only time my mother trusted God for what did not yet exist, or for a blessing that had not yet been given. She lived her whole life that way. She did not grow weary spiritually (though she was tired many times physically). She was committed to doing what was right; and to doing good for people whenever she could. She also knew that most of the “reaping” would come later, in fact most of it would not be in this world. And she believed that, finally, we would reap eternal life as Galatians 6:8 declares.

Graduation week this year at UUC was a wonderful example of people experiencing what my mother also experienced. Our students worked long and hard, often under difficult circumstances, for graduation day. They did not grow weary or give up when the road seemed long and the obstacles many. Student after student expressed joy and gratitude to God that they now held in their hands the diplomas and degrees they had worked for. There was an incredible sense of wonder, of happiness at God’s faithfulness in making graduation day possible. Our students were reaping the harvest of their efforts to be faithful to God’s call upon their lives. I wish every member of the UUC family had been present to experience that joy.

So I urge everyone in the UUC family to trust God for the future, to not grow weary in doing what is right, to embrace the promise that we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. God will be faithful to UUC. God will provide everything we need as we live by faith, and seek to walk faithfully the way the Lord leads us.

Dale Sewall
UUC President

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UUC

DAY OF PRAYER

UUC's
Board of Directors
invites UUC students,
faculty and friends
to join them
in prayer for UUC on
the first Monday
of the month.



www.uuc.edu

UUC English Courses (continued)

tices. Students will practice specific contemplative practices such as, but not limited to meditation, silence, solitude, worship, sacrifice, self-examination, giving, fasting and service. Through these studies, the assigned practices and reading, the student will determine how he or she best perceives the presence of God and thus will deepen one's connection with God. This class will major on the avenues of study, small group discussions, field trips, art projects and hands-on exercises.

THL-514: Theology of Work: Finding Transcendent Meaning in the Workplace. Taught by Professor Fletcher Tink. It has become apparent that most efforts of organized Christian faith have failed significantly to transform their contexts to radiate shalom to those around. Institutionalized religion has often created barriers that have excluded people rather than ministering to them. "Professional" Christians have created a lesser class that, by default, have excluded the concerns and the opportunities of those engaged in the so-called "secular world". What has resulted is a chasm between "religion" on Sunday morning and the market place on Monday, with little carryover between the two. The laity finds itself encouraged by religious inspiration on holy days without integration into the workaday world. The result relegates lay people to second-class citizenship where the "Creation Mandate" is ignored or considered inferior or irrelevant to the "Redemptive Mandate". This seminar provides an antidote to this thinking, by offering theological, historical and practical underpinnings that disarm this bifurcation.

THANKSGIVINGS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- Thank God for a safe and successful Graduation Commencement.
- Thank God for the faithfulness of Christians in the Central Highlands of Vietnam through many persecutions and challenges. Please continue for them and for their leaders as many continue their studies in the Diploma of Ministry program at Union College.
- Please pray that the government of Vietnam will become more open to freedom of religion.
- Please pray for the French school, that God will use this school to train leaders to reach out to Muslims in Europe and Africa.
- Please continue to pray for the Indonesian school.

SUPPORT UUC

Union University of California is able to provide scholarships to our underserved students primarily through the love and generosity of individuals like you. We welcome all levels of support, whether it is a one-time gift, a monthly donation, or a full scholarship for one of our students in need. You can contribute by sending a check or money order to:

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