

Through life, everyone has someone to whom they can look up to, to admire, to aspire to be. From whom they can draw strength. In my life, I was blessed with 2 such women, who have led and guided me from afar, my grandmothers Mrs. Tun Khin and Mrs. Hein Tin.

I spent most of my younger years with my grandmother, Mrs. Tun Khin – a tiny woman, whose love emanated through the house and touched those around her. Raising three sons could not have been easy, but she did it with such amazing grace. Her sudden departure left a hole in the lives of those who loved her. We feel her presence, even to this day.

Although I didn't live with my other grandmother, Mrs. Hein Tin, I always felt that she was close by through stories that my mother, aunts and uncle have told me. From her formidable years as a mother to the graceful and generous heart that she shared with her students and grandchildren. I remember napping on the sofa in Bahan during one visit, and awoke to find Hpwa Hpwa's face inches from mine, studying me as I slept. Being raised abroad, she always went out of her way to make sure my brother and I found comfort in our family home. I see her spirit in all of her children. It always warms my heart to see how they honor her memory.

Over the last couple of nights, I have had the opportunity to speak to some of you, and took great pleasure in listening as you reminisced. It warmed my heart to hear such fond memories of both of my grandmothers, two women who have shaped who I am today through the love they passed on to their children. I also really loved hearing about my father as a young man. He would have so enjoyed seeing you all again. I have hurriedly scribbled down many of your anecdotes and recollections, for, as a tribute to both sides of my family, I am writing a memoir of being part of the third generation of teachers. I would also like to collect more stories of my father, as a lad, when he was young and carefree, even through his rebellious ways. So, if you have anymore stories, would like to contribute to this project, Uncle Edwin, amidst doing such a great job organizing today's events, has kindly offered to put my contact details on the MEHS website.

I am truly honored to be here tonight, as a guest, and as a niece. Most importantly, as a granddaughter. As a teacher, I am proud to represent the third generation of teachers in my family. My love for children and education is genetic. I hope to be able to touch my students in the same way that my Hpwa Hpwas, Mrs. Tun Khin and Mrs. Hein Tin have so obviously touched so many of you.

Thank you for having me here tonight and for allowing me this little speech. I know my Hpwa Hpwas would be proud of you all, and touched at how fondly you remember them.

Thank you.

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