

Remarks by [Angela Chao](#)
Deputy Chair, Foremost Group
Representing Dr. James S. C. Chao & Family
Ruth Mulan Chu Chao Center
Dedication Ceremony Luncheon
Harvard Business School, Boston, MA
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President Faust, Dean Nohria, Governor Baker, Senator Markey, Senator Warren, so many honored guests and wonderful friends and family, on behalf of our father, Dr. James SC Chao, my sisters Elaine, May, Christine, Grace and I stand here together before you to say thank you.

Thank you for letting us honor our mother in this significant and important way. My Mother was a very humble woman whose words were not many, but whose each word carried much weight. She taught us to respect and value ourselves, and in so doing, empowered us to work hard towards our goals, but always with humility and with the emphasis on something larger than just ourselves. And she taught us this through her actions - by always carrying herself with dignity and grace, and by her kindness to and consideration of others.

Thanks to so many of you for coming far and wide to share this dedication with us today, and for showing such an enormous outpouring of support and respect to [my Father, Dr. James SC Chao](#), who still misses my Mother so very dearly each day. My parents always taught us to remember that any success we may have in life is not our own, but is achieved through the help of many others along the way. So we are always grateful and also so humbled for the many family and friends who give us so much support along the way.

My Mother was such a person. She never sought the limelight, but she was a constant and dedicated advocate for our Father and each of her daughters. You have all heard a bit about the story of my parents' journey of love and life through the moving tribute video that Harvard so kindly and considerately created that was shown moments ago. It really is that romantic, and it really is that full of love. My parents had a relentless sense of optimism and hope. And so we hope that the students who enter the [Ruth Mulan Chu Chao Center](#) will be inspired by my parents' struggle and triumph to overcome adversity, by their perseverance and determination to build something meaningful for their family, and by their steadfast maintenance of important values such as humility and service throughout the journey. While [my parents built a business](#), my mother was my father's full and equal partner, his sounding board, his advisor, and his compass, not just blindly supporting, but encouraging him to pursue certain paths and always pursuing and dreaming with a strong moral and ethical compass.

If my mother were with us here today, she would not wish to speak. But she would expect that we represented her well. She would sit and be smiling radiantly, ever gracious and appreciative that so many people took the time out of their busy schedules to be with her. She would want a simple ceremony with the focus on the programming and students. And she would return home, living her life nonchalantly and never mentioning that she had yet another building named after her.

My father and each of my sisters and I still hold ourselves to our Mother's standard. She was a woman of enormous courage, strength, grace under pressure, and perseverance. My sisters and I stand together here today filled with enormous gratitude to Harvard for recognizing and honoring my Mother, how she lived her life and the family that she raised. She believed you started doing things one person at a time - that we as individuals could make a difference, and that we as individuals and especially as her daughters, had a responsibility to do so. Simply put, she is inspiring. And we hope her story and spirit will inspire the tens of thousands of attendees, executives, students, staff and visitors who pass through the doors of the Ruth Mulan Chu Chao Center every year, each of whom have their own histories, their own struggles, their own triumphs and most importantly, their own futures to still live and actualize.

On behalf of our father, Dr. James SC Chao, my sisters Elaine, May, Christine, Grace and I all thank you again for sharing this special day with us, and for [memorializing the life of a woman](#) whose life out of the limelight is so eminently worthy and deserving of recognition and admiration - our mother, Ruth Mulan Chu Chao.

Angela Chao

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