Good afternoon, my fellow teachers and classmates.

It’s a great honor for me to represent Chinese visiting scholars and to share with you our visiting experience in the US at this graduation ceremony.

First, I would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Dennis Hart and all the VIPP members. Because of your effort, we could smoothly go through our research. Our special thanks will be extended to our coordinators Qing Xia and Chen Wang. Because of your endless coordination, our dreams to visit the US came true. Our thanks will also go to our family members, our colleagues, our working units and the China Scholarship Council. Without their assistance, it would be impossible for us to stay in the US for such a long time.

I can still remember the day we arrived at Lansing airport; we received warm welcomes from VIPP “receptionists.” Gefan Li is one of them. Her skillful driving skills and her familiarity with the community made us feel at home. Thanks to VIPP’s considerate arrangement, we went through all the registration procedures and grocery purchases in just two days, which helped us quickly adapt to the new environment. Efficiency, perfect efficiency was the first impression of America left in our minds.

Secondly, we would like to give thanks to our professors. Within one year, we were promoted by professors from different backgrounds to acquire knowledge ranging from Politics, Economy, Culture, Communication, Global Leadership, Food Safety, and so on. Many professors generously shared with us the knowledge and experience they had accumulated for many years. These courses undoubtedly are valuable treasures for us to take back home. In VIPP, we also had the opportunity to attend numerous workshops, seminars, and festivals, which offered us a broad range of ideas. The global platform VIPP set up helps us expand our research in SLA, accounting, management, and education from global perspectives. As a student of VIPP, we enjoyed living in such a diverse and intellectual community.

Apart from doing research, many visiting scholars are attracted by MSU’s beautiful campus and its internationalized atmosphere. Accompanied by 532 high-tech equipped buildings and the solemn bell Tower are the peaceful Red Cedar River, wandering Canadian geese, blooming flowers, golden leaves, and those lovely squirrels. How lucky we were to be immersed in this comfortable yet well-managed learning environment. Some of us at the very beginning were shocked that there was no wall around the 5200-acre campus, which is totally different from China.

Yet, the campus without walls attracted students from more than 130 countries. By carefully studying the history of MSU, we found that the success of MSU was indispensible from the great efforts made by generations of MSU staff, faculty and students. From a leading land-grant university to one of the top most famous universities in 150 years, from a college of agriculture to a comprehensive university with more than 200 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges, and many colleges standing in the first rank of research in the world, MSU touched us by her perseverance and persistence in competition and cooperation with universities across the state, the country and the world. MSU’s success lies in what President Lou Anna K. Simon said in her speech that the core values of MSU are quality, inclusiveness and connectivity, which we believe are also the values of VIPP.

It is the core values that drive me into my research in interdisciplinary and intercultural teaching. Through
the observation of different courses, like human pharmacology, human nutrition, Latin, literature and medicine, my research has expanded into different categories. Through attending numerous art fairs and festivals held in Lansing, Chicago and New York, my understanding of western culture and civilization has improved. I appreciate the atmosphere with academic, cultural and artistic flavor, and I believe every visiting scholar here enjoys a great harvest this year.

One year is really short. Many of us have no time to visit the first National Park, the Grand Canyon, the gold country in California and the big island of Hawaii. The beauty and magnificence of the US attracted us so much that it is hard to say goodbye. One day, my classmates from China and South Korea will meet in Beijing, in Nanjing, in Seoul, or in Cheju Island, but I do expect that one day we will meet with each other at VIPP, at MSU, for we still have much to learn and share in the US.

To conclude my speech, I will quote from a Chinese poet Zhimo Xu in his poem “Farewell to Cambridge”:

Silently I leave as silently I came.  
I wave my sleeves carrying away no silk of clouds.

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