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Beijing Alumni Reception
Remarks of Michael A. McRobbie
President, Indiana University
Conrad Beijing Hotel
Meeting Room 1, 3rd Floor
Beijing, China
Wednesday, December 7, 2016
7:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION **(COVER SLIDE)**

Thank you, Ms. Cui, for that kind introduction.

It is a great pleasure to be back in Beijing on my eighth official trip to China as president of Indiana University and my 10th overall.

I want to begin by expressing my thanks to Lisha Tan for her leadership of the Beijing Chapter of the IU Alumni Association as well as my thanks to all the members of the chapter for hosting and providing such generous support for this reception and for your great dedication to Indiana University. The Beijing Chapter has seen an impressive increase in alumni engagement in recent years, and our thanks to all of you for your commitment to the chapter.

I also want to extend special thanks to Mr. Esmond Quek for his support of the chapter as General Consul since its inception, and to Mr. Vincent Mo for being with us today to share a few remarks later in the evening. We also look forward to a flute performance by Xun Chen later in the program, and we thank him for being with us tonight was well.

Before we begin, I would like to take a moment to introduce the other members of the IU delegation. I will ask them to identify themselves as I introduce them, and I ask that you hold your applause until all are introduced. With us are:

- My wife, Laurie Burns McRobbie, the First Lady of Indiana University;
- Indiana University's Vice President for International Affairs, David Zaret;
- David Russomanno, Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology at IUPUI;
- Professor Yaobin Chen of the School of Engineering and Technology and the Co-Academic Chair of the IU China Global Gateway Office;
- June Yang, Associate Professor of Finance in the Kelley School of Business;
- Arlene Benitez, Director of IU's Center for International Education, Development, and Research;
- Faridah Pawan, Professor in the IU School of Education;
- Professor Joe Hoffmann of IU's Maurer School of Law;
- Gabrielle Goodwin, Director of Graduate Studies in IU's Maurer School of Law;
- Associate Vice President for International Partnerships, Shawn Reynolds;
- Fred Perry, Executive Director of International Advancement at the IU Alumni Association;

and

- Interim Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs and Presidential Communications, Ryan Piurek.

Please join me in welcoming the members of the IU delegation.

SLIDE 1. IU AND CHINA

Indiana University's deep ties with China reach back to the Qing dynasty, when an IU graduate, William Alexander Parsons Martin, worked in Beijing as an interpreter for the American Minister to China.

In 1909, Showin Wetzen Hsu became the first Chinese graduate of IU, and he returned to China to serve in a number of high-level governmental and judicial positions.

In the 1930s and 1940s, more students from China earned JD degrees at IU than at any other university in the United States.

SLIDE 2

More recently, IU has formed strong partnerships with some of the leading educational institutions in China, including Tsinghua University, Peking University, Zhejiang University, Sun Yat Sen University, the China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing Sport University, and Beijing Normal University.

During this trip, we are strengthening and expanding a number of these partnerships. This morning we visited Tsinghua University, where we signed an agreement to collaborate on research on autonomous cars. I was honored to give a lecture at Tsinghua this afternoon on our Media Digitization and Preservation Initiative at IU. And tomorrow, we will visit Beijing Normal University for the dedication of the China-U.S. Joint Academy for International Education. And on Friday, we will visit with alumni in Shanghai.

SLIDE 3

As many of you know, IU Bloomington has very strong programs in China studies, which include teaching and research programs in the culture and history of China, as well as beginning and advanced courses in Mandarin, Cantonese, and classical Chinese languages.

IU also has one of the few highly prestigious U.S. government-funded Flagship Centers in Mandarin, which are focused on further developing best practices for the teaching of this language.

All these programs are now part of our new School of Global and International Studies, which teaches over 70 foreign languages—more than any other university in the United States.

SLIDE 4

China also ranks among the top countries where IU students study abroad.

We currently have more than 3,200 students from China at IU. They make up 35 percent of our international student body and they are a vital part of the life of Indiana University.

In a few moments, in fact, you will see a trailer of a documentary film that features The Young Pioneers, the first Chinese team to compete in Indiana University's legendary Little 500 bicycle race, one of the great IU traditions. They were also the very first Little 5 team made up entirely of international students. And the film focuses on the fact that the Schwinn bicycles that The Young Pioneers—and all Little 500 riders—use are made here in China in a factory in Changzhou.

There are also more than 5,800 IU alumni affiliated with China, and, of course, we have welcomed hundreds of Chinese scholars, dignitaries, and students who have visited our campuses.

SLIDE 5

Given all of these deep connections between China and Indiana University, we dedicated the IU China Global Gateway Office here in Beijing in May of 2014. The office is now the home base for IU activities in China and helps us serve our Chinese students, our many Chinese alumni, and our American students studying in China more effectively.

It supports scholarly research and teaching, conferences and workshops, study abroad programs, distance learning initiatives, student recruitment activities, executive and corporate training, alumni events, and much, much more. Today, in fact, the IU China Global Gateway Office hosted a symposium on the work of the late Elinor Ostrom, who spent her academic career at IU and who received the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics.

SLIDE 6. CHINA REMIXED: ARTS AND HUMANITIES IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE CULTURE

Next year, we are launching a new Global Arts and Humanities Festival in Bloomington. In its inaugural year, the festival will focus on China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Chinese American community in the United States.

The theme of the festival in its first year will be “China Remixed,” and it will focus on contemporary arts and humanities, cutting-edge cultural activity, and research in China. It will be the largest festival dedicated to Chinese arts and culture ever hosted in the Midwestern United States. It will feature world-renowned scholars, journalists, artists, musicians, and writers, including the eminent Chinese writer, Ha Jin—as well as a film series at the acclaimed IU Cinema. The festival will also feature a performance of *Thunderstorm 2.0*, a play in which a large film crew joins the actors onstage to create a movie that is edited and screened above the stage in real time.

There are brochures available this evening for those interested in more details—and we hope some of you will be able to join us in Bloomington for this festival.

SLIDE 7. A BANNER YEAR AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY

I am very pleased to report that we have had a banner year at Indiana University. In recent months, I have had the pleasure of announcing a number of record-breaking

achievements across the university that illustrate just how active and engaged IU students, faculty, and staff continue to be year-round in their pursuit of excellence in and out of the classroom.

I want to quickly highlight a number of these for you this evening.

SLIDE 8. HIGHLY RANKED SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

You will be very pleased to know that IU's schools and programs continue to be very highly ranked. IU has more than 50 programs that are ranked in the top 20 of their disciplines nationally.

The undergraduate program of IU's Kelley School of Business is ranked fourth overall, and number one among public universities by *Bloomberg Businessweek*. The Kelley School's full-time MBA program is ranked 22nd overall, and seventh among public universities.

The world-renowned Jacobs School of Music is ranked number one in the nation by several publications.

The graduate program in IU's School of Public and Environmental Affairs is ranked number one in the United States.

The IU Bloomington College of Arts and Sciences has a dozen programs ranked in the Top 20 nationally, and 35 programs ranked in the Top 50.

IU's Maurer School of Law is ranked in top 25 overall, and eighth among public institutions.

And the IU School of Medicine, the largest school of medicine in the U.S., is ranked 24th in primary care, in the Top 50 for research, and a number of its specialty programs are highly ranked.

SLIDE 9. RECORD NUMBERS OF GRADUATES

Indiana University is also graduating record numbers of students.

During the 2015-16 academic year, IU conferred a record 21,204 four-year and graduate degrees. This is an increase of 18 percent since the 2008-09 academic year, and far more than any other institution in the state.

Last May's commencements were attended by over 100,000 people, all witness to the vital role IU plays in education across the state, nation, and world.

SLIDE 10. RECORD INTERNATIONAL ENROLLMENT, EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

We also set a record for the enrollment of international students at IU this fall. More than 9,000 international students are enrolled and they come from 172 countries.

We also set a record last year for the number of IU students studying abroad.

IU continues to be deeply involved in strengthening the global literacy of its students, promoting its international agenda, and expanding its global partnerships.

Our international strategic plan calls for increasing academic and research collaborations, including faculty and student exchanges—as we are doing here in China with the country's leading educational and cultural institutions.

It also calls for the expansion of IU's Global Gateway Network through the addition of new international offices to join existing IU offices in China, Germany and India.

SLIDE 11. ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST INNOVATIVE UNIVERSITIES

For the second consecutive year, IU was ranked among the world's 50 most innovative universities. IU improved 12 places above last year's performance in a Reuters News analysis of patent and publishing data from more than 600 research institutions worldwide. In the latest findings of "The Reuters 100: The World's Most Innovative Universities," IU ranked 37th worldwide and 25th among U.S. universities. Last year's study placed IU 49th worldwide and 33rd among U.S. universities.

SLIDE 12. UNPRECEDENTED ACADEMIC RESTRUCTURING CONTINUES

Many of you may be aware that eight new schools that have been established at IU in the last few years.

IU's new Media School moved into its new home in a magnificently renovated Franklin Hall in the Old Crescent part of the Bloomington campus this fall.

The design program of the new School of Art & Design will move into a newly renovated Kirkwood Hall.

And the School of Informatics and Computing is home to our new program in Intelligent Systems Engineering. The new engineering program welcomed its first class this fall. The first students in this program will graduate in IU's Bicentennial year in 2020.

SLIDE 13. RECORD PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATION

We are also in the midst of a record-breaking period of construction of new buildings and the renovation of existing buildings at IU.

All of our new schools now have new or newly renovated space.

In the last few years, we have built or renovated approximately 70 major new buildings or facilities with a total value of more than \$2 billion. Seventy percent of the funding for these facilities has come from private or IU sources.

SLIDE 14

IU's new School of Global and International Studies is housed in a magnificent new building that is quickly becoming one of the iconic buildings of the Bloomington campus. The United States Secretary of State, John Kerry, came to Bloomington to dedicate the new building.

SLIDE 15

A new home for the School of Informatics and Computing, Luddy Hall, is under construction in Bloomington.

SLIDE 16

A new graduate center is under construction for the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. It will be named the Paul O'Neill Graduate Center in honor of IU alumnus Paul O'Neill, a former US Secretary of the Treasury, who made a generous donation that made the building possible.

SLIDE 17

The historic Franklin Hall in the Old Crescent part of the Bloomington campus has undergone an extensive renovation and is now home to IU's new Media School.

SLIDE 18

The Kelley School of Business has a magnificent new undergraduate facility, Hodge Hall.

SLIDE 19

IU Bloomington also has a superb new amphitheater, where students in the performing arts will soon be able to showcase their outstanding talents. It was made possible through the generosity of the late Conrad Prebys, an IU alumnus.

SLIDE 20

IU's football stadium, Memorial Stadium, will soon undergo renovations that will enclose the south end zone. The new facility will include the "Excellence Academy," a program to help student athletes develop in areas outside of athletics.

SLIDE 21

And new residence halls have been added to the IUPUI campus. North Hall, the first traditional residence hall ever constructed on the campus, opened this fall and is completely full.

SLIDE 22. THE MOST AMBITIOUS RESEARCH PROGRAM IN IU HISTORY

A little over a year ago, we announced the most ambitious research program in the university's history—the Grand Challenges Research Program. This program proposes to invest, in the years leading up to IU's Bicentennial, \$300 million in multidisciplinary research projects aimed at finding solutions to the “grand challenges” of our time—solutions that will provide major improvements in the quality of life for the people of the state of Indiana and beyond.

In June, I was very pleased to announce that the Precision Health Initiative was selected as the recipient of the first round of funding. Led by Principal Investigator Dr. Anantha Shekhar of the IU School of Medicine, the Precision Health Initiative will seek to cure at least one cancer and one childhood disease, as well as find ways to prevent one chronic illness and one neurodegenerative disease.

SLIDE 23. INTRODUCE “FOR ALL” CAMPAIGN VIDEO

In September of 2015, we launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in Indiana University's history: the “For All” Bicentennial Campaign.

The \$2.5 billion goal of this university-wide campaign is one of the largest ever by a public university in the United States. The gifts to this Campaign will provide essential support to outstanding students, faculty, and staff across the entire university on all of our campuses.

I invite you to join me now in watching a video that highlights the importance of the campaign. The video, as you might notice if you are a fan of American cinema, is narrated by Academy Award-winning actress Meryl Streep, who is a great friend and supporter of Indiana University, and who holds an honorary IU doctorate.

SLIDE 24

[CAMPAIGN VIDEO]

The university-wide “For All” Campaign will unite IU alumni and supporters in the shared goal of ensuring IU remains one of the great universities of the world in its third century. It will be through the generous, unselfish, and unstinting support of all of us that we can ensure that IU remains, and grows further, as one of the great public research universities of the world.

I know that many of you who are here this evening have already generously donated to the “For All” Campaign—for which we are deeply grateful.

SLIDE 25. CONCLUSION

That the university continues to progress in such a remarkable fashion is testimony to the dedication and generosity of thousands of IU alumni and friends. Our over nearly 700,000 alumni are this university’s greatest ambassadors, and their successes and your successes are a vital part of IU’s great traditions of excellence.

Our Chinese alumni, in particular, are among our finest international ambassadors. The success of our alumni shows the power of an Indiana University education, and is a promise of the future for students hoping to come to IU.

Thank you again for all that you have done and continue to do for Indiana University.