

**Congratulatory Speech to Peking University Philadelphia Alumni
Association (PUPA)
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Evelyn and I want to thank you heartily for the meticulous dinner reception last night. We are sure we speak for Gayl Gentile and Alan MacDiarmid as well in saying that we truly enjoyed the sumptuous food and great discussions.

I am so honored that since 1999, I have been your Alumni Association's Advisor. While I have a very minor role for your enormous successes, I do want to let you know how proud I am to be a part of this great organization.

I want to thank you very for the kind words you have uttered about the University of Texas at Dallas. UTD is a new and fledgling university. Building a great university is never an overnight endeavor. It requires vision, dedication, hard work, and most of all, patience from more than one generation of leaders. We probably need at least several decades to create the substantive aura of one of the top universities in the world. I hope that in the past several decades, we have taken small steps in that direction.

To this end, I think that there is much UTD can learn from great institutions such as Peking University.

It is evident to all people who understand the modern history of China that the formation and transformation of China since the beginning of the 20th century is intimately connected to Peking University. Peking University, as in all research universities, is but a collection of people. In the past century, Peking University has attracted to its academic bosom a collection of people with extraordinary ability to "think out of the box," to innovate and to bring new ideas to make not only China, but the world. As distinguished alumni of this great institution, I am sure you recognize the profound historical contributions of the students and teachers in the past century, and the historical mission you are and will be facing in the 21st century.

I believe that while students, alumni and faculty of Peking University in the 20th century had arduous tasks, yours will be even more so. Your predecessors' mandate was to focus on China, you need to focus on the world! As alumni,

your outstanding global contributions will feed back into Peking University and make it truly one of the shining intellectual centers of the world.

In the past six and seven years, I have found that with the growing economic and intellectual maturity of the students and scholars from China, and the formation of the numerous alumni associations, these associations are now rapidly becoming major intellectual and economic forces in the mainstream United States. While I had only interacted with PUPA when I was in Philadelphia, I have interacted with some 10 alumni associations in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and everyone I found to be truly exceptional and forward looking.

Again, thank you so much for your hospitality and look forward to working with you in the future.