Toward a brighter future for all

奔向更加光明的未来

1 Good afternoon! As president of the university, I am proud to welcome you to this university. Your achievement is the triumph of years of hard work, both of your own and of your parents and teachers. Here at the university, we pledge to make your educational experience as rewarding as possible.

下午好！作为校长，我非常自豪地欢迎你们来到这所大学。你们所取得的成就是你们自己多年努力的结果，也是你们的父母和老师们多年努力的结果。在这所大学里，我们承诺将使你们学有所成。

2 In welcoming you to the university, I am reminded of my own high school graduation and the photograph my mom took of my dad and me. "Pose naturally," Mom instructed us. "Wait!" said Dad, "Let's take a picture of me handing him an alarm clock." The clock woke me up every morning in college. It is still on my office desk.

在欢迎你们到来的这一刻，我想起自己高中毕业时的情景，还有妈妈为我和爸爸拍的合影。妈妈吩咐我们：“姿势自然点。”“等一等,”爸爸说，“把我递给他闹钟的情景拍下来。”在大学期间，那个闹钟每天早晨叫醒我。至今它还放在我办公室的桌子上。

3 Let me share with you something that you may not expect. You will miss your old routines and your parents' reminders to work hard and attain your best. You may have cried tears of joy to be finally finished with high school, and your parents may have cried tears of joy to be finally finished with doing your laundry! But know this: The future is built on a strong foundation of the past.

让我来告诉你们一些你们未必预料得到的事情。你们将会怀念以前的生活习惯，怀念父母曾经提醒你们要刻苦学习、取得佳绩。你们可能因为高中生活终于结束而喜极而泣，你们的父母也可能因为终于不用再给你们洗衣服而喜极而泣！但是要记住：未来是建立在过去扎实的基础上的。

4 For you, these next four years will be a time unlike any other. Here you are surrounded by great resources: interesting students from all over the country, a learned and caring faculty, a comprehensive library, great sports facilities, and student organizations covering every possible interest — from the arts to science, to community service and so on. You will have the freedom to explore and learn about new subjects. You will learn to get by on very little sleep, meet fascinating people, and pursue new passions. I want to encourage you to make the most of this unique experience, and to use your energy and enthusiasm to reap the benefits of this opportunity.

对你们而言，接下来的四年将会是无与伦比的一段时光。在这里，你们拥有丰富的资源：有来自全国各地的有趣的学生，有学识渊博又充满爱心的老师，有综合性图书馆，有完备的运动设施，还有针对不同兴趣的学生社团——从文科社团到理科社团、到社区服务等等。你们将自由地探索、学习新科目。你们要学着习惯点灯熬油，学着结交充满魅力的人，学着去追求新的爱好。我想鼓励你们充分利用这一特殊的经历，并用你们的干劲和热情去收获这一机会所带来的丰硕成果。

5 You may feel overwhelmed by the wealth of courses available to you. You will not be able to experience them all, but sample them widely! College offers many things to do and to learn, and each of them offers a different way to see the world. If I could give you only one piece of advice about selecting courses, it would be this: Challenge yourself! Don't assume that you know in advance what fields will interest you the most. Take some courses in fields you've never tried before. You will not only emerge as a more broadly educated person, but you will also stand a better chance of discovering an unsuspected passion that will help to shape your future. A wonderful example of this is the fashion designer, Vera Wang, who originally studied art history. Over time, Wang paired her studies in art history with her love of fashion and turned it into a passion for design, which made her a famous designer around the world.

有这么多课程可供选择，你可能会不知所措。你不可能选修所有的课程，但是要尽可能体验更多的课程！大学里有很多事情可做可学，每件事情都会为你提供不同视角来审视世界。如果我只能给你们一条选课建议的话，那就是：挑战自己！不要认为你早就了解自己对什么样的领域最感兴趣。选择一些你从未接触过的领域的课程。这样，你不仅会变得更加博学，而且更有可能发现一个你未曾想到的、能成就你未来的爱好。一个绝佳的例子就是时装设计师王薇薇。她最初学的是艺术史。随着时间的推移，王薇薇2把艺术史研究和对时装的热爱结合起来，并将其转化为对设计的热情，从而使她成为全球闻名的设计师。

6 Here at the university, it may not always be pleasant to have so many new experiences all at once. In your dorm, the student next door may repeatedly play the one song, which gives you a giant headache! You may be an early bird while your roommate is a night owl! And still, you and your roommate may become best friends. Don't worry if you become a little uncomfortable with some of your new experiences. I promise you that the happy experiences will outweigh the unpleasant ones. And I promise that virtually all of them will provide you with valuable lessons which will enrich your life. So, with a glow in your eye and a song in your heart, step forward to meet these new experiences!

在大学里，一下子拥有这么多新鲜体验可能不会总是令人愉快的。在你的宿舍楼里，住在你隔壁寝室的同学可能会反复播放同一首歌，令你头痛欲裂！你可能喜欢早起，而你的室友却是个夜猫子！尽管如此，你和你的室友仍然可能成为最要好的朋友。如果有些新的经历让你感觉不那么舒心，不要担心。我保证快乐的经历会多于不快的经历。而且我保证几乎所有这些经历都会给你带来宝贵的经验教训，从而使你的生活更加丰富多彩。所以，带着热切的目光和欢乐的心情，去拥抱这些新的体验吧！

7 We have confidence that your journey toward self-discovery and your progress toward finding your own passion will yield more than personal advancement. We believe that as you become members of our community of scholars, you will soon come to recognize that with the abundant opportunities for self-enrichment provided by the university, there also come responsibilities. A wise man said: "Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another." You are the inheritors of the hard work of your families and the hard work of many countless others who came before you. They built and transmitted the knowledge you will need to succeed. Now it is your turn. What knowledge will you acquire? What passions will you discover? What will you do to build a strong and prosperous future for the generations that will come after you?

我们相信，你们的自我发现之旅和对爱好的寻求带给你们的将不仅仅是个人的进步。我们相信，当你们成为我们的学者群体中的一员时，你们很快就会认识到，大学不仅提供大量自我充实的机会，同时也带来了责任。一位智者说过：“教育代代相传，它就是社会的灵魂。”你们是你们家庭辛勤劳动成果的传承者，也是无数前辈辛勤劳动成果的传承者。他们积累了知识，并把知识传递给你们，而这些知识正是你们取得成功所必需的。现在轮到你们了。你们会获取什么样的知识？你们会发现什么样的兴趣爱好？你们怎样做才能为你们的子孙后代创造一个强大昌盛的未来？

8 We take great pleasure in opening the door to this great step in your journey. We take delight in the many opportunities which you will find, and in the responsibilities that you will carry as citizens of your communities, your country, and the world. Welcome!

我们很高兴能为你们人生旅途中这一重大阶段开启大门。我们很高兴你们将获得许多机会，也很高兴你们将作为社区、国家乃至世界的公民承担起应有的责任。欢迎你们！

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What we wish

我们的期望

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My dear child,

我亲爱的孩子：

1 You are about to participate in the next leg of your journey through life. For us, this part is bittersweet. As you go off to college, exciting new worlds will open up to you. They will inspire and challenge you; you will grow in incredible ways.

你即将踏上人生的下一段旅程。这让我们感到喜忧参半。当你离家、步入大学的校门，激动人心的崭新世界将会展现在你面前。这将带给你鼓舞，也会使你面临挑战；你将获得更大的进步与成长。

2 This is also a moment of sadness. Your departure to college makes it undeniably clear that you are no longer a child. There has been no greater joy than watching you arrive at this moment. You have turned our greatest challenge into our greatest pride. Although we have brought you to this point, it is hard to watch you depart. Remember above all things, we will miss you.

这也是令人伤感的时刻。离家去上大学就明确意味着你不再是个孩子了。没有什么比看到你走到今天这一步更令我们欣喜的了。你曾经是我们最大的挑战，现在却成为我们最大的骄傲。虽然是我们把你带到了这一步，但是看着你离开仍然很不舍。记住，最主要的是，我们会想念你。

3 College will be the most important time of your life. It is here that you will truly discover what learning is about. You often ask, "Why do I need to know this?" I encourage you to stay inquisitive, but remember this: "Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school." What you learn is not as important as the fact that you learn. This is the heart of scholarship: moving from teacher-taught to master-inspired, on over to the point where you become a self-learner. So, take each subject seriously, and if something doesn't immediately engage you, don't despair. Embrace it as a challenge. Find a way to make it your own.

大学将是你人生中最重要的时光。只有在大学里你才会真正发现学习的真谛。你经常会问：“为什么我需要知道这个？”我希望你保持好奇心，但是记住：“教育就是当一个人忘记了在学校所学的一切之后剩下的东西。”你学什么并不如学习本身更重要。做学问的精髓就在于它可以使你从被动学习转向主动学习——直至成为一个真正具有学习能动力的自学者。所以，要认真对待每一门课程。如果某门课不能马上吸引你，不要绝望。把它当作一个挑战来接受它，设法使之成为你自己所喜欢的。

4 Of course, you must still take care to sign up for courses which stimulate your passion and your intellectual capacity. Don't be bound by what other people think. Steve Jobs said, when you are in college, your passion will create many dots, and later in your life you will connect them. So, don't worry too much about what job you will have; don't be too practical. If you like French or Korean, study it even if someone else tells you that it's not useful. Enjoy picking your "dots". Be assured that one day, you will find your own meaningful career, and you will connect a beautiful curve through those dots.

当然，你还必须注意，要选择那些能够激发你的热情、拓展你的智力的课程。不要被别人的想法所左右。史蒂夫·乔布斯曾说过，在大学里，你的激情将会创造出很多个点，以后在生活中你会把这些点连接在一起。所以，不必过多担忧你将来会做什么样的工作，不要太现实。如果你喜欢法语或韩语，就去学，即使别人对你说学这些没用。尽情采集你的那些“点”。要坚信有一天，你会找到你自己的有意义的事业，你会把那些点串连成美丽的曲线。

5 You know that we always want you to do your best, but don't let the pressure of grades get to you. We care only that you try your very best, and that you learn. It is better that your greatest effort earns a lesser grade than that no effort earns you a decent or higher grade. Grades in the end are simply letters fit to give the vain something to boast about, and the lazy something to fear. You are too good to be either. The reward is not the grade but what you learn.

你知道我们总是希望你竭尽全力，但不要让分数的压力困扰你。我们只关心你已经尽了力，并且学到了知识。你尽了最大的努力而分数不高比你没有努力却得了像样的或更高的分数更有意义。分数只不过是虚荣的人用以吹嘘和慵懒的人所恐惧的数字而已。而你既不虚荣，也不慵懒。努力的回报不是分数，而是你所学到的东西。

6 More importantly, make friends and trust others. The friends you make in college can be the best ones you will ever have. During these years, when you move into adulthood, the friends you make in college live closer to you than your family. You will form bonds of friendship that will blossom over many decades. Pick friends who are genuine and sincere. Select a few and become truly close to them. Don't worry about their hobbies, grades, or looks. Instead, trust your instincts when you make new friends. You are a genuine and sincere person; anyone would enjoy your friendship. So be confident, secure, and proactive. If you think you like someone, tell them. You have very little to lose. Don't be afraid to trust. Give others the benefit of the doubt, and don't reduce anyone to stereotypes. Nobody is perfect; as long as others are genuine, trust them and be good to them. They will give back.

更重要的是，要结交朋友并信任他人。大学里结交的朋友可能是你会结交的最好的朋友。在你步入成年的这些年里，你在大学里结交的朋友比家人离你更近。你会结下将绽放几十年的友情。选择坦率真诚的人做朋友。选择几个朋友，真正走近他们。不必计较他们的爱好、成绩或长相。相反，结交新朋友时要相信你的直觉。你是坦率真诚的人，任何人都会喜欢和你做朋友，所以要自信，别害怕，要积极主动。如果你认为自己喜欢某个人，就告诉他。你不会损失什么的。不要害怕去信任别人。即使有所怀疑，也要相信别人，不要对任何人抱有成见。人无完人。只要他们真诚，就信任他们，善待他们。他们会给予回报的。

7 Remember also that your youth is full of strength and beauty, something that you will not comprehend until it is gone. You must guard and cultivate your strength and beauty. A healthy body and a sound mind are the greatest instruments you will ever possess. Enjoy life. Dance if you feel like it. Don’t be afraid of what other people think. But also keep yourself safe and sound. Don’t let the range of new experiences take your innocence, health, or curiosity away from you. Treasure your youth and the university experience before you.

还要记住，你的青春充满力和美，只有到青春逝去时你才能理解这一点。你必须要呵护和培养你的力和美。健康的身体和健全的思想是你将拥有的最大的资本。享受生活吧。想跳舞就跳舞，不用担心别人怎么想。但也要让自己平平安安的。不要让各种各样的新体验带走你的纯真、健康或好奇心。珍惜青春，珍惜你眼前的大学经历吧。

8 College is the time when you have: the first taste of independence, the greatest amount of free time, the most flexibility to change, the lowest cost for making mistakes.

在大学这一段时光里，你会：初尝独立的滋味，拥有最多的自由时光，享有最大的可塑性，承担最低的犯错代价。

9 Approach these years enthusiastically! Make the most of your time. Become the great thinker you were born to be. Let your talents evolve to their fullest potential. Be bold! Experiment! Learn and grow! We are enormously proud that you’ve made it this far, and we can’t wait to see what you will become.

用满腔的热情拥抱大学时光吧！充分利用好你的时间。成为一个你注定会成为的优秀的思考者。使你的聪明才智发挥出最大的潜力。无所畏惧！勇于尝试！坚持学习，并不断成长！我们对于你已经取得的成功深感自豪，我们也迫不及待地盼望看到你未来的成就。

Your father

你的父亲