[Maurice Charles] My name is Maurice Charles and I’m the Dean of Rockefeller Memorial Chapel. The depth of this tragedy demanded that we gather as best we can in person as well as remotely.

In order to keep one another safe, please remember to wear your masks unless you are speaking at the podium and maintain 2 meters distance between households. Thank you so much.

Shall I cry out in anger? Shall I block from my mind the love I have rejoiced in when fate leaves me bereft of shining presences that have lit my way through the years of companionship and affection?

Those I have loved though now beyond my view have given form and quality to my being. They have led me into the wide universe I continue to inhabit and their presence is more real to me than their absence.

These few words from Morris Adler’s longer Yizkor reading encapsulate for all of us the dissonant mix of anger, sadness and heartache the whole community feels after this tragic weekend. Our community has been robbed of Yiran Fan's shining presence. And we feel it whether we knew him or not, but still something of his shining presence that ever-present smile of his remains in the hearts and minds of all who know and love him. So we gather together in the damp and drizzle to throw off the shroud that covers our community. To light the candles and scatter the darkness and to embrace his parents and his loved ones and his mentors and friends with our compassion. And as we do so, I invite you to a moment of silence.

[Moment of silence]

Professor Robert Zimmer is president of the University of Chicago. We welcome him to the podium. Professor Zimmer, President Zimmer.

[Robert Zimmer] Well, thank you all for being here at this very sad and tragic moment for the University of Chicago community or as I often prefer thinking about it as the University of Chicago family. Speaking of family, we are deeply honored to have Yiran Fan's parents with us here for this event. They arrived from China and it is a great honor for us to have them with us and to share with us our collective sorrow at Yiran Fan's -- at our loss of Yiran Fan and, of course, theirs.

So I’ve mentioned family twice and, of course, he was, Yiran was a member of multiple families and sub- families of the University of Chicago not only of the total University of Chicago family but that of the Booth School of Business, that of the Griffin Department of Economics, that of the Department of Mathematics, and of course the family of members of the University of Chicago community from China. And by that, I mean, of course our students here but also parents, alumni and friends both here in the United States and in China and indeed around the world. This is a very important part of our community and a very
important part of our family and I know this has been a deeply felt tragic event for that family. And indeed, he was part of the family of the people of China as a whole and we recognize that this is a loss for that family as well.

One of the things that's been very striking to me over the last few days is that I keep hearing from all these parts of all these different families the same types of things about Yiran Fan. First, that he was such a kind and generous individual. So that we miss him deeply because of the nature of his humanity. And second, that he was an extraordinary student and scholar. And I've heard this from extraordinary scholars who remarked just how much he was able to accomplish and just how much potential he had.

So at this moment, we gather together and again particularly express to his parents, but to all of us the admiration we feel and the celebration of his life and all that he brought to everyone he met. And also, of course, the deep sorrow and mourning that we all feel about this senseless and terrible act of violence that took him from all of us.

So, again I want to express my appreciation to his parents for being here with us and thank you for the honor of having you with us here today.

We will always remember him, remember him for who he was as a wonderful individual and remember him for his talent and accomplishment at several great institutions around the world and in particular here at the University of Chicago. Good evening.

[Maurice Charles] Thank you President Zimmer. Professor Ka Yee Lee is Provost of the University of Chicago. We welcome her to the podium.

[Ka Yee Lee] Today we come together in solemn remembrance of a beloved family member of our community. I join President Zimmer in extending my condolences and deepest sympathy to Yiran's parents and loved ones. Yiran was a student and a scholar of exceptional promise. His pursuit of knowledge took him from Beijing to Cambridge and then to Chicago. When he joined our academic community in 2014 to study in the financial mathematics program. After receiving his Masters degree in 2015, Yiran served as a research professional at the Fama-Miller Center for Research in Finance before joining the joint Ph.D program of the Booth School of Business and the Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics in 2017. His research combined insights from economic dynamics and corporate finance theory to better understand the regulation of financial institutions and markets. And he was well on his way to propose his dissertation later this year.

Yiran reflected the best and brightest of our community and enriched the lives of so many of us during his tenure here. As an exceptional student, a talented scholar, a patient teacher and a caring friend. As a community, our hearts are heavy as we mourn a life cut short in a senseless act of gun violence.

To those of you who are fortunate enough to have known Yiran on campus, we are here to support you in this profoundly sad time. And to Yiran's parents and loved ones-
To the family and friends and colleagues of Fan Yiran and to the University of Chicago community, I'm here to express that we in the Financial Mathematics Program are heartbroken at the passing of our esteemed alumnus. Yiran came to Chicago in 2014 well prepared to enter our Masters program having already completed two Masters degrees in China and in UK. He then proceeded to surpass our highest expectations with his depth, with his well roundedness, with his maturity as a scholar and in countless interactions as a superb collaborator with his project team mates, for instance, or as an exemplary teaching assistant in his subsequent time at the Booth Ph.D. Program. Yiran earned the respect and the affection of our students. As we search now for healing from this tragic loss, one thing I know is that the warmth and joy that Yiran brought into our lives will be remembered and cherished today and forever.

I am Zhiguo He, a finance professor at Chicago Booth. It is with my deepest sorrow and sadness I have come here to share with you some personal stories about Yiran. As one of the most in demand research professionals at the Fama-Miller’s Center, Yiran started working for me in 2016. It quickly become clear that Yiran was very different. There was no need to tell him how to do something. I just needed to let him what I would like him to accomplish. Later that year, he took my second year Ph.D. class co-taught with a Professor Diamond, Professor Douglas Diamond in corporate finance. He deserved an A+, but just because here we usually don’t give A+ so we decided to give him A and now I regret it. And this was even before he started the PhD program in 2017. After seeing his almost impeccable performance, I invited him out for dinner at Chinatown. And we started chatting about his personal life. He told me that he had been trying to do everything he could to get into a top PhD program. Two masters degrees and a two-year pre-doc research program. During this period of his life, Yiran struggled before his admission to the joint PhD program at the Chicago Booth and Economics departments. That part of life now is vividly recounted in a widely circulated article via Yisheng Media in China. Following his sudden and tragic death last Saturday, I just cannot believe it. That part of life showed Yiran has been such a determined and perseverant fighter at almost every moment. While reading that story, I just cannot help shedding my tears. The article also mentioned at one point which I recall he told me once if you only give some effort, success is not necessarily guaranteed. But with great and sustained effort, something will eventually be achieved.
One thing which I am very sure is that Yiran regarded being part of the joint program at the University of Chicago as an achievement to be proud of. I was quite comforted during the last few days as part of my healing process to discover that Yiran actually had a colorful life outside of economics and finance. At least to some more colorful than mine. Later you will hear some stories about his endeavors that have touched many other people. Not only at UChicago, but also at PKU. He's just a talented man in a lot of different aspects. May his talents continue to shine wherever his soul is now. Let’s wish him rest in peace. Thank you.

[Maurice Charles] Lars Hansen is the David Rockefeller Distinguished Service Professor in Economics, Statistic and the Booth School of Business. Professor Hansen.

[Lars Hanson] During this truly sad occasion, I thought I would take the opportunity to give a few of my memories and recollections about Yiran and why he was special. I've known Yiran for about 6 years. During this time, there’s been many memorable interactions. As Zhiguo mentioned, he was a research professional for the Fama-Miller Center and graduate school. He helped -- he worked on a project with my fellow author and not only did he do superb work, he actually pointed to stuff, made us think about the project in a different way and improved the research substantially. This is something you expect from a colleague, who’s an expert in your field, but not from someone who’s yet to start a Ph.D. program.

Of course not surprisingly he also took my Ph.D. course and was a top student. Yiran’s research combined rigor and clarity always with an eye towards deepening our understanding of finance as it impacts economic and social welfare. But here is what I found to be truly unique in a graduate student. Yiran took a very community view towards the advancement of understanding and knowledge. This showed up in many ways.

Yiran was a teaching assistant for many of us, myself included. As a teaching assistant, he really took it upon himself to make sure that he advanced the knowledge of the students. He was always available and anxious to make sure they learned. Subsequent to that, I observed that young researchers and graduate students would gravitate to him to further their own education and understanding. My own research team would consult him freely when puzzled. When he took my classes, I would see students clustering around him after the class, not me to better understand the ideas and concepts. He was the one to be trusted with his deep understanding. He was a coordinator for student workshops and always a very important contributor. Caring for everyone's understanding and insights might be expected of a distinguished faculty member. But it was truly remarkable to see it manifested in so many ways by a graduate student. He accomplished all of this with a quiet and purposeful manner. He was both brilliant and very kind. I often say that excellent graduate students are among my very best colleagues. Yiran certainly has been a treasure in this role. While he will be sorely missed, I want to assure family and close personal friends that he will not be forgotten by those who knew him as a student, a friend and a colleague. To Yiran's parents, you will have to forgive my poor Chinese, but

[Speaking in Mandarin]
Yiran had many friends among his fellow students. We invite to the podium two of them in turn. Lun Li and Katie Tian.

Lun Li: My name is Lun Li and I’m a PhD student at the University of Chicago Department of Economics. Today I want to share with you some of my personal memories about Yiran. It was in September of 2015 and I walked into a Chinese drama club to rehearse for a play. When I walked into the room, I immediately noticed this new director of the play. He talked really fast and passionately. With a very recognizable voice and a great sense of humor, later I learned that the directors name was Yiran Fan and he was a research professional at the Booth School of Business. That was when my friendship with Yiran started. The rehearsals lasted for 3 months. During the rehearsals, I get to learn more about Yiran and found he is really knowledgeable in a lot of areas including literature, philosophy and economics. I really enjoyed talking to him because every time I could learn something new from the conversation. The play was put on stage and it was a great success. After the play, Yiran and I kept in touch. I often come to talk to him outside his office and we would sit down for half an hour and talk about research, life and other things in general. He was always able to provide valuable advice to me when I needed them the most. It was really assuring to know that I have a great friend here on campus who was always supportive and kind whenever I talk to him.

One day Yiran text me and said he got an offer from the joint Ph.D. program in financial economics here at the University of Chicago. I knew how hard he worked for it and I was sincerely excited for my friend. Soon after, Yiran began his Ph.D., he became much busier and a lot happier as well.

We had fewer chances to talk like we used to, but occasionally, we would bump into each other and grab lunch together.

I remember in 2019, I invited a lot of friends to my apartment to celebrate Chinese New Year. We made dumplings at home and Yiran volunteered to cook them. That night, we had dinner, played board games and laughed a lot. Last night I was sitting alone in the same apartment thinking about the great time we had two years ago. I was hit by a sudden wave of sadness when I realized I was not able to talk to my friend anymore. But then I said to myself I was fortunate to have known Yiran for 6 years of my life and I will remember him for the rest of my lifetime. I hope you will remember him as well. Thank you.

Katie Tian: My name is Katie Tian. I am a Booth and BA student from 2020. And I’m a former president of University of Chicago Windmill Chinese Drama Club as LUN Li just mentioned. I was one of the two producers that Yiran had, when he was directing the show No Exit in 2015. Yiran was one of the most talented directors that I have ever worked with in the last 8 years. He studied existentialism in college and in the first e-mail he ever wrote us, he illustrated in depth of his illustration of the existentialism master Jean-Paul Sartre which immediately impressed us and earned him the spot of the director. Yiran had a romantic heart as well as a logical brain. He
liked to express artistic presentation and mathematical terms. For example, he once told the three actors to stand in a perfect 150 degree obtuse isosceles triangle to evoke the tension of the characters. He was extremely patient with everyone in the crew. He knew exactly what he wanted for lighting, music and stage design. He wrote the lyrics of The Sun of Inez in the show and he was always too nice to criticize anyone.

Within the 3 months that I worked closely with him, I learned so much from him and he really brought the quality of our show to the next level. Our show was a success, but soon after that, Yiran became a busy Ph.D. student which I knew was what he always wanted and worked very hard for. I texted him every semester when we were considering a new show for him to direct. He would politely reject me and chat about how he was stressed about this Ph.D. qualifying exam. But whenever he had a chance, he would also come back and help us with auditions or rehearsals.

Last time I met him, it was at Booth Winter Garden. I ran into him and told him we need a director again, we need you back. And he said next time. On behalf of 195 friends at Windmill Drama Club, Yiran, thank you for the fond memories you brought us. We miss you much.

[Music]

One of the most celebrated profits in the United States of America spoke these words: We are tied together in the single garment of destiny caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And what affects one directly affects all indirectly. Today as we honor the life of Yiran, we pause as well to remember all those who share in this tragedy, neighbors from south to north. Anthony Faulkner and Aisha Johnson, a blessed memory. Those who are still recovering from their wounds. In the next few moments of silence, we honor those who have died and pray in your own way for all who mourn.

[Music]

[Maurice Charles] And now as we prepare to go our separate ways and we blow out our candles confident that love can never be extinguished. I encourage you in the days ahead to continue to share stories and to support one another. Should you feel the need, please don't be shy about reaching out to student wellness. If your faculty or staff to perspectives and anyone is welcome to contact us in spiritual life and Rockefeller chapel. This concludes our vigil. Go in peace. Good night.