

Participants:

Xiaoqiao Zhang (interviewee)

Tim Gilmour (Wilkes' 5th President)

Christopher N. Breiseth (Wilkes' 4th president)

Suzanna Calev (Archivist)

CB: Hi Xiaoqiao, how are you?

XZ: Good, how are you? I haven't seen you.

CB: No, and you're not going to see me. I'll get this fixed in a minute. Where will you be returning to in china? Which city will you be living in?

XZ: So I just took a job as the tenure track system professor. Uh, Shanghai, Jiao Tong University. So it is in Shanghai.

CB: And is that where you hoped to go?

XZ: Frankly, I just really want to teach. Last year in 2020 I graduated with my Doctorate at Penn State, and I just wanted to teach so, uh, literally whoever gives me an opportunity to teach I will go for it. This university truly is one of the top universities in China, so I feel very fortunate to have the position that I want and the research I want to do, and the population I want. So far, the transition, they have been really really, like I have been very blessed. But it is going to be interesting for the transition because I have been coming back and saying goodbye to people, so it is going to be interesting. Hello!

TG: Hi there - haha. I'm cheating. I actually just switched to my computer. I have another camera but it's for some reason is, uh, playing games with me this morning.

XZ: We match. I was trying to find something gold and blue.

TG: Well, I knew what you were gonna wear.

CB: Tim, you're golden today.

TG: So Uh, Chris you've started this off, and she's talking about how long she's been there. Uh, did you give her a sense of the context of what we were looking for here?

CB: Oh, uh no I assumed that was in your court.

TG: Out of all of the [Reprobates] we've pulled in to sit the seat that she's uh virtually sitting in -

CB: Why don't you do it

TG: Yeah, let me. And then uh, Chris as our approach goes we will correct and then finally Suzanna will get it right. But we have been interviewing people really essentially, key people in our minds who have played a role in Wilkes History. Um, and in your case, what we are thinking about is, ya know, the role you played in Wilkes. And I don't know if you know whether you are our first full time Chinese student. I would doubt it but you might know. But -

CB: There have been others

TG: There have been others prior to her?

XZ: Yeah. Um [remember **Gene Shui/Shoo**] He is a very reputable business man in Maryland. He was, uh, should be the first one.

CB: Yeah he was, and he is a remarkable human being

TG: So what I think we should do is, to the extent that you know the history of the relationship Xiaoqiao, just talk us through that, and then I think we'd be very interested in the experience that you had at Wilkes.

You know, the good things, and the things you think that we could improve on. And then as you speak, if you don't mind we will ask you some follow up questions. Does that sound good Chris?

CB: That sounds good. And in the process, I certainly want to hear about what your PhD field has been, and what you're going to be prepared to teach when you return to Shanghai. But that can come after we deal with your wilkes -

TG: Well, actually Chris after that we probably need to stop talking since we have this famous person here. The other thing is you really ought to talk to us about the work that you did at Wilkes, but then the work you did, was it, at Lycoming? And then your graduate work at uh Columbia, Penn State, et cetera. And then how you see this coming to fruition for you as you go back to China and your thoughts as you are thinking about looking back at us, and what we'll do in the future.

XZ: Wow, where to begin. So, like, when Chris was asking me about my journey, and then my English and everything I have to say truly, Wilkes changed me. I think eventually I will get emotional through this interview because it is just uh, so many goodbyes and memories, so I will try to stay professional throughout this interview - haha. So first off, like I think it was not on my radar to be honest. So, I'll bring you back to how I got to Wilkes.

TG: Good.

CB: Yes.

XG: So I came over in High school, now i'm in New Jersey. Warren County, New Jersey. I went to a high school called Warren Hills regional high school. And my host family and then my tennis coach, and more than half of my teachers graduated from wilkes. And I just met with my ESL teacher because my English was more like "Ch-english" back then. So I had my ESL teacher and her son play for Wilkes, to play football. And then later on when I was applying he was the assistant coach there for football. So, with all of these histories I would be hearing about Wilkes, but as an international student, because we are bringing international student component, for us the United States is New York City, like France, like New York, like Central Park, so that's all I know. And in Home Alone, like New York City. So I did not think about anywhere else, but New York City. So I applied to St. John, Pace, NYU. So at the time I was like, I'm going to the city because that's the United States of America to me. So uh, it came around February because as an international student, besides SAT, like in 2005, there's not a lot of, like today, there's a lot of international students and everyone's going to different countries to recruit, it's all about a guessing game. I didn't even know what SAT meant. I thought it was a required exam for high school. So I signed up to take it without knowing it's a college entry exam. So I did all of that, and I was like "why is this taking forever, it's like 4 hours and I'm still taking it!" And then people said you also have to take an exam called TOEFL. Again, I don't know what that is. So, because I didn't know and there's only limited spaces to take the exam at that time, there was one test center in Clarks Summit at the time. And because my host family lives here and they have 3 children, they can't just take me for an exam, which is also 4 hours long. So my ESL teacher, Mrs Morales, said "I will take you, but the one deal we're gonna make is we are going to stop by and see my son at Wilkes University." And I was like "Oh my gosh, this Wilkes University everybody talks about." So well, I need a ride, so I will go. So I took the exam, she took me there, and then Julian Morales was the person, the first time, who greeted me and he was like "Okay, let me show you around campus." like okay. And then I walked around campus, but I went to a lot of different campuses and I don't feel like I'm anybody there. Literally you go in this group and then you're lost, and then my English was like meh. So he took me, and the first move is the personal touch, that's the first one. And then he, at the time, he gave me a paper application - I still remember you fold it open and it's like a tri-fold. And he said "Just fill it out, like it's no hurt. If you apply there nothing wrong, you just

get in or not, just try it out.” So I fill it out, but then there's this lingering feeling there and everyone talks about it. And I get home and everyone is like “How’s Wilkes, do you like it?” Like, why does everybody like it so much? And then my tennis coach said there's a really good tennis team, and I played tennis here as well, in high school I was their number one. And he said “My number one boys player played there, and he loved the coach. If you want I can take you back. Let's get a real, official campus visit and you can talk to the tennis coach there, because tennis is very important to me. So, I scheduled the official one to go over. And that visit was like the VIP level. At the time the vice president, Mr. Mike France, I still remember he was there, and he was like “I am personally going to take you on a tour.

TG: No kidding.

XZ: Cause like, in China, Chinese culture hierarchy and everything you're thinking you are a nobody, like you're just a high school student, who barely speaks any English, and this vice president for the whole university is showing you around. And I still remember, everywhere I go people greet you, like “Where are you from?” They want to know my story, they want to talk to me, and with the limited English I had, people were so patient with me. People were asking me, “Are you applying for pharmacy?” I didn't know what the word pharmacy meant! I thought it was like farming, so I'm like “No, I'm not a farmer! I want to be a TV reporter.” And nobody corrected me either. I just felt so right, and I didn't get it when people were like “When you get on campus, you know it's your place.” I didn't understand what that meant until I went to Wilkes. After that I met with my tennis coach, coach Chris Light, and not only did he show me around, he brought his whole family. He had his two year old daughter there, she said “I hope you come next fall.” And I'm like, “Uh oh, if I promise a 2 year old I need to keep my promise!” So I came home that evening, I still remember, and I called my parents. My parents are like Dr. Gilmour, you know, they are both academic, and they are very big into my education. So I basically applied to Wilkes in February, got accepted in March, visited in March, not even a month and I've been telling them all along that I want to be a lawyer and go to New York. Then I called them and said “I'm going to Wilkes University.” and they were like, “Where?!” I said, “I'm going to a school in Pennsylvania called Wilkes University.” and they were like, “Okay...why” and I just said “Because I feel wanted, and I feel safe.” and then my father said “Well you feel safe, and that word itself, it's done.” And since that moment they would 100% back me up. Which, a lot of Chinese families, it's like, oh I want my kid to go to an Ivy league school or a name school, but my parents said “well she's happy there and she feels safe and that's what's important.” So, that's my long journey of how I, so I just always felt like it was meant to be to be there.

TG: I'm so glad we got that, I didn't know that whole story. That's tremendous!

CB: Beautiful!

XZ: Yes.

TG: You were going to get emotional - haha.

CB: So what was it like when you arrived?

XZ: I will never forget it was like May 1st, no it was before May 1st, it was accepted students day. And I remember, cause I'm very, not aggressive, but I'm very talkative and I like to be involved. So, at the TV station, because I was a communications major. I didn't know you could not be a lawyer in undergrad, so I had to pick another major, so I picked communications, and we went down to the studio and, uh, the professor was like “Who wanted to try it out?” And so I raised my hand, and he let me, and I saw some of my videos, my “Ch-english” was like [Rocky? 00:13:44], like I don't even understand myself, but people were so open and welcoming, and loving. And I was like “This is great!” Looking back, that was not great at all but like they were so encouraging and it's just the whole dynamic. Then I met with another tennis

player. So, that's for accepted students day. So for the athletes, we came back. Actually, my research is about international student acculturation. I really felt like I never did have to acculturate, because I already had a very nurturing culture for me to get into already. Like, when I was in high school, my host family was amazingly loving. My high school, even though I was the only international student, only Asian, everyone, I never felt awkward. I was so encouraged. When I went to Wilkes, 1 week prior, all athletes came together, and then they wanted to learn Chinese names and how to pronounce each other's names. They wanted me to write everyone's names on their t-shirt. I just felt, and my RA's, when people are already in this nurturing space where I can be who I am. they encouraged me to come out, the part that I probably didn't even think of, like the confidence, and I wanted to share about my culture in a way. Because in China, we are the majority, I didn't need to share my culture. But here I felt I am an ambassador, I need to tell others about my culture and all of that. Also, I think sports really helped me. Being the number one single the first year, and playing well. With sports, I don't really need to worry about my language skills. As long as I beat them, they respect me [laughing]. I will never forget that you play, and then more people know, like the Beacon would write about us. And we live on the same floor, people will come over, congratulate us, and they would put stickers on my door. Also, president Gilmore came for my matches, Dean Adams at the time would come to my matches, and all my faculty - because I was a lot tinier at the time - would be like "what is this little tiny girl going to do on the court." And the faculty would come, and then the next week they would be like "Nobody mess around with her, she's serious and hardcore." And I don't have my true family, like my birth parents at my match, but I had enough people who had my back. So I was always going crazy on the court when people cheered me on and everything. Yeah, it was a smooth transition because of my tennis team, and the people who, the faculty and everyone, just cared.

TG: So, talk to us about the academic part of your time at Wilkes.

XZ: So my advisor was [Dr. Evie Eswick, and I had the whole communications department was just phenomenal. And frankly, I didn't know that in a way, in the US academics you have like the liberal arts curriculum, you have to learn other things even though that's not your major. And I just remember like, Dr. Guard, like I remember so many professors who taught me. Regardless, like they are so down to earth, and also at the same time so applicable. It's not only like, and they're willing to meet with you outside of the classroom. Communications was my major but it's very challenging because it is my second language. I have to write a story in it, I have to talk, especially because I have my own TV show, I am trying to improve. So I remember everyone was like "Record yourself, using a tape recorder." You say it, and you record yourself, and you listen. SO they take the time outside of their classroom to train you. If you ask for help, they are there. Like Jean, she gave us all of the opportunities, she would do PR. Students are terrified to see me during the salvation army. Like during Christmas, I don't just ring the bell for them to give me change, I actually go up to them and say "I know you have cash in your wallet!" So, I just feel so safe and encouraged. Like, nobody will shut you off. If I say "Ch-english" or like, they don't understand, they won't give me a weird look or anything. I later went to grad school and to get a PhD, and when I heard more and more of those stories it was very foreign to me. I was like, "What do you mean the students will just call on you, or what do you mean by faculty being like 'I don't know what you're talking about.'" That just never happened to me. In a way, I really felt like the faculty at Wilkes really challenged us too, it's not just like we are going to be nice to you. Oh, I'll never forget my faculty - I forgot his last name - my first English professor, he gave me a B. Asian like like A's, so I was like I tried really really hard, and he gave me a B for my freshman year. I was like "Oh no!" He said "You always have room to improve." So senior year I took his higher level course. I didn't want to take his course

because I knew he was tough, but he's the only one I can take, So I took it. In the end he gave me an A+, and there's no A+ but he put a plus next to it and said "Now you've been trained well." [all laughing] I was so thankful, I felt like it came full circle. If he gave an easy A, which clearly I read my papers and there's nothing of it, but um, they challenge you but they make sure that if you need help they are there. Academically I felt, then later on I went to NYU and Columbia and it's because I felt I am very prepared for my next stage.

TG: Um, you were involved in the Student Government as well, right?

XZ: Not Student Government, it was the multicultural student club. So, we started it. I started that with [Dr. Evie Eswick?] That was my freshman year. And then because I am so dying to tell people about Chinese culture and the new year, she took me to the Student Government to go in front of the team to ask for money to host this ChInese New Year. I still remember, I never cooked, like I just assumed because I don't cook. In China we eat in the cafeteria. So I asked for two hundred dollars, and we had more than 120 students show up. So we were not able to feed everybody and I was trying to teach everybody how to make dumplings, and I was so thankful the local chinese food company was nice they donated dishes that evening so that we could feed everybody. People were asking me what are those fortune things, what are the dumplings, and then students just showed up for all of those different events.

CB: Was that Eric Lee who helped you?

XZ: Uh, no, but he is actually very known in the Kingston area. He did a lot for Wyoming Seminary actually. But at the time it was a restaurant up in Mountain Top. So their son, he's American Chinese. So he came to Wilkes. He didn't finish, but he was a chemistry student. So there's only a handful of us. There's me, [Wei, Yung]. So there's 3 of us, technically, Chinese international students. Me and [Wei], we graduated together. But [Yung] I think he transferred. And the other one, [Hanlin], he actually graduated from Mountain Top High School, so his family helped for that particular dinner.

TG: So, did you become an RA?

XZ: That's something I was upset with at the Wilkes Experience. I applied right away. I will never forget they asked me in the interview, "If you see people drinking, what are you going to do?" I said "I will go up and talk to them, I will give them a chance and tell them don't do it." So I got waitlisted. They were like, "You are supposed to say you're going to write them up!" and I said "No, like, RAs are nice." and they said "You don't do that in your interview." So I never got the RA position. [laughing] I will forget my interview.

TG: I wish I knew that, that would've been my answer! [laughing]

XZ: I said, "We'll talk to them, we'll give them a chance" and they were just like "No, don't give them a chance!"

CB: This is probably something we should wait until later to ask , but I'm very interested in what you think you're taking back to China and to the University in Shanghai that you see as being characteristically American, Wilkes style?. What do you see yourself doing back in Shanghai that is profoundly influenced by this wonderful experience you've described at Wilkes?

XZ: I think, what I've learned, especially since it's been a long time academically, directly what I learned the details I don't remember, but the school spirit, the characteristics of people. Especially since I am going to teach k-12 teachers, and it's frankly and also under the current dynamic, because my focus is working with international students coming to the US, for me to go back to Shanghai, it's going to prepare them before they go abroad. Also, for people like myself, half of my life abroad, how to acculturate or transition back to our home country. So what I really felt Wilkes impacted was curiosity. Like, people are curious enough to want to be with one another, and want to talk and learn from one

another. No one directly jumped to conclusions or assumed or accused. They are always curious and open about their mind, about their - it's just hard to explain. Like, whenever you talk, they don't just jump to conclusions. So that's one. And then second is also kindness really, for one another. Like, you can, I will never forget high school was a good transition for me, like I had a year of high school here. But challenging your advisor or your professor is not in our core, at least not what I grew up with in China. You don't challenge your authority, but here faculty is like "If you don't think it makes sense, just challenge me." And so I told my family all of my debate skills - I was on the debate team - all of my debate skills were learned from Wilkes because you don't have to be angry. If there is any topic where you can show both sides. I understand through my journey that you don't need to agree with one another for certain things, but because you care and are kind, there can be different opinions on the same thing throughout the world and with different people. So that's what I learned. That with kindness, you can have a normal conversation or any type of conversation. And third, I am all for liberal arts education, because when I was recruiting for Wilkes I would tell students you don't need to be an artist to take an art class. But what the classes are teaching you is the basic understanding and respect, like you have some basic knowledge that you can understand. Frankly, I would really like to teach a class like American sports 101 or something, I did a short little video before the superbowl for international students because you need to know what a touchdown is, what 10 yards, 20 yards, defense is. Otherwise, you throw all of those international students into a superbowl party, want them to understand the culture, meanwhile we don't understand why this person is hitting that person and not getting a foul. So, all of those little soft skills I was very invisibly taught because I played sports, because I had friends and classmates who could tell me those things. I had a whole class to evaluate a commercial during halftime, so you understand the culture because sometimes there is invisible, informal and non-formal learning throughout. And I think those stay with me a lot longer than the formal side of academics.

CB: Tell me something about your analysis of superbowl commercials

[all laughing]

XZ: We actually have a comparison between. Like we always - Jeans class for PR we have to watch the whole thing, and say which one we liked and why. And so you don't know those 10, 30 seconds can be worth millions of dollars. I analyzed the Godaddy website, and the whole time I'm like "This does not make sense." And I'm very traditional, so I was like "This is so not appropriate!" Like those ladies just jumping, but it brings your curiosity because you're really curious about what the website is doing, when it's actually just a website company. But, Geico for example does not make sense! But you remember all of these nonsense commercials really well. Like, "Marco! Polo!" It just gets you. From a PR standpoint it gets you because then you google what that is, and you get your money's worth. But in a way, it is not so called traditional in my opinion, like the way I was brought up.

TG: So, uh, I don't know if you want to talk about the tour of China you gave to a Wilkes President who would have been totally lost without you.

XZ: So, some of it lets be off record, because we have our Wilkes president here. But I have to say, we need an exchange like this. So first off, we went first as a Junior. Just because Dr. Gilmour is here, I'm putting him on the spot, but a lot of us as international students - I'm lucky I have a host family - but many of us don't have any family here. So as I was saying the superbowl as a culture, holidays are another culture. So for a collectivist culture we have, families are really important. So for lunar new year, our school was always willing to give us space. For the SUB on the second floor we were always able to have a space to celebrate and other students can come. But at the same time, like for thanksgiving for example we have like this week long, or like I don't remember now how many days we have off, but like

in the past there's not a lot of - even now - not a lot of international students on campus. And then we can't live on campus sometimes, so you have to go places. And then frankly that is family gathering time, so for people who don't have a family it is very sad. So Dr. Gilmour actually opened his home for international students. They're brave to host us! And they bake the turkey and get all of the food and then they will tell us about Thanksgiving and the traditional dishes. For us to even be united to a president's house is like up there, it's off the charts for our history. It's just amazing. And for me, when I felt more honored is when he asked me about visiting China. I was only a junior, and for a president and his family to give me such responsibility is an honor because they have to trust you fully. I will never forget - president Gilmour, I don't know if you will remember this - but I was translating for him during the meeting as a junior in undergrad, and then afterwards I was like "Sir, I can translate whatever, but I might say something really wrong." And he said, "But I trust you." and that word itself means a million dollars. That's another thing for people, I think trust is so hard to gain these days. So having a person and their whole family trust you fully to a brand new country, and I didn't take him to Shanghai or Beijing, we went to local cities to find the right match for our university. Literally there's not a lot of people, if any people, who could speak English. They trust you fully, and what I really respect from President Gilmour at the time, or president at the time, is that he took in and he respected our culture as well. This is off record - so for Chinese culture, people have to show each other respect by drinking. He gave FULL respect by the university president. [all laughing] So we'll leave it at that.

CB: I am relieved.

TG: You recall that after the lunch that we had, which was enough of an exercise, your mother who had significant responsibilities at the university we were visiting next informed the leadership group that they were to go easy on me I think. And it was still pretty hard, but I think they did dial it back a little bit on her direction.

XZ: It's just - like - because I could see the meeting going awfully wrong, like "No, I'm not doing it." But instead he was like "Okay, I will try it." And then like, with, class and with amazing manners. Literally like a general, as a colonel, he showed what a colonel can do on the road! So it was definitely mutual respect, because for people to do business, they have to trust you in order for them to send students and sign the contract. So, it just felt like that is the perfect example of how we should build relationships between people, between countries, between cultures, is we don't have to fully understand but we have basic respect and we communicate. So that trip went really well, not just because we know people. Also truly the president at the time just showed class, and what colonels should be.

TG: We should talk a little bit about your family, because they were so gracious throughout. But, uh, we really came to love your mother and father.

XZ: Yeah so I feel like that's what Wilkes, that's like the school spirit part I was talking about. I felt like in a way, just like my host family here, Wilkes or in general some university school spirits are so strong because once one person is hooked, the whole family is hooked. Like, my parents have never even been here and they just listen to me talking about it and my experience, and it's just because of what I believe, what one student believes and also it's what truly the school is giving them an opportunity. That is still - I will never forget - my father, because I worked for Wilkes I could purchase some of the Wilkes Admissions t-shirts, he still wears those polo t-shirts everywhere. And I'm like "Okay, you can help us recruit!" It just, my family always says that they will always be an ambassador for Wilkes because of what I was given. I would never be where I am today without Wilkes, ever. And also I remember when I was applying for graduate school, online I googled other people looking for recommendation letters, and all of the other people would have to write it out and then the faculty would sign it. Then I asked my

faculty, and asked president Gilmour, and at the time asked our provost Dr. Ronald, and he said “Where do you want to go?” and I said, “My dream is I want to go to Columbia.” “Okay, I graduated from Columbia, I’ll drive you and go see my alumni there.” It’s like, it’s not about a student, it’s about that you’re a part of this family, that people will go above and beyond their way to help you. And on my recommendation letter, my faculty was like “Tell me which school, and we are going to write your letter geared towards that school.” So every letter they wrote was geared towards that place.

TG: Yeah, yeah.

XZ: And so for that, my parents - because both of them are academic and they all work in university - they always share those stories. And he, at my graduation, President Gilmour gave me a hug. My dad was sharing that with everyone. He was like, “Not only do they see you as a student, they see you as family.” So this culture - and also I think, at least in general, it’s always like word of mouth and trust. So for people to share and then like the story is consistent, because I was told when I was here in high school that I went through it and I’m going to tell other students, and we - and since I left, Wilkes has had more international students, and other students will say the same thing. So it’s not just that one person had a special experience, it’s truly all of the classes have this culture, being colonel. I can’t really recall a lot of our school spirit things right away because it’s just in our blood now.

TG: That’s great. I can’t resist telling one story about you, and you can correct it. But when we were in China I think we were talking to the nursing faculty, and of course you were translating for me. After the session, and I don’t know where we were, whether we were still in the building or we left, and I said to you “I forgot to say...” and I can’t remember what it was but you were like “Oh no I got that in the translation.”

[all laughing]

XZ: I translated it because I booked him really solid, because he couldn’t leave Wilkes for long too. So we worked, like you hear at lunch we were still working, in the afternoons we still had meetings, so we booked it really tight. There’s not really anytime to breathe, even. So, I would just be translating the same thing a couple times by then, so I was like “Oh, he forgot that part. I’m just gonna fill it in.” [laughing]

TG: That’s a translation, Chris.

CB: That’s support.

TG: Yeah, so lets, is there anything Chris that you want to talk more about with Wilkes? I think we should, uh, take some of this video and put it together.

CB: This is our new admissions video!

TG: Yeah. It’s incredible.

CB: Not just for the students, but for the faculty.

TG: Yeah I think the faculty should really -

CB: I think Greg Cant should see this as well.

TG: Yeah.

CB: It tells him about our project, but also an example of Wilkes student interactions with the institution at its best. Um, this has been so positive and my eyes have not been dry through the whole thing. Let’s take a tough topic, which I think you are going to be asked about when you get home, and that is some of the anti-Asian feeling that has been generated since the whole pandemic. How have you experienced that, and how do you feel empowered to interpret that to your friends back in China?

XZ: Yeah, so this topic is harder for me because I did experience it. But thankfully, unfortunately it happened to me about 2 years ago when the pandemic had just happened. It was very foreign. Like I said, many times there’s a lot of people explaining and talking to me about experiences, and I would not be

able to process it. Like in the past I regret it very much. I apologized to some of my students. She was like "Are you sure?" Like that is not the right answer when they come to you and say "So and so screamed at me in the cafeteria." I said "Are you sure you understood her?" So, I got yelled at in the supermarket because I was wearing a mask, but like I think those are no new news for the last year and a half. So, it was very, like, my dissertation is about generations of Chinese international students studying in the US. So I traced back to the early 1980s when the door just opened for Chinese students, for the People's Republic of China. Because, the Ching dynasty, like way back then we did have students. But frankly, in a way, many institutions or many societies are going backwards. Like, uh, when I was interviewing when they just got here, my participant would share that out of nowhere they were out on the street - because they were up on the hill and then they had to walk back and forth - and a domestic student saw it and brought a bike to him one day. He said "I keep seeing you walking, I want to give you my bike." And he was like "Oh my god." And, all of this kindness. People would invite them over to Thanksgiving, to Christmas, and also for me I didn't know anyone when I came over in high school. I don't even know where I am in New Jersey. I don't even know New Jersey because I only know New York City on TV. And I never had a moment in my mind, like, "This might not be a good idea to go to another country by myself." But now frankly, I'm going to think 3 times more than - so - just recently because I'm doing this "thank you" trip for people, so I want to go back to New York because I really love it, and go back to my alma mater. And my host family was concerned, they were like "I don't feel comfortable with you going to the city by yourself, why don't we go with you. And we don't want you to go alone at night so please go in the daylight." I've never had such a conversation with them. I went to New York for school and no one ever even worried a second about my safety, and now everyone is. Like when I was in Boston people called me - talking about Wilkes - when the Atlanta shooting happened my RA, he was my RA for one year but he was my freshman year RA. He facebooked me, and it has been about 10 years or 12 years since we had talked, and he sent me a picture of the little fortune thing I gave to him my first year, he said "You're valued." Oh, I get so emotional. "You are loved here, and we are really happy you came to Wilkes." And, just like, we need people like that right now.

TG: Thanks for that answer. I had a hint of it the last time we talked, or corresponded, I'm not sure which. But, um, you know I think we all feel terrible about where we are, where the world is, and the amount of hate that seems to -

XZ: Yeah, and also, I really wish I was able to tell faculties. Because they actually, because of my research, faculty actually has a huge part to play on students and self belonging on campus. Academically, we proved it. So, please, for faculty members, don't ask their Chinese or Asian students where COVID came from. Like, we have so many people like, "No, no, no, we're just coming at it with love!" That is not okay. Like, I have so many of my students and interns, they don't know how to react to it, they don't know how to answer it. And frankly they're coming here to learn. There's so many faculty and students, and they did not mean to accuse students, but the way they are asking, no one truly is equipped to answer this question, no one is. And then they ask "what's it really like?" and the students are like "Oh, I'm fine, at home it's all good." and they're like "No, no, no, what is it REALLY like to study in China?" So, things like that. And also, directly talking to my Korean student for example, just directly asking about Chinese culture and she's like "I'm from Korea, I don't understand." So I feel like there is a lot of uncertainty, and a lot of questions, and we never stopped asking questions and that's okay. But faculty really has a huge part, and they need to protect those students as well if we want to continue to have international students coming. In general, it's not just Asian international students. Like, in general we cannot just make assumptions, or directly ask. Like sometimes, there is a class debate, there's one

student from this country that's not me, the students are not equipped to know everything about the country, about every culture. So, it's really important for faculty to nourish a space where students are comfortable to share whatever they know, and comfortable to explore whatever they don't know. Never just directly assume or accuse them in a way to answer questions.

CB: Have you ever met Jean Chu?

XZ: Which one?

CB: The first Chinese student to come.

XZ: Yes, yes. Absolutely, yes. When we were recruiting I actually met him. And then he sent his - [Simon Chu], his nephew over to Wilkes. That tells you right away - like he told his nephew when he was born or something that someday you're going to go to Wilkes. He is a huge Wilkes alumni, yes.

CB: He was, he came because Joe Wendel, who was one of our great trustees, was with [Ingrishall Rand], and he worked in China. And when he was there he got to know Jean Chu's family, and insisted that Jean come to Wilkes. Jean was in my office when I was president, frequently. And I have a hard time telling this without being teary myself. I have never met a person who believed in the American Constitution more than Jean Chu. He knew it backwards and forwards, and thought it was one of the magic documents of human history. And he said all of this unaffectedly, but with sincerity. And this was a time when we were just beginning to have relations with the People Republic. Um, so, it meant a great amount, and we are very much still in touch. He is a very successful businessman with granite kitchen tops, and related projects. He is a remarkable ambassador for China, but is now an American and is a Wilkes Ambassador. I doubt that there is anyone until you that is more effective.

XZ: Thank you.

TG: So, Xiaoqiao, I don't know how much time you want to spend on it or what your timeline is, but I think they would be interested in hearing what you did after you left Wilkes. We know that you worked in the admissions office and so on, but from there, Chris do you have an understanding of what she did for Wilkes? Maybe we ought to share that.

CB: I think a little more, tell a bit more, because it's so rich.

XZ: So I was hired and recruited by the president at the time to actually start to recruit international students, because as you can tell, truly, like I am sweating over here talking about Wilkes because I love it so much. So, to be the ambassador to recruit students like myself, I get to travel to different places, even to different countries. We would go to consulates, and also to embassies, and also for Stockholm for example, the scholarship fund for Saudi Arabian students. So, when I left there were like very healthy, almost like 200 international students from I believe 30-something different countries at Wilkes. So I did a lot of recruitment, and then I got recruited by Lycoming after. Just curious because I bleed Wilkes blue and gold, so I wonder if I go to another school, but still blue and gold actually, if I go to another school if I would still be able to do what I do. So I took on the challenge and went to Lycoming. And then on the street, like on the road when we were recruiting, more and more people started talking about their international students experience. I started hearing students having conversations about concerns about safety and all of that, and I don't get why. So I'm like "Okay, I don't have enough knowledge on it, so let me go back to school to look for the answer." But instead I went back and looked for another hundred questions during my PhD. But it just - at first I wanted to work and develop a program for parents because I truly believe international students should be considered as first generation students in the US as well, because many international students' parents never came to the US, never finished a degree in the US. So finishing a degree in China, Korea, Vietnam, or Saudi Arabia, it's very different from completing a 4 year college here. For example, they said "Twin extra long sheets." What does that even mean? Like why twin

XL? And parents cannot even tell the students. So I thought, “Well, I’m going to develop a program to reeducate parents to support their students.” But the longer I realize that, “Okay, I can’t cover everybody.” But I’ve been working for institutions and I realize truly institutions - like I have a host family. But most of us, if we don’t have a host family, the university, the high school, the graduate school, the department, is our home. The second home here, because the university is holding onto our visa and everything too. So they are really responsible, like our legal guardians, quote on quote, in the US. So we have such a big role in it. And then, like, I would make an argument that frankly many international students are full pay. We should have more additional staff to support them because it’s not fair in a way to put it all on faculty either. Because, in the past maybe the class size was 5, 10, 15. Now we’re having 50 students in the classroom. If the faculty is teaching, it’s not fair for them to be paying attention on one on one either. So, it should be a group effort, and especially with the current dynamic we need to rebuild this trust. Like, I always say that trust and also kindness to one another to want to be curious and empathetic, to communicate and understand. So, my paper changed towards, especially since I finished my dissertation during COVID with so many things going on. I just wrote towards like, what universities should do next, and what other steps they should do next if they still want to have international students coming up. A lot of people are asking me lately, like, do I see that international students are going to have a tremendous loss? Frankly, within the next 5 years I really don’t think so, because the education here people really believe it. Believe the value of it, believe the quality of it too. But if the dynamic continues, like, say, in 10 years, truly more and more student, if not more than half, or even more, are going to reconsider their decision because it’s not worth it at the end of the day to live in fear, or to live in so much hate in a way just to get a degree and an education. And this is truly not American education. American education didn’t teach you to point fingers, and to say who’s fault it is. It’s all about understanding, and also like I said, to be able to have different ideas, different beliefs, and still be able to work under the same roof and work together.

CB: we’re meeting on Juneteenth, our first day of the new national holiday. What are some of your thoughts on America’s racial dynamic as you think about interpreting America back to your home country?

XZ: Whew! How long do we have? [laughing] It’s truly first I have to say racial recognition was very foreign to me until I came to the US, because race is not - this could just be me- but a lot of international students, we’re not educated on race. Like we understand majority and minority, but for us in Chinese culture when we differentiate these, we have 50 minority groups, and these actually we treasure and we value the fact that they have their own language, and their own music and jewelry and outfits. That’s the way we understand minorities, not the way we talk about minorities here in terms of numbers and everything. So, translation is a little bit off. At the same time a lot of culture for international students can be lost in translation. Second, is like, because we are not educated enough, we got thrown into it, especially recently. Like, years ago when I came, for my application I had to fill out in there it said like “black, white, asian.” And I was like “I thought we would have a category as a color too but I don’t get a color, so I don’t get which box I’m supposed to fill out.” It’s very foreign, so I felt like, that’s one of my arguments in the paper is the fact that, in terms of how I feel about the current dynamic, I don’t feel like I’m equipped, even though I did so many webinars so far to like, let’s learn together, let’s talk together. I don’t think I have enough tools, like language tools in my box to make it a good, like articulate myself well enough in terms of how I feel. Like, I can be emotional about it and say “No, everyone should love each other, it doesn’t matter.” But like, that’s not, I can be an advocate but I can’t really elaborate in the way that I want to. And in a way - I’m sorry for the clock - in a way, I also wish that school, regardless it

doesn't just have to be university because more and more kids are coming earlier now, is lets have some class to teach, and provide, and not just assume that somehow - if we have classes to teach how to do a citation properly, or if we have classes to do A, B, and C, why can't we have something to teach like, just bring the basics. At least not be thrown into a classroom or thrown into a conversation, that's like, what is it. So, I think in terms of, sorry I don't think I answered the question really well, but I don't think I can elaborate myself in a way better, but I have to say from a personal point of view, and a personal experience, I have never felt, in a way, I think both ways, it is like so fragile. I think people are so fragile right now. There's sensitive words, anything you say is like a buzzword, that you get worried, to the point that people can't really have a calm conversation anymore. And like we elaborate right away to race, and it's very difficult. Like, how to be so called, P.C. [Politically Correct]

CB: I would just say, as someone who has spent a fair amount of time on understanding our race history, that for all of the turmoil we are going through right now, we are making tremendous progress. That there is more honesty coming from, certainly from the black community on what our history has been and we want the rest of the culture to know what we've gone through. If you watch the campaign for mayor in New York City every candidate is having to address how he or she is going to provide leadership to bring us together and improve the quality of life for everyone. Students, every student in school should be given the same kind of support. My own daughter has started at a charter school in southwest Baltimore, which is 98% African American, and it's her 17th year, and she is committed to providing a first grade education to kids that are low income African Americans, and it's challenging but that sort of thing is happening all over the country. So in the midst of what are some awfully discouraging examples of hate, which are everywhere, there is also some real emergence of political power by the African American community that is going to, within our system, the way it has worked throughout our history, is going to bring some balance and some new equity for everybody. Including Native Americans, who were in many ways the first victims of the European invasion, if you will. So as you interpret us to, um, your fellow Chinese, I think one thought that I would have you think about is that we are going through a very dynamic period of learning to deal with each other in terms of our separate cultural roots, and our separate cultural experiences. And that while we are all fragile, all of us are fragile at the moment, it was a necessary stage to go through to right the wrongs that are very deep, and very long standing. So, we are coming to a new plateau which I think you are going to see in the next 3 years, that is going to put us in a much better place.

XZ: That's really good.

TG: We can certainly hope. Um, so Xiaoqiao I really appreciate that answer by the way, and the honesty that was given. I thought that you did answer the question very well, so thank you so much for that. Is there anything that you wanted to say about your graduate work beyond - you went to Columbia and then I think you ended up going to - maybe what you should do is take us from, and you did social work there, right?

XZ: Mmhmm. So I started at NYU, I wanted to be a social worker.

TG: Oh, that's right.

XZ: I started at NYU because they gave me a really good scholarship. Also because I thought I wanted to work one on one, and I wanted to work with immigrant children because I've just loved children, always. So, but then after a year working in school I realized I can't work one on one, I get more emotional than they are, and that's not helpful for them. So, for Columbia they have the social enterprise and administration track, so I wanted to do fundraising, and I wanted to write policies, and I wanted to work with programming to directly help students. And frankly, if I may add to my answer before, I think media,

as a communications major, media has such a role from now on to rebuild. Because the story like your daughter is doing, and stories as people like, we need more positivity. I don't even read the news, I don't even watch the news anymore because it is all about extreme cases. Like, no one is talking about, no soft news is talking about someone doing a good job. Or, someone is, the school is doing a wonderful job together. Like, no, it's all about hate, it's about like, someone else got beat up. I got really terrified because, being in quarantine at home you read the news and it's like, so and so got beat up here, so and so got beat up there. I'm not going outside anymore! But then like, you cannot live in fear either. So, media has such a big role, and that's another reason why for graduate school I wanted to create programs. And then, frankly I got into mental health because, so, after my masters I got a job for Higher Ed[ucation] In the beginning I wanted to work for the United Nations, Unicef, to work with children, to bring aid to help out with education, and I'm actually huge on sports with education as well. Like, how sports can help you with like, resilience and teamwork, so I wanted to do that. But then it took me to Higher Edu[cation] instead and working with students like myself, which is really, really empowering. But, as I work more towards my dissertation, it geared much more towards mental health. And besides the trust and how much more fragile people are now, and this invisible fear, the post COVID mental health is going to be very important. And from a person who cares about children, I really think there's going to be a lot of side effects, more side effects for those children, like I didn't interact with people on Zoom the whole time, if this is the norm what is going to happen? Also, sometimes I'm a little bit frustrated because I'm conflicted within myself. Like, I want kids, if I have children, or my students, I want them to understand and love and have the conversation. But at the same time, I wonder when is the right time and how old are they for us to have certain talks about race, or bisexuality, or like when is the right time to give them enough knowledge. Right now I am not knowledgeable enough to know that, but I just felt like an adult can be overwhelmed. Right now with social media, and technology everyday I am overwhelmed with negative news and everything. Like, I just need to shut it and to be quiet. The kids cannot control their mind to shut off certain news, and what is impacting them. So I just feel conflicted. How much are we able to, or how much should we do and when should we do it to support our students and kids in the future.

CB: Can I ask a kind of educational question? Give your reaction or your evaluation of graduate education in America since you've tested several institutions, as compared to undergraduate education at Wilkes.

XZ: So I have to say that's actually out of my, I didn't publish yet, it's in the manuscript. Graduate programs actually, this pandemic, the students who are here only for our graduate programs have a higher level of anxiety compared to students here for a four year undergrad or PhD. Because, frankly, acculturation is a big topic for international education. You need time to acculturate. Some of the graduate programs are only a year. I can be brutally honest and I think the institution can agree, it's a money driven project to have a year. You cannot get your feet wet for a culture to get there for a year, because it's very expensive too. Like, we have many graduate programs for a short term, a year or two. Most of them are now a year. And the first semester they are acculturating, they are getting used to the language, getting used to the professor and faculty. The second semester as international students we apply to OPT, optional practice training, for a year or three years it depends on your major. Uh, so you have to look for a job or look for an internship, and then figure out if you are going to live in the US, or Canada, or anywhere, or here. At the same time you are meeting new people, finding new people and trying to see which group you fit. Like, all of this grows a lot of anxiety. But, I have to say I felt much more prepared because I was able to have enough, quote, maybe buffer time before I got into the masters program. SO I

know how to cite, how to really be a good test taker. Or like, how to write the paper the way I want to write. I already have a system placed in. But you cannot just put a brand new international student, regardless of where they are from. Unless they are from a very similar school system as the US. Um, they are going to be very stressed out. I actually made an argument that a lot of higher ed here, a lot of education here is a bit too much US centered. We are not helping kids to be so-called “global citizens.” Like, the way we cite things is an American standard, the way we, like what we call plagiarism. One of the biggest arguments is for, they always call international students plagiarized all the time. Frankly, when we were little, when we would write things if we put quotation marks there, they know it’s from someone else. But you cannot bring a chunk here on your paper in the US. And then you have to let them know, you have to give them the time to transition. They didn’t mean to cheat, but like here it means that you are plagiarized. So all of these little things are not helpful. So I always thought, in a way the university could give some buffer time in the summer to get some basic, like at least give them a little bit more time to academically prepare them so they have a little bit more time to balance their social life once they get here.

CB: Are you publicizing your dissertation?

XZ: yes. So right now it’s all under review. It’s been six months, so I don’t know when they are going to finish reviewing it.

CV: It just seems to me that it has got to have lots of wisdom for our own graduate people who are looking at international to consider, in terms of policies of inclusion and entry of -

XZ: Yeah I am thinking of writing an op-ed now. I don’t think people are going to read my article to be honest. If I don’t have to read an article I read the news piece quicker, so I wanted to maybe propose in NAFSA or something so that they can see like, universities need to think more than just a year to get in and get out. To be honest, alumni is our biggest asset. Not only do they recruit for us, at the same time, like [Jean? 01:12:43], I heard, like he’s pretty generous. And it’s not because people want, it’s not because people push them to, it’s because we want to. Like, I will always, like I’m proud anywhere like I say “I graduated from Wilkes.” “Where? Oh, it’s in Wilkes Barre Pennsylvania” and then start telling them all about it. Students need to, if we want to keep this momentum going every institution, their students should want to talk about where they graduated and their experience there.

CB: I make a modest suggestion that you as a communications specialist should think about doing videos of the issues we’ve talked about today. Videos for the people in China who are urging students to go abroad and what issues they should confront. For the schools in this country, for universities to consider the issues of the foreign students and the international students who are coming, and what does the institution need to do to make that the best experience possible. Your articulation of these issues is so compelling, and so common sense that I wouldn’t just rely on the written word. I mean, you know how to use social media. I’d explore different realms as a way of, I think, challenging each part of the system to treat students in the most imaginative and supportive ways. DO you agree Tim?

TG: I agree. I’m thinking of poor Xiaoqiao though, I think she is literally operating out of moving boxes right now. [Laughing]

CB: I’m looking at the long term of her career. She has a unique opportunity to provide leadership in two countries.

TG: Yeah, yeah. I have been very clear with Xiaoqiao, if you don’t mind me talking about you in the third person Xiaoqiao, that she has an enormous capability as a major leader. And, um, O hope that this is a great success for her as she goes into faculty. But, I hope it will not be the only thing she does after this, and that she emerges at a higher level of leadership, wherever it might be best used. Because as you can

see, she is someone who immediately connects with people. It's a gift, and she has the thought process that can take them wherever they need to go. And I'm so glad that we had this discussion this morning Xiaoqiao, because I'm not sure we had it to the degree that I wanted it, and it's important for us to hear how you essentially as a student who has come here, and certainly knows our culture well, is feeling about it now from your perspective. There is a little part of me though that I have to say, I think you were indicating it was so hard for you to discern what was so important about race in our country, and I wish in fact that uh, every one of our young people had that problem. Because, I think we would be so much better off if we just didn't have that factor considered in anything that we do. But, anyway, I don't know where we go, I don't know if Suzanna has any questions, I don't know if you're on. I see you, but do you have any questions for Xiaoqiao?

SC: No, I've just been listening. This has been a fascinating conversation just about race, and about your experiences at Wilkes. I'm just really happy to have this on record, um, I think that this is sort of the direction I would like to see with oral histories, just to have this as a part of our institutional history as we sort of have more international students come here and to get this on record, because you guys are important for our institutional history.

TG: Xiaoqiao do you have anything that you want to tell us that we somehow have missed, but should be part of this oral record?

XZ: I just got so, it's just bringing me back to memory lane about my years. So, it's a little bit overwhelmingly blessed. But, in terms of missing parts, I would be very curious about [Jean?] missing his days, because I think if you asked me three years ago about this I would have zero negativity to say anything. But now I think I can be a little bit more objective because personally I've gone through some, I've seen it, advocating for my students and uh, I am able to be a little bit more objective. I can never be objective about Wilkes to be frank. That's all, I'm just curious about different people too. But truly I just had, it's like Disneyland for 4 years for me. And Disney is very important for me, all people know that so [laughing].

TG: The thing that you need to be, kind of left with, at least from my perspective is much of what happened to you, and the positivity had to do with you, and how you interact with people and value each and every person that you interact with. You know, you will make a positive contribution no matter where you are, and I think you have made an especially positive - I hope we can get some people to see this because you know, our society is not going to work globally unless we can overcome these perceived differences and begin honestly to work together. We've got such huge priorities that go way beyond national interest.

CB: Tim, I've got a two prong question to ask Xiaoqiao. One, recall for us one of your funniest experiences.

TG: That's great.

CB: And secondly, what are you the most apprehensive about being back in Shanghai as this ambassador between our two crucial cultures.

XZ: The first thing that comes to mind, and I would like to be off record because that's not good for my RA or my tennis team I think [all laughing]. So, just for us, the first time, because of culture difference they told me "I want to learn a bad word in Chinese." and I said "No, no bad words from me, everybody learn kind words and loving words." They were like "Okay, then if you don't teach us a bad word you have to take a jello shot." And I was like okay, because I thought, I know jello, and I know shot. So I thought we were throwing jello at each other. So I wrote on my RAs board, "Today I am not going to do study hall," Because she was helping me with my English too, "I won't be able to study with you, I'm

going to shot jellos at people.” And I brought my raincoat and an umbrella to block. So I show up in their apartment and they’re like “What are you doing?” and I was like “I’m going to throw jello at you guys.” And they were like “No, no, no, this is not what we do.” And I explained to them that I don’t get it, and they explained to me fully what that is. And I was like “No, no, no, I’m not allowed to do anything illegal here they are going to kick me out of the country.” And then everyone ever since is very respectful, and never lets me do anything that I’m not comfortable with. Or, in my standard, like broke, I am a very rule follower. Like, I don’t do anything not good. But I will never forget that, like my RA she was like “How many shots did you throw at them?” and I was like “I get it I’m so sorry I should not write that on your board.” So that’s probably, right away, I’m sure there’s a lot more but that one is very memorable. Talk about like, difference in culture and losing translation.

CB: Yes, yes.

XZ: But in terms of what I am most excited, to be honest, education is such a soft power. It is so powerful, like I did not anticipate, because part of my study is identity. We are never going to be full with something. Like, I Don’t think anybody can even be full Chinese, because even Chinese you are either from Shanghai or Nanchang, like everybody brings their own culture. So this will always have the Wilkes culture, the Columbia culture, the high school culture, the Jersey girl culture is going to be in me. And education, universities, institutions, has such an important role. It did on me, and I think they can do it all the time for other people. I’m able to balance these identities within me by playing a role to connect, I hope to connect with them. So literally people are like “Oh so because a certain thing happened to me you’re going to hate America.” I’m like no, like, if my parents misunderstood me for something, I’m not going to hate them. I would just talk to them about it because you know the kindness and trust and love is there. But if you don’t have that there, of course you’re going to feel hurt, of course you’re going to feel angry. So I felt, an institution is always going to play such a big role of raising, truly, future peacemakers, or like teammates for each other. Like, I really, it’s so, like we can tell if anything happens the whole world takes it now. So, it’s not about just one country or one culture, we are in this together. So stop blaming things, stop looking at people for whatever. We’re human, and we are people, and we are in this together, so. I am excited to share what I liked about it, what I can live without it like the culture. And I wanted to prepare, especially right now I really hope there is something I can do to prepare students. Because they are going to come for the next couple years at least, for now, um, how to prepare them to face because there is going to be uncertainty. There are still happening a lot of things that I want them to at least be prepared, rather than - I was thrown off track tremendously last year when the thing happened to me. I was like “[gasp] What just happened” And like, it’s not healthy for me physically or mentally, so, it’s really important I hope I can bring my experience back to them.

CB I have two quick observations, Tim. One, I would love to hear Xiaoqiao, to explain to her fellow chinese students, superbowl commercials. [all laughing] And I think particularly to have a copy of the Geico commercial and make sense of that to understand America. The other is as a communications specialist, I think she’s done a wonderful job with the backdrop for her presentation today. You really gave it a great deal of thought, and it’s very impressive. It’s a lovely set.

XZ: Thank you. You know, most people say “Oh, I love your background!” And I’m like it’s 11 o’clock pm in America, this is fake. [all laughing]

CB: Well with communications, that's part of the art.

TG: Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

CB: Tim, I’ve said what I have to say so why don’t you bring this to a triumph

TG: So, Xiaoqiao, is there anything else that you wanted to say that we have not recorded, that we should?

XZ: I'm just thankful, like truly for you. See I'm going to get emotional again. I am just very thankful for all of the faculty and all that Wilkes brought me.

TG: Fantastic, fantastic. Well, we were blessed with your presence, we really were, and hope you'll come back every so often.

XZ: For sure. I'm going back on Sunday to take a photo.

TG: Are you? Too bad I was up there last weekend.

XZ: Oh no. Yeah I am going to go there.

TG: Do you remember Jean Roth? I don't know if you knew him or not.

XZ: Definitely familiar.

TG: He was on the board and he was an attorney in Wilkes Barre. He just recently died after a long, just uh, marvelous, positive life.

CB: One of the things the two of you have in common is he absolutely adored Wilkes. And while he was successful in his field as a lawyer, he was probably the most prominent attorney in north eastern Pennsylvania, and he was graduated from Dickenson's law school, his absolute first love was Wilkes. He said that everything that he was able to accomplish educationally came through his time. And he gave back, many many times over to the institution. For those of us who were presidents, I think we all have agreed that he probably was our greatest supporter, as a board member to play the roles that we play.

TG: Barnone. Well Xiaoqiao I don't know if we will get a chance to say goodbye, if we do - I hope we do - if not, I will say goodbye now. But also, I hope you'll tell your parents how much we appreciated all that they did and the fact that they allowed you to come and be with us for a while. But, they were so gracious to us and they are such fine people, I wish you all could meet them And your grandparents.

CB: I think we did meet them by meeting their daughter.

XZ: Well, come to China anytime. And also, I keep telling people, this is not goodbye just see you later because I am definitely going to come back and visit a lot.

CB: Good luck.

TG: Thank you so much for your time.

XZ: Thank you so much.

TG: We are deeply appreciative.

SC: Thank you so much.