

Dear professors and friends,

Good afternoon!

Thank you very much for coming to SDM, coming to 2020 commencement ceremony. Thanks to the faculty: it is so great you participate in this special moment for all graduates here. Thanks to the SDM staff: you have managed to bring us this ceremony and we really appreciate that.

I know today is the last day for 2020 graduates in SDM. Yes, it is time to say goodbye, but also, time to say hello to a new stage in life. Two words come to my mind when I look back on the SDM years and expect the future years.

The first word is “learn”. At SDM, learning can be really diversified. As SDM students, we have been so lucky to get the access to various resources and to network with both academia and industry. Therefore, we learn not only from textbooks and libraries, but also from the real practice, from the lively experience of leading researchers and practitioners. Even more importantly, we learn from each other. We learn about systems by acting as a system. If you still remember one of the definitions of system: it is a set of elements interacting with each other, combined for a purpose. We are the elements. And it is because of the interactions between us that build our friendship and enable our growth.

Second word: “challenge”. This word appears so often nowadays, with COVID. Yes, as we all know, the world is faced with a big challenge. And it brings challenges to everyone in everyday life. How could we stay cheerful and cheer people up when we must observe quarantine and social distancing? How could we keep productive when we are required to work from home? How could we manage the career planning when the pandemic brings pressure to economy and employment? I believe what we have learned in SDM can help us: accept the challenge and find the opportunity behind it. We know how to deal with challenge. We know it because SDM was the challenge to all of us before. But now we win the challenge by completing the master’s or doctoral program. Congratulations to ourselves and get ready for any challenge ahead of us. Good luck!

At last, I want to say thank you to all the SDM friends. Thank you so much for the beautiful memories we have shared in SDM. They should never be forgot and should always be brought to mind.

Thank you.

Mao Jiaju

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