Thank you, Associate Provost Carvalho, for your compelling words and introduction to this evening.

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of humanity cannot be acquired by vegetating in one's little corner of the earth.”

Said, Mark Twain.

That certainty is truer today than it was in 1869 when he published *Innocents Abroad*.

The unstoppable force of globalization – fueled by technology, trade agreements and migration – is drawing our world closer together.

As the boundaries that separate us become more permeable, higher education in general, and the University of Kentucky, must respond.

No longer do our graduates compete against degree holders in our state – or even our country. Instead, we must produce graduates that are prepared to compete in a global economy of commerce and culture.

No longer do we find the solutions through our own resources – it takes collaboration of both human intellect and financial capacity. The challenges are too great and our time too finite to ignore the potential of partnership.

This week, the University of Kentucky is celebrating nearly 150 years of leadership in our state and region.

From our birth as Kentucky’s land-grant college, we have evolved into the Commonwealth’s flagship and land-grant research university.

From our humble beginnings as an open access point for advanced education, we are – today, for many – a gateway to the world.

Our campus is home to more than 2,000 international students from 117 different countries. Together, 29,000 students knit a colorful tapestry of ideas, backgrounds and cultures.

Our Education Abroad enrollment has grown by more than 40 percent in the last three years, providing students with opportunities to study, intern, conduct research, and teach in over 50 different countries, including destinations such as Cuba, Zambia, and Indonesia.

UK’s international work is also creating positive change beyond the Commonwealth.
Through the hard work of faculty and staff, we are helping war-torn countries such as Pakistan and Iraq rebuild the capacity of their higher-education capacity.

We are partnering with Chinese universities and private industry in fields ranging from equine science and fine arts to energy research and natural resource utilization.

Our Asia Center worked with the College of Arts and Sciences to establish our Chinese Studies major, and over 60 students studied in China past year.

Because of our statewide role, the benefits of our exchange extend beyond the borders of our campus and well into the classrooms of our K-12 partners; extends into the agriculture industry and utility companies.

I want to commend Dr. Carvalho, UK’s International Center, the Asia Center, our UK Confucius Institute, which have been at the forefront of these many partnerships. Their work is yielding immeasurable benefits for our students, faculty, staff and the communities we serve.

Tonight, we will brighten our understanding of – and our position in – this global context through the words and experiences of Governor Jon Huntsman.

As the former governor of Utah and 2012 presidential candidate, he is one the most enlightened and effective voices on the future of our strategic relationship with China.

Governor Huntsman began his career in public service as a staff assistant to President Ronald Reagan, and held an effective tenure as a representative of the United States for four U.S. Presidents. His roles included:

- Ambassador to Singapore,
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Asia,
- U.S. Trade Ambassador,
- And, most recently, U.S. Ambassador to China.

An expert on the United States’ strategic and economic interests in Asia, he also served two successful terms as Governor of Utah.

Under his leadership, Utah experienced low unemployment rates and was named the best managed state in America.

Recognized for his service, Governor Huntsman was twice elected as chairman of the Western Governors Association, serving 19 states throughout the region.

He now serves as co-chair, along with Democratic Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia, of No Labels, a citizens’ organization promoting the politics of problem solving.

He serves on several public and private boards, including the Ford Motor Company, the Brookings Institute, The University of Pennsylvania, and Chairs the Huntsman Cancer Foundation.
On behalf of the University of Kentucky, it is my pleasure to welcome our honored guest to the podium; ladies and gentlemen, please welcome, Governor Jon Huntsman.