**WEDDING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**ANITA CHEUNG**

Hello everyone!!! Today represents a day of firsts… Our daughter, Ophelia, is our first child… the first grandchild to my parents and my husband’s parents. Ophelia is also the first great grandchild for either side of our family, and this, ladies and gentlemen, is **MY FIRST** speech!!! Knowing how special my beautiful daughter is, it’s a blessing to stand before you and honor her and Prem. I would like to think that Ophelia is so special, not just because she is my daughter, but because, as is with custom and tradition, she was raised by a **family**…. One that includes my wonderful husband, Wingfai, my father, HongGuang, and my mother, Lijian, who has passed on. Without the love and support of our family, and especially these three people, I could never have been able to raise such a devoted, loving daughter. I am grateful to them, and to Ophelia for being the great daughter she has always been.

As a child of “firsts,” Ophelia had many great intentions set before her. She was blessed to have many forms of inspiration from the older generations to teach and guide her, each one with different perspectives and wisdom to share. She grew up in a world filled with high expectations for her future. Ophelia never shied away from what was imagined of her… she was wise enough, even at a young age, to accept the challenges she faced and she knew to learn from each one. There is an old proverb that teaches us, “A tree can grow ten thousand feet tall but its leaves will always fall back to the roots.” It has been a gift that Ophelia knew and knows those at the roots of our family, and now that she is becoming a wife, she and Prem will join those roots and nurture them as they grow together and inspire future generations.

As Ophelia grew up and matured…. And as she went off to college and became a professional…my daughter never lost sight of the wisdom and teachings instilled in her by her family. I am so inspired by the work she does, helping others as a Physician’s Assistant. It’s a job in which she gets to demonstrate her best qualities…. intelligence, compassion, insightfulness, and support for others.

We were so proud of Ophelia as she went off to University… she learned her lessons, prepared for her professional life, and…. by the way… just so happened to encounter the man that would become her husband…. We owe **A LOT** to the University of Southern Florida!!! … Great education!!! Fantastic weather!!! And a wonderful husband!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Naturally, as I began to learn of this new person in Ophelia’s life, I was curious, so I started asking questions. I wanted to learn as much about this young man as possible, after all, he captured my daughter’s interest, and we **ALL** know how special **SHE** is!!! I was told that Prem was the president of ASA in UCF back in 2012.  When Ophelia told me about how she met Prem and how Prem was doing academically and socially. I asked Ophelia “When can I met Prem?”  She said “now.” Then she sent me the link to a YouTube video. (**Play the video**).

Prem, it’s been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years since I first learned about you, saw the video, and wanted to know more. Throughout those years, I have to say, and I know I speak for the family when I say this… yes… **ALL** those generations…. All those points of view… all that collective history… that although technically you are my son-in-law, I think of you as my son. I trust you with the most precious gift I can give, and that’s my daughter. I want to officially welcome you to our family.

You are a part of us now, as Ophelia has also become a part of your family tree. (**Do you want to congratulate his family? If so, you can say, as appropriate**), My husband, Wingfai, and I want to congratulate you (**Name Prem’s parents**), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and welcome you to our extended family. We look forward to many wonderful occasions and opportunities for our newly blended family to share more moments like this.

**(If you want to propose a toast, you can say the following. If no toast, you can**

**just say the words)**:

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite you to raise a glass as I propose a toast:

To Ophelia and Prem… Yours is a match made in Heaven!! May you have a happy union for **AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS** and may you have lots of love and good health, good fortune and prosperity, many laughs and just as many friends, and more of everything that you might ever wish for!! Congratulations!! Thank you!!