History Professor Wins National General Education Award

Public Health Alumni Volunteer in Africa

Life Etiquette Classroom Wins the Hearts of NTU Students

Distinctive Service Courses Put NTU Motto into Practice

Special Report

Medical Electronics R&D Center
Internationalization is one of the primary goals of NTU’s drive to become an elite world university. One way the university is achieving this goal is by boosting its enrollment of international students. This academic year, NTU has welcomed 650 exchange students, 40 visiting students and 50 students taking part in summer programs. At the same time, a large number of NTU students have traveled abroad for study this year, including 550 exchange students, 5 visiting students and 250 students participating in summer programs.

NTU is pursuing greater international cooperation so as to better attract students from overseas. It has established cooperation programs with prestigious international universities including MIT, Harvard and the University of California. The university is also establishing an international education center that will provide courses to meet the needs of international students at NTU. These will include introductory English-language courses covering Taiwanese and Chinese culture, history and society as well as professional courses taught in English.

Moreover, with the study of Mandarin growing in popularity, the university is designing a more comprehensive Mandarin curriculum to draw more language learners from abroad.

The university is also engaging in administrative and academic exchanges with universities in China. These were highlighted by the holding of NTU Day at Peking University in December and PKU Day here at NTU in May.

While NTU is internationalizing its campus here in Taiwan, a growing number of local NTU students are also studying abroad. All of these efforts are helping make the world NTU's campus.
PEKING UNIVERSITY DAY PROMOTES INTERNATIONALIZATION AND CROSS-STRAIT ACADEMIC EXCHANGES

NTU President Si-chen Lee officially welcomed Peking University President Qifeng Zhou to the NTU campus on May 9. President Zhou headed a delegation of PKU faculty and students to take part in NTU’s first Peking University Day, held in response to PKU’s hosting of NTU Day in Beijing in December. These reciprocal events furthered NTU’s effort to become an elite international university.

During President Zhou’s visit, the two universities inked agreements initiating a variety of exchanges, including student exchanges, exchanges of library resources and academic exchanges with the PKU School of Government. These agreements formalized the efforts of both universities to create new collaborative relationships and expand cross-strait academic exchanges.

In his welcoming speech, President Lee said he felt it was a rewarding experience to walk in the campus of Peking University and appreciate PKU’s spirit of the humanities last December 10. In addition to the precedent of holding PKU Day at NTU, Lee noted the creation of another historical milestone: President Zhou’s visit marked the first time a Peking University president had addressed NTU’s faculty and students since the arrival of former PKU Presidents Ssu-nien Fu and Shih Hu at NTU over a half century ago. President Lee declared that President Zhou’s speech at NTU would survive the passage of time and be a part of NTU’s historical record. He concluded his speech by proclaiming his hope that the new exchanges between the two schools would take root and bear fruit.

The theme of President Zhou’s speech was cooperation for the achievement of excellence. Zhuo pointed that NTU and PKU each crossed the Taiwan Strait to sign the historical cooperation agreements in response to new challenges confronting both universities. Regarding the future of this partnership, President Zhou proposed that the two universities set up an exchange system for science and technology personnel to make the most of their academic and technical strengths. He added that PKU and NTU should walk hand in hand to create a better tomorrow for cross-strait educational and cultural exchanges as well as to preserve and expand a shared Chinese culture.

On Peking University Day, members of the large PKU delegation were given guided tours of NTU’s colleges while the colleges of both universities engaged in academic exchanges and discussions of ways, means and directions of future academic cooperation and faculty/student exchanges. On the night of PKU Day, talented students of both universities gave a wonderful show with singing and dancing as well as a magic show. A special exhibition highlighting the ways in which the paths of the two venerable institutions have intersected over history was also held May 9-31.

The Legislative Yuan passed a law in August 2010 permitting the enrollment of degree-seeking Chinese students at universities in Taiwan. This law provides Taiwan’s universities with greater flexibility in internationalizing. As higher education becomes increasingly competitive, internationalization is an important way for institutions striving to stand out at the highest levels of academia. President Lee maintains that internationalization provides Taiwan’s students a more inspiring learning environment and promotes their creativity and innovativeness.
Annual Campus Sports Meet Full of Festivities

The annual NTU campus sports meet was held March 26-27—a weekend full of friendly competition. Despite the overcast skies and wet conditions, over 3,078 people turned out to watch the action.

With NTU President Si-chen Lee presiding, the event commenced with a colorful opening ceremony on Saturday morning. The audience roared with excitement as the teams paraded by in their self-designed uniforms while chanting boisterous team slogans.

A highlight of the ceremony was the Taipei Jingmei Girls High School’s color guard and tug of war team. The tug of war team is renowned for twice winning the world championship. The team’s world-class demonstration charged the atmosphere while the school’s historical color guard thrilled the audience with its precision, creativity and esprit de corps.

The championship trophy ultimately went to the College of Management, which looks to be building a sports dynasty as this is the second year in a row that the College of Management claimed the championship. As to the administrative competition, the Office of Student Affairs grabbed its own second consecutive administrative unit “spirit” trophy.

MEDIATEK JOINS NTU HOSPITAL TO SET UP MEDICAL ELECTRONICS R&D CENTER

MediaTek Incorporated has joined hands with NTU and NTU Hospital to set up a new research and development innovation Center for Medical Electronics Technology. The Center is aimed to meet the demand for personalized, remote medical diagnosis and treatment and home care that is growing due to the rapid aging of local society. This project is significant for cooperation between local academia and industry in the electrical engineering, medical treatment and electronics, and it is expected to set a new international milestone for the integration of research and development across biomedicine, computing and electronics. NTU President Si-chen Lee, NTU Hospital Superintendent Ming-fong Chen and MediaTek Chairman Ming-kai Tsai held a signing ceremony formalizing the partnership on May 6.

The Center will research and develop an integrated remote-sensing medical platform to provide physicians with patients’ physiological data over distance in real time. The platform will rely on sensors that the patients attach to their own bodies. The sensors will gather the patient’s information and relay it to doctors via a wireless network. In the future, this personalized treatment technology will allow patients to give themselves physical examinations and manage their own personal health at any time or place. The patients’ biomedical test results will be uploaded in a cloud network by which physicians and medical teams will monitor patients’ physical conditions and make medical diagnoses. This system will create an improved, patient-oriented treatment environment that will allow efficient use of medical resources and improve patient quality of life by saving patients the inconvenience and discomfort of making repeated trips between home and hospital.

The Center will have four research teams. The biomedical signal processing team will apply advanced algorithms to signal processing to enable caregivers to quickly obtain a patient’s biodata, while the wireless and medical systems team will integrate wireless technology with medical equipment to permit the remote measurement, acquisition and storage of medical and physical data.

The biomedical sensor IC team will place sensors on microchips in developing affordable and dependable sensor chips that are energy efficient and require no batteries, and the national-level clinical trials team will conduct tests of the electronic medical components and systems in a clinical environment.

The Center is expected to become a global research leader in medical electronics and lead NTU into a new golden age of semiconductors.
Taiwan hosted the world’s most prestigious annual magnetics conference, April 25-29. Intermag 2011 (the IEEE International Magnetics Conference), the world expo of magnetics research, attracts the leading academic and industry figures in the world of magnetics. Held at the Taipei International Convention Center, the conference was yet another major international event to take place in Taipei following the Taipei International Flora Exposition.

The five-day conference drew about 1,500 scholars and industry representatives from 48 countries, including 2007 Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics Albert Fert, 2010 Japan Prize Laureate Shunichi Iwasaki, as well as IBM Fellow Stuart Parkin, whose research allows the hard drives of today to achieve a storage density and speed approaching one terabyte per square inch. Among the hot issues in magnetics discussed at Intermag 2011 were: rare earths, the latest developments in spintronics, the commercialization of Magnetoresistive Random Access Memory, storage technology permitting hard drives to exceed ten terabytes per square inch, as well as important issues in basic magnetics.

This year’s Intermag was a major summit at which cutting-edge innovation and research was shared. It accelerated Taiwan’s drive to be an innovation and research and development hub. In addition, a Taiwan Pavilion was set up at the conference to highlight the achievements of Taiwan’s magnetics industry.

Intermag takes place in Asia once every six years, when it is known as the “Asia International Magnetics Conference.” Japan hosted the conference twice and South Korea once. Taiwan’s success in winning the right to host this year’s conference can be attributed to the determined efforts of Prof. Ching-ray Chang, a former chair of the NTU Department of Physics and director of the National Science Council’s Department of International Cooperation. Prof. Chang personally submitted a proposal to host Intermag 2011 in 2005, and his hard work led to Taiwan’s victory over Singapore, Australia and India to win the right to host the conference. Chang and IBM’s Bruce D. Terris served as general chairman of Intermag 2011.

Prof. Chang believes that, besides the endorsement and support of the government, the most significant factor leading to Taiwan’s success in winning the right to host the conference was the enthusiasm of the scholars who presented Taiwan’s proposal. Their detailed planning and close cooperation convinced the five-member evaluation committee that Taiwan’s team was the most enthusiastic and proactive. The team’s hard work really placed Taiwan on the international stage for advanced research in the field of magnetics.

Intermag 2011 featured oral and poster presentations, invited talks and symposia, a tutorial session, and exhibitions of a wide range of the latest technological applications in magnetics. A total of 1,538 research papers were presented at the conference. The conference also provided Taiwan with the opportunity to demonstrate its prowess in scientific research. Intermag 2011 proved to be a major encouragement and stimulation for young scholars and students in Taiwan.
Visits to Three Elite American Universities Strengthen Partnerships

Dean for International Affairs Tung Shen and Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature Head Chia-ling Mei visited the University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and University of Wisconsin-Madison to promote bilateral cooperation plans and present lectures in late April.

At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Dean Shen and Head Mei met with a number of experts and scholars, including Interim Associate Provost for International Affairs Wolfgang Schlör, Acting Associate Director of International Programs and Studies Rajeev Malik, Director of the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies Poshek Fu and Chair of the Department of Musicology Gabriel Solis. The duo also met with ethnic-Chinese scholars at UIUC, including NTU alumnus K. C. Ting, head of UIUC’s Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dean Shen and Head Mei gave talks and met with Dean of the Division of International Studies Gilles Bousquet. They also visited the Center for East Asian Studies to discuss cooperation plans with its director, Nicole Huang.

Shen and Mei’s visit to these three elite American Midwestern universities helped to strengthen NTU’s friendships with these NTU partner schools. They also actively promoted a range of cultural and scientific exchange plans and bolstered the close bilateral relationships NTU enjoys with these institutions. Their efforts enhanced NTU’s status in the international higher education community and put the university one step closer to becoming an elite world university.

Dean Shen and Head Mei meet with landscape architect William Sullivan at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

College of Public Health Alumni Offer Help in Africa

Despite Taiwan’s 38-year exclusion from the World Health Organization, its public health achievements continue to win international recognition. Notably, Taiwan eradicated polio in 1983, implemented an effective hepatitis B prevention program in 1984 and instituted the National Health Insurance program in 1995.

Taiwan returned to the World Health Assembly as an observer in 2009. As a member of the world community, Taiwan must make meaningful contributions to the improvement of public health around the globe.

Our generation has been given the mission of achieving three major public health goals: fighting AIDS, malaria and other diseases, reducing child mortality and improving women’s and children’s health.

Alumni of the College of Public Health have carried out this mission by promoting public health in Africa. They worked closely with governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), provided assistance to medical, public health and academic organizations and local communities as well as set up sustainable and autonomous public health programs.

In Malawi, besides helping Mzuzu University expand its public health scientific research capacity, NTU medical and public health alumni took part in AIDS and public health programs in the Titemwanenge community. They guided the Titemwanenge HIV Support Group in using locally-abundant soy beans to make soy milk. The soy milk is an inexpensive dietary supplement, and the group’s soy milk shop has improved the economic situation of its members. The alumni also taught the Chitata Widows and Orphan Support Group how to raise chickens and make Taiwan’s “cong you bing” spring onion pancakes, giving the women the means to boost their incomes and improve their children’s nutrition.

Sanitary habits need to be developed from an early age. Alumni from the College of Public Health teach pre-school aged children in Africa the importance of hand washing. (Photo provided by Luke International Norway.)
NTU’s engineering and technology high in QS World Rankings

NTU won high rankings in the 2011 QS World University Rankings of engineering and technology programs. The survey ranks the university between 51st and 100th in its Mechanical, Aeronautical and Manufacturing Rankings, Chemical Engineering Rankings, Electrical Engineering Rankings, and Civil and Structural Engineering Rankings, and between 101st and 150th in its Computer Science and Information Systems Rankings. The rankings are determined based on an institution’s academic reputation, employer reputation and paper citations. In the 2010 QS World University Rankings, NTU garnered an overall ranking of 94th. It is the only university in Taiwan to reach the rankings’ top 100.

NTU in Top 100 in QS life sciences and medicine rankings

NTU ranked among the top 100 for the three subjects, medicine, biological sciences and psychology, covered in the latest 2011 QS World University Rankings of life sciences and medicine programs. The university’s medicine and biological sciences programs placed at 63rd and 66th, respectively, while its psychology program earned a ranking of about 73rd to gain the status of being the only psychology program in Taiwan to reach the top 100. The rankings were based on evaluations of a university’s academic reputation, employer reputation and paper citations.

Times Higher Education ranks NTU between 81st and 90th

Harvard University took the number one spot in the Times Higher Education’s 2011 World University Rankings. In Asia, the University of Tokyo, at 8th, earned the highest ranking, while the National University of Singapore performed the best among ethnic-Chinese universities with a ranking of 27th. In China, Tsinghua University and Peking University claimed the highest rankings at 35th and 43rd respectively. For its part, NTU ranks in the 81st-90th bracket. This latest Times Higher Education ranking is yet another influential world university survey to rank NTU among the top 100 universities in the world.

NTU rises to 54th in ranking of scientific papers

NTU rated a world Essential Science Indicators ranking of 54th in the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan’s 2011 Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities. This marks an improvement of six spots compared to 2010. NTU’s pharmacology and agricultural sciences programs performed especially strongly in the survey, earning rankings in Asia of 8th and 6th, respectively.

Essential Science Indicators rate an institution’s performance based on journal article numbers and citations, and can quickly supply objective data to be used for the long-term tracking of a university’s academic performance.

Cheers Rates NTU Most Loved Taiwanese University for 4th Year

From 2007 to 2010, NTU has ranked the highest in Cheers magazine’s survey of the top 1,000 Taiwanese enterprises’ personnel strategies and the university graduates they most love. When enterprises rated their preferences for university graduates, NTU ranked first in five of the survey’s eight indicator categories; these were professional knowledge and skills, international outlook and foreign language abilities, innovation abilities, problem-solving skills and compatibility skills.
General Education Professors Claim National Award for Four Years Running

The Ministry of Education has presented five National Outstanding General Education Teacher Awards annually since 2007, and an outstanding NTU professor was named a recipient for four consecutive years. Below are NTU's five award winners.

Prof. Chun-chieh Huang, Department of History, has taught general education courses for over 15 semesters, claimed the award in 2010. Huang's courses are meticulously designed to stimulate deep and critical thinking.

In 2009, Prof. Shau-chi Chi, Department of Life Science, was a recipient. Shau teaches basic life science concepts and encourages students to get involved. In “Explorations of Life,” students get practice in expressing their viewpoints by joining panel discussions led by teaching assistants.

Prof. Chia-ling Mei, director of the Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature, was a 2008 recipient. Her courses “History of Modern Literature” and “Modern Literature and Culture” serve to share the joy of literature with non-literature students.

In 2007, NTU had two winners: Prof. Grace Chu-fang Lo, dean of the College of Life Science, and Prof. Kuo-yen Wei, Department of Geosciences. In her general education courses, Prof. Lo adopts an interdisciplinary approach in the attempt to extend life science from the level of biology to the levels of society and the humanities.

Prof. Kuo-yen Wei uses a variety of teaching methods in “Biological Evolution and Extinction.” He stimulates student interest in learning with multi-media presentations, teaching materials that he designed himself, debates and field trips.

The dedication and hard work of NTU’s general education instructors ensure the NTU students receive a quality liberal arts education.

Information Management Researcher Earns K.T. Li Young Researcher Award

The Institute of Information and Computing Machinery has presented Prof. Chien-chin Chen of the Department of Information Management with the K.T. Li Young Researcher Award for 2010. The largest computing association in Taiwan, IICM bestows the award twice each year in order to encourage young scholars in Taiwan to pursue information technology research and to commemorate the contributions of the great politician and economist K.T. Li to the promotion of information technology in Taiwan.

Prof. Chen specializes in information retrieval, text mining, Internet personalization and temporal topic summarization. Early in his career, while conducting research into Internet personalization, Chen discovered relationships between users' short-term interest and news events, and subsequently developed a series of theories describing the life cycles of news events as well as variations in their degrees of popularity. Prof. Chen presented this research at the European Conference on Machine Learning in 2003 and the ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining in 2005.

Prof. Chen completed his higher education in Taiwan and conducts all of his research here. His work ties together a range of issues related to events, such as personalization, event detection, text summarization and text polarization analysis. Chen has presented his research at numerous major international conferences. As a result, in 2010, he was invited to serve on the paper review committees of ACM SIGIR (Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval) and the International Conference on Computational Linguistics.
Roundtable Explores Humanism from Global Intercultural Perspectives

The Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (IHS) held a roundtable forum titled, “A Dialogue of Intercultural Humanism” at NTU on May 11. The roundtable addressed humanism from various global religious and philosophical perspectives.

Following a welcoming statement by roundtable chair IHS Dean Chun-chieh Huang, the eminent scholar of Islamic and Jewish philosophy and Humanism, Prof. Lenn Evan Goodman of Vanderbilt University delivered a keynote lecture introducing Islamic Humanism.

During the roundtable, other scholars spoke on manifestations of Humanism in other cultural traditions. Prof. Jonathon Seitz of the Taiwan Theological Seminary spoke on Christian Humanism, Prof. Marcus Bingenheimer of Dharma Drum College spoke on Buddhist Critical Humanism and IHS Associate Dean Prof. Kirill O. Thompson spoke on Confucian and Chinese Humanism. Their speeches created a stimulating cross-cultural dialogue.

The forum was concluded by Prof. Shu-hsien Liu of Taiwan’s Academia Sinica and Prof. Goodman who presented summaries of the presentations as well as their personal reflections on the issues addressed.

Since its establishment in 2006, IHS has focused on Asian humanistic traditions and political and socio-economic experiences in its effort to forge new academic accounts and new theories reflecting Asian perspectives. The institute’s major research topics include Democratic Studies, Globalization Studies and Chinese Conceptions of the Person and the Self.

Conference Addresses Taiwan’s Population Predicament during ROC Centennial

The NTU Population and Gender Studies Center and the Population Association of Taiwan jointly held the 2011 Annual Conference of the Population Association of Taiwan at Academia Sinica, April 28-29. As 2011 marks the centennial of the Republic of China, organizers invited four internationally renowned population studies experts to speak on the population development policies and experiences of their home countries in hopes of shedding light on Taiwan’s current population predicament.

In recent years, population trends have arisen in Taiwan that might impact her national development: parents tend to select male offspring as birth rates decline and the population is graying. These related trends could entail a shrinking workforce, growing demand for senior care and changes in the family.

The conference presentations were all closely related to these trends and their possible effects in Taiwan.

Peter McDonald, president of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and Director of the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute at the Australian National University, spoke on “Very Low Fertility Rates in East Asia: Causes, Consequences and Policy Approaches.”

Naohiro Ogawa, professor of economics and director of the Population Research Institute at Nihon University, delivered a speech on, “Very Low Fertility and the Rising Cost of Children in Japan and Other East Asian Countries.”

Suzanne Model, a sociology professor at the University of Massachusetts, explored the question, “Host Countries and the Immigrant Experience: Do Destinations Matter?”

Eric Fong, vice president of the Canadian Population Society and a sociology professor at the University of Toronto spoke on the “Effects of Ethnic Enclosure of Neighborhoods, Workplace and Industrial Sectors on Earnings.”

During the conference, the Population Association of Taiwan presented its first Lifetime Achievement Award to Prof. Te-hsiung Sun of the NTU Institute of Health Policy and Management. They presented him this award in recognition of his many achievements and contributions in transforming Taiwan’s population by promoting family planning.
NTU’s International Scholars Come Together for Reception

The College of Law Team Places Runner-up at WTO Moot Court Competition

The College of Law’s NTU Moot Court Team placed runner-up at the 9th European Law Students’ Association Moot Court Competition (EMC2) on WTO Law, held at the World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva, May 23-28. Competing with the winning teams of regional competitions worldwide, the NTU team rose through the ranks to enter the Final Oral Round, where it was ultimately bested by the law students of two-time winner University of Melbourne. This was the second time since 2008 that the NTU Moot Court Team placed second in this world competition.

During the competition, rival teams represented complainant and respondent parties, respectively, in simulated hearings on disputes falling under WTO jurisdiction. The students argued their cases orally in English in front of a panel of judges comprised of established international law scholars and members of the WTO Appellate Body. The topic of this year’s competition, cloned sheep, challenged the teams to explore the public health and moral implications of cloning technology in the context of free trade concerns.

The NTU team members included second year graduate students, Pin-hsien Lee and Yu-hsin Yeh, and a fourth year undergraduate, Chih-wei Hsu. They received training from student coach Hsien Wu, a third-year graduate student, and instruction from Yueh-ping Yang, a graduate of the NTU Law Master Program. Lee, the team captain, was named “best orator” of the competition’s semi-final round. The elite schools taking part in this year’s competition included the London School of Economics and Political Science, King’s College London and Hong Kong University.

The College of Law has participated actively in EMC2 since 2005. It hosted the competition’s Asia-Pacific Regional Round at NTU in March.

The Office of International Affairs held the 7th International Scholars Reception on April 13. Currently, there are more than 200 international scholars at NTU, including full-time professors, visiting professors, visiting researchers and post-doctoral research fellows. The reception allows the scholars to get to know one another and further develop their academic relationships. This event attracted more than 50 international scholars.

NTU Vice President George Tai-jen Chen opened the reception by expressing his love for the school and thanking the scholars for choosing NTU. He told the scholars he hopes they make the most out of their stay in Taiwan and achieve academic excellence at NTU. Thanking the scholars for their support, OIA Deputy Dean Patrick Shang-hsien Hsieh then noted that the first reception was held in 2008, and expressed his hope of maintaining this tradition for international scholars at NTU.

The reception’s main event was an interactive quiz game based on the TV show “Jeopardy.” The game required players to answer questions in the categories Taiwan, Taipei, NTU and NTU Life. The scholars had a lot of fun while learning useful and interesting facts about Taiwan and NTU.

The remainder of the reception was spent engaging in conversation and enjoying snacks and beverages. At the end, everyone was presented with an NTU stationery bag and T-shirt and a National Palace Museum mouse pad.

The 7th International Scholars Reception was a success. A number of the scholars said this reception was the best they had attended. The OIA is pleased to have received this positive feedback, and will continue to work for the good of NTU’s international scholars.
The Intercultural Discovery and Exchange in Asia (IDEA) Program will be held this summer, August 2-9. Organized by the International Seers’ Organization, with the support of NTU, the program invites top students from elite overseas universities to come to Taiwan to engage in cross-cultural exchange and learn fascinating things about Taiwan. The students, called delegates, gradually understand each other’s cultural differences through the project’s academic discussions and its learning and recreational activities. Moreover, the local students in the program, called staff, act as citizen “diplomats” by sharing the things they love about their homeland.

ISO members are students who enjoy promoting international exchanges. These students seize opportunities to learn about cultural diversity and broaden their global outlook by participating in and organizing international activities. The IDEA Program is managed entirely by the students of ISO. The organization’s administrative, academic, activity and public relations divisions handle IDEA Program affairs, from managing the budget and making public announcements to recruiting students.

The IDEA Program has been held for five years. Students from all over the world have participated as delegates, and the project has won praise from far and wide. By the time the program ends each year, the delegates and staff not only have become familiar with each others’ cultures, they have formed deep friendships, as well. That some students return to take part as delegates a second time indicates the interest of the program.

Many delegates comment that it is not easy to attract students to travel all the way to Taiwan from overseas. They also mention being impressed by ISO’s effective organization as well as by the staff’s enthusiasm in explaining the subtleties of local culture. The hospitality of NTU’s students is another feature of their experience that the delegates always bring up. Besides meeting local students, the delegates make friends with each other and learn about each others’ cultures. For participants in the IDEA Program, the greatest reward is the opportunity to meet top students from around the world and initiate possibly life-long friendships.

The prestigious institutions IDEA delegates come from include Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, University of Tokyo, Seoul National University, National University of Singapore, Hong Kong University and the University of New South Wales.

The theme of IDEA 2011 is “Education, Arts and Culture, Creative Innovation and Entrepreneurship.” With August just around the corner, the 50 delegates and 30 staff members who will join the program this summer must be bursting with anticipation.

NTU has accepted 258 international degree students for the 2011-12 academic year. This includes 86 undergraduates, 124 graduate students and 48 doctoral students. The university is pleased that, despite the fact that Taiwan’s public universities have increased tuition and fees for new international degree students, the number of applicants rose slightly to 625; the acceptance rate was 41%.

These international students come from 56 countries and expect to enroll in 68 departments and graduate institutes at NTU. The acceptance list was published on May 17 and can be viewed at www.oia.ntu.edu.tw. When these new students arrive, the number of international degree students at NTU is expected to reach 680 this academic year.
Research Achievements

Since computers are playing an expanding role in the creation, presentation and appreciation of contemporary music, the merging of computers and music is a rapidly emerging field. And, researchers in NTU’s Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering have racked up a number of globally renowned research achievements in this field lately.

Postgraduate student Wei-ting Peng, directed by Prof. Yi-ping Hung, utilized an orchestra conductor simulator developed by former NTU graduate student Wu-hsi Li (who transferred to the MIT Media Lab) that allows users to wield a baton and conduct a video symphony orchestra. Users feel as if they are inside a concert hall conducting a real orchestra. This concept was developed under the NTU National Science Council Program for Academic Excellence, and the results were presented at a prestigious international multimedia technology seminar.

Postgraduate student T.L. Wu and a team of postgraduate students developed a unified interactive content presenter combining the theories and applications of multimedia emotion recognition, editing synthesizers, physiological signal processing and artificial intelligence to allow users to listen conveniently to their preferred multimedia and Internet contents. This project was conducted under the NTU National Science Council Program for Academic Excellence. The results were presented at a leading international multimedia technology seminar.

Postgraduate student Yi-hsuan Yang and his research team developed an innovative music retrieval platform based on AI theories that allow users to organize and select music based on emotion. Called Mr. Emo, its success follows from its combination of music emotion recognition technology with a novel approach for quantifying emotions. Yang’s paper was published in a world-class journal and presented at a leading seminar.

Postgraduate student Ju-chiang Wang and a research team from Academia Sinica developed an AI system that identifies the mood of a piece of music based on tags left by listeners. It utilizes keywords written in music file tags by Internet users. Wang and his partners were cited for best accuracy by the Music Information Retrieval Evaluation eXchange (MIREX) in 2009 and 2010.

NTU Hospital Team Recognized for Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy

The thoracic surgery team at NTU Hospital has developed a minimally invasive surgical procedure for esophagectomies, which they reported in the World Journal of Surgery. The team’s research publication earned it an outstanding paper award at the Annual Meeting of the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus in 2010.

Traditionally, the removal of the esophagus and esophageal reconstruction is a difficult procedure since it involves the neck, chest and abdomen. Invading such a large area of the body, there is the possibility of post-surgery infection that could lead to various complications during recovery, such as pneumonia and multiple organ failure, even death. In order to minimize such complications, the team began to perform laparoscopic and thoracoscopic esophagectomies in 2001 and has done over 100 successful procedures since then.

Esophagectomies are usually conducted on patients with esophageal cancer, and 90% of esophageal cancer patients now opt for laparoscopic and thoracoscopic procedures. The team’s new endoscopic procedure is not only less invasive but achieves better results, as well. This keyhole surgery reduces complications, allows shorter hospital stays and permits speedier recoveries so that patients can return to their daily lives much sooner.

Ms. Hsu has resumed her life following a minimally invasive esophagectomy performed at NTU Hospital.
The College of Management and the Renmin University of China School of Business in Beijing held a signing ceremony to formalize an agreement to jointly develop case studies courses, on April 8. The agreement calls for each institute to select senior instructors to cooperatively research and design cross-strait business case study courses. At least ten new case studies will be completed each year, and they will first be used in each school’s MBA and EMBA programs. In addition, the schools will arrange four-day courses exploring cross-strait business management models, which will include EMBA student exchanges.

The administrations of both universities have placed great importance on the signing of this agreement. NTU President Si-chen Lee, noting that growing cross-strait economic and industrial integration is leading to rapid changes in growth opportunities and competition dynamics in the greater China area, declared that the field of business management urgently needs to develop thorough and systematic case studies to help the business community adopt new ways of thinking and devise plans for sustainable growth in the greater China area.

RUC President Ji Baocheng expressed his expectations for the cooperation plan. He pointed out that the RUC School of Business is at the vanguard of RUC’s drive to become an elite world university and that the school succeeded in gaining EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System) accreditation in 2010. Ji stated that the school’s accomplishment in becoming the first business institute in China to earn EQUIS accreditation demonstrates that it possesses great potential to become a truly prestigious international business school.

Both sides of the Taiwan Strait are export driven and dependent on international trade. While businesses in Taiwan and China have been impacted by globalization, thorough case studies of these businesses are lacking. The business community needs case studies that summarize successful models in the ethnic-Chinese business world. The investigation of these models could create greater opportunities for cooperation between academia and industry and promote closer exchanges on cross-strait academic research so that an ethnic-Chinese business management philosophy and framework can be developed.

Over the years, Prof. Jung-ho Cheng of NTU’s Department of Mechanical Engineering has led the students of the Formosun Advanced Power Research Center in designing and constructing high-tech environmental concept cars. From building world-class solar cars in the early years, Prof. Cheng then directed the students to fuel cell cars, and is now leading them in constructing electric concept cars. Although Formosun’s research and development direction has shifted over time, it remains focused on the principle of environmentally-friendly energy conservation.

After years of building solar cars, including one that placed fifth at the World Solar Challenge in Australia in 2005, Formosun finally abandoned this project due to its high cost. Seeking new directions, the team worked with fuel cell cars for a while, but stopped because they failed to make sufficient cost and safety breakthroughs.

Formosun is now focusing its energies on electric cars and wind turbines. It has already completed one electric car. In addition to being able to ply the highways, the car sports a sleek exterior and has been showcased at several energy conservation exhibitions.

The funding for Formosun is all collected through donations by Prof. Chen. Contributors include NTU alumni, corporate executives and foundations.
For a long time, the dentistry education curriculum included new developments in dentistry and therapeutic surgical techniques. But, this is mostly taught by professors in lecture halls, and ends up as theoretical knowledge that isn’t of much practical use. A few surgical techniques, such as dental implants, guided surgery, full ceramic crown grinding, and use of nickel-titanium rotary instruments, are covered in a combined practical workshop. But, most of these are simple operations performed on a model. In Taiwan, what has been lacking is a training and study center with the software and hardware needed to provide a simulated training environment. Consequently, after a brief training period, the dental students proceed directly to the oral cavities of real patients for “practice”.

The School of Dentistry has established the first multifunctional clinical dentistry training center, providing facilities and teaching staff for advanced virtual reality and real-time navigation technologies, pre-clinical training, and continuing education. In addition, there is a training curriculum with lectures, demonstrations and practical interventions. This solves the current problem in which practical coursework in continuing dentistry education must resort to learning through trial-and-error in the patient’s mouth. Additionally, the dental student does not have to pay high fees to study abroad, and the center can attract dentists from neighboring countries to come gain knowledge and experience.

The training center includes a clinical dentistry simulation laboratory, a virtual reality learning center, and a dentistry work laboratory, described as follows:

The clinical dentistry simulation laboratory and virtual reality learning center: Like a dental clinic with a dentist’s chair, the simulation environment has 44 simulation systems (including simulated heads and torsos as well as a clinical molar system) (Fig. 1). Additionally, it has four virtual reality dental therapeutic tracking systems (DentSim) (Fig. 2) and related virtual reality equipment in the learning center, such as dental occlusal analysis (PREPassist) and a quick navigation system to use during dental implant surgery or surgery simulations called the IGI (Image Guided Implantology) System (Fig. 3). All are provided with full-function audiovisual and e-learning systems. Also, the dental work laboratory area is split into a worktable based experiment course and a simulated clinical therapy course. This provides the institute’s students with a work space besides the simulated clinical therapy.

Figure 1: Clinical simulation system
Figure 2: Virtual reality simulator training equipment
Figure 3: Image Guided Implantology real-time navigation system
HOLISTIC EDUCATION AS OUR POINT OF DEPARTURE: NTU’S DISTINCTIVE SERVICE CLASSES

For NTU students, knowledge and learning come not just from their professors and the theories they study in class; knowledge and learning also come from performing community service. In 1998, NTU introduced the Service Class. It is an experiential approach to learning that combines service and ‘earning, and is aimed to awaken the students’ service spirit.

The Service Class offers students many options. They can stay on campus and clean public spaces, or they can cooperate with campus or outside groups to conduct social service work off campus. Additionally, they can take one of the specialized service classes offered by various departments and apply what they learn in class as a practicum.

Ning Chen, a graduate of NTU’s Department of Finance & Economics, participated in NTU’s Child Welfare Society’s community service activities for her service class. These activities included going to Sanzhan Primary School in Hualian to hold a summer camp in an aboriginal village. She held the attitude that she was there to “help the village” when she first arrived; but, through interacting with the local people she found that service and learning weren’t just a one-way street, with omniscient NTU students “giving knowledge” to the villagers. She found that the students were learning as much as they were teaching.

A student surnamed Chen of the Department of Anthropology took the campus guide service class, and learned how to be a guide for visitors to NTU. This course gave her an in-depth understanding of NTU’s history and culture. She said when she visited NTU’s Fu Garden before she was trained as a guide, she didn’t feel anything about it. Yet, after learning the history of the garden and former NTU President Ssu-nien Fu’s story, she was able to identify with NTU more as she introduced the university to visitor after visitor.

Yu-qing Gao, a graduate of the Department of Law, took a specialized service class offered by her department in her third year, which involved providing litigation services in a court, such as helping the court clerk to fill out complaints for members of the public. She said the service class gave her the opportunity to apply the legal knowledge she had learned at NTU. She also had master many operational details that weren’t covered in class, which involved learning related practical knowledge.

NTU students know the school motto, “Integrity, Diligence, Patriotism and Philanthropy,” through which, in 1949, former president Fu expressed the hope that, in addition to knowledge and study, NTU students would love and serve the people. The university’s diverse service classes are a way of putting this motto into practice.
College of Law MA Students Present Papers at NYU-NTU Conference

The NTU College of Law and the New York University School of Law’s U.S.-Asia Law Institute jointly held a student conference at NYU, April 1-2. The conference on “Criminal Justice and Taiwan’s Constitutional Court: Comparative Perspectives” examined interpretations rendered by Taiwan’s highest court. Three College of Law graduate students gave presentations, respectively, moderated by the NYU law professors, Prof. Jerome Cohen and Prof. Frank Upham. The NTU College of Law Dean, Ming-cheng Tsai, also spoke at the conference.

Graduate student Kai-ping Su spoke on “Governmental Privilege and Criminal Trial: Experience from Taiwan.” Su examined the question whether government agencies ought to enjoy the state secrets privilege and be permitted, in special cases, to exclude evidence that the authorities deem detrimental to national security. Su discussed the constitutional conflicts between the state secrets privilege and other societal interests, and closed with recommendations for achieving a balance between these concerns. Comments and criticisms were presented by School of Law student Times Wang, NTU law professor Jaw-perng Wang and NYU law professor Stephen Schulhofer.

Graduate student I-ting Lu spoke on “Taiwan’s Constitutional Court (Council of Grand Justices): A Case Study of the Abolition of the Act for Eliminating Liumang (Hooligans) in Taiwan.” Focusing on milestones in the repeal of Taiwan’s anti-gangster law, Lu’s presentation considered historical legal interpretations rendered by the Council of Grand Justices based on this law. Lu also addressed the respective attitudes of the government’s judicial, legislative and executive branches toward this law. The presentation was discussed and criticized by NTU law student Norman Ho, Yu-jie Chen of the U.S.-Asia Law Institute and Prof. Margaret Lewis of Seton Hall Law School.

Graduate student Yu-yin Tu gave “Critical Reflections on the Constitutional Court’s Three Interpretations of Sexual Regulations.” Tu examined Judicial Yuan Interpretations No. 617, No. 623 and No. 666 in exploring the Constitutional Court’s adoption of unconstitutional review standards for sexual regulations. Criticisms and commentary were provided by NTU law student Alexandra Heckscher, Prof. Carol Chih-chieh Lin of the Institute of Technology Law at National Chiao Tung University (Taiwan) and Prof. Jerome Skolnick of the NYU School of Law.

While in New York, Dean Tsai and the College of Law delegation also paid visits to several judicial and administrative agencies and research institutes. Taiwan’s judicial agencies and law research centers could look to the practices and decisions of these agencies for reference when analyzing legal interpretations.

The college’s trip to New York not only demonstrated the benefits to be reaped from academic exchanges, it raised expectations for further academic and student exchanges and other forms of cooperation in the future. The NYU School of Law is renowned in tax law, international law and legal theory, and is one of the top-ten law schools in the United States.
Teaching and Learning Center Promotes Learning Outcome Evaluations

NTU's system for the evaluation of student learning outcome is designed to help the university achieve its goal of continuously improving the quality of education at NTU. As the system is still in its infancy, the Center for Teaching and Learning Development is conducting promotional work to guarantee its proper implementation.

The first step in promoting the evaluation of learning outcome is to list clearly the learning goals and results. NTU has drawn up a curriculum map that defines the core abilities NTU students should master.

During the 2010 academic year, NTU instituted a tier-based scoring system that defines the basic core abilities students must master to earn a certain grade. Students who master all of the learning objectives in a course earn an A, those who master several of the objectives receive a B, while those mastering only the lowest required objectives are given a C or D. Students who fail to reach any of the goals receive an F.

The CTLD holds promotional meetings at departments and colleges to explain the value of student learning outcome and related issues. Such meetings ensure that departments and colleges and their faculties will someday understand and support NTU’s student learning outcome evaluation system.

NTU uses the questionnaire method to gain an understanding of student learning outcome. The items “General Core Abilities” and “Departmental/Collegiate Core Abilities” were added to the questionnaires for freshmen and graduating seniors. The students are asked to assess the extent to which they mastered the core abilities. These items can serve as pre-tests and post-tests for the university to consider in gaining an understanding of the core abilities that the students mastered at NTU.

Although NTU has arranged a comprehensive framework and the necessary mechanisms for implementing the outcome evaluation system, a lot of promotional work need to be done to alter the outlook and attitude of NTU faculty, staff and students and achieve the system’s full implementation.

NTU Life Etiquette Classroom

The NTU Life Etiquette Classroom was highly successful in 2010. And, building on this success, the NTU Career Center modified the program content to produce a second generation NTU Life Etiquette Classroom program for 2011.

The new program is richer and more diverse, and has been extended from six to twelve classes over a semester. High-level managers were recruited from industry to be instructors to introduce the workplace, provide training and assist in image management classes. Importantly, a variety of group learning activities were designed that give students the opportunity to experience the fun of brainstorming and cooperating with others.

The new program began on March 10 and has reached the seventh class. The students and instructors are so enthusiastic that none of the course’s sessions has finished on time. The next five classes will offer more opportunities for participation and practical experience, such as Instructor Xie Wen-xian’s speaking charm training, a style management course taught by a professional L’OREAL stylist, the sharing of thoughts on books chosen by advisors to the NTU Career Center, and a Faith Power creative activity results sharing course.
The Women’s Research Program celebrated the distinguished career of Prof. Lan-hung Nora Chiang in academic fashion with the farewell seminar: “The Difficulties, Challenges and Breakthroughs of Gender Researchers—the Prof. Lan-hung Nora Chiang Retirement Farewell Seminar” on April 19.

Prof. Flora Chin-hwa Chang, director of the Population and Gender Studies Center, introduced the seminar’s honoree: “Prof. Chiang is one of the few scholars in Taiwan to have worked in the fields of both population and gender studies for such a long time. Moreover, not only is Prof. Chiang a cofounder of the Women’s Research Program, she is also among the few scholars to have served as the director of the Population and Gender Studies Center while heading the Women’s Research Program.”

Besides commemorating Prof. Chiang’s long and distinguished career, the seminar marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Women’s Research Program. Past program directors and women’s and gender studies scholars also shared their thoughts on the development of gender research in Taiwan as well as on their struggles and experiences as researchers, including their “difficulties, challenges and breakthroughs.”

Current director of the Women’s Research Program, Prof. Chang-ling Huang, pointed out that her academic predecessors at the seminar were there to share the hardships they faced in blazing a trail for gender research over the program’s quarter-century history, as well as to reflect on their personal careers and experiences in opening up the field of gender studies in Taiwan.

Prof. Chiang spoke from her life experience in describing the background of her entry into women’s studies, and discussed the development of the field of feminist geography in Taiwan and Hong Kong. Fellow Women’s Research Program cofounder, Prof. Yen-lin Ku, analyzed the developments and interactions of the women’s movement and women’s research in Taiwan while exploring the significance of women’s research as well as its relationships with the international women’s movement, mainstream politics, culture and academia.

Prof. Chueh Chang, the third director of the Women’s Research Program, discussed the impact of stressing gender in regard to women’s health policies and issues. She pointed out that gender discrimination, like unemployment, poverty, low educational achievement and job stress, creates unhappy and unhealthy citizens, and that it is the responsibility of every member of society to work to improve the situation.

The fourth director of the Women’s Research Program, Prof. Wei-hung Lin, considered the role of the program as well as its concern for society, emphasizing that the Population and Gender Studies Center will continue to 1) serve as an interdisciplinary center for science to impact individual as well as group knowledge production and collaboration, and 2) facilitate the common effort to promote and put into practice knowledge gained via women’s and gender research.

Nearly 50 people attended, and the seminar was a wonderful event in which many moving memories were shared of the struggle to establish women’s and gender studies in Taiwan.
Safety and Environmental Work Creating a Friendly Campus

Starlight Project Creates Safe Campus Bicycling Environment

In recent years, NTU improved the campus’ street lights to make bicycle riding safer at night. Moreover, NTU subsidizes the purchase of front and rear bicycle lights. These efforts, along with new bicycle parking rules, are making the campus a safer, more convenient place to ride a bike.

Environmental Consciousness Achieves Waste Reduction

Starting back in 1993, NTU was one of the first schools in Taiwan to undertake waste recycling. During the past ten years, the university has continuously reduced the per-person volume of waste on campus. The university’s introduction of a garbage bag fee system in July 2010 reduced the volume of waste by 15% compared to the previous year.

Also, a new composting program of tree and lawn waste saves the NTU NT$600,000 in waste disposal fees and creates 38 kilotons of natural compost per year.

Interactive Campus Map Offered Online Uses Google Maps

The NTU campus is a large campus with many buildings and different administrative and academic units—it’s like a small city. To help people find their way on campus, NTU provides an interactive campus map online that uses Google Maps. Check it out at http://map.ntu.edu.tw. It’s easy to use and available in both Chinese and English. There’s even a mobile phone version, fascinating department and student club exhibitions.
NTU Ranked in the 81st–90th Bracket for Academic Reputation

The London Times Higher Education Supplement published its annual ranking of world university academic reputation in March. While Harvard topped the list, NTU reaffirmed its place among the world’s top 100 universities by earning a ranking in the 81st-90th bracket. The 2010 QS World University Rankings placed NTU 94th in the world.

The Times’ ranking emphasizes a university’s academic reputation, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University’s Academic Rankings of World Universities (ARWU) quantifies faculty qualifications and research achievements. However, the Higher Education Evaluation and Accreditation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT) ranks universities based on output and reception of scientific papers. Both the ARWU and HEEACT ranked NTU number one for Taiwan, Hong Kong and China.