NTU Highlights

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NTU Delegates Visit Ghent U., Chulalongkorn U.

Social Science College Building
Architect Toyo Ito Revisits Campus
Student Volunteers Tutor Schoolchildren
Blue & White Ceramics Exhibition

Special Report:
NTU Hosts NIAG
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UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

NTU Library boasts the largest collection of materials among university libraries in Taiwan, housing more than 7.8 million publications. In addition to over 4 million physical books, the library also has in excess of three million electronic books, not including periodicals, and it continues to build its collection. Moreover, NTU Library also manages the Gallery of NTU History and NTU Museums, which play a vital role in cultural preservation.

University Librarian Kuang-Hua Chen says that, with the library preparing to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2018, its interior will be remodeled in order to better serve the needs of students. Besides providing more seating for readers, the redesign will also include the creation of an open discussion area in order to enhance the user's experience. Furthermore, NTU Library is installing the first automated storage and retrieval system in the ethnic-Chinese world. Scheduled for completion in 2018, the system will handle more than 800,000 physical publications. The system relies on robotic arms and logistics management, meaning personnel do not need to enter the storage area.

University Librarian Chen says the core mission of NTU Library is to satisfy the research, teaching, and learning needs of the university’s students, faculty, and staff. The library strives to acquire new materials, while also promoting Taiwan and NTU’s special collections to the world. Commissioned by the Ministry of Education, NTU Library has also created the Taiwan Academic Institutional Repository over the last decade. Apart from enabling researchers around the world to learn about the research status of every institution in Taiwan, the repository presents Taiwan’s research achievements to the international community as well. TAIR has already accumulated more than 230 million users visits.

The Digital Archives Project is another major endeavor of the library. The project aims to digitalize the library’s collections for long-term preservation and the convenience of researchers. Numerous collections have already been digitized. NTU Library’s Tan-Hsien Archives are a rare and important collection allowing researchers to understand the operation of the local government in Qing dynasty. The library is also currently working on a project to digitalize Taiwanese vinyl records in order to provide researchers with access to popular music and music documentation from the early period of recorded music in Taiwan. The party histories of the Chinese Nationalist Party and Democratic Progressive Party as well as court documents from the Japanese colonial period are among the other important collections to be digitized.

While paper and other physical materials require digital archiving, born-digital data must also be preserved. In 2006, NTU Library initiated Web Archiving Project (WAP) to collect and preserve important web sites. WAP provides researchers access to a variety of historical web pages, including election campaign information, and grassroots mobilization websites set up in the wake of the 1999 Fijji earthquake.

NTU Library has also archived numerous special collections. These include the manuscripts of the renowned scholars Prof. Wang Wen-hsiung and Prof. Lin Wen-yueh. The library has also published rare historical engravings from Okinawa, some of which are held in their original form only at NTU. These are valuable resources for the study of East Asian history. Noting that NTU Library possesses many treasures, University Librarian Chen says that he looks forward to more researchers using the library’s valuable resources for their researches.
Campus Hosts 16,000 Athletes for National Intercollegiate Athletic Games

NTU hosted the 2017 National Intercollegiate Athletic Games (NIAG) from May 6 to 10. It was the first time the games have been held at NTU since 1979. The games drew thousands of student athletes and sports fans from around the nation to the NTU campus. During their time at NTU, the visitors had the opportunity to experience the creative side of NTU, as both the NTU Art Festival and the NTU Music Festival were underway during the games.

The NIAG’s opening ceremony was held at the NTU Sports Center in the evening of May 6. It was a major production featuring rousing speeches, a dazzling high-tech light show, and the lighting of the game torches. The distinguished speakers included Taiwan’s Vice President Chien-Jen Chen and Education Minister Wen-Chung Pan.

Vice President Chen praised the mascots designed for this year’s NIAG, Yeh-Pao (Palm Bay) and Chuan-Mei (Azalea Gal), which he said evoked pleasant memories of leisurely strolls with his wife along Royal Palm Boulevard when he was an NTU student. The vice president also called on the competing athletes to give their best and go for the gold so that they could go on to qualify for upcoming international sporting events, including the 2017 Summer Universiade, which will be held in Taipei, as well as the Asian Games and Olympics, and present Taiwan’s best to the world.

Minister of Education Pan expressed special gratitude to NTU for its meticulous design work and creativity and for planning the event with a core focus on the competing athletes. Minister Pan also thanked NTU President Pan-Chyr Yang for his leadership in rallying the combined efforts of the student body, faculty, and administrative staff that produced these spectacular results.
President Yang extended his profound appreciation to the Ministry of Education for providing valuable resources that enabled the university to design the ideal stage for athletic competition and allow the competitors to perform to their fullest potential so that they could exceed themselves and set new records. President Yang also welcomed the students from Taiwan and abroad who had traveled from afar to take advantage of their time at NTU by touring the beautiful campus and attending events organized for the NTU Art Festival.

The NIAG is the largest multi-event college athletic competition in Taiwan, and it assembles the nation’s finest college athletes to compete against each other. As this year’s games took place in the run-up to the 2017 Summer Universiade, they provided an excellent opportunity for the competitors to gain experience and make adjustments before the international event. Excited about the return of the NIAG to NTU after a decades-long break, the entire NTU community began making preparations long before May.

A total of 16,000 student athletes from 161 institutions of higher education registered to compete in the NIAG this year. The games included 16 competition categories. In addition to the required events held in past games, including track and field, swimming, gymnastics (both artistic gymnastics and rhythmic gymnastics), table tennis, badminton, tennis, taekwondo, judo, fencing, archery, weightlifting, shooting, boxing, and karate, cricket was included as an exhibition category, while wrestling was featured for the first time as an optional category. With the exception of the rhythmic gymnastics events, which were held on April 29 and 30, the rest of the events were held from May 6 to 10.

Among the 16 NIAG competition categories this year, 12 will also be featured during the Summer Universiade. A number of Taiwan’s top athletes, including Olympic weightlifting bronze-medal winner Hsing-Chun Kuo as well as Olympic team archery bronze-medal winners Ya-Ting Tan and Shih-Chia Lin, competed in the NIAG in May. Also bringing her star power to the games was badminton ace Tzu-Ying Tai, who is currently ranked number one in the world in women’s singles competition. Badminton will be a trial event in the Taipei Universiade this August.

Besides the NTU Art Festival and the NTU Music Festival, many other events were organized along the sidelines of the NIAG. During an international academic symposium on college athletics, scholars and experts from nine countries (Australia, Cambodia, India, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) discussed college sports promotion and marketing strategies in their countries and shared their international experience. A workshop was held in which Olympic athletes Hsing-Chun Kuo (weightlifting), I-Ching Cheng (table tennis), Chia-Chia Chuang (taekwondo), and Wen-Ling Chen (wrestling) shared their personal stories of training and development. They offered practical suggestions to aspiring young athletes and revealed something about the actual lives of top-level athletes. Also, a sports industry internship and employment fair provided opportunities for athletes to connect with businesses.
ARCHITECT TOYO ITO DISCUSSES CREATIVE CONCEPT OF NEW CAMPUS LANDMARK

The NTU Center for the Arts, working with the support of the College of Social Sciences, Office of General Affairs, and Campus Planning Office, arranged a series of four forums titled "Toyo Ito’s Revisit to College of Social Sciences: NTU Forums on Architecture, Space, and Public Art" from April 8 to 9. The highlight of the series came in the final forum, in which Toyo Ito, the architect of the College of Social Sciences Building, discussed the inception of the creative concept behind the design of this new campus landmark.

Marking the first time the Center for the Arts has organized a forum around the theme of architecture, the two-day event attracted a large turnout of over 300 people. The ultimate goal of the forum was not to consider only the single theme of architecture. Rather, the aim was to provoke dialogue by introducing several interdisciplinary forum topics that would expand the participant’s capacity to appreciate life and rekindle their sensitivity to beauty.

The organizers invited scholars and experts from different backgrounds and with a variety of interests to sit on the forum panels and address a wide variety of themes.

Architect Toyo Ito participates in a forum with a panel of guests who had been involved in the planning and construction of the College of Social Science Building.

Executive Vice President for Administrative Affairs Ching-Ray Chang accompanies officials of the College of Social Science in welcoming architect Toyo Ito.

In his forum, "Toyo Ito’s Revisit to the College of Social Sciences: The Social Thought of an Architect," the architect made use of vivid images and videos to illustrate the building’s design concept. Ito also joined a panel of guests who had been involved in the planning and construction of the building in sharing their experience of designing and planning the building.

In the first forum, "The Social Vision of Campus Space," Prof. Kuang-Tsung Tseng of the Department of Architecture at Chung Yuan Christian University paired up with Prof. Chi-Jeng Kuo of the Department of Architecture at Tunghai University to discuss several other cases of university campus planning and development.

The second forum, "Public Art on Campus," was moderated by Hai-Ming Huang, former director of the Taipei Fine Arts Museum. The panel members were Prof. Min-Jay Kang of the NTU Graduate Institute of Building and Planning, Director Virginia Hui-Ting Chen of Shalom Arts Consulting, and artist Wei-Cheng Tu.

Chief Director of the Center for the Arts Tung Shen served as moderator for the third forum, "The Aesthetic Experience of University Students and Architecture Education." The panel members were Prof. Lan-Shiang Huang of the NTU Graduate Institute of Art History, Hui-Yuan Liu, a board member of the Chinese Association of Museums, and Chair Prof. C. David Tseng, a faculty member of the Graduate Institute of Architecture and Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at National Chiao Tung University.
At the invitation of Peking University (PKU) President Jianhua Lin, NTU President Pan-Chyr Yang led a 77-member delegation of faculty members and students to China’s most prestigious university to participate in the NTU Day@PKU on April 25 and April 26. The event marked the fourth time the two universities had engaged in such high-level exchanges.

While there, President Yang delivered two keynote speeches: “From Clinical to Translational Research and Higher Education” and “New Era of Lung Cancer Therapy: From Precision to Cure.” The delegation’s visit served to strengthen and deepen the two universities’ strategic partnership and create opportunities for a new flourishing of academic cooperation.

The major delegation included faculty members and students from each of NTU’s colleges. Among the members of the delegation were Executive Vice President for Academics and Research Tei-Wei Kuo, Vice President for International Affairs Luisa Shu-Ying Chang, Dean of the College of Social Science Kuo-Hsien Su, Dean of the College of Management Ruey-Shan Andy Guo, Dean of the College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Ming-Syan Chen, Dean of the College of Law Wang-Ru Tseng, Prof. Chun-Chieh Wu of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences (who serves as the director general of the Ministry of Science and Technology’s Department of Natural Sciences and Sustainable Development), Vice Dean of the College of Science Sue-Ching Jou, Vice Dean of the College of Public Health Chang-Chuan Chan, Prof. Pei-Shan Yang of the Department of Social Work, and Director Ji-Ren Lee of the Taidah Entrepreneurship Center.

Besides President Lin, other notable participants from PKU included Chair of the University Council Ping Hao, Vice President Song Gao, Vice President Yansong Li, and Director Hengwei Xia of the Office of Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan Affairs. All of the participating colleges and departments joined hands in planning the event.

The three main themes of this major interdisciplinary academic meeting were environmental protection, long-term care for seniors, and innovation and entrepreneurship. During the two-day event, the presidents of the two universities signed a letter of intent for cooperation in the area of innovation and entrepreneurship education. The two universities hope to work together to realize the potential of their outstanding faculties, students, and resources, follow the trend of innovation and entrepreneurship, and expand their capacity of scientific research.

On the afternoon of April 26, President Yang paid a visit to the PKU Health Science Center, where he presented his keynote speech, “New Era of Lung Cancer Therapy: From Precision to Cure.” The university-to-university academic meetings that were held during the NTU Day@PKU event provided opportunities for the two institutions to carry out integration and planning in the areas in which they have already established long-term cooperation, expand interdisciplinary, multilevel exchange mechanisms, and explore promising possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration.
Occupational Therapist Inducted as Member of US Academy

NTU Prof. Keh-Chung Lin of the College of Medicine's School of Occupational Therapy has been inducted as a member of the Academy of Research in Occupational Therapy (AROT) in the United States. Prof. Lin was formally inducted as an AROT member during the Annual Conference and Centennial Celebration of the American Occupational Therapy Association in Philadelphia on April 1.

Prof. Lin is the first Asian scholar among the 66 members of the research academy elected to date. During the conference, AROT applauded Prof. Lin for his impressive academic contributions.

Highlighting Lin's innovative rehabilitation interventions, which include robotic therapy, the academy pointed out that his therapies have improved stroke rehabilitation outcomes as well as boosted the reliability of treatment assessments. AROT also noted that criteria devised by Prof. Lin for the assessment of voluntary movement and activities of daily living are centered on the patient and caregiver, and serve as a reference for communication between doctors and patients.

In recent years, Prof. Lin has produced imaging evidence of changes in brain plasticity brought about by stroke rehabilitation therapies. Prof. Lin has garnered international recognition for his research achievements, which have been published in prestigious journals and led to innovative therapeutic applications.
Materials Physicist Receives Outstanding Women in Science Award

Dr. Chen has made extraordinary achievements in her research, many of which have furthered the development and application of advanced materials, especially semiconductor, optoelectronic and energy materials. Dr. Chen has published numerous high-quality research papers, including over 380 research papers in Science Citation Index (SCI) journals. Her research papers have received over 11,650 citations, yielding an h-index of 55. Additionally, her research in advanced materials has led to 13 domestic and international patents as well as brought her international recognition.

Dr. Chen’s outstanding scientific research has led to many honors and awards both in Taiwan and internationally. In Taiwan, this includes the Ministry of Science and Technology’s Outstanding Research Award, the Outstanding Scholar Award of the Foundation for the Advancement of Outstanding Scholarship, and the Hou Chin-Tui Distinguished Honor Award.

Around the globe, Dr. Chen has received some of the top honors in her field, including an honorary doctorate from Linköping University in Sweden, Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in the United Kingdom, Laureate of the Khwarizmi International Award, Acharya Vinoba International Award in Materials Science and Technology, and Academician of the Asia Pacific Academy of Materials. Moreover, in 2010, she was elected as a Fellow of the Materials Research Society in the United States, becoming the first Taiwanese scholar to enjoy this esteemed designation.

Dr. Chen strives to support and encourage women scientists in an effort to boost their level of participation and influence in the scientific community. Well aware of the challenges confronting the small number of female physicists in Taiwan, Dr. Chen advocated for the establishment of the Women’s Working Committee in the Physical Society of Taiwan, of which she is a standing board member. She has also participated in numerous science camps for high school and college students as well as graduate students and female scholars in particular.
OFFICIALS ATTEND ANNIVERSARIES OF PARTNER UNIVERSITIES IN EUROPE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Executive Vice President Kuo was selected to represent NTU on behalf of President Yang for this year’s visit. In addition to participating in all of the scheduled bicentennial celebration events, Kuo also presented Ghent University Rector Anne De Paepe with a gift from NTU in honor of the bicentennial. The other Taiwanese university presidents and vice presidents who attended the celebration were National Chengchi University President Edward H. Chow, National Cheng Kung University President Jenny Huey-Jen Su, and National Sun Yat-sen University Vice President for General Affairs Chih-Peng Li.

Ghent University organized a series of lectures and roundtable discussions as part of its bicentennial activities. The lecture “The Social Impact of Universities” discussed possible approaches that institutions of higher education could adopt in order to make their operations more sustainable, and called on universities to work with all levels of society and promote social transformation so as to close the expanding wealth gap.

Addressing the trend of computers and robots replacing human workers, the lecture “The Digital Revolution Hits Universities” asked what role university education would play in the technological revolution, and asserted that identifying areas in which the strengths of education, culture, and
technology complement one other would be a challenge universities must confront.

Following the lecture “Strategic Academic Partnerships in Times of Increased Competition,” Executive Vice President Kuo introduced NTU’s internationalization strategy to the participants. Kuo also met with Ghent University faculty members to discuss potential fields for further cooperation between the two institutions.

Chulalongkorn University’s centennial celebration drew 55 high-level officials, including presidents, vice presidents, and directors of international affairs, from 37 universities around the world. A number of NTU partner universities also sent officials to the event. These included the University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Tohoku University, Waseda University, Washington University in St. Louis, University of Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, National University of Singapore, Seoul National University, Korea University, University of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Vice President Chang, who was already acquainted with these officials, spoke to them on behalf of President Yang and presented them with commemorative gifts.

As part of its centennial events, Chulalongkorn University organized two symposiums for university presidents called “Roles of Universities in the 21st Century: Curriculum and Pedagogy for the 21st Century Learning” and “The 21st Century Research and Innovation.” During the symposiums, the visiting university officials were invited to speak and share their experiences and actions with the other guests.

The Thai university also arranged for the deans of its colleges to discuss cooperation strategies with the visiting officials. Chulalongkorn University President Bundhit Eua-arpporn noted that he was familiar with NTU’s leadership status in global higher education and understood as well the Taiwanese government’s New Southbound Policy. He also anticipated increased academic and research cooperation with NTU, in particular with the College of Management, College of Engineering, and College of Social Sciences, and hoped for a focus on research cooperation in pharmacology, medicine, and nursing.

Although Thailand is observing a one-year period of national mourning due to the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej in October 2016, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn still managed to participate in the centennial celebration. The princess took part as an alumna of the prestigious university and as a member of the royal family, hosting a special banquet to which she invited the visiting university officials. The princess, who speaks Mandarin, engaged freely in conversation with the guests during a welcoming reception and the banquet.
Over a thousand people, from students to local residents, visited Lu-Ming Square to enjoy the excitement of the NTU World Carnival Festival on April 29. The World Carnival Festival consisted of an international food fair that allowed visitors to sample traditional foods from a variety of cultures and an international singing contest in which students showed off their musical talent.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of International Affairs, World Carnival Festival was one of the many events held as part of the NTU System’s 2017 Break and Fuse Fest, which was organized jointly by the three members of the NTU System: National Taiwan University, National Taiwan Normal University, and National Taiwan University of Science and Technology.

The Break and Fuse Fest is an event founded on the concept of breaking norms and fusing the pieces together to form a new model. The event spans cultural barriers to facilitate interactions between local and international students. Moreover, it transcends campus boundaries to utilize the characteristics and assets of the member universities of the NTU System. Through such activities as food tasting, music competitions, and cultural exhibitions, the Break and Fuse Fest promotes recognition and understanding among students of different cultures, and links the three campuses to establish the sense of a global village among the three universities.

A series of cultural dance performances by students of the NTU System signaled the start of the World Carnival Festival. NTU President Pan-Chyr Yang delivered the event’s welcoming remarks. Executive Vice President Ching-Ray Chang, Deputy Vice President for Student Affairs Cheryl Chia-Hui Chen, and Deputy Vice President for International Affairs Bennett Yu-Hsiang Fu also participated in the festival. Many dignitaries were in attendance, including Second Counselor Belko Diallo of the Burkina Faso Embassy in Taiwan, Senior Secretary Yi Lin from the Ministry of Education, and Associate Vice President Chi-Yo Huang of the Office of International Affairs of National Taiwan Normal University.

This year, 20 student-organized booths offered World Carnival Festival visitors the chance to experience the world through unique cultural cuisines. Among the delicious foods available were pea powder from Myanmar, satay and bak-kut-teh pork rib soup from Malaysia, nachos from Nicaragua, and kebabs from Turkey.

Mongolian students even set up a ger, a traditional Mongolian round tent, next to their booth for visitors to experience. The main stage, a new addition this year, provided not only a space for the performances of the opening ceremony but also a venue for students to promote their booths and present their cultures. Student presentations were primarily ethnic dances representing various cultures, such as those of Malaysia, Indonesia, Africa, and Mongolia.
First Partner Day Welcomes 35 Partner Universities to Campus

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) welcomed more than 70 official representatives of NTU partner universities from all corners of the world to Partner Day 2017: Now To U@NTU on March 17. The event was organized to strengthen existing partnerships and promote substantive international cooperation, and marked the first time the university had assembled such a large gathering of its partners on the NTU campus. Representatives from 35 universities in 16 countries, including presidents, vice presidents, and directors of international affairs, took part in the event.

Among the participating universities were Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich, University of Hamburg, University of Paris-Sud, University of Bordeaux, Radboud University, University of Helsinki, University of Sydney, University of California, San Diego, Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education, Osaka University, Seoul National University, National University of Singapore, and Mahidol University.

President Udorn Kachintorn of Thailand’s Mahidol University led a 17-member delegation to attend the event, while Seoul National University was represented by a vice president. The participation of these high-level officials demonstrates the importance NTU’s international partners placed on taking part in the event.

Partner Day commenced with Vice President for International Affairs Luisa Shu-Ying Chang delivering welcoming remarks. Next, the OIA’s division directors presented briefings covering the office’s actions in the areas of campus internationalization, strategic partnerships, study abroad programs, and international student services. Deputy Vice President for Academic Affairs Shih-Chung Kang also introduced the NTU International College and International Bachelor’s Degree program.

The visiting representatives experienced the campus’ energy for innovation while touring the Stanley Wang D-School@NTU and learning about the campus life of international students on a visit to student dorms.

Partner Day centered on two symposiums that provided ample opportunities for the university representatives to interact with each other, share their international affairs experience, and discuss their new initiatives. The symposiums aimed to address issues of higher education under the themes “Evolving Roles of ‘International Offices’ in Light of Building Sustainable Campus Internationalization” and “Exploring New Frontiers of Internationalization: Sharing Innovative Programs.”

Topics discussed during group discussions included approaches for improving international student services, ways to enhance communications between academic and administrative units in a university, and the establishment of overseas university branches.

Partner Day served as a networking platform and provided opportunities for developing cooperation plans. The event also enabled NTU’s College of Liberal Arts, College of Social Sciences, College of Medicine, College of Management, College of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Life Science, and European Union Centre in Taiwan to strengthen cooperation programs with their international partners.

NTU was also joined by many of its partner universities in participating in the 2017 Asia-Pacific Association of International Education Conference in Kaohsiung from March 20 to 23.
The humid and rainy springtime is a busy harvest season for the tea farmers of Pinglin District in New Taipei City. In addition to the workers hired from outside of the area to help with the tea harvest, the springtime visitors to Pinglin include a group of students from NTU. For the last five years, the student volunteers have visited Pinglin Elementary School four days a week to help the local students with their schoolwork.

These young volunteers are students enrolled in a service course offered by Prof. Yi-Yi Chen of the Department of Social Work. The volunteers not only support the local children academically, but also broaden the children’s understanding of social issues and inspire them to imagine greater possibilities for their futures.

Situated in the watershed of the Feitsui Reservoir, Pinglin enjoys the ideal climate and terrain for producing pouchong tea, the tea that has earned the area’s terraced plantations a worldwide reputation. However, the area’s development potential is limited due to its rugged terrain and dependence on tea.

Prof. Chen, who specializes in the study of community building and development, points out that environmental laws aimed at protecting the watershed make it difficult for local residents to develop other industries in the area. Tea farming is labor intensive, profits are low, and many farmers hope their children go into other lines of work. Following the opening of Hsuehshan Tunnel, the once steady stream of tourists that flowed through Pinglin has tapered to a trickle, making it hard to sustain the tourism businesses they had built up over the years.

Pinglin has only enough students to fill just one class in each of the eight grade levels taught at Pinglin Elementary School and Pinglin Junior High School. The NTU student volunteers cooperate with a local Presbyterian church to provide two hours of after-class support at the elementary school four days a week.

Each volunteer is responsible for helping four to five elementary and junior high school students with their schoolwork. The volunteers not only check the students’ homework and help them solve study problems, they also engage the students in discussions about their interests as well as social issues, such as gender equality and labor rights.

Though the volunteer students face frustrations, they also value the time they spend working with the young students. One student who has enrolled in Prof. Chen’s service course twice says he tends to focus on his direct interactions with the schoolchildren, conceding that there is only so much he can do to improve their performance at school.
A team of scientists at the NTU Hospital Department of Emergency Medicine has provided evidence that opens up a novel direction for the treatment of sepsis. The major public health significance of the team’s research findings has been recognized by the international academic community.

One of the team’s research papers was awarded one of three “best abstract” awards presented at the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) EuroAsia Conference 2017. Presented by Resident Physician Cheng-Heng Liu, the paper was selected from over 450 paper submissions from medical researchers in over than 40 countries. Held in Hong Kong in early April, the conference was the first ESICM conference to be held outside of Europe.

Meanwhile, another of the team’s papers is slated for publication in the British Journal of Anesthesia, the most respected journal in the field of anesthesiology and emergency medicine. The paper’s first author is research fellow Meng-Tze Gabriel Lee, its statistician is Monica Zi-Jun Hsu, and its corresponding author is attending physician Chien-Chang Lee.

Sepsis is one of the major causes of death and is occurring at an increasing rate. In Taiwan, hundreds of thousands of people end up in intensive care units because of sepsis every year. Despite the enormous resources invested in research, death rates remain as high as 20% to 59%.

HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, commonly known as statins, are the first line of treatment to lower blood lipid levels in clinical use. Scientists have discovered that, besides their ability to reduce blood lipid levels, statins also possess anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties.

Such findings have led drug makers and clinical physicians to aggressively investigate the use of statins in the clinical treatment of sepsis over the last two decades. However, the research has produced inconsistent conclusions.

Recent in vitro studies have found that not every statin has the same antibiotic effect. Statins that are naturally derived, such as simvastatin, produce a stronger antibiotic effect than do man-made statins like rosuvastatin.

Using a rigorous research methodology, the researchers discovered a 28% reduction in mortality rate from sepsis for patients who took the naturally-derived statin simvastatin prior to the emergence of sepsis compared to patients who did not use the drug. However, the team did not observe a significant improvement in mortality for patients who were prescribed the synthetic statin rosuvastatin.

This research is the first ever to provide evidence that simvastatin limits the risk of death from sepsis. Moreover, the ability of the naturally-derived statin to lower mortality from sepsis is unrelated to the degree to which it reduces blood lipid levels. The team’s findings imply that different types of statins possess different mechanisms that provide protection against sepsis.
HKU PRESIDENT: PEOPLE FLOURISH IF GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES

President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) Peter Mathieson delivered the speech "The Power of Education: For Self-Improvement, Internationalization, and Institutional Advancement" at NTU’s Shih-Liang Conference Center on March 21. With NTU President Pan-Chyr Yang and Vice President for International Affairs Luisa Shu-Ying Chang serving as moderators for the lecture, President Mathieson presented the students and faculty members in the audience with various viewpoints on education, and shared his experience and thoughts regarding personal development and learning. The speech was the first in the Center for General Education’s lecture series “NTU Lectures on the Intellectual and Spiritual Pilgrimage.”

President Mathieson became the 15th president of HKU in 2014. He was awarded a PhD by the University of Cambridge in 1992. From 2003 to 2007, he served as chairperson of the Research Grants Committee of Kidney Research UK and, in 2007, was elected president of the Renal Association, becoming its youngest president ever.

In his speech, President Mathieson spoke on the enormous impact education had had on his life. He pointed out that his days attending college and conducting research in England had not only expanded his personal outlook and allowed him to apply his enthusiasm for medical research, but also brought him into contact with different thoughts and viewpoints. He declared that the mission of education and the obligation of universities are to provide students in all fields with ample opportunities and promote comprehensive knowledge so as to cultivate the leaders of the future.

President Mathieson also illustrated HKU’s vision of 3+1 “I”s, which refer to internationalization, innovation, interdisciplinarity, and impact. HKU’s internationalization efforts include designing international programs, creating a multicultural campus and learning environment, and building inter-organizational cooperative relationships. In terms of innovation, HKU has introduced massive open online courses and flipped-classroom learning models. Encouraging interdisciplinarity, the university promotes cooperation among its different departments and divisions. Mathieson asserted that, by pursuing these goals, HKU would be more capable of creating global and regional transformations.

At the conclusion of his speech, President Mathieson emphasized to the audience, “If you give people opportunities, they will flourish.” He said that, in the midst of the 21st century, the power of education is clear to see, and it exists in the impact we have on the lives of all humanity without knowing it. He concluded by stating his belief that, by pursuing excellence and maintaining perseverance, education can achieve the goals of flourishing thought, talent development, institutional reform, personal growth, internationalization, and organizational expansion.
Life Science College Cooperates with International Universities on Summer Internships

The Faculty-led delegations from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and Dankook University in South Korea visited the NTU campus during the last academic year to discuss short-term summer internship programs with their counterparts at the College of Life Science.

Profs. I-Hsin Su, Hoi-Yeung Li, and Cheng-Gee Koh of Nanyang Technological University’s School of Biological Sciences paid a visit to the College of Life Science last November. The group was received by the then-deputy directors of the college’s Center for International Academic Exchanges, Profs. Wei-Pang Huang and Chau-Ti Ting, who briefed the visitors on the college’s current operations.

In addition to delivering two lectures to the college’s students, the Singaporean professors also held an information session introducing an internship program and the doctoral programs offered at the School of Biological Sciences. Local students asked numerous questions concerning the programs and enjoyed their interactions with the visiting professors.

The School of Biological Sciences has the finest researchers in the area of biological sciences in Singapore. This summer will mark the first time the College of Life Science has cooperated with the School of Biological Sciences in organizing an internship program. The short-term overseas summer program is designed for bachelor’s students of the Department of Life Science and the Department of Biochemical Science and Technology.

Dankook University is a highly-ranked private comprehensive university in South Korea. On February 24, Prof. and Director JongHoe Byun of the university’s Institute of Nanosensor and Biotechnology led a delegation of 10 faculty members and students to visit the College of Life Science. Chair of the Department of Life Science, Prof. Ming-Yuan Min, officially welcomed the guests, and Prof. Hsin-Yu Lee briefed them on the current status of the college.

Prior to the visit, Prof. Byun had contacted Prof. Min to inquire whether the college offered a short-term internship program in the field of neuroscience that suited Dankook University’s students. In response, Prof. Lee introduced the college’s international summer programs +N3 Developmental Biology, +N4 Statistical Genetics Program, and +N5 Neuroscience LAB Program.

The college designed these programs in coordination with the Office of International Affairs to offer international students opportunities to engage in short-term studies in the field of biology at NTU. This summer will mark the third year the college has offered +N3 Developmental Biology, while +N4 Statistical Genetics Program and NS Neuroscience LAB Program are new courses.

The Dankook students expressed great interest in the college’s summer programs and asked repeatedly for more details. A number of Dankook students are expected to enroll in these programs this summer.
BOOK OFFERS POSTCOLONIAL CRITIQUE OF LEGAL THOUGHT IN COLONIAL TAIWAN

NTU Press published the book *Wandering the Modern “Paraíso”: Portraits of the Jurists in Colony* in April. Written by Prof. Hao-Jen Wu of the Department of Law at Fu Ren University, the book marks a new addition to the university publisher’s Series on Pioneers in Taiwan Studies.

Based on rigorous scholarship, this book provides a postcolonial critique of the history of legal thought in colonial Taiwan using the stringent approaches of the comparative history of ideas along with the perspectives of legal sociology. Prof. Wu traces the roots and distinctive characteristics of the ideas of the legal professionals, including legal scholars, judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, in Taiwan during the Japanese colonial era. He categorizes these ideas and goes on to offer an in-depth appraisal of their impact.

The first chapter of the book presents an analysis and evaluation of the achievements and legal thought of Santaro Okamatsu, a Japanese legal scholar who attempted to transform Taiwan’s legal system from one based on customary law to one based on the German system of jurisprudence during the early period of colonial rule. In the second chapter, Prof. Wu examines from the perspective of private law the special legal attributes of the “chi-ssu-kung-yeh” institution (property-owning ancestral worship associations) under Taiwan’s customary law. As “chi-ssu-kung-yeh” associations were a deeply-rooted aspect of Taiwanese people’s self-identity, the author looks at how their decline changed the form and content of Taiwanese ethnic identity.

Chapter Three investigates the background and process of the first political legal judgment following the institution of a modern legal system in Taiwan. The chapter explores the tactics, and their limits, that Taiwanese intellectuals utilized in taking advantage of the legal dispute surrounding the Peace Act incident in carrying out a resistance against the colonizers.
Exhibition Explores Curious History of Blue and White Porcelain Imitations

The Graduate Institute of Art History and NTU Library teamed up to organize an exhibition exploring the curious history of blue and white ceramics made in the style of China’s famed imperial porcelain in various places around the world. Called “A Special Exhibition of Blue and White Ceramics: Is There Anything More to Say?,” the exhibition occupied the central hall of the Main Library from March 10 to June 9.

The unorthodox blue and white ceramics were produced in such places as China’s remote Yunnan region as well as Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, and even Europe in a style mimicking the globally renowned porcelain fired in the imperial kilns of Jingdezhen, China.

The exhibition was presented in three sections on the three L-shaped display walls in the central hall of the library. The sections “Imitation and Re-Interpretation” and “Misinterpretation and Appropriation” offered interpretations of special characteristics of the ceramics produced by each of the unofficial manufacturers through imitation or innovative modification of the Jingdezhen style. The section “Competition and Mass Production” displayed ceramic products that were developed in Japan, Vietnam, and Thailand in attempts to obtain a share of the enormous global porcelain market.

A book display area occupied the center of the exhibition space. Displayed in both original and translated versions, Robert Finlay’s influential work The Pilgrim Art: Cultures of Porcelain in World History was selected by the organizers to represent the exhibition’s guiding spirit. All of the books put on display were obtained from the library’s archives.
New Building Nearing Completion

NTU President Pan-Chyr Yang presided over the beam-raising ceremony for phase Two of the Instructional Building construction project on the auspicious day of March 31. With workers currently busy constructing the building’s interior, the project is scheduled for completion in September.

The building will house one large terraced lecture hall with seating for at least 550-600 people and 19 classrooms, which together will accommodate around 2,000 students. The building’s facilities will be provided for general education and required courses. The Department of Chemical Engineering and the Graduate Institute of Building and Planning will also occupy space in the building.

An automated storage and retrieval system for NTU Library is being installed on basement level two. Capable of storing 1.2 million books, the system will be the first of its kind in Taiwan. Also, a bicycle parking garage on basement level one will relieve the campus’s lack of parking space for bicycles.