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Dear NTHU family members:

As is the university tradition, we are gathering here on the first working day after the New Year festivity as a big family to share our joy and to wish each other a very happy and prosperous New Year! New Year is also an occasion to take stock of what we have accomplished and rededicate ourselves to our common goal, making our beloved university into a world-class institution of higher learning!

It has been two years since I assumed the presidency in February, 2006. With your supports, we have accomplished a great deal. We not only renewed the Five-Year-Fifty-Billion Grant but received the best ranking in terms of our performance and effectiveness and were singled out to receive the highest increase among all the grantees. The accomplishments obtained by our faculty members over the same period were numerous in quantity and excellent in quality. Many of our colleagues have won national and international recognitions as they were elected to the membership of Academic Sinica, won prestigious awards granted by the Ministry of Education as well as National Science Council. “Impressive” can hardly describe the research output of our colleagues over the past two years. Collectively, our colleagues have published 24% more scientific papers in SCI journals worldwide. More significantly, 52% of these publications appeared in the top 20% periodicals, in terms of their impact indexes, of their respective fields.

With our share of the Five-Year-Fifty-Billion budget, we have also strengthened our curricula in terms of a greater variety of courses offered, the quality of their contents and methods of delivery. We are also making history in Taiwan’s baccalaureate education. We are implementing the residential college system with the establishment of the Tsing Hua College in the beginning of next academic year. The goal of the Tsing Hua College is to nurture a group of future elites who are not only well versed in their respective chosen field of studies but also devoted to the improvement of our society as a whole.

As for campus infrastructure, we have added new sport and recreational facilities, completed the expansion of the administration building, optronic lab and the TSMC Hall to house the College of Technology Management. Works are still underway to complete the campus wide common pipe system and the construction of the South Campus. With the completion of these two major projects and the construction of new learning resource center, student housing facilities, our campus, I can assure you, will be more beautiful and a better environment for research and learning activities.

When I assumed the presidency two years ago, I put forward a vision to make NTHU a world-class university. With your strong supports and our collective efforts, we have made great stride within the last two years. But, there is still a distance between where we are and where we want to be. I, therefore, would like to take this opportunity to rededicate myself and ask each and everyone of you to work with me to press on and march toward our goal.

I wish each of you a happy and successful New Year!

*This is an abbreviated version of President Chen’s New Year Address delivered on February 13, 2008.

President, National Tsing Hua University
REJOICE! WE WON IN THE SECOND COMPETITION FOR THE MOE’S SPECIAL FUNDING WITH A HEFTY INCREASE!

The Ministry of Education (MOE) announced the results of the second competition for the funding to “Develop World Class Universities and Top Notch Research Centers” on February 5th. Eleven universities will receive special funding totaling NT$9.65 billion. As a result of the combined efforts of all staff, students and alumni, NTHU achieved outstanding results and was recognized as one of the two best research universities (the other being NTU) by a prestigious panel organized by the MOE. In the next three years, NTHU will receive a subsidy of NT$1.2 billions each year, an increase of NT$200 millions a year! Of all the universities awarded with this special fund, NTHU received the largest increase in both amount and percentage.

Thirty-two universities applied in the second round competition, including 20 new applicants. The criteria for evaluation took into account the attributes of each university and were divided into quantitative and qualitative categories, each accounting for 50% of the total score. The quantitative indicators were research (30%), internationalization (10%) and industry-academia cooperation (10%). There were six qualitative indicators—administrative system and organizational operation, infrastructure, teaching and guidance, research foci and centers, strategies to further develop humanistic researches, financial planning and sustainable management.

According to the aforementioned evaluation results, 11 universities were selected as recipients of the special block-funding. The amount of subsidy, however, was adjusted according to the results of evaluations in 2006 and 2007, university plans, contents of reports and developmental potential. Of the 11 universities, NTHU’s overall performance was considered as outstanding across the board. Only NTHU and NTU were judged as having “A+ performance and implementation effectiveness deserving of recognition in 2006 and 2007.”

NTHU has the advantage of an excellent tradition, balanced development of colleges, outstanding academic performance, a productive industry-academia cooperative record and excellent teaching. We are confident we will fulfill the commitments that come with this special support. We plan to allocate the additional funding to develop humanities education, adopt measures for re-organization, including transforming into a non-governmental entity, active fund-raising and the promoting of greater industry-academic cooperation.

Table: Universities Receiving MOE’s Special Funding.
While most universities and colleges in Taiwan have been rather successful in educating their youth in various disciplines, few provide a truly balanced curriculum designed to train students in sciences, liberal arts, as well as civic education. Well, the educational landscape in Taiwan will soon be changed with the creation of Tsing Hua College on our campus.

President Wen-Tsuen Chen led a group of university administrators to visit three prestigious universities, Harvard, MIT and Yale, in the U.S. last May and carefully studied the strength of their respective undergraduate programs. Upon returning from this "study tour," a group of NTHU faculty members were organized into a special task force to come up with a blueprint for the upgrading of our undergraduate programs. The task force, led by Prof. Lih J. Chen (Academician of Academia Sinica) has completed and submitted a preliminary blueprint. In a press conference held on January 15th, President Chen proudly unveiled the Tsing Hua College Program to the public and announced his plan to further improve NTHU’s undergraduate education. "While the general public is very aware of the fact that NTHU is an excellent research university, they have yet to realize the great effort we have undertaken to upgrade the quality of baccalaureate education." Dean Tien-Ko Wang of the Office of Academic Affairs stated, at the press conference, "the Tsing Hua College will integrate the basic ingredients of the 'residential college' as it was instituted on various elite campuses in the U.S. with the unique Tsing Hua tradition. It will offer a new learning and living environment where students will be accommodated in a dormitory staffed with academic advisors as their mentors." These mentors will not only assist in academic works but also organize students into voluntary groups to participate in various community services and have a first hand experience of the real world outside the campus. The ultimate goal of combining academic and civic mentoring is to develop a group of future elites who are well versed in academic subjects and highly devoted to society as caring persons, able and willing to do their parts for the good of the society as a whole.

With the establishment of the new Tsing Hua College, NTHU has taken another innovative step to improve higher education in our country and set a new model of university education in Taiwan.
The results of the 2007 National Innovation Award were announced in late December last year at a gala hosted by Mr. Wang Jin-ping, President of the Legislative Yuan. Competition for the National Biomedical Quality Category was especially fierce in 2007. Seven entries won this honor in the Academic Research Section and Tsing Hua’s Dr. Jing-Tang Yang, Professor of Power Mechanical Engineering and Dr. Reuben Jih-Ru Hwu, Professor of Chemical Engineering were two recipients of this highest honor in the national biomedical research and industrial sector.

Professor Yang won this Award for his development of the “Power-free Micro Fluidic Biochip System” in cooperation with the Precision Instrument Research Center at the National Applied Research Laboratories. This biochip system uses nanotechnology to manufacture microvillus structures with a lotus leaf-like surface that allows liquid to form into droplets on the striped surface. In the transmission process, furthermore, with no external power required, Professor Yang’s system can precisely position, move and mix the droplets, even the adhesive blood and, freely manipulate liquid droplets on the striped surface. This ingeniously designed chip has the unique capability to save reagents and shorten the reaction time in laboratorial processes. The chip, as designed by Prof. Yang, can be mass produced by press or injection molding, and thus, lower its production cost and heighten its competitiveness in the market.

Professor Reuben Jih-Ru Hwu, for his part, won the Award for developing, in cooperation with colleagues at Academia Sinica, a new type of Sulfoptatin compound that can be used as an anti-cancer drug leads, providing a new and effective weapon in the fight against cancer.

PROFESSORS JING-TANG YANG AND REUBEN JIH-RU HWU WON THE PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL INNOVATION AWARDS
potentiodynamic techniques to plate supercapacitors, Professor Chen-Fu Chien of the Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management Department for his work in developing better modeling and analytical methodologies for high-tech companies, Professor Chih-Ping Wei of the Institute of Technology Management for his research into text mining and information retrieval, knowledge discovery and data mining, and patent informatics, and, Associate Professor Guo-Zhang Chen, Department of Mathematics, for his research and contributions to the areas of dynamical systems and celestial mechanics.
Dr. Alan J. Heeger, one of the Nobel Prize winners in chemistry in 2000, visited NTHU on the 20th of February and delivered a special lecture to a packed auditorium!

His topic was "Low Cost Plastic Solar Cells: Progress and Prospect," a rather "dry" topic but, with vivid and humorous delivery, he kept all the audience attentive and generated a great deal of insightful questions. Born in 1936, Dr. Heeger is currently a professor of physics and materials sciences at UC Santa Barbara. In 2000, he jointly received the Nobel Prize in chemistry with Dr. Alan McDiamid, University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Hideki Shirakawa of the Institute of Materials Sciences at the University of Tsukuba, Japan.

Their collaborative effort led to the discovery and development of conductive polymer. They proved that with certain modification, plastic, an object we used to think as insulator, can be as conductive as metals. This discovery not only opened new research prospects but also led to many valuable industrial applications.

In recent years, Dr. Heeger devotes himself in the research of energy-conserving technology. As the Chief Scientist and partner of Korata Technologies, Inc., Dr. Heeger is working with a group of accomplished scientists, including scientists in nanotechnology and photoelectric, to develop low cost semi-conductor polymer to lower the cost of solar power and increase the efficiency of solar cells.

In his lecture, Dr. Heeger emphasized the critical issues of global warming and energy shortage. Conventional power generating techniques cause air pollution and damage our environment. It is imperative that we seek renewable and environment-friendly sources of energy to preserve and maintain the sustainability of our habitat. Solar and wind power are not only renewable but also environmentally safe, therefore, are the ideal resources to harness. He encouraged his young audience to be adventurous and creative in this new research arena and be prepared to do their parts in sustaining our environment and uplifting the quality of life for the entire humanity.
NTHU GENE GROUP WON THE FIRST PRIZE IN THE NATIONAL CREATIVITY CONTEST

The Eighth National University Student Creativity-in-Action Contest, sponsored by the National Science Council, announced the results last month and our “Gene” Group won the First Prize with a creative design that turns sheet page without lifting a finger!

The "Gene" Group is made up by a group of music enthusiasts who play and enjoy different kinds of music. They are: Kenneth Yi-Wen Chao, Hsin-Fu Chen, Chuan-Yi Kuo, and Chun-Wei Liu from the Mechanical Engineering and Hai-Ting Lin from Industrial Engineering. The inspiration for this music turning machine came from their personal experience. Musicians frequently have to turn the pages of music when they are performing or practicing and inevitably had their attention disrupted unless they have the assistance of a page-turner. Such a dilemma is more noticeable and problematic when an orchestras is performing.

"Gene’s" clever design addresses this problem with a mechanical device that can turn the pages with a tap on the foot paddle. This "page-tuner" is not only a great device for musicians, but can also be used by the handicapped persons when they read books or magazines. The judges of this national contest are very impressed by the well constructed machine and its multiple applications. Let us congratulate the members of "Gene" Group, not only for winning the Gold in this national contest but also for their ingenuous application of what they have learn in labs and classroom to the real life situations.
In addition, five professors have received the "Outstanding Research Award" for their innovative researchers. They include:

Professor Yu-Chen Hu, Department of Chemical Engineering, for the advancement on baculovirus technology and its applications in cell and tissue engineering.

Professor Chi-Chang Hu, Department of Chemical Engineering, for his pioneering employment of

In Taiwan, Professor Ching-Tsai Pan, Department of Electrical Engineering, for his important contributions to the areas of power electronics, AC motor drivers and renewable energy systems, and Chair Professor Reuben Jih-Ru Hwu, for his research group's contributions to the areas of nucleic acid chemistry, organic synthesis, and silicon chemistry.
We did well, but we will do much better next year!

The famous Mei-Chu Games between NTHU and her neighbor, the National Chiao Tung University was held between Feb. 29th and March 2nd. The score was 6 to 4, with NCTU winning the right to brag that they have won six times in a row! Disappointed? Yeah, a little bit!
We are very proud of, however, the sportsmanship of our athletes and cheering squads. They did their best and spared no effort in all the events they participated in. We are also very proud of the team spirit and organizational skill demonstrated by the Mei-Chu Task Force in planning and implementing the entire event.
This year is the 40th Mei-Chu Games played by the two sister institutions. Over the entire forty years, both universities have established a unique campus tradition and a culture of friendly competition.
Before and during each of these events, one could not but notice the determination on both sides to “beat” their opponents. But, it was also through such heated competitions that participants on both sides learned to respect their opponents and cherish their friendship. More importantly, this annual event has functioned as a ritual that motivated the entire two campuses to excel, not only in the formal competitive games but also in the processes of planning, organizing and supporting the entire event.
For those who really want to keep the scores, the following table will give you the entire picture of who won and who could do better next year!

Score Board
Mei-Chu Games, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formal Games</th>
<th>NTHU</th>
<th>NCTU</th>
<th>Exhibit Games</th>
<th>NTHU</th>
<th>NCTU</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Basketball</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Women’s Table Tennis</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Women’s Badminton</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Volleyball</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Debate</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Shinkendo</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>Women’s Tennis</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Volleyball</td>
<td></td>
<td>NTHU forfeited</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chess</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ended in a Draw</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
President Wen-Tsuen Chen and other senior administrators presided over the opening ceremony for the first ever baseball tournament of visually-impaired players on the 12th of last December. As supporters of this special event gathered on the softball field, President Chen expressed his admiration for the players’ courage to overcome their physical impairment and their innovative talent to modify the rules, allowing baseball lovers with vision impairment to play and enjoy this team sport!

Four teams, including the National Tsing Hua University Giant Bats, the Tamkang University Home Run Team, the Wild Bulls, and the Lions participated in this event. Their skill and sportsmanship proved the truth of an old saying, “where there is a will, there is a way.” The friendly games were held on the grassy comforts of NTHU’s softball field. As the games started, the blind players would speedily make their way on the basepaths as the baseball rolled over the great expanse of grass, attentively following the “beep-beep-beep” sound made by assistants with whistles. In blind baseball, visuals are replaced by audible cues creating a game defined by frenetic beeps all across the field. Those fans that came to cheer had to sit in their seats and hold their collective breaths, silently rooting for the players who were putting on a display of courage. It was amazing to watch the blind players freely move in leaps and bounds, their gracefulness reflecting long hours of practice and a never-say-quit mentality. The spirit of cooperation and determination to overcome disabilities was truly a marvel to see.

The strength of the NTHU Giant Bats has grown dramatically since its inception two years ago. Using their senses of hearing and touch, the visually-impaired team has risen to the occasion, honing their running, swinging, and pitching skills to an adept level. When the final whistle was blown, the blind warriors on the grass, facing the winter sun, shouted their gratitude through sweat and fatigue, inciting a big cheer from the crowd. Their persistence and hard work had touched the hearts of all who watched the game!

YOU DON’T NEED TO SEE THE BALL TO HIT A HOME RUN!
Internationally renowned sculptor, Mr. Susumu Shingu unveiled one of his most beautiful creations on the hilltop near the College of Humanities and Social Sciences last November. Meanwhile, a special exhibit of his smaller pieces, as well as a documentary film of his inspiration-seeking travels were featured at the University Art Center between November 5th and December 7th, 2007.

Mr. Susumu Shingu’s works, according to the master himself, is “a translation of natural energy into detectable forces that can be visualized with our eyes.” Silent Dialogue, a kinetic sculpture intends to integrate the wind, a characteristic of Hsin Chu, with a changeable piece of sculpture to celebrate the agency of nature. It symbolically captures the quite, on-going dialogue between human intelligence and the natural environs.

Chronologically, Mr. Shingu is a septuagenarian; his creativity, however, is as vibrant as artists half of his age. He continuously churns out creative works that seemed to mesmerize his admirers. Mr. Shingu maintains that his ultimate goal is to help humans better realize, understand and cherish the planet’s natural resources and hope with his arts, he can help people of different backgrounds using their “local dialect” and become more conversant with nature.

When you head toward the new campus area where the TSMC building is located next time, be sure to stop by the hilltop in front of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building and try to conduct your own conversation with the Silent Dialogue!