

## First Annual Meeting Makes NASYUA History

History was made when the first administrative team of the North American Southern Yangtze University Alumni & Friends Association (NASYUA) was introduced in the NASYUA Assembly 2006, which was held on June 27, 2006, in Orlando, Florida. About 70 alumni and friends attended the annual meeting to witness and celebrate this historical event.

"Today we are so excited to introduce our alumni association after all the great efforts each of you has made", said Dr. Hongda Chen, the chairman of first NASYUA Board of Directors, in his speech. The effort to establish the alumni association started in 2003 when the former president of Southern Yangtze University, Dr. Wenyi Tao, visited the United States. Last year the Preparation Committee was formed and since then the efforts toward the formation of the association were put into a more organized way. The association bylaw was developed and the organization was officially registered in Lexington, Kentucky during March of this year.

Dr. Liuming Zhou, the president of first Executive Committee, shared his vision on the association, "I truly believe our organization will become the home of all alumni who work, study, and live in North America". As an independent, nonprofit, and nonpolitical organization, the mission of NASYUA is to enhance the professional excellence and fellowship among its members in academics, science and technology, business, and the industry through individual and collaborative efforts. The bylaw and its mission were well recognized and accepted by the alumni. So far, the organization has about 70 registered members.

One of the most important events on the assembly agenda was to officially reveal the results of the election of the first NASYUA administrative team. Beginning in May, information of all the candidates was posted on the alumni website, and the ballots were sent by email to all registered members. Using a simple majority rule, the Board of Directors and Executive Committee were successfully elected. Representing the Ballot Counting Group, Dr. Guohua Feng announced the election results to the applause and support of all members and esteemed guests.

The formation of NASYUA received much support from the Alma Mater. Dr. Bo Jiang, the dean of the College of International Education, represented President Jian Chen in the assembly. Dr. Bo Jiang relayed the letter of congratulations from Southern Yangtze University's Alumni Office, and presented many special gifts. Among the distinguished guests included Dr. Nelson (past president of IFT), Dr. Heldman (president-elect of IFT), Dr. Shoemaker, Dr. Lo (president of Chinese American Food Society), and Dr. Li (general manager of Danisco-China). The aforementioned guests expressed their sincere congratulations to the formation of NASYUA.

### Letter & gifts from Alma Mater



**Election Results****Members of Board of Directors & Executive Committee****Board of Directors:**

\*Hongda Chen (陈宏达); Feng Guan (管 峯); Yingchang Han (韩应昌); Bo Jiang (江 波);  
Xingqiu Lou (楼星球); Dihui Wang (王迪惠); Chao Wu (吴 超); Youling Xiong (熊幼翎);  
Jingmin Zhang (张敬民); Liuming Zhou (周榴明)

\* Elected as the Chairman by the Board of Directors

**Executive Committee:**

President: Liuming Zhou (周榴明);  
President – Elect: Yingchang Han (韩应昌);  
VP – Canada: Wewei Cui (崔武卫);  
VP – China: Bo Jiang (江 波);  
VP – NorthEast: Shizhong Wang (汪世忠);

VP – NorthCentral: Jingmin Zhang (张敬民)  
VP – Southern: Xiaowu Liang (梁小武)  
VP – Western: Chao Wu (吴 超)  
Student Rep: Huan Xia (夏 欢)

**Hongda Chen****Wuwei Cui****Feng Guan****Yingchang Han****Bo Jiang****Xiaowu Liang****Xingqiu Lou****Dihui Wang****Shizhong Wang****Chao Wu****Huan Xia****Youling Xiong****Jingmin Zhang****Liuming Zhou**



## Chair's Column

**Hongda Chen**

Chair of the Board of Directors

### **PRELUDE:**

For this special issue of NASYUA newsletter, I was planning to write a piece as the Chair's last column for the Preparatory Committee (PC). But Xingqiu suggested writing a brief message for the newly elected Board of Directors (BOD) instead. I have decided to compromise it by writing two "acts" – one to summarize what the PC has done over the last year, and the second to report what the BOD has envisioned as the next step.

### **ACT I: "Pre-natal"**

On July 18, 2005, a group of 14 enthusiastic alumni of SYU met to discuss about forming an alumni association at the International Lounge of IFT annual meeting held in New Orleans, LA. A clear consensus emerged quickly, and steps to proceed were outlined. I reported it to about 70 alumni and friends at a dinner gathering sponsored by Dr. Yongjing Li, a good friend of SYU and the General Manager of Danisco, China. A year-long effort leading to successful founding of the NASYUA was thus kicked off. Eight energetic and talented individuals stepped up to join the PC and started together this rewarding journey shortly after the IFT meeting.

Someone may ask why now? Having a critical mass is one of the key factors. Tracing back to twenty three years ago, Yangsheng Wu,

Youling Xiong, Chao Wu and Liping Yu were the first batch of SYU graduates who came to the States and pursued their graduate degrees in 1983. Since then, many who followed the same foot steps till today have led to a rather large number of SYU alumni. Our current record shows more than 150 graduates of Wuxi Light Industry Institute, who have studied, lived, and worked in the North America. To include all the alumni from other colleges of SYU, the number is estimated at more than 300. In addition, an unaccountable number of friends who have crossed their paths with SYU during their careers value their experience and are interested in continuing such connection.

More importantly, we enjoy our friendship and fellowship through our common link to SYU. There were at least three large gatherings in recent years – two hosted by Xiaoping Yang at her Chicago houses, and once met in a Dallas restaurant during an IFT annual meeting several years ago. As matter of fact, Xiaoping, Feng Guan and Xingqiu were tapped for initiating an alumni organization two years ago in Chicago by Wengyi Tao, then-President of SYU. Seeds have been cast.

Can we take it a step further to successfully form an organization of the alumni and friends of SYU? Can such an organization continue the tradition of fellowship and offer additional values to its members? The PC's answers were affirmative. We established that our vision of the association is "**Professional excellence in academics, science and technology, business, and industry through individual efforts and fellowship of the members of the association.**" Our missions are to foster and facilitate "friendship, professional growth, cooperation and collaboration, scientific exchange, information gateway, and resources and support."

Now looking back the year past, I am amazed by how much that the committee has achieved through many hours of dedicated efforts. Let me just briefly highlight a few things here for you:

- **By-Law:** The by-law is an utmost important document of an association. It describes who we are and how we operate as an organization. Youling, arguably the most experienced person among us on this matter, took up the burden of preparing the first draft, which cast a solid foundation. After several rounds of intensive deliberation and revision at the PC monthly teleconferences, the Committee unanimously approved the by-law in February, 2006. Youling then registered it with appropriate government authorities on behalf of the association to make it official.
- **Financial Operation:** As soon as the NASYUA had been registered, Xingqiu acted swiftly to obtain a tax ID number and open a bank account. Our financial house was thus in order, and membership registration ensured. During the first wave of membership drive, the committee members spent hours of their time to make sure that the news reached out to as many alumni and friends as possible in a most expeditious way.
- **Election of the Officers:** Electing the association officers and directors is not an easy task, especially considering a large number of positions of the BOD and the Executive Committee (EC) to be filled for the first time. Feng Guan, working closely with Chao Wu and Liuming Zhou, led nomination and election process skillfully. Special acknowledgement also goes to three volunteers, Guohua Feng, Huifen He, and Ansui Xu, who collected and counted the ballots.
- **Membership:** The credit of gathering and compiling alumni information is due to Jingmin (Joanne) Zhang, with inputs from a number of alumni and friends. Joanne also thoughtfully designed the membership form.
- **Newsletter and Website:** Newsletter and Website are two most effective communication tools. Liuming has done both squarely. Shizhong Wang has taken over the website recently, and already made some significant improvements, including a new column for posting job opportunities.
- **Logo:** The PC has solicited logo designs for the association. Several designs were attempted by some amateurs of the PC members, a well accredited alumnus artist, and several SYU students majoring in arts and designs. Ning Zhao's design is the PC's final selection. Dihui Wang was responsible to secure the winning design.
- **Inaugural Celebration and Assembly Meeting:** Yingchang Han is credited with his high energy and resourcefulness to assure the entire event a great success. Bo Jiang brought congratulations and special gifts from the leadership of our Alma Mater.

Many more details of the PC activities are omitted here for brevity. I do want to mention a special aspect of the PC when it faced matters highly relevant, but outside of its charter scope. As many of you may have already known, Dr. Shihong Yang, a dear friend of us, unexpectedly died of heart disease; and Professor Ruichun Xiang, a well respected scholar and a mentor to many of us, passed away at age of 99 last year. The PC took the responsibility of representing the NASYUA and its members at the memorial services, presented flower arrangements, and offered eulogy and condolence to the families. Under these circumstances, the PC members exhibited an exceptional quality as a leadership team. They showed a high degree of integrity, and



worked coherently and collaboratively on behalf of the association.

I am honored of having the opportunity working with this group of terrific individuals over last year. They are the makers and shakers. I have all confidence in their abilities to lead and serve the association well in different capacities in years ahead. As the curtain falls for this act, I proudly bow with this outstanding cast. (The PC was officially dissolved on June 27, 2006.)

### **ACT II: "The infancy"**

NASYUA has been successfully found with a good start. The celebration banquet attracted about 70 attendees including several distinguished guests. We are in the phase adored by everyone. Yet, we should understand some tough challenges the association may face on its way to maturity, thus need a set of strategies to assure a health growth.

A day after the election was concluded, Guohua reported the results to the PC on June 21, 2006. An expanded BOD meeting was immediately called to briefly discuss and identify important issues to be addressed in the year ahead. These included the followings:

- **Expanding Membership:** An association is of its members. We need to actively reach out to all the alumni and friends to encourage their participation.
- **Membership Benefits:** The liveliness of our association depends on what the association can do for its members. We need to creatively seek ideas and opportunities to better serve our members for their successes in multiple dimensions of their lives.
- **Building Leadership:** The success of an association depends largely on its leadership, which must root in the members. A succession plan needs to be devised to involve more members

contributing their talents to the association's leadership. Diverse background and talents of the members are the basis that will sustain our association in the future.

- **Diversity of Representation:** The current members of the association are mainly graduates of Wuxi Light Industry Institute. As the sole alumni organization of SYU in North America, we must be inclusive to all the alumni of other colleges of SYU.
- **Finance and Budget:** We must establish a sound financial strategy to ensure adequate resources to support many membership activities, either regional or nationwide.
- **Connection with SYU:** Exciting growth and changes are taking place rapidly in SYU. As its graduates, we can contribute to its better future. We shall facilitate members' connection with our Alma Mater.
- **Operations of BOD and EC:** The dual leadership structure of BOD and EC is a new experience to us. BOD needs to work closely with EC to develop sound working principles and protocols for an effective and efficient function of the organization.

The above are just a few thoughts as the result of a 15 minute brainstorming. The BOD will continue its development of strategies and priorities. We are eager to hear your thoughts on how to lead the association onto a successful path. Please remember: it is your organization, so your opinions help. Let's work together for it.

Till next time,

Respectfully yours,

*Hongda Chen*



## Chair's Column

**Liuming Zhou**  
President of NASYUA

### To all NASYUA members and friends,

Congratulations for the foundation of NASYUA. Thanks to all volunteered for the preparation of NASYUA and the successful first assembly meeting. My sincere appreciation goes to the support from SYTU including financial and organizational aspects.

Thanks for the trust and support from our members. It is great honor to serve NASYUA community. As the first elected president, I will lead executive team to develop and implement strategy to accomplish NASYUA mission aligning with the direction from board, through my commitment and dedication. My priority will be focused on growing NASYUA community by establishing effective networking and serve system, beneficial regional activities, professional excellence and

exchange program, and solid financial base. Everything we do must represent members' interests. Our goals for next one-year period are to increase membership number, establish effective career service through our web, build up professional and academic exchange teams, enhance friendly communication and exchange activities with SYTU, organize activities for each region, and generate reasonable fund to support NASYUA global and regional activities.

NASYUA is at its infancy stage. We need your support and help. We welcome all suggestions and ideas. For members, please take the lead and help to expand our community. For those who are not NASYUA member yet, we encourage you to join us. Team work and volunteer are the key to our success. Thanks and let us ride together for our prosperous journey.

Sincerely,

*Liuming Zhou*

## Regional Sections

To assist the members with networking locally and interactively, following six regional sections are established based on the bylaw.

### Canada

### China

### Northeast

(CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, WV, DC)

### North Central

(IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI)

### Southern

(AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, PR, USVI)

### Western

(AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY, American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas)

## Donation exceeded \$1,300

We have received exciting response and tremendous support from our alumni and friends since NASYUA is officially registered. The support includes the donation from individual members. As of June 30, 2006, the total donation is **\$1355.00**. We would like to take this chance to recognize following individuals for their sincere financial support.

**Wei Chen (陈伟), Xiaowu Liang (梁小武), Feng Guan (管峯), Yue Liao (廖悦), Shizhong Wang (汪世忠), Bo Zhou (周博), Xiaoping Yang (杨筱萍), Dora Pan (潘东), Baofang Liu (刘鲍芳), Qingbin Yuan (袁庆彬), Zhisheng Liu (刘志胜), Yongmin Wang (王勇民)**



**Celebration!**

