

BOD Chair's Column*- Hongda Chen*

The annual holiday season is upon us. I wish all the members of NASYUA and all other alumni of SYU living in North America taking time to enjoy the holidays. There is nothing more important than to spend time with family and friends and to rejoice in the blessings that all of us have received in the last year.

I would just take a small corner of this newsletter to briefly report what the Board of Directors (BOD) has done since we met on this forum last time (July 2006).

One of the immediate tasks facing the BOD is to seek some working experience for an appropriate dual leadership structure between the BOD and Executive Committee (EC). The goal is to establish a set of workable principles and protocols for an effective and efficient leadership and management functions for the NASYUA. To this end, we have had three BOD meetings since the association inaugural celebration. The first two meetings were jointly held with EC, while the third meeting was by the BOD only.

The Directors worked closely with the EC to establish the organizational strategic directions. On the third BOD meeting held on 10/21/06 by teleconference, the BOD discussed the EC annual working plan in details. While the BOD endorsed the EC's vision, enthusiasm, and creative ideas, we pointed out some shortcomings of the first draft of the annual plan, and asked the EC to revise it for the Board's approval. Subsequently, the EC team reacted promptly and has revised its annual plan accordingly. The Board was satisfied with the revised annual plan and approved it by a majority vote 11/25/06.

The approved annual plan is solid with clearly defined objectives and measurable metrics. It reflects the EC's determination to effectively and comprehensively address the most critical challenges facing us, including Expanding membership, Creating membership benefits, Enhancing diversity of representation, Improving fiscal soundness and budget management, and Strengthening connection with SYU. The EC members are actively developing activities to implement the plan. I would like to encourage all of us to think how we may actively participate in and support these activities while we are considering our personal plan for the next year.

To conclude, the NASYUA's developmental growth at its infancy to date is excellent and right on the chart. We all can help to assure its healthy growth by contributing our ideas, energy, and assistance. Let's work together next year to do our individual parts to make it a better organization for all!

I wish all of you a very joyous holiday!

Respectfully yours,

Hongda Chen, Chair of the Board of Directors 2006-07

Executive Team Report

- *Liuming Zhou, President of NASYUA*

My sincere thanks to Executives and NASYUA Members for their enthusiastic support and contributions. Since the first assembly meeting in June, we have made significant progress in growing NASYUA. The Association has added about 10 new members. Canada and North Central have organized their regional member gatherings. Scientific and professional exchanges activities have been initiated. Our website is now positioned to post professional news and job information to serve members' needs. Special thanks to our Student Representative, Xia Huan, who saved us hundreds of dollars of administrative cost by enabling free teleconference meeting system.

Executive team has completed 2006-2007 Activity Plan and Budget, which were approved by Board of Directors (BOD) in November. Our planning process was a great example of teamwork and commitment: Each regional VPs and functional team leaders initiated their objectives, activities and budgets. The proposals were reviewed by Executives and updated with feedbacks by originators. The final plan was reviewed by BOD and modified according to BOD's inputs before final approval. The summary of the plan will be posted on NASYUA website.

In last several months, we have received numerous feedbacks from our members and friends on how to build NASYUA. One of the key messages is "what NASYUA can do for me". Executive team and BOD have worked hard to address this question. Our initial step is to increase member's involvement of NASYUA activities starting from scientific and professional exchanges within North American Region and with China coordinated with SYTU. A professional functional team is formed and led by Wuwei Cui. The scope will be open to any professional fields. Your inputs and participation are strongly encouraged.

Our executive team is very "young" and still in learning cycle. We need your help for us to serve our members' interests more effectively.

NASYUA BUDGET

Current Balance	\$4,465
2006-2007 Budget	
Regional/functional expense	\$1,300
Annual Assembly	\$300
Publication/brochure	\$50
Web maintenance	\$100
Admin/bank	\$100
Scholarship	\$100
Contingency	\$350
Potential Income	
Membership	\$800
Workshop	\$1,500
Donation	\$1,500
Balance by June 2007	
Expected	\$4,465
Best case	\$5,965
Worst case	\$2,165

My Experience As Yangtze Scholar

- Youling Xiong, Director of NASYUA Board

My foremost charge as a Yangtze Scholar is to assemble a productive research team in the area of food quality enhancement and food safety with the goal to secure its national prominence and to reach an international stature. This is a huge task considering that SYTU, like almost all other universities in China, does not have a very efficient research “infrastructure” that we in the U.S. or Canada tend to take it for granted. For example, individually, there are talented researchers in SYTU, especially in the field of functional foods, but yet, there is not a clearly defined common goal or collectivity. Also, most research projects are “applied”; and basic, fundamental research tends to take a back seat. One probably could get by without an SCI publication but it’s unthinkable if he/she does not have several “patents” on hand. I have since worked with faculty in SYTU, and one of the things I have attempted to do is to challenge younger researchers to think outside the box. Thus, this past summer, we established an “Innovation Team” concept (improving food quality and safety through basic research) and proposed this to the Ministry of Education. We have since passed the written and oral defenses and are one step closer to becoming one of handful teams selected nationwide for support. In addition, I have played a critical role in 2-3 other major national grant competitions by contributing ideas, designing specific experiments, and writing up some technical portions of the proposals. I am also a part of the initiative trying to win a National Key Laboratory (food science) bid.

So what is the catch? First, it’s been a true rewarding experience both professionally and personally to be able to serve our alma mater and turn my dream into reality. However, as I said before, being a Yangtze Scholar means a huge responsibility and obligation that cannot be fulfilled without personal and family sacrifices. So, get ready before you start. Second, I have noted that many researchers in China do not have full appreciation of the scope as well as the depth of research conducted outside. Therefore, I encourage you to visit SYTU to give seminars, lectures, etc. whenever you can to bring them to full speed. You would be surprised with the difference you could make. Third, I am amazed by the huge amount of research money that the Chinese government is now pouring into research, including supporting agriculture/food science programs. For example, the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) now has a big budget to fund basic research. The ‘natural science foundation’ (NSF) has a component more or less equivalent to the USDA’s national research initiative (Hongda would know more). Quite a few of my SYTU colleagues have received funding from NSF. In addition to supporting individual researchers, the government funds research teams at levels that range from ¥1 million to more than ¥10 million. Thus, in terms of federal dollars, Chinese food science researchers now are much better funded than they were several years ago. The improving funding situation and the better research environment undoubtedly have played a key role in attracting more and more overseas Ph.D.s. to return. Our research team has recently recruited another Ph.D. who has just obtained her degree from University College Dublin, Ireland.

[Hongda Attended Food Summit in China 2006, Xiamen, Fujian, China](#)

Xiamen is a beautiful island city at southeast Fujian province. When my train approached it, I heard it announced “Hawaii of the East”, and I was a little skeptical. After seeing it, I was convinced by the nice nestling of a modern city within its natural beauties. You have to see it to believe. If you plan a vacation in China, it will be one high on my recommendation list.

IFT and the Chinese Institute of Food Science and Technology (CIFST) hosted their third joint summit - Food Summit in China 2006 - on November 5-8, 2006 in Xiamen. I was invited by Dr. Pingfan Rao, Vice-President of CIFST and my college buddy. I delivered a lecture on Nanoscale Science and Nanotechnology Applications to Enhance Food Quality and Safety. The Summit Organizers also put me to chair a technical session on Safety of Packaged Foods – From Technology Perspective.

The Summit theme was the Globalization and Innovation of Traditional Food. Sessions focused on product development trends, functional foods, food safety, trade and consumer trends. This year's event drew several hundreds of attendees from many countries and regions including China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the US. Leading the US delegation was Dr. Herbert Stone, a past IFT President. Joining him included Dr. Charles Manley, a past IFT President, Ms. Sheri Schellhaass, VP R&D of General Mills, Mr. Richard Waycott, President and CEO of CA Almond Board, Mr. Bruce Yandell, VP of Tragon Corporation, Drs. James Moy and Yaowen Huang, two past presidents of CAFS, and about a dozen other scholars and industry leaders from the US. I was also glad to see several SYU faculty members, including VP Jin Zhengyu and Dr. Huang Weining. Our dear friends Drs. Charles Shoemaker and Sharon Shoemaker were very actively involved. Among NASYUA members and friends, I was thrilled to see Dr. Yongjing Li, General Manager of Danisco (China) Co. Ltd., and Dr. Guangwei Huang of CA Almond Board. Overall, this is a very good venue for networking, especially with the Chinese food industry.



Honored guests at the IFT-CIFST Food Summit in China gathered for the Summit's opening session. The first one from left is **Dr. Rao Pingfan**, Vice-president, CIFST, and also an alumnus of SYU (Food Science Graduate Student 82-84)



Hongda at the balcony of his hotel room enjoying the Sun rise, the IFT-CIFST Food Summit in China 2006

North Central Alumni Gathering at Chicago

- Jingmin Zhang, VP North Central

On Oct 29, 2006, several alumni from North Central Region met at Chicago to join a wonderful gathering. Quite a few alumni drove from out-state, including NASYUA president Liuming Zhou. Dean of SYU International Education College Dr. Bo Jiang shared recent news from SYU. Alumni discussed future activities of NASYUA North Central Region. Some alumni also attended the ProcessExpo Chicago 2006 in the McCormick Place. Alumni who attend this gathering enjoyed an authentic lunch at Laosichuan and friendship with other NASYUA members.

