

Enrichment Camp Connects High School Students to the World

Organized and hosted by the Office of International Affairs (OIA) during August 5-7, the 2020 NTU Plus Academy Enrichment Camp was aimed at broadening the horizon for talented students from international schools in Taiwan, as well as spotlighting NTU's outstanding research environment. The participants came from diverse backgrounds, including schools with different systems, such as Kang Chiao International School, Morrison Academy, and VIS Experimental High School. Some of the students had already been accepted by world-class universities, such as the University of British Columbia, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of Washington. With different nationalities in play, the students added an extra dimension of diversity to the program.

A total of five professors from different departments were invited to offer courses covering such topics as life sciences, forestry and resource conservation, evolutionary biology, geography, civil engineering, and creativity and entrepreneurship. Besides giving the students a taste of what university classes are like, another highlight of the program was the manner in which the professors explained profound concepts in

their respective fields in simple language while employing an interactive pedagogy.

Besides lectures, the OIA also arranged various lab visits, giving the students rare opportunities to observe the conduct of experiments firsthand. The GAME BABY program provided food for thought on how computers can speed up complex work processes for humans; the Zebrafish Model Lab gave a glimpse into how biological research is conducted; and a visit to the seismic isolation layer of the Civil Engineering Research Building revealed a seismic device that is normally hidden in buildings. Visits to the Gallery of NTU History, NTU Farm, and a plant dye session also proved to be both engaging and inspiring.

Leadership and team spirit were actively fostered during the 3-day event. In a poster session themed "Vision of NTU as a Leader," the students were guided to think from a leader's perspective, brainstorm ideas that would better represent NTU, and give group presentations. In the Creative Thinking & Innovation class, the professor organized a group competition to see which group could build the highest structure with a variety of materials, showing them the value of good teamwork.

The OIA hopes that the camp could offer precious opportunities of connecting local high school students to the rest of the world, as well as enhancing the visibility of NTU among international schools in Taiwan. Given the strongly positive feedback of the participants, the camp is likely to be expanded to accommodate even more high school students in the future.



Prof. Hsiao-Wei Yuan, Vice President for International Affairs, leads a birdwatching tour on campus.



Group photo taken at the campus tour.