

Weimar delegation receives warm welcome



Mr. Stefan Wolf, mayor of Weimar City, Germany and the delegation he led received a warm welcome from TNUA President Prof. Ju, Tzong-Ching and other school officials during their visit on April 20, with both sides expressing strong wish to promote further exchanges between them.

The delegation, which was in Taiwan at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, included Prof. Friedrich von Klinggarff, president of Bauhaus-Universität Weimar Gerd Zimmermann; Vice President Prof. Helmut Well and Prof. Tiago de Oliveira Pinto of the Liszt School of Music; City Council President Ms. Sylvia Sippach; and Mr. Friedrich von Klinggarff, director of information services of the municipal government.

Prof. Ju, introducing TNUA to the guests of honor, said the school is looking forward to more exchange with Weimar, which was home to German literary giant Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

Mr. Wolf noted that Weimar is known for its cultural heritage, having been named a World Heritage city by UNESCO and elected as the European Capital of Culture in 1999.

He said the delegation was glad to have a chance to visit TNUA and was impressed by the beautiful campus.

He said his city is also looking forward to more exchange with TNUA.

The TNUA International Exchange Center arranged a series of activities for the visitors, who were accompanied by Prof. Hwei-Jin Liu, dean of the School of Music, and Prof. Shien-Ta Su, chairperson of the Department of Music.

The visitors were taken to a tour of the School of Music's facilities, where they also observed classes and rehearsals. Prof. Well asked about the School of Music's curriculum, and expressed interests in the possibilities of collaboration between the two sides.

Prof. Zimmermann said that in Europe art and architecture are inseparable, and he hopes his school and TNUA can work together on art and technology, new media and design.

The guests also visited the Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, the TNUA Concert Hall, and the Center for Art and Technology. ◆

Top : Mr. Stefan Wolf (fourth from left), mayor of Weimar City, and other members of the delegation from the German city are at the School of Music.

19 TNUA and Chapman screen students' films through teleconferencing



TNUA and Chapman University in the United States jointly screened two short films made by their students in an exchange project through teleconferencing on April 20.

The screening presented months of hard work – filming and post-production work – since July 2009 when students from both sides teamed up in this unique international exchange activity: “Southern Point” by students from Chapman’s Dodge College of Film and Media Arts and “Coming Home” by their counterparts from TNUA’s Graduate Institute of Filmmaking.

Prof. Daw-Ming Lee, chairperson of the Graduate Institute of Filmmaking, said the activity enabled the sharing of teaching experience between professors from both sides, and interaction between their students in filmmaking practice.

The students in the project also learned and understood more of another country’s film industry and education by making films in that country, and this enriched their experience of multi-cultural and international collaboration, said Prof. Lee.

Prof. Michael Kowalski from Dodge College, talking through teleconferencing at the screening, described the exchange activity as a success, where the students

learned a precious lesson in terms of filmmaking practice and cross-cultural understanding. He said he hopes the two sides can collaborate again this summer.

Shih Li, a TNUA graduate student involved in the project, said that the intensive learning and work in allowed him to have a new understanding of himself and the world. He said he also got to reassess why he would want to be a film director.

Chen Chieh-yao, another TNUA student who wrote a script for the project, said he noticed the difference between the film industries in Taiwan and the United States. Although Taiwan lacks the kind of resource that supports the U.S. film industry, Taiwan can still rely on its creativity and hard work.

“Coming Home ” and “Southern Point” both explore the theme of people trying to resolve conflicts with their parents.

“Coming Home ” depicts a homosexual social worker who tries to reveal the truth to his conservative family.

“Southern Point” tells how a senior high school graduate gets into a fight with his mother over his plans to stop schooling and pursue his dreams. ◆

Top: “Coming Home ”