

Navigating the Academic Journey: Experiences & Strategies

A Guide for New Faculty on Career Development and Research Performance

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A Twenty-Year Journey in Academia

1999

PhD, Industrial & Manufacturing
Systems Engineering, University of
Missouri-Columbia

2000

Assistant Professor, Yuan Ze
University (YZU)

2005

Associate Professor, YZU

2009 -
Present

Professor, YZU

Administrative Leadership

- Chief of Curriculum Section (2015-2016)
- Director of Teaching Excellence Center (2016-2022)
- Vice Dean of Academic Affairs (2016-2022)
- Department Chair (2022-Present)

Defining My Research Landscape



Data Mining Algorithms

Developing algorithms based on user consumption data to classify, cluster, and analyze user groups for management efficiency.



Machine Learning & AI in Recommender Systems

Analyzing behavior patterns (text reviews, photos, check-ins, trajectories) to recommend merchandise or travel attractions.

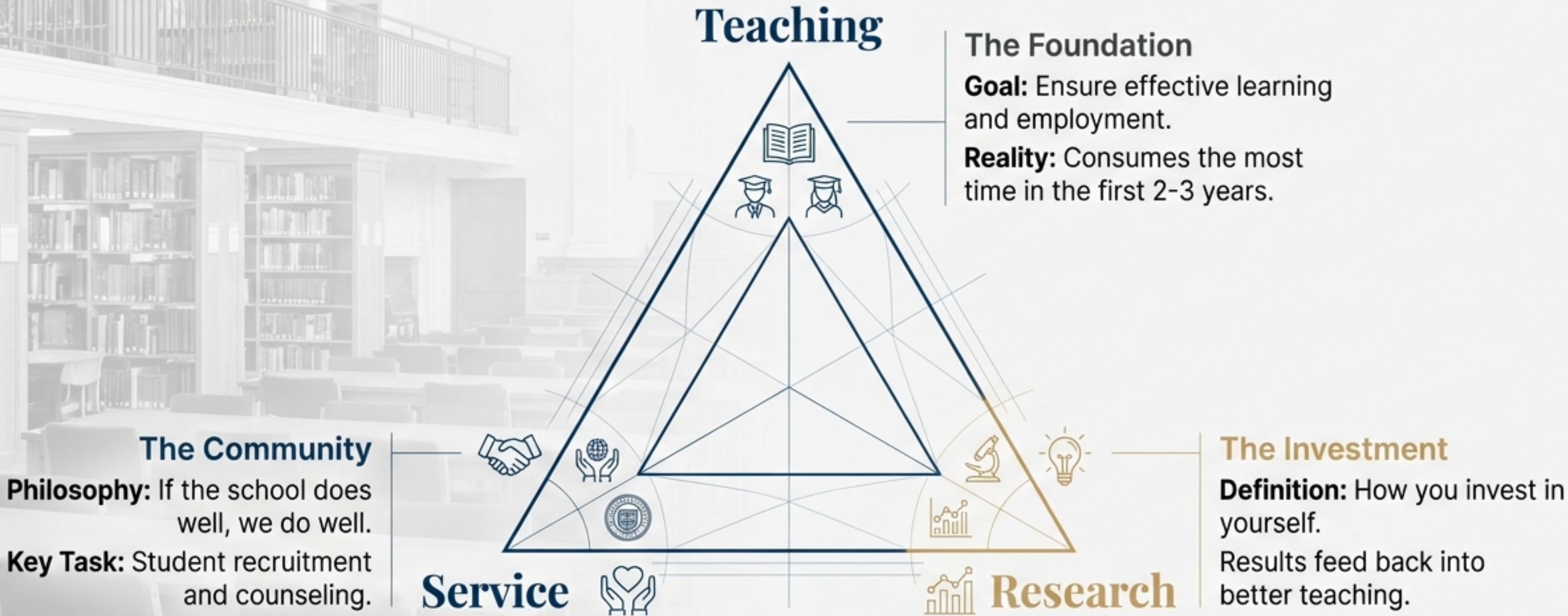


Heuristic Algorithms

Applied to scheduling, clustering, and optimization problems.

The Professor's Triad

Balancing the core responsibilities of academia



Investing in Your Academic Brand

Visibility is as crucial as capability



Strategic Actions

- ✓ **Expand your network:** Join professional societies in your specific field.
- ✓ **Be visible:** Understand operations and run for office (Director, Supervisor).
- ✓ **Contribute:** Serve as a reviewer or session chair for journals and conferences.
- ✓ **Aim High:** Strive for Best Paper Awards, Outstanding Young Scholar, or Fellow status.

“Let people know who you are.”

The Writing Engine: Time Management

Daily Routine



Option A: Fixed 2 hours every day dedicated to writing.

Weekly Routine

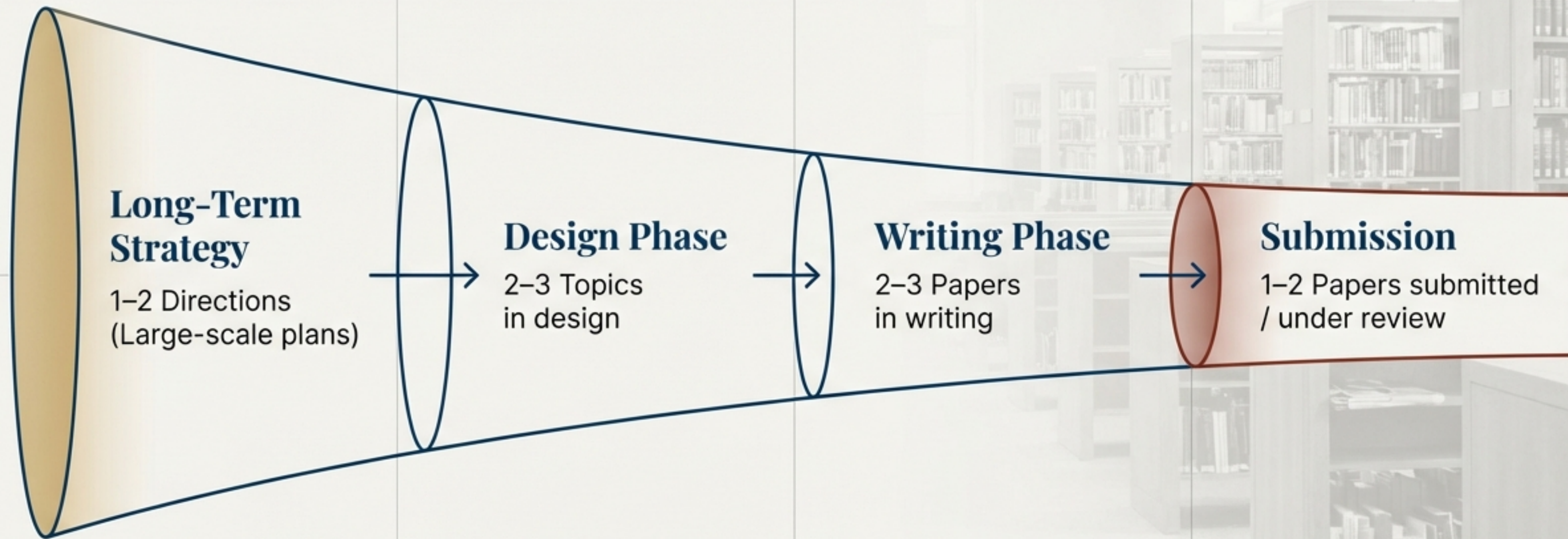
M	T	W	T	F	S	S

Option B: One fixed day per week dedicated only to research.

Seasonal Strategy: Winter and Summer breaks are not just for rest—they **must** be utilized heavily for **research** focus.

Benchmark for a Successful Pipeline

The metrics of a healthy research workflow



The Psychology of Publication

The Perfection Paradox



Don't submit until you are satisfied.

Check and revise repeatedly. But do not hoard work indefinitely.

The Rejection Reality



Rejection is not failure; it is part of the dialogue.

Do not be discouraged. Revise formats or address comments and submit elsewhere.

The Goal: Not a “breakthrough masterpiece” immediately, but **stable publication**, a **sustainable direction**, and a **clear academic identity**.

Fueling the Engine: Why Pursue Grants?



Key Sources:

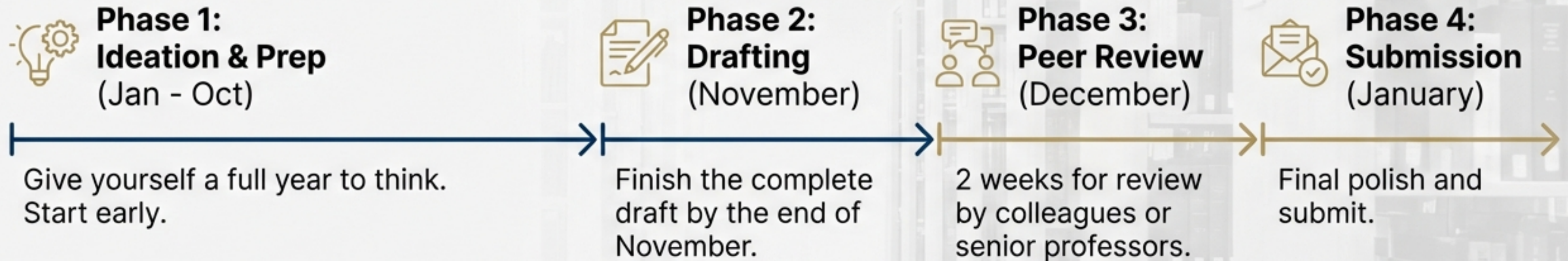
NSTC (National Science and Technology Council): Personal research focus.

MOE (Ministry of Education): Teaching practice research.

Industry: Solving practical client problems.

16:9 Strategy for NSTC Project Applications

A One-Year Preparation Cycle



Warning

Do not treat this as a chore to be rushed in the last 2-3 weeks.

Acceptance Rate:
~50%

New Faculty Bonus:
On-arrival review

MOE Teaching Practice Research Program

Solving problems in the classroom

Issue Awareness

What is difficult?
(e.g., low participation, hard concepts)



Learning Effectiveness

What changed?
(Knowledge, skills, attitude)



Teaching Design

What innovation?
(e.g., PBL, Gamification, AI)



Research Method

How to prove it?
(e.g., Pre/Post tests, interviews)



Incentive: Monthly host fee up to NT\$12,000.

The Academic Marathon

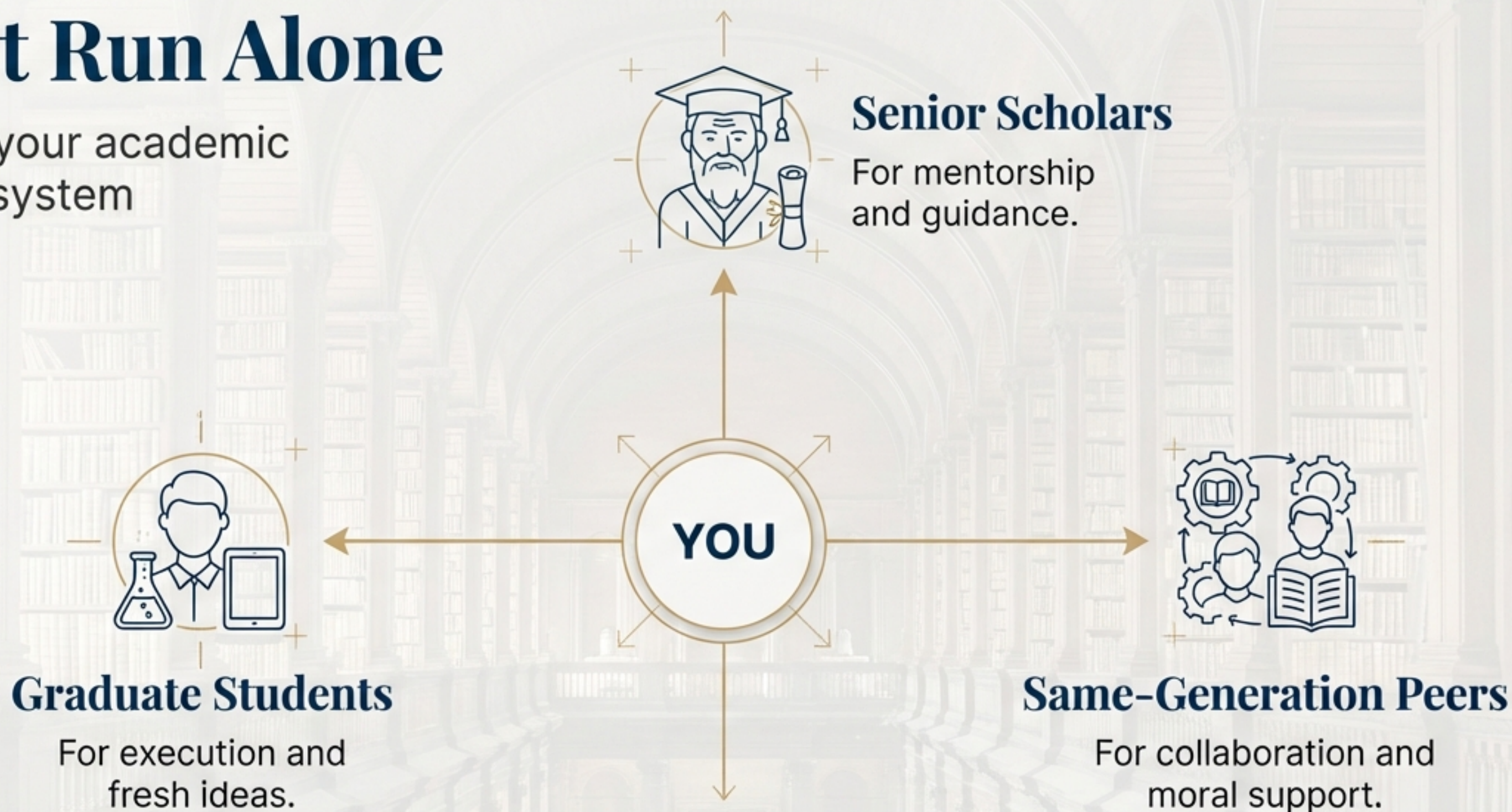
Academia is not about who runs the fastest, but who runs the longest and steadiest.

- **Success** = Producing **output** and maintaining **passion** after 20 years.
- **Consistency** > **Intensity**.
- Do not chase massive daily word counts; chase **consistent weekly progress**.



Don't Run Alone

Building your academic support system



Warning: Fighting alone in today's academic environment carries very high risk.

Thank You

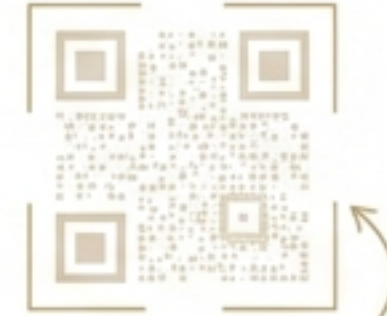
Wishing you a successful start to your academic career.

Prof. Chieh-Yuan Tsai

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