

The old year has passed
and the new year is coming
Wow, how time flies
Best wishes for you all
Forget the past mistakes
making amends for new year
forget the Bad memories
making cherished ones for this year
happy happy New year
great to have you all

EDITOR'S NOTE:

It's about time to start 2021 in rhyme

Here comes the final piece of the year! 2020 was filled with changes and challenges and we had gone through all the ups and downs with laughter and tears. HII Newsletter planned a special event for the New Year. New Year Resolutions from HII faculty and students were collected and presented as cut-up poems. The pieces were designed from the first two issues of HII Newsletter for finding the words and terms that suit the authors' own ideas. The cover photo represents the cut-up poem work from Mr. Liu Jian (PhD student of Marine Electrical Engineering College, DMU), the winner of *Most Impressive New Year's Resolution Award* in this special event that recalls and prospects his academic life in DMU and UH as a visiting PhD student.

Moreover, in the *Headline News* section, reviews and summaries of this year's *Dine with the Dean* bring us high anticipation for the event next semester. In addition, HII Student Dormitory Decoration presents the article "Home in the Dorm, Joy in the Room". DMU Long-distance Relay Running Competition carries the idea of "Running towards a better self" in an article of the *Feature* section. We are also delighted to have three UH students participating "We Meet We Share" online conversation and sharing their New Year traditions and study journeys in the *HII Chat* section.

2020 has been a time for us all to stop, think and rethink about our lives. Welcome to our latest and last issue in 2020.

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BY CHEN Yuan

New year is the time to reflect on what has passed and look ahead the opportunities to come. HII organised a special event for the New Year—**New Year Resolutions & Cut-up Poems**.

After released, the event received wide attention from DMU faculty and students. Undergraduates who had just finished their Final Exam, as well as graduates who squeezed time out of their busy research schedule took part in this event. The first 20 participators to register for the event received “gift packs” prepared by the HII Newsletter Editorial Group.

Under the expectation of the new coming 2021, overnight, participators acted as “artists” and “poets” created fine-quality pieces with light hands and subtle ideas, carried out infinite imagination in a confined space, and created many innovative and novel works. As for the event, two *Viewers’ Choice Awards* were chosen by readers through voting via the WeChat public platform, and one *Most Impressive New Year’s Resolution Award* was chosen by the judges.

2020 was the year that has witnessed everyone’s belief in creating more surprising wonders. This event, providing joyous and warm moment despite social distancing, brought us closer. May you become what you expect in this brand-new



Staff Representative
Miss LI Minhe (Jessica)
Staff of Houston International Institute

Spring follows winter
We follow the hope
In the journey of life
Go for it
at full of strength
with full heart
and full of love

01 Mr. LIU Pancheng
Sophomore of Navigation College

If it didn't bring you joy
Just leave it behind
Let's ring in the new year
Forget past mistake
Sending you these greetings
To bring you hope and cheer

02 Miss LIU Xinran
PhD Student of Marine Electrical Engineering College

I wish all of us can learn to face challenges
Learn to deal with frustrations
Have the determination to explore our own path through life
In the coming years,
Let's share our thankfulness, joy, and hope.
Put in hard-work for a better tomorrow.

03 Mr. LI Zhenchen
Freshman of Houston International Institute

New year's wish in HII
Meet more friends
Improve my basketball skills
Take part in some competitions
Stop the Virus

04 Mr. LI Zhengzhong
Graduate Student of Navigation College

Time elapses, and experience is the gift.
2020 is a memorable and grateful year,
and we are supposed to strive for 2021.
Here the new year is coming.
All what I want is that
friends and family will be safe and sound.
As for myself,
no more hesitation & no more confusion.
With goals in mind,
I will work hard like my idol.
2021, to be a better man,
to be a happier one.

Viewers' Choice Awards

Most Impressive New Year's Resolution Award

05 Miss LIU Xinran
Freshman of Houston International Institute

Four years of college life should not be considered as unbearable but an opportunity to build a better version themselves "be profound in academic study and be patriotic with a global vision" From Dalian to Houston; Start Here Go Anywhere.
develop your ability of integrity, independence cooperation, innovation, tenacity and diligence, Start Here, Go Anywhere

06 Mr. LIU Yifan
Freshman of Houston International Institute

We students learn with passion, reach the ability to win the champion, and head for The Land of Wonders.

07 Mr. CHEN Yuan
Freshman of Houston International Institute

This year's fall semester is unusual, as we celebrated the reunification of students and faculty members back to campus after the breakout of COVID-19.
The 2020 cohort of 175 HII new students gathered on 20 September for the opening ceremony that officially marks the beginning of their new academic life.
Start Here, Go Anywhere!
We are well prepared.
Passion won't stop!

08 Mr. LIU Jian
PhD Candidate of Marine Electrical Engineering College

The old year has gone, and the new year is coming.
Wow, how time flies.
Best wishes for you all.
Forget the past mistakes, making amends for new year.
Forget the bad memories.
Making cherished ones for this year.
Happy, happy New Year!
Great to have you all!

09 Miss ZHANG Xinyue
Freshman of Houston International Institute

Upcoming dates
Would like to recruit cohort of new friends with passion and vitality
Have a good start and a good step forward
Achieve the goal and innovative talents in the future career
Starts with wish and eager to go anywhere

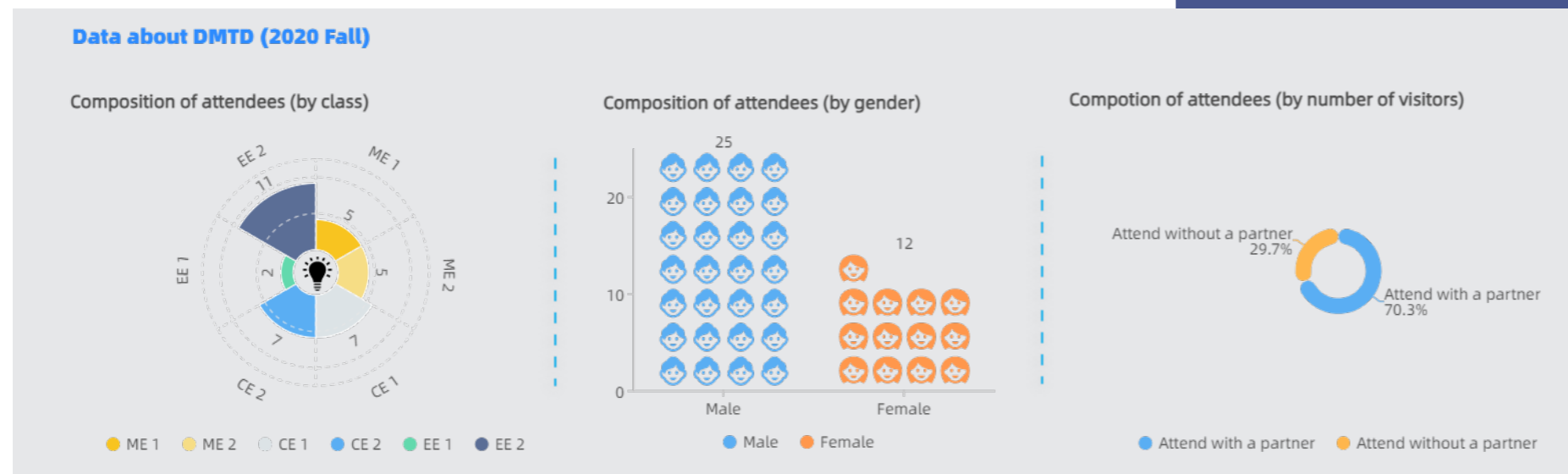
10 Miss GAO Yiwen
Freshman of Houston International Institute

Look out of the window
High-rises with cold atmosphere
It is a country in war
War with the pandemic
New year gives me a wish
Everything will be better
I'll go home to see my family
Enjoy love and warmth

BY FU Wenzheng and XING Yunjie

“Dine with the Dean” (DWTd) is a new initiative that was created to welcome students and enable them to meet and have lunch with the Dean of HII. Intended to increase communication between students and faculty members, DWTd’s casual setting encourages students to discuss issues pertinent to the university, as well as ask the Dean questions, seek advice from her, or express areas of concern directly to her. Every attendee was free to choose whether to come with a partner.

The first student went to the lunch on 12 November. Until 30 December. 37 students participated in the DWTd this semester.



Dean's Message

Having lunch with my students is such precious and pleasant time for me!

Before it was started, I was a little bit worried, “Whether students be willing to take the initiative?” “Will students be interested in dining with their teacher?”

With the implementation of the activity, my mood started to become expectation and curiosity gradually, since I could only have the information from the student tutor that who I would meet at noon in that morning. “Today, will that be a boy or a girl?” “Will he/she come alone or with a companion?” “What is his/her yearning for college life?” “Do they have any doubts in their minds?”.....

In the delighted time with my students every noon, I had chance to know their favorite songs, their home food; to listen to their opinions and suggestions on the Institute and Courses since they entered university; to learn about their interests and goals. I saw their attitude towards study and life; I felt their enthusiasm for college life and their youth and vitality. I was touched by the fire in their minds and the light in their eyes!

Due to the arrival of the final exams, the arrangement was suspended. When the spring blooms, I look forward to inviting more students to join the lunch so that I can get to know and understand every lovely student of the Institute. I hope I can accurately call out their names when I meet them.



Mr. Li Guanting's Review:
One of My Best Choices During 2020

“Participating in DWTd was one of the best choices I made during 2020. The atmosphere was great! I recounted to the Dean about the problems and worries I underwent after arriving at the university. She listened to me patiently while I was telling my story. Afterwards, she shared her experience and perspectives. Most importantly, she encouraged me to ask my professors and advisors for suggestions on how to solve academic issues, and reiterated that the essence of a university education is to figure out how to learn and fully use resources. I followed her advice and benefitted a lot. Thank you, Dean.”

--- Mr. Li Guanting (ME 2)



Mr. Zhu Guanghao's Review:
I Made Progress!

“I had lunch with our Dean Zhang in a relaxed atmosphere. The dean shared with me about HII’s future plans for development. Right there, I felt incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to study at the Institute. As I was not so confident about my English, Dean Zhang patiently shared with me about her English learning experience and methods. After religiously following these methods, surprisingly, I noticed that my English proficiency had improved, especially in listening and speaking. This greatly boosted my confidence in studying. Therefore, I truly appreciate and would like to thank the Dean for her help despite her busy schedule. I will intensify my efforts to enhance HII’s reputation.”

--- Mr. Zhu Guanghao (CE 1)



Mr. Zhang Jiaheng's Review:
Learning Should Never Stop

“The biggest benefit of attending DWTd was that it provided me with insight into the ultimate goal of studying, which should not just be to pass an exam. For example, my goal for studying English should not be limited to passing the Duolingo exam, but I should strive to systematically study, so I can pass academic English exams (such as the IELTS) to achieve the goal of truly using English as an academic research tool in the future.”

---Mr. Zhang Jiaheng (ME 1)



Mr. Zhang Tongrui's Review:
A Fruitful Lunch

“As a freshman, I really feel somewhat at a loss and have several problems with college life, such as the lifestyle, learning methods, language issues, and so on. Luckily, our Dean is willing to listen to us and help us deal with these problems. As she mentioned, efficient study methods, self-discipline, and healthy living habits are necessary for having a successful college life. She encouraged me to formulate a clear and effective study plan and build a solid foundation in English, as it will be very beneficial for my future academic development. I really appreciate the wonderful lunch and unforgettable conversation with our Dean.”

--- Mr. Zhang Tongrui (ME 1)



Miss Zhao Yinan's Review:
Pleasant Times Always Seem So Brief

“I am honored to have had such a valuable opportunity to have lunch with Dean Zhang. At the beginning of our term, I felt that the Dean was very kind and affable. After the lunch, her erudite nature and charming personality overwhelmed me. She patiently answered the questions that confused me, and she shared with me about some of her life’s enjoyable memories. Pleasant times always seem so brief. Thank you, Dean Zhang.”

--- Miss Zhao Yinan (CE 1)



Miss Liu Xinran's Review:
Surpass Your Limits

“I sensed the Dean’s elegance first-hand during my first lunch with her. Although she had a very busy schedule, she still spent her lunchtime to listen to students. When we talked about competition, her words were very profound: ‘True nobility means to surpass your limits, and putting forth one’s best to progress continuously for the future.’ I truly admire the Dean and was also honored to share this moment with her.”

--- Miss Liu Xinran (CE 1)

The photos provided by the attendees were taken when they came to the event by an instant camera as keepsakes.

HOME IN THE DORM - JOY IN THE ROOM

BY LIU Jinze

Students in HII integrate their personalities into the dormitory and their ideals into life. They develop their own understanding and preferences concerning dormitory culture and style. In November, HII launched a cultural approach to dormitory decoration with a theme of "Home in the Dorm, Joy in the Room". Students here developed design plans based on each dormitory, bought necessary materials, and decorated their own "small homes".

The dorms were featured with a simple Nordic style, elegant retro style, warm and lovely style, fashion INS style, and so on. Small rooms vary in different styles. HII students have created their own space with their ingenuity. They are looking forward to the exuberant life, the collision of ideas and the exchange of emotions. "Home in the Dorm, Joy in the Room": this cultural approach to dormitory decoration is a long-term unremitting and meritorious system project for cherished memories in the campus.

Dorm 404

What we used in our dorm is a simple decorate concept, intended to simplify the complex university life and add some pleasure in the busy study schedule. Modern and simple styles can facilitate a good mood and make it much more convenient to live and study.



Tablecloth with bright colours, unique self-decoration, and wall cloth with a similar theme but different styles add vitality to this dormitory. In particular, the flowers and plants in the balcony bring a warm and spring atmosphere to the dormitory.



This decoration style demonstrates our pursuit of a simple life. We want to simplify the complex, to find a simple life in the busy daily routines, to achieve the unity of life and study, and to live a well-organised ideal life.

Members of 404

- ZHANG Junjie (ME 1)
- YAO Yaya (ME 1)
- MA Yuanchao (ME 1)
- WANG Shuhan (ME 1)

Dorm 406

We want to create a comfortable environment for studying and resting, make the dormitory a warm nest for everyone to edify sentiment, reflect open and inclusive cultural characteristics, and enhance the artistic atmosphere of the dormitory.



In addition, we intend to promote the overall development of dormitory members and improve their "home" sense of belonging.

Abstract painting symbolises a "divergent" thinking space, which corresponds to the spirit of bold thinking and daring action, reflects the open and inclusive cultural characteristics of the college, and enhances the artistic atmosphere in the dormitory. The keynote in the overall dorm is the dark colour, which is a symbol of calm and reflects the calm and resolute spirits of the members.



Members of 406

- WANG Jinghang (ME 1)
- CHEN Jinyuan (ME 1)
- LI Enyu (ME 1)
- GAO Chenxuan (ME 1)

Dorm 432

We created our dormitory combining with learning and sports elements, that is, a simple design with refined elegance aimed at adding a lot of fun and colour in our lives.



The grid on the wall is covered with postcards and photos, which record every moment of our lives that moves us. The decoration of colourful lights implies that even during winter nights in Dalian, we will still feel very warm. The wooden photo frame carries our beautiful memories, making our dawn and dusk to seem warmer. The stars on the ceiling are like lighthouses, pointing the way forward. We believe that by living in such a warm dorm, we can achieve a better life.



Members of 432

- GUO Yanlu (EE 2)
- WANG Yibo (EE 2)
- LIU Jinze (EE 2)
- LIU Zhengxu (EE 2)

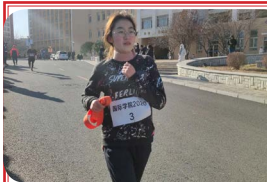
RUN FOR A BETTER SELF

BY YAO Yuan

On December 1, DMU hosted the winter long-distance relay race. This race is one of the university's longest-lasting and largest sporting events with the highest level of student participation. For many years, DMU has commemorated the December 9 Movement (a patriotic student protest that occurred in 1935 and opposed Japanese aggression in northern China) by hosting relay races to remember those involved in this protest. The year 2020 was its 85th anniversary.



The long-distance relay race included 27



participating groups (including 27 men's teams (295 people) and 17 women's teams (152 people)). HII students participated in the race and were very successful. Twenty HII athletes intensively prepared for one month in advance so they could participate in this race. During the race, the athletes exemplified solidarity and cooperation, while the volunteers offered logistical support and service. The HII athletes fought courageously: The men's teams won 12th place, while the women's teams won 8th place.

The long-distance race was a solitary effort

where each participant exceeded their limits with each step, demonstrated based on their dull and long repetitive strides. Long-distance racing in winter can effectively invigorate one's health, provide immunity against the cold, build up stamina, and develop willpower. As HII's motto says: "From Here, Go Anywhere". HII students will "run" to reach all corners of the world.



Office Spotlight

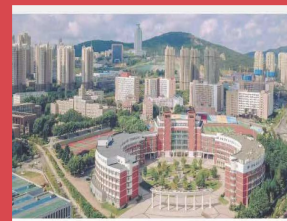
心|得|分|享
Duolingo English Test



大连海事大学休斯顿国际学院
Houston International Institute, Dalian Maritime University

Final Exam

2020 Fall



海大始终与你同在 | 致全校师生的一封信

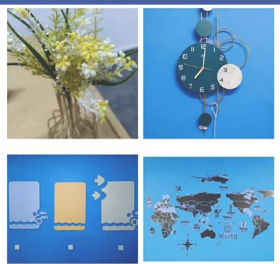
19 December
Experiences Sharing:
Duolingo English Test

15 to 31 Decmber
Administrative Issues:
HII Annual Report Preparation
and Submission

23 to 28 December
Exams: Final Exams of
2020 Fall

30 December
COVID-19 Information:
University Policy for
Campus Management

Student Spotlight



9 December
Student Activities:
Classroom Decoration



14 December
Student Activities: "Tree
Hole to Keep My Secret"
to help students in relieving
their worries.



29 December
"English with a Twist"
series of activities about
English learning



31 December
Student Activities: "We
Meet We Share" online
meeting with UH Students

Upcoming Dates

- 18 January to 14 March, Winter Break (Student)
- 21 January to 8 March, Winter Break (Staff)
- 11 to 15 January, "Hello Cougar" online Video Broadcast
- 21 to 25 January, HII Operational Meetings

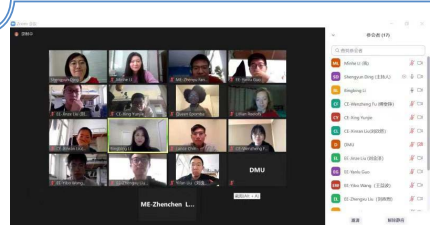
We Meet We Share

BY FU Wenzheng

On December 31, HII held the online meeting with the theme of “We Meet, We Share”. Dr. Zhang Jinlei, Dean of HII, Ms. Li Bingbing, Associate Professor of School of Foreign Languages, DMU visiting scholar in UH, Miss Lily Roelofs, Miss Queen Epomba and Mr. Lance Chin, students of UH and the staff & students of HII participated in the online meeting. Exchanging the traditional culture and customs and sharing the colorful college life, the staff and students enjoyed a pleasant time.

The meeting started from local food. Students shared the featured delicious foods from their hometown, including American-style “Barbecue”, Chinese-style “pancake roll stuffed with scallions”, “Goubuli steamed bun”, etc., which were extensively discussed by everyone. The “dumplings” also became the hot topic, including Chinese dumplings, Italian dumplings, steamed dumpling stuffed with sugar, and steamed dumpling filled with minced meat and gravy. The participants shared their tastes and life in the “delicious” atmosphere.

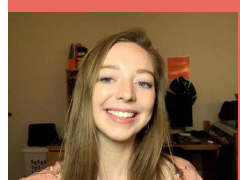
“Reasonable time schedule” is always deemed as the knotty problem of long standing by freshmen. Three students from UH shared their own “pocketful of miracles” to HII students. Miss Roelofs presented her notebook where her schedule plan was recorded. She likes recording the schedule of different events on the notebook with different colors of roller pens. Besides, Mr. Chin and Miss Epomba mentioned they were accustomed to setting the alarm on the phone for the convenience of reminding them the matters to be com-



pleted.

Traditional festivals also became the hot topic of students. Miss Epomba narrated the family party on Christmas, where the elders danced for they lost to the younger generation in game; the visit among neighbors shared by Miss Roelofs showed interesting traditions in the US; students from HII shared some fun stuff on the Spring Festival. Mr. Fang Zhenyu introduced the tradition that family members made dumplings with coin stuffed in to express good luck. The people who ate the dumplings with the coin will obtain profits pouring in from all sides and own happiness and health. Such custom caused the resonance of Miss Epomba who mentioned that her family members and friends stuffed a mini doll in cake and the people with doll cake would acquire the New Year’s blessing. Later, participants talked from Fireworks Festival to snowball fight and from academic performance to association culture.

At the end of meeting, participants talked about “New Year’s Resolution” on the last day of 2020, including “get good GPA”, “cultivate new hobbies and interests”, “attempt new sports”, “meet new friends”, “do more exercise”, “succeed in election”, “get an internship”..... Every New Year’s resolution contained the expectation to the good life in the future, and everyone believed “the things born in mind constantly would be replied”.



New Year’s is one of the most celebrated holidays in America. There are some traditions which are accompanied with ringing in the new year, one of the greatest being fireworks. On New Year’s Eve, all across the nation families, businesses, and cities release fireworks as the clock strikes midnight, so the first few moments of the new year are accompanied by a beautiful sight of lights across the sky. Many times people will host festive parties with family and friends as well, and they will tune in to “New Year’s Rockin’ Eve”, a TV program which displays an enormous celebration in Times Square in New York City. During this celebration many popular artists from the year will host huge concerts, and at midnight the citizens will watch the ball drop from a tower in the city. A few other traditions include popping open and enjoying a champagne bottle at midnight as well as sharing a kiss with your significant other to start off the new year. Also, eating black eyed peas on New Year’s Day is thought to bring good luck in the new year, so this is another common tradition in America. Unfortunately the festivities for New Year’s this year were largely cancelled or limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so many people celebrated with their families in their homes.

Personally, New Year’s is always a holiday I look forward to as it serves as a period of reflection for me to recount the events of the past year. I can remember both the good and bad moments, and decide for myself what I would like to accomplish in the new year. In America, this list of goals and aspirations is often called one’s “New Year’s Resolutions”, and it is a good way to help direct yourself and focus on what you want to achieve. All in all, New Year’s is a very fun, exciting holiday accompanied by many traditions, yet it also serves as a reminder to set new goals for our for ourselves and reflect on our past.

Lilly Roelofs
Teaching Assistant | ENGI 1100

Hello FANG Zhenyu,



I’m really happy I was able to help you succeed as your Teaching Assistant for ENGI1100. As I’ve said before, it was truly an honor to serve as a mentor to such passionate and intelligent students such as yourself.

In another light, the organizations offered at DMU seem like lots of fun! The range of different types of clubs is really impressive, and I encourage other students to follow your lead and get involved. As you may know, one of the best ways to build connections and learn new skills in college is to immerse yourself in new environments.

Furthermore, to answer your question about my study experience at UH, I would respond with two pieces of advice. First and foremost, I believe that organizational skills have really helped me succeed. For instance, before a new semester begins, I take the time to read through all of my syllabuses and mark all of the important quiz and test dates in my calendar. This way, I always know how much time I have before an examination, and I can prepare accordingly. Secondly, I practice the “nickel and dime” technique which I learned from one of my high school teachers. In this studying method, I simply review material in a small dosage every day, instead of cramming material at the last minute. Essentially, the goal behind this process is to maximize your long-term retention rate by reading the same material many times, but in short and reasonable intervals. Finally, I would also be thrilled to meet you and the rest of the HII students in-person one day, and I can’t wait to see how you guys will continue to grow!

Best wishes,

Lance Chin
Teaching Assistant | ENGI 1100