



### Briefs from UH Director



Dear Class of 2024,

This year has brought extreme difficulties, challenges and uncertainty up onto each and everyone of us, as well as the entire society; as bad as it looks, we still have reasons to be thankful and cheerful, and to have high spirits.

I am thankful that I have family, friends and you guys; well and sound. I am thankful for my health and realized that exercising is not that boring. I am also thankful to have the opportunity to get to know you and learn to teach the ENGI 1100 Introduction to Engineering course and hope this can lead you on the right track for your future career.

For many of you, this is the first time leaving home and start to have a taste of “real life”, I am sure you are full of excitement, expectations, and anxiety. After 3 months at your new home, I hope you were able to adjust to the new environment, make new friends, gain inspiration from your college life, and your dreams for future are fortifying.

We are now living in an era information overload, facing the tides of consumerism, and encountering an ever divisive society. I wish all of us can learn to face challenges, learn to deal with frustrations, and have the determination to explore our own path through life. In the coming years, I hope you can broaden your views through reading, learn to understand each others’ perspectives through conversation, and grow skills through hard work and dedication. I believe the real

### CONTENTS

- P1** Briefs from UH Director
- P2** Headline News
  - The welcome party for freshmen
  - Program Induction Meetings for new HII students
- P5** Features
  - HII professors
  - The very first friendly basketball match of HII
- P6** Student & Office Spotlight
- P7** HII Chat

judgement of “success” lies in our own heart and not the eyes of the others so I hope all of us can make peace with ourselves, our loved ones and our “adversaries”.

Let’s share our thankfulness, joy, and hope. We shall pack our personal sorrows and regrets of past and put in hard-work for a better tomorrow.

Dr. Li Sun  
UH Director of Houston International Institute, DMU

#### Editors in Chief

ZHANG Jinlei  
Li Sun

#### Editor in Charge

DING Shengyun

#### Editors

CHEN Yuan (CE 1)  
FU Wenzheng(CE 2)  
LIU Jinze (EE 2)  
XING Yunjie (CE 1)  
YAO Yuan (EE 1)

#### Designer: LIU Jinze (EE 2)

**Source:** HII News Media Centre

#### Contact Details:

Ms Ding Shengyun  
304 Zhenghe Building, 1 Linghai Road, DMU,  
Dalian, Liaoning, China  
Email: hiinewsletter@dlnu.edu.cn

# Headline News



## BY CHEN Yuan and XING Yunjie

“May we live long and share the beauty of the moon together, even if we are hundreds of miles apart.” This line from a famous Song dynasty poem written by Su Shi, better known as Su Dongpo, perhaps best captures the spirit of Mid-Autumn Festival, an age-old event with roots in Chinese culture to celebrate with families while giving thanks to crop harvest. The date, which falls on 1 October this year, is regarded as the second-most significant traditional Chinese festival after Lunar New Year.

HII Welcome Party for 2020 new students raised the curtains on that meaningful day and took place in the Student Activity Centre. During the evening party, participants including the students, volunteers, HII faculty and staff joined the offline activity while parents took part through online channels, gathering together to celebrate this unforgettable festival. The party mainly contained three sections: performances, games & lucky draw, and last but not least, videos recorded by students’ parents, which were very attractive.

### Performances

In this section, the stage witnessed singing, dancing and instrument performances in different styles. The party opened with the deep-voiced duet performed by Ma and Sun, who worked as volunteers of Freshmen Orientation Event, catchy songs such as “Payphone” also became eye-catching as the party reached its first climax. Moreover, brilliant dance performances like “YES OK”, “Perm”, and “Don’t

Know What to Do” drew tidal cheers from audience. The most impressive performances, however, were traditional programmes like funny crosstalk, skits and the erhu instrumental, as they easily struck a chord in audience. Besides, the crowd also appreciated the graceful instrumental performances by the guitar and piano-violin ensembles. Eventually, this section came to end at spectacular chorus of the “Maritime Song” performed by MSEM students (a Master Programme jointly run by Dalian Maritime University and World Maritime University). The whole section was so wonderful that it did not even give the audience time to blink.

### Games

During the intermission, the presenter provided the audience a chance to relax by presenting the exciting game section, during which some attendees were invited to the stage to take part in “stepping on the balloons”. A happy and delight atmosphere infected nearly all of the audience, and the whole hall was filled with laughter. Right afterwards came the lucky draw, and everyone held their tickets tightly in hand,





hoping to win the big surprise. When all the numbers were announced, some were filled with delight, while some appeared disappointed because they missed the prize. Zhang Yuxuan (ME 1), who got the special present, told the interviewer that it was the first time that he had won such big prize, and he hoped his future life could be as lucky as this.

### Parents' message

Finally came the most moving part, video messages sent by parents thousands of miles away were shown. It was so touching that many students could not hold their tears. The night witnessed many damp eyes and many touching scenes. Although many parents were long way off, the love and warmth they sent will not fade easily.

The day finally came to an end as sounds laugh and joy gradually drifted away from the Student Activity Center. The stage had witnessed so many happy moments as students enjoyed the night in others' company.

### Actors Interview

I must confess that I was nervous, but when I saw



the active crowd of audience cheering us on below, I was able to relax. We had been rehearsing for days, including a brief rehearsal backstage before our final performance. All the departments were fully committed to the task. The rounds of applause and cheering from our classmates made us feel so fulfilled and positive that we did a good job. Starting from a small stage, with serious commitment, I believe we shall move forward gradually, from here go anywhere.

—Mr. Ma Yuanchao (Actor in the Welcome Party)

This activity taught me a lot about importance of planning and teamwork. This party would have not been a success if it were not for the constant work of our teachers, staff and actors. They were united, always cooperating with each other. As the person in charge, I knew I needed to be resourceful and considered to organise everything and to bring it all together. I also had to be meticulous and keep a big picture in mind when planning the event, although these were never my best features. I consider this activity a growing opportunity. It has trained my ability and my mindset when it comes to resolving issues. Finally, I would like to thank my teachers, staff and actors for their hard work. I hope we can work together and improve even more in the future!

—Mr. Zhao Yu (Director of the Welcome Party)

# Meet Our Majors, Explore Our Options

## Program Induction Meetings were held for new HII students



### BY FU Wenzheng and YAO Yuan

From October 12 to 14, HII held Program Induction Meetings for Electronic Engineering, Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. Hosted by Dr. Zhang Jinlei, Dean of HII, the meetings brought Programme Directors, faculty members and staff together to help students to understand more about their majors and the professional possibilities they might have.

To open the event, Dr. Zhang Jinlei briefly introduced the unique “4+0”, “3+1+1”, and “2+2” models, the institutional intention and the development vision. HII has always been committed to cultivating a group of high-quality innovative scientific and technological talents united in developing their international vision and having a positive and important impact on the transformation process of the national manufacturing industry toward “Intelligent Manufacturing”. As a new international cooperation platform, DMU and UH had invested the best educational resources into HII. Dr. Zhang recounted some of the experiences that she had when she studied abroad and encouraged everyone to seize new opportunities. Some of her most sincere words like “start here, go anywhere” gave a glimpse of the potential in students’ future.

During the meetings, the Programme Directors illustrated the curriculum, career prospects and specialization of their respective programs. They motivated everyone to set their goals and gave some encouraging words to students.

Dr. Zhang Jingbo, Program Director of EE, said “Success is not something that will certainly happen in the future, but something that will continue to accumulate from the moment you decide to do it.”

Dr. Cui Chunyi, Program Director of CE, inspired students with the saying “Purpose drives the process by which we become what we are capable of being.”

Dr. Liu Zhijie, Program Director of ME, concluded and roused students with the call, “Now if you know what you are worth, go and get what you are worth.”

Finally, the class advisors shared their personal experience and academic background, pointed out the goals and aims for students at this stage of their studies and cheered them with a glimpse of what they could achieve in the future.

Advice from professors enhanced the students’ recognition of their major and motivated them to think deeply about it. They alleged “the students of 2020 were a generation that had all the capability to exceed expectations and be exceptional.” They guided the students to seize opportunities, face challenges, learn from difficulties, broaden their horizon, and maintain good physical and mental conditions, in order to deal well with the difference that might cross their path in their professional and academic journey.

The professors and scholars reiterated that four years of college life should not be considered as an unbearable weight by the students, but an opportunity to build a better version of themselves. The words, “The best way to predict the future is to create it” by Mr. Zhang Jian, the Student Tutor, touched students a lot.

The successful conclusion of this meeting, for all students of HII, signalled a new and exciting future. No matter how the future is, it will meet a dynamic team that perseveres and moves forward with courage.

*HII Professors column is designed to give a brief introduction about faculty members involved in HII courses. The following contents is about Dr. Li Sun, the instructor of Introduction to Engineering.*

BY Ms. LI Bingbing (DMU Faculty at UH)

Dr. Li Sun is currently a professor of Mechanical and Materials Engineering at the University of Houston. He is the Director of Subsea Engineering, the ME graduate admissions Director, and the UH Director of Houston International Institute at Dalian Maritime University. Dr. Sun got his BS degree in Physics from Nanjing University in China, and his MS and PhD degrees in Materials Science and Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University. He joined the University of Houston in 2003 as an assistant professor with the Bill D. Cook Faculty Scholars Endowment.



July 2019, Prof. Li Sun visited DMU and had a meeting with students

For his 17 years at UH, Dr. Sun establishes the Advanced Functional Materials Laboratory to conduct research the general area of advanced functional materials design, fabrication and application. He looked at how to control the size, shape and composition of nanomaterials using both physical and chemical methods; helped to understand the magnetic and magneto-transport properties in nanostructures; developed nanomaterials for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), tissue engineering and drug delivery; led the in-situ study of electrochemical process of nanomaterials formation on carbon surface using synchrotron radiation at the Argonne National Laboratory; and works with industry to develop rubber/elastomer nanocomposites that have superior mechanical performances under high temperature, high pressure and harsh chemical environments. More recently, Dr. Sun and his students/collaborators expand research further into multi-disciplinary Subsea Engineering and the Biomedical Device areas. Dr. Sun's research and development efforts have been support by US federal agencies including the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Education (DoED) et al; local/state and industry. He has 3 awarded US patents, published over 100 peer reviewed articles with over 4000 citations and an H index over 30.

Besides research, Dr. Sun is passionate about education and professional services. His students have won over 20 national and state level awards; including the inaugural Society of Plastic Engineers Frank Padula Memorial award; first place in undergraduate research of ASME University Technology Competition; twice of Honorable Mention of NSF graduate fellowship; first and second prizes in Engineering at Houston Science Fair for high school students; to name a few. For three consecutive years between 2014-2016, Dr. Sun led the UH ASME student chapter to win the national Diversity Action Grant competition.

Dr. Sun enjoys a variety of music although he himself has none (zero, nil) art talent. He tries to stay healthy by regular jogging and plays a little bit of pingpong. He has passed the age of being a car fanatic and just overcome the mid-age crisis urge of getting a corvette (still like the new Stingray design very much). He now enjoys to lecture students and try to pass along his advises and may make too much of complains about the new generation, please bear with him.

# Passion won't stop

## The Very First HII Friendly Basketball Match Was a Success

BY LIU Jinze

From October 24 to 25, at basketball court near the Zhixing Building, the HII class of 2024 held the very first friendly basketball match. Following the drawing order, EE1(Class 1 of Electrical Engineering) and ME2 (Class 2 of Mechanical Engineering) were the first ones to play in the afternoon of the 24th. The elimination system pointed out that both matches were highly competitive and intense all through. In the afternoon of 25th, the team won the elimination match continued to a second round, during which the team composed of student tutors participated actively. After a really fierce episode, EE1 went home with the title!



dunk and layups, made the audience cheer and wow!

It should be said, the final match between ME1 and EE1 was the most exciting one. A whistle blow marked the beginning of the final round. The score rose alternatively making the atmosphere absolutely unpredictable. The scores were very close when the time was almost hitting the clock. Minutes away from the end, the team of EE1 did a perfect cooperation movement with accurate shots and finally won the match by 66 vs. 44.

This basketball event was proposed with the aim to engage students in a cooperative activity, cultivate their collective sense of honor, promote the communication between different classes, and demonstrate the spirit of athlete. The selfless dedication of every staff member, the passionate drops of sweat of every athlete and the footprints on the court are all the symbols of self-worth and team spirit.



### MVP Interviews

First of all, I am very grateful for the dedication of my teammates and I regard our victory as of our efforts as a team. Secondly, I would like to state that I tried my best to win this honor for our class. I am also grateful to my opponents and I respect them as very strong competitor. Of course, thanks to all the audience for their applause and cheer, their enthusiasm is our motivation.

---- LI Weiwei (EE1)

### Student Spotlight

- 1 October, welcome party for freshmen
- 5 October, the first class of fall semester
- 12 October to 14 October, Program Induction Meetings for new HII students
- 12 October to 16 October, International Culture Festival
- 11 October to 20 October, "Learning and Teaching" survey and feedback for students
- 21 October, a visit to DMU Exhibition Hall
- 24 October to 25 October, the very first friendly basketball match of HII

### Upcoming Dates

- 4 November, the lecture "British Culture and Global Vision"
- 13 November, the second IELTS mock test
- 18 November, DMU & UH Talk Show

### Office Spotlight

- 15 October, lecture about English learning methods by professor Cheng Xin
- 15 October, Northeastern University at Qinhuangdao visited HII
- 11 October to 20 October, "Learning and Teaching" survey and feedback for students
- 27 October, lecture about time management by Dr. Zhang Jinlei

# HII Chat

Hello everyone,

I am a Junior studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Houston, and I am so humbled to also serve as a Teaching Assistant for UH-DMU's Introduction to Engineering course. The faculty and students at DMU have been such a pleasure to work with, and I am very appreciative of this unique opportunity. Additionally, I would like to thank Dr. Sun for giving me a platform to speak on a craft I constantly work on and put energy into, public speaking. While I am not an expert in this field by any means, over the course of my college career, I've absorbed many useful tips and tricks that I would be happy to share with you all.



Before diving into any specific techniques, it's essential to understand why effective public speaking is important. As an incoming freshman, I thought public speaking was reserved for people in power, professors, and the occasional presentation I would have to make. But I was wrong, very wrong. Through the years, I realized that public speaking is not just a politician making a statement or a stand-up comedian delivering his punch lines, but the

ever-present force that connects people. It's talking about sports with your friends, discussing confusing homework problems with your TAs, and even asking questions to your professors. You see, public speaking is not confined to a podium and a large audience, but instead is how we present ourselves and our ideas to others. That is why it is important.

BBFPP is an acronym I learned from a mentor of mine on how to become a better public speaker. While this is not a be-all-end-all, it does help build a strong foundation. The first B stands for body movement, in which you stand with correct posture and use your hands as an extension of your words. By doing so, you emphasize key points in your discussion and build a stronger connection with your audience. The second B stands for breathing, in which you actively remember to breathe. More complex than it sounds, taking breaths in-between sentences allows your audience to understand what you are saying and prevents you from talking too quickly. F stands for focus, in which you constantly remind yourself to concentrate on the main message you are trying to get across. The first P stands for practice, which is as simple as it sounds. By practicing and actively thinking about how you can correct your mistakes, you will eventually get better with time. Finally, the second P stands for projecting confidence by speaking clearly and being prepared.

While effective public speaking is crucial to our growth as professionals, it is a craft that takes lots of effort and dedication. As I said earlier, I am not a perfect public speaker, but I am willing to try my best to improve, and I hope that I inspired you to follow suit. With that said, I wish you success for the rest of the semester, and I can't wait to see what you all will accomplish.

I hope you are having a great semester so far, and I am so happy to be one of your teaching assistants for Introduction to Engineering. For the past 2 months, I've worked alongside many of you, and the thing that interests me the most about DMU is the students' curiosity and willingness to learn. Every week I look forward to helping the bright and creative minds at DMU and I will continue to do that moving forward. Additionally, I'm really interested in the extracurricular activities that DMU offers, and I would love to know more. So, please let me know which organizations or clubs you are a part of and why you chose to join them!

Best of luck,

Lance Chin  
Teaching Assistant | ENGI 1100 at  
UH-DMU Institute

亲爱的朋友们,

大家好! 我是你们来自UH的学姐!

My name is Queen Epomba. I am a rising senior Public Health Pre-Med and Chinese Studies double major here at the University of Houston.



Just like Dalian Maritime University's Clubs and Societies Day, UH also has a student event for all campus clubs and organizations. The beginning of every semester begins with Weeks of Welcome, which is, our university's orientation program. This program catches up both the new and returning students to the exciting events on and around campus. One program, in particular, Cat's Back, is UH's

Weeks of Welcome's signature event. For the past 17 years, Cat's Back has been introducing our amazing campus' clubs and activities to its students and the greater Houston community. At this event, students are connected with student organizations, eat free food, participate in fun activities, and have the chance to win awesome prizes.

This event is called Cat's Back because of our university's mascot. The University of Houston's mascot is a Cougar. A Cougar is a large wild cat native to North America. Similar to a jaguar or panther, Cougars are predators and natural leaders. Actually, our campus has a real live cougar named Shasta! She lives at the Houston Zoo about 15 minutes away from campus. It is a school tradition for the graduation rings to be placed in a box in her enclosure at the zoo a week before graduation. This is a ceremonial send-

off for UH graduates. Any student who studies at UH is automatically a Coog, short for Cougar. We cheer on our fellow classmates by cheering: Go Coogs!

Even on campus, there is a life sized statue of Shasta. During exams especially, students rub the head and paws of the Shasta statue for good luck. This semester I'll be sure to rub Shasta's head and paws for all my new DMU friends and classmates. I hope to see you all at Cats Back someday soon! I'm excited to learn more about DMU!

Sincerely,

Queen Epomba  
孔佳琪