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Briefs from the Dean



Dear all,

Welcome to the first issue of the HII Newsletter!

It is with great pleasure that I serve as the Dean of Houston International Institute, Dalian Maritime University.

Before briefing the newsletter, I would like to update you on our new-born Institute, HII. Since the joint application for the Institute was formally approved by the Ministry of Education, P.R.C on April 26, both UH and DMU, with great effort, have involved in welcoming our first cohort of students. During the student recruitment season, recruiting posters, videos and interviews were released through public media and recruiting circulars was officially published on DMU website as well as DMU official WeChat account, which made HII well-known by candidates and parents. Meanwhile, our new teaching venue for HII students was ready in September, which is located at 4th and 5th floor of Zhixing Building on DMU campus. This new venue features 3 classrooms with remote learning system for on-line teaching activities, 7 classrooms with multimedia teaching equipment and 1 seat-flexible teaching area for social study.

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. We welcomed the outstanding batch of freshmen to join into our HII family. Among them, 175 new students are from 13 provinces of China. The arrival of new students furthers our mission to cultivate professionals and talents with a global perspective, who are willing to take an active role in the progress of science and technology. To centralize this mission, all teaching faculty and staff have worked together firmly by conducting seminars, workshops and student activities. The Welcome Address delivered by DMU Vice President, Prof. Zhao Youtao and by Culen College of Engineering Dean, Prof. Joseph W. Tedesco on the Opening Ceremony for new students and the Seminar on Education and Teaching of Houston International Institute moderated by DMU President, Prof. SunYuqing have inspired our new students and elevated the crucial role HII played in two universities. We are well prepared.

Now, I am thrilled to share with you our newest publication, HII Newsletter. It is designed to communicate with our audiences. We strive to

share voices, creativities and achievements of our students and faculty. We hope to reveal the many ways which HII lives into its mission.

This issue starts with Headline News that happened in September and follows with the Features section, which introduces enthusiastic, inspirational and motivated teaching faculties from HII Language Centre. Student Spotlight and Office Spotlight describe the events and activities that took place in September. The issue ends with an interactive section, HII Chat, which designed as a platform for DMU and UH faculty and students to share their ideas. Your thoughts and questions are warmly welcomed on this section (see the inside back cover for contact information).

I would like to end my brief by sharing a meaningful Chinese idiom “知行合一|Zhi Xing He Yi”, which means the unity of knowledge and action. The name of our teaching building, Zhixing, is originated from this idiom.

With this expectation, I wish our students,

From Dalian, To Houston. Start Here, Go Anywhere.

Dr Zhang Jinlei

Dean of Houston International Institute, DMU



Start Here, Go Anywhere

The Opening Ceremony for 2020 New Students of Houston International Institute Held in DMU

The day that we desire finally arrived!

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. With UH faculty and 139 students' parents unable to join the ceremony on DMU campus, the ceremony combined the on-line event with a live stream for those attending on-line. The ceremony was co-moderated by Dr Zhang Jinlei, Head of Houston International Institute (HII) and Prof. Li Sun, Deputy Head of HII, and featured several distinguished guest speakers from two universities.

Gracing the ceremony, DMU Vice President, Prof. Zhao Youtao, in his speech, extended a warm welcome to the first cohort of HII students and urged students to always uphold high standards of learning and strong integrity, along with other treasured noble virtues.

As Programme Directors, Prof. Liu Zhijie, Prof. Cui Chunyi and Dr Zhang Jingbo introduced the features



and merits of three programmes respectively to the students as well as the learning methods and interdisciplinary integration.

Prof. Cheng Xin, Director of HII Language Centre, presented a speech as the theme of "The pursuit of a dream" on behalf of the teaching faculty. She advocated the students striving and surpassing themselves by participating in the "three months" challenge.

Speaking on behalf of Class Advisors, Dr Huai Shuaiheng, lecturer of Information Science and Technology College, who serves as the class advisor of Electrical Engineering Class 2, shared the valuable experience about his university life in a jointly-run institute with students and reminded the students of laying stress on the process of learning and also profound effects of the academic record for individual development.

Mr Cui Yuexin, a new student majoring in Electrical Engineering, revealed why he chose to study at HII and showed the determination of students to the university life with passion and vitality.

In the on-line section, Prof. Joseph W. Tedesco, Dean of Cullen College of Engineering (COE), Prof. J R Rao, Associate Dean of COE, and Prof. Pradeep Sharma, Chair of Department of ME, met with the students through a recorded welcome video. Prof. Badri Roysam, Chair of Department of ECE, Prof. Roberto Ballarini, Chair

of Department of CE, DMU faculty and students at UH together with new students had an on-line communication through Zoom meeting.

Dr Zhang Jinlei shared the original aspirations and visions of establishing the Institute. Concluding her remarks, Dr Zhang asked the new cohort to “be profound in academic study and be patriotic with a global vision”.

On the ceremony, new students met their personal

tutors and collected “Guide book for English learning” written and edited by HII Language Centre.

**To our new students,
welcome and we look forward
to the continued vibrancy and
new energies you bring to our
campus!**

More Open The University More Inclusive The Education

Seminar on Education and Teaching of Houston International Institute & Teaching Reform of Engineering Education of Dalian Maritime University



On 23 September, Dalian Maritime University held a Seminar on Education and Teaching of Houston International Institute & Teaching Reform of Engineering Education of Dalian Maritime University. Themed on “More Open The University · More Inclusive The Education”, this seminar was held on Lingshui International Hall on DMU campus and moderated by Prof. Sun Yuqing, President of DMU.

“This seminar is to assure the education and teaching of Houston International Institute have a good start and a good step forward”. President Sun began by sharing the vision of HII to the participants. He underlined the value of HII: “We hope to give a full play to the role of HII as an ‘experimental field’, to well-roundedly promote the internationalization of our university and the teaching reform of engineering education, through which we could achieve the goal of cultivating top and innovative talents to lead the development of the maritime industry in the future.”

Vice President, Prof. Zhao Youtao reiterated the crucial role HII would play in DMU teaching reform of engineering education. “The fundamental duty of a university is to educate people and cultivate talents. HII stands for the new start of jointly-run institute of DMU. Next, we seek to focus on how to build HII into an excellent institute with international integration and outstanding achievements.”

In the keynote speech section, Dr Zhang Jinlei, Head of Houston International Institute, introduced the mission of the HII under the background of “improving quality and efficiency” in Sino Foreign Cooperatively-run Schools; Prof. Wu Guitao, Director Academic Affairs Office, interpreted the accreditation process and key points of Engineering Education; Prof. Lu Huibiao, Deputy Dean of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering College (NAOEC) delivered a speech entitled “Learning from the experience of international education to promote the construction and development of mechanical specialty”; Prof. Liu Zhijie, Deputy Dean of NAOEC, delivered a speech entitled “Implementation of the Training Plan for Mechanical Specialty Adapting to American ABET Certification Standard”, and proposed the training object of “Encourage Students to Learn and Think”.

Prof. Cui Chunyi, Chair of Civil Engineering Department of Transportation Engineering College (TEC), reviewed the history of cooperation between DMU and UH, and proposed to “Take Advantage of Qualified Teaching Faculty, Create a platform for Practice and Innovation”; Prof. Zhou Feng, Deputy Dean of TEC, delivered a speech on “the Enlightenment of Sino Foreign Cooperatively-run Schools on Engineering



Education Accreditation”, and the opportunities and challenges brought by international engineering accreditation; Prof. Fu Ce, Deputy Dean of Information Science and Technology College(ISTC), analyzed how to play its role in the background of teaching reform of engineering education, and listed the practical measures taken by ISTC in improving education and teaching effect of HII; Dr Wu Nan, lecturer of ISTC, regarded the ‘Following the Phenomenon to the Essence’ as the theme and shared his teaching experience.

Going forward, DMU will take this seminar as an opportunity to promote education and teaching of Houston International Institute and take further steps to strengthen the academic community construction.

Features

Enthusiasm · Inspiration · Motivation

HII Language Centre

The HII Language Centre is part of the School of Foreign Languages, DMU. It contributes to academic research in language teaching. The mission of this Centre is to help HII students improve their English and understand how to use English for their academic study by employing a range of teaching techniques.

The Centre consists of 4 teaching departments, including English Reading Department, English Writing Department, English Speaking Department and English Listening Department. There are 14 highly experienced and scientifically-trained teaching faculty who utilize contemporary technologies and adopt student-centred teaching approaches.

The HII Language Centre cultivates students' linguistic self-confidence in order to lead them to language fluency. Its vision is to help strengthen HII students' language skills as a key element of success in a competitive, modern, dynamic and multicultural society.

Teaching Faculty of English Writing

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Teaching Faculty of English Speaking

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Teaching Faculty of English Listening

 马志波 MA, Zhibo	 徐瑾 XU, Jin	 李燕 LI, Yan	 林祜 LIN, Zhi
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Teaching Faculty of English Reading

 孟庆楠 MENG, Qingnan	 董奕帆 DONG, Yifan	 吕雯妍 LV, Wenyan
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“We are well prepared, and we are thrilled to begin the challenging semester with you. As a HII student, not only will you obtain reputable degrees, but also develop your ability of integrity, independence, cooperation, innovation, tenacity and diligence, which will be transformed into comprehensive skills in your future career. We are eager to help you to achieve success. I wish you all the best in your future study and happy life at Houston International Institute.”

—presented by Prof CHENG, Xin, Director of HII Language Centre on the Opening Ceremony for 2020 new students



Student Spotlight

- 8 September, an on-line meeting for freshmen was held to introduce DMU in advance.
- 11 September to 12 September, 175 HII freshmen joined HII family
- 13 September to 31 September, orientation events for new students
- 20 September, Opening Ceremony for freshmen.

Office Spotlight

- 26 August to 20 September, Faculty meeting and seminar on teaching method of HII
- 23 September, Seminar on Education and Teaching of Houston International Institute & Teaching Reform of Engineering Education of Dalian Maritime University.
- 27 September, mock IELTS test for new students.
- 30 September, teaching venues of HII was officially put into use.

Upcoming Dates

- 1 October, welcome party for freshmen
- 5 October, the first class of fall semester



HII Chat



Dear UH friends,

As a new student of HII, I was impressed by hearing the UH tradition, Cougar Red Friday, from Prof. Tedesco through the Welcome Video on the Opening Ceremony. I am very interested in traditional events and student activities in college.

I'd like to introduce a traditional student event I attended recently. It is called DMU Clubs and Societies Day. This year's event was held on October 4th and a total of 147 clubs and societies covering seven areas of politics, sports, culture, arts, innovation, personal development, and social welfare showed up. They set up booths that represent their communities and entertained freshmen throughout the day.

Among them, the Basketball Club is immensely popular in our university. The Calligraphy Association is also the right choice for handwriting fans. And the Pottery Club is very characteristic.

During that day, 17 clubs gave the performances on the stage. DMU band played Tide of Iron, which made us feel impassioned. The magic show, the kendo show and the chorus show also impressed us all. Those excellent programmes pushed the scene atmosphere toward the climax.

There must be some popular clubs and interesting student activities at UH. We are all eager to know more information about them.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

*Liu Jinze
EE Student of HII*

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