ZJU-UIUC INSTITUTE

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ZJUI Parents' Day is held for the first time, and the first session of Parents Committee is established

April 22nd, 2018

Translator: Ke Liu

To constantly improve the quality of ZJU-UIUC Institute (ZJUI), construct a platform for communication between ZJUI and students' parents, improve the understanding and support from parents, and listen the constructive opinion from parents, ZJUI held the first Parents' Day at the international campus in Haining on April 21st. More than 60 parents of ZJUI students from different parts of China were invited to attend this activity. Vice-President of international campus, K.C.Ting, Dean of ZJUI Institute, Erping Li, Executive Dean of ZJUI, Philip Krein, Vice-Dean Hao Ma, and teachers from ZJUI and relative administrative staff also attended this activity.

In the meeting, Dean Erping Li discussed the change and development to the engineering discipline in these several years, introduced the training idea of "breaking the boundaries of traditional engineering disciplines and cultivating composite and innovative engineering elites" to the parents in detail. From the characteristics of the courses to the vivid examples of the teachers' representatives, Prof. Li explained the efforts made by the college in achieving the goal of teaching people. He stated that our institute will continue to build the world-class institute of engineering and cultivating the engineering leaders. He also hopes that parents will continue to support and participate actively, create more and better opportunities for the students together with the school.

Executive Dean Philip Krein introduced the benefits of interdisciplinary course setting to the students and he also talks about the concept of "T-Shaped student", which means that ZJUI aims to cultivate students who not only know their subject matter in depth, but also have interdisciplinary broad field knowledge and can actively participate in social practice and teamwork. From the curriculum, the faculty and scientific research work, ZJUI runs this institute around the main idea of developing such "T-Shaped students" who can meet the challenges of the world, and we cultivate the creativity, the leadership and the entrepreneurial spirit of the students.

Assistant Dean Qiang Lu, talked about the photos he took in the daily life for ZJUI students, shared the story behind the photos with the parents who attend the meeting.

Four students, on behalf of their groups, demonstrated their excellent projects to the parents to demonstrate their development as engineers. Chao Xu discussed their research about applying micro-nano sensor to the high precision real-time haze detector. Enyi Jiang introduced the turbulence model based on machine learning. Yiqi Feng demonstrated his experiment of winning the first prize in the construction competition without taking any relative courses. Tianyi Meng shared the preparation condition of the upcoming Robomaster Competition.

Then, Ms. Liu Ling, the newly nominated chairman of the first parents committee, made a brilliant speech. As the first chairman of the parents committee, she feels both a heavy sense of responsibility and excitement. She says that she will strive to improve the communication between the parents and school, and she will try her best to unite all other parents to create more opportunities for student's development and contribute to the development of the institute.

In the end, ZJUI faculty and staff had direct communication with parents. The faculty and staff who attended the meeting answered all questions from the parents and revealed the characteristics of this institute and the difference between Chinese education and the western education, hoping that parents will understand more about the multi-directional interactive education style which is student-centered, and cultivates the spirit of positively and creatively learning of students. The institute also evaluated the valuable constructive opinions and advice from parents, promising that they will try hard to solve all the problems and accept the advice from parents. There were several times parents applauded to show their deep hope and the confidence for the school. The parents all expressed their strong hope of improving the communication between parents and the school, and that they can help our school to enlarge the advertisement, which will make our institute become better!

Faculty Research Exchange

May 17th, 2018

Friday, May 13th, was the first Faculty Research Exchange (FRX) between Zhejiang University/ University of Illinois Institute (ZJUI) and Zhejiang University/ University of Edinburgh Institute (ZJE). Although there have been research communications before, it's the first time the faculty from both sides organized a research collaboration exchange activity. The goal of this exchange was to find cross-institute collaborations between engineering and biomedicine.

18 faculty from both institutes presented. Executive Dean Philip Krein of ZJUI and Executive Dean Sue Welburn of ZJE were both in attendance and presented. The Vice Dean of International Campus KC Ting also presented his research. The seminar last for 3 hours, with each speaker presenting a short bio, current research and possible cross institute collaborations.

There were some research connections made between the faculty. Dr. David Arnot of ZJE and Dr. Mark Butala of ZJUI discussed a potential joint endeavor to use signal and image processing methods to remotely sense and track mosquitoes. Dr. Arnot also discussed a potential collaboration with Dr. Yang Xu of ZJUI on the possibility of sensing mosquitoes using infa-red lasers. Dr. Tinggang Chew of ZJE and Dr. Butala examined the idea of sharing students to complete a project on image processing of cell activity.

This was the first of many such research exchanges to create opportunities for the two institutes to work together.

ZJUI Student Team Named the Meritorious Winner in the Mathematical Contest

May 9th, 2018

A team of three ZJUI students, under the guidance of Professor Thomas Honold, was recognized as a Meritorious Winner in Problem C of the Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM). This annual competition is sponsored by the Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications (COMAP). It attracted more than 10,000 teams from over 900 institutions around the world. The three students on the team, Chen Yifan, Xu Chao, and Jiang Enyi, are sophomores in the Zhejiang University/University of Illinois Institute (ZJUI), all majoring in Computer Engineering.

The MCM is a global competition emphasizing in-depth problem study, computational modeling, original thinking, teamwork, and communication. It challenges student teams to propose and analyze solutions to open-ended problems. Within a four day limit, each team must develop a model, formulate and verify a solution, and prepare a detailed report. Team choose from six possible contest questions. The ZJUI team analyzed 50 years of energy production and consumption data spanning four US states to establish goals and guidelines to meet future energy demands while utilizing cleaner production sources.

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ZJUI Students, together with ZJU students, won First Prize (Gold Medal) in the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation

May 30th, 2018

Recently, good news came from the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) that the ZJU delegation won the first prize in the software materials robot challenge. The ZJU delegation included freshmen Yang Sihao, Ji Huangchang and Xie Yiqing who all major in Mechanical Engineering in ZJUI.

The conference took place in Australia on May 21st - 25th.During the conference, a series of robot challenge competitions were held and teams from several world-famous universities, including Zhejiang University, MIT and National University of Singapore participated in the competitions. The software materials robot challenge, which was won by the team of ZJUI students, mainly consists of two parts: the software component challenge and the software-robot object-grabbing competition. This competition is an international professional platform for the research of software robots. It aims at promoting the research of software robots and enhancing their applicability in real situations.

The freshmen of ZJUI had the chance to join seniors from Zhejiang University to prepare for this high-level competition because of their motivation to pioneer and innovate. The freshmen signed up for "The Robot Software Innovative Design Competition" hosted by Shanghai Jiaotong University in 2017. Participating in the December 2017 competition enabled them to get to know other excellent teams from Zhejiang University Robot Association and their instructor, professor Li Tiefeng. Under the organization of professor Li and the association, students from ZJUI and other teams jointly formed the representative team of Zhejiang University and began to prepare for the ICRA competition. Students from ZJUI took advantage of their holidays and spare time between class to actively participate in the molds modeling, hand-grip making, document writing and other work of the software robots. They also recognized the opportunity to learn from teachers and senior students. When describing their feelings about winning this competition, they all modestly said that they had not done enough. They hope to enrich their knowledge and fight for more challenges in future study.

CEE Class 1701 Has a Meeting with the Zhejiang University Branch of the International Students' Club of ASCE

March 27th, 2018

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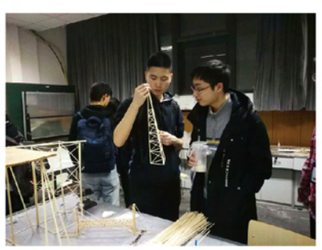
Photos: Kaihang Zhang, Jiafan He, ASCE



On the afternoon of March 23rd, 9 civil engineering students from ZJUI went to the Zijingang Campus to meet with the seniors of the Zhejiang University Branch of the International Students' Club of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This meeting was to help prepare the students to compete in the 19th "Zhong Tian Cup", the Undergraduate Structural Design Competition of Zhejiang University.

With the efforts of the CEE1701 class and the assistance of the ASCE of the Zijingang Campus, the students were able to organize a face-to-face meeting. This allowed ZJUI students to have the opportunity to meet directly with the seniors who won the first prize in the national competition and have a chance to be instructed by experienced instructors.

Accompanied by their seniors, ZJUI Civil Engineering students visited the model rooms and studied many of the works under construction. They also visited the models that had achieved excellent results in the national, provincial and ZJU competitions. The students were deeply impressed by their creativity, it is amazing that a 7-gram lattice column can bear a load of up to 5 kilograms. In addition, the exquisite and rigorous calculations written by the previous National Team players impressed the ZJUI students, encouraging their desire to learn this in the future.

ASCE Vice Chairman Chen introduced the students to the history of ASCE's development, explained the specific rules of the structure competition, and answered the questions we may encounter in the actual operation. At the same time, he also expressed a warm welcome for the arrival of ZJUI students, and said, "I hope to continue the long-term and continuous exchanges with the Haining campus." ZJUI students also believe that this event and the last year's communication will be the foundation of the long-term relationship between the International Campus and ASCE.

In addition to Chen's instruction, the instructor responsible for the structural contest and the senior contestant who won the first prize of last year's national competition taught the students how to formulate the model for structure competition and some related knowledge. The ZJUI students listened carefully. After sharing, the president also patiently answered the ZJUI students' questions.

It is everyone's hope that ZJUI students will have some achievements in the competition and use the game as a valuable experience to light the journey of learning in the future.

Spencer Awarded the 2018 Nathan M. Newmark Medal

March 30th, 2018

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has awarded ZJUI Adjunct professor Billie F. Spencer Jr. the 2018 Nathan M. Newmark Medal "for pioneering work, innovations, and leadership in the theory and application of advanced technologies to fundamental problems in structural engineering and mechanics, as well as for his unwavering commitment to education/mentoring of students and professional service."

Spencer is the Nathan M. and Anne M. Newmark Endowed Chair in Civil Engineering, and has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in structural engineering and mechanics since joining the CEE at Illinois faculty in 2002. His research interests are primarily in the areas of smart wireless sensor technology, damage detection and health monitoring, structural control, stochastic fatigue, stochastic computational mechanics, earthquake engineering and civil engineering applications of information technology.

The Nathan M. Newmark Medal, which is given annually by ASCE, was established by the Engineering Mechanics and Structural Institutes to honor Nathan M. Newmark for his outstanding contributions in structural engineering and mechanics. According to ASCE, the Newmark Medal is given to "a member of the Society who, through contributions in structural mechanics, has substantially strengthened the scientific base of structural engineering, these contributions having been made in the form of papers or other written presentations."

News in Pictures

1.Students displaying ECE110 course projects at the open day event

2. 3D printing works of Mechanical Engineering freshmen

3. Executive Dean Prof. Philip Krein presents design award for freshman

4. Students Show Off Talents in First Culture Festival

5. Students from ZJUI met with robot teams at Yuquan Laboratory

6. Residential College held its first High Table Dinner, many ZJUI students attended the dinner.