Milestones

- **2014. 7. 2**
  Groundbreaking Ceremony

- **2015. 6. 19**
  Plaque Unveiling Ceremony, witnessed by Vice Premier Liu Yandong

- **2015. 9. 12**
  Welcomed First Class of 100 Students

- **2015. 9. 25**
  Matriculation Ceremony

About SCUPI

The Sichuan University - Pittsburgh Institute (SCUPI) is a new academic entity jointly established by Sichuan University (SCU) and the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt). SCUPI realizes the new archetype of institute-scale, collaborative entities between leading universities in the U.S. and China. SCUPI is designed to follow an international model and thus merges the advantages of both universities in its mission, curriculum, teaching, and educational resources. SCUPI aims to provide a world-class engineering education that focuses on design innovation with an international outlook.

SCUPI Database

- Students: 100
- Faculty: 9
- Staff: 6
- Student organizations: 3
- Student clubs: 7
- Student leadership positions: 28
- Academic lectures, seminars, and events: 15
- Student programs and events: 19
- Visitors/Delegations: 15
- SCUPI Colors: SCU Red & Pitt Blue
Latest News

The leadership of Sichuan University visited SCUPI
On September 5, 2015, the leadership of Sichuan University visited Sichuan University - Pittsburgh Institute. The leadership of the university toured the teaching area and examined every classroom. (More)

2015 Matriculation Ceremony
On Friday, September 25, 2015, 3:30pm, the matriculation ceremony for freshman class of 2015 was held at International Conference Hall, third floor, Sichuan University – The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction. (More)

Halloween Party
On Saturday, October 31, 2015, SCUPI's first Halloween Party was held in Room 216. It was also the first program that SCUPI Student Council organized since its establishment. Over 100 students, faculty, and staff attended the party.

Prof. Shih's Lecture
On Wednesday, October 14, 2015, Prof. Tom I. P. Shih, from Purdue University delivered a lecture on "Make Your Dreams Come True".

* Prof. Mai with students

Learn to be grateful----Thanksgiving Party
On Thursday afternoon, November 26, 2015, SCUPI held a Thanksgiving party. Before the start of the party, all faculty and students wrote some heartfelt sentences on special cards, exchanged them with other members in the group, and then each group chose some touching cards. (More)

Prof. Mazur's Lecture
On Tuesday, December 22, Prof. Eric Mazur from Harvard University came to SCUPI to deliver a brilliant speech on "The Make-Believe World of Real-World Physics" (Millikan Award Lecture). (More)

Merry Christmas, Happy SCUPIANS
On the eve of December 25, 2015, a splendid party celebrating Christmas was held in Sichuan University-Pittsburgh Institute. Approximately 120 guests, including students, faculty, staff, and their family and friends attended the party. Tong Jialing and Li Dan hosted the party, which encompassed performances, games and gifts exchange.

SCUPI’s first debate competition
On December 14, 2015, SCUPI successfully held its first debate competition in room 216 on the theme of “Credibility depends more on self-discipline or heteronomy?”, aiming to improve thinking and creativity and to develop traditional virtues. (More)

* Admin team at Christmas party

* SCUPI students

* Prof. Mazur with students

* Prof. Shih's Lecture

* Prof. Mai with students
Active learning: Change of Habit

Active learning, as Dr. Renee Clark highlighted during her visit to SCUPI, models the kind of instruction Professor Michael Reed has been practicing since the first day of his lecture and studio-style *Introduction to Engineering*. In the studio-style session, students solve assigned tasks by first recognizing, then defining the problem. Before reporting solutions, students discuss the problems with their teammates while the instructors persistently challenge and prompt them. Each week, several teams are randomly selected to present their solutions to the class using PowerPoint slides.

Establishing the active learning model, however, proceeded tentatively at the beginning of the course because its opposite—passive learning—continued to manifest its influence on many students educated in the Chinese system. In China, high school classes typically lecture to students, while most of their external preparation is stuffed with pre-fabbed problem sets that necessarily mimic the Gaokao’s, China’s all-important national college placement exam. Unfamiliar with collecting facts and ideas, analyzing, synthesizing, and concluding, many students also find teamwork novel, which they had hitherto interpreted as redistributing work to each individual rather than colleagues cooperating to solve a problem.

Understanding our students’ pre-college training, instructors help students shift from passive to active learning more efficiently. When asking students to think and perform in a certain way—for example, group discussion—instructors may need to motivate students by explaining the unfamiliar mode of thinking’s advantages. Instructors may also need to make an extra effort to impart these ideas to students by demonstrating them in action. Other devices, if necessary, should be employed as well.

——Xinfeng Quan
Assistant Professor

SCUPI Life is...

"In this semester, I studied not only the engineering knowledge, but also the ability to communicate efficiently with my partner, and the skill of giving a presentation in front of my classmates. I am sure that my days at SCUPI will be my best memories."

—— Xiaoyang Yu
Striving for Excellence

——Al Evans, English Lecturer

Many students may be content to complete their coursework and go home. Others strive for excellence after classes end. SCUPI students fall into the latter category. One of the best ways to see this is in the Revision class on Thursday nights. Formed at the request of students, this voluntary class meets every week to examine very specific language issues in their classes. In this student-driven class, the students provide materials in advance for the instructors to cover. From the text issues found in physics books to the types of language used in questions for their engineering homework, the class examines different samples every week. Led by one of the English Language teaching faculty at SCUPI, the students continue to work hard to develop their language skills in order to succeed in the very demanding landscape of their STEM courses.

In a typical class, the students will examine the samples provided in advance. They will spend time examining vocabulary and grammar, and sometimes idiomatic expressions. Often, they learn how to simplify rather long sentences with highly technical jargon. Once the language issues are clear, it is easier to tackle the concepts from Engineering and Physics. In addition to examining the authentic language problems, the instructor also discusses ways to improve participation in course lectures, and how to handle those moments when they might begin to get lost. Finally, new resources for developing language skills are introduced. According to students need or request, different strategies or resources are emphasized and practiced.

"Adapting into an all-English teaching environment is not easy, yet frequently I hear from the students a delightful response: Aaah! I got it!"

——Xinfeng Quan

"They did their best work on our video projects and poster presentations. Those were cool."

——Al Evans

"The SCUPI students are smart, motivated, hardworking, interesting people. They are enthusiastic about learning and have made me feel welcome in China. I expect great things from them in the future!"

Michael Reed
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

"It's a great honor to witness our SCUPIANS to start their engineering dream from here; and we're hoping to help them create a life-time experience at SCUPI."

Jie Wang
Associate Dean for Administration
My SCUPI Life

Five months have passed since I became a freshman in SCUPI, and now I adjust quite well to my new life. My academic life is busy and rich here. I have a demanding curriculum schedule which consists of calculus, physics, engineering and English. I suffered from those courses at first but got accustomed to it quickly. I worked hard this semester, and was never absent from any class. My efforts paid me back with satisfying grades and skills that will benefit my future career. Additionally, I had chances to attend lectures given by some famous masters, which turned out to be unique experiences for me.

I met the best professors and staff here. Their encouragement and devotion make me never hesitate to ask them for help whenever I had difficulties, be it language barriers or desire for a new mode of instruction. My classmates are friendly and creative. We often help each other promote thoughts through analysis and debates.

What about my extracurricular life then? Wonderful! Colorful activities are available here and students actively participate in them. Student council, class council and youth communist league are all dedicated to enrich students’ life. There are also many clubs for students to dig out their potential, such as the debate club, the English club and the technology association. For me, I joined the basketball team, participated in track and field events and scheduled my spare time to learn some extra skills.

SCUPI is an international institute aiming at cultivating engineers with outstanding prospects, an outlook attracting and driving me forward. The abundant learning resources and top-ranking teaching facilities provided by SCUPI not only help us to achieve academic advancement but also shape our characters. Specifically, SCUPI attaches great importance on active learning, creative thinking, teamwork, and leadership, preparing students for their future career. Though SCUPI is brand new, I believe it has a great chance to evolve into one of the world’s best engineering schools and I’m also confident that SCUPIANS will live up to the expectations. I am really enjoying my life at SCUPI.

Becoming a Student Leader...

Yiyang Wu

Becoming a leader in SCUPI not only expanded my horizon, but also developed my leadership skills. I was very lucky to be one of the four founders of SCUPI Student Council, along with my advisor and teammates. Due to the lack of experience and communication, we were not able to organize a successful institute-wide program at first. We reconsidered our workflow and introduced a number of changes, such as setting up organization constitutions and rules. Our members expanded from 4 to 31 and we have increased two departments under our council. Improvement is evident since new measures were adopted. All five of our departments are really clicking with each other and we are just like family.

Such an experience in SCUPI made me realized that whenever I couldn’t communicate well with others, I should first reflect on myself and then consider making some changes. A leader may not specialize in everything, but he/she should definitely know how to unite people to work together to make good decisions.

Yukun Liu
Upcoming Events:

March
- 3/11 The Treep
- 3/27 Easter

April
- 4/17 SCUPI Open Day

May
- 5/6 Project Dorm Room
- 5/20 Student Life Award

June
- 6/9 Dragon Boat Festival
- TBD Poster Expo

July
- 7/3–7/16 Military Training
- 7/17–9/3 Summer Break

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