

HC NEWSLETTER

- HONOURS COLLEGE PUBLICATION -



Be
Empathetic,
Leading,
Intercultural,
Trustworthy,
Ethical #

NEWS & FEATURES

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澳門大學
UNIVERSIDADE DE MACAU
UNIVERSITY OF MACAU



榮譽學院
Colégio de Honra
Honours College

AY 2024/2025 1st Semester HC Events & Seminars

College Activities

HC ORIENTATION - C2027 & C2028

- Aug 21 (C2027) -



Prof. Rose Neng LAI introducing HC to newly admitted students at the orientation for C2027

- Oct 16 (C2028) -



Ms. Jasmine DENG and Mr. Daniel DE JESUS, President and Vice President of HCSA, introducing Honours College Student Association (HCSA)



Mr. James LAW, President of HCAA, introducing Honours College Alumni Association (HCAA)



AFTERNOON BREAK WITH HCERS

- Sep 2, Oct 3, Oct 29 & Nov 15 -

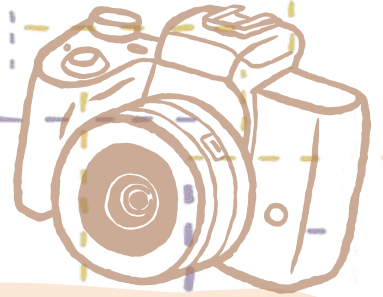


"Afternoon Break with HCers" is a regular gathering for HC Faculty and RC members to have chats on any topics not only about school or work, but also news, hobbies, movies or even family. It is hoped that the students would share their interests with each other in a relaxed ambiance after the morning classes or work.



This semester, "Afternoon Break with HCers" series was host by Dr. Manuel NORONHA (MCMC), Prof. Anna VONG (FBA), Prof. Peng Un MAK (FST) and Prof. Hongjie ZHANG (FHS).

HC RETREAT - Oct 20 -



(L to R, first row) Dr. Phoenix CHAN, SPC Liaison Officer, Prof. Rose LAI, Dean of HC, Prof. Hongjie ZHANG, Faculty Coordinator of FHS, and Ms. Viva WONG, HC alumna, having group photo with the students



Team building games and drama performance



Students playing ice-breaking games



Students having great time on the retreat day

KICK-OFF ACTIVITY OF HC STUDY ABROAD MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME - Oct 23 -

The HC Study Abroad Mentorship Programme is launched for senior HC students (Class of 2025 mentors) to share their study abroad experiences, valuable knowledge and information to the junior HC students (Class of 2026 mentees). Through a series of sharing and mentoring, a supporting and mentoring culture among cross cohorts are developed in the college.



Class of 2025 Mentors who studied abroad in Boston College, Queen Mary University of London, University of Bristol, University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame, University of Rochester and Washington University in St. Louis presented their study abroad experiences last semester.

HC PROMOTION MONTH SERIES

Student Activities

RC Booth - Sep 2-17 -

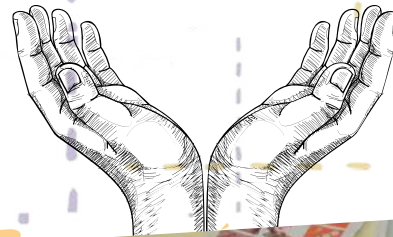
In order to give the new students to UM a better understanding of, and inspiring them to apply for, the Honours College (HC), the HC Student Association (HCSA) co-organized with the support of the Honours College a series of events to promote both HC and HCSA. Apart from setting up booths in 10 RCs, HCSA board members also organized a month-long exhibition at E6. They specially designed the activities to showcase the talents of HCsers and demonstrated their creativity and leadership."



I'm the Boss - Sep 11 -



World Vision Workshop - Sep 24 -



HC Night - Sep 25 -



HCSA MENTORSHIP CAMP

- Sep 7-8 -

The Mentorship Camp aims to provide an opportunity to foster closer relationship between HCSA and students through a series of games and activities. The camp is also a platform for students who are interested in becoming board members of the HCSA to get familiar with the current board members.



HCSA TURNOVER CEREMONY AND STUDY ABROAD PRE-DEPARTURE GATHERING



Prof. Rose Neng LAI delivering an opening speech at the Turnover Ceremony



Ms. Youxi ZHANG, president of 2024/2025 HCSA presenting a Christmas gift to Dean LAI



Students writing down their wishes on the "Ema" boards



(L to R, first row) Prof. Peng Un MAK, Faculty Coordinator of FST, Mr. Paul PANG, Dean of Students, Prof. LAI, Dean of HC, Prof. Hongjie ZHANG, Faculty Coordinator of FHS, and Prof. Yaning QI, CKYC Liaison Officer, having group photo with the new batch of HCSA members



Mr. Jiahao LIANG, HC student of Class of 2025, sharing his study abroad experience

Honours College Alumni Association (HCAA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING DINNER

- Sep 7 -

Alumni Activities



Ms. Carol WONG and Mr. Aymo KHOO, President and Vice President of HCAA, presenting the events in the past year and the upcoming events

ALUMNI SHARING BY MS. VIVA WONG

- Sep 9 -



Ms. Viva WONG, Graduate of HC Class of 2018, hosting a sharing session on the topic "Answering 3 Questions Yourself Will Make Your Dreams a Reality"



Number of newly admitted student

in AY 2024/2025

Newly
admitted

Open Application/
Recommendation by RC/SAO:
58

Newly
admitted

Direct Admission:
63

Current HC students:
316

Honours College Student Association



HSA 澳門大學學生會榮譽學院學生會 **2024-2025**
HONOURS COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION, UMSU, UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

			
President ZHANG YOU XI, Usee	Vice President CHIO PUI KIT, Alex		
			
Secretary General YANG HUI JING, Rosanna	Vice Secretary LI ZI XUAN, Ciara		
			
Designer HO KUAN WENG, Miki	Vice Designer WANG SI YI, Doris	Treasurer General MAK HEI TONG, Tiffany	
			
Committee Executive CHAO WAN HEI, Wendy	Committee Executive HE SI YING, Swing	Committee Executive CHEN BERNICE, Bernice	Committee Executive LEI IAN, Emily

The Honours College Student Association (HCSA) aims at providing students opportunities to foster their leadership skills and promote personal growth through enriching community services, social and academic activities. In addition, it is of great importance to promote the Honours College to the surroundings.

Preview of Events

in AY 2024/2025 2nd Semester

College Activities

JANUARY

- Afternoon Break with HCers I
- Visit to SinoLuso Pavilion

FEBRUARY

- Afternoon Break with HCers II
- Honours College Volunteer Programme (HVP) kick off
- Workshop on Etiquette

MARCH

- Afternoon Break with HCers III
- Leadership Seminar
- Workshop on Etiquette
- Workshop for Entering the Workforce

APRIL

- Honours Project Symposium (C2025)
- Graduates Photo-taking

MAY

- China Study Trip
- Graduates Gathering
- Afternoon Break with HCers IV

Student Activities

JANUARY

- News Discussion Forum

FEBRUARY

- World Vision Talk

MARCH

- HC Day

APRIL

- Visit to National Security Exhibition

Alumni Activities

MARCH

- Alumni Sharing

HCer's Stories

Growing Together with HC and HCers

Prof. Hongjie ZHANG
FHS Coordinator for HC



In the blink of an eye, I have reached my 10th year working at UM and serving as an FHS coordinator for HC. Over this decade, I have witnessed the HC program's remarkable growth and recognition as a cradle for future leaders, as well as nine classes of students maturing into ELITEs – empathetic, leading, intercultural, trustworthy, and ethical individuals. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to grow alongside them, gaining not just years, but also wisdom and experience.

One of my most memorable growth experiences came from supervising the HONR2004 project on social awareness. As a scientist in life sciences, I was versed in conducting and overseeing projects in my field, but I initially was unsure how to supervise a social science project. Fortunately, the students' passion and engagement, along with the invaluable insights from the RC co-supervisors, quickly guided me onto the right path. Through our discussions to narrow the scopes, set goals, refine questions, choose methods and analyze data, I realized that supervising a social awareness project is similar to supervising a life science project. Understanding how communities function and why people behave as they do in social sciences is like understanding how organelles in a cell work together, but using different approaches. Witnessing the students present their findings confidently was immensely rewarding. Just as I experienced a sudden enlightenment, I believe parts of this experience will have a lasting impact on them as well.

While supervising social awareness projects enriches me with multidisciplinary knowledge, Student Retreats have helped shape my multifaceted personality. Although I'm generally introverted, I enjoyed the moments when being a retreat coach brought out my outgoing side. As a serious professor, I also cherished the occasions when I immersed myself in college student life. It's incredibly fun to watch the students bond, communicate, and share during games. Their creativity in drama performance, teamwork in collaborative tasks, and commitment to success were fascinating. These activities not only fostered team spirit and connections among students but also provided me with insights into creative thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork.

Dean's Friday Emails are like another nutrient for my growth. Covering diverse topics such as environmental sustainability, gender equality, and core values for personal development, these emails go beyond providing knowledge and facts – they inspire conceptual analysis and critical thinking. They have become an indispensable part of the HC program, educating and motivating HCers to contribute to a more sustainable, equitable, and value-driven world. As one of the HCers, I have truly enjoyed reading these reflections. They encourage me to think about the bigger picture of our society and planet, reflect on my own values, and align my actions accordingly.

With a decade of accumulated knowledge and experience, I am excited to embrace the next chapter at HC and FHS/UM. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges that the coming years will bring, and I am eager to continue growing alongside HC and its incredible community.

(Note: edited via Copilot)

HCer's Stories

***"Coming together is the beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success."***

— Henry Ford

Dr. Sancia WAN

SEAC Liaison Officer for HC



Being part of the HC family has been a wonderful and inspiring journey for me! Over the past few years, I've worked with many HCers for the Honours Projects, and two retreats during the pandemic time. They are passionate, self-driven, and persevering. Their positive attitudes have not only made me, as a supervisor or a coach, untroubled about their progress or level of engagement, but also reassured me to try to stretch them to reach higher potentials.

One of the most remarkable memories with HC students was the time when we had to work on the Honours Project in a hybrid mode, meaning that only one of the team members was physically present in Macau, while the other three were in Malaysia, due to the travel restrictions imposed during the COVID-19. While most of their classmates were able to attend classes on campus, some international students were not able to come back yet. I could feel their frustrations and anxiety. These HC students of our team overcame emotional difficulties and the geographical limitation (e.g. unable to conduct in-person interviews as they first wished). I was very proud that they completed their project at a high standard.

The other delighted moments I spent with HCers were the retreats where I served as one of the coaches. At first when I accepted the invitation, I felt quite confused about the task, as there would be more than 90 freshmen of HC expected to engage in interactive experiential learning activities at the same venue. Despite the puzzles I initially had in mind, I believed it was a great opportunity to learn together with the other HCers. In the end, with the collaboration of the other two coaches, HC colleagues and volunteers, throughout the design and execution processes, certainly as well as with the active participation of the students, the activities turned out to be fun and stimulating. It is always one of the best parts as an educator watching students learning and growing with loads of laughter, but still having some serious discussion and reflection.

At the beginning of a new year, I hope every HCer continues to strive to become a better self and act for a better world in 2025 and beyond!

HCer's Stories

Embracing Uncertainty, Finding My Way

Ms. Cheryl LI

HC graduate, Class of 2023



Looking back on my journey since graduating from the UM and the HC, I realize just how much these communities have shaped my willingness to embrace challenges and push beyond my comfort zone. I'm immensely grateful to UM, my professors, and the entire HC community for nurturing both my academic curiosity and my resilience. Without this support, I might not have found the courage to step into the unknown.

After completing my studies at UM and HC, I was honored to be accepted into the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)—one of the top international studies programs in the U.S. I was excited but soon discovered that life after graduation doesn't always unfold as planned. Finding employment in the U.S. proved challenging, and visa constraints complicated my job search. I felt disappointed at times, questioning if I had chosen the right path.

But that's life, isn't it? A series of trials that test our determination. Refusing to give up, I explored new avenues, took up research assistantships, and kept applying. Eventually, I landed a data analyst position at the American Enterprise Institute. This opportunity rekindled my curiosity and pushed me toward considering a PhD degree.

If I've learned anything, it's this: when one door closes, find another—or create your own. Our journeys are never straightforward, but each setback can guide us toward unexpected, rewarding opportunities. I hope my experience encourages you to keep looking forward, even when the road ahead seems uncertain.



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We'd love to stay connected with our
HC Alumni and Students! Please feel
free to share your updated contact
method with us!!

