

## Dean's Roundup: 9 September 2016

**Roundup:** *Ceiling function*, the mathematical operation of rounding a number up to the next higher integer.

**Roundup:** a term in American English referring to the process of gathering animals into an area, known as a "Muster" in Australia.

**Rounding up:** when a helmsman cannot control a boat and it heads into the wind

**Roundup:** the plan for an invasion of northern France by Allied forces during World War II (Wikipedia)

**Dean's Roundup:** part blog, part bulletin; part honour roll, part curatorial [**cu'** **ra-to'ri-al** (ky<sup>oo</sup>r<sup>ee</sup>-tôr<sup>ee</sup>-əl, -tôr<sup>ee</sup>-) n. nounised by the Dean from curator + editorial]

Dear All,

Another plug for our new Centre for Fabrication and Material Technologies (CFMT), but this week on dry land. Last week we had a meeting with Gammon Construction, one of the largest contractors operating in HK, for some blue-skies discussion about architectural and construction robotics applications. Arising from this was the idea of Gammon giving HKU a grand-challenge to come up with several problem-solving technologies that have yet to come to market or even to emerge from research labs around the world. I shall be discussing this with the Dean of Engineering with a view to approaching at least one of these challenges as a cross faculty collaboration involving staff and students, perhaps with industrial partners and close overseas university collaborators.

There are four grand challenge ideas at the moment:

1. Design a robot to fix large façade panels
2. Design a robot to plaster internal walls in mass housing projects
3. Design a robot to place ceramic tiles on internal and external walls
4. Design a robot to walk up vertical and under-hanging surfaces of bridges to perform construction tasks such as cleaning epoxy residue squeezed from between massive concrete components (such as the blocks forming the Zhuhai-HK bridge).

No-one has been able to solve these yet – in HK or anywhere else. Unsolved technological problems and unanswered questions are what university research is all about so this is a great potential second project for our robotics team to be considering along side its existing partnership with the science faculty already reported. Anyone interested in joining the team, or indeed, anyone with out-of-box ideas for solving any of the above problems, please contact me, or anyone in the CFMT or team or Wilson Lu's smart construction object team.

Congratulations to colleagues for the achievements listed below.

Chris

# Staff Movements

1. Mr. Albert Juan joined the Department of Real Estate and Construction as a fractional lecturer with effect from 1 August 2016.
2. Ms. Minjung Maing joined the Department of Architecture as a full-time Associate Professor with effect from 8 August 2016.
3. Mr. Fai Au joined the Department of Architecture as a part-time Assistant Professor with effect from 1 September 2016.
4. Mr. Wallace Chang joined the Department of Architecture as a fractional Associated Professor with effect from 1 September 2016.
5. Dr. Ying Deng joined the Department of Real Estate and Construction as a full-time lecturer with effect from 1 September 2016.
6. Ms. Vincci Mak started her new term of service as a Senior Lecturer of the Division of Landscape Architecture with effect from 1 September 2016.

## Teaching and other Achievements

### FoA Departments and Divisions

#### Department of Urban Planning and Design (DUPAD)

1. Department of Urban Planning and Design (DUPAD) Degree Show
  - The first Department of Urban Planning and Design (DUPAD) Degree Show of the Master of Urban Design, Master of Science (Urban Planning), and BA (Urban Studies) programmes was held from 1 pm to 8 pm from 30 July (Saturday) to 1 August (Monday) 2016 in the new studio, Room 804, Knowles Building. A Reception of the DUPAD Degree Show with invited guests from professional institutes and industries and students and teaching staff was held from 6:30-8:00 pm in Friday's evening on 29 July 2016 (Friday), one day before the Degree Show.



*Prof. Rebecca Chiu, Head of the Department of Urban Planning and Design, delivered the Opening Address in the Reception of the first DUPAD Degree Show of the Master of Urban Design, Master of Science (Urban Planning), and BA (Urban Studies) programmes on 29 July 2016, Friday.*

## Research Achievements

### HKUrbanLab research groups

#### Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning (CUSUP)

##### 1. Professor Anthony Yeh

- was invited to give an Opening Address in the Opening Ceremony of the 17<sup>th</sup> *International Symposium on Spatial Handling* with the theme of “Face of Challenges of Big Data with GIS” organized by the State Key Laboratory of Resources and Environmental Information System (LREIS), the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on 18 August 2016. The *International Symposium on Spatial Data Handling (SDH)* is the premiere biennial international research forum for Geographic Information Science, co-organized by the Commission on Geographic Information Science and the Commission on Modelling Geographical Systems of the International Geographical Union (IGU). It commenced in 1984 in Zurich, Switzerland and has ever since been highly

influential to the thinking and development of geographic information science worldwide. The *SHD Symposium* was attended by over 300 participants.



*Prof. Anthony Yeh giving the Opening Address in the Opening Session of the 17th International Symposium on Spatial Handling - Face of Challenges of Big Data with GIS of the International Geographical Union (IGU).*

- Professor Yeh presented two papers with his Post-Doctoral Fellow and PhD student respectively in the 17th International Symposium on Spatial Handling that was organized by the State Key Laboratory of Resources and Environmental Information System (LREIS), the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) from 18 to 20 August 2016 in Beijing, China:

Xingang Zhou, Anthony G.O. Yeh, Yang Yue, "Spatial Variations in Self-Containment of Employment Based on Mobile Phone Location Data"

Teng Zhong, Xiaohu Zhang, Anthony G.O. Yeh, "Automatic Generation of Lane-level Ribbon Navigation Network from Road Marking Data"

Professor Yeh also chaired the Keynote Speeches Session on 20 August 2016, Saturday, before the Closing Ceremony



*Dr. Xingang Zhou, Post-Doctoral Fellow, presenting in the 17th International Symposium on Spatial Handling - Face of Challenges of Big Data with GIS on 19 August 2016.*



*Mr. Teng Zhong, PhD student, presenting in the 17th International Symposium on Spatial Handling - Face of Challenges of Big Data with GIS on 19 August 2016.*

- Prof. Anthony Yeh was invited to give a IJURR (International Journal of Urban and Regional Research) Public Lecture in the 33rd International Geographical Congress organized by the International Geographical Union (IGU) at the China National Convention Center (CNCC) on Tuesday, 23 August 2016 at 16.30-18.00. He presented the public lecture on “Urbanization, Economic Transition, and Urban System Transformation in China”. The Congress was attended by over 3,500 participants and the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research is one of the top key international journals in urban studies.



*Prof. Anthony Yeh presenting his IJURR (International Journal of Urban and Regional Research Lecture) Public Lecture on “Urbanization, Economic Transition, and Urban System Transformation in China” in the 33rd International Geographical Congress organized by the International Geographical Union (IGU) at the China National Convention Center (CNCC) on Tuesday, 23 August 2016.*

- Professor Yeh also co-chaired with Prof. Donggen Wang, Head of Department Geography of the Hong Kong Baptist University, the session on “Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta at the Cross Road” in the 33rd International Geographical Congress on Wednesday, 24 August 2016 organized by the Hong Kong Geographical Association (HKGA). He also presented the paper on “Changing Regional Division of Labor between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta: From “Front Shop, Back Factory” to “Front Desk, Back Office”?” with Dr. Fiona F. Yang, Research Associate of DUPAD.

## 2. Dr. Jianxiang Huang

- Dr. Huang attended the 'Symposium of Beautiful Xiamen' organized by the Urban Planning Department of the City of Xiamen on August 26. He gave a presentation entitled "Place-Making for Happiness, Health and Sustainability". The symposium was attended by city officials, urban planning professionals, and academic researchers.



## 3. Dean Webster

- Has been appointed 2016-2017, Distinguished Visiting Professor, Department of Land Management, Feng Chia University, Taichung, Taiwan, ROC.
- Attended the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design (HKIUD) 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner and the HKIUD Urban Design Award 2016 presentation on Monday, 5 September 2016.



## Healthy<sup>HD</sup> Cities

1. Dr. Chinmoy Sarkar, Dean Webster, Matthew Pryor, Dorothy Tang, Scott Melbourne, Dr. Xiaohu Zhang, Jianzheng Liu
  - Won the runner-up Commendation (placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 80 international entrants) in the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Academic Award for Research Excellence on the following project "Exploring associations between urban green, street design and walking: Results from the Greater London boroughs" with the project being commended. This was a collaborative research project between landscape and planners in HKUrbanLab

For more details, please refer to the official website below:

<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/research/rtpi-awards-for-research-excellence/>



2. Dr. Chinmoy Sarkar

- Invited to give a keynote at the symposium, "Cultivating Healthy, Sustainable Communities through Environmental Connections: Linking Evidence from Case Studies to Big Data" organized by Griffith University School of Medicine & Menzies Health Institute symposium on 7-11<sup>th</sup> November 2016.