

# Dean's Roundup

Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> 2013

**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

Dear colleagues,

Special congratulations this week to the Faculty's 4 GRF grant winners in this round: Joshua, Mandy, Bo, and Tao. This is an important achievement personally and for the Faculty. HK's GRF grants are small compared to government academic research grants in other countries, including the Mainland, but they are a vital part of the Faculty's program because they leverage other benefits such as PhD funding and internal university KPI credit, as well as being a *de facto* requirement in tenure applications. This year the 4 successes came from 23 submissions. The good news is that there were 23 colleagues with a research idea worth writing into a bid. The 1:6 hit rate is not so good news. There are no doubt many reasons for this but one way to increase our aggregate success is to give each submission more thorough scrutiny. So the Associate Dean for Research and I are proposing a modified process for the 2013/14 GRF round: Submissions should be made to the Faculty Office 3 weeks in advance of the University deadline (ie end of the first week of September to the Faculty for an end of September final submission) and a panel of senior colleagues with a good track record in securing grants will work with a bid's author(s) to refine the proposal. In addition to and before that, personally I would be happy to work with as many people as I have time for before now and September to help craft their ideas into fundable projects. I have won over 100M HKD worth of external grants in the last 15 years or so, covering many aspects of the Faculty's portfolio and have long experience in evaluating grants on the other side of the table. If you want my help before September, please email me a draft abstract and outline (4 pages max) making clear your research question/objective and method. I'll attempt to work on as many as are submitted but may have to prioritise those that I can add greatest value to if there are too many requests. I shall allocate some of my time during August to this as an experiment. If our success rate isn't any better this time next year I'll take a holiday in August 2014 instead.

Thanks and congratulations as ever, to those listed below.

Chris

## Department of Architecture

1. Mr. Joshua Bolchover
  - awarded the RGC General Research Fund (GRF) of 2013/14 for his project "Border Ecologies"  
<http://intraweb.hku.hk/local/rss/fundstats/grf-ecs/results.htm>
2. Dr. B S Jia
  - delivered a public speech on "Open Building and BE Architecture" at the Architectural school of Fuzhou University in Fuzhou of Fujian Province on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013
  - delivered a public lecture on "High comfort, low energy -- a practice in large scale housing in China" at the Architectural school of the Oversea Chinese University in Xiamen of Fujian Province on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and a public lecture on "Learning Styles in Architectural Studio" at the Architectural school of Xiamen University in Xiamen of Fujian Province
3. Mr. Stephen Lau
  - published a journal paper "Wang, J. and Lau S.S.Y. (2013) Hierarchical Production of Privacy: Gating in Compact Living in Hong Kong, *Current Urban Studies*, 1, 11-18. doi: 10.4236/cus.2013.12002." ISSN Print: 2328-4900; ISSN Online: 2328-4919
4. Dr Hoyin Lee
  - invited by Joint Publishing to deliver a public lecture on "New Paradigm in Architectural Conservation: Innovative Design in Adaptive Reuse Projects" 〈舊建加新的新思維：創意無限、活化再用〉 for the *City & Conservation Seminars* 《城市與保育·講座》 at the Joint Publishing Vision Bookcafe on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013.  
Webpage: <http://www.jointpublishing.com/cultureact/actdetail.aspx?id=2013052804>
  - invited by the Roundtable Institute to deliver a public lecture on "Chinese Renaissance Architecture: Architectural Origins of Chinese Style Christian Churches in Hong Kong" at The Chinese University of Hong Kong on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The lecture is organized by CUHK Centre for Catholic Studies, The Hong Kong Institute of Education and Christian Study Centre on Chinese Religion and Culture  
Webpage: <http://www.roundtable.com.hk/rdtbl/web/default.php?content=newsd&postId=1111>
5. Mr. Tao Zhu
  - awarded the RGC GRF of 2013/14 for his project "Beijing's 'Ten Great Buildings' during the Great Leap Forward" <http://intraweb.hku.hk/local/rss/fundstats/grf-ecs/results.htm>

## Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr Tas Yong Koh
  - was invited to attend the Hong Kong Construction Safety Benchmarking Group meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, shared and discussed construction safety-related issues of concerns with the participants. The discussion included the briefing of preliminary worker survey results on the recently completed MTRC workers' health and wellbeing study; the current safety practices adopted by the Group's member organisations; safety statistics; and some possible future directions in construction safety management in Hong Kong.
  - was invited to attend the MTRC 7th Contractor Safety Conference on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and presented with Professor Steve Rowlinson on the results of the preliminary analyses of the recently completed MTRC Workers Health and Wellbeing Month survey. It aroused the industry practitioners' interest and

concerns of the current state of the health and wellbeing of construction workers. There was a lively discussion following the presentation between the HKU team (i.e. Prof Rowlinson and Dr Koh) and the attendees of the Conference.

2. Professor Anita Liu

- hosted the ten Pennsylvania State University (Penn State or PSU) visiting students to the Department of Real Estate and Construction. These exchange students will take two summer courses with the Department as part of their study tour to Hong Kong and the Mainland China.

3. Dr S W Poon

- was invited by Society of Registered Safety Officers to present a talk entitled "Falsework collapse analysis and case studies" on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

4. Sr Bay Wong

- attended a meeting of the Selection Panel for selection of target buildings for the MBIS and MWIS on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- attended a Board meeting of the Antiquities Advisory Board on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- invited to attend the reception on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 to celebrate the 16th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR of PRC
- attended a Gammon Partnering lunch on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 and meet with the Director of EMSD and other VIPs in the construction industry

5. Professor Steve Rowlinson

- was invited as a keynote speaker in the MTRC 7<sup>th</sup> Contractor Safety Conference held on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The title of his presentation was "Worker Health and Wellbeing Month 2013: Worker Survey Preliminary Review"
- hosted the Hong Kong Housing Authority's (HKHA) visit to the HKU Centennial Campus, with the assistance of Dr Isabelle Chan and Dr Tas Yong Koh. The 51 delegates were led by the HKHA Assistant Director Mr. Chan Nap Ming. Together with the Real Estate and Construction Department team, the delegates were led through a guided tour to the Centennial Campus by the Estates Office Senior Technical Manager, Mr. Anthony Chan, the Project Manager, Mr K. B. Wong, and other colleagues of the Estates Office.
- hosted the 10 Pennsylvania State University (Penn State or PSU) visiting students to the Department of Real Estate and Construction. These exchange students will take two summer courses with the Department as part of their study tour to Hong Kong and the Mainland China.

## Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Dr Zhang Feng

- presented a paper entitled "Characterizing and Modeling Combined Use of Folding Bicycle and Metro in Nanjing, China" at the International Bicycle Urbanism Symposium in Seattle, Washington, USA from June 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013.

2. Professor Bo-sin Tang

- awarded RGC GRF of 2013/14 for his project "Brownfield Redevelopment and Land Use Transformation in Metro Rail Corridor: A Hong Kong Study"  
<http://inraweb.hku.hk/local/rss/fundstats/grf-ecs/results.htm>

3. Prof. Anthony Yeh

- has attended the Second International Workshop on Regional, Urban, and Spatial Economics in China organized by the Peking University – Lincoln Institute Center for Urban Development and Land Policy on June 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and chaired Session 2 of the Keynote Speech Sessions.

4. Prof. Rebecca Chiu

- appointed as Special Advisor of the Centre for Assessment and Development of Real Estate, Shenzhen, a statutory organization of the Shenzhen Municipal Planning and Land Resources Committee of the Shenzhen Government, undertaking national, provincial and municipal research projects on real estate, land and regulatory issues.

5. Ms. Mandy Lau

- has a single-authored paper entitled "Flexibility with a purpose: Constructing the legitimacy of spatial governance partnerships" accepted for publication in *Urban Studies*.
- awarded a RGC Early Career Scheme (ECS) grant of 2013/14 for her project "Legitimate or illegitimate NIMBYs? Understanding opposition to public housing through an interpretive approach"  
[http://intraweb.hku.hk/local/rss/fundstats/grf-ecs/1314/hku13\\_ecs\\_fac.htm](http://intraweb.hku.hk/local/rss/fundstats/grf-ecs/1314/hku13_ecs_fac.htm)

6. Dr. Huang Jianxiang

- presented a paper entitled "Micro-climate, Marco Effects: The Assessment and Management of Thermal Comfort in Dense Cities" at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Association for China Planning (IACP) Conference, held at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China, from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

7. Dr. Cecilia Chu

- presented a paper entitled "Narratives of Urban Living and the Construction of Cultural Knowledge in Colonial Hong Kong" (co-authored with Victoria Chu of the University of California, San Diego), at the 8th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 8) in Macao from June 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

8. Dr. Weifeng Li

- presented a paper entitled "Household Considerations in Valuing Location for Activity-Based Urban Modelling" (jointly authored with Joseph Ferreira from MIT) at the Applied Urban Modelling (AUM2013): Productive, liveable and sustainable city regions in the University of Cambridge, UK from June 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013.