

Dean's Roundup

Friday, June 21st 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,

This past Monday, 8 of us from HKU's new Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research had the privilege of sharing a private dinner in Chicago with the great man himself. Professor Coase (one of England's greatest Economists) is 103 years old this year and surprised us all with his sharpness, alertness and stamina (we talked for almost 3 hours). He has taken our Center to heart, and there was great warmth in his engagement. Most colleagues in the Faculty will not realize the history in this encounter. It results from the friendship and professional partnership formed between Professor Coase and HKU economist Steven Cheung. Professor Cheung was another pioneer in the field of the so-called new institutional economics (a heterodox challenge to the sterile mathematical neo-classical economics that obsessed the discipline during the modernism era). He was also teacher and mentor to our colleagues in REC who initiated the new Research Centre. So Nobel Laureate Ronald Coase is, in a very real sense, the grandfather of an important group within our Faculty. While it was good to receive his patriarchal blessing, it was also very clear that he greatly appreciates what we are doing and plan to do in the Centre: someone estimated that perhaps up to 5% of the total citations to Professor Coase's works globally have been generated by the HKU scholars sitting around the dinner table that night. This is quite remarkable and testament to the significance of REC's research impact on international scholarship in the economic analysis of cities, real estate, the construction industry and urban governance. I hope that colleagues from other departments, traditions and disciplines might be interested in exploring the power of Coasean ideas (which are intrinsically practical, common-sense and realistic) to address important questions from their own research agenda. Perhaps I'll host an open discussion one lunchtime, where we can explore new intellectual conversations about one or two pressing research problems of common interest.

On a personal note, I am looking forward to returning to HK. It will feel all the more like home since my container of personal chattels should have arrived after a delayed 2 months sea voyage (unless the Somali pirates I suspect of delaying it took a liking to my furniture and library).

This week's honor role is another good one. Special congratulations to Steve and Rebecca for passing the 25 years in service mark!

This Friday opens the Faculty's architecture degree show. Congratulations to teachers and students for putting on a superb show (I've had a preview).

Best wishes

Chris

Department of Architecture

1. Mr. Yin-Lun Chan

- was an invited speaker at the L+A 'Mobility and the City' Forum in Shekou, speaking on 'Public Space Topology' and 'The Protection of Urban Cultural Landscape'

2. Mr. K P Cheung

- has a joint paper on the "Intelligent damage mitigation for BWR nuclear reactors" to be presented by the lead author Prof Shinozuka of UC, Irvine, CA, USA (an 82 years old expert on earthquake, civil and structural issues, <http://shinozuka.eng.uci.edu>, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masanobu_Shinozuka) in the 11th International Conference on Structural Safety & Reliability from June 16th to 20th, 2013 at Columbia University, New York, NY, USA. (<http://icossar2013.org/>)

M. Shinozuka, K. P. Cheung, T. Nifuku. Intelligent damage mitigation for BWR nuclear reactors. In Proceedings of ICOSSAR2013, 11th International Conference on Structural Safety & Reliability, June 16-20, 2013. Columbia University, New York, NY, USA. <http://icossar2013.org/>. Wed, June, 19, session, Session 08: Health Monitoring II, Paper HM08. <http://icossar2013.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Preliminary-Program.pdf>

3. Dr. B S Jia

- was appointed Associate Editor of Book Journal "Art of Architecture" (Chinese and English), China Architecture and Building Press, Beijing.

4. Mr. Anderson Lee

- received a Grant from the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) for the publication of the "Hong Kong/Shenzhen Bi-city Biennale: Triciprocal Cities"
- gave a featured interview on Ming Pao Weeking (MPW) on the historical revitalization of the Blue House Project in Wanchai
- has a design project "Bending the rules" featured in the Design Section of the Sunday Post Magazine of the South China Morning Post (SCMP)

5. Mr. Matthew Pryor

- was an invited speaker at the L+A 'Mobility and the City' Forum in Shekou, speaking on 'Public Space Topology' and 'The Protection of Urban Cultural Landscape'
- is an invited keynote speaker for the Symposium on "Landscape Architectural Education in Greater China" on 22 August 2013
- has been appointed as Chair of the HKILA Panel for the "Review of the Professional Practice Examination System"

6. Mr. Tom Verebes

- delivered a conference presentation in a panel on "Futures/Technologies" in a conference titled, "Next Generation: A Symposium on Architecture and Design Education" at University of Saint Joseph in Macau

7. Mr. Koon Wee

- was an invited speaker, with a paper entitled "An Asian Avant Garde: the Lexicon of Asian Modernity," at the 2013 Docomomo International Conference on the theme of "Expansion & Conflict: Modern in Asia," organized by Docomomo Korea Chapter at the Seoul Museum of History in June, 2013.

Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Dr. H F Leung

- was invited by the Law Society of Hong Kong to act as Lead Assessor in the Stage 2 Assessment of Mediation for accreditation of mediators in June 2013.
- was invited by the Department of Justice of Hong Kong Government to be a speaker in the mediation training course titled "Introduction to Mediation – the process, practical aspects and recent development in Hong Kong" in October, 2013.

2. Dr. Wilson Lu

- was invited to give a one-hour talk "proactive data collection strategies for measuring BIM's benefits" to the Development Bureau at Central Government Offices on 10 June 2013.
- was invited as a member of the joint working group formed by Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC) and the Business Environment Council (BEC), with the objective to gather views from industry stakeholders and to draw consensus for the targets and recommendations on the reduction of C&D waste.

3. Professor Steve Rowlinson

- has dedicated 26 of his best years to HKU and he has received the Long Service Award in a presentation ceremony on 11 June 2013.

4. Sr Wong Bay

- participated in the Taipei Hong Kong City Forum 2013 in June 2013

Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Dr. Roger C K Chan

- presented a lecture entitled "Research Agenda for Hong Kong under Global Modernity" at the Summer School, University of British Columbia and the Go Global Program, on 14 June 2013.
- was an invited speaker for "The 2nd President's Forum of the Pan Pearl River Delta Provincial Planning Institutes" <第二届泛珠三角省(区)级规划院院长讨论> held in Hainan province, China, on 16 June 2013.



- has a new publication: Hu, Y., Sun, Y., and Chan, R. C. K. (2013), "A Review on the Research of Urban and Regional Governance in China (中国城市与区域管治研究十年回顾与前瞻)", *Human Geography*, 28:2, pp. 74-78 (in Chinese).

2. Professor Rebecca Chiu

- has dedicated 25 years to HKU and has received the Long Service Award in the presentation ceremony in Loke Yew Hall, at 5:30pm on 11 June 2013.



- is the Principal Investigator of a collaborative research project between CUSUP and the Hong Kong Institute of Housing (HKIH) on the professionalism of housing managers in Hong Kong, aiming to facilitate the government in developing a licensing system for the industry and to provide a foundation for the furtherance of professionalism in housing management. The MOU was signed by the Pro-VC (Research) on 17 June 2013.
- advised the Planning Department and the Civil Engineering & Development Department on the planning of Tung Chung New Town Extension at the expert panel meeting and site visit on 18 June 2013.

3. Professor Bo-sin Tang

- acted as facilitator of a Topical Discussion in Stage II Public Engagement on District Urban Renewal Plan, Kowloon City District Urban Renewal Forum (DURF), on 13 June 2013.
- made a presentation on the topic "Collaborative Planning in District Urban Renewal Forum: From Reflections to Research Agenda" at a Workshop on Sustainable Urban Renewal in High-Density Cities, in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, on 15 June 2013.