

Dean's Roundup

Friday June 7th 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,

We had an energising initial meeting of a faculty GIS interest group on Monday. This confirmed that there is a strong demand for enhanced GIS infrastructure in the Faculty, for a mixture of teaching and research reasons. The strongest theme was the need to build capacity for teaching, particularly in landscape, but with some interest also in REC (for teaching and research requiring detailed land data) and, of course, in DUPAD, which has always had a strong GIS research focus, but which is also keen to strengthen student GIS skills. The outcome of the meeting was a clear decision to pursue the idea of a faculty GIS lab. This may or may not be linked with the existing University-wide virtual GIS centre, in existence since the 1990s but latterly somewhat dormant.

The immediate need seems to be: software for teaching, access to current and high resolution data sets for teaching and research; and a post-doc specialist technician-trainer who can run introductory and intermediate-advanced short training courses for students and who can help researchers obtain, prepare and analyse data. We need to discuss how this would be organised as a cross-departmental resource. My immediate thoughts are that we could experiment with a Faculty appointment, with appropriate links to departments. I shall seek external funding for this project. I shall be looking for someone (or two people from different departments perhaps) to take a lead in developing a prospectus for a 'HKU Faculty of Architecture GIS Lab'. Please contact me if you are interested in taking this on (with guidance and authoring help from me and from professor Yeh). Professor Yeh is already working on a deal with ESRI (GIS software company) to supply a teaching license that will overcome some of the teaching problems encountered in the faculty.

[ACTION] In this connection, please can someone from each Department tell Professor Yeh which Arc GIS modules you need. A list of them was circulated at the meeting on Monday. If you are unsure, please do some research and discuss with Professor Yeh. This is important in configuring the software basis of the GIS Lab.

I am travelling from this afternoon: in Shanghai with ACP students until the weekend; then in London, having meetings with the RTPI and RICS about their China strategies and visiting LSE's cities program as the first port of call in investigating successful, innovative and high profile urban programs that bridge design, the social sciences and humanities; in Cardiff/Cambridge to start an ESRC research project on healthy cities (and to say hello to my family); and on to Chicago for a meeting with English Economist and Nobel Laureate Professor Ronald Coase to receive his official endorsement for our new Ronald Coase Centre for Property Rights Research.

I'll be back on the 20th June in time for the Graduation Show and will be in touch via email on a daily basis. Winnie also has my roving phone number if you need to speak to be urgently. I promise to turn any enquiry around within a day or two. Roger Chan will be Acting Dean while I'm out of town.

Congratulations and thanks to those mentioned below for their valuable contributions to the Faculty.

Chris

1. Mr. Yan Gao

- was invited as the curator for Digital Making Exhibition and the conference paper review committee member for DADA Digital Infiltration event series in Beijing in this Oct
- was invited to be a consortium member of the China-Denmark Active House Project in the Beijing Green Building Park by Vanke and BRE UK
- was elected as a committee member of the RIBA HK Chapter
- has published a journal paper *Computational Design Research For High Density Social Housing in China* in the Journal on Engineering Technology Vol. 2 No.1 by Global Science and Technology Forum

2. Dr. Harold Kalman (ACP honorary professor)

- has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the City of Vancouver in recognition of his years of dedication to heritage conservation
- has shared an Award of Honour for the conservation of the Hollow Tree conservation project
- his recent publication "Exploring Vancouver" has made the finalist's list for the British Columbian (BC) Book Prize

3. Miss Gesa Schwantes

- has inspected the site and consulted for the conservation of Qing Dynasty wall paintings in Foshan, Shunde, Le Cong Xiao Ancestor Hall (德乐从小布何氏大宗祠)



4. Mr. Tom Verebes

- has had an article selected for peer review and presentation in a lecture at the Digital Architecture Design Association (DADA) Conference 2013, to be held at Tsinghua University in October 2013. The article will appear in DADA's first book publication

5. Dr. Wah Sang Wong

- has been appointed by the Director of Buildings as a member of the Fire Safety Committee from 1 June 2013 to 31 May 2016
- has been appointed by the Director of Buildings as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Fire Safety (Building) Ordinance and the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance for the period from 1 June 2013 to 31 May 2016

Department of Real Estate and Construction

1. Sr. Wong Bay

- was appointed by CIC as Chairman of the Task Force on Adoption of Dispute Resolution Advisor System in Subcontract, Employer Trustee of the CIC Staff Education Fund for Children and Member of the Construction Industry Training Board.

Department of Urban Planning and Design

1. Prof. Bo Sin Tang

- was invited by the College of Public Administration of Zhejiang University to give a public lecture about Urban Planning in Hong Kong: Opportunities and Challenges at its campus in Hangzhou on 29 May 2013
- was invited by the Department of Land Administration of Zhejiang University to chair the Assessment Panel for MSc Dissertation Oral Defence on 30 May 2013

2. Dr. Weifeng Li

- has received a grant of “Financing rail-based Mass Transit through Value Capture in Chinese Cities: A Case in Shenzhen” of Seed Funding for Basic Research with an amount of \$84,100.