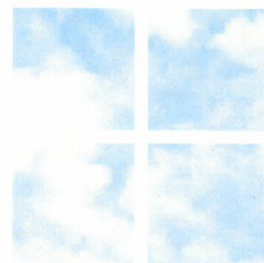


GHELC Symposium 2014

Experiential Learning @ HKU



Experiential learning is a new and distinctive feature of the University's new curriculum in providing students with meaningful and constructive opportunities to learn within the classroom and out in society.

The Symposium is a platform to share the best practices of teaching and learning of experiential learning courses in HKU, and the insights and vision of university-community engagement.

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

10:00a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Graduate House, The University of Hong Kong

Keynote Speakers:

Ir Professor L. G. Tham

Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning),
Faculty of Engineering, The University of Hong Kong

Ms. Maggie Chan

Director of Social Work Services, Caritas - Hong Kong

Mr. John Lin

Associate Professor, Faculty of Architecture,
The University of Hong Kong



<http://ghelc.hku.hk>

Programme

Plenary Session

Wang Gungwu Theatre, Graduate House

| | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| 10:00-10:30 | Registration | |
| 10:30-11:00 | Opening Speech Topic: Experiential Learning @ HKU Speaker: Ir Professor L. G. Tham, Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning), Faculty of Engineering, HKU | Experiential Learning is a distinctive feature of HKU's new curriculum and it provides students with meaningful and constructive opportunities to learn within the classroom and out in society. Professor Tham will give an overview of the development of experiential learning in 10 faculties at HKU. |
| 11:00-11:30 | Topic: Community Engagement and Experiential Learning Speaker: Ms. Maggie Chan, Director of Social Work Services, Caritas – Hong Kong | Different collaborative models have emerged between Faculties and Community Partners as a means to integrate theory and practice as one. Ms Maggie Chan, from Caritas-Hong Kong will share the insights and vision about university-community engagement from the perspective of a long established NGO in Hong Kong. |
| 11:30 -12:30 | Topic: Best Practice of Experiential Learning in Architectural Studies Speaker: Mr. John Lin, Associate Professor, Faculty of Architecture, HKU | Faculty of Architecture provides opportunities for students to take part in designing and consultancy services offered by the Faculty to governments and nonprofit organisations. For the past years, students travelled to sites in different countries to work on surveying, drawing and interviewing, research the limitations and opportunities for construction, and develop proposals that address the problems. Mr. Lin will illustrate the curriculum design and implementation process and the lessons learnt. |
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch Multi-purpose Hall, P3, Graduate House | |



Programme (cont.)

Parallel Sessions

Room P5-01, P5-03, P6-03, Graduate House

14:00-15:15

Session 1a: Engaging Community: Experiential Learning @ Pokfulam Village



Venue: Room P5-01, Graduate House

*Facilitator: Benjamin Sin,
Project Lead, Caritas Pokfulam
Community Development Centre,
Caritas – Hong Kong*

*Ms Vincci Mak, Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Architecture, HKU*

Being a neighbour of Pokfulam Village, HKU forms partnership with Caritas Pokfulam Community Development Project to foster positive community capacity building in the village. The learning site offers a platform for linking classroom learning and experiences outside the classroom. It gives students the opportunities to discover the value of intentional communities in developing habits of reflection and in reconciling people of different backgrounds and social groups. Mr. Benjamin Sin of Caritas and Ms. Vincci Mak of Faculty of Architecture will share their university-community partnership and the different experiential learning activities taking place at the village.

Session 2a: Experiential Learning Case Study: Wildlife Conservation Research



Venue: Room P5-03, Graduate House

*Facilitator: Dr. Leszek Karczmarski,
Associate Professor,
School of Biological Sciences,
Faculty of Science, HKU*

Experiential learning is a mandatory component in the Bachelor of Science (BSc) curriculum, and these activities vary in nature and length of time. Two of the many experiential learning courses are led by Dr. Karczmarski where students participate in on-going field-based research activities at Bohol Sea, The Philippines, and Sabah, Malaysia. Through the activities, students develop research skills, greater understanding of behavioural and/or evolutionary pattern and how individual focused research advances science at large.

Session 3a: Student Sharing Session



Venue: Room P6-03, Graduate House

Experiential learning journey is intense and multi-dimensional. The learning starts from testing their theoretical knowledge with on-going reflection, through time-management, team work and adequate communication style, to value-awareness and character formation when being confronted with questions of professional ethics and responsible delivery of the agreed outcome. In this session, students from different faculties will share their unique learning journey.

15:15-15:30 Coffee Break

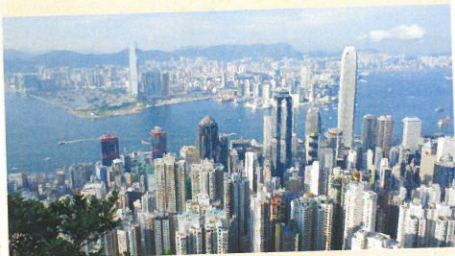
Programme (cont.)

Parallel Sessions

Room P5-01, P5-03, P6-03, Graduate House

15:30-16:45

Session 1b: Engaging Community: Community Partners Discussion Panel



Venue: Room P5-01, Graduate House

*Facilitator: Dr. Albert Ko,
Director of Gallant Ho Experiential
Learning Centre, HKU*

Besides connecting theory with practical needs and real life application, experiential learning also connects academia with the community. It raises social awareness of the students and their solidarity with others – often more vulnerable members of the society. It also requires a new collaboration and engagement model among university, teachers, students and community partners at local and international level. This session will facilitate the discussion among the participants to identify and explore the possibilities of synergy. Please join the discussion and share your views.

Session 2b: Experiential Learning Case Study: Creating Social Values through Multimedia – Nonprofit Management Practice



Venue: Room P5-03, Graduate House

*Facilitator: Dr. Helen Liu,
Assistant Professor, Department of
Politics and Public Administration,
Faculty of Social Sciences, HKU*

The 6-credit course, POLI0098 Nonprofit Management, is a Political Science undergraduate course offered last semester to advance students' understanding of the management and operation of organisations in the non-profit sector. Students worked directly with community partners to identify the social values created by their community partners and then produced multimedia film to promote them. Together with one of the community partners and student group, Dr. Liu will share the process of formulating experiential learning activities and the real-life experience in testing the classroom knowledge.

Session 3b: Student Sharing Session



Venue: Room P6-03, Graduate House

Experiential learning journey is intense and multi-dimensional. The learning starts from testing their theoretical knowledge with on-going reflection, through time-management, team work and adequate communication style, to value-awareness and character formation when being confronted with questions of professional ethics and responsible delivery of the agreed outcome. In this session, students from different faculties will share their unique learning journey.

Speaker Profiles

Ms. Maggie Chan

*Director of Social Work Services Division,
Caritas – Hong Kong*

Ms Chan Mei Kit, Maggie, a registered social worker, is currently the Director of Social Work Services Division of Caritas – Hong Kong. She has been serving Caritas for more than 30 years to fulfill the agency's mission to serve the last, the least and the lost in the community.

Mr. John Lin

Associate Professor, Faculty of Architecture, HKU

John Lin is an architect and currently an Assistant Professor at The University of Hong Kong. His current projects include the design of several school buildings, a village community center, a hospital and a sustainable house prototype in China. His research and work has been published widely and exhibited in various places including the Hong Kong & Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism 2007 and 2009, the Beijing Architecture Biennale 2008 and at the Venice Biennale of Architecture 2008 and 2010. He has received two AR Awards for Emerging Architecture in 2009 and 2010 for his Qinmo Village School and Taiping Bridge Renovation projects. He is the 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award at The University of Hong Kong. He won the prestigious international Architectural Review's Housing Competition 2012 with his project "The Shijia House" (House for All Seasons) in Shaanxi Province, which began as an Experiential Learning workshop that focuses on Chinese lifestyles in transition.

Ms Vincici Mak

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture, HKU

Vincici is the Design Studio Coordinator for MLA Year 1, and is also involved in the teaching of the BA(LS) program.

Vincici received her architectural training and obtained a Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) degree from the University of Southern California in the US. She then pursued her further studies in landscape architecture, and received a Masters in Landscape Architecture (MLA) degree from the Graduate School of Design (GSD) at Harvard University.

As a design practitioner, Vincici sees no definite boundaries among the various design disciplines. She has been practicing as a landscape designer/master-planner/urban designer in both Hong Kong and London, with project locations ranging from Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Her recent projects include the Re-generation Project for the Battersea Powerstation in London, U.K., in which her focus was on the public realm. Her past projects also range from the smaller-scaled urban plazas to the larger-scaled regional planning consultation.

Ir Professor L. G. Tham

*Associate Dean (Teaching & Learning),
Faculty of Engineering, The University of Hong Kong*

Professor Tham is the Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Hong Kong. He is also a member of the Senate, Academic Board, Curriculum Development Committee, Steering Committee on 4-Year Undergraduate Curriculum. His interests cover foundation engineering, rock engineering, slope engineering and engineering education. His outstanding achievement in teaching has been recognized in the field and he has been awarded the University Distinguished Teaching Award (Team Award) for the Mingde Projects.

Mr. Benjamin Sin

*Project Lead, Caritas Pokfulam Community
Development Centre, Caritas – Hong Kong*

Mr. Sin Chiu Hang, Benjamin gained his Bachelor of Cognitive Science and Master of Social Work degrees at the University of Hong Kong in 2000 and 2002. He joined the Caritas – Hong Kong immediately after graduation and served in Sham Shui Po and Cheung Chau communities before taking up the present office in 2005. His literary work, "Pokfulam Village: the Historic Settlement below Tai Ping Shan", earned the Hong Kong Book Prize 2012.

Dr. Helen Liu

*Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and Public
Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, HKU*

She received a Ph.D. in Public Affairs from Indiana University at Bloomington in 2009. She has research interests in the areas of interorganizational networks and nonprofit management. Her dissertation investigates the performance and dynamic of interorganizational networks in the social service provision. Her research on nonprofit management explores current capacity, challenges, and incorporation status of local nonprofit organizations. She was awarded a fellowship as an emerging scholar at the Urban Institute in Washington D.C., selected as a summer fellow at the RGK Center on Philanthropy in University of Texas at Austin, and served as a visiting Scholar at Peking University. She has taught courses in management foundation and case studies in public policy at Indiana University.

Dr. Leszek Karczmarski

*Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences,
Faculty of Science, HKU*

Dr. Karczmarski has previously studied the ecology, behaviour and conservation of marine mammals, especially dolphins, in South Africa, Hawaii and the mainland United States, as well as Central and South America. In recent years, he has brought his expertise to the seas around Southeast Asia and has put the focus on marine conservation in the region.

Experiential Learning Fund 2012-13

Design and Build in Chinese Village



Faculty of Architecture

Course Code: ARCH2054

Project Coordinator: Mr. John Lin,
Associate Professor

Location: Guangzhou, China

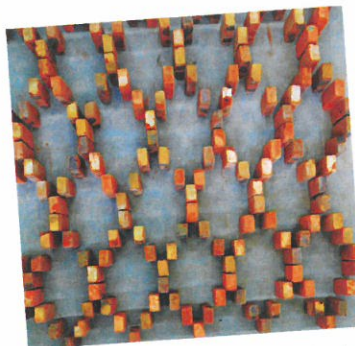
Year 1 architectural students travelled to Changliu Village in Guangdong Province for a 1-week construction project. The project involved the design and construction of a public plaza in front of the village ancestral hall. Limited to only bricks and mortar, students working in groups of four designed 18 individual structures.

Collaborating with contractors, villagers and among themselves, students actively engaged in a process of making architecture that is otherwise not possible in a classroom setting. For Chinese villages, the ancestral hall is always the most important public space. The newly built brick landscape reinforces this fundamental idea and offers new community space to the villagers of Changliu.

"The project is instrumental in combining experiential learning projects with credit-bearing courses, especially at the undergraduate level. Students were able to experience first-hand the 'social contract' of the architect in their first year. This will hopefully influence their approach to design in the remainder of their academic and professional career." John Lin, Associate Professor, Faculty of Architecture.



Working side by side with tutors, students tackled on-site challenges with materials, construction and even weather in the process of construction of a public plaza



Students constructed models on their designed work with bricks in classroom



Students brainstormed the ideas and elements included in the landscape

Experiential Learning Fund 2012-13

Flooding Bangkok: Experience Infrastructure



The course provided students the unique opportunity to combine theoretical knowledge of landscape and resource planning with the material realities of infrastructure along the Chao Phraya River in Thailand as the basis for a design proposal that addresses real needs for flood planning in the wake of the 2011 floods.

“Traditional landscape planning courses introduce students to concepts of large and regional planning issues from a top-down approach, favoring the gathering of data at an abstract level. This method has recently been criticized by many educators and practitioners emphasizing the need to engage in the physical realities of these planning issues at the ground level, and to solicit feedback from stakeholders and decision makers. . . . [Students’] design work and proposals will be systemically presented to relevant Thai governmental agencies, NGOs, and planning professionals as recommendations and reference for the planning of the Chao Phraya River Basin.” Dorothy Tang, Assistant Professor, Division of Landscape Architecture.

Faculty of Architecture

Course Code: ARCH3027 (12-credits)

Project Coordinator:

Ms. Dorothy Tang, Assistant Professor

Location: Bangkok, Thailand



Students visited the mangrove rehabilitation of Chao Phraya River in Thailand for data collection



Water Mosaic: Student's drawing of the site with decentralized water storage management
(Project student: Mei Yee Chan)



A visit to Bhumibol Dam and reservoir to study the water management scheme in Bangkok



Student works shared with stakeholders in Hong Kong and Thailand

Experiential Learning Fund 2012-13

Business Consulting Practicum



The Business Consulting Practicum provides an opportunity for students to develop their innovation and gain hands-on consulting project experience while providing a valuable service to small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) and social enterprises.

"When students worked in the real context, they faced a lots of constraints and encountered many unanticipated incidents which affected their progress. They also came across a lot of conflicts with different stakeholders. To overcome these hurdles, they applied critical thinking to prioritize their work and make contingency plans. . . . This is exactly how they learn in the practicum – they learn from experience." Dr. Winnie Leung, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Business & Economics.

Student reflections

"I may learn a lot about the theory and methods on how to do a consulting project in the classroom, however, when we are actually working on a real project, it is a totally different situation. You will encounter a lot of unexpected issues, and you have to learn to talk to your client and to know their needs, which is the most important part that we cannot really learn from just attending lectures and workshops in the classroom. I really enjoy this course." Angela Leung, Student of BUSI2005 (Summer 2013).

Faculty of Business & Economics

Course Code: BUSI2005 (6-credits)

Project Coordinators:

Dr. Winnie S. C. Leung;

Professor Amy H. Lau;

Professor Patrick Y. K. Chau

Location: Hong Kong



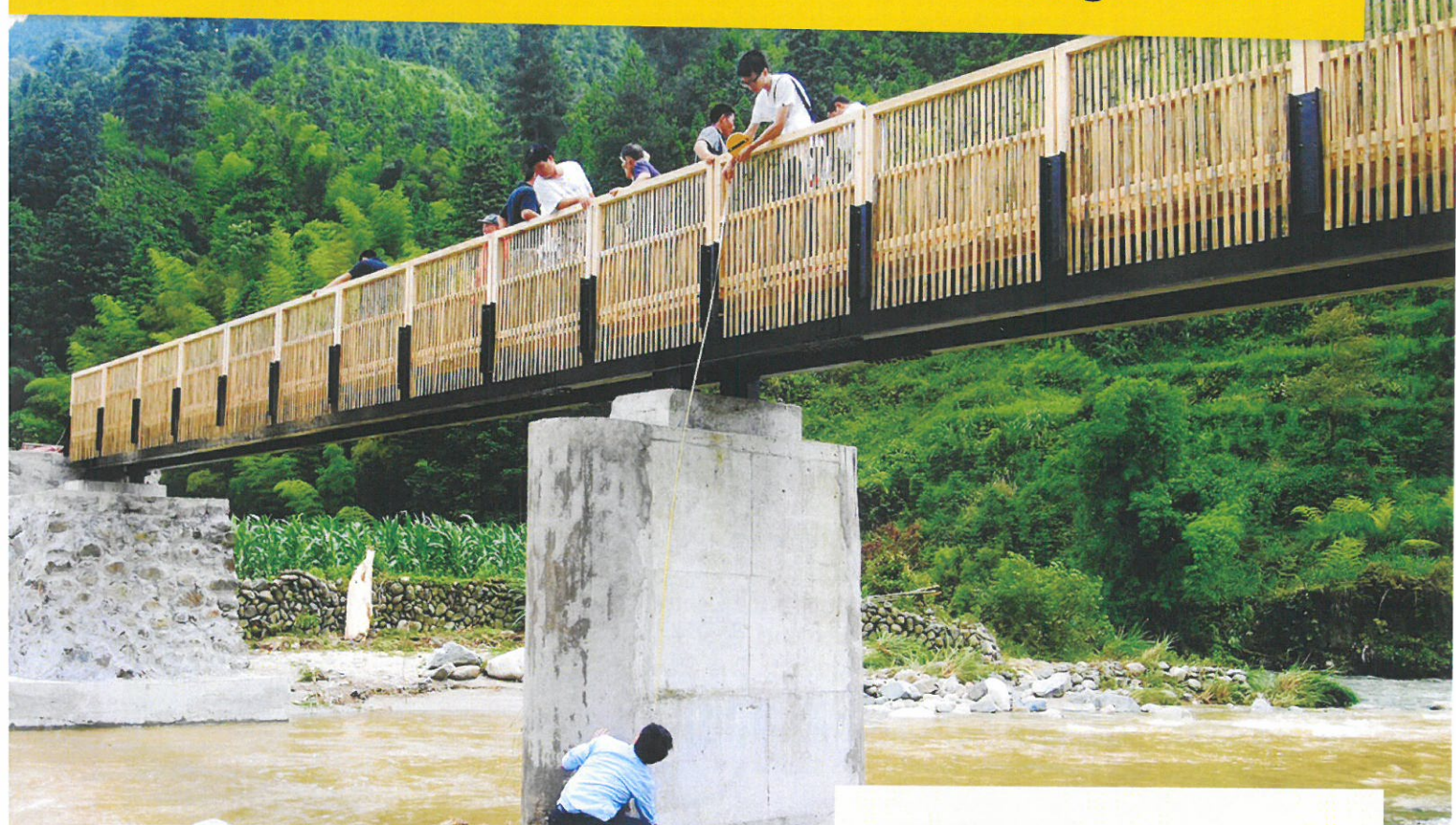
Students conducted a market research for Hong Kong Rehabilitation Power (HKRP) on opening a mini-supermarket at HKU campus



Students having weekly progress meeting with faculty teachers and consultant-in-residence

Experiential Learning Fund 2012-13

Project Mingde – Implementation in a Design Course



Project Mingde has been established by the Department of Civil Engineering since 2004. It provides an open platform for nurturing our students to acquire not only hard skills, but also to possess soft skills, such as a sense of social responsibility, by participating in real-world on-going civil engineering projects in remote impoverished regions in China. The course aims at training future civil engineers to professionally conduct civil engineering projects through synergetic teamwork and to communicate effectively within a multi-disciplinary working environment.

Faculty of Engineering

Course Code: CIVL2001

Project Coordinator:

Dr. George Wong

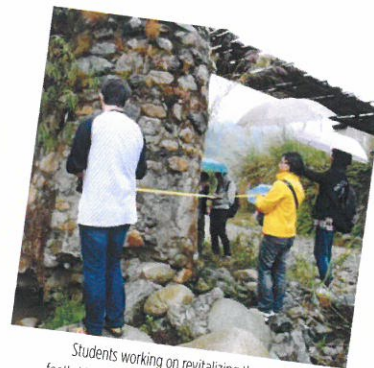
Location: Da Bao Tun, Guangxi Province, China

Student reflections

"Without field work, the engineering study would be meaningless. All the on-site information is essential for supporting the desktop study and detailed design".



Students learning practical skills of construction by placing bamboo tubes layer by layer with mortar for the Dabao school and community centre project



Students working on revitalizing the only footbridge across a river that would be impossible or dangerous to cross during heavy rainfall

Experiential Learning Fund 2012-13

HKU-HKRAC Clinical Legal Education Programme



The Refugee Legal Assistance Clinic is offered to undergraduate and postgraduate students in partnership with the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre (HKRAC). HKRAC provides general advice and legal aid to asylum-seekers and refugees in Hong Kong. The Clinic allows students the opportunity to learn both the theory and practice of domestic and international refugee law under the direct supervision of HKRAC's staff.

The course succeeds in facilitating students' effective and critical study of law and society while students actively gain the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to provide a valuable public service.

"With the help of the HKU students, HKRAC is able to provide high quality legal service to a greater number of refugees as well as develop a deeper understandings of refugee rights throughout Hong Kong." Representative of HKRAC

Faculty of Law

Course Code: LLAW3148 / LLAW6205

Project Coordinator:

Professor Simon N. M. Young

Location: Hong Kong

Student reflections

"Individuals must be free from persecution and given at least minimal assistance when needed. It made me realize that as a society, it is our responsibility to ensure that refugee applicants are empowered. Charity is not only about giving. It is also about learning, about gaining life-changing and invaluable insights. I truly respect the people who are helped because despite less fortunate circumstances, they try their utmost to live life to the fullest." Jennie Ng, Year 2, LLB.



Students practicing interviewing skills with Faculty's mentors



Students meeting with HKRAC Staff Attorney to learn about issues of refugees in Hong Kong



Students visiting a refugee compound in Ping Che to understand the living conditions of refugees in Hong Kong