1. Crash Test Highlights TTI Tour

A 60 mile-per-hour crash of a new pick-up truck into a TTI constructed guardrail was the main attraction of an Institute tour for the newly appointed General Counsel of The Texas A&M University System and the associate vice chancellor for engineering.

Mike Godfrey and Theresa Maldonado joined Director Dennis Christiansen and other TTI officials for the crash test, which was performed as part of continuing efforts to improve roadside safety.

“It’s always a pleasure showing officials of The Texas A&M University System officials what the Roadside Safety Program is all about,” said Research Engineer Roger Bligh. “Having Mr. Godfrey and Dr. Maldonado on hand for this crash test was a treat for us.”

The tour of TTI included the high-bay structures lab, materials lab, TransLink®, vehicle simulator and erosion lab. The tour ended with a barbeque lunch.

Learn more about Mike Godfrey:
2. Video Segment ‘TTI: On Topic’ Premiers on Website

The design of the TTI website continues to evolve as the web development team implements key suggestions of TTI administrators, researchers and staff.

The latest feature added to the site is “TTI: On Topic,” an overview of some of the key transportation issues being addressed by TTI researchers. Using video interviews, background footage and supporting graphics, “TTI: On Topic” provides website visitors with a snapshot of a particular area of research directly from TTI research experts.

“As one of the nations’ leading university-affiliated transportation research agencies, TTI has numerous research projects underway for a whole host of sponsors at any given time,” notes Katie Turnbull, the TTI associate director who suggested the feature and developed its initial installment. “Regardless of the sponsor, TTI’s research focuses on critical transportation issues facing the traveling public as well as the people concerned with the movement of goods throughout the country.”

“TTI’s website provides a great way to highlight recent projects and the expertise of TTI researchers,” says Turnbull. “We hope to complete a project or topic on a monthly basis through a team effort of researchers, Richard Cole, Rick Davenport and others.”

Turnbull hosts the first installment, which focuses on TTI’s High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane research and the handbooks developed for the Federal Highway Administration and the HOV Pooled-Fund Study. “TTI: On Topic” is accessible from a button on the TTI home page.

Please send CenterLine suggestions for future topics.
3. Rail System Developer Inducted into Hall of Honor

The man who created the largest interurban rail system in the southwestern United States was inducted into the Texas Transportation Hall of Honor Oct. 30. Colonel John F. Strickland was posthumously honored during a ceremony at the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) headquarters.

Born in 1860, J.F. Strickland traveled to Texas by wagon train at the age of 18. He later was responsible for the development of the interurban railway system in the Dallas area in the early 1900s.

“It is appropriate to induct Colonel Strickland into the Transportation Hall of Honor,” noted John Wilson, general manager of Citibus in Lubbock. “Starting in 1908, Colonel Strickland’s electric railway companies developed an extensive interurban system that ultimately stretched from Waxahachie and Waco in the south to Sherman, Denison and the Red River to the north.”

“DART is pleased to host this induction of Colonel Strickland,” noted Gary Thomas, DART president/executive director. “DART is continuing the legacy started by Colonel Strickland with the ongoing development of an extensive light-rail transit (LRT) system. The plaque recognizing Colonel Strickland will be placed in a prominent location in the DART offices.”
4. Jim Carvell Retires

After 26 years with TTI, Senior Research Engineer Jim Carvell will soon have more time to fish, visit with grandchildren and play guitar with fellow engineers who make up a group of “musicians” who call themselves Tonedef.

At his retirement reception in Dallas Dec. 14, Carvell reflected on his many friends at the Institute. “I had people who came from Nevada, Oklahoma, Arkansas and College Station to wish me well,” Carvell said. “This is absolutely the best place in the world to work. There is a certain camaraderie here that you can’t find anywhere else.”

Among the speakers for his reception were Director Dennis Christiansen, former Director Herbert Richardson, Carvell’s former boss Dick McCasland and current boss Ed Seymour.

“I am most proud of the work that was done on freeway management projects with TxDOT,” Carvell said.

Carvell’s retirement begins Dec. 31.

5. TTI Bookshare Geared to Help

TTI researchers sometimes are frustrated because the books they need for a project can not be obtained on time. Now, because of an idea developed by Research Librarian Hong Yu, there’s new hope.

TTI Bookshare is a simple idea: post records of your book collection on the TTI Intranet or visit the site to see if a book is available by someone else in the Institute.

“Currently, the TTI library has a very small collection, so we have relied heavily on the resources available at Texas A&M University Libraries to serve our researchers at TTI,” said Yu. “But many times the book is unavailable, and ordering it through Interlibrary Loan could take weeks. If someone has it posted on TTI Bookshare, it could save time and money.”

To post a book, visit: http://ttinet.tamu.edu/library/book_share/

To search the database, visit:
http://ttinet.tamu.edu/library/book_share/search.stm
6. TTI Turning Attention to Lawmakers

The new year will bring with it the convening of legislative bodies at both the state and national levels. That means things will get much busier for a number of TTI staff members.

The 110th Congress of the United States begins on Jan. 7, while the 80th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature begins on Jan 9. At both levels, TTI will be tracking legislation, pursuing specific initiatives and maintaining contact with elected representatives for the next several months.

The staffs for these officials routinely contact TTI for background information and testimony on a wide range of subjects, and we, in turn, make every effort to be as responsive as possible to our leaders in Washington, D.C., and Austin.

Should you get a phone call or e-mail from someone representing an elected official, please let the appropriate person at TTI know so that he or she can take care of the matter. If the call is from the federal level, call Sue James at 979-845-9849. If it’s from the state level, call Bernie Fette at 979-845-2623.
7. Briaud Recognized for Engineering Innovations

TTI Research Engineer Jean-Louis Briaud has been notified by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) of his selection for the 2007 Ralph B. Peck Award. The award ceremony will take place Feb. 19 at the National Congress of the Geo-Institute in Denver.

In a letter notifying Briaud of the award, the Executive Director of ASCE, Patrick Natale told him “the selection committee particularly noted your development of a new method for prediction of bridge scour depth which was applied to the design of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge.”

In addition, Briaud received the Martin Knapp Lecture Award after his presentation to the ASCE in New York City on Dec. 14. The lecture included details of three major research projects over the last 15 years that led to advances in foundation engineering.

8. TTI In the News

There have been numerous mentions of TTI and our experts in recent media reports. Here are links to some of the stories.

Public transportation (Baltimore Examiner) Dec. 12
http://www.examiner.com/a-450844-Justin_Snow__Make_regional_public_transportation_worth_the_trip.html

Austin biking (Austin American-Statesman) Dec. 11
http://www.statesman.com/life/content/life/stories/health/12/11/11bikeaustin.html

Florida traffic (Miami Herald) Nov. 30
http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/16125865.htm

Guardrail design (Huntsville Times) Nov. 24

University consortium (Inside Tucson Business) Nov. 20
9. Employees Set New Record for SECC

TTI employees set a new all-time record for giving in the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) by donating $19,085 to the charities of their choice. The figure also represents a 7 percent increase over this year’s goal.

TTI cookbooks were a popular item for SECC, raising $2,100 for the campaign. “One-hundred percent of the proceeds went to SECC,” said SECC Area Coordinator Barbara Hein. “We have printed about 300 extra copies of the cookbooks, which will be on sale at TTI Day. Those proceeds will go toward next year’s campaign.”

The cookbooks were distributed this week.

10. TTI Anniversaries
5 years
Bradley Hoover, Lead Software Applications Developer (NET)

10 years
Heather Ford, Administrative Assistant (AUS)

20 Years
Christy Harris, Administrative Coordinator (HSO)

25 Years
Darrell Borchardt, Senior Research Engineer (JHO)
John Ragsdale, Research Associate (BFB)

11. Tiny Carolers Spread Joy for the Holidays

At ages four and five, the students at a Bryan daycare have an audience for the holidays. The kids share Christmas songs with whoever asks.

TTI employees requested the young carolers back again for their third year. On Dec. 14, the kids performed favorites like “Away in the Manger” and “Joy to the World” in the Gilchrist Building lobby, prompting smiles on the faces of every audience member.

The young students at Jack and Jill pre-school in Bryan practiced the songs over a three-week period before taking the show on the road. The children have brightened the holidays for countless people since the school began the program at least 10 years ago.

“The kids really enjoy it, but they are a bit tired by the time they get back to school,” daycare owner Kimberly Livingston said. “They get to have a big party with lots of sugar the day afterward.”
12. Editor’s Corner: Proprietary and Copyrighted Information

by Rhonda Brinkmann

I’ve had several inquiries lately asking how to handle sponsored research or copyrighted items in reports, papers, and presentations. There are several key points to remember:

- Before releasing any information that results from sponsored research, be sure you have the approval of the sponsoring agency.
- “Release” includes publication, presentation, posting on a website or even informal sharing with colleagues outside TTI.
- Most material pulled from reference sources is copyrighted. Whether you need to cite the source material or get permission to use it depends on the circumstances.

*Sponsored research:* This item is pretty straightforward, but do remember that it includes any technical findings resulting from research and not just published project reports. It covers documents that have not yet been reviewed and approved by the sponsor or ones that the sponsor has reviewed but not approved for publication. Any sponsored information must be cleared by the sponsor before release.

*Copyrighted information:* Using copyrighted material is a little trickier than releasing sponsored research findings. The national Copyright Act allows for “fair use” of copyrighted material, which is the guideline most technical reports follow. The act lists the various purposes considered “fair” such as critique or commentary, news, education and research.

The distinction between fair use and copyright infringement is not clear-cut. Consider several factors in determining fair use and, therefore, whether to reference a source or obtain permission to use it. You are likely to need only a source listing if:

- your purpose is for nonprofit research or educational reasons
- the copyrighted work is intended for research and education
- your use pulls a small portion of the copyrighted work in relation to the whole
- your use does not negatively affect the potential value of the copyrighted work
- the source material is produced by the federal government (since...
federal materials are not eligible for copyright protection)

On the other hand, you are more likely to need permission if:

- the copyrighted source is intended for profit
- you pull a considerable portion of the copyrighted work or reference it frequently
- your use might negatively impact the copyrighted work
- you use a graphic or photograph

Because TTI is a nonprofit state agency, copyright holders are usually happy for their information to be used in TTI publications. However, they often request reprint or permission credit. For example, TTI has ongoing permission from MapQuest® to use maps produced by its online software, but MapQuest requests that the use follow certain rules. To find out more about MapQuest’s rules, contact Rhonda Brinkmann. Many websites have a link to a legal or media page that details how to quote or reference material found on that site.

TTI retains copyright to its own materials, so users of information from TTI publications need to obtain permission from TTI, but that’s a topic for a different column.

For overall copyright explanations, see http://www.copyright.gov/. For more information on TTI and copyrights, see http://ttinet.tamu.edu/mgmt_org/policy/intellect.stm

top

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