1. Richardson’s Final TTI Day

With about 350 employees in attendance, it was fitting Director Herb Richardson be center stage for his last TTI Day, the annual employee gathering he created 11 years earlier. Richardson, who announced his retirement before the holidays, received at least two standing ovations during the event.

Deputy Director Dennis Christiansen outlined many of Richardson’s accomplishments, including the improvements made to Riverside, the construction of the Gilchrist Building and a future $10 million building to be completed in three years. “I am absolutely confident that Herb is the only leader who could have made this happen — his knowledge of the System and university, the stature he has in that community and his patience uniquely qualified him to provide us with the infrastructure that should meet our needs for many years,” Christiansen said.

Before the accolades, Richardson addressed the Brazos Center audience with a “State of TTI” speech, many times giving credit to others for various accomplishments. Richardson pointed out the successes of 2005 (continued support for the Center for Transportation Safety, the development of the Pecos Research and Testing Center, establishment of an El Paso office and the future TTI building near Gilchrist) and touched upon the challenges still facing the institute. “While the overall picture is pretty rosy, there are challenges on the horizon,” he said. “We still need to focus on diversifying our sponsor base, while at the same time nurturing and maintaining our special relationship with TxDOT.”
During his speech, Richardson outlined several near-term opportunities for TTI including Homeland Security–related research, border research, continuing education and international research. “As the world grows ever smaller, we have increasing opportunities abroad. Just this past year, the institute has been approached by organizations from several countries about bringing our expertise to their transportation problems.”

Richardson told the crowd that the search committee to find his replacement will be appointed soon and that a new director will be identified by September. Before ending his speech with a light hearted look at the top ten qualifications for a new director, Richardson told employees that they can all be proud of TTI’s accomplishments. “I’m proud to be on this team and want to thank you again for all you do to make TTI the outstanding organization it is.”

2. 2005 Employee Awards

Fifteen individuals were recipients of the 2005 TTI Employee Award, presented during TTI Day.

Individual award winners were:

- **Kelly West** — Administrative Professional Staff Award,
- **Holly Crenshaw** — Administrative Professional Staff Award,
- **Cecily Sebesta** — Administrative Support Staff Award,
- **Gary Lobaugh** — Administrative Technical Support Award,
- **Tobey Lindsey** — Administrative Technical Support Award,
- **Nora Martiniez** — Division Administrative Support Award,
- **Michelle Wright** — Division Administrative Support Award,
- **Dudley Scott May** — Division Technical Support Award,
- **Eyad Masad** — TTI/Trinity New Researcher Award,
- **Karl Zimmerman** — TTI/Trinity New Researcher Award,
- **Paul Carlson** — TTI/Trinity Researcher Award,
- **Weldon C. (Cliff) Franklin** — TTI/Trinity Senior Researcher Award,
- **Harlow C Landphair** — TTI/Trinity Senior Researcher Award,
- **Pam Kopf** — Charles J. “Jack” Keese Career Achievement for Agency Support Award,
- **Conrad L. ( Connie) Dudek** — TTI/Trinity Charley V.
Wootan Career Achievement for Research Award.

Why these individuals? Click on:
http://ttinet.tamu.edu/ttipeople/employee_awards/2005_awards.stm

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3. First Team Award Winner Recognized at TTI DAY

For the first time in TTI Day history, a Team Award category was instituted. The winning team, led by Beverly Kuhn and Ginger Goodin, worked on a five-year TxDOT project titled “Operating Freeways with Managed Lanes”. The result was more than 150 research projects, including a comprehensive handbook and a popular website. TxDOT used the research to help draft state legislation, and project data have been used to develop managed lanes projects across the country.

Team members were (in no particular order) Debbie Jasek, Carol Lewis, Michelle Hoelscher, David Fenko, Steven Venglar, Samir Goel, Paul Schrader, Grant Fisher, Michael Martello, Boris Palchik, John Wikander, Tina Collier, Bernie Fette, Kay Fitzpatrick, Ivan Lorenz, Doug Skowronek, Scott Cothron, Marcus Brewer, Bill Eisele, Jerry Ullman, Susan Chrysler, Steve Schrock, Alicia Williams, Andrew Ballard, Michael Perez, Robert Brydia, Bradley Hoover, Stephen Song, Kevin Balke, Gary Thomas, Brooke Ullman, Jodi Carson and Casey Toycen.

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4. TRB Preview

Dozens of TTI researchers are checking and rechecking their presentation materials for the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 85th Annual Meeting to be held Jan. 22-26 in Washington, D.C.

In all, there will be more than 2,600 presentations in 500 sessions. This year’s spotlight theme is “Transportation 2025: Getting There from Here”. Also highlighted will be “The Interstate Highway Systems 50th Anniversary — What Have We Learned?”, and “SAFETEA-LU: What it Means for Research and the Transportation Community”.

Recipient of the first TTI Team Award.
5. TTI in the News

There have been several mentions of TTI and our experts in recent articles. Here are links to some of the stories.

Road rage (Dallas Morning News)  
(You may need to register to view this story)

Teens in the Driver Seat (Houston Chronicle)

Finding the best roadside grass (Star-Telegram)

6. L.A. Shuttle

TTI’s Freight Shuttle concept was on the agenda for the Jan. 18 meeting of the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners. Steve Roop, the assistant agency director for the Multimodal Freight Transportation Division, presented the concept, which is designed to ease congestion, increase safety and reduce pollution in and around ports and waterways. The commissioners will now consider the possibility of establishing the Freight Shuttle for use at the Port of Los Angeles.

Roop and his team conceived the concept for the Freight Shuttle in 1999, and just recently, the Freight Shuttle Development Corporation (FSDC) was developed. The FSDC has exclusive rights to develop and commercialize technology that could revolutionize the way freight containers are transported from overcrowded ports to nearby terminals.

The freight shuttle consists of electrically powered vehicles that run on a specialized, derailment-proof rail guideway. The guideway sends transport containers from ports to terminals with the use of an automated control system that requires no onboard drivers.
7. Sandy Tucker Reception

Sandy Tucker, former supervisor of TTI’s Library and Information Services group, was honored in a well-attended reception at the Gilchrist Building on Jan. 6. Tucker accepted a tenured faculty position with the Evans Library on the Texas A&M campus, leaving TTI after 18 years of service.

Tucker supervised the development of several websites and clearinghouses related to transportation, including the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse and the Transportation Pooled Fund website. She also served as chair of various committees and panels.

“Sandy Tucker established for herself — and for this institute — a reputation for excellence and initiative within her field of expertise, both among her peers and among her clients and sponsors,” said Rob Robideau, director of TTI Communications.

Robideau also read (often humorous) remarks from Tucker’s colleagues across the country and presented her with an engraved vase.

Good luck with your new opportunity, Sandy!

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8. Editor’s Corner: Set Your Reports to Automatic

(Note: Editor’s Corner is a series of articles dealing with topics intended to simplify preparation of research project deliverables.)

Word-processing programs offer lots of tools for automating files. Setting your document files to automatic will save you time and frustration.

If you are preparing a technical report — or a document that needs a similar format — look over the report template located at http://ttinet.tamu.edu/communications/editing/txdot_report_developme
nt.stm. It has automatic front matter lists (table of contents, list of figures, and list of tables) already set up and explains how to use them. If you create a document from scratch in Word, build the lists using the command Insert/Reference/Index and Tables. You can freeze a generated list for copying and pasting to another document using CNTL+SHFT+F9.

Consider using automatic figure and table numbers, too. They simplify front matter lists and make graphic information accurate and easy to locate. Autonumbering keeps track of figure numbers and table numbers separately and lets you connect the text callout to the graphic. Use the command Insert/Reference/Caption to insert your caption; then use Insert/Reference/Cross-Reference to place a callout into the text.

There are lots of advantages to using automatic lists and autonumbering graphics. Here are a few:

- You can update lists or page numbers within lists quickly.
- You don’t have to remember which number figure or table comes next.
- You can insert a figure or table and subsequent items renumber for you.
- Your in-text references remain accurate even if you make revisions.

For more tips on using automated word processing, see Appendix E of TTI’s editorial guidelines at:
http://ttinet.tamu.edu/communications/editing/TTIGuidelines.pdf.

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