MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

The 80th Transportation Short Course, October 10-11 on the TAMU Campus, was another outstanding event. The speakers at the sessions were excellent, and there were numerous opportunities to talk with TxDOT staff and other transportation professionals from around the state.

The Short Course continues to be well attended. A total of 2,652 people registered for this year’s Short Course – breaking previous attendance records. The opening session was great as always. The TxDOT slide show highlighted TxDOT employees serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. The award to former Commissioner and Senator-Elect Robert Nichols added a special touch to the opening session, as did Herb introducing Dennis as the new TTI Director.

A special thanks to all the SPP&Eer’s who served as session co-chairs, assisted with registration, and helped with the Galloway Golf Tournament on Sunday afternoon. The golf tournament continues to be a very popular event; and the weather cooperated again this year.

Herb Richardson was also given very appropriate recognition and thanks at two retirement events. Both serious and humorous comments reflected the essence of Herb and his leadership style. Herb’s honesty, integrity, intelligence, and mentoring have been key to TTI’s success over the past 13 years. TTI will still benefit from Herb as Director Emeritus and will continue to prosper with Dennis Christiansen as our new Director.

Thanks!

Katie

Congratulations

Teresa Qu became a U.S. citizen on September 28th.

Bill Stockton completed all the requirements for his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering. Bill will be walking across the stage in December. Congratulations Dr. Stockton!

Joe Zietsman has been approved as a member of the Texas A&M University Department of Landscape Architect and Urban Planning graduate faculty. Joe can now serve on masters and Ph.D. committees.

Montie Wade has been appointed to the TRB Committee on Statewide Multimodal Transportation Planning.

Congratulations Teresa, Bill, Montie, and Joe!
Staff Activities

SPP&Eer’s helping as Session Co-Chairs for the Transportation Short Course included Brian Bochner, Ginger Goodin, Bill Stockton, Montie Wade, John Overman, and Katie Turnbull.

Brian Bochner and Joe Zietsman gave presentations at the Air Quality 2006: Energy Leadership and Emissions Reduction Conference in Houston in mid-October. The conference was sponsored by TAMUS and TCEQ. Brian’s presentation was on Travel and Emission Impacts of Mixed Use Development and Joe’s presentation was on Truck Idling Reduction.

Beverly Storey and Jett McFalls taught the ETEC 2007 Annual Water Quality Training Conference in Waco October 16-18. Jett and others also hosted a tour of the Sediment and Erosion Control Laboratory for a group of TCEQ staff on October 19th.

Toni Carelock, Heather Ford, Pam Rowe, Lisa Nimocks, Jennifer Barry, and Bonnie Duke attended the 16th Annual Texas A&M Association of Professional Support Staff (TAPSS) Development Conference October 3rd at Reed Arena. The opening speaker was Kirstin Brekken Shea, Senior Lecturer in the Health & Kinesiology Department at Texas A&M University, who discussed the importance for support staff to stay physically active to relieve stress and increase the quality of life. The closing speaker was Tyra Olson, Branch Manager of Robert Half International Staffing Services, who discussed strategies for communicating effectively with every personality type in the workplace. The conference also included morning and afternoon breakout sessions and was held in conjunction with the Meeting Planners Showcase, which provided a wide variety of vendor exhibits.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 6-9, FALL RMC MEETINGS, ARLINGTON
NOVEMBER 23-24, THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 1, 2007, WINTER BREAK
JANUARY 21-25, 2007, TRB ANNUAL MEETING, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Birthdays

November
Eun Sug Park  11/7
Dennis Perkinson  11/13
Bill Stockton  11/21
Jennifer Barry  11/22

December
Jason Crawford  12/5
Erlinda Snodgrass  12/5
Joan Hudson 12/9
Poonam Wiles  12/17
David Staas  12/21
John Overman 12/23
Kimberly Phillips  12/30
Heather Ford 12/30
Juan Carlos Villa 12/30