INTERCHANGE
Transportation Operations Group Texas Transportation Institute

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MESSAGE
As we begin the holiday season, we have much to be thankful for including our extended break at the end of December. Each of us should take time to celebrate with family and/or friends in order recharge our mental and physical energy. Enjoy!

The new TxDOT leadership has given us on window of opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of research as there is a very positive environment including good communications. Each of us should work in new ways to convey the value of what we do. One area for increased focus is communicating the value in failure. Too often we have tried to make unsuccessful efforts sound like success. We have not taken the approach of saying “Don’t do this” as an example of successful research. Instead, we have focused on the future possibilities by saying: if only, possibly, and with additional research, the potential exists to solve this complex and ever changing issue of immense proportion.

Failure is the most likely outcome of a innovative research program. I believe Thomas Edison failed 10,000 times before inventing the light bulb. We must convey failure as knowledge. Failure is easy to convey: “Don’t do this.” Implementation only requires that we convey the message to the sponsor. If you can say it in a sentence, do it!

Tom Urbanik

TRANSLINK® BITS
TransLink® held its semi-annual partners meeting on Thursday, November 12th. Even with a power outage on this side of campus, we were able to pull a successful meeting. Some of the themes that consistently came up were: near-term implementation of research coming out of a long-range research program, synthesis and dissemination of research findings (other than research reports), ITS research products that are visible to the end user — the traveler — and moving to a more distributed ATMS as opposed to large, centralized ATMS.

Many thanks need to go out to the researchers that prepared presentations (Bob Brydia, Leonard Ruback, Roelof Engelbrecht, Mark Hickman, Srikanth Ojili, Larry Rilet). Equally important were all the folks that kept things running (even without power) behind the scenes (Natilie Johnson, Beth Neilson, Holly Crenshaw, and the folks at NIS). A special thanks to Susan Lancaster who saved the day by letting us set up at ITEC’s conference room.

Natilie Johnson has been promoted to Staff Assistant for the TransLink Research Center. Natilie has taken on a greater role in handling the Center administration. She has proven to be an invaluable talent in balancing many projects, handling administrative tasks, and maintaining a great attitude. Congratulations and thanks to Natilie for all her hard work!

Last month there was an error in the AD’s message about using Word. If you know what it was, contact Debbie Jasek by e-mail. The first correct answer will win a free lunch.

TransLink® facilitated an ITS Data Use and Archiving Workshop in Austin on November 10th. This workshop brought together representatives from TxDOT (operations and planning), SWRI, cities, MPOs, TNRCC, TTI, and CTR. The workshop was a first step in holding discussions on statewide data archiving issues. While many issues were discussed in the one-day format, more exchange of information on data needs, data warehousing technology, and lessons learned are needed. Shawn Turner, Russell Henk, Cesar Quiroga, Bill Eisle, Christopher Poe, and Ed Seymour made presentations and helped facilitate discussions. For more information contact Shawn Turner.

ITS Texas held their annual meeting November 17-20th in Austin, Texas. The following TTI folks made presentations: Ed Seymour, Christopher Poe, Shawn Turner, Sadler Bridges, and Tom Urbanik. In addition, the RCE held a showcase of research implementation and Beverly Kuhn, Dan Middleton, and Gene Ritch put on a very well attended Video Detection Workshop. Both events are a tribute to TTI taking a leadership role in the ITS arena. The new ITS Texas officers for 1999 are: President-Walter Ragsdale, Vice-President-Christopher Poe, Secretary-Terry Sams, Treasurer-Andy Ballard, and Board Members at-large-Bill Stockton, Sally Wegmann, Dave Davis, and Dan Rocha.

Chris Poe

TOG’s Mission
To facilitate innovations in transportation system operations which promote implementation of a safer, more effective, more efficient, and sustainable transportation system through leadership in research, education, and technology transfer.
Workshop at the ITS Texas Annual Meeting. The workshop was attended by over 40 people from TxDOT and other state agencies, local agencies, and the private sector in California. The group developed eight critical issues which need to be addressed with the PCB training program. These issues were further defined in terms of action items and recommendations for the training and technical assistance efforts in PCB. It is anticipated that collaborative efforts between California and Texas can emerge from this meeting and the entire program. A plan of action is forthcoming.

For further information on either the workshop or the California meeting, please contact me. I’d be happy to share my experiences and hear from you.

Beverly Kuhn

ENO FELLOWS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Earlier this year, 19 graduate students in the field of transportation were named as Eno Fellows. Kimberly Mastako, formerly a member of the Transportation Systems Division, was among this group. Kimberly was nominated for the fellowship program by Larry Rilett.

As an Eno Fellow, Kimberly attended a Leadership Development Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference, which is an all-expense-paid Leadership program funded by donations from a wide range of transportation companies and associations, serves as a forum for future transportation leaders to interact and network, as well as gain career experience.

More than 60 national transportation leaders shared their unique career perspectives with the students and focused on the significance of leadership. Topics discussed during the conference included legislation and funding proposals, intermodalism, ITS, and ISTEA Reauthorization.

In addition to the annual conference, the Eno Foundation provides follow-up activities to assist the Fellows with professional development and networking.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Just a reminder with the installation of Outlook, some of us have had an e-mail address change. Remember to update colleagues and committees of any changes in your address to avoid message problems in the future. The following gentle reminder of misrouted messages is compliments of Lee Han.

A businessman from Wisconsin went on a business trip to Louisiana. Upon arrival, he immediately plugged his laptop into the hotel room port and sent a short E-mail back home to his wife, Jennifer Johnson, at her address, JennJohn@world.net

Unfortunately, in his haste, he mistyped a letter and the E-mail ended up going to JeanJohn@world.net, a Jean Johnson in Duluth, the wife of a preacher who had just passed away and was buried that day. The preacher's wife took one look at the E-mail and promptly fainted.

It read, "Arrived safely, but it sure is hot down here!"
TOG ANNUAL MEETING

Planning and preparation for the 1999 TOG Annual Meeting has begun. The committee has been assembled, and we're looking for ideas for a theme, activities, and a location. Do you have a fresh and novel idea to share with us? Know of a unique facility that can meet our needs? Then by all means, let us in on it. Only with your help, can we make this yearly event a success. Contact myself, Jim Carvell, or any of the committee members to share your one-of-a-kind idea!

The 1999 TOG Annual Meeting Committee Members are: Beverly Kuhn—Chairperson, Jim Carvell—Vice Chairperson, Natallie Johnson, Paul Carlson, Jon Collins, Rene Arredondo, Lisa Patke, and Larry Rilette.

Beverly Kuhn

BRAVO! GREAT JOB! TAKE A BOW!

Congratulations on a great job are in order for Dan Middleton, Beverly Kuhn, and Gene Ritch for their work on the ITS Texas Video conference. They presented a half-day seminar on video image detection in Austin as part of the ITS America meetings November 18 - 20. Approximately 35 persons attended the seminar from TxDOT, vendors, and city governments. Great Job!

To recognize someone's great job, send pertinent information to Debbie Jasek (d-jasek@tamu.edu).

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order for B. J. Fritz-Lewis of the Traffic Systems Program. B. J. has been named to Kensington's Who's Who Among Business and Professionals and International Who's Who of Professionals. Way to go B. J.!

Congratulations are also in order for Kevin Balke. Or should we say Dr. Balke. Kevin has completed his Ph.D. requirements. Congratulations and Hurray!!

Rob Benz, of the Houston Office and his wife Karen are proud and first time parents. Sara Elizabeth Benz, who arrived with a complement of brown hair and blue eyes, was born at 12:58 p.m. November 5, 1998. She weighed in at 9 lbs. 4 oz. Congratulations to the Benz household.

The Steve Venglars family also welcomed a new addition. Steve, a member of the Austin office, and his wife, Nicki, are the proud parents of Sean Venglars. Sean was born November 10, 1998. Congratulations to the Venglars!

HELLO AND GOODBYE!

Hello and Welcome

The Transport Operations Program would like to welcome Mary O'Connell. Mary is the new Program Secretary. She is originally from Bryan and has recently moved back to the area. Welcome Mary.

The System Implementation Program would like to welcome Kimberly Murphy. Kimberly is a junior Civil Engineering major from Midland. We have been told that in addition to working on her degree, Kimberly loves to spend time with her dog, Lucy. Welcome Kimberly.

David Rickerson joins The TransLink Research Center as a Student Worker III. He will be working in the Roadside Equipment Laboratory. Welcome David.

Goodbye and Best Wishes

Vivek Keswani's last day will Dec 11. Vivek is graduating with his BS in Electrical Engineering and taking full-time employment with Texas Instruments. Throughout the time Vivek was here, he performed a wide variety of system administration and web site related tasks. His expertise, friendly personality, and laughter will be greatly missed. Good luck Vivek from all of us!

Garry Ford is finishing up the requirements for his MS degree. He will be leaving the System Implementation Program but will not be going far. Garry will be joining the System Applications Program in San Antonio as an Assistant Transportation Researcher.

Melisa (Peoples) Finley has been busy. She recently got married and is now finishing up her MS degree requirements. Melisa will be returning to the Traffic Management and Information Systems Program in January as an Assistant Transportation Researcher.

Rene Hulett, Peter Koonce, Deb Kreis, Yaru Liu, Ramon Labrador, Michael Pacelli, and Kollan Pillay will also be leaving this semester. Rene will not be going far. She has been accepted into the graduate program and will be working at TTI as a graduate assistant starting in the Spring. Deb is going to Orlando, Florida and is in the job hunting mode. Peter has returned to Kittelson & Associates, Inc. in Portland, Oregon. Kollan will be returning to South Africa. Congratulations and best wishes to everyone from all of us!

David Noyce is leaving the Design and Operations Program. He has accepted a faculty position at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Best wishes in your new position!

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

Conrad Dudek was an invited speaker at the Big Bridge Symposium sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. He made two presentations and served on four expert panels. The Symposium was held in St. Catharines, Ontario to address critical traffic control issues during the reconstruction of the Garden City Skyway that spans the Welland Canal, a component of the St. Lawrence Seaway System. The Garden City Skyway is on the Queen Elizabeth Way, a major commercial and tourist corridor, that connects the international border crossings at the Niagara Frontier with Ontario's Golden Horshoe on the south and north sides of Lake Ontario.

Dan Middleton participated in the Society of Automotive Engineers International Truck and Bus Meeting in Indianapolis. He and Jeannette Montufar were in attendance to present a paper entitled, "Truck Size and Weight Policy Issues in the Texas-Mexico Border Region."
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ricky Parker recently attended the Transportation Management Technology Seminar in Dallas. The seminar was hosted by Econolite Control Products, Cohu, INC. and Barco Visual Systems. Topics discussed included: TS2 Technology, NTCIP, the Aries and Icons Systems for traffic control. Barco Visual Systems had a large screen high resolution projector to display all the software and video images. The Autoscope Video Detection System was demonstrated by Econolite with live feeds from various installations around the country using an ordinary phone line and modem. How to spec video cameras and proper camera placement was also discussed by a representative from Cohu. On the last day we toured the TxDOT Dallas Transportation Management Satellite and the Autoscope installation being demonstrated for TxDOT by Econolite.

Mark Wooldridge recently attended a seminar on Road Safety Audits, by Andrew O'Brien. Sponsored by TexITE and North Central Texas Council of Governments. in Arlington. The one day seminar covered road safety audits as practiced in Australia. The seminar was informative, although relatively brief, and covered an overview of the design and construction coverage of these audits, possible outcomes and benefits, and potential pitfalls.

MURPHY DOES RESEARCH

Gordon's First Law: If a research project is not worth doing at all, it is not worth doing well.

Murphy's Law Of Research: Enough research will tend to support your theory.

Maier's Law: If the facts do not conform to the theory, they must be disposed of.

Corollaries:

1. The bigger the theory, the better.
2. The experiment may be considered a success if no more than 50% of the observed measurements must be discarded to obtain a correspondence with the theory.

Williams And Holland's Law: If enough data is collected, anything may be proven by statistical methods.

Source: Arthur Bloch, "Murphy's Law"
Cheerfully submitted by Shawn Turner

"The word impossible is not in my dictionary."
— Napoleon Bonaparte

NEW PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>405971-00003</td>
<td>Debbie Jasek</td>
<td>Pasadena LEPC</td>
<td>Conducting a Hazardous Materials Flow Study for Pasadena, Deer Park, La Porte, Baytown, Bay Area, and North Channel LEPCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>473500-00001</td>
<td>Gene Hawkins</td>
<td>NCHRP</td>
<td>Specification and Application Guidelines for Arrow Panels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>407860</td>
<td>Russell Henk</td>
<td>TxDOT</td>
<td>Special Transportation Studies for the San Antonio District</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec 2       Dec 6       Dec 9       Dec 15
David Fenno Steve Liu Kande Salazar Dale Picha

Dec 6       Dec 7       Dec 16       Dec 22
Kande Salazar Debbie Jasek Pete Ferrier Sonya House

Jan 1       Jan 2       Jan 6        Jan 12
Ed Seymour  Kyu-Ok Kim James Cullison Natlie Johnson

Jan 19      Jan 20      Jan 23       Curtis Hamilton
Melisa Finley Michael Vickich

TRIVIA QUIZ

Here are the answers to last months trivia:
The first Ford cars had Dodge engines.
Airbags explode at 200 m.p.h.
The Boston University Bridge is the only place in the world where a boat can sail under a train driving under a car driving under an airplane.
The car in the foreground on the back of a $10 bill is a 1925 Hupmobile.

Here are this months questions:
In his search for perpetual motion what did Blaise Pascal invent?

What was invented in 1930 as a seal for perishable food in cellophane wrappers?

What invention was originally known as a “World's Fair Cornucopia” when it premiered at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair?

What brand developed the first electric shaver?

Good Luck!

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday!

...