TexITE Winter Meeting - 2007

(L - R) Tony Voigt, Monica Fenno, Mike Vickich and Rob Benz at the TexITE Winter Meeting.

The Transportation Operations Group participated in the TexITE District 9 Winter Meeting in Houston, February 1-3 at the Crowne Plaza Downtown Hotel. A highlight of the meeting was when The TexITE Professional Practice Area Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dave Fenno posthumously on Saturday. The award recognizes individuals for outstanding practice, service and leadership to the transpor-

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TOG Family News

WELCOME

Mei Garcia recently joined the San Antonio Research and Implementation Office as a Programmer II. She previously worked for the office in a graduate student position, and has transitioned into the professional work force after graduating from the University of Texas at San Antonio with her Master's degree in Industrial Mathematics. Mei is a warmly welcomed member of the team and will be supporting the lesser computer literate members of the office (i.e., everyone) with web and database programming.

The TTI SA RIO is also pleased to announce the addition of Dale Picha to its professional staff. Many will remember Dale from his work at TTI in the (then) System Implementation Program through early 1999. Since that time, Dale spent three years with the TxDOT Bryan District as a traffic engineer, two years as the City Traffic Engineer for the City of College Station, and three years as the District Traffic Engineer with the TxDOT San Antonio District. He is looking forward to applying his years of practical experience in local and state government in a research environment and will be involved in ongoing TTI work with TxDOT Districts in South Texas and in his interests area of signing and pavement marking applications, transportation law and policy, school safety, and workzones. He is also looking forward to working directly with a lot of the TTI staff that he had the opportunity to work with before and learn from over the years. Dale enjoys time away from work with his wife, Tracy, including traveling, working in the yard/garden, running, and entertaining their two kids, a female yellow Labrador Retriever (Susie Q) and male Standard Schnauzer (Grayson, who recently obtained his AKC Champion title).

KUDOS

Mark Burris, assistant professor in the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University, was awarded the CUTC/ARTBA New Faculty Award in conjunction with the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting Jan. 21-25 in Washington, D.C. The award, co-sponsored by the Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) and the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), is given annually to a tenure-track faculty member in transportation engineering and recognizes outstanding teaching and research contributions to the transportation field. Burris received a citation and a check for $2,000 at the CUTC annual banquet held during the January TRB meeting. Kudos, Mark!

Winter Meeting - continued

(Continued from page 1)

ation engineering profession. Dave passed away last October after a 12-year battle with cancer. Dave's wife, Monica, was present to receive the award. Also in attendance were Dave's parents, sister, and other family and friends. Tony Voigt presented the award on behalf of TexITE with a very moving tribute.

Gary Thomas, (moderating student participations), Srinivasa Sunkari (presenting), Kay Fitzpatrick (presenting), Marcus Brewer (presenting), Tony Voigt, Rob Benz, Mike Vickich, Beverly Kuhn, and Bob De Roche were in attendance. Jim Carvell attended (as he says, 'on his own dime') in his first such meeting since retirement.

Kay Fitzpatrick and Marcus Brewer presented findings from their TCRP/NCHRP study on pedestrian treatments at the TexITE meeting. Just prior to the meeting, they modified the presentations to include the gratifying news that the Pedestrian Beacon was endorsed by the National Committee at their January 2007 meeting. Inclusion of the Pedestrian Beacon in the MUTCD was one of the suggestions from the TCRP/NCHRP study. The Pedestrian Beacon is based on the HAWK device used in Tucson.
Recent Travels

**Kwaku Obeng-Boampong** traveled back home to Ghana in West Africa over the Christmas break (from 14th December to the 4th of January) to visit family and friends and celebrate his parents 40th wedding anniversary. Nothing like hot and humid nights back in Africa just to return to the January ice storm in San Antonio!

**Gary Thomas** traveled to Salt Lake City on Jan. 8-11 to teach the NHI course: Traffic Signal Design and Operation. While there, he became an NHI-certified instructor. On Feb. 5-8, Gary was off to Minneapolis to teach the NHI course: Freeway Management and Operations.

**Tony Voigt** traveled to Washington, DC on Jan 20-24 to participate in the integrated corridor management project meetings.

**Jerry Ullman** was in Washington, D.C. to attend the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices prior to TRB.

**Marcus Brewer** served as the secretary for the newly-formed TRB Roundabouts Task Force, held in Washington, D.C.

**Rob Benz** traveled to College Station on January 26 to participate in retroreflectivity data collection and training.

**LuAnn Theiss** traveled to Beaumont on January 30 to observe traffic operations and collect data.


Kevin Balke was in Madras, Chennai, India with Ed Seymour, in January. Kevin spoke at the International Workshop on Recent Advances in Transportation Engineering and also took in some sight-seeing before returning back to Texas. The monkeys were all over the hotel grounds and even in the corridors!

Accolades to the TOG staff members and students that attended, presided, presented and in some case did all three at the **TRB 86th Annual Meeting**, January 21 - 25 in Washington, D.C. TTI and TAMU developed many poster sessions and reports to be presented during the 5 day event. The meeting was held in three different hotels in the central area of Washington, D.C., including the Marriott Wardman Park, the Omni Shoreham and Hilton Washington Hotels. TTI hosted the Annual TTI Reception at the Marriott Wardham on Sunday, January 21 where researchers and colleagues gathered. A recap of the TRB program is still available on the TTI Intranet site at http://ttinet.tamu.edu/news/docs/TRB07_TTI.pdf.

A big Thank You to everyone who helped with printing posters, making travel arrangements and preparing travel vouchers upon return!
Tracking Financial Reports

“Refresh my memory, what did Janice say about tracking financial reports?” This issue of the newsletter will offer a look back at the information shared during the TOG DAY 2006 presentations. Janice Konecny gave a brief overview of the primary accounting system of records used by TTI: FAMIS, and instructions on tracking your financial reports. Here are a few slides from the presentation.

Monthly financial statements are sent to a TTI server, and then distributed to researchers and program/division staff via My Stuff electronically. Reports are available via My Stuff site for 15 months. The advantages of electronic distribution provide TTI with time savings and cost. In Fiscal Year 2005, TTI Business Office spent approximately $2500 per month on printing costs and 2 staff days to sort and distribute. Now, the researcher receives reports quicker. Within 1 day of close of business for the month, the reports are available. There are four categories of reports. These reports are located on the TTINet’s My Stuff web site http://mystuff.tamu.edu. Two sections provide quick access for particular information; for the researchers, the reports are in the “My Reports” section, and for the program/division contacts/managers the reports are in the “Our Reports” section. Automatic emails notifications are sent to alert the project contacts that the reports are available.

Payroll certification notification is sent out on the 1st of the month to remind the researchers if they haven’t certified the previous month’s payroll reports. A researcher, or PI, can delegate this certification authority to another TTI’s staff member by submitting Form 8535 to the TTI Business Office. If you have any questions on the process for tracking financial reports, please contact Janice at 979-845-8141 or j-Konecny@tamu.edu.
New positions and positions filled are listed below. Continue to share this information with your contacts. You can also forward potential names to the hiring supervisors so they can make personal contact. Applicants interested in applying for a position should go to https://tamujobs.tamu.edu/ choose “create an application” on the left side, and follow the instructions on the site to apply for the position.

### New Positions

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<tr>
<td>Dallas-JDV</td>
<td>Chris Poe</td>
<td>070236</td>
<td>Associate Research Engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Antonio - GIM</td>
<td>Cesar Quiroga</td>
<td>070548</td>
<td>Assistant Research Scientist/Engineer</td>
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<td>San Antonio - GIM</td>
<td>Cesar Quiroga</td>
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<td>Software Applications Developer I</td>
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<td>Cesar Quiroga</td>
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<td>Software Applications Developer II</td>
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<td>Cesar Quiroga</td>
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<td>Software Applications Developer III</td>
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<td>College Station - FSM</td>
<td>Paul Carlson</td>
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<td>Asst. Transportation Researcher</td>
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<td>Center for Tolling-XTR</td>
<td>Chris Poe</td>
<td>070674</td>
<td>Research Engineer (Dallas/Houston/CS)</td>
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<td>College Station - FSO</td>
<td>Jim Bonneson</td>
<td>070677</td>
<td>Assistant Research Scientist/Engineer</td>
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**Birthdays**

- Feb 01 Francisco Almazan
- Feb 01 Jorge Urquidi
- Feb 02 Liz Perez
- Feb 04 Zhirui Ye
- Feb 06 Michael Pratt
- Feb 09 Nadeem Chaudhary
- Feb 09 Lisa Patke
- Feb 12 Kathy Tran
- Feb 15 Jerry Ullman
- Feb 22 Nada Trout
- Feb 23 Paul Adamson
- Feb 24 Xiugang Li
- Feb 25 Bria Whitmire
- Feb 26 Bryan Miller
- Feb 29 Khaled Hamad
- Mar 02 - Jose Salcedo, Jr.
- Mar 04 - Russell Henk
- Mar 21 - Jerremy Clark
- Mar 28 - Helen Olivarez
- Mar 29 - Kay Fitzpatrick
- Mar 30 - Andy Ballard

**TOG Mission Statement**

To facilitate innovations in transportation system operations through leadership in research, education and technology transfer.