ED’s CORNER

As one year turns into another it is traditionally a time for resolutions - a time for programming ourselves. I encourage everyone to identify one personal and one professional resolution for this upcoming year - nothing too fancy, something achievable, something that adds value to you and the TTI experience. We’ve had a great year in 2001. Let’s make 2002 even better.

Ed Seymour

TOP TRAFFIC WEB SITE

Houston TranStar’s Freeway Traffic Management Web Site (http://traffic.tamu.edu) was formally recognized as one of the top traffic web sites in the nation by the United States Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Board of Director meeting in Fort Worth, Texas.

The web site was developed for TxDOT and is continually evolving under the direction of the TTI-Houston office, namely Mike Vickich, Kathy Tran, and Darrell Borchardt. The site is currently accessed by over 90,000 unique visitors each month and received over 48 million page impressions in 2001.

The award is significant since the web site is one of the first winners of the USDOT Federal Highway Administrations new national award for traveler information web sites. The selections were made following a national review of 103 traveler information web sites, covering both content and usability of the sites.

Mike Vickich

DALLAS OFFICE AWARDED GRANT FOR SENSOR DEPLOYMENT

TxDOT Dallas was recently awarded a $2,000,000 grant by FHWA for deployment of traffic sensors along freeways and tollways in the Dallas area. Only two such grants were made from six applications. The project is unique because it is a public/private partnership with Mobility Technologies who provides the sensors and installation and also contributes $500,000 to the project. Local partners TxDOT, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and the North Texas Tollway Authority will contribute a total of $500,000 in matching funds bringing the project total to $3,000,000. Jim Carvell led the development of the proposal with Ed Seymour providing technical expertise in structuring the project to be compatible with the center to center architecture and Bryan Miller providing guidance on interfacing to the freeway management prototype developed by TTI. The selection committee noted that the Dallas proposal was far and away the best submitted and that their real challenge was selecting who would get the second grant. The sensors will be key in extending surveillance on Dallas roadways and ultimately providing traffic information to the traveler.

CALENDER MARKS

Jan 21 Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan 24-26 TexITE Winter Meeting, Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott, Irving
Jan 24-26 Texas Junior Science and Humanities Symposia, Texas A&M
Feb 2 Groundhog Day
Feb 12 Lincoln’s Birthday
Feb 12 Chinese New Year (4700, Year of the Horse)
Feb 13 Ash Wednesday
Feb 14 Valentine’s Day
Feb 18 Presidents’ Day (TxDOT Holiday)
Feb 22 Washington’s Birthday
Mar 4 Mid-semester Grades Due
Mar 11-15 Spring Break
Mar 12 Primary Election (take time to vote)
Mar 14-15 Faculty Staff Holiday

TOG RESEARCHER FEATURED IN TM+E

Gene Hawkins is the subject of a feature article in the December/January issue of TM+E (Transportation Management + Engineering). Gene is the Industry Icon for this issue. Check out the article Signs Led the Way at www.tmemag.com in the article archives section. The article includes everything from why Gene got involved in transportation engineering to his predictions of how the engineering industry will evolve. Congratulations Gene!

TOG’s Mission

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

TOG will certainly be well represented at TRB this year. The following staff will be making presentations:
Center for Professional Development

Gary Thomas
San Antonio

Cesar Quiroga
Traffic Analysis and Design

Montasir Abbas, Jim Bonneson, Marcus Brewer, Nadeem Chaudhary, and Kay Fitzpatrick
Traffic Operations:

Paul Carlson, Connie Dudek, Melisa Finley, Mike Fontaine, Tim Gates, Andrew Holick, Steve Schrock, and Nada Trout

TransLink®

Kevin Balke, Mark Burris, Larry Rilett, and Zong Tian

Roelof Engelbrecht and Carroll Messer were co-authors of multiple papers but will not be attending.

Others TOG staff that will be attending with committee or session duties include:
Sue Chrysler, Gene Hawkins, Russell Henk, Beverly Kuhn, Dan Middleton, Ed Seymour, Jerry Ullman

Lily Rilett should get some award for his level of involvement. His name appears on the TRB schedule at least 8 times. Congratulations to everyone above on their technology transfer activities!

While we are on the subject from TRB. We invite members of TOG who are attending to provide us tales of TRB in the next newsletter. The last time we asked TRB tales Washington experienced the worst snowstorm in recorded history. One question we would like Jerry to answer is: Were you successful at making an impact and not an impression?

NOTES FROM THE CPD

ITE Education Council

Gary Thomas, Director of the Center for Professional Development, has been named Chair of the ITE Education Council for 2002.

Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

The Texas Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (TJSHS) will be held at Texas A&M University on January 24-26. The primary aims of the TJSHS are to promote original research and experimentation in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics at the high school level, and to publicly recognize students for outstanding achievement. TJSHS provides an opportunity for Texas high school students to present the results of their original research in a professional arena. Students who participate in the symposium also have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas, interact with practicing researchers, and explore future academic and career opportunities. The 2002 TJSHS Program will include research paper presentations and poster sessions. Debbie Jasek of CPD has been asked to be one of the judges for the event.

As always for more information on these topics please contact Gary Thomas at 458-3263 or by e-mail at g-thomas@tamu.edu or Debbie Jasek at 845-5239 or by e-mail at d-jasek@tamu.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Brooke Ullman. Brooke was recently promoted to Associate Transportation Researcher.

Congratulations to Marcus Brewer. Marcus was also recently promoted to Associate Transportation Researcher.

Congratulations to Liz Post of the Traffic Operations Program. Liz has been promoted to Senior Office Assistant!

Congratulations to Darrell Borchardt on reaching the 20 year milestone with TTI.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In November and December, Ken Giusti attended training classes at New Horizons Computer Learning Center in Austin, completing all three course levels of Excel 2000 and two of the three levels of Access 2000. The classes were hands on and fast-paced, but with assistance from the instructors the students were able to keep up. Each course followed the Microsoft Official Curriculum and was taught by a Microsoft Certified Trainer. Classrooms were comfortable and well-equipped.

In addition to the classroom training, New Horizons provides sixty days of 24-hour help desk support by telephone or e-mail and six months of online support in the form of a tutorial that closely follows the classroom instruction book, exercise files and exam preparation for attaining certification as a Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS). The online support is of particular benefit to persons who do not work with certain Microsoft Office applications on a daily basis in their current positions, but who aspire to become proficient in those applications. Ken feels that his computer training at New Horizons was a worthwhile investment that will enable him to make more of a contribution to TTI.

Ken Giusti

If opportunity doesn’t knock build a door.
RAIL LINES

Leonard Ruback traveled to Laredo in December to install equipment to remotely call a highway advisory radio (HAR) and select messages based on current conditions at the Mines Road highway rail grade crossing. In addition to playing messages on the TxDOT HAR, the new equipment also triggers an advisory message to be aired on Citizen Band (CB) radio channel 9. The alert is focused on the large number of commercial vehicles that use the roadway daily.

At the Laredo Site

WORK CITED BY FIRST LADY

The work of Nell Carvell in pre-school education was recently cited by First Lady Laura Bush in an interview in the January Readers’ Digest. Nell, wife of Jim Carvell of the Dallas office, is a Senior Advisor to the SMU Learning Therapy Program which she headed for seven years prior to her “retirement” in May 2001. Nell developed a pre-reading curriculum called LEAP (Language Enrichment Activities Program) which has been implemented in over 700 classrooms in Texas. She continues to develop and sell curriculum and to teach teachers how to implement the program. Jim does all the heavy lifting. To see the article, go to: http://www.rd.com/common/nav/index.jhtml?articleId=9524826&channelId=3

Congratulations Nell! We know that Jim is proud of your accomplishments and so are we.

TOG TRAVELS

On December 10th Gary Thomas traveled to Portland, Oregon to observe an ITS Standards course. The course was offered through ITE.

UPCOMING CAMPUS and OTHER EVENTS

Oct 6-Feb 10 Picturing the Century: One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives, Bush Library
Feb 1 The Lippizaner Stallions, Reed Arena, 7:30 p.m.
Feb 19-21 Symposium "A Sustainable Gulf of Mexico: Research, Technology and Observations 1950-2050"
Feb 20 Distinguished Lecture Series, Dr. Rex M. Ellis, “Issues of Inclusion and Access: We all Have a Story to Tell”, 7:30 p.m., Presidential Conference Center
Mar 6-10 Disney on Ice (Beauty and the Beast), Reed Arena, 7 shows

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jan 01 Edward Seymour
Jan 02 Kyu-Ok Kim
Jan 05 Joonhyo Kim
Jan 14 Nhon Nguyen
Jan 17 Edward Brackin
Jan 19 Melisa Finley
Jan 20 Michael Vickich
Feb 02 Liz Perez
Feb 03 Stephanie Elmquist
Feb 09 Lisa Patke
Feb 09 Nadeem Chaudhary
Feb 12 Kathy Tran
Feb 13 Brooke Ullman
Feb 13 Jeffrey Ekdahl
Feb 15 Jerry Ullman
Feb 22 Nada Trout
Feb 23 Paul Adamson
Feb 26 Bryan Miller
Feb 27 Norman Hogue