TexITE Summer Meeting

The 2006 Summer TexITE meeting was held in College Station from June 22nd to June 24th. It was very well attended by TexITE members from all over the state. Over 300 attendees, vendors and guests helped make this years event a huge success. The following TTI employees were part of the local arrangements committee - Marcus Brewer, Erin Eurek, Melisa Finley, Debbie Jasek, Jeff Miles, Sandra Schoeneman, Srinivasa Sunkari (Co-Chair), Gary Thomas, Nada Trout, Brooke Ullman, and Jerry Ullman (Co-Chair). The assistance from the TAMU Student chapter and from the Cities of Bryan and College Station was tremendous. The meeting had excellent turn out in all events including the golf tournament, technical tours at the Riverside Campus, Vendor Exhibit, a Texas Hold'em tournament (a first) and of course the technical sessions. Six TTI employees made presentations during the conference.

(Continued on page 5)
TOG Family News

GOOD BYE

After 11 years with TTI and TOG, Beth Neilson and her family have moved to Knoxville, Tennessee. Her husband Bill has taken a faculty position in the Department of Economics at the University of Tennessee. Beth’s hard work, dedication to her job, and eye for detail were greatly appreciated and will be missed. Beth will help TOG through the transition period to the new program coordinator. So for the time being, you can still contact her through her TTI email address.

We all wish Beth, Bill, and Henry good luck in their new adventure.

WELCOME

Nancy Stratta will be joining TOG beginning July 17, 2006, as program coordinator. Nancy, no stranger to TOG, is currently working for TTI’s Research and Development Office. Her time is going to be flexible between RDO and TOG, as the handoff of duties are worked out.

Welcome to TOG - Nancy!

Welcome Christopher Tyson and Kenneth Brown! Christopher is a junior civil engineering student at Prairie View A&M University and joins the Houston office as a Student Technician. Kenneth recently graduated from Texas Southern University with a Masters Degree in Transportation Planning (congratulations as well!) and joins the Houston office as a temporary traffic surveyor.

The El Paso Office welcomes Maria Guadalupe “Lupe” Ramos. Lupe brings about eight years of experience as an administrative assistant for the City of El Paso, where she worked at the El Paso Water Utility’s Public Affairs Department and the city’s Community Development Department. Her administrative skills and experience dealing with the public and institutions in the El Paso area will be an asset to the El Paso office. Welcome!

Citizens Fire Academy Program

Srinivasa Sunkari participated in a 12 week Citizens Fire Academy from Mid-February to Mid-June. The Citizens Fire Academy met once a week (Monday evenings) at various facilities of the City of College Station Fire Department. These included all four Fire stations, the emergency management center, the 911 dispatch, the TEEX Fire Training School, and the administration offices of the Fire Department. Participants were exposed to the various activities that the responders go through including first aid, learned to use water hoses of different sizes, learned the steps followed in fire investigations, and climbed a ladder on a ladder truck to a height of 70 feet from the ground. They also went through a four hour training with live burns at the TEEX Fire Training School and were finally certified for First Aid and CPR. Srini plans to volunteer as a Citizens Action Response Team (CART) which is on call with the fire department to assist victims of fire/other incidents. More details about this program can be obtained from Srini or the City of College Station Fire Department.
Recent Travels

Kevin Balke, Geza Pesti and Ed Seymour traveled to College Park, Maryland June 18-20 to participate in discussions with the project team on the implementation of CLAIRE, DynaSmart and RHODES for Houston TranStar.

Kevin Balke will travel to Lubbock July 14-17 to provide a project update to Mike Taylor and Gilbert Jordan of TxDOT Lubbock District.

Kevin Balke, Nadeem Chaudhary and Srinivasa Sunkari traveled to Woods Hole, Massachusetts July 9-12 to attend and participate in the Traffic Signal Systems Committee summer meeting conducted by the Transportation Research Board.

Chris Poe was in La Jolla, California, July 8-12 to attend and participate in the Transportation Research Board’s Pricing meetings.

Jeremy Johnson, Ryan Longmire and Edward Brackin attended two International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA) courses the week of June 19 to 23 in South Houston across the street from Space Center Houston. Look for summary of IMSA training review in next month’s newsletter.

Debbie Jasek was in Kingsville June 4 though June 10, Dallas June 11 though 13, Dallas June 18 though 23, Weslaco June 25 though 29, and Houston June 30, all part of the Summer Transportation Institute. The 3 programs were attended by 47 students. Debbie would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with the visits to TTI and DalTrans for the students, especially Jim Carvell, Gary Thomas, Brooke Ullman, Beverly Kuhn, Helen Olivarez, Bob Brydia, Ed Brackin, Alicia Williams, Dean Alberson and many more. Thanks Rob Benz for his continued support of the TSU program. We know this program is very successful and that wouldn't happen without everyone's help and assistance.

Tony Voigt traveled to Lufkin, Texas on June 1 to participate in a hurricane planning meeting with the TxDOT District. He also attended the Impact Weather Hurricane Seminar in Houston on June 28.

Mike Vickich participated in a QuickRide Control Panel Demo with Bill Stockton, Michelle Hoelscher, and David Fink of the TxDOT Houston District on June 2.

Darrell Borchardt and Tony Voigt traveled to Austin, Texas on June 5 to attend the RMC-4 Meeting. Darrell made presentation on Development of Guidelines for Hurricane Evacuation Signing and Marking. Darrell traveled to College Station, Texas on June 13 to meet with project staff for analysis of Hurricane Rita evacuation survey responses. He was in San Antonio, Texas on June 22 to analyze the I-10 corridor hurricane evacuation and contraflow routes and travel onward to Austin to participate in informational Earth Science lecture, “The Texas Coast and Hurricanes: Immediate Dangers and Long Term Threats.”

Charles Stevens, LuAnn Theiss, and Tony Voigt, from the Houston office and Jim Carvell, Chris Poe and Ed Seymour from the Dallas office were in College Station, for the Summer TexITE meeting. See TexITE article for activities and presentations.
TRB Sponsored Symposium - Athens, Greece

The 1st International Symposium on Freeway and Tollway Operations was held in Athens, Greece June 4-7th. This symposium was co-sponsored by TRB, FHWA, IBTTA, Attiki Odos, Attikes Diadromes, California Path, and the Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engineers. The objectives of the symposium were:

- To capture the state of the practice in freeway and tollway operations
- To identify innovative strategies and techniques to improve the proactive management and control of traffic
- To explore the potential benefits of using managed lane, tolling/pricing, and other strategies to improve traffic operations on congested freeways

Connie Dudek, Mark Burris, Beverly Kuhn, and Christopher Poe all participated on the program which consisted of over 100 speakers from 15 countries. To keep the momentum going from this symposium, Connie Dudek (member of the Freeway Operations Committee) has been championing holding a Freeway and Tollway Operations conference in conjunction with the Freeway Operations Committee next year. Connie and Chris were successful in inviting the committee to Houston next Spring. (More information to come on this conference).

FHWA Scanning Tour of Europe

Beverly Kuhn traveled via the FHWA Scanning tour on Managed/HOV lanes. The purpose of this scan was to examine the congestion management programs, policies, and experiences of other countries that are either in the planning stages, have been implemented, or are operating on freeway facilities. This scan sought information on how agencies approach highway congestion and how they are planning for and designing managed lanes at the system, corridor, and project or facility levels. While the scan kicked-off at the Symposium in Greece, the group continued on a two-week tour of facilities in four countries: Germany, Denmark, The Netherlands, and England.

The days were long and the team learned much about cutting-edge congestion management

The group photo in front of the UK National Traffic Center-L-R: Meg Moore (TxDOT), Beverly Kuhn (TTI), Ray Krammes (FHWA), Chuck Fuhs (Parsons Brinckerhoff), Jessie Yung (FHWA), Jon Obenberger (FHWA), Robin Mayhew (FHWA), Khani Sahebjam (MnDOT), Charlie Howard (Puget Sound Regional Council), Mohammad Mirshahi (VDOT), Craig Stone (WashDOT)
Tour - continued

strategies in Europe. However, they did manage to see a few sites along the way. The Washington State contingent was able to sniff out every Starbucks in every city visited, and even squeezed in a visit with the Queen of England during the Trooping of the Colours to celebrate her 80th birthday. If you want to see any of the additional 1,300 photos that Beverly took on the trip, feel free to stop by her office any time.

TexITE Summer Meeting - continued

Congratulations to this year's award winners. Jack Hatchell, Collin County Commissioner was named Transportation Engineer of the year. Brooke Ullman was awarded the TexITE Young Member of the Year award for her consistent and excellent participation in TexITE events. Sandra Schoeneman placed 4th and Praprut Songchitruksa placed 6th in the Texas Hold'Em tournament from a field of 64 players. Bob De Roche was eliminated in the last group of 6 people who lost just before the final table was seated. For someone who never played before, Praput and Bob did very well.

You can visit the TexITE website for more photos from the summer meeting at www.texite.org/meetings/.

Local arrangements provided by Srinivasa Sunkari and Jerry Ullman

L-R: Meg Moore, Charlie Howard, Jessie Yung, Ray Krammes, Beverly Kuhn, Robin Mayhew (Notice the group couldn't escape a McDonald's!)

Is this a “TTI Crash Test-sight” or the champion Limbo contest winner? Gary Thomas entertained the TexITE family members at the Friday Night Social “Hawaiian Luau”, winning the contest!
The technical teams and team leaders are:

Geometric Design (RMC 3) - Jim Bonneson
Infrastructure/Asset Management (RMC 3) - Cesar Quiroga
Freeway/Incident Management - Kevin Balke
Highway-Rail Intersections - Srinivasa Sunkari
Operational Effects of Geometrics - Kay Fitzpatrick

Safety/Crash Analysis/Reduction - Dominique Lord
Sensors - Dan Middleton
Signs and Markings - Paul Carlson
Traffic Signals - Jim Bonneson
Traveler Information - Jerry Ullman
Work Zones - Jerry Ullman

Other Issues - Beverly Kuhn (limited to statements that are not sent to any other technical team)

TAP Representatives for TOG (L-R) Beverly Kuhn, Paul Carlson, Jim Bonneson, and Cesar Quiroga
TOG Mission Statement

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

TOG Is Hiring

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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<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
<td>061101</td>
<td>Software Application Developer II</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
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<td>Houston Office</td>
<td>Tony Voigt</td>
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<td>Asst. Research Engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Antonio Office</td>
<td>Russell Henk</td>
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<td>Lead Office Asst. (part-time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas Office</td>
<td>Chris Poe</td>
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<td>Associate Research Engineer</td>
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<td>Signs and Markings</td>
<td>Paul Carlson</td>
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Filled

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<td>Ed Seymour</td>
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<td>Program Coordinator</td>
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<td>El Paso Office</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
<td>061096</td>
<td>Lead Office Asst. (part-time)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Did You Know?

Calling All Texans! Vote "Don't Mess with Texas"

"Don't Mess with Texas" has been nominated as one of the best slogans of all time. The slogan is nominated right alongside Nike's "Just Do It" and Wheaties' "The Breakfast of Champions." Winners are selected American Idol style with online voting. Basically, the goal is to get as many Texans to vote as possible. And with 22 million real Texans, how can we lose? Here's how you can help!

Go to http://www.votedmwt.com and vote for Don't Mess with Texas. One vote per computer, so you can vote at work and at home.