ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MESSAGE

This fall we pass milepost 1998, the Transportation Operations Group will see alot of interchange traffic. Dick McCasland will be moving from the position of Division Head to Senior Research Engineer after more than 40 years of service to transportation and TTI. In his new position, Dick will be available as a resource to the research staff in the area of freeway operations. This is especially helpful as we develop our education and training efforts for the twenty-first century with an increased focus on operations.

Charles Blumentritt has announced his retirement from the Texas Transportation Institute, effective August 31, 1997. Charles has worked with the Institute for 33 years, most of that time in the Dallas office, where he was instrumental in the development of traffic management systems, both hardware and software. He also played a major role in the development of the traffic management center on the North Central Expressway that was recently dedicated and opened for operation this month. Charles also directed TTI's involvement in the national ITS Project, TravTek, in Orlando.

These two changes represent both a challenge and an opportunity. Although neither of these dedicated professionals can ever be replaced, it is an opportunity for other talented staff to accept new responsibilities in the development of the Transportation Operations Group. Dr. Ed Seymour will take over as Division Head of the Traffic Operations Division. Gene Goolsby will accept the responsibility of Office Manager in Houston. Gene will coordinate the various efforts underway with our local sponsors. Jim Carvell will take over as program manager of the Strategic Systems Program in Dallas.

Please give your support to these important changes in our research program.

Tom Urbanik

GOODBYES

Dave Berry has left the Traffic Systems Program for a position in Dallas. Members of Traffic Systems hosted a going away party for Dave at "Fajita Rita's." Dave will be missed by everyone in Traffic Systems. Congratulations to Dave on his new position and best wishes for the future.

Steve Venglar of the Systems Applications Program is relocating to the Austin Office. He will remain part of Systems Applications and continue working on S.A. Office projects, but will be working on a daily basis out of the Austin Office. Everyone in Systems Applications will miss Steve's daily presence.

Kelly Parma, Graduate Research Assistant in the Traffic Analysis Program, has successfully defended his thesis. He will be leaving TTI at the end of June to begin work at Lee Engineering in Dallas, Texas. Congratulations to Kelly on his successful defense and best wishes in the future.

Ashish Sabnekar, formerly of the Transportation Operations Program, is also working for Lee Engineering. Ashish is located in Phoenix.

HELLO AND WELCOME

The Traffic Systems Program would like to welcome SoonCheol Baeg. SoonCheol has joined Traffic Systems as a Graduate Research Assistant.

The Traffic Systems Program would also like to announce that B. J. Lewis has taken a full time position as Senior Secretary for the Program.

CALENDAR MARKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 4</td>
<td>Independence Day (Holiday)</td>
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<td>Jul 10</td>
<td>TAMRF PI Orientation, 10 a.m., Room 217</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3-6</td>
<td>ITE Annual Meeting, Boston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>TxDOT Reports Due</td>
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<td>Sep 1</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
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<td>Sep 1</td>
<td>Begin FY 98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 13-15</td>
<td>TxDOT Transportation Conference, Rudder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 6</td>
<td>Formal Dedication of Bush Library</td>
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<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Bush Library Community Day Celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 14-18</td>
<td>AASHTO Annual Meeting, Salt Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27-28</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>TTI Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 11-15</td>
<td>TRB Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.</td>
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TAMRF PI ORIENTATION

Stacey Richter of the Research Foundation will put on a principal investigator orientation for Research Foundation projects. The session which will last about an hour will be held in Room 217 on July 10th at 10 a.m.

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

Mark Hickman recently participated in two separate workshops related to the Transit Communications Interface Protocols (TCIP) standards development effort. TCIP is developing object and message set standards for the public transit industry. The TCIP standards will ultimately be adopted as part of the NTCIP (National Transportation (Continued next page)
MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH (Continued)

Communications for ITS Protocols) family of standards.

Within TCIP, Mark is co-chairing the group working on object and message sets for passenger information systems. Mark recently participated in a general workshop in Miami, and a workshop on passenger information systems in Houston. TCIP project leaders Eva Lerner-Lam, Paula Okunieff and Isaac Takyi visited TTI in College Station in conjunction with the TCIP workshop in Houston.

The undergraduate Summer Fellows, led by Mark Hickman, traveled to Dallas prior to the TextITE meeting. The Summer Fellows, Cassie Albrecht, Rachel Donovan, Michael Elmquist, Kevin Hanson, Michael Pizza, and Roberto Rivera, visited the DART light rail system and operations control center, the Dallas HOV lane facilities, and the Dallas Traffic Management Center. For fun, the group attended the first inter-league baseball game at the Ballpark in Arlington! They also visited the Weather Tracking center at the DFW Airport and the System Operations Center (War Room) at American Airlines in Fort Worth.

Lyla Pallan and Joseph Koothrappally are visiting their families in India this summer. It has been about 5-6 years since they have been home. The Traffic Systems Program hopes that they have a safe trip home and that their mothers who are ill recover soon.

Dan Fambro was conference co-chair for a June ASCE Conference, "Traffic Congestion and Traffic Safety in the 21st Century" in Chicago. Dan moderated one session and made three presentations: "Safety Concerns Related to Design Speed, Operating Speed, and Posted Speed," "Changes to 1994 Arterial Capacity Analysis Techniques," and "Stopping Sight Distance Issues." David Noyce presented a paper on "Safety Comparison of Exclusive-Permissive Left-Turn Signal Displays." Dan and David have copies of the conference proceedings if anyone would like to borrow them.

Dan Fambro attended a West/Southwest Civil Engineering Dept. Head meeting in Boulder. Naturally, the talk turned to football and the Aggies visit to Boulder this fall. Naturally, Dan deferred all comments to Debbie Jasek, our Aggie football guru. (Debbie will reserve making predictions on the Colorado game until she can evaluate the new defensive line.)

Dan and Pam Fambro vacationed several days in Custer, South Dakota during June. Not your typical vacation destination, but it is where the deer and the buffalo roam, and there are few phones, faxes, and e-mail connections. Lack of technology has certain advantages.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Megan Rhoby Dale was born on June 12 at 1:05 a.m. in San Antonio to Hailee and Jim Dale. Megan weighed in at 8 lbs. and 7 ozs. and was 20.25 inches long. Both she and mom are doing great.

TRANSPORTATION TRIVIA

Here are the answers to last months trivia:

Colorado and Wyoming are the only two states in the U. S. that, on a map, have borders made up of four straight lines.

The National Marble Tournament is held each year in Wildwood, N. J.

Tombstone, Arizona was the site of the famous, "Gunfight at the OK Corral."

The Iolani Palace, situated on 11 acres in Honolulu, Hawaii, is the only royal palace in the U.S.

Here are this months questions:

1. What is the longest river in New England?
2. What is the main difference between a village and a town?
3. What state has about 3 1/2 head of cattle for each person in the state?
4. Seven of the rivers that drain into the Mississippi River are named for states. Name two of these rivers.

Good luck. Look for the answers next month.

ONLINE REFERENCE MATERIALS

The following sites on the Web provide easy access reference materials:

   http://www.m-w.com/netdict.htm
2. Roget's Thesaurus.
   http://www.thesaurus.com/
   http://www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/bartlett/
4. Thomas Register: An authoritative listing of manufacturers and distributors of just about every type of product available.
   http://www.thomasregister.com/index.html

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Jul 5  Molly Marshall
Jul 5  Kelly Parma
Jul 6  Chen Yang
Jul 10 Jonathan Bean
Jul 18  David Noyce
Jul 20  Angelia Parham
Jul 29  Lisa Badillo
Jul 30  Vijay Kovvali
Jul 31  Alan Parham
Jul 31  Lorelei Samuel
Aug 2  Annette Lapkowski
Aug 4  Larry Rilett
Aug 21 Clayton Ripps
Aug 23 Abiel Hinojos
Aug 24  Dan Middleton
Aug 25  Maria Medrano