On October 28, 2005, TTI welcomed the inaugural edition of the new electronic newsletter, **CenterLine!** This newsletter, which will be emailed every other week, is designed to keep everyone in TTI informed about all the latest news from across the institute and by sharing information about our many cooperative endeavors taking place around TTI.

TTI newsletters and other publications are located at [http://ttinet.tamu.edu/news/newsletters.stm](http://ttinet.tamu.edu/news/newsletters.stm) - published bi-weekly, monthly, and quarterly.

**New Building Announcement**

Herb Richardson announced on Tuesday, November 1 that we have now put together a funding plan of $10,000,000 (split roughly three ways—TAMUS, TAMU and TTI) for a new transportation research building to be constructed adjacent to the Gilchrist Building. Planning, approvals and actual construction will take at least three years.

Upon completion, the building will provide new research space and will house all TTI administrative and support functions including the Director's Office, Business Office, Human Resources, Research Development Office and Facilities and Support Services.

As part of the agreement with A&M, TTI will vacate 13,500 square feet in the CE/TTI Tower to assist the University and College of Engineering with space for new faculty as part of the Faculty Reinvestment Plan.

This is an exciting opportunity for the Institute, and one that the Director and the Management Team have been working hard to achieve. “We’ll do our best to minimize the inconvenience. I appreciate your patience and understanding as these temporary moves take place,” said Dr. Richardson.

**Other Information Sources**

Here are just a few of the other information sources:

- “Bits and Bytes” a quarterly publication from TTI’s NIS, designed to provide snippets of information on current happenings with NIS and the latest IT news.
- “Eye on Research” a newsletter published by TxDOT Research and Technology Implementation Office.
Recent Travels

Kay Fitzpatrick traveled to Boston in early October to meet with the prime consultant and then the advisory committee regarding revisions to the Massachusetts Highway Design Manual.

Ed Seymour, Beverly Kuhn, Dan Middleton, Brooke Ullman and others from within TOG attended the 79th Annual Transportation Short Course held on Oct. 11-12.

Debbie Jasek traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to attend the 2006 National Summer Transportation Institute Annual Business Meeting on Oct. 2-5. Debbie also traveled to Houston, Texas to conduct a workshop for Harris County teachers who do after school programs on Oct 26.

Ricky Parker and Hassan Charara traveled to Waco, Texas to integrate stop bar detectors with the AWEGS system and then to Brenham to replace modem at the AWEGS site on Oct. 18.

Penelope Weinberger traveled to Denver, CO to attend the AMPO Annual Meeting on Oct 11-14. Penelope is also traveling to Kansas City, MO to attend the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning annual conference on Oct 26-30.

Gary Thomas traveled to Montgomery, Alabama to teach NHI Signal Design Course on Oct. 11-14.

Orinthia Thomas, Jonathan Tydlacka and Robert Benz attended the GIS training along with others in the San Antonio office on October 27. Rajat Rajbhandari did a great job teaching the class.


TOG Family News

KUDOS

Paul Carlson and Andrew Holick will be presented with TRB’s Fred Burggraf Award during the 85th TRB Annual Meeting in January 2006. The TRB Fred Burggraf Award recognizes excellence in transportation research by researchers 35 years of age or younger. The paper that was nominated and selected for the award was titled, “Maximizing Unlit Freeway Guide Sign Legibility Using Clearview Font and Combinations of Retroreflective Sheeting Materials.”

Marsha Anderson Bomar was notified by the Society of Women Engineers that she was selected for the 2005 Entrepreneur Award. Marsha traveled to the annual meeting held in Anaheim California to receive the award November 3, 2005.

Adam Pike, a graduate student in the FSM program, recently completed his master thesis and will be graduating in December. Adam does not have a job lined up yet but is interviewing. Adam is Dr. Hawkins first graduate student to complete his degree requirements, and he did it on time! Congratulations to both Adam and Gene Hawkins!

GOODBYES

Mia-Andrea Veliz - last day was Nov. 4. and also James Williams- last day was Oct 31. Both were in DDV San Antonio Office.

CONGRATULATIONS

Samuel and Sonia Chapa welcomed their third daughter, Kathryn Rayne Chapa, born October 27. They have two older daughters (Morgan and Samantha), who, as you can imagine, are extremely happy with the baby’s arrival. Sonia works in the DDV San Antonio Office.
TOG Is Hiring

TOG is actively looking for additional staff. Please spread the word to 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. You can also view position details at this same site.

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Governor’s Evacuation Task Force

Russell Henk has gladly accepted the request to serve on the Governor’s Task Force on Evacuation. The Task Force will add significant value to the upcoming Disaster Preparedness Study activities and will pave the way for an expanded role for TTI in this topic area.

Mike Behrens, Executive Director with TxDOT is very supportive of TTI leading the newly-founded, multi-university study team, as well as serving on this special Governor’s Task Force. They (TxDOT), in fact, see the roles as complimentary and valuable to Texas.

Congressman Visits Urban Office

US Congressman Joe Barton, representing the Sixth District in the US Congress, met with TTI Urban Office leaders in the Arlington Office on October 12th. Herb Richardson welcomed the congressman to our TTI offices. The Sixth District is one of the more diverse districts in Texas, and is made up of Ellis County, Navarro County, Freestone County, Leon County, Houston County, and portions of Trinity, Limestone and Tarrant Counties. Sue James introduced Barton to those attending the meeting; including Scott Cooner, Bill Frawley, and Jim Carvell. Jim’s remarks to the congressman centered on the cooperation of the TxDOT Dallas District with the Fort Worth District in ITS and TTI’s role in that.
**Birthdays**

Nov 01 Ivan Lorenz  
Nov 02 Bill Schneider  
Nov 10 Paul Carlson  
Nov 23 Orinthia Thomas  
Nov 29 Keqing Li  
Dec 02 David Fenno  
Dec 03 Jeremy Johnson  
Dec 06 Kandis Salazar  
Dec 07 Luis Garza  
Dec 07 Debbie Jasek  
Dec 12 Adam Pike  
Dec 15 Cliff Franklin  
Dec 15 Anthony Voigt  
Dec 16 Jodi Carson  
Dec 16 Dazhi Sun  
Dec 26 LuAnn Theiss  
Dec 29 Thomas Hartmann  
Dec 30 Todd Hausman

**Upcoming Events**

- TTI Day - Dec 7, 2005; Brazos Center, Bryan, TX  
- Winter Break; Dec 23-30, 2005  
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 16, 2006  
- TRB 85th Annual Meeting, January 22-26, 2006; Washington D.C.

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**November 2005**

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**TOG Thanksgiving Lunch**

TOG College Station will be having a Thanksgiving lunch. Anyone in the Transportation Operations Group is invited; therefore, out-of-town offices if you will be in town on November 15, you are welcome to attend. Family and friends are also welcome.

**Date:** Tuesday, November 15, 2005  
**Time:** 11:30 - 1:30  
**Where:** G. Rollie White Visitor's Center (off University Drive past 2818)  
**Price:** $6.50 per person  
**RSVP:** Please RSVP to your program secretary by Wednesday, November 9. They will also be collecting the money (make checks payable to Ricky’s catering).

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**TOG Mission Statement**

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