ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MESSAGE

The sudden death of our friend and colleague, Dr. Dan Fambro, is one that touches many individuals. Those who attended the memorial service could not help but be struck by the impact that Dan had on people and the profession. As we deal with the loss of Dan, each of us can help support the TOG family and friends in the weeks and months ahead.

A number of individuals especially warrant our thoughts and actions of the coming weeks and months. Pam Fambro would certainly appreciate a call or visit. Dan’s students will also need our support. Please make every effort to help Dan’s family and friends deal with this profound loss of our friend and colleague.

Tom Urbanik

PROJECT INITIATIVES WITH THE WESTERN TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE (WTI)

Several members of our TOG staff (primarily Ed Seymour, Russell Henk and Tom Urbanik) have been working over the past 15 months on the development of a cooperative working relationship between TTI and the Western Transportation Institute (WTI). WTI is based at Montana State University and in 1998 was designated as a National MegaCenter for studies in the area of Rural ITS. The Director of WTI is Steve Albert—a former TTI employee.

The Rural ITS Center at WTI operates much the same as our Southwest University Transportation Center (SWUTC) program, in that each year a solicitation is made (nationwide) for new research project ideas. This solicitation normally takes place in August of each year. We have recently co-submitted (with WTI) project ideas for the latest solicitation.

We are also pursuing additional funding mechanisms (to be used in conjunction with and/or outside of WTI Center funds) to develop additional Rural ITS operations-related research projects that will benefit Texas and the U.S., and plan to have at least one project in place by early in the year 2000. In the interest of maintaining good coordination and optimal communications, please forward any questions, comments or ideas related to this initiative to Russell Henk.

Russell Henk

REMEMBERING DAN FAMBRO

Sometimes in our busy work schedule we do not take the time to appreciate and tell our friends and colleagues how much they mean to us. This especially hit home with the recent death of Dr. Dan Fambro.

During his 25-year career, Dan became recognized as a leader and expert in many aspects of transportation engineering. Dan loved teaching both at the graduate and undergraduate level. Dan served as the Associate Department Head for Undergraduate Studies. He was an outstanding educator—loved by his students, and respected by his peers, receiving the Zachry Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1990 and the Birdwell Endowed Teaching Award in Civil Engineering 1995.

As a researcher at the Texas Transportation Institute, Dan became a renowned expert in the field of traffic signalization, highway/railroad grade crossings, geometric design, and highway capacity. Dan received the TTI/Trinity Senior Researcher award in 1998. He was also extremely active in numerous professional organizations, including the ASCE, where he participated on the Traffic and Highway Safety Committee. He also served as a member on numerous technical committees of the Transportation Research Board, including the Operational Effects of Geometrics, Geometric Design, Highway Capacity and Quality of Service, and Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing.

On a more personal note we will each remember Dan in our own way. With Dan’s passing, we have lost a good friend, an innovative thinker, outstanding educator, tireless leader, and dedicated mentor, and he will be sorely missed. For many of us Dan was the type of friend that Ralph Waldo Emerson once described, "A friend is a person with whom I may be sincere. Before him I may think aloud."

A scholarship fund has been established in Dan’s name at Texas A&M University. Contributions can be made to:

Dan Fambro Scholarship Fund
c/o Texas A&M Foundation
401 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840-2811

TOG's Mission

To facilitate innovations in transportation system operations which promote implementation of a safer, more effective, more efficient, and sustainable transportation system through leadership in research, education, and technology transfer.
CALENDAR MARKS
Oct 11-13  Transportation Conference, MSC
Oct 15  Brown Bag Luncheon, Rm 102 Gilchrist, Professional Development
Oct 17-19 Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Conference, College Station
Oct 19  Brown Bag Luncheon, Rm 107 Gilchrist, RMC Presentations
Oct 31  Daylight Savings Time begins
Nov 2  Election Day
Nov 6  PTOE Certification, Arlington
Nov 11 New TTI Research Building Dedication
Nov 11  Veterans Day
Nov 17  TransLink® Partners Meeting
Nov 24  Bonfire
Nov 25-26  Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec 7  Last Day of Classes
Dec 8  TTI Day, Brazos Center
Dec 10-15 Final Exams
Dec 17-18 Graduation Ceremonies
Dec 22  Begin Holidays

NOTES FROM THE CPD
Debbie Jasek Joins the Center
With the recent reorganization of TOG, Debbie Jasek has joined the staff of the CPD, having moved from the Transport Operations Program. An Assistant Research Specialist, Debbie has a diverse background in transportation ranging from commercial vehicle operations and transportation safety to hazardous materials transportation. She has been employed with TTI since 1990, and prior to that served in the U.S. Army, with her final assignment being that of a Chemical Officer for the U.S. Communications Command in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. The Center is looking forward to having Debbie on board and anticipates that her communications and research skills will be an asset to further developing the Center's activities and initiatives. To contact Debbie directly, e-mail her at d-jasek@tamu.edu.

Center Wrapping Up Educational Projects
With the end of the fiscal year having come and gone, the Center is wrapping up a number of educational projects that helped to strengthen the Center's mission to promote the transportation profession and enhance the development of knowledge, skills, and abilities. These projects include the 1999 Summer Transportation Institute, which provided the opportunity for TTI to develop partnerships with educational institutions in two urban areas in Texas. Other projects include the Transporation Engineering Education and Outreach Program Designed for the Collegiate Level and the Transportation Education and Outreach Pilot Program Targeting Students in Grades K-12. Various educational resources that evolved out of these projects are on the Center's Internet site so that professionals and the general public can have ready access to them.

Databases Under Development
The Center is developing a number of databases that may be of interest to TTI staff. As part of the TransLink Professional Development project, the Center is working on two databases of material associated with professional development. The first database contains information on the ITS Professional Development publications and materials the Center has. Information cataloged includes the title, date, author(s), and abstract of various materials relating to ITS Professional Development, such as journal articles, presentations, white papers, and meeting notes. A similar database is also under development that catalogs resources on distance learning. It is hoped that these databases will be available on the Center's Internet site in the next few months and that they will be continually updated as new materials become part of the Center's library.

As always for more information on these topics please contact Beverly Kuhn at (512) 467-0946 or by e-mail at b-kuhn@tamu.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS!
Leticia and Russell Henk are proud new parents of a bouncing baby boy. Christian Russell Henk was born at 10:49 a.m. on September 16, 1999. He weighed in at 8.04 lbs and 21 inches in length. Mother and baby are doing fine...although mom and dad are running short on sleep these days. Congratulations to the Henk family on the new addition!

Kay Fitzpatrick and Mark Simmons are the proud parents of Peter Simmons, who was born on September 20, 1999. He weighed in at 10 lbs, 8 ozs and was 21 inches in length. Mother and baby are doing great. Peter was welcomed home by his brother and sisters. Congratulations to the Simmons family on the birth of Peter!

HELLO AND WELCOME
The Strategic Transportation Systems Program welcomes graduate student Srikanth Mandadi. Srikanth will be assisting in the development of software for the Dallas Traffic Management Center. Srikanth will be telecommuting to Dallas from the confines of the new Gilchrist building. Welcome Srikanth!

Beverly Kuhn
CONGRATULATIONS

Paul Carlson recently received a letter stating that he has been recognized as a Top Ten Researcher by TxDOT. He was selected by TxDOT for his work on project 3991, which was a project on Traffic Signal Warrant Guidelines. The project which was documented in Research Report 3991-2 was singled out as producing a top ten finding/innovation. Paul will will be recognized at the Transportation Conference during the research session on October 13th from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Transportation Conference will be held at the Rudder Conference Center on campus. Congratulations Paul!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To hone his software development skills, Roelof Engelbrecht attended the Delphi Developers of Dallas Borland Conference on Saturday, September 25. The conference included presentations on the features of the newest version of Delphi (version 5), advanced debugging techniques, games programming, internet and distributed programming, and designing with interfaces (the newest thing in object oriented programming).

You may wonder what games programming has to do with Roelof's software development efforts at TTI. Well, it turns out that many of the techniques computer game developers use to quicker "blast" images to the screen can be used to improve traffic simulation model performance. In most simulation models, the animation of results takes up 80% or more of the computer's processing power. A doubling (say) of the animation performance will therefore improve the overall model performance by nearly 70%!

Roelof says that he found the conference really worthwhile. In addition to catching up with the latest technology, he learned new techniques that can be immediately apply to the development of the TransLink Hardware-in-the-loop Simulation System which he is responsible for.

It was also Roelof's "lucky day" -- he won Borland C++ Builder Version 4 Enterprise Edition, valued at $2500, as a door prize!

On September 29 Roelof Engelbrecht, Leonard Ruback, Sriniv Sunkari, and Beverly Kuhn attended an "Interviewing Skills for Supervisors" training session presented by Terry Ekedland from A&M System Human Resources. Topics covered in the 3 hour session included the various types of interviews and their importance in the hiring process, effective interview preparation, common problems encountered during interviews, developing effective interview questions, and a review of the federal and state laws affecting the hiring process. Two videos were also shown, one on managing successful interviews, and one on the legal side of interviewing.

All who attended would agree that the main message of the training was "be well prepared, and do not ask any non-job related questions".

Roelof Engelbrecht

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

These days B. J. Fritz-Lewis is one proud mom. Her son, who is in the first grade, has been promoted to second grade reading level. B. J. says that this is especially meaningful to her, because of her dyslexia. Congratulations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dan Walker  
Liz Post  
B.J. Fritz-Lewis  
Omar Mata  
Gene Hawkins  
Shirley Kalinec  
Brenda Manak  
Srini Sunkari  
Marcus Brewer  
Ivan Lorenz  
Gene Ritch  
Mark Wooldridge  
Paul Carlson  
Karena Kirk  
Joanie Stapp  
Drew Engelke  
Noah Shamburger

STATE MOTTOS FOR THE YEAR 2000

On a lighter note here are some "proposed mottos."

If your state isn't here, don't worry we will rib everyone before it is over!

Alabama: At Least We're not Mississippi
Alabama: 11,623 Eskimos Can't be Wrong!
Arizona: But It's a Dry Heat
Arkansas: Literacy Ain't Everthing
California: As Seen on TV
Colorado: If You Don't Ski, Don't Bother
Connecticut: Like Massachusetts, Only Dirtier and With Less Character
Delaware: We Really Do Like the Chemicals in our Water
Florida: Ask Us About Our Grandkids
Georgia: We Put the "Fun" in Fundamentalist Extremism

...To be continued
OFFICE ROULETTE

TOG will finish office moves on October 12. An overview of what will be happening is: 601 staff will be moving to the 4th floor; 309 staff will be moving to the 4th floor; and most of our staff that remained on the 4th floor after the Gilchrist move will be relocating to the 3rd floor. Most of the telephone numbers will remain the same. A revised directory will be sent out shortly.

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<td>Karena Kirk 309 845-6043</td>
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<td>Melisa Finley 405J 845-7596</td>
<td>Catherine Robinson 410</td>
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<td>Curtis Hamilton 410E 862-8492</td>
<td>Srinu Sunkari 303G 845-7472</td>
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<td>Jerry Ullman 410A 845-9908</td>
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<td>Karl Zimmerman 309J 845-2489</td>
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<td>Kyu-Ok Kim 303F 862-3553</td>
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NEW PROJECTS

More TOG/TxDOT Projects for FY2000

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<td>Goolsby</td>
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<td>Borchardt</td>
<td>Evaluation of Advanced Traffic Management Systems</td>
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<td>Goolsby</td>
<td>Urban System Development &amp; Analysis</td>
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<td>Benz</td>
<td>Acquisition &amp; Management of Transportation Data for Congestion Management Systems and Long Range Planning</td>
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<td>Fenno</td>
<td>Collection, Analysis, Preparation, and Dissemination of Public Information</td>
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<td>McCasland</td>
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<td>Ritch</td>
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<td>Development and Implementation of AVI System Phase 4 and Evaluation of AVI Applications - Houston</td>
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<td>Henk</td>
<td>Technology Transfer and Technical Support Services for the San Antonio District</td>
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<td>Arredondo</td>
<td>Technology Transfer and Technical Support Services for the Laredo District</td>
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<td>Technology Transfer and Technical Support Services for the Laredo District, Planning Section</td>
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TOG/SWUTC Projects for FY2000

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<td>Incorporating Sustainability Metrics into the Transportation Planning Process</td>
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<td>Kuhn</td>
<td>An Analysis of the Market Potential for Distance Learning Opportunities in Transportation Professional Development</td>
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<td>167707</td>
<td>Bonneson</td>
<td>Comprehensive Engineering Approach to Achieving Safe Neighborhoods</td>
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<td>473700-00007</td>
<td>Henk</td>
<td>Evaluate Strategies for Using the Transportation Management Infrastructure in the Role of National Defense Preparedness</td>
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