Dr. Conrad Dudek Retires

By Jerry Ullman

On August 31st, Dr. Conrad Dudek officially retired from the Texas Transportation Institute and Texas A&M University after over 40 years of continuous dedicated service. His contributions to TTI and to the transportation engineering profession have been numerous and significant. Beginning in the 1960's, Connie was a key researcher in some of the earliest freeway operational control systems that were implemented as field tests in Dallas and Houston. Much of the groundwork for today's current intelligent transportation systems deployed throughout the US was laid by Connie and his TTI counterparts in that research. One of his papers from that work was recognized for its outstanding merit by the Highway Research Board.

In the 1970's, Connie won the first $1 million dollar contract ever awarded to TTI to develop human factors guidelines for motorist information displays. That work, and many other research studies that came after it, established him as an international authority on changeable (dynamic) message signs and other traveler information systems.

In the early 1980s, Connie expanded his research efforts into the area of work zone traffic control and safety. He led researchers in the development of a computer program to evaluate road user costs at highway work zones that is still used by numerous state departments of transportation across the country. Furthermore, his work on estimating work zone capacity is still included in the TRB Highway Capacity Manual.

In later years, Connie emphasized the development of high-quality transportation professionals for the future. He led the development of the Advanced Surface Transportation Systems course offered to graduate students each summer through funding from the Southwest Region University Transportation Center. The course was a one-of-a-kind experience that brought nationally-known experts in the transportation profession to College Station to work as mentors with graduate students in the preparation of term papers on transportation systems operations-related topics. Recently, (Continued on page 2)
Teens in the Driver Seat Wins Award

This month the Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) Program has won the 2006 AASHTO National President’s Award for Safety. The Program will be honored at an Awards Banquet during AASHTO’s Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon in late October.

The Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) Team (led by Russell Henk) has had a busy summer. The TDS Program is now being deployed in 11 of TxDOT’s 25 Districts, either through new IACs or leveraging existing contracts. Current plans entail deployment at approximately 50 schools statewide this school year, with the most concentrated efforts (at present) taking place in the Austin District. The TDS Program was highlighted at the Statewide PTA Conference in Austin in July and will, by request, be participating in the statewide conferences for the Texas Association of School Boards and “No Child Left Behind” in October and November respectively. The Program website is now experiencing approximately 10,000 visitors per month.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following staff on their recent promotions. Gary Barricklow in the San Antonio Office was promoted to Research Technician. Darrell Borchardt in the Houston Office was promoted to Senior Research Engineer. Brenda Manak in the Houston Office was promoted to Office Associate. Lisa Patke in the Houston Office was promoted to Office Associate.

MOVING

Brooke Ullman has moved to the FSM program effective September 1. Her new office is room 410C CE/TTI.

Dudek Retirement - continued

(Continued from page 1)

Connie was formally recognized by the Institute of Transportation Engineers with its Best Innovation in Education Award for this unique course. In addition to his service to students, Connie also provided significant leadership in professional societies. He served on over 25 different technical and administrative committees for TRB, ITE, CIE, TexITE, ITS America, FHWA, and the NCUTCD.

Earlier this year at TTI day, Connie received the CV Wootan Career Achievement in Research Award in recognition of these and his other many achievements. Although his retirement is certainly well-deserved, he will be missed by his colleagues and the rest of us who have benefited from his efforts to make TTI the well-respected organization that it is. Thank you, Connie, and we wish you the very best!
ITE Annual Meeting in Milwaukee

Escaping the Texas heat! - TTI Transportation Operations Group sent several off to the northwest for meetings and conferences during August. The ITE Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, August 6 - 10th provided a much needed relief from the hot Texas heat! Kay Fitzpatrick, Gary Thomas, Edgar Kraus, Mark Burris, Robert Benz, Ganesh Karkee, Marsha Anderson Bomar, Keith Knapp and Gene Hawkins were presenters at the meeting. Marcus Brewer made a presentation and was also a presider at the meeting. It was at the annual meeting that Srinivasa Sunkari received the Traffic Engineering Council Award for Outstanding Council Project. The project report was entitled "Benefits of Retiming Traffic Signals: An ITE Informational Report".

Recent Travels

Chris Poe, along with Kay Fitzpatrick and Marcus Brewer attended the TRB Conference on Access Management in Park City, Utah. As part of the conference there was also a nice visit to the Park City venues of the 2002 Winter Olympics, which included a tour to the top of the K120 Alpine Ski Jump. After taking in the view, Marcus and Kay decided "Mount Aggie" was enough altitude! (See picture of the ski jump)

Kay Fitzpatrick participated in a couple of TxDOT project monitoring committee meetings in Austin later in August to remind her that not all travels have the benefits of cooler weather but she is happy to report that TxDOT was pleased with the projects results and she avoided being on the "hot seat." Of course the rest of the month was spent in College Station working on those TxDOT deadlines.

Beverly Kuhn traveled to Austin to attend a panel meeting for RMC project 0-5446, Guidelines for Signs and Markings on Toll Roads and to participate in a pilot workshop as part of TxDOT RMC project 0-5437, Impact of Toll Roads on the Regional Economy. She also traveled to Washington, DC to attend the reassembly meeting of the Planning for Congestion Management Scan Tour to wrap up the scan report and assess implementation strategies for the scan results.

Rajat Rajbhandari and Jeffrey Shelton, from El Paso office, attended a 2-day workshop in August, on "Applications of Dynasmart-P" in Arlington, Virginia. The workshop focused on learning hands-on techniques for applying Dynasmart-P for work-zone management, managed lanes, ITS evaluations etc. During the workshop, the attendees had an opportunity to preview additional functions of Dynasmart-P and improved graphical user interface. The workshop was organized by FHWA and National Highway Institute.

On Aug. 29-31, Gary Thomas traveled to Mesquite, Texas to teach "Designing and Operating Intersections for Safety" for the National Highway Institute at the TxDOT District Office.

(Continued on page 4)
Melissa Tooley traveled on August 1-3, 2006 to Tampa, Florida to attend/participate in the 2006 International T2 Symposium and she also traveled to College Station, Texas to attend business meetings on Aug 23-25, 2006.

Dan Middleton traveled on Aug 8-Aug 11, 2006 to Falls Church, VA to attend a Clarus Initiative Coordinating (ICC) Meeting and a MDSS Stakeholders Meeting #8.

LuAnn Theiss and Tony Voigt traveled to Beaumont, Texas on August 4 to conduct field investigations on problematic intersections in the Beaumont District. LuAnn and Tony traveled with Russell Henk to Beaumont, Texas on August 29 to introduce the Teens in the Drivers Seat to the Beaumont District.

A Disaster Preparedness Meeting was hosted in the Houston office by Russell Henk on August 9.

Robert Benz traveled with TxDOT staff to Bryan/College Station, Texas on August 23 to view the RetroVan, software, and data.

Focus Groups were hosted in the Houston office by Sue Chrysler, Carol Coker, Sandra Schoeneman, and Nada Trout on August 28-29. Nada and Sandra also traveled to the Dallas office on August 30 for a focus group session.

RMC 1 - Wednesday November 8, 2006 - 10:00 a.m.
Thursday November 9, 2006 - 8:00 a.m.

RMC 2 - Monday November 6, 2006 - 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday November 7, 2006 - 8:00 a.m.

RMC 3 - Monday November 6, 2006 - 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday November 7, 2006 - 8:00 a.m.

RMC 4 - Monday November 6, 2006 - 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday November 7, 2006 - 8:00 a.m.

RMC 5 - Wednesday November 8, 2006 - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday November 9, 2006 - 8:00 a.m.

A retirement luncheon honoring Dr. Herbert H. Richardson, as Director of Texas Transportation Institute for the past 13 years, is scheduled for Friday, October 27, 2006 at the Brazos Center, Bryan Texas. All TTI employees are invited to a barbeque lunch being served at 11:30a.m.

Please RSVP through email by October 23 at HHR_BBQ@ttimail.tamu.edu.
TOG Mission Statement

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

Birthdays

Sep 2 Arthur Richards
Sep 4 Chris Poe
Sep 4 Penelope Weinberger
Sep 8 Nancy Stratta
Sep 14 Rafael Aldrete
Sep 14 Kenneth Brown
Sep 18 Naveen Mokkapati
Sep 19 Robert Benz
Sep 20 Stacey Alejandro
Sep 20 Sarah Benavides
Sep 21 John Balog
Sep 21 Sonia Chapa
Sep 22 Conrad Dudek
Sep 22 Diane Fisher
Sep 22 Jiaxin Tong
Sep 28 Michael Davis
Sep 30 Chi-Leung Chu
Sep 30 Leonard Ruback
Oct 1 Nicholas Koncz
Oct 1 Dan Walker
Oct 3 Geza Pesti
Oct 6 Shauna Bustamante
Oct 11 Omar Mata
Oct 19 Gene Hawkins
Oct 19 Charles Stevens
Oct 20 Brenda Manak
Oct 21 Christopher Debaillon
Oct 23 Jack Antebi
Oct 25 Byron Blaschke
Oct 27 Srinivasa Sunkari
Oct 29 Rajat Rajbhandari
Oct 31 Marcus Brewer

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>Software Applications Developer I</td>
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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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<td>Tony Voigt</td>
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<td>Chris Poe</td>
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<td>Signs and Markings</td>
<td>Paul Carlson</td>
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Pending

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Filled

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