ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Our sponsors are recognizing the hard work of many TOG researchers. The recent recognition of our performance on research reports by the TxDOT Research Oversight Committee is but one example. Our presentations at meetings are also of exceptional quality due to the dedicated participation of many researchers in our brown bag lunches.

Please continue to help TOG to improve by actively participating in the many activities, which help to distinguish our research program from others. If you have any thoughts on how we can improve the quality of our research environment, please share your thoughts with others. Our most important resource is our people and our working environment. Happy New Year to all!

Tom Urbanik

CALENDAR MARKS

Jan 7-11 80th Annual TRB Meeting
Jan 15 Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan 16 First Day of spring semester classes
Jan 16 FY02 TxDOT traffic safety proposals (402) due to RDO
Jan 17 Dan Fambro Memorial Dedication, RM 217 CE/TTI Building
Jan 20 Presidential Inauguration
Jan 23-26 International Distance Education Conference (DEC 2001), Austin
Jan 25-27 ITE District 9 Winter Meeting, San Antonio
Jan 30 Brazos Valley ITE Lunch, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Room 102 Gilchrist Bldg
Feb 12 TxDOT Semiannual Reports due to RDO
Feb 12 Lincoln’s Birthday
Feb 14 Valentines Day
Feb 19 Presidents Day (TxDOT Holiday)
Feb 22 Washington’s Birthday
Feb 28 Ash Wednesday
Feb 28 Brazos Valley ITE meeting, noon, Gilchrist Building
Mar 13-16 Spring Break
Mar 15-16 Faculty and Staff Holiday
Mar 27 First day of Passover
Mar 30 Transportation Science Competition, TTI

BRAZOS VALLEY ITE NEWS

To kick off the New Year the Brazos Valley TexITE Chapter is planning a luncheon social for Tuesday, January 30, 2001. The social will be held in Room 102 of the Gilchrist Building from 11:30 to 1:00. Come join the fun and hear what went on at TRB, and discuss activities held at the TexITE winter meeting. Lunch will cost $4.00. Sandwiches, chips, drinks, and dessert will be provided. The membership committee is hosting the luncheon, so take this opportunity to share the fun, knowledge, and fellowship with other transportation individuals by bringing a potential member. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Srinivasa Sunkari at s-sunkari@tamu.edu or 979-845-7472 by January 26. Hope to see you there!

The first speaker meeting of the new year will be held on February 28, 2001. More information about this upcoming meeting will be provided through our Chapter listserv. If you would like to be added to the listserv contact Marcus Brewer. Remember local membership is only $5.00. Applications and additional membership information can be obtained from Nada Trout, n-trout@tamu.edu.

Melisa Finley
Brazos Valley TexITE Chapter, President

MUTCD NOW AVAILABLE

FHWA has released the Millennium MUTCD on their web site: http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov. It is in pdf format and available for download. It will also be available in print through AASHTO, ATSSA, and ITE for about $100 per copy.

This edition of the MUTCD has been completely rewritten with the addition of many new traffic control devices. A new format has been selected that includes loose-leaf 8.5 × 11 inch pages. In an effort to keep the Manual up-to-date, FHWA has proposed a yearly update. FHWA and NCUTCD have not yet resolved all of the issues related to the yearly update process.

The Millennium MUTCD supersedes the 1988 national MUTCD. TxDOT has two years to either adopt the Millennium MUTCD or develop a revised Texas MUTCD that must be in substantial conformance with the Millennium MUTCD.

Paul Carlson

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.
NOTES FROM THE CPD

Systems Engineering Module Available

A Systems Engineering module has been added to the Center for Professional Development Web site and is available for download. This module, found at http://tti.tamu.edu/cpd/education/systems.stm, can easily fit within any transportation undergraduate course or technical courses in other engineering and non-engineering disciplines.

TSTI Web Page

The CPD has added a Texas Summer Transportation Institute web page. The page features student presentations and papers as photos of students and activities from TSTI 2000. The web page may be found under the What’s New link or at the following address: http://tti.tamu.edu/cpd/projects/tsti_00/.

History and Transportation

Debbie Jasek recently spoke to the 2nd grade class at South Knoll Elementary in College Station about the role transportation played in the founding and development of College Station.

As always for more information on these topics please contact Beverly Kuhn at 862-3558 or by e-mail at b-kuhn@tamu.edu or Debbie Jasek at 845-5239 or by e-mail at d-jasek@tamu.edu.

Beverly Kuhn

DAN FAMBRO MEMORIAL DEDICATION

A tree, bench, and plaque have been placed in front of the CE lab building on the Texas A&M campus in memory of Dan Fambro. The ITE student chapter, the ASCE student chapter, and TTI all contributed to make this possible.

There will be a brief program and reception in College Station on Wednesday, January 17th to formally recognize this event. The reception will be in room 217 of the CE/TTI Building from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., with a brief program at about 1:20 p.m. Dan's family has been invited to attend. Please join us for this dedication, if your schedules permit.
There are several of TxDOT’s manuals available online, including the Design Manual. They can be found at: http://manuals.dot.state.tx.us/dynaweb/.

Mark Wooldridge

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH
Jerry Ullman traveled to Atlanta on December 14th to chair a panel discussion at a Sensor Systems for Highway Safety workshop sponsored by FHWA and Georgia DOT. He then returned to Atlanta the next week with Stu Anderson and Edgar Herrera to meet with Georgia DOT personnel on an NCHRP project examining pavement rehabilitation decisions on high-volume roadways.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Jan 1 Edward Seymour
Jan 2 Kyu-Ok Kim
Jan 5 Joonhyo Kim
Jan 12 Michelle Hoelscher
Jan 12 Natilie Johnson
Jan 13 John Denholm
Jan 17 Edward Brackin
Jan 17 Selvam Raghupathy
Jan 19 Melisa Finley
Jan 20 Michael Vickich
Feb 2 Liz Perez
Feb 9 Lisa Patke
Feb 9 Nadeem Chaudhary
Feb 12 Kathy Tran
Feb 15 Jerry Ullman
Feb 15 Tom Urbanik II
Feb 22 Nada Trout
Feb 23 Paul Adamson
Feb 26 Bryan Miller

TRIVIA ANSWER
According to Big 12 Cities Tourism Guide, the two Big Twelve cities that are furthest apart: College Station and Boulder with a distance of 1,086 miles.

CONVERSIONS
For those who thought the hardest part of Physics 101 was the constant conversion from MKS or CGS units to English units, here are some useful English system conversions.

- 1 millionth of a mouthwash: 1 microscope.
- Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement: 1 bananosecond.
- 365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer because it’s less filling: 1 lite year.
- 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone: 1 Rod Serling.
- Half of a large intestine: 1 semicolon.
- 1000 aches: 1 megahurtz [forwarded note: is this actually a kilohurtz, or does an ache equal 1000 hurtz??]
- Basic unit of laryngitis: 1 hoarsepower
- Shortest distance between two jokes: A straight line (think about it for a moment)
- 453.6 graham crackers: 1 pound cake
- 1 million-million microphones: 1 megaphone
- 1 million bicycles: 2 megacycles
- 365.25 days: 1 unicycle
- 2000 mockingbirds: two kilomockingbirds (work on it....)
- 10 cards: 1 decacards
- 1 kilogram of falling figs: 1 Fig Newton
- 1000 grams of wet socks: 1 literhosen
- 1 millionth of a fish: 1 microfiche
- 10 rations: 1 decoration
- 2 monograms: 1 diagram
- 8 nickels: 2 paradigms

NEW PROJECTS

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<td>Metropolitan Transit Authority</td>
<td>Preparation of Quarterly Reports for the Houston HOV Lane System</td>
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Value Engineering (VE) Study for Loop 363 in Temple