ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR MESSAGE
This month’s message was guest written by Gene Hawkins.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION
It is easy to feel comfortable with the environment and people we work with and see on a daily basis. Developing a long-term professional relationship with co-workers is relatively easy. It is much more difficult to develop long-term relationships with our colleagues and sponsors that we see only occasionally. But it is equally as important. In many respects, the research program is shifting from a competitively based to one in which relationships with sponsors, lawmakers, and colleagues can determine research opportunities. For example, TEA-21 significantly reduced the FHWA’s competitive research program. Much of what they are doing in the research arena is based on task order work and other programs.

While the TxDOT proposal basis is still competitive, your chances of having a project statement that corresponds to your expertise and interest are increased when you work with a TxDOT staff person to prepare the initial draft of an idea and champion it through the process.

How do you build these relationships? They don’t come easy, it requires work and effort. Communication and understanding are the keys. You need to know them as a person, need to know their concerns, you need to know how they function within their organization, and you need to know how their organization functions. That only happens when you talk to them on a regular basis. You should be calling research sponsors on a regular basis. You should be talking with the TxDOT PD at least monthly. In fact, the new RFP project statements require monthly reports to the PD. But a phone call is not enough. Visit them as often as practical.

Here are ten suggestions for improving external relationships. You might not be able to do them all, but every little bit helps.
1. Call your research contacts at least once a month. Make sure you talk about at least one thing that is not related to your project.
2. See your primary research contacts face-to-face in a one-on-one situation at least twice a year (for national projects, these meetings may be part of some other national meeting [TRB, ITE, etc.]). This contact should be outside of any panel- or team-type meetings that might be a part of the research effort.
3. When you are at a national meeting, spend your free time with non-TTI people. Look for places where people are socializing (lobbies, hospitality suites, bars) and find familiar faces.
4. Learn about the sponsors’ and colleagues’ lives beyond a specific project.
5. Share information with your sponsor that isn’t directly related to the primary aspect of the sponsored project.
6. Pass out lots of your business cards. TTI provides them to get your name and TTI’s name in front of professionals. They don’t do any good sitting in your desk drawer.
7. Use research travel opportunities to establish new contacts and relationships. If you travel to a district to collect data, make sure you budget some time to visit the district or area office, or even the maintenance section to visit with the staff. If you go out-of-state, visit an agency’s office in the area you visit.
8. Eat a meal with your sponsor and pick up the tab (No, TTI will not reimburse you for the meal expense, but it will be worth it in the long run).
9. Identify possible future sponsor contacts at TxDOT, FHWA, and NCHRP. Introduce yourself to them at meetings or call them up to learn more information about specific issues.
10. Provide your sponsor with high-quality research products. If you can’t perform well on a funded effort, the other suggestions will have little impact on improving your relationships.

Like so many other parts of life, relationships are a critical element of our success. We should strive to improve our external relationships just as we strive to improve our relationships with those we work side-by-side every day.

Gene Hawkins
Operations and Design Division Head

CONGRATULATIONS!
Sean Merrell, a Research Graduate Assistant in the TransLink® Research Center was recently awarded the Allen C. Ludwig, Jr. award as the Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Award. This award looks at many areas of the student beyond grade point average, including community involvement, leadership, student organizations, work efforts and more. Congratulations Sean!

TOG’s Mission
To facilitate innovations in transportation system operations through leadership in research, education, and technology transfer.
TTI To Host 2001 TSTI at Texas Southern University, Paul Quinn College and University of Texas at San Antonio

TTI, Texas Southern University (TSU), and Paul Quinn College will host the 2001 Texas Summer Transportation Institute (TSTI) on the campus of Paul Quinn on June 4-15, 2001, on the campus of TSU June 18-29, 2001, and on the downtown campus of University of Texas at San Antonio. The 2001 TSTI is open to all students from local high schools with a grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Students participating in the 2001 TSTI will receive an overview of careers in the transportation industry which will be supplemented by special activities and fascinating educational trips to transportation facilities in the Houston metropolitan area. The curriculum will also cover such critical frontiers on transportation as intermodalism, highway design, future air navigation systems, environmentalism, and airline globalization.

Regional Science Fair

Debbie Jasek from the Center for Professional Development participated as a judge in the Brazos Valley Regional Science and Engineering Fair March 20-21 at Texas A&M University. More than 170 high school and junior high school students participated in the fair. The annual event, hosted by the College of Science, brought together high school students from around the region who presented the results of their original scientific research. Students competed in one of 14 different categories: behavioral and social sciences, biochemistry, botany, chemistry, computer science, earth and space science, engineering, environmental science, gerontology, mathematics, medicine and health, microbiology, physics, and zoology. There was also a separate category for team projects. Students in grades 7 and 8 competed in the junior division and students in grades 9-12 competed in the senior division.

Texas Junior Academy of Science

On April 10-11, 2001, the College of Science and Center for Mathematics and Science Education hosted the Texas Junior Academy of Science on the campus of Texas A&M University. Debbie Jasek represented the Center for Professional Development as a judge. Debbie judged the Environmental Science on the initial competition day, and served as a finals judge in the Natural Science Division.

On the first day of competition, each student presented a paper on research results completed during the previous year in one of the eligible categories: behavioral and social science, biochemistry, botany, chemistry, earth and space science, engineering, environmental science, math and computer science, medicine and health, microbiology, physics, and zoology. After the judges had selected the winners in each category, these students made their presentations again in the Finals the following day. Schools that participated in the competition included: Academy for Science and Health Professions, Clark High School, Health Careers High School, Jasper High School, John Jay Science Academy, John Marshall High School, Lyndon B. Johnson Science Academy, MacArthur High School, O'Connor High School, Plano East High School, Plano Senior High School, Plano West Senior High School, Ronald Reagan High School, San Marcos High School, Seguin High School, Shepton High School, Taft High School, Texas Military Institute, Tom C. Clark High School, Vines High School, and Williams High School.

CPD Member Recognized by the College of Science

Debbie Jasek of the Center for Professional Development recently received an award from the College of Science for her participation in educational outreach. The award was presented at a reception hosted by the Dean of the College of Science. Debbie served as a judge for four of the five programs hosted by the College of Science.

Traffic Signal Summer Camp

The National Institute for Advanced Transportation Technology (NIATT) will conduct a Traffic Signal Summer Camp on the University of Idaho campus in Moscow, Idaho, on August 12-17. Traffic Signal Summer Camp provides a fun and productive way to spend five days with industry professionals working with the latest equipment and software (traffic controllers, video detection, loop detectors, and controller interface devices). TSSC provides an opportunity to participate in an important professional development activity to university juniors, seniors, or first year graduate students with a strong interest in transportation engineering. Further information and an application form can be accessed through http://niatt.uidaho.edu.

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.

BRAZOS VALLEY ITE NEWS

On April 25, 2001, Pat Walker with the City of College Station spoke to the Chapter about "Managing Traffic Operations in the City of College Station." Our Annual Business Meeting will be held on May 23, 2001. At this meeting we will be electing new officers (President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer). For additional information regarding the elections or upcoming meetings please visit our website http://www.texite.org/bv/.

Melisa Finley

Brazos Valley TexITE Chapter, President

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Cesar Quiroga in the San Antonio Office! Cesar was recently promoted to Associate Research Engineer. Congratulations Cesar.
CALENDAR MARKS

May 9-12  International Work Zone Safety Conference
May 11-12  Spring Commencement
May 13  Mothers Day
May 18  TOG Annual Meeting, McKinney Roughs
May 19  Armed Forces Day
May 21  Victoria Day (Canada)
May 23  Brazos Valley ITE Annual Business Meeting, noon, Gilchrist Bldg.
May 28  Memorial Day
May 28  Classes begin First Summer Session
Jun 4-7  TxDOT RMC meetings
Jun 4-15  2001 TSTI, Paul Quinn College, Dallas
Jun 17  Fathers Day
Jun 18-29  2001 TSTI, TSU, Houston
Jun 21  Summer Begins
Jun 21-23  ITE District 9 Meeting, Midland
Jul 2  Final First Summer Session
Jul 3  Classes begin Second Summer Session
Jul 4  Independence Day (Holiday)
Jul 9-20 2001 TSTI, UTSA, San Antonio
Aug 19-20  Annual ITE Meeting, Chicago

TOG ANNUAL MEETING

The TOG Annual meeting is scheduled on Friday, May 18th. This year’s meeting will be held at McKinney Roughs Environmental Learning Center near Bastrop. McKinney Roughs is a 1,900 acre preserve located on the banks of the Colorado River.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. with registration and morning breakfast snacks. The theme for this year is “Managing to Have Fun.” Be sure to wear comfortable clothes and shoes (We have time to explore the nature trails scheduled into the day. We will also have speakers, door prizes, and a BBQ lunch catered by the Elgin Smokehouse.

Plan on spending the day getting to know your co-workers and having some fun. The day is scheduled to end around 3:00 p.m. which gives you plenty of time to be home by 5:00 p.m. or to play a round of golf at some of the nearby courses in Bastrop.

Reminders: The cost of the day is $5.00 (payable at the door) and you need to contact your program secretary by May 14th to register to attend (we need a headcount for the food).

Members of the committee are: Debbie Jasek (Chair), Rob Benz (Vice Chair), Srinivasa Sunkari, Leonard Ruback, Jim Carvell, Tim Gates, Paul Barricklow, and Mark Wooldridge.

Debbie Jasek

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER NEWS

Jim Carvell (RIO-Dallas) and Scott Cooner (SP&E-Arlington) presented the TOG developed three-day Freeway Traffic Operations Training Course in Phoenix. Jerry Ullman (Traffic Operations-Campus) and Scott presented the course in Peoria.

DALLAS OFFICE

The Dallas RIO invites our TOG brothers and sisters to visit our recently reconfigured office suite. A low bid by our present landlord will allow us to remain at the same address for another five years. We still have work space if anyone is in Dallas and needs a place to work for a day or two. We are at the NorthEast corner of Abrams and IH 635 (LBJ Freeway), 9441 LBJ Freeway, Suite 103.

Jim Carvell

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On April 10th and 11th Natilie Johnson attended a Word 2000 class at the CIS Training Center. The class was taught by Kate Havel. She is a very informative and knowledgeable instructor. I would recommend this class for anyone who is not too familiar with Word 2000. Here are few things that I found interesting.

• When you are typing an e-mail address or an Internet address you can turn off the hyperlinks. You go into “Insert”, “Auto Text”, “Auto Format” click on the check mark beside “Internet and network paths with hyperlinks”, then OK. By doing this it will make the address appear the same color and font as the rest of your text and it will also disconnect the link so if you click close to it, it will not automatically take to you that location.

• When you use a word frequently you can use the Auto Correct to insert the word as you type. To do this you will go to “Tools”, “Auto Correct”, “Auto Text”, in the box you type in the word. Then click on Add and then OK. By setting it up this way, as you type the first few letters a little box will appear above your cursor with the word suggested. If you want to use it hit enter and keep on typing. I have found this very helpful with the word TransLink®.

• If you have a hyphenated word that falls at the end of a line and you want that word to stay together all on one line, you can use a non-breaking hyphen. By holding down the Ctrl key and hitting the hyphen key just before the word it will keep the word together on the same line.

Natilie Johnson

GET WELL SOON!

Lisa Patke had sinus surgery on Tuesday April 24th. Lisa survived the procedure, spent some time at home consuming the “soaps”, and is back in the trenches. We are glad you are feeling better!
Hello and Welcome

The San Antonio office welcomes Jeffrey Ekdahl on May 14 as a new Student Technician. Jeffrey is a Civil Engineering Student at UTSA.

Goodbye and Best Wishes

The San Antonio office will be bidding farewell to a long-time Student Technician — Clayton Ripps. Clayton has been with the San Antonio office for four years (since he was a freshman) and is just a super guy and is graduating in May! He will be sorely missed, as, beyond being a super kid, he has developed some great technical skills — it will be like losing a full-time staff person. Clayton will be going to work for the S.A. District of TxDOT. Congratulations and best wishes form all of us!

Daniyar Satarov, a Master of Engr. graduate student in CE, will be graduating at the end of this semester. He will be returning home to Kazakhstan to work for the government as a civil engineer. He has worked with Dr. Bonneson during the past year in the Traffic Analysis and Design Program. Congratulations and best wishes form all of us!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Wonho Kim and his wife had a baby girl on March 21, 2001. They have named her Donna Kim. She was 6 lbs, 2 oz. He says he tired—not getting much sleep— with a newborn and a two-year old. Congratulations to the Kim family!

Chris Poe and Cyndi Poe are proud new parents. Cameron Mason Poe was born on April 17th at 1:14 p.m. He was 7 lbs, 6 oz and 19 3/4 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great. Congratulations to the Poe family!

MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

Russell Henk has been appointed to TRB’s Committee on Transportation Safety Management, A3B01 and will also be serving as Secretary for the "Emergency Evacuations" Sub-Committee. This will be added to his volunteer duties as Secretary for TRB's Task Force on Critical Transportation Infrastructure Protection

As noted earlier, Jerry Ullman and Scott Cooner traveled to Peoria, Illinois, to teach the NHI course on Freeway Traffic Operations. Jerry also used the trip as a reason to stop by his old alma mater, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, for a quick recruiting visit. Although no immediate candidates for entry positions in TOG were identified, there may be a few possibilities a year or so down the road. Remember, recruiting must be an ongoing activity if we are to continue to attract high-quality staff to the Institute.

Debbie Jasek was recently recognized with an award from the city of College Station for her service on the facade committee. The committee, which is part of the community development program, advises the city council on federal block grant awards for the Northgate revitalization program.

TOG TRAVELS

Kevin Balke traveled to Dallas to attend a TCIP Working Group meeting.

Kevin Balke and Brooke Durkop traveled to Oakland CA to attend the Morip Conference on April 25-27.

Debbie Jasek traveled to San Antonio to meet with UTSA on Summer Institute Program on April 24-25.

Leonard Ruback and Ricky Parker traveled to Laredo, on April 24-27 to install Rail Monitoring System and then monitor it.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 4 Fahed Chaudhry
May 8 Mike Fontaine
May 10 Bob Brydia
May 15 James Carvell, Jr.
May 16 Steve Venglar
May 18 Brooke Durkop
May 21 Michelle Jozwiak
May 24 Saurabh Gupta
May 24 Andrew Holick
May 26 Jeffrey Miles
May 27 David Martinez
May 29 Kenneth Giusti, Jr.
May 30 Lalitha Vanajakshi
Jun 02 Sean Merrell
Jun 04 Rene Arredondo
Jun 10 Gary Barricklow
Jun 25 Roelof Engelbrecht
Jun 25 Sangita Sunkari
Jun 27 James Ochoa
Jun 29 Ajaykumar Thadhlani

NEW PROJECTS

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<tr>
<th>PI</th>
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<td>Conrad Dudek</td>
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<td>Tim Gates</td>
<td>American Glass Bead Association</td>
<td>The Use of Wider Longitudinal Pavement Markings in the United States and the World</td>
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