El Paso Host Students From Mexico

Graduate students and professors from Civil Engineering Department of University of Chihuahua visited TTI office at El Paso. TTI staff presented current and future tasks being undertaken by CIITR at the El Paso office. The staff also accompanied the visitors to the traffic management center (TransVista) at the TxDOT El Paso district office. The visiting students were fascinated by a variety of traffic monitoring technology being implemented by TransVista. They also visited the University of Texas at El Paso campus and toured the Pavement Laboratory.
Briefing with US Representative

On Monday November 27, Robert Benz, Houston Office, was on hand to meet with US Representative John Culberson and provide an update for the “Initiating Texas Medical Center Master Plan” Implementation project. The congressman was pleased with the progress to date and was interested in other transportation and flooding issues in the area. Texas Medical Center staff briefed the congressmen on other projects and presented some future projects.

TOG Family News

RETIREMENT

Jim Carvell retired as of December 31 from the TTI Dallas Office and more than 25 years service with TTI. A reception held in Dallas on the 14th was attended by many friends and co-workers of Jim’s. Dick McCasland, retired Division Head came especially to welcome Jim to the “retirement” years. Among those that spoke were current Director Dennis Christiansen and former Agency Director Herb Richardson.

Congratulations to Darrell Borchardt, Senior Research Engineer in the Houston office, on achieving the grade of Fellow in the Institute of Transportation Engineers. This is the highest membership grade in ITE. Darrell has been active in ITE and the Texas District, TexITE, throughout his career beginning as a student member in 1982.

KUDOS

The University of Texas at San Antonio has recently formed a Institute of Transportation Engineers, Texas District (TexITE) Student Chapter. Paul Wernli, in TTI’s San Antonio Research and Implementation Office, is the founding President of the new chapter. Kudos to the UTSA students on their new Student Chapter and Paul on his election as President.

GOOD - BYE

December brought graduation and with it good-byes to Marshall Cheek and Travis Hall, both have been working with the Operations and Design Division. Congratulations on your accomplishments! The Houston Office said farewell to student worker, David Stehlik at the end of December.
Recent Travels

NOTE: Most of the travels mentioned in this issue were from late November and December.

Jeff Shelton traveled to Orland, Florida to participate in a 3-day Road Safety Fundamentals and Road Safety Audit for Local Governments Train-the-Trainer workshop. The workshop focused on the Basic Concepts of Road Safety Audits, Understanding Risk and Safety, Common Issues and Challenges, as well as a Desktop Case Study in the Orlando area. The training was organized by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. and funded by FHWA.

Rajat Rajbahandari along with Steven Venglar traveled to Austin to meet with TxDOT district’s traffic engineering staff to assist in developing a GIS-based database.

Beverly Kuhn traveled to Austin on November 21 to attend a kick-off meeting for the Managed Lanes Handbook Training IPR with TxDOT.

Debbie Jasek traveled to Conroe, Texas on November 6 and to Texas A & M Kingsville on November 27-30 to discuss and conduct ON THE MOVE EVENTS.

Gary Thomas traveled to Austin on November 7 to teach the “TS Standards Overview” with TxDOT employees. Then on November 10 he was in South Padre to give an presentation “Development of a Web-based Traffic Signal Design Guide for the Laredo District” at the South Texas ITE meeting.

Penelope Weinberger traveled to Fort Lauderdale, Florida to attend AMP Annual Meeting in November.

November 2, Dan Middleton traveled to San Antonio, Texas to attend a TxDOT project meeting with Project Monitoring Committee. Dan was on the road again to Austin for the TxDOT project 0-5339 project meeting on November 10.

Ryan Longmire traveled to Houston several times during the month of November to collect data and do video recording at Houston’s TranStar Center on TxDOT Project 0-5326.

Robert Benz and Darrell Borchardt traveled from the Houston Office to Arlington on November 6 to participate in the RMC-4 meetings.

LuAnn Theiss and Shamanth Kuchangi traveled to Beaumont on November 13 to evaluate intersections and to Burkeville, Texas for a Teens in the Driver Seat presentation.

Mike Vickich and Kathy Tran attended the VSLive! Conference in Dallas November 14-17.

Chris Poe, Tony Voigt, Praprut Songchitruksa and others from TTI attended the ITS Texas Meeting in Clear Lake, Texas, November 15-17.

Darrell Borchardt attended the H-GAC Conference on November 16 as well as made a presentation on truck restrictions.

Paul Adamson, Michael Davis, Shamanth Kuchangi, and LuAnn Theiss traveled to the Beaumont area the week of November 27 to collect data and evaluate intersections.

Charlie Stevens traveled to Austin on November 30 to attend a project panel meeting.

Bob Brydia and Gary Thomas taught a workshop November 14th on “The Basics of Wireline Communication” at the TTI Gilchrist Building with TxDOT employees and a few TOG employees. Bob taught the course in El Paso on December 4th. Additional courses across the state are scheduled in the first half of the next calendar year.
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.

Program  | Contact       | NOV     | Position
---------|---------------|---------|-----------
El Paso Office  | Rafael Aldrete | 061408  | Software Applications Developer I
El Paso Office  | Rafael Aldrete | 070228  | Programmer/Analyst I
Dallas Office   | Chris Poe     | 070236  | Associate Research Engineer
Work Zone and DMS | Jerry Ullman  | 061470  | Asst. Transportation Researcher
Signs and Markings | Paul Carlson  | 061279  | Asst. Transportation Researcher
Signs and Markings | Paul Carlson  | 070209  | Assistant Research Scientist/Engineer