ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

This month’s message was guest written by Kevin Balke.

As you begin preparing your TxDOT proposals for next year, one thing that I would like you to consider is using the TransLink® laboratories and testbeds to help you conduct and showcase your research. There still seems to be this perception out there that the TransLink® lab is a facility that only staff members in the Gilchrist Building can use. The truth is the TransLink® lab is tool, available to everyone in TOG and all of TTI. It can be used to test new concepts and to showcase the results and products of research to sponsors and potential sponsors.

Over the past year, the TransLink® staff has worked hard to improve the capabilities in the lab and testbeds. We continue to work on expanding the hardware-in-the-loop simulation capabilities to include not only intersections, but also freeway facilities. We can set up on-line connections to different control centers in the state that can help you collect data automatically and remotely. We have expanded our communications and testbed facilities in the Bryan/College Station area and continue to explore different ways of collecting and moving data from remote locations. We continue to develop new tools and write new software that allows us to do a better job at collecting, processing, and displaying data. All these resources—the laboratory, the testbeds, and the staff—are available to you to use to help you get your job done. It is up to you to decide on how best to capitalize on those resources.

Also, remember if you don’t see it now, it doesn’t mean that it can’t be done. We can add software to any of the computers. We can help you write web pages, on-line training tools, and even host training courses and seminars to help you demonstrate your research results and products. We are willing to work with you to help make the lab a better place for all of us to do our research.

I’d like to extend a personal invitation to each and every one of you to come over and talk to us about how you can use the TransLink® facilities. If you think you have an application that you want to test or show in the lab or if you would like to just see what is going on in the lab, please let me or any of the TransLink® staff know and we can work with you to see that it happens.

Thanks.

Kevin Balke, TransLink® Research Center Director

CALENDAR MARKS
Mar 12-16 Spring Break
Mar 15-16 Faculty and Staff Holiday
Mar 26 Islamic New Year
Mar 28 Brazos Valley ITE meeting, noon, Gilchrist Building
Mar 30-Apr 1 TxDOT Research Proposals due to TxDOT
Mar 31 Expanding Your Horizons
Mar 31 Cesar Chavez Day
Apr 1 Daylight savings time begins
Apr 8 First day of Passover
Apr 13 Good Friday
Apr 15 Easter Sunday
Apr 16 Federal Income Taxes Due
Apr 21 Aggie Muster/San Jacinto Day
Apr 27-29 Parents Weekend
May 11-12 Spring Commencement
May 13 Mothers Day
May 18 TOG Annual Meeting, McKinney Roughs

Happy St. Patrick’s Day

TOG ANNUAL MEETING

The TOG Annual meeting is scheduled on Friday, May 18th, so mark your calendars and plan to have a day of fun! 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. There are 18 miles of trails including self-guided nature trails. It is run by the Lower Colorado River Authority.

We are in the process of planning the activities for the day! In order for it to be a successful meeting we need help from all of you, in other words TOG committee members want your input on what you want! 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. Please contact any one of us if you have ideas for the meeting.

Debbie Jasek

TOG’s Mission

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

The Brazos Valley Chapter of TexITE held its first speaker meeting of the new year on February 28, 2001. The speakers, Kay Fitzpatrick and Mark Wooldridge, discussed the new on-line TxDOT Design Manual, revised AASHTO Green Book, changes in Stopping Sight Distance values, and national-level activities in geometric design.

Our next meeting will be held on March 28, 2001, and will be a joint meeting with the local ASCE Chapter. This meeting will include tours of both the TransLink® Laboratory and the Driving Environment Simulator. Please note that this meeting is scheduled from 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 1:30 p.m. We will be meeting in room 102 of Gilchrist for lunch before the tours.

Our Annual Business Meeting will be held May 23, 2001. At this meeting we will be electing new officers (President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer). Currently, I am in the process of organizing a Nomination Committee. If you are interested in being a member of this committee please let me know by March 16, 2001.

For additional meeting information please visit our website (http://www.texite.org/bv/). 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

NOTES FROM THE CPD

Engineers’ Week

The Texas A&M ITE Student Chapter and the Brazos Valley TexITE Chapter hosted an engineering workshop and tour for the 5th grade class from Branch Elementary on February 22nd to celebrate Engineers’ Week.

The 5th Grade Class From Branch Elementary and their TTI Hosts

The CPD, TransLink®, Driving Simulation Laboratory, and College Station Police Department assisted in the morning workshop. Students participated in a sign workshop, a pedestrian and bicycle safety workshop, a tour of TransLink®, and a tour of the Driving Simulation Laboratory.

Science, Technology and YOUth Symposium

The 14th annual Science, Technology and YOUth Symposium was held on the Texas A&M campus Saturday, March 3rd. The one day event, sponsored by the College of Education, hosted over 1,500 junior high and high school students from across Texas. Debbie Jasek from the Center for Professional Development and Bob Brydia from TransLink® Research Center hosted a tour for participants of the symposium on Saturday morning. Melisa Finley, Traffic Operations Program, and Brooke Durkop, Center for Professional Development, also hosted a workshop on traffic signal timing for symposium participants.

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.

Purdue Undergraduate Summer Internship in Transportation

An Undergraduate Summer Internship in Transportation, sponsored by the Joint Transportation Research Program, is being offered at Purdue University. This is a 10-week summer program that allows participants to be involved with research projects sponsored by Indiana DOT and FHWA. Applications of interested students are due April 2, 2001. Check the following web site
Fellowships for Graduate Study in Transportation

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) has published a packet describing the fellowships available for graduate study in the field of transportation for the academic year 2001-2002. The Burton Marsh Fellowship, the Harold Hammond Scholarship, the District 6 Fellowship, and the District 9 (Texas) Fellowship are among the awards available for the coming academic year. Applications are due April 6, 2001, and may be limited by specific criteria. For more information contact Ann O’Neill at ITE telephone (202)289-0222, extension 113 or by e-mail at aoneill@ite.org.

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

ABOUT THOSE TOG WEB SITES.....

Ever wonder how many web sites TOG has up and running? It might surprise you to find out that there are more than 30! We've got sites that are for the entire group, sites for specific projects, sites for student groups, professional organizations and more. Some we actively work on, while others we simply host as a service for a group or project. Why not visit some of the sites below and see what they hold?

Main Web Sites
http://transops.tamu.edu - Our external web site for TOG. We need YOUR research contributions to continue to make this a site worth visiting. What's new on your project? Tell the world here!

http://tog.tamu.edu - Our internal web site. TOG contains news about meeting and events, our strategic plan and more. Come visit TOG today! How about posting a news item and letting people know what's going on!

Other Project and Center Related Web Sites
http://TransLink.tamu.edu - The web site for the TransLink research center

http://rce.tamu.edu - The web site for the FHWA ITS Research Center of Excellence

http://cpd.tamu.edu - The web site for the Center for Professional Development

http://morip.tamu.edu - The web site for the Multi-state Operations Research and Implementation Program

http://managed-lanes.tamu.edu - The web site for the TxDOT Managed Lanes project (TxDOT 0-4160)

http://railview.tamu.edu - Web site to find out about rail monitoring activities in the Wellborn corridor

http://austin.tamu.edu - Web site for the MOPAC ITS project along route 1 in Austin

http://wap.tamu.edu - Web site which pushes Wellborn rail and weather information to your cell phone

Research and Implementation Offices
http://san-antonio.tamu.edu - San Antonio RIO

Student and Professional Organizations
http://its-texas.tamu.edu - Web site for the Texas chapter of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America

http://its-tamu.tamu.edu - Web site for the TAMU student chapter of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America

http://ite.tamu.edu - Web site for the TAMU student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers

http://signalsystems.tamu.edu - Web site for Committee A3A18 of the Transportation Research Board

Courses

Do you have a web site need for your project? Contact the TOG webmaster, Paul Davis (p-davis@tamu.edu) to discuss your needs.

Do you have a TOG web site that is hosted elsewhere? Let people know about in the next newsletter!

WEB PAGE HELP!

Do you have web pages that you like to keep up with—but don't have the time to visit every day to see if any information has changed? Why not take advantage of the FREE MindIt service offered by NetMind.

MindIt registers the page you want to keep track of and sends you an email when the information changes. It's that simple.

Visit http://mindit.netmind.com/ for more information and to start monitoring your favorite pages today.

Please keep in mind that this service will not work with web sites like http://tog.tamu.edu where the access is restricted.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Paul Adamson in the Houston Office. Paul was recently promoted to Traffic Surveyor. Congratulations Paul!

HELLO AND GOODBYE

Hello and Welcome

TOG would like to welcome Dr. Chae-Moon Lim. Dr. Lim is a visiting scholar and will be here for the next year. He has a wide range of research areas including transportation engineering, highway construction, and maintenance work zone...
traffic control and safety. He currently has a special interest in computer traffic control systems, work zone traffic control systems, traffic system management, and ITS. Please take the opportunity to visit with Dr. Lim in room 309G CE/TTI.

The Traffic Operations Program, would like to take this opportunity to welcome their new student workers, Jeff Miles, Kit Black, Louisa Ware, Andrea Kattan, and Victoria Salgado. Jeff is busy building signs for the Clearview study. Stop by 410B (our temporary sign shop) to say hello and check out new sign material and a new highway font. All of the others are helping with nighttime legibility studies at the Riverside Campus. Welcome everyone!

The Traffic Analysis and Design Program would like to welcome back Sangsoo Lee. Sangsoo will be working as a Post Doctoral Research Associate until the end of the summer. Welcome Sangsoo!

The Houston office would like to welcome Nhon D. Nguyen and Keith W. Kostelnik. Nhon is a University of Houston civil engineering student who joins office as a Student Technician. Keith, a University of Houston electrical engineering student, also joins office as a Student Technician. Welcome Nhon and Keith!

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Eric Ray Venglar** was born on February 19th at 9:19pm. He weighed 7 lbs 12 oz, and is 20.5 lovable inches long. Both he and Nikki are doing great! Congratulations to Steve and Nikki Venglar on the newest addition to the Venglar family!

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Suzanne and James Ochoa** have a new family member. **Luke Alfred** was born February 26th. He weighed in at 6lb 12.5 oz and measured 19 inches. Both he and Suzanne are doing great. Congratulations to the James Ochoa family from all of us!

**MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH**

**Sangita Sunkari** and **Paul Davis** attended a product demonstration of the Sybase iAnywhere wireless data server and wireless applications for the Palm PDA on February 15 in Austin. Afterwards, they attended the Southwest Government Technology Conference 2001 to pick up information from vendors about products for non-profit agencies and companies.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Mar 3  Hanseon Cho  
Mar 4  Russell Henk  
Mar 6  Steve Schrock  
Mar 28  Helen Olivarez  
Mar 29  Kay Fitzpatrick  
Mar 31  Paul Davis  
Apr 1  Bryan Raney  
Apr 4  Carroll Messer  
Apr 8  Beverly Kuhn  
Apr 10  Hassan Charara  
Apr 21  Robert Pina  
Apr 25  Darrell Borchardt  
Apr 25  Kerry Brown  
Apr 26  Kevin Balke  
Apr 26  Beth Neilson  
Apr 30  Danny Morris  

**NEW PROJECTS**

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<td>Jerry Ullman</td>
<td>ARTBA</td>
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<td>Ed Seymour</td>
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<td>Ed Seymour</td>
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