1. TTI Photo Day set for Tuesday, April 7

Whether you’re a new TTI employee or just want to update your old TTI portrait, photographer Jim Lyle will be waiting for you next Tuesday.

Jim will be available from 9 am until 4 pm April 7 in the photo studio on the second floor of the Gilchrist Building in College Station. The process is generally painless and should take about 5 minutes of your time. TTI portraits are used for agency
2. Standards Create Safety, Extraordinary Reputation for TTI

A standard test method being developed by TTI could increase the safety of nighttime drivers across the country and beyond. Paul Carlson, head of the Operation and Design Division, is working to get approval by ASTM International for a standard retroreflectivity test method of rain-soaked pavement markings.

“Currently, there is no reliable standard test method for conventional pavement markings,” Carlson notes. “It’s extremely important to get a standard in place because it’s not uncommon for reflective materials to work extremely well during dry periods, but poorly during rainy conditions.”

To generate the needed data as prescribed by the ASTM International requirements, the City of Bryan closed a portion of Beck Street near F.M. 2818 on March 24 so that Carlson and other members of the ASTM International Technical Committee could safely conduct the tests. Carlson and his team tested the markings using the new standard test method, which has been designed to provide accurate measures of pavement marking performance under continuous wetting conditions.

The test results will be documented and included in the paperwork for June’s ASTM International meeting. If all goes as planned, a standard could be in place by the end of the year.
“The new standard will be used not only across the country, but also in Central and South America and many Asian countries as well,” Carlson says. “Helping save the lives of motorists is the ultimate goal of these standards. We are proud to put TTI’s name on this one.”

Members of the ASTM International Technical Committee, including Paul Carlson (kneeling), take measurements of pavement markings in order to create a new standard for retroreflectivity.
3. New Members Named to TTI Council

Three transportation professionals with an impressive range of experience have recently joined the TTI Advisory Council. They are among 36 members of the Council, providing invaluable advice and guidance on transportation issues and trends while supporting TTI research programs and initiatives.

The three newest members of the TTI Advisory Council are:

**Mike Heiligenstein** — Currently the executive director of the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority. He served 23 years as a central Texas public official, including elected positions as a Round Rock City Councilmember and Williams County Commissioner. In 2000, Heiligenstein spearheaded a $350 million transportation initiative that changed the dynamics of mobility throughout central Texas. He previously served as chairman of the regional air quality initiative of central Texas, called the Clean Air Force, and as a member of the air and water quality subcommittee of the National Association of Counties.

**Chase Untermeyer** — Currently the vice chairman for StratREAL® Asset Management (USA). StratREAL is an independent and highly specialized global real estate investment advisor and asset manager. Untermeyer was the U.S. Ambassador to the State of Qatar from 2004-2007. He served as an executive assistant for the vice president and assistant secretary of the Navy under President Ronald Reagan and director of presidential personnel and director of the Voice of America under President George H.W. Bush. Untermeyer served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1976 to 1980. He’s a former member of the Houston Port Commission.

**Robert Heitmann** — Currently the vice president and general manager of Zachry American Infrastructure, Inc., “the first U.S. owned company with the capabilities to develop and invest in private sector solutions to public infrastructure needs.” From 1996 to 2002, Heitmann was the vice president and general manager of Koch
Performance Roads. He has more than 25 years of experience in the development, financing, design-build and warranty of highway projects. Heitmann served as vice chairman at large for the American Road and Transportation Builders Association.

“Texas is recognized as having one of the finest multimodal transportation systems in the world, which is due in part to the work of our council members,” says Agency Director Dennis Christiansen. “With the prominence of our newest members, I’m confident that Texas transportation will surely benefit.”

The annual TTI Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for September 29-30.

More about TTI Advisory Council:
http://tti.tamu.edu/council/
4. TTI Anniversaries

10 Years

**Eddie Haug**, Construction Technician (CEF)

15 Years

**Beth Roach**, Financial Accountant (BUS)

20 Years

**Becca Simons**, Senior Administrative Coordinator (ADM)
**Katie Turnbull**, Executive Associate Agency Director (HDV)

[top](#)
5. TTI Display for Trade Shows and Other Events

TTI has two modern, lighted four-panel displays that are ready for use at your next trade show, conference or other event. The two displays are identical and available for check out. Three of the panels cover TTI’s research—past, present and future—and are designed to be used together. The fourth panel lists the transportation research areas that TTI covers in its research programs. This panel can be used as a stand-alone panel or with the other three, depending on the space available for the display.

To see a close-up version of the display, please see the photo attached to the CenterLine email.

The displays are easy to transport, with each “window shade-type” panel folding down easily. Each of the four panels comes with its own clip-on light.

To reserve a TTI display, contact Brenda Lichti.
6. TTI Contributes to Texas Almanac

Since 2000, the text for the aviation section of the *Texas Almanac* has been the work of TTI Associate Research Scientist Jeff Borowiec. He has recently submitted information to the publishers for the 2010-2011 edition.

“It is a big honor to supply information to the *Texas Almanac* and its section on Texas aviation,” Borowiec says. “The publishers realize that aviation is extremely important to the economy and the history of the state thanks to its 61,943 jobs and total economic output of almost $9 billion.”

The *Texas Almanac* was first published in 1857, twenty-one years after Texas won its independence from Mexico and only twelve years after it became a state. It is currently published every other year.

See Texas Almanac website:  

top
7. TTI in the News

There have been numerous mentions of TTI and our experts in recent media reports. Here are links to some of the stories.

Bridge railing height explained *(Star Tribune)* March 29

Highway closure costs *(Tampa Bay Online)* March 31

Interstate 10 survey *(Wilson County News)* March 24

Freight shuttle update *(The Monitor)* March 21

Street racing dangers *(El Paso Times)* March 20

Texas A&M University economic impact *(KBTX-TV)* March 18

New TTI councilmember *(Austin Business Journal)* March 17

Safer streets *(OBS News.com)* March 14

Rhode Island toll roads *(The Providence Journal)* March 13

Public transit funding *(The Independent Weekly)* March 13
8. Masad to Receive 2009 Halliburton Professorship

TTI Researcher and Associate Professor of Engineering Eyad Masad is the recipient the Halliburton Professorship Award, which specifically honors those that excel in both research and teaching.

Masad, who is a faculty member of Texas A&M University at Qatar, will receive a plaque and a $2,500 award. “This is a prestigious award from the Dwight Look College of Engineering, and I am honored by this recognition,” Masad said.

A reception and dinner in Masad’s honor will be held April 23 at the Miramont Country Club in Bryan, Texas.

Full story:
http://www.qatar.tamu.edu/1870.aspx
9. Work Zone Conference Unites Experts with Common Goal

The 2009 Traffic Management and Work Zone Safety Conference — held in Orlando, Florida, last month — shared the latest research with 250 road construction experts and safety executives to create the safest work zone environment possible. The conference has been held every other year since 2001.

“TTI research was included in numerous presentations,” says Jerry Ullman, manager of the Work Zone and Dynamic Message Sign Program. “The conference is a catalyst for everyone concerned with safety.”

The conferences are developed by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association and sponsored by the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse. TTI is an organizing partner for the conference.

Research Librarian Hong Yu, who manages the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse website, manned the clearinghouse booth at the conference. Presenters from TTI included Ullman, LuAnn Theiss, Melisa Finley and Brooke Ullman.

“An estimated 1,000 people are killed and 45,000 are injured in U.S. roadway work zones each year,” Yu says. “It’s clear that the work we do at TTI is extremely important.”
10. Editor's Corner: Word Cousins

The English language is full of twists and turns, and some words are particularly hard to pin down. I call one batch of these tricksters “word cousins.” They don’t exactly sound alike, they don’t exactly mean the same thing, and sometimes they change the meaning of a sentence completely. But all the cousins contribute to the family, so this column talks about a few.

Affect/Effect
I put these cousins first because I frequently see authors struggling with them. They have multiple uses and multiple meanings:

- *Affect* – In technical reports, this word will most often be used as a verb meaning to influence or act on something else. It requires an object, such as “the ambient temperature affects test results.”
- *Effect* – This word serves as both a noun and a verb. As a noun, it means the result of some action, such as “cause and effect” or “the effect was unexpected.” As a verb, it means to accomplish something or bring about a result, such as “we expect the new officers to effect significant change.”

Further/Farther
These cousins are generally used interchangeably in speech, but in technical writing I recommend sticking with their literal meanings:

- *Further* – This word denotes additional or subsequent information or findings. It does not literally apply to distance. For example, “further tests revealed” or “the professor further explained.”
• **Farther** – This word indicates relative distance, as in “the first sample was obtained farther away from the lab than the second sample.”

**Ensure/Insure**
Like further and farther, these cousins are often interchanged in speech. Most of the time, especially with Texas accents, they sound exactly the same. While they can be used interchangeably in text as well, I recommend using them with their literal meanings:

- **Ensure** – This is the word that most often applies in technical documents. It means to guarantee an outcome or assure something, such as “the findings ensure that implementation will save money”
- **Insure** – This word relates specifically to actuarial or fiscal conditions and usually implies monetary reimbursement. For example, “the new company will insure transferred employees.”

**Complement/Compliment**
Unlike the cousins discussed so far, exchanging these words can change your meaning entirely:

- **Complement** – This word means to complete something or show it to best advantage by providing a comparison. You might find it as “orange is a complement to blue” or “the final tests complemented the original tests.”
- **Compliment** – The cousin spelled with an “i” means to give a favorable or flattering statement, such as “I complimented her on her latest test scores.”

**Stationary/Stationery**
While these cousins seem very much alike, they really don’t run in the same circles. Substituting one for the other usually won’t make sense:

- **Stationary** – This word describes something that stands still, such as “the
column was stationary.”

- **Stationery** – This noun is seldom used in technical documents – or in real life these days. It identifies writing paper, such as “I wrote a letter on flowered stationery.”

**Foreword/Forward**

Unlike most of the other cousins, these words truly sound alike. Their meanings are almost unrelated to each other, however:

- **Foreword** – This word denotes a section in the front matter of a publication that prefaces the material. It’s usually written by someone other than the author of the publication.
- **Forward** – This word simply means to move ahead, such as “the truck rolled forward.”

There are other word cousins I could list, but this column is getting long enough. If you have other cousins you’d like to see introduced in future columns, just let me know. The English language is an interesting family.

*Editor’s Corner is written by Rhonda Brinkmann, research editor in TTI Communications. Rhonda is happy to accept requests for column topics.*

top
11. Reminders/Calendar

April 14-15 — Symposium on Mileage-Based User Fees
   http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/mbuf09/program.htm

April 17 — 2009 Keese-Wootan Transportation Fellowship Application Deadline
   Contact Katie Turnbull

May 6 — TTI Day
   Registration required:
   https://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/ttiday09/registration.htm

May 11-13 — 27th Annual Texas Aviation Conference
   http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/tac09/

CenterLine is a production of TTI Communications. We encourage your comments and suggestions for articles about TTI people and research efforts. Please send email to news@ttimail.tamu.edu or call Rick Davenport at (979) 862-3763.