ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

December is a unique month in the year. It ushers out the old and brings on the new. With an extended Christmas Holiday, it offers a time to relax with friends and family. Take advantage of this unique month to reflect on the past, think about the New Year, and most of all to enjoy your time off. Happy Holidays to all!

Tom Urbanik

CALENDAR MARKS

Dec 5  Brown Bag Luncheon, Rm 217 CE/TTI, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Dec 6  Support Staff Luncheon, G. Rollie White Visitors Center
Dec 7  Brown Bag Luncheon, Rm 103 Gilchrist, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.
Dec 8-13 Final Exams fall semester
Dec 11 Brown Bag Luncheon, Rm 217 CE/TTI, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Dec 12 Brown Bag Luncheon, Rm 103 Gilchrist, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.
Dec 13 TTI Day 2000, Brazos Center, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Dec 15 Brown Bag Luncheon, Rm 217 CE/TTI, 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Dec 15-16 Graduation Ceremonies
Dec 21  Winter Begins
Dec 22  First day of Hanukkah
Dec 21-Jan1 Christmas Holidays
Dec 26  Kwanza
Jan 7-11  80th Annual TRB Meeting
Jan 15  Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan 16  First Day of spring semester classes
Jan 23-26 International Distance Education Conference (DEC 2001), Austin
Jan 25-27 ITE District 9 Winter Meeting, San Antonio
Feb 14  Valentines Day
Feb 19 Presidents Day (TxDOT Holiday)
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

BRAZOS VALLEY ITE NEWS

On November 25 2000, the Brazos Valley TexITE Chapter held its monthly speaker meeting. At this meeting Ed Hard, Transportation Planner for the City of College Station, spoke about the transportation and growth issues for the City of College Station.

The next Chapter meeting will be a social luncheon in January to celebrate the new year. The first speaker meeting of the new year will be held on February 28, 2001. More information about these upcoming meetings 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.

Melisa Finley
Brazos Valley TexITE Chapter, President

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are in order for Sias Zietsman and Dan Carroll. Sias and Dan have successfully completed their oral exams for Ph.D. and M.E. respectively. We know that you are very happy to complete this important step.

NEW INDIRECT RATE

A new indirect rate of 45.5% is in effect for TTI. This rate is to be used on all new proposals submitted after September 1, 2000. TxDOT projects will continue to have an Institutional Cost Contribution. Intrasystem agreements also have a reduced rate.

Have a very happy and safe holiday season

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

CPD Seeks Center Director

The Center for Professional Development at Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), located on the Texas A&M University, College Station Campus, is seeking candidates for the position of Center Director.

Major/essential duties of job: Develop and deliver course and professional development materials for the Center for K-12, college, and continuing education audiences in the ITS areas of advanced traffic management systems, advanced public transportation systems, advanced traveler information systems, and other TTI research appropriate for dissemination. Promote career opportunities in the transportation industry. Work with TTI researchers to develop a strategic plan for TTI’s involvement in professional development to support the FHWA professional capacity building initiative. Identify opportunities and secure funding in the federal program and other education-related arenas in which TTI can participate. Work toward developing and implementing a distance learning program to support Center activities. Prepare proposals and promote the research agenda. Serve as overall project director for work obtained in the professional development area.

Education qualifications/training required: Master’s degree required, PhD preferred. Degree in civil engineering, related transportation field, or adult education preferred. Knowledge of ITS preferred. Teaching experience required.

Work experience (months, years) and skills required: Minimum of 5 years related experience required.

Other: Salary is commensurate with experience. This position offers a significant benefits package, including an excellent retirement plan and a university-based holiday schedule.

If you are interested or know someone who may be interested you may apply by sending a resume to the Center for Professional Development, Texas Transportation Institute, 3135 TAMU, College Station, Texas, 77843-3135. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. AA/EOE.

International Distance Education Conference (DEC 2001)

The Center for Distance Learning Research at Texas A&M and Verizon are proud to present the Eight Annual Distance Education Conference (DEC 2001). DEC 2001 will be held at the Hilton Austin North and Towers, January 23-26, 2001. The conference will model and emphasize the use of communication technologies and exemplary teaching practices currently used in Distance Education. Both researchers and practitioners are encouraged to submit proposals.

DEC 2001 will feature Sharon Wells and Dr Jane Conoley as keynote speakers. Ms. Wells is the External Affairs Director for Verizon Communications. Dr. Conoley is the Dean of Education for Texas A&M University.

The conference will also feature panel discussions, technology demonstrations, workshops, and a session on best practices. Additional information about the conference and registration instructions can be found on line at the Distance Education web site: http://www.cdlr.tamu.edu.

Transportation Science Competition

The CPD is developing a transportation science competition and fair. The inaugural competition, open to junior high and high school students, will be a one day competition held, Friday, March 30, 2001. Invitations to compete have been mailed to 295 schools as well as the home school associations within 100 miles of the Texas A&M campus.

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Digital Video Workshop

Ivan Lorenz attended a digital video workshop in Austin October 17. The workshop was basically an overview of digital video hardware, software and differences from analog video. The most obvious difference between analog and digital video (DV) is that DV has 500 lines of resolution, twice that of analog. Another benefit of DV is its superior dynamic range. This will be particularly noticeable when recording high contrast situations i.e. nighttime with highly reflective surfaces. On the hardware side DV requires a IEEE1394 (Firewire) port and a fast dedicated hard drive to capture video to a computer for editing or to be output to a file that can be viewed on a computer monitor. DV capture files are very large, a ten minute file is over two gigabytes. As for software there are numerous products available to edit content, create special effects, add sound, and author to CD or DVD. Video CODECs are devices that compress video in various degrees into more manageable files. They can be hardware or software. Hardware CODECs are specific to the hardware on a given machine and software versions are specific to supporting players. Some of the common software CODECs are .avi, .mov and .mpeg. In addition to compression video that is used on a computer is commonly rendered to a lower resolution and/or at a lower frame rate to run within the available resources. DV is very demanding of resources but is quickly becoming usable on more mainstream computers. Although I am not expert, I will attempt to answer any questions.

Ivan Lorenz

Fundamental of Telecommunications Course

Srinivasa Sunkari recently attended a course in Fundamentals of Telecommunications conducted by Advanced Information Technologies in Austin. The course provided
insights into the history of telecommunication, various modes of telecommunication and their advantages and disadvantages, and provided some material and sources for definitions in the telecommunication industry

Srinivasa Sunkari

**DECEMBER MILESTONES**

- Dec 1, 1934: Stalin’s purges begin.
- Dec 1, 1955: Rosa Parks sits at the front of the bus.
- Dec 2, 1804: Napoleons becomes emperor of France.
- Dec 7, 1941: Japanese warplanes attack Pearl Harbor.
- Dec 10, 1898: Spanish-American War ends.
- Dec 15, 1791: The Bill of Rights is ratified.
- Dec 16, 1773: American colonists hold the Boston Tea Party.
- Dec 17, 1903: Wright brothers fly.
- Dec 20, 1620: Pilgrims arrive at Plymouth.
- Dec 24, 1814: Treaty of Ghent ends the War of 1812.
- Dec 25, 1776: Washington crosses the Delaware.
- Dec 27, 1831: Darwin sets out in the HMS Beagle.
- Dec 29, 1170: Thomas Becket is murdered.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- Dec 2: David Fenno
- Dec 3: Jeremy Johnson
- Dec 6: Steve Liu
- Dec 6: Kandis Salazar
- Dec 7: Debbie Jasek
- Dec 13: Brian Roberson
- Dec 14: David Rickerson
- Dec 16: Daniyar Satarov
- 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

**MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH**

Larry Rilett has just returned from the Pan American Transport conference ("Semena Panamericana de Transportes") which was held in Gramado, Brazil, from November 20 through November 24. Larry conducted a workshop on implementation issues related to the transportation planning simulation model TRANSIMS. He also visited University of Sao Paulo, Sao Carlos School of Engineering (Department of Transportation Engineering) and toured one of the Sao Paulo freeway ATMS centers. These centers are interesting in that the major freeways in Sao Paulo state (both limited access and 2-lane) have recently been privatized and the ATMS centers are all brand new and privately run.

Steve Venglar was in Tyler the 16th and 17th of this month to give the Tyler District some PASSER II and CORSIM training. Good fun was had by all.

This month marks Dan Walker’s 18th year at TTI. Now that’s staying power.

According to Big 12 Cities Tourism Guide, what two Big Twelve cities are furthest apart and what is the distance?