Upcoming Events

- ITE Annual Meeting, August 5-8, 2007; Pittsburg, PA
- 81st Annual Transportation Short Course, October 16, 17, 2007; College Station, TX
- TxDOT RMC Fall meetings, November 8-9, 2007; San Antonio, TX
- TOG Day, November 9, 2007; The Veranda, Bryan, TX

Welcome Sarah Young to our growing family here at TTI. Sarah will be an Assistant Research Specialist in the FSM Program under Paul Carlson. She comes to us from Houston, TX. She has a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Sam Houston State University and a Masters in Gerontology from Baylor University.

The Human Factors Group of the Center for Transportation Safety would like to welcome Dr. Greg Davis to TTI. Greg joins Sue Chrysler's group as an Assistant Research Scientist. He is a native of Fort Worth and attended TCU receiving a bachelor’s and PhD in experimental psychology. Greg will be working initially with several TOG researchers, including Melisa Finley and Rob Benz, on TxDOT projects. Greg's most recent post was with the FHWA Safety R&D Team at the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center in suburban Washington DC where he worked in the areas of human factors of ITS intersection safety, geometric design, and road safety audits. He's looking forward to working with TOG researchers in the areas of intelligent intersections and vehicle infrastructure integration projects. Greg's office is room 3067 Gilchrist and he can be reached at 979-862-3699 or g-davis@tamu.edu.

Jennifer Bordeaux is the newest member of the Teens in the Driver Seat team. She earned her degree from Texas A&M in Kinesiology, specializing in motor learning / motor behavior. She has worked in a variety of sales and customer service positions over the past few years, in addition to working as a licensed emergency medical technician. Jen will be assisting with our efforts to market TDS more strategically, as well as helping with direct program deployment. She is located in the Gilchrist Building.

Good - Bye

TOG bids a fond farewell to Karl Zimmerman as he departs for his new faculty position at Valparaiso University in Indiana. Kay Fitzpatrick writes, "Fortuitous planning allowed us to present to Karl several memorable items including a box of 3.5 inch floppy disks, samples of pavement markings, and an original TexITE briefcase (OK,
Travels with Bob

This is a true account of one researchers “simple” little trip to San Angelo, Texas, during the recent rainy months. (One couldn’t make up a story so strange!– as told by Bob Brydia)

Leaving Monday to go to San Angelo to teach my final course for TxDOT in my IPR. Rain delayed out of CS Airport— Get to DFW Airport late, but in plenty of time for connecting flight…3 gate changes later…Sitting there, a lady starts talking to me, I’m chatting back a little. She’s a native of Sana Angola and advises me to go see the sights! “Oh…what sights are those?” I ask...“The river” she says...“Ok…what else” says I? “That’ll cover it” says she...turns out person on the other side of the lady is also going to San Angelo to teach a risk management course to TxDOT. Wow…what a strange coincidence!!!

American Airlines announcement: flight cancelled…see desk for rebooking. A seething mass of (humanity?!) rushes the desk, as if first or second in line gets you extra brownie points! The standard of care is quickly established. -- No seats on later flights to San Angelo. No flights out to any other point (like returning to CS.) No flights out to anywhere. No rental cars available…they’ve been cancelling flights since 7AM and every place within 40 miles is wiped out of rental cars. I was like the 31st person in line. I make it to the desk. One of the clerks now decides to take a break, says “I haven’t eaten since 8am this morning” (meanwhile, there are still 20 people in line…)

So…the 30th person in line is the other instructor (going to TxDOT San Angelo)…she makes the decision to drive, since she lives locally. “Um…..want a passenger?” says I? “How do I know you’re not an ax murderer?” says she? “How do I know you’re not an ax murderer?” says I? Holds up purse….“I can’t fit an ax in here” says she.

(musing...yeah…but a Glock would fit nicely) thinks I, contemplating beamer! (The lady I hitched a ride with is a lawyer...apparently, a good female voice…our current hold time is forty…five…minutes – (45 minutes!!) at midnight? < sigh >)

Pass the time reading a Brad Thor book…1AM…AA: may I help you…explain situation, ask to rebook. AA: no problem sir…I can have you rebooked for…lets see….Friday afternoon. Laughing…“I’m sorry, I thought you said Friday”. AA: Yes sir, Friday afternoon. “But IT’S TUESDAY!” AA: I’m sorry sir, that’s the first available. “Fine…rent me a car, I’ll drive home.” AA: I’m sorry sir, this is weather related, we are not obligated to pay for weather issues. “So are you going to pay for my room while I sit and wait for 3 days for you to fly me out?” (Editor’s note: original text expressing situational frustration could not be printed due to this being a family oriented publication) AA: I’m sorry sir, this is weather related, we are not obligated to pay for weather issues. “Why are other airlines flying?” AA: I couldn’t answer that sir…can I do anything for you sir? “Yes…get me the number for Continental!”

Dialing…Continental: May I help you? Explain situation…Cont: ok…I can get you on a flight out at 6AM “Book it” Cont: but sir, I haven’t told you the price. “I don’t care…book it.” 1:30am…go to bed…3:00am….CRASH, BAM, BOOM….(Holy Mother of God, what was that?!) Bad thunderstorms…emphasis on BAD!…widespread power outages, Verizon wireless completely knocked off the air…time to get up anyhow….check out. (Ever have a taquito at Whataburger at 4AM?) Go to airport. Cont: Not sure if flying, go check everyone in and do security screening, etc….very small window to get off ground…all passengers be ready for expedient boarding…writing tickets manually…power and links to main systems off-line…Wait…Cont: We’re all ready! um…except the guy that drives the fuel truck overslept….we’re trying to get him here before the flight window expires….6:19 AM lift off….

The lovely hamlet of San Angelo disappears below.140 minutes later, after doing the aerial tour of North (yes, North) Texas to avert storms, we land at Houston, gate A2…get out, check…CS flight at gate A1! Wow….on time….10:10…take off…fly…land…no luggage! (pondering…just how in the heck do you lose luggage between Gate A2 and Gate A1 ?)...file baggage claim…go to work….

Signed: “a servant of the great state of Texas <Go>”

(Pondering….how in the blazes am I going to explain this one to the business office…?????)
Recent Travels

June 11-14th Melisa Finley, Marcus Brewer, Brooke Ullman, Nada Trout, Sandra Schoeneman, and Jason Richter traveled to Lubbock and Amarillo to collect work zone speed data. They traveled to work zones in Littlefield, Edmonson, and the middle of nowhere east of Amarillo. Besides a lot of truck traffic on I-40, they observed a snake and a coyote. Otherwise, they just saw cars and sometimes (OK a lot of the time) nothing but a road. At the end of the trip, they all attend the 2007 TexITE Summer Meeting in Amarillo on June 14-16. Marcus and Brooke made presentations in the session that Melisa moderated.

Kay Fitzpatrick spent 10 days in June with a bus load of Girls Scouts going from Texas to Washington, DC (national sing along) to Savannah, Georgia (birthplace of Girl Scouts) and several stops in between. Traveling in a large bus is an excellent way to catch up on reading and seeing pavement markings from a higher perspective.

Alex Borgan, Jeremy Johnson, and Jeff Miles will be traveling to collect speed and lateral position data for at least 5 weeks around the beautiful city of Nashville, Tennessee.

Bob De Roche, as chair of one of the working groups under Ed Seymour’s NTCIP Joint Committee, hosted the committee in the TTI Dallas Office in June. Bob has traveled to the Dallas Office several times this summer, assisting with the synchronization plans for moving the existing DalTrans Traffic Management Center to it’s new building and new location. The scheduled opening for this new facility is in November.

Marsha Anderson-Bomar (shown in the right side of the next to bottom photo) presented a Teens in the Driver Seat Program presentation at the Georgia ITE meeting and managed a display table for the Program.

Paul Carlson was in Beijing, China, in early July for the CIE Quadrennial Session.

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Recent Travels - continued

(Continued from page 3)

TTI was well represented at the TRB Third Urban Street Symposium held at the end of June, in Seattle, WA. Jim Bonneson, Marcus Brewer, Bill Eisele, Kay Fitzpatrick, Bill Frawley, Keith Knapp, and Christopher Poe were all present. Kay was a co-coordinator of the TRB-sponsored conference, also, made presentations on pedestrian crossings and school zones, Keith made a presentation on conversions from four lanes to three lanes, and Jim presented information on estimating traffic speed on urban streets. Marcus was a session moderator. Kay was recognized for her successful duties as co-chair of the symposium. Kudos, Kay!

While walking around downtown Seattle, Kay and Marcus were looking for examples of pedestrian accommodation in work zones; they found a block with a closed sidewalk that had a lot of pedestrian signing, but this might not have been the way the city expected peds to get around the closure (see photo).

Family News - continued

(Continued from page 1)

we were cleaning out some offices and found things that at least Karl would know what they were). We will miss him greatly and wish him well with his new job.”

KUDOS

To elaborate from last month’s newsletter; The Brazos Valley Section of ITE won the 2007 Section Activities Award for the Texas District of ITE (District 9). The award was announced at the TexITE Summer Meeting in Amarillo on June 15; Past President Marcus Brewer and Section Representative Srinivasa Sunkari accepted the award on behalf of the Section. This was a result of the activities and events documented in the Section’s 2006 Annual Report to the District submitted in January, which described presentations, awards, and other achievements accomplished by the membership, as well as all of the hard work by so many in hosting last year’s TexITE Summer Meeting in College Station. Because such a large number of BVITE members are TTI employees, and specifically TOG staff, all of TOG can be proud of this award. Winning the TexITE award made BVITE a finalist for the International Section Activity Award Competition with representatives from the other nine ITE Districts. Unfortunately, BVITE did not win that award, which went to the Colorado-Wyoming Section of the Western District (District 6). However, we can take pride in knowing that it took two states worth of people to beat the folks from the Brazos Valley. The award consisted of a nice certificate and a $200 check for the Section treasury. Congratulations and thanks to all the TOG staff and other Section members who contributed to making this award possible.
Birthdays
Jul 02 Nathan Fluker
Jul 14 Kevin Lipnicky
Jul 15 Maria Ramos
Jul 16 Wendy Ealding
Jul 16 Byung Jung Park
Jul 16 Ridwan Quaium
Jul 17 Marsha Bomar
Jul 24 Kathy Montemayor
Jul 25 Krizia Martinez
Jul 26 Alexander Borgan
Jul 28 Lisa Palmer
Jul 29 Jim Bonneson
Jul 29 Mark Moriarty
Aug 03 Yunlong Zhang
Aug 11 Bernie Fette
Aug 14 Paul Wernli, Jr.
Aug 24 Dan Middleton
Aug 25 John Freeman
Aug 25 Maria Medrano
Aug 26 Cesar Quiroga
Aug 28 Sarah Young
Aug 30 Jose Velarde

TOG Is Hiring

New positions within TOG 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.

New Positions

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
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<th>NOV</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>College Station - FWZ</td>
<td>Jerry Ullman</td>
<td>070955</td>
<td>Asst. Transp. Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston - JHO</td>
<td>Tony Voigt</td>
<td>071073</td>
<td>Asst. Transp. Researcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Paso - GEP</td>
<td>Rafael Aldrete</td>
<td>071374</td>
<td>Traffic Surveyor</td>
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<td>San Antonio - GSA</td>
<td>Steven Venglar</td>
<td>071487</td>
<td>Lead Office Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas - JDO</td>
<td>Christopher Poe</td>
<td>071094</td>
<td>Asso. Res. Engineer</td>
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TOG Mission Statement

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