Mark your calendar

- ADTSEA Conference in St. Louis, MO July 24-29
- Research Champion Award Nominations Due, Aug. 6
- ITE Annual Meeting in Canada, Aug. 8-11
- 2010 Texas Ports & Waterways Conference in South Padre, TX Sept. 15-17
- 2010 Transportation Short Course, Oct. 12-13
- 2010 Border to Border Transportation Conference in El Paso, TX, Nov. 16-18

**Something to Celebrate**

“**It’s been such a long and tedious process,**” Aldrete says about the citizenship process. “**You must really want it to go through it. But, I feel like I’ve really accomplished something.**”

On June 28, Research Engineer **Rafael Aldrete** held up his right hand and proudly became a United States citizen.

Aldrete is the manager of the Texas Transportation Insitute’s (TTI) office in El Paso and director of its Center for International Intelligent Transportation Research (CIITR).

Aldrete first came to the U.S. to attend graduate school at the University of Texas on a student visa. That’s where he received master’s and doctoral degrees in civil engineering. After graduation and while working in the Washington, D.C., area, he considered becoming a U.S. citizen.

As for Aldrete, he will be away from home working on a research project in Brazil during his first 4th of July as an American.

“**During the last five years, I have traveled all over the world on work-related assignments,**” Aldrete says. “**The United States is the only place I’ve been where all different cultures successfully co-exist and the government is tolerant of such a diverse citizenship. I am very proud to call the United States home.**”

**Here to Stay**

**Kwaku Obeng-Boampong**, Assistant Research Engineer in the TTI San Antonio office applied for permanent residency in the United States.

Recently, Obeng-Boampong heard back from United States Citizenship and Information Services, “**residency approved.**”

His residency will allow him to continue his work on RMC projects 6267 (Benefits/Cost Analyses for Safety Rest Areas), RMC 6120 (Evaluation of Frequently Hit Signs) and work on interagency contract projects for the San Antonio and Austin districts.

“**The most important thing is I can be with my family now as my wife was in another state due to her H1B visa status**” says Obeng-Boampong.
Second Annual Day at the Capitol
Huge Success

Bernie Fette and Russell Henk meet with Secretary of State Hope Andrade in Austin to honor teens and their teachers for outstanding work in the Teens in the Driver Seat program.

Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) students and teacher/sponsors gathered on Thursday, May 6, for the second annual TDS Day at the Capitol.

The group gathered to honor outstanding TDS teams and exceptional teacher/sponsors who won SponStar awards, to award the first TDS Leadership Award, and to recognize three outstanding State Farm Representatives. Honorees received the VIP treatment from Secretary of State Hope Andrade, her staff and TDS staff.

The first ever TDS Leadership Award was given to Mayor John Cook of El Paso. Mayor Cook is a distinguished leader in the TDS program. His efforts with the Mayor’s 100 Teens instill a citywide example for other communities to replicate.

The three State Farm Representatives who were honored at the event were Dee Dee Bates (Garland, TX), John Bower (Carrollton, TX), and Russell Wiggs (El Paso, TX).

The 2009-2010 TDS Teen Advisory Board held their final meeting, while the 2010-2011 Teen Advisory Board had their first meeting and began their term at the Day at the Capitol.

Read more about the TDS program at www.t-driver.com.
TTI signs pact with Qatar Ministry of Interior

The Ministry of Interior, Texas A&M Qatar officials and members of the Texas Transportation Institute at a pact signing event in Doha.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI), Texas A&M Qatar (TAMUQ) officials and the Texas Transportation Institute signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to develop new traffic solutions in Qatar.

Associate Agency Director Ed Seymour attended on behalf of TTI to sign the MoU. The MoU signed between the MoI and TTI is aimed at developing a sustainable, safe and efficient transportation system in Qatar.

2009 Instructor of Excellence

Gary Thomas, Director of the Center for Professional Development at TTI, was recently awarded a 2009 Instructor of the Excellence Award by the National Highway Institute (NHI).

Thomas met the following criteria for receiving the award:

- Achieved, consistently, an instructor satisfaction rating of 4.5 average or above;
- Nominated by Program Training Manager and Instructor Advisory Committee;
- Achieved or in process of achieving NHI Certification; and,
- Attended, and passed the NHI Instructor Development Course (IDC).

“Gary’s consistent excellence in training administration and instructor competence merits the NHI’s recognition for his exemplary service” said Richard Barnaby, the NHI’s Director of Training Programs.

“It was an honor and a surprise to be recognized as one of the National Highway Institute’s Instructors of Excellence.” said Gary Thomas. “To be honest, I really think of myself as more of a facilitator than an instructor. I learn just as much from the class participants as I hope they do from me.”

Congratulations Gary Thomas, for the difference you are making in the transportation community.
In September 2008, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded the Kosovo Private Enterprise Program (KPEP) to Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH), an international strategic management and technology consulting firm headquartered in McLean, Virginia. The purpose of KPEP is to improve the competitiveness of the private sector, including the construction sector with an emphasis on road constructions. The program manages a Strategic Activities Fund (SAF) valued at $3,760,000.

KPEP’s objective for the road construction sub-sector is to improve road design, procurement processes, and building the capacity of construction contractors and the construction workforce that will result in higher quality roads and more efficient use of public investments for Kosovo.

The first goal is to improve local road design capability. Activities under this objective are designed to support and train local engineers and government officials on developing a proper technical package for a road feasibility study and tendering of road design. As part of this effort, TTI was subcontracted by BAH and USAID to train at least 50 road design professionals and implement a train-the-trainers program to provide sustainability.

In May, Dr. Geza Pesti traveled to Kosovo to give a two-week road infrastructure lecture series at the University of Prishtina. Over 50 course participants, from different age groups and with fairly different backgrounds, were identified by the Road Construction Association of Kosovo. The group consisted of people from the Kosovo Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication (MTT), the private sector (engineering and architectural service companies), and recently graduated engineers. The lecture series was well-attended, and the feedback provided by course participants as well as BAH/USAID officials was very positive.

TTI will continue to work in the USAID-Kosovo Private Enterprise Program over the next 12 months. Dr. Rafael Aldrete-Sanchez is leading the TTI team commissioned by BAH to advise and assist the Kosovo Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication in the implementation of a 12-km pilot road project.
Gene Hawkins was the recipient of a prestigious award during the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Texas District Summer Meeting in Sugar Land, on June 18.

For Hawkins — Department of Civil Engineering associate professor and TTI research engineer — it was the highest individual award within TexITE: The 2010 Transportation Engineer of the Year.

“This honor was a complete surprise,” Hawkins said. “When you look at the list of people who have been given this award, it’s a who’s who in transportation engineering, and I’m very honored to be included in that company.”

The TexITE Transportation Engineer of the Year has been awarded since 1974. Prior winners include Robert Wunderlich, James Carvell, Brian Bochner, Ed Seymour, Dennis Christiansen and Charles Keese. The award recognizes outstanding practice, teaching or research of the science and art of transportation engineering in the State of Texas.

Summer Blood Drive a Success

On June 22, 39 people participated in the summer blood drive. A total of 42 blood products were donated, due to several double red cell donors. Each donation can save as many as three lives, meaning TTI donors will save 126 people.

Nancy Stratta, the event’s organizer, said “This was an excellent turnout especially for a summer drive when there are many people on vacation.”

Special thanks to all of the blood donors at TTI.
New Home, New Experience

Nadeem Chaudhary is TTI’s first employee to move to Doha, Qatar. The objective of his move is to start a TTI office in Doha to pursue locally-funded transportation projects (TTI’s core business) in the Gulf countries.

“Doha was a logical place for a new operation because TAMU has a campus (TAMUQ) here and we have their support” says Chaudhary.

So far, TAMUQ has granted Chaudhary an Adjunct Associate Professor position, provided an office, arranged for housing and transportation, and are assisting with paperwork to obtain residency, which is needed to work in Qatar. His initial stay will be about 18 months with an objective to secure sufficient local funds to have a meaningful presence there. If successful, TTI is expected to have 10 employees in Doha with leased office space.

Under the new, MoU with the Ministry of Interior (MoI), TTI employees Paul Carlson, Nadeem Chaudhary, and Ed Seymour met with MoI representatives to identify the first research project under the MoU. The starting project will be in the area of Roadway Safety, and is expected to start in early Fall 2010.

“On a professional level, I have noticed that there are many areas of transportation, with both safety and efficiency implications that need improvements” said Chaudhary.

Some of the improvements Chaudhary is referring to are street signing and advance information, locations and frequency of speed limit signs, improvements on night time conditions with retroreflective materials, better planning and design of parking lots, improvement on work zones and general operation of signalized intersections and roundabouts.

On a personal level, Chaudhary has encountered a few challenges. “It is hot and humid here, around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. After mid morning, you can’t bathe with cold water because the water tanks sit above ground.” In addition, all power outlets have switches, each room has its own AC switch which can make regulating a challenge, and internet speed is significantly slower. However, on a positive note, “the locals are friendly.”

Chaudhary is accompanied by his wife and youngest son. He looks forward to the work in Doha and making a difference in transportation for the region.
Marcus Brewer, Kay Fitzpatrick, Gene Hawkins, and Chris Poe attended Transportation Research Board’s 4th International Symposium on Highway Geometric Design in Valencia, Spain, taking place June 2-5. The morning of June 2 included three workshops, on Road Safety Modeling, Visualization, and Managed Motorways; Marcus was a presenter in the latter. June 3 and 4 contained more technical sessions (Chris moderated a podium session and Marcus and Gene made presentations) and the mid-year joint meeting of the TRB Committees on Geometric Design and Operational Effects of Geometric Design. June 5 was filled with Technical Tours, one of which visited Valencia’s Formula 1 race course and the under-construction CV-13 highway north of Valencia near Castellon.

The opening session was held at the Science Museum in Valencia, Spain. Photo taken by Chris Poe.
In March, Jerry and Brooke Ullman traveled to Doha, Qatar to present two, 2-day training workshops on work zone traffic control and safety concepts to members of Ashghel (Public Works Authority). Roadway construction and reconstruction is occurring at an extremely fast pace, and Ashghel face a number of challenges in trying to ensure a safe driving environment through these work zones. The workshops were held at facilities on the Texas A&M University-Qatar campus. Approximately 25 employees received the training over the four-day period.

Brooke teaches workshop participants about the necessary qualifications of flaggers.

The need to sign in dual languages makes work zone traffic control in Qatar even more challenging.

Jerry, Brooke, Lina Masad, and Eyad Masad enjoy a nice dinner (and a little Shisha) on the Doha waterfront.

Minh Le, Roberto Macias, Chris Poe and Ed Seymour attended the Intelligent Transportation System of America conference May 3-5 in Houston, Texas.
Also in March, Jerry Ullman, Brooke Ullman, and Melisa Finley participated in the TTI Safety Conference in Dallas, Texas. They organized and presented at a session outlining new guidance being developed for the FHWA work zone safety grant program, and helped staff an exhibit booth about guidance products that have been developed for the program by the Laborer’s Health and Safety Fund of North America (LHSFNA) consortium of which TTI is a subcontractor.

In April, Jerry Ullman traveled to Austin to discuss improved work zone lane closure delay and queue analysis at the TxDOT District Engineers/Regional Directors/Division Directors/Office Directors (DE/RD/DD/OD) meeting. He also traveled to the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) offices in Washington, DC to participate in an NCHRP panel workshop discussing research needs for roadside worker and vehicle visibility.

In May, Brooke Ullman traveled to Seattle, WA to perform two brief training workshops on dynamic message sign messages on urban arterials for the city of Seattle transportation staff.

In June, Brooke Ullman traveled to Jackson, MS to co-teach the NHI course on Advanced Work Zone Management and Design. Her trip was more exciting than anticipated due to a major warehouse fire caused by lightning strikes a few blocks from her hotel (see photo).
**Melissa Finley** traveled to Denver, Colorado in March to teach the National Highway Institute Advanced Work Zone Management and Design Course.

*Melissa Finley submitted this photo from the mountains, after class.*

**Gary Thomas** traveled to Savannah, Georgia in March to attend the Institute of Transportation Engineers board meeting and the Spring Technical Conference. Then on March 29-April 1, he was in Jefferson City, Missouri to teach the National Highway Institute class, Traffic Signal Design and Operation. The following week, he and his son, Cameron, headed up to Detroit, Michigan to attend the National Collegiate Athletic Association Frozen Four hockey tournament.

**Jeff Miles** and **Scott Cooner** traveled to Dallas for the Traffic Safety Conference to discuss two studies that dealt with evaluating countermeasures for wrong way driving.

**Kay Fitzpatrick, Sue Chrysler** and **Eun Sug Park** went to the Federal Highway Administration in McLean, Virginia to present a briefing on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Treatment Evaluation study from April 5 to 7.

**Melissa Finley** traveled to Denver, Colorado in March to teach the National Highway Institute Advanced Work Zone Management and Design Course.

**On June 20 and 21, Ed Seymour** and **Paul Carlson** met with the Abu Dhabi DOT to continue discussions regarding the establishment of a DOT research program. The concept of a research program is one of several ongoing efforts that have been initiated as a result of signing an MoU with the Abu Dhabi DOT during the 2010 TRB meeting. In Abu Dhabi, they discussed potential research projects and contracting issues. They learned that the Abu Dhabi plans to fund one research topic this year and will investigate having their contractors fund up to two additional research topics. They have been asked to develop three proposals and will present those in another meeting in September. The topics are management of wind blown sand, recycled pavement materials, and guidelines for nighttime visibility. The DOT is interested in TTI training and developing an on-call contract with TTI for quick response items and technical questions.
Travel

Ed Seymour, Shawn Turner and Teresa Qu traveled to China in June to give lectures at the Tongji University of China.

Shawn Turner points to a picture of himself and his lecture on slow transportation (i.e., walking and bicycling).

Marsha Bomar and Sam Holland attended the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) Summer Conference and Expo on July 11-14. They spoke to teachers and educators about the Teens in the Driver Seat program.

Transfer

Sarah Young moved from the Transportation Operations Group to the Center for Transportation Safety. Sarah is now working under Melissa Walden in Planning and Evaluation. She will still assist on some work for Paul Carlson.
Cesar Quiroga traveled around the world as part of the international scan on outdoor advertising control practices, sponsored by American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Federal Highway Administration, and National Cooperative Highway Research Program. His 17-day trek included three locations in Australia (New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria), Sweden, The Netherlands, and two locations in the United Kingdom (England and Scotland). This trip was his second international scan trip (the first one was in 2008, which focused on right-of-way and utilities). Now Cesar is busy writing the scan report. He had to pack for all seasons: Warm to hot in Australia, snowy cold in Sweden, cloudy but dry in The Netherlands, and cold and rainy in the U.K.

Below are three pictures from Cesar’s trip. Can you guess the location? (results are shown on the last page of this issue).

**Picture A, clue:**
This is the largest and most populous city for the country, and the state capitol of New South Wales. It was established in 1788 by Arthur Phillip.

**Picture B, clue:**
The town dates back to the 13th century, and consists of medieval alleyways, cobbled streets, and archaic architecture. North German architecture has had a strong influence in this town’s construction.

**Picture C, clue:**
At its centre is Nelson’s Column, which is guarded by four lion statues at its base. Statues and sculptures are on display in the square, including a fourth plinth displaying changing pieces of contemporary art.
Baby News

Christie Madsen Bellamy gave birth to a healthy baby boy on June 4 at 12:07 a.m. Jason Bellamy, Jr. weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 21.4 inches at the time of his birth.

Welcome

Marion McElvogue joined the Infrastructure Management Program in San Antonio as a Software Applications Developer IV. Before joining TTI, he was a Senior Consultant at Silver Bullet Software Solutions. In that capacity, he led the development of applications that pertain to manufacturing, distribution, inventory, shipping, invoicing, payables, receivables, and other enterprise accounting systems. He was also responsible for the web presences of eleven organizations, including website promotion, advertising, and business communications. Welcome Marion.

Just Married

On December 24th, 2009, Sandra Schoeneman and Tom Stone were married in a small ceremony at the Lyons United Church of Christ in Lyons. They then celebrated with a wedding reception with friends and family on March 27th, 2010.
Happy Birthday to...

July
1– Samantha Holland
6– Jarrod Burnap
7– Fan Ye
10– Laura Naquin
13– Raj Ghaman
14– Paden Portillo
15– Maria (Lupe) Ramos
16– Wendy Ealding
17– Marsha Bomar
23– Curtis Beaty
23– YingFeng (Eric) Li
24– Kathy Montemayor
26– Roma Stevens
29– Jim Bonneson
30– Amanda Pina

August
3– Yunlong Zhang
5– Arturo Bujanda
11– Bernie Fette
16– Herlinda Castillo
17– Prem Devarasetty
19– Luis Galicia
22– Jamil Jacaman
24– Dan Middleton
26– Cesar Quiroga
29– Feng Wan

September
1– Brandon Beville
4– Chris Poe
8– Nancy Stratta
10– Sandra Stone
14– Rafael Aldrete
19– Robert Benz
20– Stacey Alejandro
21– Sonia Chapa
24– Carlos Duran
24– Swampnil Samant
26– Krizia Martinez
30– Chi-Leung Chu
30– Leonard Ruback

Happy Belated Birthday to...

April
3– John Moore
7– Colleen Dau
8– Beverly Kuhn
10– Hassan Charara
12– Albertico Montes
15– Yanru Zhang
16– Praprut Songchitruksa
25– Darrell Borchardt
26– Kevin Balke
30– Yao Xing

May
2– Mark Burris
6– Kristi Miller
7– Vichika Iragavarapu
8– Siddharth Somayajula
10– Bob Byrdia
11– Jeffrey Shelton
16– Steve Venglar
18– Brooke Ullman
19– Jerry Le
21– Rahul Putha
26– Jeffrey Miles
28– Jonathan Tydlacka

June
10– Gary Barricklow
10– Chung-Wei Shen
16– Darryl Puckett
24– Shamanth Kuchangi
25– Christina Bellamy
27– Gary Thomas
28– Liang Ding
28– Derek Ladd
29– Edgar Kraus
29– Kwaku Obeng-Boampong
30– Ganesh Karkee

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