The 2007 TTI Day Wednesday, May 2nd at the Brazos Center was a great success! Sue Chrysler and the TTI Day Committee did a fantastic job planning a fun and informative day.

The day provided a great mix of presentations, recognition of TTI staff award winners, and time to talk with others. One of the benefits of TTI Day is the opportunity to interact with staff that you may not see on a regular basis. It is also impressive to have such an outstanding group of professionals in the same place at the same time!

Special thanks go to SPP&Eers Tina Collier, Bonnie Duke, Pam Rowe, Suzie Edrington, and Toni Carelock who served on the Decorations Committee.

Congratulations to SPP&Eers Jim Benson, Tim Lomax, Shawn Turner, and Cynthia Lowery who received TTI staff awards, and to Tina Collier, a member of the Teens in the Driver Seat Team. Recognizing the contributions of these individuals to TTI and to the transportation profession is much deserved.

Thanks also go to those of you who took time to nominate co-workers, provide letters of support, and coordinate letters from sponsors and other individuals. Your efforts are greatly appreciated as numerous individuals within the SPP&E and TTI are deserving of awards. Even if a staff member is not selected in any given year, the fact that you nominated them is important.

Having nominated individuals over the years, including those who have been selected and those who have not, I continue to be amazed at the support letters provided by other staff, sponsors, and other transportation professionals. Award winners or not — TTI researchers and staff are highly regarded by peers, sponsors, and others in the profession!

The 2008 TTI Day is tentatively scheduled for May 28th. Please consider volunteering with planning next year’s event and please continue to nominate deserving co-workers for the various awards.

Thanks!

Katie
Congratulations to the following TTI employees, especially SPP&Eer’s, on receiving awards at All TTI Day!

Administrative Professional Staff Award — Karen Smith
Administrative Support Staff Award — Tanya Swisher
Administrative Technical Support Award — Clyde Hance
Division Technical Support Award — Gerry Harrison
Division Administrative Support Award — Cynthia Lowery

TTI/Trinity New Researcher Award — Kwaku Obeng-Boampong
TTI/Trinity Researcher Award — Shawn Turner
TTI/Trinity Senior Researcher Award — Jim Benson
Charles J. “Jack” Keese Career Achievement for Agency Support Award — Greg Richmond
TTI/Trinity Charley V. Wootan Career Achievement for Research Award — Tim Lomax
TTI Team Award — Teens in the Drivers Seat (Tina Collier among team members)

Keese-Wootan Transportation Fellowships — Cameron Williams, Ben Sperry, and Rachael Stenstrud

Photos by Jim Lyle
Welcome

Andy Mullins has joined the Travel Forecasting Program as a Research Scientist. Andy, who is a boomerang employee, is located in the Houston TTI Office. He worked for TTI in the early 1990’s before venturing off to the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and Parsons Brinckerhoff. Andy has a Masters of Urban Planning and a Bachelor of Science in Geology, both from Texas A&M University. Andy’s expertise in travel demand forecasting is well known, and it is great to have him back at TTI.

Welcome back, Andy!

Promotions

Congratulations to the following SPP&Eer’s who were promoted May 1st.

Shawn Turner — Research Engineer
Juan Villa — Research Scientist
Cynthia Lowery — Business Coordinator I
Phillip Reeder — Research Scientist
Patti Ellis — Research Scientist

Congratulations Shawn, Juan, Cynthia, Phillip, and Patti!

Research Development Seminars

The first Research Development Seminars kicked-off in May. Two sessions of the TxDOT Research Management Committee (RMC) Program seminar were held and one session on the National Cooperative Research Programs (NCRP) seminar was conducted. The seminars are being offered to support TTI research diversification efforts, to enhance staff development, and to foster information sharing and collaboration.

Special thanks to Susan Adams, Rhonda Brinkmann, Janice Konecny, and Randall Taylor for their assistance with the RMC Seminar. Also, thanks to Chris Pourteau for setting up the Research Development Seminar Web page on the TTINet (http://ttinet.tamu.edu/proposals/seminars/).

Dates for future seminars are:

NCRP — Tuesday, June 12, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Federal IDIQs — Tuesday, June 19, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. and Thursday, June 21, Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Staff Activities

Ed Hard, David Pearson, Kevin Hall, and Jim Benson presented papers at the TRB 11th National Transportation Planning Applications Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida May 6-10.


David Pearson — Weighted Household Surveys.

Kevin Hall — Identifying the Long-Range Transportation Improvement and Funding Needs of Urban Areas in Texas (Tim Lomax and Greg Lancaster, TxDOT— co-authors).

Jim Benson — Development of Hurricane Rita Evacuation Trip Tables for the Houston-Galveston Region (Chris Van Slyke and Alan Clark, H-GAC, co-authors).

Montie Wade moderated a session on Statewide Models: When Modeling a City Isn’t Enough. Montie also served on the Conference Planning Committee and participated in the Peer Review held after the conference.

Juan Villa and Manuel Solari attended the North American Freight Transportation Data Workshop in Washington, D.C. on May 15. Juan presented a paper, Use of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics US/Mexico Dataset and Other Mexican Sources to Analyze International Trade Corridors and Potential Mode Diversion and presented a poster, Methodology to Identify Mexico-US Trade Flows. Manuel presented a poster, Complementing Freight Analysis Framework 1 and Freight Analysis Framework 2. Juan served on the Workshop Planning Committee and was instrumental in coordinating the program. Juan’s participation received kudos from TRB staff.


Carol Walters taught a workshop on Freeway Bottlenecks for staff from the Dallas and Fort Worth TxDOT Districts on May 16. Scott Cooner and Yatin Rathod assisted with teaching. Poonam Wiles also participated in the workshop, including taking photographs.

Linda Cherrington gave a presentation and participated in a panel discussion on the Capital Area Rural Transit System (CARTS) FTA-sponsored advanced technology demonstration project at the Community Transportation Association Expo in Reno, Nevada on May 23.
Trey Baker, Austin Agency Liaison Office, and Holly Bryan were married in Austin on May 5th.

Congratulations Trey and Holly!

Stephen Farnsworth, Transportation Planning Program, and Charity Dorman exchanged wedding vows on May 26th in College Station.

Congratulations Stephen and Charity!

Chris Rothe, Economics and Policy Program, and his wife Jamie, TTI Events Management and Planning, welcomed their second child on May 22nd. Anna weighed 8 lbs, 6 ozs and was 19 ¼ inches long.

Congratulations Chris and Jamie!

TRB Paper Submissions

TRB has changed the deadline for the submission of papers for the 2008 TRB Annual Meeting to avoid the computer grid-lock experienced last year. Papers in non-PDF format must be submitted before midnight, July 27, 2007. Papers in PDF format must be submitted before midnight, August 1, 2007. Submit your paper early and avoid the rush! Please visit the TRB Website for more information on the paper submission process.

Calendar of Events

**June 4-7** — TxDOT RMC spring Meetings, San Antonio

**June 14-16** — TexITE Summer Meeting, Amarillo

**July 4** — Independence Day, TAMUS Holiday

**October 16-17** — Transportation Short course, Reed Arena, College Station

**October 17-20** — Texas APA Conference, Addison

**November 5-8** — TxDOT RMC Fall Meetings, San Antonio

BIRTHDAYS

**June**
- Beverly Storey  6/5
- Derrold Foster  6/7
- Darryl Puckett  6/16
- Mark Ojah  6/20
- Manuel Solari  6/27
- Larry White  6/30

**July**
- Shawn Turner  7/15
- Cynthia Lowery  7/20
- Casey Toycen  7/22
- Tim Lomax  7/25
- Gary Lobau  7/26
- Lisa Nimocks  7/27
- Teresa Qu  7/30