The 81st Transportation Short Course, held on the TAMU Campus on October 16-17, was a record-setting event. With 2,799 people registered, this year’s Short Course topped previous attendance levels.

With new TTI and TxDOT leadership and a new venue for the opening session, the 2007 Short Course provided a number of firsts. Reed Arena was a great location for the opening session.

As always, the TxDOT slide show provided an excellent kick-off to the Short Course. Dennis Christiansen presided over the opening session for the first time as TTI Director. In addition to comments from the Transportation Commissioners, the session also featured Amado Saenz’s first remarks as the new TxDOT Executive Director. The Extra Mile Awards provided an emotional conclusion to the opening session.

The breakout sessions on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning included interesting presentations on a variety of topics. The combination of record attendance and the unavailability of Rudder Auditorium and Theatre, resulted in standing-room-only sessions.

The success of the Short Course is the result of hard work on the part of numerous TTI and TxDOT staff. Mary Cearly and her staff did an excellent job organizing all aspects of the Short Course. The opening session is coordinated with TxDOT Administrative personnel. The sessions on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning are organized by TxDOT and TTI staff. Each session has a TxDOT chair, a TTI co-chair, and a committee. Starting in the spring, each group reviews the suggestions received from TxDOT and TTI staff and identifies possible topics and speakers. Preliminary programs are developed. After review by TxDOT, the sessions are finalized and speakers invited.

Serving as a session co-chair is a lot of fun. It is a great opportunity to work with TxDOT staff and to make contacts with transportation professionals throughout the state.

I hope you attended the Short Course this year. The speakers in the sessions I attended were all excellent. The Short Course also provided a great networking opportunity.

All-in-all, the 81st Short Course was a great success. Now on to the 82nd.

Thanks!

Katie
Staff Activities

SPP&Eer’s assisted with many elements of the Transportation Short Course held in College Station, October 16-17. Scott Cooner gave a presentation on In-Service Evaluation of Cable Median Barrier Performance at one of the sessions. Jeff Borowiec moderated part of the Multimodal Session. Ginger Goodin, Bill Stockton, Montie Wade, John Overman, Brian Bochner, and Katie Turnbull served as session co-chairs. John and Brian also moderated part of their sessions. Bonnie Duke, Pam Rowe, and Toni Carelock helped with registration. Pam, Toni, Mary Levien, David Pearson, and Katie Turnbull also helped with the golf tournament on Sunday.

Doh-Won Lee gave a presentation on In-Cab Quality of a Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicle as a Result of Exhaust and APU Emissions at the Semtech User’s Network (SUM) User Conference held October 22-23 in Novi, Michigan.

Dennis Perkinson and Ming-Han Li participated in the TAMU College of Architecture Research on the Built Environment and Virtual Environments Global Symposium on October 29. Dennis gave a presentation on Linked Speed Profile Comparison for Various Ozone Exceedance Episodes Using TranStar Data. Ming-Han’s presentation was on Revisiting Highway Pollutant Build-Up and Removal Process.

Juan Villa gave a presentation on Transport Infrastructure Plans for Mexico at the Canadian Transport Research Forum in Ottawa, Canada on October 26.

Toni Carelock, Pam Rowe, Cynthia Lowery, Heather Ford, Lisa Nimocks, Jennifer Barry, and Bonnie Duke attended the 17th Annual Texas A&M University Association of Professional Support Staff (TAPSS) Development Conference held in College Station October 9. The keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Johnson, an award winning author, industrial psychologist, university professor and former rodeo cowboy. Dr. Johnson shared his views on empowerment. The lunch speaker was Jeannie McGuire, who started Project Unity, a local nonprofit organization, in 1993 that helps underserved families in the Bryan/College Station area obtain assistance from numerous agencies. The closing speaker was Shari Peace, an international speaker and author who specializes in assisting individuals in supercharging their work performance and achieving personal happiness. The conference also included morning and afternoon breakout sessions and vendor exhibits.
Bob Reilly
Research Champion Award
and
Special Research Development Seminar

Bob Reilly was presented with the 2007 TTI/Trinity Research Champion Award at a luncheon in the Board of Regents Dining Room on October 3. Bob served on the staff of the TRB Cooperative Research Program for 35 years, including 22 as director.

As part of his visit to TTI, Bob was the featured speaker in a special Research Development Seminar. Bob provided an overview of the Cooperative Research Program and tips for writing successful proposals.

Katie Turnbull, Bob Reilly, and Dennis Christiansen

Calendar of Events

**November**
- 5-8 — TxDOT RMC Fall Meetings, San Antonio
- 7 — TTI Support Staff Retreat, College Station, TX
- 22-23 — Thanksgiving Holiday
- 24 — January 1, 2008, Winter Holiday
- 13-17, 2008 — TRB Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 21, 2008 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**December**
- 5
- 23 — January 1, 2008, Winter Holiday
- 13-17, 2008 — TRB Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 21, 2008 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Birthdays

**November**
- Rachael Stensrud 11/2
- Eun Sug Park 11/7
- John Lowery 11/7
- Dennis Perkinson 11/13
- Bill Stockton 11/21
- Jennifer Barry 11/22

**December**
- Jason Crawford 12/5
- Erlinda Snodgrass 12/5
- Joan Hudson 12/9
- Poonam Wiles 12/17
- John Overman 12/23
- Kimberley Phillips 12/30
- Heather Ford 12/30
- Juan Carlos Villa 12/30