The 82nd Annual Transportation Short Course, held on the TAMU Campus on October 14-16, was a great success. As always, the Short Course provided an excellent mix of speakers and numerous opportunities to interact with TxDOT staff and other transportation officials.

The opening session returned to Rudder Auditorium after a one-year move to Reed Arena due to renovation efforts in the Rudder Complex. The TxDOT slide show provided a great kick-off to the Short Course. Focusing on TxDOT’s efforts preparing for and responding to Hurricane Ike, this year’s slide show was both timely and moving.

The opening session included comments from Dennis Christiansen, Amadeo Saenz, and members of the Transportation Commission. The TxDOT awards and the Extra Mile Awards recognized the contributions of TxDOT personnel and other individuals.

The breakout sessions on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning included interesting presentations on a wide range of topics. The speakers in the sessions I attended all did an excellent job.

A special thanks goes to everyone who helped make the 2008 Short Course a success. SPP&Eer’s serving as session co-chairs, speaking and moderating sessions, and helping with registration are noted on page two of this newsletter.

In addition, SPP&Eer’s helping with the Sunday Short Course Golf Tournament included Mary Levien, Mark Ojah, and David Pearson. Even Pam Rowe came out of retirement to help. It was another beautiful day for the golf tournament and everyone seemed to have a great time.

The extra efforts of these individuals are both recognized and appreciated. Organizing, moderating, and speaking at Short Course sessions takes extra time from everyone’s business schedules. Coming out on a Sunday to help with the golf tournament is always going beyond the call of duty.

A special thanks also goes to all the SPP&Eer’s who assisted with the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC). Thanks especially to Bonnie Duke, who served as the SPP&E liaison, and to everyone who contributed items to the bake sale and silent auction, bought bake sale goodies and bid on auction items, and made a financial contribution to the SECC.

Thanks!

Katie
A number of SPP&Eer’s assisted with the 82nd Annual Transportation Short Course, October 14-15 in College Station. Jeff Arndt gave a presentation on Troubleshooting Your Transit System. Jeff Borowiec moderated the second half of the Multimodal session. Joe Zietsman moderated the second half of the Planning session. John Overman moderated the Environmental and Right-of-Way session. Ginger Goodin, Montie Wade, John Overman, Joe Zietsman, and Katie Turnbull served as Session Co-Chairs. Bonnie Duke and Michelle Young assisted with on-site registration.

Dennis Perkinson participated in the College of Architecture Research Symposium on October 27. Dennis gave a presentation on Texas On-Road Mobile Source Emissions Trends 1990-2040.

Jeff Arndt spoke at the TRB 18th National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation in Omaha on October 21. Jeff’s presentation, Bridging the Gaps, examined approaches for serving areas missed by urban and rural operators.

From Left: Teresa Qu, Jianpin Sun, and Shawn Turner

Jianpin Sun from the Beijing Transportation Research Center (BTRC) is spending three months at TTI as a visiting scholar. Jianping has been working with Shawn Turner, Teresa Qu, and other researchers in the Mobility Analysis Program. Her visit to TTI represents part of the ongoing partnership between BTRC and TTI.

Kudos!

David Fulton, Director of TxDOT’s Aviation Division complimented Jeff Borowiec and Chris Sasser on their work on Wingtips. David noted in an e-mail to Jeff and Chris, “I totally agree with Karon Wiedemann’s comments that Wingtips has reached a new level in quality since you guys took over the responsibility for this newsletter. I feel that it is now an outstanding publication and the best state aviation newsletter in the nation. Thanks again, for the excellent job you are doing.”

Montie Wade passed the NHI Certification while teaching the two-day Statewide Planning Course in Washington, D.C. the final week of October. In addition, Montie, Bill Frawley, Bill Eisele, Beverly Storey, Scott Cooner, Phillip Reeder, Andy Mullins, Todd Carlson, and Tina Geiselbrecht completed the NHI Training course in Arlington the first week in October. Montie arranged for the course to be held in Arlington, making it easier for multiple TTI researchers to attend.

The work of Linda Cherrington was recognized by Stan Wilkes, General Manager of the Arlington Entertainment Area Management. Among other comments, Stan noted Linda “worked tirelessly, using her gifts of intelligence, perception, and sensitivity to canvass a wide range of personal having either existing or potential interest in the services of the District. She was always available when needed. She was extremely patient and kind to those of us less informed of the subject than she is. And, a major part of her work was done — in a timely manner — after she sustained personal hardships arising from Hurricane Ike. In short: Good Work, TTI. And good for you — having on your staff people like Linda Cherrington.”
Welcome

Monica Beard-Raymond has joined the Center for Air Quality Studies as an Assistant Research Scientist. Monica has a B.S. in Biology/Ecology and a Masters in Public Affairs, both from the University of Texas at Austin. She has experience working for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Ann Arbor, Michigan and as a Research Assistant at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Monica is located in the Austin Office. She will be working on a range of air quality research for TxDOT, EPA, and other sponsors.

Fanny Davila has joined the Research Development Office (RDO) as a Lead Office Assistant. Fanny has experience working for the College Station ISD Head Start/Pre-K Program and TAMU — Agricultural Communications. She has a General Office Clerk Certificate from Texas State Technical Institute in Harlingen.

Welcome Monica and Fanny!

Years of Service

The following SPP&Eer’s reached special anniversaries with TTI in October.

Michelle Young — 5 years

Birthdays

November
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
Heather Ford 12/30
Juan Carlos Villa 12/30

Calendar of Events

November 12 — Research Development Seminar, New Stuff, Old Stuff, My Stuff!, 12:00 Noon—1:00 P.M.
November 17 — Research Development Seminar, Intellectual Property Disclosure Process and Management, TTI Policy, and Invention Guidelines, 12:00 Noon—1:00 P.M.
November 27-28 — Thanksgiving Holiday
December 24-January 2, 2009 — Christmas, New Years Eve Holiday
January 19, 2009 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day