The 84th Annual Short Course was excellent — as always! The TxDOT slide show, the awards, and the comments by Dennis, Amado, and the Transportation Commissioners in the opening session were all great. The Extra Mile Awards, recognizing the contributions of TxDOT personnel, were very special.

The renovations at the MSC and the use of the Hilton made the logistics a little more difficult, but everyone seemed to adjust and the Events Management staff did a great job. And — unlike last year when it rained all day — the weather was beautiful for the golf tournament on Sunday.

A special thanks goes to the SPP&Eer’s assisting with the Short Course. Montie Wade, John Overman, Ginger Goodin, and Joe Zietsman served as session co-chairs. Bonnie Duke and Mary Levien assisted with on-site registration. Retiree Pam Rowe helped with the golf tournament.

Research diversification continues to be a priority with SPP&Eer’s. Congratulations to the following SPP&Eer’s who had preliminary UTCM proposals selected for submission of formal proposals.

- **Joan Hudson** — Using Smartphones to Collect Bicycle Travel Data in Texas
- **Eric Dumbaugh** — Designing Communities to Provide Safe Mobility Options for Older Adults
- **Tara Ramani** — Livability Performance Measures Workshop
- **Beverly Storey** — Transportation and Tourism Conference
- **Linda Cherrington** — part of the TAMU Agricultural Economics team on the Value of Non-Medical Transportation for Improving the Quality of Life for Rural Elderly: Methodology and Information Considerations

If you have not done so, I would encourage everyone to read the report prepared by two faculty members at the Mays School on the TTI Organizational Chart. The report was sent out to all TTI by Dennis Christiansen on November 5.

I would encourage you to let Dennis or me know if you have any comments on the report. The Internal Advisory Committee will be considering the recommendations in early December and your input is greatly appreciated.

Thanks for all of your hard work and I hope you all have a very enjoyable Thanksgiving!

Thanks!
Katie
Joe Zietsman participated in a panel, Climate Change in India, at the first ever India Day at Texas A&M University on October 1. Sharada Vadali organized the session and assisted with other activities associated with the event.

Bill Eisele and Bill Frawley participated in the TRB 9th Conference on Access Management in Natchez, Mississippi on October 10-13. Bill Eisele presented a paper, Safety and Economic Impacts of Converting Frontage Roads from Two-way to One-Way Operation. Bill Frawley presented a paper, Crash Analysis of Installing Raised Medians on FH 157/Cooper Street in Arlington and Mansfield, Texas. This paper was selected as one of the “Best Conference Papers” and Bill will present it at the 2011 TRB Annual Meeting. Bill Frawley also moderated a session on Corridor Studies, Plans, Implementation, and Economic Impacts.

Staff from the Environmental Management Program participated in the Texas Vegetation Management Association Annual Conference held in College Station on October 18-20. Beverly Storey and Jett McFalls gave a presentation on Erosion Control. Derrold Foster, Rodney Jackson, and Alex Ferrazas also gave demonstrations at the Hydraulics, Sedimentation, and Erosion Control Laboratory.

A number of SPP&Eer’s gave presentations on research projects at the TxDOT Fall RMC meetings in San Antonio, October 19-21. Presentations in the RMC 4 (Safety and Operations) meeting included Bill Eisele — Safety and Economic Impacts of Converting Two-Way Frontage Roads to One-Way and Scott Cooner — Development of Guidelines for Triple Left and Dual Right-Turn Lanes. Presentations in the RMC 2 (Planning and Environment) meeting included Ed Hard — Preserving Functionality/Asset Value of the State Highway, Ginger Goodin — Pre-Determining Performance-Based Operational and Toll Rate Setting Measures, and John Overman — Rural Planning Organizations - Their Role in Transportation Planning and Project Development in Texas.

Nick Wood has joined the Austin Liaison Office as an Assistant Transportation Researcher. Nick is from Gloversville, New York. He holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a MS in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech. Nick will be working on a wide range of research projects.

Welcome, Nick!

Shawn Turner moderated a session on Research on Transportation for Livable Communities: Recent Findings and Research Needs at the TRB Transportation for Livable Communities Conference in Washington, D.C. October 18-19. Shawn also served on the Conference Planning Committee.

Linda Cherrington gave a presentation on Benchmarking and Improving Texas Rural and Small Urban Public Transportation Systems at the Transportation Short Course in College Station on October 12.

Staff Activities Continued on Page 3
Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 25-26 — THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
DECEMBER 23-31 — HOLIDAY BREAK
JANUARY 17 — MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY
JANUARY 23-27 — TRB ANNUAL MEETING, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Congratulations!

Joe Zietsman became a U.S. citizen on October 28. Joe, and his wife Magda, took the official allegiance to the country before Judge J.D. Langley.

Staff Activities Continued from Page 2

Linda Cherrington presented a paper at the TRB 19th National Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation Conference in Burlington, Vermont, October 24-27. Linda's presentation was on Anticipating the Impacts of Census 2010 on Rural Transit.

Tim Lomax, Ginger Goodin, David Ellis, and Trey Baker testified before the Texas Legislature — Subcommittee on Funding of the Select Committee on Transportation Funding on October 13. David and Tim testified before the Select Committee on Transportation Funding on October 26.

Birthdays

November
Eun Sug Park 11/7
John Lowery 11/7
Dennis Perkinson 11/13
Jennifer Barry 11/22

December
Jason Crawford 12/5
Erlinda Olivarez 12/5
Joan Hudson 12/9
John Overman 12/23
Heather Ford 12/30
Juan Carlos Villa 12/30