New Staff Members & Upcoming Events at UGPTI

May 2013

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Upcoming Events

UGPTI STAFF MEETING
May 29, 8:30 a.m. to Noon
at the NDSU Memorial Union

UGPTI ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
Oct. 3 at the Fargo Holiday Inn

Because the UGPTI has multiple office locations on campus as well as offices in Bismarck and Denver, many staff have noted how challenging it is to get to know new staff members. To help, here is an introduction to new staff members who have joined the UGPTI in the last year or so as well as a little background on the areas in which they're working.

Bill Anderson

Bill Anderson is a technical support representative with NDLTAP in the UGPTI's Bismarck office. In that capacity, Anderson assists oil and gas producing counties in western North Dakota by helping them develop road repair and maintenance strategies, investigate dust suppression alternatives, and manage traffic, safety and other issues related to the transportation impacts of oil development. He provides on-site support as well as training via workshops and conferences. A key part of his job is to facilitate the sharing of information among counties.

Anderson is a native of South Dakota where he was raised on the family farm. He earned his B.S. degree in civil engineering from South Dakota State University in 1975. He began his career in transportation as a surveyor for the U.S. Forest Service in 1972. In 1973, he drove dump truck for Turner County in southeast South Dakota. After college, Anderson was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant and served at the Grand Forks Air Force Base. In 1977 to 1991 he worked for the U.S. Forest Service. In 1991, he established Anderson Engineering, working primarily for contractors where he completed construction staking and materials testing. In 1996 he began work for Pennington County (SD) as county engineer preparing construction plans, administration of contracts and providing the highway Superintendent with whatever information was needed. He retired from the county in 2010.

Anderson enjoys hunting and fishing. He grows a huge garden and creates a lot of saw dust with his woodworking.
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Riaz Aziz

Riaz Aziz is the principal researcher of the air service planning project. His research focuses on general and commercial air transportation, unmanned aerial systems, fixed based operators, air charter, air freight, and related aviation systems in use by the government, industry, and the public.

Aziz is an air transportation industry expert, with more than 18 years of experience in strategic planning, project management, and public administration. He has honed his skills towards bringing key stakeholders together and driving towards consensus in coordinated planning. His background as an aircraft pilot and as a systems planner for a major airline yields insightful practical considerations for executing research plans. In addition, he is experienced in asset management and decision support systems. His work has also included working with legislative and executive branches of government and various state and federal agencies, developing grant proposals and designing and delivering training and outreach. He holds an M.S. in Natural Resources Management (NDSU) and a B.A. in Aeronautical Studies (UND). In addition to his research, Aziz is also a lecturer at the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics at NDSU where he teaches money, banking and economics.

His office is in Suite 434 in Richard Barry Hall. He can be reached at 701.231.5607 or riaz.aziz@ndsu.edu.

Sandy Baisch

Sandy Baisch is a part-time administrative assistant with the NDLTAP program at the UGPTI’s Bismarck office. She began work with UGPTI in October. She will assist with meeting and conference planning and scheduling, record keeping, accounting and data entry. Before joining NDLTAP, she worked for a transportation agency, an orthodontic office and an insurance company. Baisch is married and enjoys spending time with her family while traveling, camping and four-wheeling. She also enjoys gardening, beading and woodworking.
Andrew Bratlien

Andrew Bratlien joined UGPTI in February as a transportation research engineer. He will provide engineering expertise in support of UGPTI's transportation planning and infrastructure research. He will also provide highway analysis and modeling capabilities for state and local agencies and contribute transportation engineering expertise on a broad array of topics, including pavement and bridge design and analysis.

For the past two years, Bratlien has been employed by PTV Group in Portland, OR, where he was involved in software development and traffic model construction and modification. PTV Group is an international transportation and traffic engineering firm that provides software and consulting for traffic, transport logistics and geomarketing.

Bratlien was a research assistant with the UGPTI's Advanced Traffic Analysis Center from 2007 to 2011 where he was involved in traffic modeling, analysis and data collection. He earned M.S. and B.S. degrees in civil engineering from NDSU. He is originally from Bemidji, MN.

He can be reached at 701.231.8343 or by e-mail at andrew.bratlien@ndsu.edu. His office is 430E IACC.

Ranjit Godavarthy

Ranjit Godavarthy is working with the Institute’s Small Urban and Rural Transit Center and will study transit use, energy efficiency of transit modes and other factors related to transit in rural and small urban areas.

He has research experience in transportation and highway safety, public transportation, low volume road safety, roundabout studies, pedestrian studies and freight transportation. Godavarthy is originally from India and earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Nagarjuna University. He earned his master's and doctorate degrees in transportation engineering from Kansas State University, Manhattan. He was a graduate research assistant there before joining NDSU.

He can be reached at ranjitprasad.godavar@ndsu.edu or 701.231.6436. His office is IACC 410B.
EunSu Lee

EunSu Lee, an associate research fellow with UGPTI, has experience in areas such as information technology, logistics, supply chain management and transportation. He is involved in statewide agricultural freight modeling and oil traffic modeling in North Dakota. He also conducts research on geospatial modeling for crash analysis, for containerized freight flow and for emergency medical services for trauma response for rural traffic crashes.

Lee was a graduate research assistant with UGPTI while earning his Ph.D. in Transportation and Logistics at NDSU. He earned his Ph.D. in 2011. He also holds a M.S. in industrial management and engineering from NDSU, an MBA in Operations and Service Management from Hanyang University in Seoul South Korea and a bachelor’s in computer science and engineering from Kwandong University in Gangwon-do, South Korea. Before coming to NDSU he was a logistics consultant with Korex Consulting, Inc., in Seoul. He was also an information system project and technical service manager and a software engineer and information system developer in Seoul.

Contact Lee at (701) 231-6448 or EunSu.Lee@my.ndsu.edu. He is located in Room 217 of the Criminal Justice and Public Policy Building (CJPP).

Pan Lu

Pan Lu is as an associate research fellow with the UGPTI and is also an adjunct professor with the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering at NDSU. She teaches two graduate courses, TL 782 and TL 783, Transportation Systems I and II. She is currently working on transportation planning and modeling projects focused on the Bakken oil region and rural North Dakota. Her work with GIS transportation planning models has implications for transportation planners nationally as does her rail planning research. Lu has also worked on projects related to railroad energy efficiency, geographic information system use in transportation analysis, and bridge and pavement deterioration forecasting.
Before becoming an associate research fellow, Pan was a graduate research assistant, a graduate teaching assistant and a research analyst with UGPTI as she worked on her Ph.D. in transportation and logistics from NDSU. She earned that degree in 2011. She also holds a bachelor's degree in engineering economics from North China Electric Power University in Beijing.

Lu is based in UGPTI's Colorado office and can be reached at Pan.Lu@ndsu.edu.

**Starla Morkassel**

Starla Morkassel joined UGPTI in July as accounts manager. She tracks spending from the Institute's accounts and assists with budgeting and other financial management tasks. Before joining the Institute she worked for a dozen years with the Pepsi Beverage Company in Fargo where she was a financial planner and senior financial analyst. Before that, she was an accounting manager for Dakota Beverage Co. in Fargo. She holds a B.S. in accounting from NDSU.

Morkassel works afternoons and is located just inside the door to the main office. She can be reached at (701) 231-9595 or starla.morkassel@ndsu.edu.

**Chris Padilla**

Chris Padilla is a technical specialist with UGPTI's Bismarck office. He will identify, develop and propose technical training programs for the North Dakota Department of Transportation. He will also be assisting with NDLTAP programs.

Before joining the Institute, Padilla was the construction services manager with the NDDOT. In that position, he managed the civil engineers and engineering technicians that provided engineering support where needed for projects across the state. He also oversaw the DOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, was the department's Civil Rights Title VI specialist, and was the engineering equipment manager. He served on various committees with the NDDOT, was a member of the North Dakota State College of Science Engineering Advisory Board, Bismarck State College Engineering...
Advisory Committee, served as president of the Bismarck Farwest Rotary Club, and other volunteer activities. Padilla was also heavily involved in the department’s recruitment activities. He was selected as one of the 2011 Top 40 Business Professionals Under 40 by the ND Business Watch Organization. Chris has an associate degree in engineering technology from Lincoln Technical Institute, a B.S. in applied science and technology from Dickinson State University, and is currently pursuing his master's in public administration from UND.

Prior to working with the NDDOT, Chris worked for the Pennsylvania DOT for three years and served in the United States Army from 1992-1997. Chris and his wife, Gina, have two girls and enjoy working on their hobby farm outside of Menoken, ND. Chris also enjoys playing sports and hanging out with friends and family.

Reach Padilla at chris.padilla@ndsu.edu or 701.328.9867.

Kshitij Sharma

Kshitij Sharma joined the UGPTI’s Advanced Traffic Analysis Center as an associate research fellow in June of 2012. His concentration at ATAC is Traffic Operations. He has experience in traffic operations analysis, corridor timing analysis, crash analysis, transportation network microsimulation modeling, Travel Demand Model Applications, Pedestrian Safety Studies, Access Management, and Traffic Data Collection and Analysis. "Sharma" earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Punjab Technical University in India and his M.S. in civil engineering from Wayne State University in Detroit. Before joining UGPTI he was a traffic engineer with T-Concepts Corp in Madison Heights, MI.

Reach Sharma at (701) 231-1086 or kshitij.sharma@ndsu.edu. His office is the lower level of Hastings Hall.

Kasey Skalicky

Kasey Skalicky is a research assistant with the Rural Transportation Safety and Security Center and is mainly working with the National Occupant Protection Use Survey. She was previously the safe communities coordinator with the Sheyenne Valley Safe Communities Coalition in Valley City. Skalicky has worked in injury prevention for 12 years, focusing on traffic safety for the last 7.

She works from her home in the Valley City area and can be reached at 701.845.6672 or kasey.skalicky@ndsu.edu.
Sandra Stephenson

Sandra Stephenson provides technical support for the Transportation Learning Network and provides administration and content management for its Learning Management System. The Transportation Learning Network facilitates ongoing trainings for the North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming departments of transportation.

Before joining UGPTI, Stephenson worked with the American Cancer Society in Fargo where she implemented programs and managed, recruited and trained volunteers. Prior to that she spent 11 years with Microsoft Corporation in Fargo where she was a senior global product manager, and a product support specialist. She also worked with the North Dakota University System as a computer network trainer and support specialist. Stephenson holds a B.S. in business administration from Moorhead State University and associates degrees in business administration and information processing from the North Dakota State College of Science. Stephenson is located in IACC Room 412 and can be reached at sandra.stephenson@ndsu.edu.

Brad Wentz

Brad Wentz is director of the Department of Transportation Support Center and the Advanced Traffic Analysis Center. As director of DOTSC, he provides engineering and technical analysis for the North Dakota Department of Transportation engineers and managers. He also will oversee the center’s team of engineering and information technology students who work on real-world projects under the direction of the Department of Transportation. As ATAC director he will supervise a staff of transportation engineers and students who use ATAC technology to model and analyze traffic, perform traffic studies and develop ITS.

Wentz worked as the county engineer for Becker County, Minn., for 12 years. He was involved in transportation planning, design, construction, and maintenance of roads and bridges in both urban and rural areas of the county. Wentz also worked with the North Dakota Department of Transportation for 11 years, gaining experience in construction, urban design, transportation data
Wentz earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from NDSU and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Minnesota. He also was an active member of the Minnesota County Engineers Association. Wentz's office is 106 G1 in Hastings Hall and he can be reached at 701.231.7230 or bradley.wentz@ndsu.edu.

Saying Farewell

Two long-time staff UGPTI staff members recently left the Institute.

Mark Berwick retired and will focus more attention on his farming enterprises in eastern Montana. He will continue to work on an hourly basis with UGPTI on various agriculture and safety projects. He began working with the Institute in 1995 as a graduate research assistant. He joined the staff as an associate research fellow in 1997 and has specialized in logistics and transportation management, specifically in the areas of motor carrier costing, economic development and business logistics.

Carol Wright became director of Easter Seals Project ACTION in Washington, D.C. last month. Project ACTION is a federally funded project intended to assist the disability community and the transportation industry to achieve one goal - ensure accessible community transportation in the United States. Wright joined the UGPTI's Small Urban and Rural Transit Center in 2006 as associate director of training and outreach. In that position, she coordinated dozens of training events for transit agencies across the country as well as developed several popular training programs including basic and advanced courses in transit management.

UGPTI Announces Award Winners

The UGPTI will hold its Annual Awards Banquet Oct. 3 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. The evening event honors individuals who have made significant contributions to transportation in the region. Award winners will include:

- **Agrey Award** -- Former DOT Director Francis Ziegler and Harlan Klein, Elgin area farmer and former chair of the ND Wheat Commission.

- **Lifetime Achievement Award** -- Mark Holzer, retired
long-time aviation planner for the ND Aeronautics Commission.

- **Chairman’s Award** -- No winner this year.

Scholarships to outstanding students will also be awarded at the banquet.

Submit news and events to: UGPTI Communications Coordinator Tom Jirik at [thomas.jirik@ndsu.edu](mailto:thomas.jirik@ndsu.edu).