Two join UGPTI as transportation analysts

Luke Holt began work with the UGPTI earlier this month as a transportation planning analyst. He will work on a broad range of planning projects including transportation and corridor studies, comprehensive planning and transit planning. Holt is a Ph.D. candidate in the transportation and logistics program and has been a graduate research assistant with UGPTI since 2011 working on county and local road infrastructure needs studies, a truck cost model and a commodity valuation analysis for three major inland waterway systems in the United States. He holds a BA in business management from Concordia College in Moorhead. After earning that degree, Holt worked as an engineer with Integrity Windows and Doors in Fargo. In 2010 he enrolled at NDSU where he earned a BS in industrial engineering and management from NDSU and a masters of managerial logistics. Contact Holt at (701) 231-6485 or luke.holt@ndsu.edu.

Sumadhur Shakya recently joined UGPTI as a spatial transportation analyst. He will be involved in developing and implementing transportation modeling solutions to assist in transportation planning and research efforts. Shakya is a Ph.D. candidate in the transportation and logistics program and has been a graduate research assistant with UGPTI since 2009. He has also taught an undergraduate course in economics for the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. Prior to beginning his Ph.D., he completed his M.S. in international agribusiness at NDSU and worked as an intern with a federal research institute in Germany and with RJ O’Brien, a Chicago-based brokerage house. He also has work experience with Dell and other businesses in India. Reach Shakya at Sumadhur.Shakya@ndsu.edu or (701) 231-6448. He is located in Room 210 in the Criminal Justice and Public Policy Building.
Baisch and Brown assume new duties

Sandy Baisch, who has been working as a part-time administrative secretary with the NDLTAP program, moved to full-time status in June. Baisch began her part-time work with UGPTI in October and assisted with meeting and conference planning and scheduling, record keeping, accounting and data entry. She has now assumed greater responsibility for those duties and also will handle payroll, receptionist, and other office administrative tasks.

Baisch’s position was previously held by Denise Brown who was recently named NDLTAP’s training coordinator. In that position, Brown will work more closely with the program’s clients to develop training programs and conferences. Brown has been with NDLTAP since 2007. She earned her B.S. in management from the University of Mary in 2011 and is currently working toward a certification in instructional design for organizations from Kaplan University.

Mielke named to new UGPTI position

Earlier this month, Jon Mielke was named program administrator for the UGPTI. In that position, he will provide administrative support for the director in communicating with the UGPTI advisory council, legislative committees and clients. He will also coordinate UGPTI’s various programs and efforts in tribal transportation planning and outreach to tribal institutions and partners. Finally, he will provide input to the director regarding critical and emerging issues that affect the UGPTI. “Jon’s extensive experience and background in the state make him an excellent fit for working in these key areas for the institute,” noted UGPTI director Denver Tolliver. He noted that Mielke had been working in all of these areas on an informal and part-time basis. With the change in position, Mielke will no longer have direct responsibility to the UGPTI’s Small Urban and Rural Transit Center where he has provided leadership for various projects since joining UGPTI in 2004.

Groups formed to rewrite mission and vision statements

Following UGPTI’s recent strategic planning session, groups of volunteers have been assembled to rewrite the Institute’s mission statement and to write a vision statement rooted in the organization’s core values. Once the groups have developed draft statements, they will be shared with the rest of the staff for
Members of the mission statement group are: Alan Dybing, Kshitij Sharma, Kim Vachal, Ranjit Godavarthy, Bradley Wentz, Mohammad Smadi, Bev Trittin and Dustin Ulmer. The group is led by associate director Brenda Lantz.

Members of the vision statement group are: Jody Bohn, Megan Bouret, Tim Horner, Kshitij Sharma, Diomo Motuba, Denise Brown and Ranjit Godavarthy. The group is led by Jill Hough.

If you are interested in participating with either of these groups, they are open to additional members. Contact the group leaders to join.

**TLN to upgrade equipment**

UGPTI's Transportation Learning Network is going high-def this summer. The program is leasing a new HD conference bridge as well as new HD cameras at its primary video conferencing sites in Fargo, Bismarck and Cheyenne, WY. The equipment will improve the quality of video at all of TLN’s sites, but will be most noticeable at those sites that have HD monitors. The upgrade is expected to be complete by Sept. 1.

Because video conferencing technology is changing so rapidly, a decision was made to lease, rather than purchase, the equipment. The new equipment replaces equipment installed in 2005 and is so old it has reached its “end of life” as determined by the manufacturer.

**MPC recognized for best practice in meeting reporting requirements**

The Mountain-Plains Consortium, a university transportation center led by the UGPTI, was featured in a “best practices” session at the annual meeting of the Council of University Transportation Centers in Memphis in June.

Jody Bohn, assistant to the UGPTI director for educational programs, presented information about the online system MPC developed for collecting and reporting information on it's more than 40 research projects at the eight universities in the consortium.

The US Department of Transportation's University Transportation Centers Program has asked for comprehensive information on projects so that it can disseminate research results and share information on research in progress. "This seemed like
Transportation and Logistics Student to Present Paper at International Conference

Ankush Agrawal, NDSU Transportation and Logistics PhD student, will present a research paper at the 2013 International Conference on Construction and Real Estate Management (ICCREM 2013) Oct. 10-11 in Karlsruhe, Germany.

He was recently notified that his paper, "Developing Evaluation Tools for Achieving a Sustainable Concrete Design and Construction," was accepted for presentation and will also appear in the conference proceedings.

For more info, go to: http://www.ugpti.org/about/news/viewarticle.php?id=121

SURTC publishes third annual Research Digest

In June, SURTC published its third annual Research Digest which provides a number of articles discussing recently completed research projects. The articles are highly-condensed, non-technical versions of the full studies.

See the Research Digests at http://www.surtc.org/research/digest/

Staff presentations now linked from bios

Based on web use statistics that show that staff bios are among the most-visited pages on the UGPTI website, the bios now link to research reports and presentations.

For an example, see Jeremy Mattson’s bio http://www.ugpti.org/about/staff/viewbio.php?id=63. The links appear in the upper right of the page. Currently, very few presentations have been posted to the Staff Presentations page (http://www.ugpti.org/resources/presentations/).

If you present at a meeting or event, please send a copy of the presentation file and some information about the event to Patrick Nichols (patrick.nichols@ndsu.edu).
Mark your calendar: Banquet is Oct. 3

The UGPTI’s 18th Annual Awards Banquet will be Oct. 3 at the Fargo Holiday Inn. The event honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the transportation industry in the region. This year’s event will feature a unique occurrence. The UGPTI will present its highest award, the Agrey Award, to two individuals: Francis Ziegler, recently retired head of the NDDOT, and Harlan Klein, former chair of the ND Wheat Commission.

For more information on the banquet, visit http://www.ugpti.org/awards/

Don't forget mandatory safety training

Baseline Safety Training is mandatory for all employees. If you are a supervisor, you must also complete Supervisor Safety Training. Both courses must be completed annually. The training is now available online and is administered through Moodle, an online Learning Management System. To complete the training you will need to log in using your NDUS username and password. Completion of quizzes and certification that you have completed the requirements are all accomplished on-line. Each training can be completed in about a half hour. The training can be found at http://www.ndsu.edu/police_safety/training/

Face-to-face training will continue to be offered. Watch your e-mail for details.

"How to Cite" to be added to publications site

A "How to Cite" link and heading is being added to new publications as they are published on the UGPTI website. The citation suggestion uses Chicago Style and should help bring uniformity to UGPTI citations in bibliographies and source lists. Information will be included in all new publications and will be added to
previously published publications as staff time permits.

For an example, see this recent MPC publication: http://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/details.php?id=744#citation. The information appears at the bottom of the page and is also linked from the box on the upper right.

Word usage tip: feel vs. believe vs. think

Your writing will be more effective if you use words correctly and don't muddle their meaning. "The use of feel for words like think, believe, and argue is becoming unsettlingly common. It's a cliché, and a touchy-feely one at that, reducing all cognition to sensation and emotion," says Jack Lynch, English professor at Rutgers University, in his on-line guide to grammar and style. Remember that feel has to do with the senses and perception. Think is an opinion. To believe is to express a conviction, principle or value.

Often these words can be eliminated from your sentences altogether, resulting in a clearer, more concise writing.

Submit news and events to: UGPTI Communications Coordinator Tom Jirik at Thomas.jirik@ndsu.edu.