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- UGPTI STAFF MEETING
  Aug 29, time and location TBD
- UGPTI ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
  Oct. 3 at the Fargo Holiday Inn

Submit Articles for the

Brachman to join Wells Fargo

Associate research fellow Jarret Brachman will leave UGPTI at the end of August to join Wells Fargo and Company to lead an effort to assess threats to that company’s global business operations from terrorism, outbreaks of violence and other incidents with regional and global implications. “This was a dream job that I couldn’t turn down,” Brachman says.

Brachman joined the UGPTI in 2008, specializing in transportation security. His most recent efforts have focused on training for law enforcement related to the sovereign citizen movement. Interactions between law enforcement and those involved in the sovereign citizen movement are sometimes unpredictably violent and often stem from transportation-related issues like self-issued drivers licenses and car registrations and perceived exemptions from traffic regulations. Research specialist NeTia Richards will assume responsibility for scheduled training and outreach related to the sovereign citizen movement.

MML to move online

NDSU’s Master of Managerial Logistics program is becoming an online program to provide educational access for U.S. military personnel where ever they may be located - at bases throughout the United States and around the world. Due to cuts in the Department of Defense’s budget, the Army can no longer fund officers to attend the Master of Managerial Logistics residency program on campus. It is anticipated that beginning this fall, the MML will be offered online under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Army Logistics University at Fort Lee, Virginia. The MML addresses all 12 points of the National Logistics Curriculum and is viewed by ALU as one of the top programs in the United States. Under the MOU, Army Logistics University will aggressively market the online program and provide non-financial support and assistance. A program modification request is in the advanced stages of the approval process and is on the agenda for the ND Board of Higher Education’s August meeting.
Lantz to serve on TRB committee

UGPTI associate director and director of the Transportation Safety Systems Center Brenda Lantz has been selected to serve on a Transportation Research Board committee to review the federal truck size and weight study. The study, being conducted by the USDOT at the direction of Congress, examines the potential consequences of changes in federal truck size and weight regulations. The committee includes experts in the technical areas of the DOT study: pavement and bridge engineering, highway and vehicle safety, enforcement, and economics. The committee is scheduled to meet in September, December and March to receive briefings from DOT staff and to deliberate on its findings. More information on the study can be found at http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/sw/map21tswstudy/.

Alaska and Wyoming host transit training

SURTC's Jill Hough and Keven Anderson taught the three-day “Advanced Transit Management” class in Anchorage, AK, July 23-25. The Alaska Department of Transportation sponsored the training for 22 transit managers from across the state. The training includes seven modules on human resource management and performance, financial management, performance measures, strategic management, intelligent transportation systems, emergency management, and leadership.

Anderson conducted training on financial cost allocation for public transit at the Wyoming Public Transit Association Annual Conference on July 17. About 30 transit managers attended the course which covered accounting fundamentals, revenue management, contracting, local match, cost allocations, budgeting, audits, and development of 3-5 year management plans.
Rosendahl and Brown attend national LTAP conference

Darcy Rosendahl and Denise Brown attended the 2013 National Local Technical Assistance Program/Tribal Technical Assistance Program Annual Conference July 22-25 in Boise, ID. Topics ranged from training for safety management to peer exchanges on technology transfer and office practices.

This is the agenda for more specific topics: http://ltaptap2013boise.com/agenda/

Brown presented "Useful Office Practices" in which she shared a number of tools and resources for managing time, effort and tasks associated with NDLTAP's outreach and training efforts. The conference provided opportunities for staff from the 58 LTAP and TTAP centers around that nation to network and share ideas.

Brown named regional representative to National LTAP Association

Denise Brown was elected as the new regional representative to the National LTAP Association at the 2013 National LTAP/TTAP Annual Conference. She will represent region 7 which includes Missouri, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. NLTAP's primary objectives are to build awareness about LTAP in the transportation community, assist FHWA with developing strategies for the program and build the capacity of each center to meet the needs of its customers. As a regional representative Brown will communicate the needs of each center in the region to the NLTAPA Executive Committee and share NLTAPA business with the region's centers. She will also provide agenda topics for the Region 7 annual meeting, which will be held in St. Louis, MO., Dec. 11-12. The 2014 National LTAP/TTAP Conference also will be held in Region 7, at St. Louis, MO, next July. Brown will also attend an NLTAPA officer's retreat in in Arlington, VA., Sept. 30 - Oct. 4.
Mark your calendar

The next UGPTI strategic Planning Meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 29 in the Reimers Room, NDSU Alumni Center beginning at. Stay tuned for an agenda and start time.

T&L programs on display at ITE meeting

Those attending the annual meeting of the Institute of Transportation Engineers will have an opportunity to learn about NDSU’s graduate and certificate programs in transportation and logistics as well as the UGPTI’s research and outreach programs. Marketing assistant Jamie Blazek will be staffing an exhibit at the meeting in Boston Aug. 4-7. The meeting will focus on state-of-the practice, advancement of the profession, and emerging issues designed to benefit transportation professionals in the public and private sector and students.

UGPTI has a YouTube channel

The UGPTI has its own YouTube channel. To view, go to http://www.youtube.com/user/ugptindsu. The channel is currently home to a video illustrating traffic flow improvement after roundabouts are constructed and a series of videos illustrating various soil moisture and density tests used in road construction. To learn more about creating videos for or posting videos to UGPTI’s YouTube channel, talk to Patrick Nichols or Tom Jirik.
Staff newsletters archived online

Beginning with the May 2013 issue that highlighted new staff members, UGPTI staff newsletters are now being archived online. View back issues at http://www.ugpti.org/resources/staff/newsletter/

In-state meal allowance increases

Effective Aug. 1, the reimbursement rate for in-state meal allowances increased from $30 to $35 per day. Reimbursement for the first quarter of the day (breakfast) is $7, for the second quarter (lunch) is $10.50, and for the third quarter (dinner) is $17.50. Please keep these updated numbers in mind as you fill out your travel reimbursement forms.

Check your junk email folder

Since the completion of the Office 365 email and calendar upgrade for NDSU employees, the IT Help Desk has received reports of email messages being mistakenly delivered to the Junk Email folder. Regularly check your Junk Email folder to ensure you do not miss important email messages. The IT Help Desk continues to work with the N.D. University System and Microsoft to resolve this issue and ensure appropriate delivery of email. For more information on Junk email filtering options, go to www.ndsu.edu/its/help/index/e_mail/ndsu_outlook/faq. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the NDSU IT Help Desk at 231-8685 or ndsu.helpdesk@ndsu.edu.
New Publication

"Review of Road User Costs and Methods" by Xiao Qin and Chase Cutler at South Dakota State University has been published as Mountain-Plains Consortium publication MPC-13-254. In the study, current SDDOT Road User Cost methodology and associated unit costs were evaluated and changes were implemented to the methodology to allow for a more complete analysis. The publication can be found at http://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/details.php?id=745

Word usage tip: since vs. because vs. due to?

Since and because have become synonyms in common language usage. But to be most precise, since should be reserved to those sentences when there is a time element involved. For instance, "My pay has increased since July 1." Because implies a cause and effect: "Traffic is congested because one driving lane is closed." So which would you use in this sentence? "My work has become more focused because/since the new strategic plan was adopted." That depends on what you mean. If your work is more focused because of the strategic plan, say so. If the adoption of the plan is just a time reference for readers, then use since. "Due to" is over used and is frequently used incorrectly, especially if it opens a sentence. Almost always, substituting "because" will simplify your sentence and make it more readable.

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