Transportation Institute Names Honorees for Awards Banquet

Former North Dakota Grain Dealers Association executive vice president Steve Strege will be among those honored for contributions to transportation in North Dakota at the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute's annual awards banquet, Thursday, Oct. 16.

Steve Strege was head of the NDGDA for 35 years. Other honorees include Richard Goldberg, judge on the United States Court of International Trade, and Duane Mutch, long-time N.D. State Senator and member of the Senate Transportation Committee. The Institute will also honor several scholarship winners at the banquet.

The banquet is begins with a social hour at 5:30 with dinner at 6:45 p.m. RSVP as soon as possible to Sue Peterson.

Steve Strege will receive the John M. Agrey Award. Strege began his work with the North Dakota Grain Dealers Association as a field representative. In 1979 he was named executive vice president, a post he would hold until earlier this year. In that position he lobbied at both the state and federal level for 35 years as an advocate for the interests of the state's grain dealers and their customers. He was a consistent voice for elevators urging access to rail lines and fair rail rates be maintained. Strege was raised on a farm, near Wyndmere, served as state president of the FFA and graduated with a B.S. degree in mechanized agriculture from NDSU in 1972. He worked for 2 years with a Fargo manufacturing plant before joining the Grain Dealers Association.

The award is named for John M. Agrey, a pioneer, innovator and
advocate for transportation who worked for more than 30 years with the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

Richard Goldberg will receive the Chairman's Award in recognition of his role in establishing the UGPTI. When serving in the ND Senate in 1967, he sponsored the bill that established the UGPTI and convinced a number of other senators to sign on as co-sponsors. Goldberg is now in his 25th year as judge on the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York City. He has also presided over federal appeals courts and federal district courts for both civil and criminal trials. The court is one of three national courts and deals with international trade law and customs disputes. In the 1980s, he was Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture for Commodity Programs and International Trade and later served as Acting Undersecretary. Goldberg is a native of Fargo and attended the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL, where he received a bachelor of business arts and his law degree. After graduation, he was a judge advocate general officer in the U.S. Air Force and practiced law in Washington D.C. before returning to North Dakota to run the family grain processing business. While in North Dakota he taught military law at NDSU and served as a state senator for eight years.

The Chairman's Award recognizes individuals for contributions to transportation research, education, and outreach at NDSU, and/or contributions to the viability of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute.

Duane Mutch will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for his service to the state as a long-time member of the ND Legislature, particularly as a member of the Senate Transportation Committee. He also was a commercial motor carrier in the state as part of his wholesale petroleum business. Mutch was elected to the N.D. State Senate in 1958 and served until 1976. He regained a seat in the Senate in 1979 and served until 2006. During 42 of his 47 years in the Senate, Mutch was a member of the Senate Transportation Committee. Mutch was born in Grand Forks and graduated from Larimore High School. He served in the U.S. Army in the infantry under General George Patton during World War II. He received citations for the Battle of the Bulge and Central Europe. After returning home, Mutch and his mother operated a wholesale and retail petroleum business in Kempton, ND. In 1956 he built a service station in Larimore and moved there in 1958.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual who has had a distinguished career in a transportation-related field.
Kenneth Bahm and Daniel Julson will receive the Paul E.R. Abrahamson Transportation Scholarship which is awarded to students who demonstrate interest in the transportation and logistics of agricultural commodities and processed agricultural products. Funding for the $1,500 scholarships is provided by the Mountain-Plains Consortium as a part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's University Transportation Centers Program. Bahm is a senior in agricultural economics from Mandan. Julson is a senior in agribusiness from Wahpeton.

Jennifer Barstow will receive the Charles E. Herman Scholarship which is presented to a transportation student who demonstrates academic achievement with a preference to women and minorities at NDSU. Funding for the $2,000 scholarship is provided by the Charles E. Herman Endowment Fund. Barstow is a senior in civil engineering from Ramsey, MN.

Sean Kelly and Joseph (Alex) Zikmund will receive the Transportation Engineering Scholarship which is awarded to students who have an interest in transportation and display academic excellence. Funding for the $1,500 scholarships is provided by the Mountain-Plains Consortium as a part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's University Transportation Centers Program. Both are seniors in civil engineering. Kelly is from Dickinson and Zikmund is from Aberdeen, SD.
New staff

Karol Cossette began work Aug. 12 for SURTC as an administrative assistant. Reach her at 231-1064 or karol.cossette@ndsu.edu. She is located in a cubicle in the SURTC wing. Karol returns to her hometown of Fargo after having lived in Bismarck for 25 years. While in Bismarck, she worked as a legal administrative assistant for the Zuger Kimis & Smith Law Firm. Karol received an accounting clerk diploma from Moorhead Area Technical College and a legal assistant AAS from Lake Region State College. She is a part-time (usually mornings) employee, providing assistance to the SURTC program director, training coordinator and research staff. Karol has two sons. Peter, a software engineer, lives with Betsy and their three children in Fargo. Daniel, a power plant operator, lives with Jennifer and their one year old twins in Burnsville, MN. Karol’s husband, Bill, recently joined the staff of Corwin Automotive as a service advisor. Karol’s hobbies include scrapbooking, working out, walking, baking and, of course, her grandchildren.

Leanna Emmer has joined NDLTAP as a circuit rider focusing on truck size and weight issues. Emmer worked for the North Dakota State Highway Patrol for 38 years. She was a Highway Patrol liaison with the Department of Transportation and the motor carrier industry, an instructor for Highway Patrol recruits and motor carrier troopers, as well as agency supervisor for the Permit Office of the Motor Carrier Division. Leanna and her husband, Warren, reside at their lake home in the Turtle Mountains.

Goodbye

Andrew Bratlien resigned his position as a research engineer with UGPTI effective Aug. 1. Bratlien accepted a position with an engineering firm in the Portland, OR, area. Bratlien joined UGPTI in 2013 to provide engineering expertise in support of UGPTI’s transportation planning and infrastructure research. He had also served as a research assistant with ATAC.

Staff meeting and strategic planning set for
UGPTI's next staff meeting has been set for Wednesday, Oct. 1 from 1-5 p.m. The next strategic planning session will be held the following day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. More details on locations and agendas will be released closer to the events.

UGPTI releases app on iTunes for pavement research

UGPTI's first-ever smartphone app is available via iTunes. The app logs inertial, orientation, and position data from the phone's internal sensors to monitor condition data. The data is then transmitted to a database to be used for research and road condition monitoring. For more information, go to http://www.ugpti.org/research/projects.php?view=226&program=smarts

Fall 2014 sessions of Truck-Weight Education
Based on the enthusiastic response to sessions offered last winter and spring, NDLTAP is offering a fall series of ND Truck-Weight Education and Outreach classes. The classes will be Sept. 16 in Bismarck, Sept. 17 in LaMoure, Sept. 23 in Bottineau, and Sept. 24 in Cavalier. The program addresses concerns from state, county, city and township transportation authorities regarding damage from heavy trucks. The goal is to provide information and explanations to attendees on how to haul the most legal weight, without violating the truck-weight laws. The program is funded by the NDDOT and is offered in collaboration with the ND Highway Patrol.

For the first time, the North Dakota GIS Users Conference will be held in Fargo in 2015. The event will be Sept. 28-29 at the Fargo Holiday Inn. UGPTI associate research fellow EunSu Lee is serving on the planning committee for the conference and says that UGPTI is currently developing a homepage for the conference. Staff and students in the Transportation and Logistics Program will have the opportunity to assist with pre-conference preparations, as well as host sessions, greet attendees and assist with registration during the conference. In addition, staff and students will be encouraged to submit abstracts for poster or presentations.


Brown was a presenter in the Training Resources/Technologies - Online Courses Demonstration. Her 30-minute presentation demonstrated how an on-line module is developed in Articulate Studio 09. Brown also highlighted UGPTI’s ND Truck-Weight Education and Outreach Program during a session on LTAP success stories and also moderated several sessions of LTAP U, a pre-conference meeting designed to help newcomers to LTAP familiarize themselves with LTAP's resources, history and organization. Also at the meeting, Brown was re-elected to a 3-year term as the Region 7 representative to the National Local Technical Assistance Program Association.
Mark Verke of the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund also attended the conference in his capacity as a NDLTAP Advisory Board member.

From L-R: Karlita Knight (Northern Plains TTAP) Sandy and Daryl Baisch, Dale Heglund, Dennis Trusty (Northern Plains TTAP) Mark Verke (ND Insurance Reserve Fund), Pam Verke, and Denise Brown.

Lynch teaches FTA 101

Rob Lynch, training coordinator for SURTC, teaches an on-line training module, "FTA 101: An Introduction to the Federal Transit Administration," for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The module summarizes the functions of the FTA and boasts an easy-to-follow curriculum that informs or refreshes new and seasoned staff on the role of FTA in public transit. The in-depth course is designed to be completed in less than two hours. The course was a joint effort of AASHTO, its Multi-State Technical Assistance Program, and UGPTI/SURTDC. The module can be viewed at http://web.transportation.org/fta_pres/fta2/presentation.html

Sharma to attend PTV Vision Traffic

Kshitij Sharma will attend the 15th Annual PTV Vision Traffic User Group Meeting Oct. 7-8 in Orlando. The event will feature presentations and technical sessions by professional and academic PTV Vision Traffic software users and PTV Group developers and engineers sharing research, development and applications of Vissim, Visum, Vistro, and Viswalk. The PTV Group provides software and consulting for traffic, transport logistics and geo marketing. UGPTI uses the company's traffic simulation software. Sharma will present a paper on UGPTI's efforts to improve traffic flow at the Pembina, ND/Emerson, Manitoba,
Lee presents research at GIS Users Group meeting

UGPTI associate research fellow EunSu Lee demonstrated his research in linear referencing systems and methods at the Summer Pine to Prairie (P2P) GIS User Group Meeting. The event was hosted and sponsored by West Central Initiative in Fergus Falls, MN on August 6. Lee’s presentation "Linear Referencing Systems and Management: Applications" focused on advanced applications such as crash analysis and record keeping, road inventory, and asset management. The GIS User Group meets four times throughout the year for workshops and networking intended to facilitate interaction between GIS users in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Information about the P2P GIS User Group and meeting schedule can be found at https://www.facebook.com/P2PGIS.

NDSU offers online survey tool

Are you looking to create an online survey? Do you currently pay for an online solution like SurveyMonkey to host your surveys? NDSU faculty, staff, and students have free access to a web-based survey solution call Qualtrics? There are no limits to the number of surveys, questions, responses. If the survey is for research or the data is going to be printed, researchers must make sure that IRB has approved their survey.

For more information on Qualtrics, including instructions on how to get started, visit http://www.ndsu.edu/gdc/?page_id=546.

Qualtrics also does weekly on-line training at http://www.qualtrics.com/university/researchsuite/misc-pages/misc/training-webinars/

Links to additional training can be found at http://www.ndsu.edu/gdc/?page_id=546

Qualtrics will be featured during a live webinar session during the NDSU Information Technology Expo. "Getting Started with Qualtrics" will be Sept. 23 from 2-3 p.m. in the Arikara Room. The event is free, but pre-registration is required.
NDLTAP Advisory Board Meets

“There's a better way, find it” was the theme of the NDLTAP Advisory Board meeting Aug. 18 as the group examined existing programs and looked for ways to extend their reach and improve their effectiveness.

The group met at the North Dakota Association of Counties Building in Bismarck. The agenda featured overviews of the Safety Circuit Rider, Road Scholar and You Show Us Programs as well as of the ND Truck Weight Education and Outreach program and unveiled the new Motor Grader Operator Training. Board members also received an update on the favorable review that the NDLTAP recently received from the FHWA. The afternoon featured brainstorming ideas for enhancing the NDLTAPs training programs as well as ways to better market the training offered.

“The day was a great balance of recognizing the talent and accomplishments within NDLTAP and looking for ways to keep improving,” noted NDLTAP director Dale Heglund. Special guests at the meeting included Dennis Trusty director and Karlita Knight technology specialist for the Northern Plains Tribal Technical Assistance Program and Ken Skorseth, director of the SDLTAP.

L-R standing: Mark Anderson, KLJ, Inc., Clayton Schumacher, NDDOT, Genny Dienstmann, ND Association of Counties, Steve Chase, NDLTAP Dennis Trusty, Northern Plains TTAP, Denise Brown, NDLTAP, Mike Grafsaard, City of Devils Lake, Mark Verka, ND Insurance Reserve Fund, Mark Berg, City of Bismarck, Kevin Fieldsend, Ramsey County, Karlita Knight, Northern Plains TTAP, R. Blake Crosby, ND League of Cities, Ron Wagner, McLean County, David Ferrell, FHWA, Sandy Baisch, NDLTAP & Ken Skorseth, SDLTAP. Seated from L-R: LeAnna Emmer, Chris Padilla, Tim Horner & Dale Heglund all of NDLTAP.
Remodeling continues

UGPTI is gained access to the main office and administrative offices (Quentin Burdick Building, Suite 448) on August 29. Final phases of remodeling are coming to a close and moving continues. Students are expected to move into the grad room beginning Monday, Sept. 15. Once moving is complete, here is where you will find key staff members:

Denver Tolliver 448E
Sue Peterson 448
Starla Morkassel 448
Bev Trittin 430S
Recent publications

"Cost-Benefit Analysis of Rural and Small Urban Transit" by Ranjit Godavarthy, Jeremy Mattson and Elvis Ndembé was published as part of SURTC’s collaborative work with the National Center for Transit Research at the University of South Florida in Tampa. The report focuses on the qualitative and quantitative benefits of small urban and rural public transit systems in the United States.

"Infrastructure Needs: North Dakota’s County, Township and Tribal Roads and Bridges: 2015-2034" was published by UGPTI in response to the ND Legislature’s request for a study of the transportation infrastructure needs of all county and township roads in the state. Infrastructure needs were estimated using the most current production forecasts, traffic estimates, and roadway condition data available. The final draft report is under review by legislators and local transportation officials across the state. The full report as well as supporting maps and a statewide interactive map can be viewed at http://www.ugpti.org/downloads/road_needs/

Final Word

This week’s Macmillan Dictionary Language tip of the week helps with using the patterns that follow the noun “decrease.” Don’t use decrease of when you want to talk about what is decreasing. Use decrease in:

Write: The experiment has not led to the expected decrease in crime

Not: The experiment has not led to the expected decrease of crime.

Use decrease of with a number or percentage when you want to talk about the amount by which something decreases:

These emissions show a decrease of 21 percent over the past five years.
For more tips, go to:
http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/tag/language-tips

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