Send in those banquet RSVPs

Have you sent in your RSVP for the UGPTI’s 19th Annual Awards Banquet? The deadline to RSVP is Friday, Sept. 26. The banquet is Oct. 16 at the Fargo Holiday Inn. Enjoy good food and sparkling conversation while honoring individuals who have made significant contributions to the transportation industry in the region. For more information about the banquet, go to http://www.ugpti.org/awards/.

New address

For correspondence and package deliveries, note that that main office address is now Room 448 of the Quentin Burdick Building. You may want to pass along the following notice to your clients, collaborators and other potential visitors:

The main office of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute has moved to Room 448 of the Quentin Burdick Building. That new office is just down the hall from the previous location, Room 430 which will continue to serve as office space for UGPTI staff. All graduate students and staff that were previously housed in the Criminal Justice and Public Policy (CJPP) Building are now at the...
Submit Articles for the next Newsletter!

If you have items you would like to submit for the next newsletter, please email Tom Jirik at thomas.jirik@ndsu.edu

Plan to attend staff meeting and strategic planning session

A UGPTI staff meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 1, from 1 to 5 p.m. in Mezzanine II of the Fargo Holiday Inn. Lunch will be served at noon. The next UGPTI Strategic Planning Session will be Thursday, Oct. 2, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the same location. A continental breakfast will be available at 7:30. The Holiday Inn is located at 3803 13th Ave. S. (across 13th Ave. to the north from West Acres Shopping Center). Mezzanine II is located on the second floor. Take the stairs to the left of the registration desk.

Swearingen to receive Military Order of Saint Christopher

Major Robert Swearingen will be inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Christopher at the UGPTI Annual Awards Banquet Oct. 16. Swearingen graduated from the NDSU MML program in 2012 and has recently returned to NDSU to pursue a PhD in Transportation and Logistics with a research fellowship from UGPTI. The Honorable Order of Saint Christopher recognizes those individuals who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character; displayed an outstanding degree of professional competence; and served the Transportation Corps with selflessness. The Order is named for St. Christopher, the patron saint of the travelers and the Transportation Corps Regiment.

Swearingen is retiring from the U.S. Army after more than 25 years of military service including 27 months of combat in Iraq, 19 months of operational service in Bosnia and Kosovo, and 18 months of service in Asia. Most recently he was course director for the sustainment and logistics pre-command courses for battalion and brigade commanders at the Arm Logistics University at Fort Lee where he rewrote the course to greatly increase the number of officers speaking to the course who had hands-on experience in military logistics.

UGPTI research featured

The North Dakota Association of Counties featured UGPTI’s statewide infrastructure needs study in a front-page article in the September-October issue of its “County News” publication. The article highlighted a vote by the Interim Economic Impact Legislative Committee to support the findings of the UGPTI. The article also includes comments from UGPTI Director Denver
Three papers written by Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute researcher Raj Bridgelall were recently published in peer-reviewed journals.

- "Campus Parking Supply Impacts on Transportation Mode Choice," was published in the Journal of Transportation Planning and Technology earlier this month. The paper describes an analytical framework to provide planners with insights about how parking supply and demand affects campus transportation mode choice. The method significantly reduces analysis cost and eliminates the need for specialized modelling software and spatial network analysis tools. For more information, go to: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03081060.2014.959354#.VBs9sMt0x9A

- "Precision Bound of Pavement Distress Localization with Connected Vehicle Sensors" was published earlier this month in the Journal of Infrastructure Systems. This research characterizes the precision bounds of the road impact factor equation that aggregates voluminous data feeds from vehicle sensors to locate potential road distress symptoms. For more information, go to: http://ascelibrary.org/doi/abs/10.1061/(ASCE)IS.1943-555X.0000234

- "Inertial Sensor Sample Rate Selection for Ride Quality Measures" was published in the Journal of Infrastructure Systems in July. The study recommends standards for data sampling from vehicle sensors to calculate the road impact factor, a measure of ride quality that is an alternative to the commonly used international roughness index. For more information, go to: http://ascelibrary.org/doi/abs/10.1061/(ASCE)IS.1943-555X.0000225

Bridgelall is the program director for the UGPTI's Center for Surface Mobility Applications and Real-time Simulation environments (SMARTSe) and has research interests in data analytics, remote sensing, decision support.
platforms, connected vehicles, and transportation modeling.

2014 Rural Transit Fact Book published

SURTC has published its 2014 edition of the rural Transit Fact Book. The publication serves as a national resource for statistics and information on rural transit in America. The Fact Book includes rural demographic and travel behavior data as well as financial, operating, and fleet statistics and performance measures for agencies receiving funding via Section 5311 of the federal transportation bill which supports public transportation in rural areas with populations of less than 50,000. To view the Fact Book, go to: http://www.surtc.org/transitfactbook/. This is the fourth edition of the Fact Book to be published by SURTC. Jeremy Mattson serves as editor.

SURTC partnership with NTI continues

As part of an on-going partnership, SURTC director Jill Hough attended the Sept. 9 advisory board meeting for the National Transit Institute in Washington, D.C. SURTC has been a partner with NTI for the past year, providing training primarily focused on intelligent transportation systems. Hough organized and facilitated an ITS workshop focused on data management in July in Newark, N.J. Additional ITS trainings are scheduled for March in Salt Lake City and for April in California. Rob Lynch will facilitate those trainings. The partnership was recently expanded to include training on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and on environmental justice. SURTC contractors Al Abeson and Ted Rieck have provided most of that training. Hough says NTI was recently granted a continuation of its funding. She expects the NTI/SURTTC partnership to continue to grow.

NDLTAP to co-host 29th Annual Regional Local Road Conference

NDLTAP again will be one of the sponsors of the Regional Local Road Conference to be held Oct. 22-23 in Rapid City. The event is intended for local roads managers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming and is sponsored by LTAPs in these states as well as the Federal Highway Administration. The
event is an opportunity for attendees to learn and share ideas for building and maintaining local roads. More than 300 county road operators, superintendents, consultants and department of transportation employees are expected to attend. NDLTAP is coordinating a charter bus trip, sponsored by NDDOT, to the conference for attendees from North Dakota. NDLTAP coordinates the agenda for the conference and staff from the Bismarck office will help with registration and other details at the event. For information about this year’s conference or to see presentations from previous conferences, go to: http://www.ndltap.org/events/conference/

Communication, hiring & supervision workshops offered

NDLTAP and TLN are offering several classes in October and November that may be of interest to UGPTI staff.

- “Breaking Through the Barriers - Core Skills for Interpersonal Communication” will be Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with registration deadline of Sept. 29.
- "Hiring Smart: Staffing for Optimum Performance” will be Oct. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a registration deadline of Sept. 30.
  - "Transition to Supervision: Introduction to the basics" will be Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a registration deadline of Nov. 7.

For a full list of scheduled training events, go to http://www.ndltap.org/ and click on individual events in the upcoming events column. Register for the trainings at the TLN Learning Management (LMS) Page.

For assistance creating an account or other support on the LMS, please call the TLN Help Desk Support at (701) 231-1087. For other questions, contact Denise Brown at denise.brown.1@ndsu.edu or (701) 328-9856 or Susan Hendrickson at susan.hendrickson@ndsu.edu or (701) 231-7766.

Even more training

NDSU Information Technology Services is offering more than 40 different free classes designed to help you use technology more effectively, including several new classes. Check out the class descriptions, the current schedule, and/or register for the class(es) you want at http://www.ndsu.edu/its/training/facstaff (click "Register for Classes"). Classes continue into December. Pre-registration is required. Examples of classes include
Excel Basics, Thesis Formatting in Word 2013, Microsoft Lync, and many more.

Notes archived

UGPTI’s program leaders continue to meet twice each month to share progress in their program areas and to look for ways to improve program coordination and collaboration. Notes from those meetings are available to all UGPTI staff members on the $ drive at S:\UGPTI\COMMON\UGPTI Organizational Documents\UGPTI Coordination Meeting Information\ . The Organizational documents folder also includes information from UGPTI’s strategic planning efforts, documents to assist in preparing travel expense vouchers, and contracts and grants resources.

Are you up-to-date?

Baseline Safety Training is mandatory for all North Dakota State University employees—faculty, staff, and student employees. If you are a supervisor, it is mandatory that you take both Supervisor Safety Training and Baseline Safety Training. Both courses must be completed on an annual basis. Follow this link to the online training courses: http://www.ndsu.edu/police_safety/training/.

To assist with tracking employee training completion at NDSU, the “Track Training” application is now live. This application allows employees the ability to review their training history and allows supervisors the ability to review the training history of those individuals that report to them. The following is the brief instructional video and track training application site: http://www.ndsu.edu/hr/training/annual_training and https://apps.ndsu.edu/tracktraining/.

Final Word: Despite and in spite of

The MacMillan Dictionary Blog notes that despite and in spite have the same meaning, but despite is used more frequently. Never use “of” after despite (e.g., recycling is a good way to manage waste despite its cost—not “despite of” its cost). Despite is frequently followed by a verb ending in “-ing” (e.g., he made the team and despite playing mostly on the third and fourth lines he managed to score nine goals). For more on this topic: http://www.macmillandictionaryblog.com/language-tip-of-the-
Submit news and events to: UGPTI Communications Coordinator Tom Jirik at Thomas.jirik@ndsu.edu