Photos posted from Awards Banquet

Photos from the 19th Annual UGPTI Awards Banquet have been posted at http://www.ugpti.org/awards/. Click on the slideshow to see larger versions of the photos or to download selected shots. This year’s event was another successful event with more than 180 guests attending. A good time was, indeed, had by all. Mark your calendars now for the 20th Annual UGPTI Awards Banquet. It’s scheduled for Oct. 1, 2015, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Fargo.

Keep Up with UGPTI Happenings

The UGPTI’s departmental computer drive, “the S drive,” contains a wealth of information on current activity within the institute. Key documents include

- Minutes from twice-monthly coordination meetings. Every two weeks, program directors and others meet to share ideas and updates with a focus on fostering cooperation among the UGPTI’s programs.
- Slides from strategic planning efforts. Recent additions include objectives/goals from the three groups that presented at the meeting last month.
- Slides from the UGPTI Advisory Council meeting. Program directors and others provided project updates on more than 20 projects to the UGPTI Advisory Council at its fall meeting Oct. 16.

To view the material, go to S:UGPTI/Common/UGPTI Organizational Documents
Congratulations!

SURTC researcher Ranjit Godavarthy was married to Dimple Dayana on Sept 4 in his home town of Vijayawada, a city in a southern part of India. The ceremony was attended by a huge gathering of family and friends. Dimple's home town is about 30 minutes from Vijayawada. She was working in India as an electronics engineer before the wedding, but has moved to Fargo and is exploring options for graduate study at NDSU. Ranjit says she likes Fargo, so far and is preparing for her first winter here.

SURTC Staff Participate in National Conference

SURTC staff participated in the National Conference on Rural and Public Intercity Bus Transportation in Monterey, CA, Oct. 26-29. The conference is held every two years and attracts nearly 500 rural transit and human service transit providers, tribal transit managers, planners, state agency staff, intercity bus operators, consultants, and researchers and trainers. They gather to learn about best practices and research in rural public and intercity bus transportation.

SURTC staff participation in the conference included:

- Jill Hough’s presentation, "Ethics in the Workplace" was designed to help participants address ethical dilemmas.
- Jeremy Mattson highlighted his recent research in "Evaluating the State of Mobility Management and Human Service Transportation Coordination."
- Rob Lynch discussed strategies to integrate transit into the emergency planning process through community involvement and collaboration in his presentation, "Emergency Management: An Opportunity for Collaborations and Partnerships for Rural Transit."
- Del Peterson presented results from a recent study of veterans in Minnesota, Montana, and North Dakota in "Improving Veteran Mobility in the Northern Plains: Connecting Veterans in Minnesota, Montana and North Dakota to VA Health Care Centers."
- Ranjit Godavarthy discussed research focused on the qualitative and quantitative benefits of small urban and rural public transit systems in "Cost-Benefit Analysis of Rural and Small Urban Transit."
- Hough moderated a panel discussion, "Enhancing Livability in Rural America: What it Means in Your State, Region, and Community.” Peterson moderated a panel discussion, "Communicating with Customers and Communities: Virtual BFFs.” Peterson also served on the conference’s planning committee and made award presentations to the winners of the
student paper competition. SURTC also had a booth at the conference’s vendor show to highlight its programs.

ND Transportation Coalition Hears Study Update

UGPTI Director Denver Tolliver provided an update on the Institute’s studies to the North Dakota Transportation Coalition Oct. 27. The update included an overview of several studies underway, a summary of results and remaining tasks and their timeline for completion. To view the presentation, go to: http://www.ugpti.org/resources/presentations/view.php?id=51

Recent Publications

"Marketing U.S. Grain and Oilseed by Container," DP-272, was published by UGPTI and written by Kim Vachal. The paper describes an analysis of rail and port container traffic activity conducted to gain insight into market activities, trends, and opportunities for marketing grain internationally via container. See: http://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/details.php?id=773

"Spatio-Temporal Estimates of Long-Term Oil Drilling Locations," DP-275 was published by UGPTI and written by EunSu Lee, Nimish Dharmadhikari, and Alan Dybing. The study proposes a 20-year multi-period forecasting architecture using maximum likelihood estimation to fit in the logistic regression. Probability
of drilling on each leased space for drilling was predicted in order to forecast truck movements with respect to frequency and paths for a 20-year period. See: http://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/details.php?id=777

"Seat Belt Use on North Dakota Rural Roads: 2014," DP-274 was published by the UGPTI and written by Kimberly Vachal and Laurel Benson. The report provides findings from a study that is a continuation of previous measurement of rural seat belt usage in North Dakota. See: http://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/details.php?id=776

"Impact of Energy Sector Growth on Perceived Transportation Safety in the Seventeen-County Oil Region of Western North Dakota: A Follow Up Study," MPC-14-271, was published by the Mountain-Plains Consortium and was written by Andrew Kubas and Kimberley Vachal. The report details findings from a study that examined public perceptions of traffic safety issues and priorities in the region and addressed crash trends and possible intervention strategies. See: http://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/details.php?id=775

"Evaluating the State of Mobility Management and Human Service Transportation Coordination" by Jeremy Mattson, James Miller, and Jill Hough 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 describes an evaluation method that was developed to be used by communities to examine the effectiveness of their mobility management and coordination programs. See: http://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/details.php?id=o14

Infrastructure studies featured in Basin Bits

UGPTI’s efforts to estimate North Dakota’s infrastructure investment needs are featured in the Fall 2014 edition of Basin Bits, the official publication of the North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties. The article includes quotes from UGPTI director Denver Tolliver and cites dollar figures from the draft report released in July. The article, "Road to Recovery," also includes a profile of Tolliver in a “Get to Know Our Experts” sidebar. Read the article here

UGPTI wireless inspection efforts highlighted in Fleet Owner

UGPTI’s cooperative efforts with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to implement and test wireless vehicle and driver inspections was featured in Fleet Owner, a magazine and website written for executives and managers of commercial trucking fleets. The article notes that NDSU is
developing and testing a wireless inspection processing system that hat would be a key part of any system that is implemented. Read the full article at: http://fleetowner.com/regulations/fmcsa-recruit-fleets-wireless-inspection-testing.

Dybing quoted in article on overweight trucks in the Bakken

UGPTI researcher Alan Dybing was recently quoted in a Minneapolis Star-Tribune article on overweight trucks operating in North Dakota's oil fields. The article was published Nov. 9 and is available at: http://www.startribune.com/local/282092631.html.

Rural Road Trip

About 30 roads experts took a road trip to South Dakota with NDLTAP last month for the Regional Local Roads Conference in Rapid City Oct. 22-23. More than 300 county road operators, superintendents, consultants and department of transportation employees attended. NDLTAP coordinated a charter bus trip to the conference for attendees from North Dakota. The charter, sponsored by the NDDOT, eased the travel burden for local road agencies while providing additional time for the experts to get to know one another and share ideas. A recap of the conference was published in the newsletter of the National Association of County Engineers: http://www.countyengineers.org/news/14Oct/Pages/14Oct_14.aspx

Presentations from this year's conference are available at: http://www.ndltap.org/events/conference/. Presentations from previous years' conferences are also available there as well. NDLTAP will be again be the conference program managers for the 30th Annual Local Roads Conference next year. The conference date for 2015 is Oct.21-22 in Rapid City.
Fuder and Brown complete NHI Course

Brian Fuder and Denise Brown attended the NHI Instructor Development Course hosted by Nebraska LTAP, Oct. 28-31. Instructors from the Nebraska LTAP, NELTAP Staff, and staff from Nebraska Department of Roads also attended the training. The 3 ½ day course is geared to instructors who anticipate teaching from a complete set of training materials (instructor manuals, participant workbooks, and visual aids) developed by training professionals. The course provides new and experienced instructors the knowledge and skills to deliver more effective training. Participation in the course allows Fuder and Brown to introduce additional content and course options into UGPTI's outreach efforts.

New Motor-Grader Operator Training is Success

The first-ever NDLTAP motor-grader operator training sessions were held in September as a pilot program. Corey Uhrich, an experienced motor grader operator, provided classroom instruction the first day and the following three days were spent in the field in Ramsey and Dunn counties. Motor grader operators from Ramsey, Walsh, Cavalier, Dunn, McKenzie and Stark counties participated. The next training is tentatively scheduled for June.

Truck-Weight Education and Outreach Continues

About 130 individuals have participated in NDLTAP's ND Truck-Weight Education and Outreach classes this fall in Bismarck, LaMoure, Bottineau, and Cavalier.

Based on continued strong response to the program, additional sessions have been scheduled for Nov. 20 in West Fargo, Nov. 21 in Steele, Nov. 25 in Killdeer, Nov. 26 in Dickinson, Dec. 4 in Williston, Dec. 5 in Watford City, Dec. 9 in Bowman, Dec. 10 in Mott and Dec. 18 in Bismarck. 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.

Training Opportunities

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

- "Transition to Supervision: Introduction to the basics" will be Nov. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register, contact Susan Hendrickson at susan.hendrickson@ndsu.edu or (701) 231-7766.
- "Leadership Skills: 8 Principles to be Elite" will be Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to noon as a video conference. The registration deadline is Nov. 26. Register for the trainings at the TLN Learning Management (LMS) Page.

For assistance creating an account or other support on the LMS, 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.

For a full list of scheduled training events, go to http://www.ndltap.org/ and click on individual events in the upcoming events column.

Keep Security in Mind

The south door (into the utility corridor) to room 448C is to be propped open during regular business hours - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Outside of these hours, students and staff housed in 448C can use their card key to enter. Do not prop the door open prior to 8:00 a.m. or leave it open after 5:00 p.m.

Also be sure to lock your office door if you will be gone for an extended period of time. Items have been stolen from open offices in the past. For additional information on campus safety and security, go to: http://www.ndsu.edu/news/view/detail/14769/

Poster Advice

The UGPTI does not have a template for poster presentations at conferences and meetings because meetings often have different size and design requirements. The UGPTI logo is available for use on your poster. Downloadable versions are available at http://www.ugpti.org/resources/staff/logos.php.
NDSU ITS offers some guidance on creating and printing large format posters at: http://www.ndsu.edu/its/training/tlmc/plotting

A guide for creating posters is available from the Bern Dibner Library at NYU: http://guides.nyu.edu/posters

PREcrastination?

Precrastination is defined as getting tasks done ahead of schedule with extra effort. Some time management experts note that precrastinating may be as detrimental to productivity as procrastinating, especially when people precrastinate on trivialities like email, mentally exhausting themselves before turning to greater challenges. This article in the Atlantic describes a recent study on precrastination published in Psychological Science: http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/09/precrastination-worse-than-procrastination/380646/

Think first, then reply

The old adage, "think before you speak," applies to e-mail too. If your instinct is to dash off a quick response to that e-mail that just popped up in your inbox, you may want to read, "Before You Respond to that Email, Pause" in the Harvard Business Review. The article provides a simple two-step method to making the pause work for you. First, buy yourself some time to think. Second, follow the four simple C’s of effective communication that help determine how best to respond in terms of the context, content, channel, and contact. See more at http://blogs.hbr.org/2014/10/before-you-respond-to-that-email-pause/

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