NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

So it has now been a year. It probably seems longer than that to some of you and shorter than that to others. It has gone by much too quick for me. As you might expect, I have had some things that have gone as expected. Others have not. Some unexpected curves were thrown. And some surprises were very welcome. I am hopeful that you will agree that CUTR is in a strong place, well positioned for 2013. We collectively have met many challenges over the past twelve months and I am counting on you to help us meet the challenges 2013 will present.

I am excited about the opportunities our 25th anniversary year will bring and I am looking forward to increasing our national and local presence in the transportation community. I thank you for stepping up to help implement our strategic plan. I can’t say enough good about our talented staff at CUTR and I am proud to provide leadership to this organization. Happy New Year and please do join me in celebrating on January 26.— Jason

WELCOME NEW CUTR EMPLOYEES

Please welcome Lakshmi Arumugam to CUTR. Lakshmi is a Graduate Research Assistant with the GIS team and reports to Martin Catala. She previously volunteered last year with the GIS team prior to her appointment in January as a Graduate Research Assistant. Lakshmi is from India, and completed her Masters in Rehabilitation Science (Disability) from Holy Cross College. She worked as a Program Manager for Action on Disability and Development International, UK, and supported rights-based programs for disabled people across Africa and Asia. Lakshmi worked as a consultant for Community-based Business Development in Srilanka. She is a founding member of the Arudhra Foundation, India; and provides consulting services for other nongovernment organizations overseas. She serves as a Board of Studies member and examiner for graduate program in Bhadrakasan Univeristy, India. Lakshmi is pursuing a Masters in Public Administration at USF. She recently gave birth on December 2nd to a baby boy, Arushan, who weighed 7.4 lbs and measured 20 inches. Her and her husband are enjoying the wonderful experience of parenthood. Welcome to CUTR Lakshmi!

Please welcome Erica Nelson to CUTR. Erica is from Tampa, Florida and still lives in the Bay area. She is an Undergraduate at USF, working on her degree in Secondary English Education. She is a member of the Sun Coast Area Teacher Training Honors Society and also an active member in Delta Gamma sorority. Erica will be joining us as an Undergraduate Recruiter for Naturalistic Driving Study for CUTR and program assistant to the ITS Program.

January Birthdays
Pei-Sung Lin 1/2
Kevin Daniels 1/2
Shaheen Nouri 1/2
Nishanthi Yuvaraj 1/4
Nevine Georggi 1/7
Todd Parsons 1/8
Steve Bovino 1/9
Jason Bittner 1/9
Rob Gregg 1/10
Kelly Douglass 1/10
Neal Downing 1/12
Melissa De Leon 1/15
Samantha Degaetano 1/16
Daniel Medina 1/16
Khoa Tran 1/24
Auveed Arshadi 1/27
Karen Seggerman 1/28
Qing Wang 1/29
Kristin Larsson 1/30

January Anniversaries
Gary Brosch 25 yrs
Dennis Hinebaugh 20 yrs
Phil Winters 20 yrs
Joel Volinski 19 yrs
Martin Catala 19 yrs
Ed Bart 10 yrs
Sean Barbeau 9 yrs
Jennifer Iley 5 yrs
Kristin Larsson 3 yrs
Lyndonia Smith 3 yrs
Jason Bittner 1 yr

AEGIS Timesheets
For the pay period 1/4-1/17, the AEGIS submission date is Monday 1/14/13 @ 10am

For the pay period 1/18-1/31, the AEGIS submission date is Tuesday, 1/29 @ 10am
Please welcome **Michael Bato** to CUTR. Michael was born in Chicago, Illinois, and now resides here in Tampa. He is currently working on his Bachelor’s degree in Industrial Engineering. He dedicates his time working at Master Academy, a martial arts after school care center and summer camp program. Welcome to CUTR Michael!

Please welcome the following new CUTR employees working with Dr. Pei-Sung Lin and the ITS, Traffic Operations & Safety Program: **Danielle Vance, Vivek Babu Koneru, Mathew Johnson** and **Samantha Degaetano**.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **January 14-18, 2013** Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation, CUT102
- **January 21, 2013** Martin Luther King Jr. Day (USF Holiday)
- **January 23, 2013** College of Engineering Faculty & Staff Campaign Pizza Party Celebration, 12:00-1:00pm, CUT102

**KUDOS**

Edward Bart and Amber Reep have had their paper entitled “A Contemporary Model: The Culture of Progressive Longitudinal Training in the Public Transit Industry” published by TRB. They will also be presenting their paper at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 92nd Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. this week.

Melissa McCarville was highlighted in President Genshaft’s commencement speech during the Fall Commencement address, December 15, 2012. President Genshaft spoke of Melissa’s accomplishments at CUTR; notably, how Melissa co-developed the patent-pending PIPM Tool, which is a project management tool for FDOT to evaluate how effectively they are involving the public in their transportation decision-making process. This tool is a graphic user interface and database that enables project managers and senior management to document, track, and evaluate the agency’s public involvement efforts. The tool and framework will be of value to any transportation professional looking to improve their public involvement evaluation methods, but the underlying framework has potential to solve solutions to various related fields engaging in public involvement.

Dr. Aldo Fabregas received his Ph.D. December 15, 2012

**BIKE TO SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST**

We are pleased to announce the winners of the “Biking to School is Healthy and Fun” essay contest. All three winners were from Ms. Miller's 5th grade class at Dickenson Elementary School. Attached is a photo of the three student winners. 1st Place Yovanny Puentes, 2nd Place Zaire Thomas and 3rd Place Xavion Hadley

A big thank you to everyone at CUTR who participated in the $1 jeans day donations for this contest.

Thank you to the CUTR contest team: Jason Bittner, Karen Seggerman, Jennifer Flynn, Domenick Pontoriero and Jason Jackman.

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**CUTR Webcast**

1/24/2013 @ 12pm: Development of Pinellas County Roadway Jurisdiction Policy
Presenter: Alex Kolpakov, CUTR

2/7/2013 @ 12pm: Development of Pinellas County Roadway Jurisdiction Policy
Presenter: Sean Barbeau, CUTR, Michael Frumin, MTA Bus Customer Information Systems, Jeff Maki, OpenPlans

Presenters needed for:
- February 21, 2013
- March 7, 2013
- March 21, 2013
- April 4, 2013
- April 18, 2013
- May 16, 2013
- May 30, 2013

Please email Jennifer Iley if you would be interested in presenting.
USF HR NEWS: HOW THE NEW TAX LEGISLATION WILL AFFECT YOU

This week Congress made some significant tax decisions that will have a direct impact on your paycheck. Due to these recent Congressional actions, the temporary reduction in the Social Security payroll tax (FICA) has expired and the result will be a 2% increase in Social Security payroll tax deductions. This increase will impact all USF employees*.

Social Security is financed by a 12.4% tax on wages, with employers paying half and workers paying the other half. From 1990 to 2010, the Social Security payroll tax deductions for employees held steady at 6.2% of gross pay. The Tax Relief Act of 2010 reduced the employee deductions from 6.2% to 4.2% for 2011 and 2012 as part of an economic stimulus plan. Congress voted to allow that temporary reduction to expire this week. This expiration will raise the percentage of the Social Security payroll tax deducted from employees back up to 6.2%, effective immediately. Therefore, paychecks beginning Jan. 11, 2013 will reflect this 2% increase in the Social Security payroll tax, resulting in a lower net pay.

Separately, Congress voted to increase other tax rates, but these tax increases will not impact the net pay of the majority of employees. A new increase to the personal income tax rates will only affect individuals earning more than $400,000 dollars per year. Workers earning taxable Medicare wages higher than $200,000 per calendar year, beginning Jan. 1, 2013, will be affected by a new requirement for employers to withhold increased Medicare tax, in addition to the 1.45% Medicare tax already being withheld. The 2013 tax tables were released on Jan. 3, 2013, and will be implemented beginning with the Jan. 11 payroll.

Should you have any questions, please contact the USF Payroll Department at (813) 974-7955.

CUTR BUILDING INFORMATION

- **Click here to view** the USF 2013-2018 Strategic Plan. The College of Engineering will now be developing its plan to fit the USF Goals. The CUTR Strategic Plan reflects our own spin on many of these initiatives.

- Please remember if you choose to wear jeans on Thursday or Friday, a donation of $1 should be made to LaToya at the Frontdesk. Please continue to wear business casual attire Monday thru Friday.

- **For complete voicemail instructions**, Directions are at the top of that page. There is also a one page summary sheet that is helpful

- For your information and safety, the location of the fire extinguishers and evacuation routes are in S:\CUTRFireExtinguishers-EvacRoutes.pdf

- **Sign-up to receive University Emergency notifications, MoBull instructions**

- Phone changes (add/remove/office moves, etc.) contact LaToya or Ken.

- If there are any building problems (cleanliness/bugs/leaks/any other issues) contact LaToya Fipps. If LaToya is not available, contact Ken, Pam or Grace.
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<thead>
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<th>Project:</th>
<th>National Technical Assistance Center for Alternative Transportation</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Montana State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI/Co-PI:</td>
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<td>Award:</td>
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<td>Project:</td>
<td>Potential Consolidation of Hillsborough County Transportation Disadvantaged Services</td>
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<td>Project:</td>
<td>Florida Bicycle/Pedestrian Focused Initiative: Communications</td>
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<td>FDOT</td>
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<td>Polzin/Pessaro</td>
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Project: Community Impacts Assessment (CIA) Website Maintenance
Sponsor: FDOT
PI: Kramer
Value: $12,600

Project: Evaluation of Rear-End Bus Collisions
Sponsor: FDOT
PI/Co-PIs: Morris/Deannuntis/Hinebaugh
Value: $145,754

Proposals Submitted/Underway

Project: USDOT UTC Open Competition 2012
Sponsor: USDOT
PI/Co-PI: Volinski/Hinebaugh/Winters
Value: $3,397,601

USF Collaborations
Lynn Rejniak, Executive Director—Educational Technologies, USF Information Technology has invited Ed Bart to serve on the Search Committee for a new university role, Chief Business Development Officer and Executive Director, University College. This is one of three newly established positions within University College responsible to lead a new vision for online learning, continuing education and market-based tuition programs.

Sean Barbeau will be teaching GIS 5075 (Global Positioning System) in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Planning.

NoteWorthy
USF Spring Semester student courses:

Mondays & Wednesdays: Transportation and Society, CUT202, 3:00-4:30pm
Tuesdays: CGN 6933—Sustainable Transportation, CUT202, 2:00-4:45pm
Thursdays: TTE 6905—Discrete Choice Models of Behavior, CUT202, 2:00-4:45pm
Fridays: Graduate Transportation Seminar, CUT202, 11:00am-12:00pm

ITE Transportation Research Seminars
Seminars will resume during the Spring 2013 semester.

For more information and a schedule please visit the TTE 6930 website.

Need to Submit to CUTR Connections?
If you have information that you would like to share and include in the monthly issue of the CUTRConnections—CUTR Employee Newsletter, please send an email with the information to Yolanda Moore

Next Issue: Monday, February 4, 2013