July 7, 2014

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

When Dennis “volunteered” me to write this article, I realized it was an opportunity to reintroduce the GIS group to CUTR.

Over the last year we created a service center that could provide GIS and web services to CUTR Programs and other entities outside of CUTR. To accomplish this we worked with USF to establish an Educational Business Activity (EBA) center, allowing us to provide services to clients that do not qualify as research.

We also took the opportunity to rebrand the group to more closely reflect the activities we perform. We wanted the new name to reflect the geo-spatial work that we do while expanding that description to include the database and web applications we develop. We also wanted the new name to incorporate the innovative spirit which the group embraces.

The result is the Advanced Geo-Spatial Informatics Laboratory (AGIL).

![AGIL Logo]

While still offering the same GIS services; spatial analysis, demographic evaluations and mapping services we have expanded the activity to include 3-D GIS visualizations, database and web application development, web hosting and domain management.

I want to highlight our new 3-D GIS applications (CityEngine) that can produce photorealistic images to illustrate future land use, demographic trends and corridor development. Most recently the AGIL group developed 3-D graphics of transit crash types for Lisa Staes’ bus safety project.

![3D Graphics Example]

The AGIL group also develops websites that incorporate mapping features, data driven dashboards, data editing as well as sites using the content management system (CMS) WordPress. Currently the AGIL group hosts and maintains most websites at CUTR by keeping the CMS software up-to-date to avoid security lapses, hosting the website content, as well as ensuring the domain names are current.

So, if your group has a project that needs any of these services, I hope that you will give us the opportunity to work with you. Come up and see AGIL and I’ll show you our capabilities.

Martin Catala
Program Manager
AGIL of CUTR
Welcome New CUTR Employees

Please welcome **Dr. Seckin Ozkul!**

Dr. Seckin Ozkul has joined CUTR as its first freight research faculty. He has received his Ph.D. from the College of Engineering (Transportation) at the University of Florida. His research background includes commercial vehicle operations, freight management, freight logistics, economic impacts of freight transportation, traffic engineering and operations and statistical analyses. The results of previous research projects that he was in charge of are currently being used by the State of Florida to determine the Arterial Roadway Level-of-Service (LOS) throughout the state along with the updated commercial vehicle passenger car equivalency (PCE) factor equations he has introduced using an advanced vehicle dynamics modeling approach in traffic microsimulation. He also worked on and is interested in research projects that utilize On-Board-Diagnostics (OBD) Data and the usage of this direct engine data to calculate more accurate vehicle emissions and fuel consumption rates.

Dr. Ozkul came to Tampa in 2007 after completing his B.S. in Civil Engineering at Auburn University and started working as a consulting engineer. During his consulting experience, he also completed his Master of Civil Engineering at USF. Dr. Ozkul enjoys spending his leisure time with his wife and two kids and traveling. Among his hobbies are playing tennis, basketball, and chess. His goals are to become an exemplary scholar and contribute to the society with the advancement of the transportation field. He will be working primarily on freight related projects.

Welcome Dr. Ozkul!

**Ram Kanteti** is currently pursuing his M.S. Degree in Engineering Management. He is working for Dr. Chanyoung Lee’s team on the Motorcycle Survey Observation Ride Smart Florida. He has a passion for working on this particular survey, which is being done in Florida, which will look at helping to reduce fatal accidents with motorcyclists. He is looking forward to this opportunity to work with everyone at CUTR. **Welcome, Ram!**

Good Luck

**Danny Shopf** will be graduating on August 8th with his Master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning. He is leaving CUTR for a position as a Transportation Analyst to work on the Florida Future Corridors and the Florida Transportation Plan with Cambridge Systematics in Tallahassee. **Congratulations and Good Luck, Danny!**

Upcoming Events

July 8  CUTR Barbecue, 11:30 —airplane contest; 12:00 pm Lunch —Rain or Shine

July 30  CUTR Advisory Board Teleconference, 1:30 pm, Board Room.
Congratulations to the new CUTR WalkWise Ambassadors!

Dr. Pei-sung Lin was interviewed by Holly Sinn, WTSP Channel 10 News on “Road Warrior: The Traffic Test.” The article can be found at this link:  http://www.wtsp.com/story/traffic/2014/07/02/traffic-test/11890567/

Dr. Pei-sung Lin was also interviewed by Chuck Henson, Bay News 9 in regards to the findings on two CUTR studies on the distracted pedestrians and bicyclists.

Dr. Steve Polzin was recently selected as a member of the Committee for Study of Innovative Urban Mobility Services by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Executive Committee. This ad hoc committee will examine the growth of new on-demand and peer-to-peer mobility services and explore the implications these services have for consumers and existing transportation services. The study will identify policy, regulatory, and other issues that policy makers will need to consider as they regulate these services, including the existing regulatory structure for taxi, limousine, and transit services. Priority areas of research to inform public policy decisions will also be identified. The committee's first meeting to take testimony from industry stakeholders was held in early July. This effort is scheduled to produce a report within approximately 15 months.
### NEW AWARDS/CONTRACTS

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<th>Project</th>
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<td>Kramer</td>
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<tr>
<td>FL. Bicycle/ Pedestrian Focused Initiative</td>
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<td>Lin/Larsson</td>
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**NOTEWORTHY ACCOLADES**

Joel Volinski was elected to the position of Vice President of the Council of University Transportation Centers at CUTC’s Annual Summer Meeting held at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln) on June 4, 2014. He has previously served as Treasurer and Secretary on CUTC’s Executive Committee.

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 Grace Hunt. Next CUTRConnections is scheduled to be out on August 4, 2014. **Deadline to submit information is Thursday, July 31st by noontime.**