August 20, 2012

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

The start of the school year is upon us. I’ve always viewed the new semester a bit lackadaisically as it means little to those of us who do not teach. But to our primary products – our students – it means a lot. Some will be entering their final period of studies, others are just starting out. This week and next, let’s be sure that we do what we can to make the transition back into the classroom as smooth and non-stressful as we can.

We will be moving to a monthly distribution for CUTR Connections starting in September. As always, your feedback is appreciated. See you at tomorrow’s staff meeting. — Jason

WELCOME NEW CUTR EMPLOYEES

Please welcome Elzbieta Bialkowska-Jelinska to the CUTR family. Ela is originally from Poland and is currently working towards her Ph.D. degree in Environmental Science and Policy at USF. She will be working with Martin Catalá on a variety of GIS related projects. She received her Master’s Degree in Physical Geography from University of Lodz in Poland and Master’s Degree in Earth Sciences from University of Memphis.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Alex and Anastasiya Kolpakov on the birth of their son, Andrey Alexander Kolpakov. He was born on August 9, 2012 at 8:30am at St Joseph’s Women's Hospital. Baby weighs 8 pound and 1 ounce, and is 20 inches tall. Mommy, daddy, and big brother Dmitry, 3, are all doing well.

A FOND FAREWELL

Menna Yassin, who has been working with Jennifer Flynn as a Research Assistant for over 2 years, has accepted a position with FDOT District 7 as an Engineer I (4 year PE training program). Her last day at CUTR was on Friday, August 10th. While at CUTR, Menna worked on various BRT research projects. She will continue working on her Ph.D. in Civil Engineering at USF part-time. Good luck, Menna!

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 21, 2012 Staff Meeting, CUT102 @ 9:00am
August 24, 2012 Faculty and Staff Welcome Back to School Luncheon, Hall of Flags @ 11:30am
August 27, 2012 USF Fall Semester begins
September 3, 2012 Labor Day (USF Holiday)
November 1, 2012 2012 Transportation Achievement Award Event, USF Embassy Suites @ 5:30-9:00pm
TRANSPORTATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD EVENT
The 2012 Transportation Achievement Award Event will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2012 honoring José Abreu, P.E., Director of the Miami-Dade Aviation Department and a Former Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation. This year’s guest speakers include Ananth Prasad, P.E., Secretary of FDOT and Gus Pego, P.E., District Six Secretary of FDOT. The Award Event is from 5:30pm-9:00pm at Embassy Suites, USF.

NOTEWORTHY
The University of South Florida, the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County and TECO Energy are launching a new effort to coordinate and promote the use of clean energy for transportation through the Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition. The effort was formally launched Tuesday, August 14, in a signing ceremony and inaugural gathering at the Patel Center for Global Solutions on USF’s campus.

USF President Judy Genshaft; Hillsborough EPC Executive Director Richard Garrity; TECO Energy President and CEO John Ramil; Hillsborough County Commissioner Mark Sharpe, Tampa businessman and philanthropist Frank Morsani; and CUTR’s Stephen Reich, Program Director, Transportation Program Evaluation & Economic Analysis, spoke on the new effort and its goal of maximizing opportunities to reduce petroleum use for the region’s transportation system. The EPC and TECO Energy are kick-starting this effort with financial and in-kind support. USF’s Patel School of Global Sustainability will coordinate efforts under the guidance of Stephen Reich, of USF’s Center for Urban Transportation Research, a 30-year veteran in the field of transportation finance and energy, with a special emphasis on alternatively fueled transportation.

Sara Hendricks, whose NCTR Shared Bus Bike Lane report link “A Summary of Design, Policies and Operational Characteristics for Shared Bicycle/Bus Lanes” was included in the latest ITE – e-newsletter. Download the report. An article by Sara was also included in the ACT newsletter TDM Review-Green Matters. The article, “What Does Greenhouse Gas Emissions Estimation Mean for TDM?” can be found here and begins on page 23.

Karen Seggerman recently became an accredited member of the Congress for the New Urbanism having completed all requirements for The Principles and Practice of New Urbanism, an online course offered by the University of Miami, including 55 hours of study and an online exam.

Sisinnio Concas and Phil Winters were acknowledged for the use of their TRIMMS Model, in an article in the summer issue of ACT’s publication, TDM Review, Travel Activity and Emissions Impacts of Implementing Transportation Control Measures, which discusses their work that used FDOT/NCTR TRIMMS Model. The article can be found here and begins on page 10.
The **CUTR Employee Suggestion Form** has been updated and ready for use! The suggestion form is available via the CUTR Share Drive at: S:\CUTR\FORMS\Miscellaneous Forms. You can print out the completed form and place it in the suggestion box in the first floor workroom or email the form directly to [Jason Bittner](mailto:Jason.Bittner).