December 3, 2014
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Is it a Native American dwelling?
This little-known acronym is the self-ascribed moniker of the Transportation Program Evaluation and Economic Analysis program at CUTR that includes Stephen Reich, Janet Davis, Sisinnio Concas, Alex Kolpakov, and Jana Huss. The name of the group is a long one and attempts to describe the breadth and diversity of the research and technical support capacity that resides in this small but productive group.

The program began some 15 years ago with two research faculty members and a waning alternative fuels program. Since then, the group has grown and engaged in approximately $8 million worth of contracts for projects ranging from toll roads to aviation and transit operations to sophisticated economic modeling. Perhaps the best way to describe the team is to provide a snapshot of its members and some representative examples of their work.

Our newest member is Jana Huss, who joined TPEEA in the fall of 2012 with a degree in English from Florida State University. She is a former managing editor of a national magazine publisher and a small business owner. Jana performs a variety of functions within the team including editor, program assistant, and accountant, and she heads up Membership Services for the recently federally designated Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition. Jana works with coalition members and the Executive Steering Committee on budgets, schedules, and program content to assure that members get value from the annual dues they contribute to the organization.

Alex Kolpakov is an economist, and started life with the group as a graduate student earning an MA in Economics from the University of South Florida and an MBA in Management from Chuvash State University in Cheboksary, Russia. Alex has played a central role in many of the team’s projects and has been the lead on aviation work. He developed an approach for the prioritization of aviation security investments that received national attention. Recently he was Principal Investigator for a Florida Department of Transportation...
AEGIS Timesheets

Pay period 12/05/14 to 12/18/14
AEGIS submission date is Tuesday, December 9 at 10 am.

Pay period 12/19/14 to 1/01/1
AEGIS submission date is Wednesday, December 18 at 10 am.

Alma Mater Days
SHOW YOUR ALMA MATER PRIDE: Wear your favorite college t-shirt, sweatshirt, and the like (must display the College’s logo or name) the first Friday of every month. Friendly banter on performance of affiliated sports teams or alumni news is also highly encouraged. If you want to add a banner or anything to your door, that’s great too. Dress code restrictions on sleeveless shirts, shorts or sandals will remain enforced. Jeans can, of course, be worn (with a reminder that a contribution ($1) is appreciated).

GO BULLS!!!

Alma Mater Days:
• December 5
• January 2

Project on airport rates and charges. His other aviation projects have included assistance to the FDOT Aviation Office with guidance to airports on the use of grant funds and multiyear support to the SAFE Council, a statewide airport group concerned with post-9/11 security.

Alternative fuels research continues to be a central focus of TPEEA. Alex is currently engaged in establishing the Advanced Transit Energy Portal (ATEP), a NCTR-funded initiative to create an online resource for the transit industry. ATEP provides the latest information on developments in alternative fuels in public transportation and allows for online reporting of bus fleet performance data for use in ongoing analysis. His paper on the estimation of the energy impacts of aggressive electrification was accepted for presentation at an international conference last fall in Paris, France.

Dr. Sisinnio Concas also joined TPEEA as a graduate student in 2002 while working on his Masters in Economics at USF. Sisinnio came to CUTR with impressive credentials as a Doctor in Political Science from the Università degli Studi di Sassari, Italy, earned in 1997. He continued to work on his PhD as he juggled a full complement of CUTR projects and a publication regimen that has established him internationally as a transportation economist of note. Sisinnio’s current work includes the largest single research grant awarded to the team. This award from the Federal Transit Administration was based on relationships with FTA made possible through collaborations facilitated by Dennis Hinebaugh via the National Bus Rapid Transit Institute, and on Dr. Concas’s research in a program sponsored by the College of Engineering to further new strains of research. The project is a multiyear economic assessment of federal transportation stimulus funding provided to cities for urban circulator capital projects and is valued at more than $720,000.

The methodology employed in this analysis evolved from earlier work by the team with state toll agencies. Contributing research included a business impact analysis for the Tampa Hillsborough County Expressway Authority that assessed the proposed Gandy Connector and a more sophisticated method developed while assessing the implications of a project for the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority.

Sisinnio’s interest and expertise in infrastructure investment and economic development, the relationship of travel behavior to land use and urban form, and transportation demand management have contributed to many of the team’s projects and have resulted in ongoing collaboration with Phil Winters’ group. This collaboration includes his role in leading the development of the Trip Reduction Impacts of Mobility Management Strategies Model (TRIMMS™).

Dr. Concas has presented his work at several prestigious international conferences, including the 2014 International Conference in Economics, Management and Accounting in Cartagena, Colombia, the International Economics Association Kuhmo

**Jan Davis** joined TPEEA in the spring of 2000 and immediately put her transportation operations experience to work in southeast Florida for Miami-Dade Transit. Prior to arriving at CUTR, she held senior-level transportation management positions such as Chief Operating Officer of the Maryland Transportation Authority and terms as the Administrator of Bridges and Assistant Administrator for Turnpikes at the same agency. A graduate of the University of Southern Illinois, Jan brought an analytical approach to providing practical solutions to myriad transportation management issues.

Jan was a fixture at MDT in the early years, working closely with operations and maintenance staff to totally revamp their processes and creating new maintenance management plans for MetroBus, MetroRail, and MetroMover. These documents so impressed FTA that they used them as examples of the kind of plan they wanted to see from other transit agencies. She was able to leverage her toll management experience by assisting in the organization of Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise shortly after its creation. Jan conducted management studies and developed performance metrics for each of the Enterprise’s major units. She also had several large, successful projects with Lee County dealing with their toll facilities that included a detailed look at toll rates and the financial health of the organization, as well as an assessment of contracting toll collection services.

Always stressing the importance of collecting and using data to manage an organization, Ms. Davis was instrumental in developing the Florida Transportation Commission’s first performance measurement system for state transportation authorities. A legislative action called for development of a performance reporting system for specified transit and toll agencies. Jan worked with Commission members as well as executives of the regulated agencies and their staffs. The resulting annual measurement system remains in place today.

The experience Jan brought to several exercises examining the decisions driving an agency to contract for service or keep a function in-house cut across the various modes of transport. The MDT work dealt with rail subsystem rebuilds, the toll work included an assessment of contracting for services, then came an opportunity to look at fixed-route bus service in Florida, and most recently a piece of research for FDOT on the emerging topic of “delegated management contracting” in transit. Jan’s quest for reliable data and her total reliance on analysis to produce findings and recommendations are attributes that benefit every TPEEA endeavor.

It is ironic that I was one of those two faculty members starting the group with a “waning” alternative fuels program. The fellow that left was convinced there was inadequate sponsor support for this to be a viable programmatic area. Since that time, TPEEA has staffed a statewide legislatively created committee to make recommendations on cleaner transportation fuels to the governor and state legislature; worked with FDOT on an ongoing project to evaluate the performance of alternatively fueled buses; assisted FTA with its transit electrification research plan and other fuel-related research; developed ATEP; established the Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition; and received grants from the University of Central Florida to assist in developing markets for alternative fuel vehicles.

Before becoming TPEEA’s program director, I spent a stint with an automotive safety supplier, served four years as the head of a large toll entity, and worked for more than a decade in a state DOT in the areas of planning, financing, and program evaluation. My current work includes the Clean Cities coordination, other energy initiatives, and trying to establish CUTR in an appropriate automated vehicle role. One of my more memorable assignments to date was as acting...
Executive Director of the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority in 2007. That role took me away from my team for nearly nine months. I am sure my work in establishing a new management structure and lineup at the Authority helped pave the way for the successes the organization has since earned. Another high-profile and interesting project was the revenue study the entire team worked on with Jeff Kramer and Howard Glassman for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council.

TPEEA’s project sponsors have been many, including the Hillsborough County Public Transportation Commission, the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, Florida Energy Office, Tampa International Airport, Lee County Toll Facilities, Miami Beach, Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise, FDOT District One, FDOT Aviation Office, FDOT Transit Office, FDOT Freight Office, Florida Transportation Commission, Florida Airports Council, Miami-Dade Transit, Hillsborough Area Transit Authority, Pinellas County, Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, Federal Transit Administration, and the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority.

The team is truly a team and operates under what Tom Peters and Robert Waterman called the practice of “Simultaneous Loose Tight Properties.” We share and hold firm the core values of quality research provided on time and within budget, but are flexible in how we achieve these goals. A junior researcher can be P.I. with the Program Director working for them on the project. At some point in virtually every project, each team member brings his or her expertise to the product even if they have not been closely involved through the process. The members of TPEEA have an accomplished body of work to show for the last decade and a half, and I am pleased to have been, and continue to be, a part of this group.

Stephen L. Reich

WELCOME NEW CUTR EMPLOYEES

Angela Coullias has joined CUTR as a Pedestrian and Bicycle Program Planner/Analyst, a part of the ITS, Traffic Operations and Safety team with Dr. Pei-Sung Lin. Her background is in both planning and architecture, with her interests in urban design, walkability, and health concerns related to urban planning. She previously worked at an engineering consulting firm as an architectural intern then later a designer from May 2006 till October 2014 in Gainesville, FL. She received her Bachelor of Design degree majoring in architecture in 2007 and then following a few years working full-time, she returned back to the University of Florida to earn her Master in Urban and Regional Planning in May 2013. Her Master’s thesis focused on the barriers and facilitators of walkability, concentrating on the analysis of street networks and urban design characteristics around Central Florida Elementary schools. She hopes to earn her LEED and AICP certifications. In her free time she also loves traveling, exercising/biking/yoga, cooking/baking and spending time with loved ones. Welcome, Angela!

Ratna Susmita Seethlaw has joined CUTR as a Graduate Research Assistant with the ITS, Traffic Operations and Safety team with Dr. Pei-Sung Lin. She is pursuing a MS in Engineering Management degree. She finished her undergrad in Computer Science Engineering from India. Before joining CUTR, she worked at the Library and the Department of Special Education as a Tutor for Statistics. Her favorite hobbies are cooking and traveling. She will be working mainly on the Comprehensive Bicycle Safety grant. Welcome, Ratna Susmita
**WELCOME NEW CUTR EMPLOYEES**

*Donny Hayward* will be taking over the IT tech position since Ali Akram has left CUTR and moved to Virginia. He will continue to work for Martin Catala in the GIS lab too where he has been developing data-driven websites and GIS applications. He's been managing the technology behind most of CUTR's websites for about 3-4 years. He has been fixing computers since he was 9 years old and he helped manage his school’s computer network when he was in high school so CUTR is in good hands. He can be reached at 4-0902 and he will be located in CUT111. As always, an e-mail can be sent to CUTR help: cutr_help@cutr.usf.edu.

He received his BA in Mathematics with a minor in Computer Science and Psychology at USF in 2011. He obtained his MS in Management Information Systems degree at USF in 2013.

He enjoys bicycling to work. He is married to Danielle and they have twin kittens. He enjoys storytelling; he is an amateur novelist. **Welcome Donny to his new position at CUTR!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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<td>Dec 14-16</td>
<td>Social Marketing in Transportation class, CUT102/202/Boardroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>CUTR Merriment Party — Tampa Bay Brewing Company, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm</td>
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More details to follow.

| Dec 24  | USF Holidays — December 24, 25, and January 1                           |
|        | **2014 FLOATING HOLIDAYS**                                             |
|        | Friday, December 26, 2014                                              |
|        | Wednesday, December 31, 2014                                            |
|        | **2014 ADDITIONAL WINTER BREAK HOLIDAYS**                              |
|        | Monday, December 29, 2014                                              |
|        | Tuesday, December 30, 2014                                             |
|        | back to work on Friday, January 2, 2015                                |

**CUTR WEBCASTS AT 12:00 PM**

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<tr>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>Sustainability Metrics and Mapping Tool for Environmental Assessment of Rail Infrastructure in Illinois; Presenter: Ning Ai, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor Institute for Environmental Science and Policy</td>
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NOTEWORTHY ACCOLADES

Safe Routes to School Tampa Bay presented at the 2014 Great American Teach-In Day event(s) at Witter Elementary, Robles Elementary, Summerfield Crossings Elementary and Terrace Community Middle Schools in Hillsborough County. Staff provided a total of twelve pedestrian and bicycle safety presentations for students with a Q & A session at the end. The purpose of the presentation(s) was to provide pedestrian and bicycle safety, spread awareness about CUTR and USF (Go Bulls!), and get the students thinking about their current and future transportation options.

Jason Jackman took second place for the 2014 I’m Safe National Photo Contest.

The photo taken was of a father and son riding their bicycles to school at Lewis Elementary in Temple Terrace.

Other participating agencies include: Safe Kids, Florida Department of Health, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, etc. [https://www.imsafe.com/content/2014-15-im-safe-photo-contest-winners](https://www.imsafe.com/content/2014-15-im-safe-photo-contest-winners)

Kristine Williams, AICP, Director of CUTR’s Planning & Corridor Management Program, is teaching a new graduate level course on multimodal transportation planning for the USF urban planning program in the 2015 Spring Semester. The 3 credit course addresses contemporary best practices in multimodal transportation planning, reviews the roles of various agencies and organizations in transportation planning, and emphasizes the relationship of transportation to land use and urban form. She is also working with a number of faculty across campus to help initiate a Sustainable Cities Initiative at USF aimed at engaging USF students in sustainability focused service learning activities in the community.

Steve Polzin, Program Director of CUTR’s Mobility and Policy Research Program, received Certificates of Appreciation for service on the HART Board of Directors from the HART Board and from the County Commission. HART service included two terms from 1999 to 2005, a partial term from 2007-2008 and two terms from 2008-2014. He also served as the HART representative to the Metropolitan Planning Commission Board from 2002-2005 and from 2010-2014.


Lorraine Barnett earned the designation of the Certified Research Administrator at USF /Advanced Credential (CRA-USF/Advanced). Obtaining this advanced-level certification demonstrates an exceptional level of commitment to excellence in research administration at USF. The CRA-USF/Advanced is an internal designation given to employees by THE RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENT NETWORK (TRAIN) who successfully complete the full-day Advanced Classroom Lab Session. This lab session provides an opportunity for participants to develop competencies through hands-on guided practice with USF’s business systems, processes, tools and forms.

Congratulations, Lorraine!
Maximillian Mantius is graduating with his BA in Economics and a BS in Environmental Science and Policy. He has been accepted into the MS program in Economics and will work as a graduate research assistant under the supervision of Vicky Perk.

Patrick Buddenbrock is graduating with his MS of Civil Engineering (Transportation). He secured a job with the Federal Transit Administration as a general engineer in the Office of Program Management and Oversight. His start date is January 14, 2015 in Region 1, the Boston area. Region 1 includes NH, ME, MA, RI,CT, and VT.

Casey Jarrell is graduating with her MS of Civil Engineering (Transportation).

Saul Maldonado Rueda is graduating with his MS of Civil Engineering (Transportation) and will continue with his MS in Engineering Management with an expected completion date of Fall 2015.

Oana McKinney is graduating with her MA of Geography from the School of Geosciences.

Tracy Wolf is graduating with her MS of Computer Engineering.

NOTEWORTHY ACCOLADES

The Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition (TBCCC), a partnership between the University of South Florida, the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County, and TECO Energy, celebrated its official designation under the national Clean Cities program by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) during a November 17 ceremony.

CUTR is a founding member of the coalition, which promotes the use of advanced transportation fuels and technologies in the Tampa Bay region. Steve Reich, Program Director of the Transportation Program Evaluation and Economic Analysis team, is coordinator of the coalition.

The ceremony, held at the Patel Center for Global Solutions, included a display of alternative fuel vehicles from coalition members -- Tampa International Airport, Precision Alternative Fuel Conversions, and Florida Transportation Systems. Also on display were a couple of the latest electric vehicles, a Tesla Model S and a BMWi3.

Following a welcome by USF President Judy Genshaft and addresses by several guest speakers, Linda Bluestein, National Clean Cities Co-Director, spoke about the Clean Cities program, which has saved nearly 6.5 billion gallons of petroleum since 1993. She presented Steve with a plaque from DOE commemorating the coalition’s designation and in recognition of its “leadership and commitment to reducing petroleum dependence and improving air quality.” Ms. Bluestein and Trev Hall, Clean Cities Southeast Regional Manager, also unveiled a map showing the location of TBCCC and the nearly 100 other designated coalitions nationwide.

The highlight of the ceremony was the certification presentation to coalition members, acknowledging their shared commitment to the Clean Cities program. Many of the 30-plus public and private organizations are already using successful petroleum displacement initiatives.

Since its founding in August 2012, TBCCC has hosted or supported numerous events promoting the use of cleaner fuels in transportation, including AFV expos, a CNG training workshop, webinars, and tours of local AFV infrastructure facilities.

Federal designation will help the Tampa Bay region identify funding opportunities for clean fuel projects through a network of partners on the cutting edge of alternative fuels. The coalition’s efforts going forward will continue to support the Clean Cities petroleum displacement goals. The U.S. Department of Energy will work closely with the coalition, providing national program resources to assist in outreach and educational efforts.

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CUTR adopted 20 children this year! For the 15th year, CUTR played Santa to a group of deserving children and hardworking families. This voluntary program helps moms/dads in need, learn, and improve upon skills in parenting, homemaking, health, etc. The families are from East Pasco County, many of them are migrant workers. The gifts CUTR provided are the only gifts these children receive, and their requests are small.

Many thanks to all who participated:
Arunima Bagui, Ela Bialkowska-Jelinska, Molly Buffington, Xuehao Chu, Angela Coullias, Jan Davis, Melissa De Leon, LaToyia Fipps, Nevine Georggi, Jay Goodwill, Rob Gregg, Grace Hunt, Casey Jarrell, Jeff Kramer, Stephanie Lewis, Erin McCarthy, Vicky Perk, Jeanette Rouse, Karen Seggerman, Lazara Stinnette, Cheryl Thole, Kristine Williams, Roberta Yegidis.

**CUTR’S 2014 FOOD DRIVE FOR FEEDING AMERICA TAMPA BAY!!**

This year’s Food Drive for Feeding America Tampa Bay was a competition between the ladies and the gentlemen to see which group would bring in the most food. CUTR’s last food drive resulted in a whopping 1,019 items! We surpassed our goal with a total of 1,121 items!

The gentlemen won by bringing in 583 items to the ladies’ 538!! Congratulations gentlemen! More importantly, congratulations to all CUTR for having met our goal! The generosity of each of you is, as always, overwhelming. Thank you so very much!

**Food factoids:**

*Currently, the food bank is distributing enough food for 635,000 meals each week.*

*The majority of those served by Feeding America Tampa Bay are the working poor, senior citizens and children.*

*1 in 4 children in Tampa Bay will go to bed hungry tonight.*

*Feeding America Tampa Bay partners with 600 charitable feeding programs and schools in 10 west central Florida counties.*

*Last year, Feeding America Tampa Bay distributed more than 40 million pounds of food or 33 million meals to Tampa Bay families in need.*

Video showing how Feeding America helps some within our community for the day:

https://www.youtube.com/user/FeedingTampaBay
CUTR INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK AND OLYMPICS

Hot Dog Eating Contest Champion:
Alex Henry

Basketball Toss:
1st: Donny Hayward
2nd: Joel Volinski
3rd: Ali Akram

Egg Toss:
1st place team: Jonathan Summerlin & Michael Bato
2nd place team: Uday Siramdasu & Emmeth Duran
3rd place team: Jodi Godfrey & Casey Jarrell

Kickball:
Ali’s Team (Navid kicked a walk off home run... awesome kick!)

4 Corners: (existing record is 19.5 - see full history through the link below)
1st place team – Seckin Ozkul, Pei-Sung Lin, Alex Kolpakov, Ali Akram
2nd place team – Donny Hayward, Achilles Kourtellis, Alex Kolpakov, Ali Akram
3rd place team: - Pei-Sung Lin, Seckin Ozkul, Chanyoung Lee, Achilles Kourtellis

This year, we had one box and cone set up as obstacles in each long hallway. These didn’t seem to have much impact on people, but it was not the standard 4 corners.
NEW AWARDS/CONTRACTS

Project: Customer Satisfaction Survey Fl Residents - Add on Tasks
Sponsor: Fla Dept of Transportation
PI(s): Lee/Larsson
Value: $24,068

Project: Florida Transit Safety Network 14-15
Sponsor: Fla Dept of Transportation
PI(s): Staes/Flynn/Hinebaugh
Value: $133,650

PROPOSALS SUBMITTED/UNDERWAY

Project: Multimodal Transportation Element Training
Sponsor: FL. Dept. of Transportation
PIs: Williams
Value: $37,440

Project: Mobility Options for Congestion Relief
Sponsor: FDOT District 7
PIs: Bond
Value: $195,000

Project: New North Transportation Alliance Operations
Sponsor: FDOT District 7
PIs: Bond/Hendricks
Value: $80,000

Project: Transit Threat and Vulnerability Assessment Course Delivery
Sponsor: FL Dept. of Transportation
PIs: Staes
Value: $12,669

Project: FDOT Substance Abuse Program Management Oversight and Technical Assistance Program
Sponsor: FL Dept. of Transportation
PIs: Staes
Value: $199,980

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 January 5, 2015. Deadline to submit information is Tuesday, December 23rd by noontime.