December 7, 2015

WELCOME NEW CUTR EMPLOYEES

Chunfu Xin was recently hired to work with Dr. Zhenyu Wang in the ITS, Traffic Operations & Safety Program group. He is pursuing his PhD in Transportation Engineering with an expected graduation date of May 2019. He recently graduated with his ME in Highway and Railway Engineering from the University of Southwest Jiaotong. His thesis was on “High Temperature Stability of Gussaphalt Applied to Steel Deck Surfacing.” He received his BE from Wuhan Institute of Technology with a Major in Civil Engineering and a concentration in Slope Protection. He is working on the study on motorcycle safety in negotiation with horizontal curves in Florida and the development of crash modification factors project. Welcome, Chunfu!

CONGRATULATIONS

Mariann Abrahamsen will be graduating with a MS in Urban and Regional Planning and will be pursuing a job in that field.

Sharmila Chennoju will be graduating with a MS in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in Transportation Engineering. She is searching for an entry level civil or transportation engineering position.

Abhishikth Martin Pasupuleti will be graduating with a MS in Civil Engineering and plans to look for a job in the transportation field.

Raviteja Yerrapati will be graduating with a MS in Computer Science and plans to pursue a career in that field.

December Birthdays

Ibrahim HInds
Pam Lapaugh
Martin Catala
Christine Epps
Jason Jackman
Bijan Behzadi
Makarand Gawade
Carlton Allen
Arunima Bagui
Marri Le

December CUTR Anniversaries

Steve Polzin—27 yrs
Michael Audino—12 yrs
Stephanie Lewis—8 yrs
Kelly Leto—6 yrs
David Fink – 4 yrs
Zhenyu Wang – 4 yrs
Michael Bato – 3 yrs
Erica Nelson – 3 yrs
Albert Baxter – 1 yr
Kim Koutnik – 1 yr
Richard Lefebvre – 2 yrs

(L to R) Kristine Williams (25 yrs), Ken Short (15 yrs), Donna-Everhart-Reno (20 yrs), Kristin Larsson (5 yrs) Achilleas Kourtellis (5 yrs)

Congratulations on reaching a milestone year of service at USF!
UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8       CUTR Staff Meeting, CUT102, 9:00 am
December 10      CUTR Gift Exchange, Boardroom, 3:00 pm
December 10      CUTR Merriment Party—World of Beer, 5:30 pm

USF Holidays — December 25 & January 1

2015 FLOATING HOLIDAYS
   Thursday, December 24
   Thursday, December 31

2015 ADDITIONAL BREAK HOLIDAYS
   Monday, December 28, 2015
   Tuesday, December 29, 2015
   Wednesday, December 30, 2015

Back to work on Monday, January 4, 2016

Be a Santa!

CUTR adopted 20 children this year! For the 16th 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:

Steve Polzin, Matthew Kessler, Melissa De Leon, Rob Gregg, Dennis Hinebaugh, Roberta Yegidis, Lucy Gonzalez-Barr, Christine Epps, Patricia Ball, Lazara Stinnette, Austin Sipiora, Vicky Perk, Kevin Salzer, Pei-Sung Lin, Jonathan Summerlin, Chanyoung Lee, Stephanie Lewis, Michael Stokes, Yu Zhang, Seckin Ozkul, Amy Lester, Ken Short, Arunima Bagui, Ann Joslin, Cheryl Thole

AEGIS Timesheets

Pay period 12/04/15 to 12/17/15
AEGIS submission date is Wednesday, December 9th by 10 am.

Pay period 12/18/15 to 12/31/15
AEGIS submission date is Friday, December 18 by 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:

- January 8
- February 5
- March 4
- April 1
- May 6
- June 3
- July 1
- August 5
- September 2
- October 7
- November 4
- December 2
**KUDOS**

**Amy Lester** did two presentations titled, *Perceptions of University Students to Participating in a Carshare Program* and *Pedestrian crossing: Factors Influencing Pedestrian Behavior along a High Crash Corridor* at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting on 11/3/15 in Chicago.

**Steve Polzin** did a presentation at the NCTR Advisory Board meeting on November 3rd: *From Uber to Autonomous Vehicles: How Technologies Will Change Public Transportation*. He also presented at the Tampa Mayor’s Alliance for Persons with Disabilities on November 11th: *Transportation Network Companies, the Beginning of Transportation’s Transformation*. And on November 17th, he made a presentation at the TBARTA Transit Advisory Committee: *The Transportation Problem: Demand Outpaces Supply*.

**Abhijit Vasili**, Graduate Research Assistant, ITS, Traffic Operations and Safety was awarded *1st Place for a Poster Competition* during the Annual Meeting of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), Florida on November 3rd.

**Joel Volinski** presided over a meeting of the Council of University Transportation Centers held in Washington, DC, at the completion of the first day of the UTC Spotlight Conference on Automated Vehicles held at the National Academy of Sciences. CUTC has attracted more sponsors for its Annual Awards Banquet than in any other year, and is proposing changes to consider the establishment of a business class of CUTC.

**Joel Volinski** presided over a teleconference of the Research, Education, and Training Reauthorization Coalition in which information was shared on final Congressional action regarding the reauthorization of the federal surface transportation act.

FDOT District 6 is working with CUTR ITS to implement the WalkWise Florida pedestrian safety program in Miami-Dade County. **Alexandra Molina** will be the WalkWise Florida representative for the District.

(R): **Ric Hartman (CUTR)** represented WalkWise Florida at the WHEELS to Transit Conference in Miami, which was cosponsored by Alert Today Florida.

(L) : Victor Dover, FAICP, is cofounder of Dover, Kohl & Partners Town Planning based in Coral Gables, Florida and former national Chair of the Florida Congress for New Urbanism (CNU).
**CUTR INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK AND OLYMPICS**

**Data Swatting:**
1st place team: Mark Mistretta, Mitch Spicer, Ken Short - 6 disks into bin
2nd place team: Ibrahim Hinds, Donny Hayward, Christina Epps - 5 disks into bin
3rd place team: Pei-Sung Lin, Achilleas Kourtellis, Abhijit Vasili - 4 disks into bin

**Basketball Toss:**
1st: Raghavendra Nalla - 11
2nd: Dennis Hinebaugh - 10
3rd: Erica Nelson - 9 (then won the playoff with 8)

**Kickball:**
Notable this year were two home runs in a row by the winning team, and the winning team also was on the losing end of a triple play! Score was 2-1, so those home runs were key.

**Winning Team:**
Achilleas Kourtellis, Navid Farahbakhsh, Ken Short, Abhijit Vasili, Ibrahim Hinds, Mark Mistretta, Kevin Salzer, Alex Kolpakov

**Runner-Ups:**
Brian Pessaro, Melissa DeLeon, Mitch Spicer, Donny Hayward, Vijay Bommidi, Uday Siramdasu, "Martin" Abhishikth Pasupuleti, Raghavendra Nalla

**4 Corners:** (existing record is 19.5)
1st place team – Pei-Sung Lin, Achilleas Kourtellis, Alex Kolpakov, Navid Farahbakhsh - 24 seconds
2nd place team – Chanyoung Lee, Behzad Karimi, Brad Rechkemmer, Stefanie Smith - 25 seconds
3rd place team: - Brian Pessaro, Mark Mistretta, Mitch Spicer, Kevin Salzer - 26.3 seconds
### CUTR AWARDS/CONTRACTS

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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>PI(s)</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Transit Safety Network 15-16</td>
<td>Florida Department of Transportation</td>
<td>Staes/Flynn/Hinebaugh</td>
<td>$169,129</td>
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<td>Policies, Procedures &amp; Work Rules Training</td>
<td>Auburn University</td>
<td>Staes</td>
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### PROPOSALS

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<td>Phase 2 Multimodal Transportation Planning Applications Curriculum for Urban Planning Programs</td>
<td>National Institute for Transportation and Communities</td>
<td>Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Rural Transit Assistance Program</td>
<td>Florida Department of Transportation</td>
<td>Staes</td>
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<td>Optimization of Road Rangers Operations for FDOT District 7 Freeway Systems</td>
<td>Florida Department of Transportation</td>
<td>Lin/Wang</td>
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<td>Smart, Shared, and Social: Innovative Safety, Resiliency, and All-Hazards Emergency Response and Recovery Research Demonstrations</td>
<td>Portland State University</td>
<td>Hendricks/Staes/Winters</td>
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<td>Safety Standards, Strategic Plan, and Data Collection Project</td>
<td>Federal Transit Administration</td>
<td>Staes</td>
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<td>Addressing Difficult Passenger Situations</td>
<td>Transportation Research Board</td>
<td>Volinski</td>
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INFORMATION

General information on CUTR procedures:

Have a question, check out the wiki site to find your answer: https://sites.google.com/site/cutwikisite/

Hiring a new employee? The wiki site is the place to find the form and submit it electronically:
https://sites.google.com/site/cutwikisite/admin-group-page/ken-short/hr-tasks/hiring-new-people

If you are on FaceBook, Like Us at this link:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Center-for-Urban-Transportation-Research/318839614894743

Enjoy!

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 at hunt@cutr.usf.edu.