SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

UTCM Graduate Student Conducts Research on Multiple Projects

UTCM has offered research opportunities to dozens of graduate students through UTCM research projects. One such student, Angie Lehnert, has participated in three different UTCM research projects.

Angie, a Masters of Urban Planning student in Texas A&M’s College of Architecture, first conducted research on Brian Bochner’s project “Making Mobility Improvements a Community Asset.” Bochner reports, “Angie’s research and summaries of past use of context sensitive solutions (CSS) in a variety of transportation projects are already being used in workshops and presentations on CSS.”

Angie then participated in Suzie Edrington’s demand-response productivity project. There she conducted initial surveys, developed a transit agency database

UTCM Graduate Assistant Angie Lehnert interviewing project managers (cont. on p. 4)

UTCM to Host Symposium on Mileage-Based User Fees

April 14-15, 2009 Austin, TX

UTCM will co-sponsor a symposium to bring together professionals in the field of road user fees to share information and advance the discussion of user-based fees as a potential replacement for the fuel tax. Representatives from past, current and upcoming pilot studies and implementations will present lessons learned and key study topics from their projects. Panel discussions will address specific topics such as legislative and policy issues, public acceptance challenges, potential technology applications, and institutional issues. The symposium will incorporate interactive discussion sessions on logical next steps as well as the associated challenges and opportunities.

For information and registration, visit the symposium web site at: http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/mbuf09/

Sixteen UTCM Projects Awarded for FY09

UTCM’s Request for Preliminary Proposals in Fall 2008 yielded 39 submissions by the September 22nd deadline. The collection of proposals was reviewed and ranked by the UTCM Executive Committee and Advisory Board. Based on these rankings and other criteria, Formal Proposals were invited in late October 2008 by the UTCM Executive Committee and Director.

Sixteen projects were selected for funding for FY09 by the UTCM Executive Committee in December 2008. These projects total over $1 million, span all of UTCM’s focus areas and include projects addressing research, education and technology transfer. The projects include collaborative efforts of researchers and students in TTI (including four of TTI’s urban offices throughout Texas), four academic departments at Texas A&M University, at least one other Texas university, TxDOT and private industry.

The listing of all FY09 projects can be found on the back cover of this issue of Upwardly Mobile. For more information, including all current and completed UTCM projects, project abstracts and biographical information on UTCM PIs, visit the UTCM web site at http://utcm.tamu.edu.

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dari and their TTI research team are filling this void, Villa, Dr. Rafael Aldrete-Sanchez, Dr. Rajat Rajbhan-
researchers and decision-makers in designing efficient
crossing information is an important tool for planners,
the border is as important as knowing what is happen-
stakeholders that having roadway data on either side of
Paso Del Norte Regional Mobility Information System
(gives pre-trip information at the border
times.  Similarly, archived border
formation is key to managing trip
operators, having access
with real time regional
data. This archive was com-
exchange rates and other

In future work, Villa plans to

and commercial vehicles enter-
cially long queues of passenger
Americas in El Paso shows typi-
collaborative teams spanning TTI, the
Sixteen excellent projects were funded,
with Linda Cherrington evidenced ways to fund mass transit projects,
Goodin presented testimony on her work with mileage-based user fees,

Mileage-Based User Fee Symposium can be found on page 1.

In this issue of Upwardly Mobile, we’ve also highlighted some of
our other research and T2 activities, as well as what one very busy
student has been up to.  More news of UTCM’s positive impact
on mobility is always just a click away on UTCM’s web site at

Innovatively Yours,
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Kicking off the second year of our successful Mobility Colloquium series, the UTCM hosted two colloquia in the Fall of 2008:

Thursday, September 4, 2008
“Secrets to Success: How to Submit a UTCM Proposal”
Melissa S. Tooley, PhD, PE, Director, UTCM

UTCM Director Melissa Tooley reviewed the UTCM’s FY09 Request for Preliminary Proposals, offered tips for submitting winning UTCM Preliminary Proposals and answered audience questions.

Monday, September 29, 2008
“Transportation and Mobility in Architecture: Research Challenges and Opportunities”
Jorge Vanegas, PhD
Interim Dean, College of Architecture
Director, Center for Housing and Urban Development (CHUD)
Professor, Department of Architecture

Dr. Vanegas summarized the connections between architecture and transportation: “From urban planning and design through transportation infrastructure to individual facilities, mobility is a common thread.” He urged researchers and students to explore the numerous research opportunities that are available linking architecture, transportation and people within the context of the built environment.

More information on these projects is available at http://utcm.tamu.edu under “Projects.”

Angie Lehnert (cont. from p. 1)
and a method for case study selection, and conducted literature reviews and site visits.

For Linda Cherrington’s project reviewing mass transit funding (see p. 3), Angie identified the sources of local funding for transit agencies nationwide by researching internet reports and budgets for each agency.

Angie has also completed several courses in the transportation planning certificate program developed with UTCM funding.

“My work on UTCM projects and in UTCM supported courses has honed my research, communication and writing skills,” says Angie. “And I’ve already developed numerous contacts in the transportation industry that will help me network professionally.”

When she’s not too busy on her research, Angie enjoys Netflix, knitting, roller skating and her favorite Indian dish, saag paneer.