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UIC University of Illinois
at Chicago

UTC Celebrates 25 Award-Winning Years

The 5th Annual Fall Symposium series, entitled "Nontraditional Approaches to Fund Transportation and Manage Demand" was a resounding success. Students, faculty, staff, and practitioners gathered on Friday, October 29th at the Chicago Marriott Hotel to share information on recent local and national developments in transportation demand management, as well as highlight international innovations.

The first panel provided insight on tolls, value pricing and congestion management. Jack Hartman, Executive Director of the Illinois Tollway Authority, Ed Regan, Senior Vice President for Wilbur Smith Associates, and Jon Ramirez, Senior Vice President with Cofiroute Global Mobility served as panelists. Joe DiJohn from UTC moderated. Mr. Regan highlighted key issues and challenges for roadway pricing schemes, mentioning the SR 91



Jack Hartman discusses congestion management plans for the Illinois Tollway Authority

project in San Diego, California as a success story for dynamic value pricing. Hartman outlined the three elements of the Illinois Tollway plan for congestion management, which include the continued development of a user fee based system,

long range planning, and a value pricing pilot program study. Ramirez rounded out the panel, expanding on the successes of SR 91 project.

Panelists in the second morning session discussed market pricing as it relates to



Professor Kawamura moderates panel on market pricing and the freight industry

the freight industry. Professor Kazuya Kawamura moderated the panel, which included Peter Samuel, Editor of TOLLROADSnews, Randy Williamson, Assistant Director for Transportation Issues with the United States General Accounting Office, and Professor Robert Gallamore, Director of the Transportation Center at Northwestern University. Some highlights included discussion of the link between urban truckways and greater productivity, as well as challenges to freight mobility; key strategies to address freight planning; and the economic implications of the growing truck freight industry.

Glenn Lyons, Director of the Centre for Transport and Society at the University of the West of England (UWE) in Bristol, addressed the crowd as the Symposium's keynote speaker. His remarks, entitled "From Planning to Policy to Practice:

Faculty & Staff

Sue McNeil

Director, Professor

Piyushimita (Vonu) Thakuriah

Associate Director for Research Programs, Associate Professor

Joseph DiJohn

METSI Director, Research Professor

Slim Sööt

Director Emeritus

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Research Transportation Program Manager

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Susumu Kudo

Visiting Scholar

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Jie (Jane) Lin

Assistant Professor

Paul Metaxatos

Research Assistant Professor

Abolfuzl (Kouros) Mohammadian

Assistant Professor

Shamus Misek

Transportation Research Program Manager

Peter Nelson

Professor, Head of Computer Science

Anthony Pagano

Associate Professor of Managerial Studies

Laxmi Ramasubramanian

Research Assistant Professor

P.S. Sriraj

Research Assistant Professor

George Yanos

Principal Research Programmer

Fundamentally, I don't like to write. Twice a year I test the patience of the staff of the Connector as they politely ask "When will the Director's message be done?" and I give evasive answers. So here I am, yet again at the 11th hour. There are events and changes to report on, but I am once again frustrated by the fact that I find it impossible to capture the spirit, and commitment at UTC. For those of you who participated in the 25th Anniversary Celebration and the Fall Symposium, you got to see some of that first hand. For everyone else I hope this edition of the Connector gives you a feeling for the UTC related events and activities and more importantly a sense of the talented people who make UTC work.

At the UTC 25th Anniversary we honored our friend and supporter Congressman Danny Davis with the Richard Michaels Service Award. Richard Michaels was a former director of UTC who passed away in 2003. We were also pleased that Penny Michaels was able to join us. The symposium brought together a diverse group of speakers to discuss innovative financing and became a stimulus for a spirited discussion. It was wonderful to see our graduate students asking challenging questions!

Over the summer we said goodbye to many of our students who have taken jobs in Thailand, Washington DC, Houston, Albany, and various parts of Chicago. We wish them well and remind everyone to keep in contact.

We also had a significant change as Research Assistant Professor Laxmi Ramasubramanian accepted a position as a tenure track Assistant Professor at Hunter College in New York City. We are fortunate in that Laxmi will be able to continue to work with us on some of the ongoing projects and we enjoy her

occasional visits. Laxmi was also Associate Director of the Great Cities Urban Data Visualization Laboratory (UDV). UDV is again administered through the Dean's Office and Dr. Albert Schorsch III has assumed the role of acting director. We will continue to work with UDV when appropriate.

In August our new students arrived. This is always an exciting time as we all figure out how to work with each other. Orientations, seminars and discussions are frequent and the PhD students have a regularly scheduled group meeting. We believe that open communication enhances the educational experience and we welcome student initiatives.



Sue McNeil
UTC Director

Finally, at UTC's 25th Anniversary celebration, I very obviously hesitated when I said something like "I look forward to another 25 years for UTC." I will be "old" in 25 years! Our current students will be middle-aged! I won't even pretend to peer into the crystal ball and imagine what our transportation systems might look like, what role we will be playing in graduate education, and what kind of research the center will be doing.

In some ways in the last 25 years, everything has changed, yet nothing has changed. In Chicago, our basic transportation options have not changed much. However, we are more aware of the social and environmental issues – equity, the spatial mismatch between jobs and housing, and sprawl. I know we will continue to focus on an holistic approach to transportation.

Urban Transportation Center News

UTC celebrates 25 Years at symposium, cont.

The Arrival of Road Pricing in the UK," presented a brief history of travel and congestion policy in England, and the political and social context for the impetus of the highly successful Central London Congestion Charging Scheme. Dr. Lyons also mentioned that UWE is currently



conducting an international review of public attitudes to road pricing, and is



Dr. Glenn Lyons highlights the successes of the London congestion pricing scheme

exploring the viability of expansion to a national road-pricing scheme.

The event ended with a lively panel discussion which included all of the morning's panelists.

Friends gather at UTC awards ceremony

UTC celebrated 25 years of award-winning transportation research and scholarship in style on Thursday, October 28th at the John Hancock Observatory. Enjoying a spectacular view of the Chicago city skyline, faculty, students, staff and friends of UTC gathered to celebrate the milestone.

Past directors, including Ashish Sen, Siim Sööt, David Boyce, Robert Paaswell, and Richard Michaels were honored at the event for their work with the Center.



L to R: P.S. Sriraj, Joseph Fazio, Penny Michaels, Robert Paaswell



Director Sue McNeil presents award to Congressman Danny Davis

The first annual Richard Michaels Service Award was also presented to Congressman Danny Davis (D-5), to honor his continuing commitment to UTC, and to the city's overall transportation network.

In his first term, Cong. Davis succeeded in amending the transportation authorization bill to increase the Job Access and Reverse Commute program. He has also helped target federal support to the rehabilitation of the CTA Blue Line. Davis been a long-time supporter of UIC, and has brought additional federal support to the UTC.

News in Brief

UTC Faculty and R.A. win national paper competition

Congratulations to UTC Research Assistant Professor Laxmi Ramasubramanian and UPP PhD candidate Asma Ali on receiving the 2004 ACSP/FMF Best Action Research Paper in Housing and Community Development for their paper, "E-Planning with Youth: Creating Spaces of/for Engagement." They presented their findings at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning's annual conference in Portland, Oregon on October 21.

UTC to present at upcoming Transportation Research Forum Annual Meeting

"Transportation Information Clearinghouse," a paper written by UTCers Karin Allen, Shamus Misek and Joe DiJohn, has been accepted by the Transportation Research Forum for presentation at their annual meeting in Washington, DC in March 2005.

UTC R.A. wins APA fellowship

Congratulations to UTC Research Assistant Rachel Scheu, who received the 2004 Fellowship from the Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy Division of the American Planning Association (APA). The Fellowship provides financial support for a student interested and excelling in graduate level studies in a planning field related to natural resources, energy or the environment.

Paper wins Transport Chicago competition

Recent UTC/MUPP graduate Geoffrey Fruin received second prize in Transport Chicago's Annual Student Paper Competition. His paper was entitled, "A Methodology to Evaluate the Equitable Distribution of a Transit Capital Improvement Program." Transport Chicago was held on Friday, June 4, 2004 at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and brought together nationally recognized transportation experts to discuss innovative industry practices and provide networking opportunities.

Faculty/Student Update

Bridging the gap: PhD students create new learning network

PhD students at UTC now have a brand new way to share knowledge and network: the UTC PhD Forum (UPF). The group was created this semester, and has already met several times since September. The group was formed to share knowledge, learn about new areas of research, build and strengthen relationships and learn more about applying specific methods to broader planning issues.

The UPF currently consists of fourteen PhD students, in Engineering, Public Administration, and Planning. “We are trying to create a dynamic that students studying in different disciplines realize and appreciate that they are ‘in the same boat’,” said Norma Peña-Rivera, third year PhD student at UTC. “We want to provide a safe space for people to share ideas, and take ownership of

and support UTC’s opportunities as a research center,” she added.

Many corners of the world are represented in the UPF. Currently, all the students that are involved in the group hail from other countries, including China, Korea, Japan, and Puerto Rico. The group has already engaged in interesting discussions on the similarities and differences in the political systems of Korea and the United States, and how this impacts the planning process.

Kazuya Kawamura, Assistant Professor, serves as the faculty liaison for the group. Professor Kawamura participated in a similar network when he was a PhD student, and was very interested in being involved in the formation of the UPF here at UIC. “The UPF is an organization in which all students involved in transportation research can identify

themselves with. I am very pleased that the group is so inclusive,” said Kawamura. “Given the mix of students from planning, engineering, and public administration, synergetic formation of new ideas is a real possibility,” he added.

Although the UPF is currently housed within UTC, the students hope to expand the group to other PhD students, as well other students in CUPPA. The hope is that if more students get involved, an even more dynamic cross-disciplinary discussions will emerge. Ms. Peña-Rivera noted, “We hope that students begin to see themselves as leaders, and that this group will build stronger networks within CUPPA as well.”

The UTC PhD Forum currently meets twice a month at UTC. For more information, go to <http://condor.utc.uic.edu/~UPF> or email Norma Peña-Rivera at npenar1@uic.edu.



Students strike a pose at a recent UPF meeting

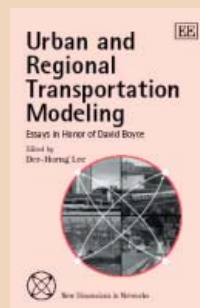
Welcome to all new UTC research assistants!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following graduate students as new UTC research assistants:

Peter Christensen, Yi Ding, Timothy Gustafson, Kristen Hoschouer, Mary Ann Kaufman, Yandan Lu, Mark Minor, Jessica Rinks, Sonali Tandon, Lei Tang, Mingxuan Wang, and Dan Yu.

These students are working on a variety of UTC projects, and are a great asset to the field of transportation research.

Former UTC director honored in recent publication



“Urban and Regional Transportation Modeling: Essays in Honor of David Boyce”, edited by Der-Hong Lee, Professor of Engineering, National University of Singapore, was recently published by Elgar publishers.

In light of Boyce’s significant contribution to the fields of transportation modeling and regional science, authors highlight the latest methodologies and theories relevant to the field.

Topics covered in the publication include: combined models, route choice, dynamic networks, supernetworks, bilevel programming, traffic prediction, and a variety of regional science models and applications.

For ordering information, visit <http://www.e-elgar.co.uk> or <http://supernet.som.umass.edu/Boycefestschrift.htm>

Faculty/Student Update, Continued

Faculty shares new perspectives from the east coast

Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Research Associate Professor at UTC, recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Hunter College in New York City. The following is a short interview conducted by the Connector to find out more about her life, research, and work.

Connector: How was the transition to Hunter College?

Laxmi R: The professional transition was very smooth. One of the nice things about academia is that there are key aspects that translate across universities: teaching, research, and making a positive contribution to the department, the college, and the community. Having said that, being a new faculty member requires learning a new set of administrative procedures and ways of doing things. I am still figuring this out.

C: Please tell us about some of the projects you are still involved in at UTC and UIC.

LR: Professor McNeil and I, working with graduate students Rachel Scheu and Amit Thomas, are developing a web-based interface to organize, manage, and communicate information on Metra's assets and infrastructure for use within the agency. In the prototype design, we have emphasized scale (allowing users to drill down from the system level to the individual station through a series

of linked web pages) and usability (allowing different departments to have a common web portal to access and share information about their agency's infrastructure and assets). We anticipate that the prototype, when fully developed, can be used as a planning support system for decision-making within the agency.

I am also working with Atanacio "Nacho" Gonzalez from the UIC Neighborhoods Initiative, entering the second phase of our partnership with two community organizations in Pilsen. We are developing participatory action research projects to serve local community needs.

C: What are you enjoying most about your move to New York City?

LR: The city of course! It is vibrant, multicultural, multiethnic, a truly global city. Okay – you could have read that in a guidebook or in a piece by Saskia Sassen. But it's true! My walk to work along Manhattan's streets (Hunter is located on the Upper East Side), navigating around sidewalk vendors, hearing a variety of accents and languages, and observing the eclectic fashion sense is truly a delight.

C: What do you miss most about Chicago and UIC?

LR: I miss my colleagues, and the sense of community at UTC, including Lise's farmer's market treats, George's dry

humor, and conversations with Shamus. At Hunter, space is at a premium, so there is no common gathering space. As a result, people tend to stay in their office or go out. I also miss living in downtown Chicago. It is a wonderful and livable city.

C: What are some of your upcoming research projects? Where do you see the direction of your research heading?

Right now, I am looking forward to working with the American Foundation for the Blind, a nonprofit/advocacy organization here in New York. We will be collaborating on a research project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, examining the environmental correlates of physical activity among people with motor and visual impairments. In this project, I will be investigating the barriers to access and accessibility using GIS and furthering my research agenda on neighborhood social capital.

I am interested in understanding the inter-linkages between health and place and the role of transportation in supporting healthy lifestyles. This emerging research agenda fits in with my earlier research and is consistent with my commitment to conducting participatory action research at the neighborhood level.

Visiting professor shares latest news on emissions trading

Dr. J. Peter Clinch, Professor of Regional and Urban Planning and Jean Monnet Professor of European Environmental Policy at University College Dublin (UCD), spoke at CUPPA Hall on Tuesday, October 12th. The event was co-sponsored by CUPPA and the Insitute for Environmental Science and Policy.

Professor Clinch is the head of the Department of Planning and Environmental Policy at UCD, which is the largest university in Ireland. In

addition to his work in Ireland, he has worked for the World Bank, and has held visiting positions at University of California, Berkeley and the University of California, San Diego.

Clinch and UCD PhD candidate Luke Redmond presented information on recent developments in European Union (EU) policy with regard to its newly created Emissions Trading Scheme. Based on market-based instrument models developed in the United States,

the EU model is currently developing a single market in CO₂ emission allowances, in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in EU member states.

The pilot phase of the program will begin in January 2005 and will run through December 2007. After this test period, it will operate in five year increments. The first period will coincide with the Kyoto Commitment period.

Workshops

"Telework & America's Greatest Employers", jointly sponsored with the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT), April 7, 2004.

A draft survey has been developed for the project dealing with the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Planning Process**. The survey, which will be implemented shortly, will be distributed to many state departments of transportation in order to obtain input on their practices.

Joe DiJohn and Shamus Misek are assisting McHenry County in undertaking a **countywide transit study**. The consultant, TranSystems, has completed the existing conditions report and undertaken a phone survey, employer/employee survey, stakeholder

interviews, and continues its public outreach efforts. A status report on these tasks will be provided later this fall.

UTC Research Assistant Mary Kaufman is undertaking a project to better understand and promote **Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)**, which provides for public involvement early and often in transportation projects. IDOT has adopted the policy which assures the public's issues are addressed and often results in a quicker and smoother project benefitting all parties concerned.

Siim Sööt and Ashish Sen of TransInfo completed a **report and rebuttal to the Federal Railroad Administration report** on rail-highway grade crossing collisions. The analysis indicates that Chicago-area crossings with whistle

bans are safer than average crossings where locomotive horns are routinely used. This issue is critical to the Chicago region which contains numerous rail highway grade crossings.

Chicago Chapter of TRF

The Chicago area, which is considered the transportation hub of the nation and the world, has not had a local chapter of the Transportation Research Forum in several decades. There is interest in restarting a local chapter. If you are interested in participating in this effort, please contact Joe DiJohn at 312-996-1458, joedi@uic.edu, or Tony Pagano, 312-996-8063, amp@uic.edu. We will be pursuing ideas with academics, transportation professionals, suppliers and students.

TRB annual meeting update

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) will hold its 84th Annual Meeting on January 9-13th, 2005 in Washington, DC. TRB is a division of the National Research Council, and its mission is to "promote innovation and progress in transportation through research."

This year's theme is "Transportation from the Customer's Perspective: Providing a Safe, Secure and Integrated System." Several faculty, researchers, and students from UTC will be presenting papers at the event this year, including Joost Gideon Berman, Geoff Fruin, Meghan Hammerle, Kazuya Kawamura, Susumu Kudo, Sue McNeil, Abolfuzl (Kouros) Mohammadian, Anthony Pagano, P.S. Sriraj, Siim Sööt, Piyushimita (Vonu) Thakuria, and Jiangping Zhou.

Additionally, UTC and the CUPPA Alumni Association will host a special reception at TRB:

Monday, January, 10, 2005

5:30-7:00 PM, Hilton Washington Hotel

For more information on the reception, please contact Gabrielle Brown at 312-996-4820 or gabbyliz@uic.edu.

Early registration for TRB is available through November 30th, and can be accessed at www.trb.org/meeting.



Student profiles: Sergio Ortiz and Jacob Bauer



My name is Sergio Ortiz and I'm from Bolingbrook. I began working with UTC as a required internship, and have worked on the Ford project promotional video, the Factbook project prototype website, and the redesign of the UTC website. I graduated with a degree in digital multimedia in August, but have been continued to work for UTC for the excellent experience. Through UTC, I found that I enjoy working with video and graphics, and specifically digital imaging. I enjoy teaching as well and would like to explore teaching kids graphical software.



I'm Jacob Bauer. I was born in Park Ridge, lived in Queens, NY, then moved back to the Chicagoland area before grade school and grew up in Schaumburg. I now live in the student housing at UIC. I am currently a sophomore in the Civil Engineering program. I came to UTC because working here most applied to my major. I am a big sports fan and am involved in intramural flag football and softball teams.

Papers & Presentations *UTC faculty & RAs in italics*

Papers

Kawamura, K. Transportation Needs, Location Choice, and Perceived Accessibility for Business Establishments. Forthcoming in the Transportation Research Record.

Lange, D. and *S. McNeil.* Brownfield Development: Tools for Stewardship. ASCE Journal of Urban Planning and Development. Vol. 130, No. 2, June 2004.

Pagano, A., P. Metaxatos, and A. Morreale. State Strategies for Implementing Computer Assisted Scheduling and Dispatching Systems for Paratransit Brokerage and Coordination. Forthcoming in the Transportation Research Record.

Presentations

Berman, J.G. and S. Sööt. How Do the Working Poor Commute? Evidence from PUMS. The Changing Face of Metropolitan Chicago - Conference on Chicago Research and Public Policy, University of Chicago, May 2004.

DiJohn, J. Final Report of the Transportation Information Clearinghouse. Presentation to the RTA Board of Directors, February 2004.

DiJohn, J. and S. Misek. Transportation Information Clearinghouse. Conference on Research & Public Policy, University of Chicago, May 2004.

Gu, X, and *L. Kramer.* Comparative Assessment of Policies by State Governments to Reduce Ground Level Ozone Pollution. Transport Chicago, June 2004.

Hart, J. Methodologies in Locating and Sizing Park-and-Ride Lots: A Synthesis. Transport Chicago, June 2004.

Mehta, J. and *N. Peña-Rivera.* Designing a Regional Participatory Planning Process and a Supportive Web-Based GIS Application. URISA PPGIS Conference, University of Madison, Wisconsin, 2004.

Mextaxatos, P. Definitional and Computational Issues with Entry-Level Job Estimation in Chicago. Conference on Chicago Research and Public Policy, University of Chicago, May 2004.

Misek, S. Preparing for Your Agency's Future. Colorado Transit Conference, September 2004.

Peña-Rivera, N. Transportation Indicators for Land Use Transportation Planning. Transport Chicago, June 2004.

Ramasubramanian, L. and S. McNeil. Visualizing Urban Futures: A Review and Critical Assessment of Visualization Applications for Transportation Planning and Research. City Futures Conference, Chicago, July 2004.

Sööt, S. and J. DiJohn. Trends in Housing Affordability: How Does Chicago Rank? Conference on Research & Public Policy, University of Chicago, May 2004.

Thakuriah P. and P.S. Sriraj. Welfare Reform and Environmental Justice: Implications for Policy, Planning, and Partnership Aspects of Low Income and Minority Worker Accessibility. Conference on Chicago Research and Public Policy, University of Chicago, May 2004.

Advisory Board

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Executive Director, RTA

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Executive Director, NIPC

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2004 Student Theses and Projects

Thakuriah, P. Job Access Services and Programs for Low-Income Workers: Some Comments. Proceedings of City Futures Conference, Chicago, July 2004.

Zhou, J., S. Sööt, and Y. Liao. Contemporary Chicago Area Travel Behavior: Evidence from the 2001 National Household Travel Survey and Census 2000. Conference on Chicago Research and Public Policy, University of Chicago, May 2004.

Student theses/projects

Akins, M. MUPP. Strategic Methods to Improve the RTA Transit Check. Summer 2004.

Fruin, G. MUPP. A Methodology to Evaluate the Equitable Distribution of the Chicago Transit Authority's Capital Budget. Spring 2004.

Hammerle, M. MUPP. Analysis of Automatic Vehicle Location and Passenger Count Data for the Chicago Transit Authority. Summer 2004.

Kannan, B. Art/Arch. Convention Center for the City of Columbia (South Carolina). Spring 2004.

Mahajan, S. MUPP. Assessing the Relationship Between Property Values and Traffic Along Arterial Corridors in Chicago. Spring 2004.

Niumpradit, S. UPP. PhD. Modeling Relationships Between Highway Expenditure and Economic Performance: An International Analysis. Summer 2004.

O'Laughlin, R. MUPP. Rails, Roads, and Community: The Role of Community Organizations in Transportation Projects. Summer 2004.

Ortega, J. UPP. PhD. Spatial Multimedia Methodology for the Selection of Low-Income and Labor Market Accessibility Projects. Summer 2004.

Winsor, J. MUPP. Context Sensitivity for Illinois Transportation Projects: Evaluation and Recommendations. Summer 2004.

Zhai, D. CE. Infrastructure Management for the Chicago Transit Authority Using GIS and Data Management. Spring 2004.

Upcoming Events

January 9-13, 2005
Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting
Washington, DC
for more information:
www.trb.org

Check our website for more information on the schedule of UTC presenters at TRB:
<http://www.utc.uic.edu>

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