Director’s Message

K-State’s designation as a Tier II UTC has given us the opportunity to consolidate many existing programs under a single organizational umbrella and to initiate many new and exciting research, education, and technology transfer programs. As we enter our second year of operation I am very excited about the Center’s future. We have developed a diverse, multi-disciplinary research program that draws on expertise from across the university to address the transportation problems facing rural America. The UTC program has given us the resources to attract and retain top-notch undergraduate and graduate students to our transportation education and research programs. In addition, the UTC has given us a much needed framework for consolidating many of our existing technology transfer programs under a single “one-stop shopping” umbrella for transportation conferences and training programs. I extend my sincere appreciation to all our partners for their patience as we make progress and look forward to working with them in an exciting and challenging new year.

Robert W. “Bobby” Stokes
Director

Brian Geiger Named K-State UTC Student of the Year

Brian Geiger was selected to receive the 2008 K-State UTC Student of the Year award for his desire to improve the community around him through his work in the transportation field. Brian has been active in numerous campus student groups and his demonstrable leadership skills should serve him well in his future endeavors. Congratulations Brian.

Title of Thesis: Improving the Usage of Demand Response Transit Services in Rural Kansas

Brian Geiger

UTC Awards Scholarships for Spring 2009

The K-State UTC is pleased to announce the following recipients of UTC Scholarships for Spring 2009.

Brandon Borte

Brian Geiger

Trevor Heitman is a Junior in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering (MNE) from Palmer, KS. He will be working with Dr. Terry Beck (MNE) on a project that involves the development of a non-contact Optical Strain Sensor. While still an undergraduate student, Trevor plans to take elective course work in Physics to increase his knowledge base in optics. He is also planning to attend a graduate school at KSU and plans to hopefully further develop the non-contact Optical Strain Sensor technology in the future.

Brett Louk is a Senior in Civil Engineering from Garden City, KS. Brett has been working with Dr. Sunanda Dissanayake in the area of work zone safety. Dr. Dissanayake and Brett are analyzing data on work zone crashes from five different states to determine if the crashes have any common characteristics that might suggest remedial measures to improve work zone safety. Brett says his goal is to make the traffic flow interruptions associated with work zones as safe as possible for everybody involved.

UTC Awards Graduate Research Assistantships for Spring 2009

The K-State UTC is pleased to announce the following recipients of UTC GRA awards for Spring 2009.

Shahin Nayyeri Amiri received his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Tabriz University, Iran in 2000, and his Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Tabriz University in 2003, specializing in Structural Engineering. Shahin began his Ph.D. in August 2008 at Kansas State University where he is working on wireless damage detection in concrete bridges under the supervision of Dr. Rasheed, Dr. Esmaily and Dr. Melhem.

Mihai Onyango is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Civil Engineering at Kansas State University. Her Ph.D. research focus is “Verification of Mechanistic Prediction Models for Permanent deformation in Asphalt Mixtures, Using Accelerated Pavement Testing.” In this research she is verifying three mechanistic prediction models for permanent deformation (rutting) using AggData finite element software and comparing predicted results with actual results measured in the Accelerated Pavement Testing facility at KSU. She is a Registred Professional Engineer in Tanzania and an Engineer in Training in the US. She serves as a member of the KSU International Activities Council and a Member of the Civil Engineering Graduate Council.

Research Program Update

The following new research projects were funded by the K-State UTC during Fall 2008.


2. Impact of Kansas Eutanol Production on Kansas Transportation

3. Implementation of Non-contact Strain Measurement Device for Bridges and Piers

4. Kansas Pavement Preservation Initiative: Rehabilitation of Ultrathin Bonded Binarous Surface

5. Developing Safety Performance Functions for Kansas Safety Studies

Please visit our website for a detailed description of our Research Program. www.transport.k-state.edu