



Summer Institute addresses themes, strategies for rural safety center

Three dozen leading state and national transportation officials, researchers, policymakers, and professionals joined U.S. Rep. **James L. Oberstar** in Duluth on July 24 and 25 to develop strategies for improving rural safety.



James Oberstar

This was the first meeting of an annual Summer Institute that figures prominently into plans for supporting the newly established Center for Excellence in Rural Safety, led by **Lee Munnich** of the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. CTS, with staff leadership from director of communications and outreach **Gina Baas**, is collaborating with the Humphrey Institute to provide the Center's outreach services, including coordination of the Summer Institute. Other partners include the School of Information Systems and Technology (Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California) and the New England

Transportation Institute (White River Junction, Vermont).

"Rural roads have the highest traffic fatality rate in the nation," Oberstar said, offering insight into several pressing issues facing rural America. He led the charge for attendees to dive into the two days ahead packed with presentations, discussion, and strategizing. "What we need is a comprehensive view, not just a patchwork approach to rural transportation safety. That's what this Center is intended to do."

Congress created the Center for Excellence in Rural Safety in July 2005 as part of a broader, multiyear, multimillion-dollar directive establishing four national centers for surface transportation excellence in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) transportation funding legislation.

Oberstar, a long-time champion of rural transportation issues, stressed the need to transform rural America with the same energy and

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Braun Chair reaches fundraising goal; David Levinson named inaugural chair

The three-year fundraising campaign for the **Richard P. Braun** CTS Chair in Transportation Engineering has reached its goal of \$500,000 in private and industry support. More than 130 honored donors, fundraising committee members, and transportation faculty celebrated the successful campaign July 27 in Minneapolis.

Braun is the founding director of CTS and a former commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT). In addition to Braun, speakers at the celebration included current director **Robert Johns**; **John**



Richard Braun

Gulliver, head of the University's Department of Civil Engineering (CE); **Doug Differt**, Mn/DOT deputy commissioner; and **Bob Roscoe**, SRF Consulting Group.

In addition to donor gifts (see page 3), the CE department and CTS are providing matching funds for a total \$1.5 million endowment. CTS is committing royalties from the Autoscope video detection system, which was invented by CE professor **Panos Michalopoulos** and patented by the University.

In other news, the selection committee for the Braun CTS Chair was unanimous in recommending that Associate Professor **David Levinson**, a CTS Faculty Scholar, be appointed the inaugural chair. The appointment will be effective fall semester 2006,

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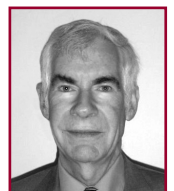
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Events announced for 2006–07

The enclosed poster announces upcoming CTS events for 2006–2007. Visit the CTS events Web page—www.cts.umn.edu/events—for a more comprehensive and up-to-date listing of events. **CTS**

Fall luncheon: 'Realistic public transport'

The outlook for public transit can seem almost Dickensian. In some cities it is the worst of times, with falling ridership in



Nigel Wilson

decaying urban corridors and commuters dispersing across suburbs. But other indicators point to better times, such as new technologies that are improving operations and communications, and rising gas prices and environmental awareness that could spur greater support. How will the next chapter read?

Nigel Wilson will share his thoughts in a speech titled "Realistic Public Transport Futures in an Uncertain World" at the CTS Fall Luncheon November 14 in Minneapolis.

Wilson is a professor of civil

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Lee Munnich



Tom Horan



Nic Ward



Max Donath



Cynthia Burbank



Anthony Kane



Michael Halladay

thinking that went into the creation of the interstate highway system.

The mission of the new Center is to provide citizen-centered research, training, and outreach to enhance rural safety and meet the online and seminar training needs of rural transportation practitioners and policymakers. The Center will conduct several focused research activities exploring policy, behavioral, and technology approaches, such as projects addressing safety-conscious planning, intelligent transportation systems (ITS) and rural emergency response, integrated policy approaches, related human factors, societal trends, and stakeholder needs analysis.

Center director Munnich, also director of the Humphrey Institute’s State and Local Policy Program, emphasized the importance of building strategic collaborations to leverage a wealth of existing research and expertise in rural safety while also carving out areas the Center can focus on most effectively. “Part of what we need

to do is to get messages to policy leaders about why this is such an important issue,” he added.

Research director **Tom Horan**, a visiting scholar at the Humphrey Institute and executive director of the Claremont Information and Technology Institute, described the purpose of the Summer Institute as building awareness about the Center among its many stakeholders and collaborating to finalize research themes and focus areas. The ultimate goal, he said, is to develop policy recommendations for decision makers. He outlined in detail a three-part, five-year plan built around behavioral, technology, and policy issues related to rural transportation safety.

A panel comprising mostly University of Minnesota researchers provided an overview of rural traffic safety issues and their effects. **Nic Ward**, director of the HumanFIRST Program at the University, probed the behavior of rural drivers and the relationship to traffic safety.

Mechanical engineering professor **Max Donath**, director of the ITS Institute at CTS, added a technological perspective to the research panel, updating attendees on the latest tools and systems to help drivers avoid crashes. Horan presented his research into rural emergency response systems.

Another panel supplied a national perspective on current programs and research related to rural safety and suggested topics for future study. Panelists were **Mike Halladay** and **Cynthia Burbank**, Federal Highway Administration; **Richard Compton**, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and **Anthony Kane**, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. “Highway safety is a top priority,” said Halladay. “We’re very excited about the tools and focus on rural safety that the Center is going to give us.”

During another panel, **Thomas Adler** and **Matthew Coogan** of the New England Transportation Institute (NETI) described current rural transportation research efforts in Vermont and presented opportunities for collaboration that will facilitate the national scope of the Center. Adler, co-founder and former director of NETI, will serve as technical advisor and liaison between the Center and NETI. In addition, NETI plans to host the Center’s 2007 Summer Institute.

Representatives from the Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths Program—Mn/DOT’s **Susan Groth** and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety’s **Kathryn Swanson**—also discussed their state-level traffic safety activities and grassroots initiatives. TZD partners are key stakeholders for the new Center.

The forum included several brainstorming sessions on research, education, and outreach needs. Resulting strategies and directions will soon be available on a Center Web site. **CTS**

Minnesota leadership recognized at national LTAP conference

A number of Minnesotans were recognized for their national leadership at the Second International Symposium on Transportation Technology Transfer, held July 30 through August 3 in St. Petersburg, Florida. An integral part of the symposium was the annual conference of the National Local Technical Assistance Program Association (NLTAPA).

U.S. Congressman **James L. Oberstar** gave the keynote address and participated in a panel discussion titled “Transforming the Transportation Workforce Through Technology Exchange.” He was introduced by **Cheri Marti**, associate director of education and outreach with CTS. Marti, the founding director of Minnesota’s Local Technical Assistance Program, was honored with a 2006 National Program Achievement



Cheri Marti

Award from NLTAPA.

Marti also facilitated an interactive general session titled “Improving Technology Transfer Partnerships.” Joining her were key partners from Minnesota: **Linda Taylor**, Mn/DOT Office of Maintenance; **Clark Moe** and **Cory Johnson**, Mn/DOT Research Services Section; **Rick Kjonaas**, Mn/DOT State Aid Division; **Doug Grindall**, Koochiching County; and **Tom Struve** and **Tom Colbert**, City of Eagan.

In addition, **Jim Grothaus**, current director of Minnesota LTAP, was selected to serve as the six-state regional representative on the NLTAPA Executive Committee. **CTS**

Event to connect students to resources, mentors

CTS and the Interdisciplinary Transportation Student Organization (ITSO) are hosting a new event for University students. The first “Transportation Student Connector” will take place September 29 at Coffman Memorial Union on the Minneapolis campus from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

“The event is intended to welcome transportation students to campus and strengthen the student network within the broader transportation community,” says **Cheri Marti**, CTS associate director for education and outreach. “Our goal is to connect transportation students to CTS, to University resources, and to student organizations and mentoring opportunities.”

Robert Johns, director of CTS, and an ITSO representative will kick off the event with an overview of University opportunities and resources for transportation students. **Trish Will**, director of campus and community programs with the University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA), will discuss available transportation mentoring programs and give advice on how to best enter into and carry

Grad Certificate information session follows Student Connector

CTS is holding an information session about the Graduate Certificate in Transportation Studies at 1:30 p.m. September 29 in Minneapolis, immediately following the first Student Connector. Faculty and CTS staff will describe program components, admissions, and more.

To register or for more information, call **Stephanie Jackson** of CTS at 612-624-8398 or e-mail sjackson@cts.umn.edu. **CTS**

forward a meaningful mentor relationship. Following Will’s comments, a student and practitioner mentoring team will share their experiences and lessons learned.

Currently, more than 2,000 students and 2,000 alumni and friends participate in the UMAA mentoring program. The Institute of Technology, the Carlson School of Management, and the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs—which offer degrees

commonly pursued by transportation students—are all included. Potential students and mentors can learn more at the program Web page: www.alumni.umn.edu/mentor.

Representatives from a number of local professional organizations, such as the American Association of Civil Engineers, the North Central Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and WTS, will be on hand to discuss opportunities for student involvement.

Immediately after the event, CTS will hold an information session for the Graduate Certificate in Transportation Studies (see sidebar).

To register or for more information about the Transportation Student Connector or the Grad Certificate information session, contact **Stephanie Jackson**, CTS outreach and education coordinator, at sjackson@cts.umn.edu, 612-624-8398. Directions and further details are on the Web at www.cts.umn.edu/events. **CTS**

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David Levinson

says Gulliver. He also announced that the funds available for the Braun CTS Chair allow the department to expand its transportation engineering faculty. A search will begin this fall for a new

faculty member.

The Braun CTS Chair in Transportation Engineering is a leadership position that will build on the legacy started by Professor **Matthew Huber**. Under Levinson’s leadership, the transportation engineering program will be expanded to include a combination of the following:

- New undergraduate courses in transportation and traffic planning, design, and engineering
 - New short courses for professionals in transportation and traffic planning, design, and engineering
 - A series of seminars or workshops at various locations for government and private sector transportation engineers
- “David Levinson’s reputation as an academic scholar is well known in the department, with numerous journal publications and three books published,” says Gulliver. “What is not well known is his commitment to students, which is demonstrated through his role as the founding

faculty advisor to the Interdisciplinary Transportation Student Organization (ITSO).”

ITSO (www.tc.umn.edu/~itso) grew to 150 student members in two years and is active with five professional organizations related to transportation in Minnesota. “ITSO is now capable of bringing transportation professional groups together,” Gulliver added, “and they are all benefiting from David’s work with the student chapter.” **CTS**

Braun Chair Major Donors

\$25,000

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Robert Gravier (Allan Block)
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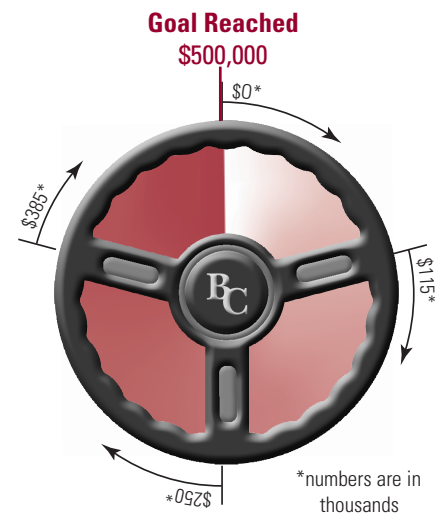
\$15,000

Edward Bather
Braun Intertec Corporation
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HNTB Corporation
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WSB and Associates, Inc.
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Many below \$10,000



TZD Conference brochure enclosed

The 2006 Toward Zero Deaths Conference will be held November 2 and 3 in Duluth. The conference provides a venue to share best practices in the areas of engineering, enforcement, education, and emergency services, as well as to chart the course for a future with fewer traffic fatalities and life-changing injuries.

Sponsors are the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety and Transportation and the Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths Program. The conference is being hosted by CTS and facilitated by the College of Continuing Education at the University of Minnesota.

A brochure with a detailed program schedule and registration materials is enclosed. For more information, visit www.tzd.state.mn.us or contact **Shirley Mueffelman**, 612-624-4754, conferences2@cce.umn.edu.

Summaries of the 2004 and 2005 conferences, published by CTS, are available for download at www.cts.umn.edu/publications. **CTS**

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and environmental engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). His research and teaching are focused on urban public transportation, including topics related to the operation, analysis, planning, and management of transit systems. Currently Wilson directs two major long-term research and education programs between MIT and major transit agencies.

Wilson has served on four Transportation Research Board transit-related committees and is a past chair of the Committee on Transit Management and Performance. He received a master's and a doctoral degree in civil engineering and transportation systems, respectively, from MIT.

A registration form is enclosed. For further information, please contact **Electra Sylva**, 612-624-3708, conferences5@cce.umn.edu. You may also register online at www.cts.umn.edu/events/luncheon. **CTS**

Upcoming events

To publicize your event, call CTS at 612-626-1077, fax 612-625-6381, or e-mail snopl001@cts.umn.edu. Visit the CTS Web site—www.cts.umn.edu—for more comprehensive event information.

Sept. 29	Student Connector and Grad Certificate Information Session, Minneapolis. Contact Stephanie Jackson , 612-624-8398, sjackson@cts.umn.edu .	624-3708, conferences5@cce.umn.edu .	Tim Mueller , 612-221-0428.
Oct. 2–4	Minnesota/Wisconsin Public Transit Conference, LaCrosse. Contact Tony Kellen , 320-529-4481, tkellen@stcloudmtc.com .	Nov. 2–3	Toward Zero Deaths Conference, Duluth. Contact Shirley Mueffelman , 612-624-4754, conferences2@cce.umn.edu .
Oct. 4–5	Minnesota Fall Maintenance Expo, St. Cloud. Contact Kathy Warren , 651-351-7432, kwarren@usinternet.com .	Nov. 14	CTS Fall Luncheon with Nigel Wilson , Radisson University Hotel, Minneapolis. Contact Electra Sylva , 612-624-3708, conferences5@cce.umn.edu .
Oct. 4–6	Mn/DOT 2006 National Safety Rest Area Conference, Minneapolis. See www.dot.state.mn.us/restareas/conf.html .	Nov. 16	Northland Advanced Transportation Systems Research Laboratory (NATSRL) Research Day, Duluth. Contact Carol Wolosz , 218-726-7446, cwolosz@d.umn.edu .
Oct. 11–12	AirTAP Fall Forum, Breezy Point. Contact Mindy Carlson at 612-625-1813, carlson@cts.umn.edu .	Nov. 16–17	Minnesota Public Works Association Fall Conference, Brooklyn Center. Contact Oona Besse , 612-624-3492, conferences3@cce.umn.edu .
Oct. 23	ITS Minnesota Fall Industry Forum, St. Paul. Contact Electra Sylva , 612-624-3708, conferences5@cce.umn.edu .	Dec. 1	CTS Freight and Logistics Symposium, Minneapolis. Contact Electra Sylva , 612-624-3708, conferences5@cce.umn.edu .
Oct. 24–25	Minnesota Water 2006 and Annual Water Resources Joint Conference, Brooklyn Center. Contact Electra Sylva , 612-	Dec. 6	Minnesota Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists 53rd Annual Asphalt Conference, Brooklyn Park. Contact
		Dec. 7	56th Annual Concrete Conference, St. Paul. Contact Kay Syme , 612-624-4938, ksyme@cce.umn.edu .
		Feb. 8	CTS Winter Luncheon, Radisson University Hotel, Minneapolis. Contact Electra Sylva , 612-624-3708, conferences5@cce.umn.edu .
		Feb. 15	11th Annual Minnesota Pavement Conference, St. Paul. Contact Shirley Mueffelman , 612-624-4754, conferences2@cce.umn.edu .
		March 1	Transportation Career Expo, Minneapolis. Contact Mindy Carlson , 612-625-1813, carlson@cts.umn.edu .
		Apr. 10–11	Spring Maintenance Training Expo, St. Cloud. Contact Shirley Mueffelman , 612-624-4754, conferences2@cce.umn.edu .
		May 1–2	CTS Eighteenth Annual Transportation Research Conference, Saint Paul RiverCentre. Contact Electra Sylva , 612-624-3708, conferences5@cce.umn.edu . CTS