Director's Message – Building on Success

On August 20th I had the privilege of assuming the position of director of the University of Toledo Intermodal Transportation Institute and the University Transportation Center. I have a deep respect for the University of Toledo, and I’m honored to return to my alma mater in this role. The University has a long history of commitment to excellence and has been recognized as a focal point for technology research and economic development across Ohio and especially northwest Ohio. The University Transportation Center has an outstanding foundation to build upon and we will continue to advance, working toward emerging a leader in the transportation and logistics field.

In addition to the various cutting edge research projects in the area of Supply Chains, Alternate Energy, and Infrastructure Utilization, we have been very engaged in leveraging Northwest Ohio’s strategic geography for technology transfer and economic development. It is a simple matter of the region being endowed with the convergence of major highway, rail, sea, air, and pipeline transportation assets. In addition to the academic transportation expertise at UT, there is a critical mass of coordinated public, private, and legislative transportation stakeholders. In a global economy, winners will be ultimately determined by who has the best logistics and transportation systems.

I am dedicated to applying my 21 year’s of transportation experience with ODOT to engage and challenge the faculty and students at UT in the areas of technology and community building.

I look forward to working with my partner UTCs and contributing to the UTC’s role as a leading contributor in the transportation field.

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UT-UTC Moves to Research and Technology Center

With the advent of a new director, Rich Martinko, the UTC moved out of the College of Business where it had been housed, and into the Research and Technology Complex, referred to commonly as "R1." While neighbors used to be professors and students, the Center now lives among high tech start-up companies and the center for Photovoltaic Innovation and Commercialization (PVIC), a center to strengthen the growth of research and the manufacturing base of PV in Ohio. Partners in this project funded by the State of Ohio are Bowling Green State University and The Ohio State University. Presently extensive renovations are underway in the building and new researchers and companies should be arriving this summer.

Situated at the edge of campus next to the College of Engineering, R1 offers easy parking for the many external stakeholders who regularly interact with ITI/UTC staff.

International Symposium and Workshop Part of UT-UTC Project

As part of the UT-UTC funded project “Global Supply Chain Management/Transportation: Building a Global Network of Scholars and Educators,” the International Symposium and Workshop on Global Supply Chain, Intermodal Transportation, and Logistics Management (http://www.business.utoledo.edu/scm) was held October 25-26, 2007 on the campus of the University of Toledo. The symposium was part of the effort to develop a Research and Education Panel within the International Cargo Handling Coordination Association (ICHCA) which has international headquarters in London. PI and Co-PI of the UTC project, Dr. Subba Rao and Dr. Paul Hong, headed the steering and organizational committees for the event.

Over 80 academics, transportation practitioners and students attended the event. Scholars came from India, Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, Malaysia and Spain. Papers were presented on global supply chains, supply chain security, supply chain issues of small and medium enterprises, IT and supply chains, logistics management, instructional issues in relation to supply chain graduate and certificate programs, effective supply chain instruction methods, and developing global supply chain programs. Research seminar speakers included Dr. Mark Vonderembse (University of Toledo, Intermodal Transportation Institute), Dr. Hokey Min (Bowling Green State University, Current Research in Logistics Management and UT-UTC researcher) and Dr. Xenophon Koufteros (Security of Global Supply Chains, Texas A & M University).

Representatives from the business world also gave presentations on topics such as the supply chain practices of European firms, strategies for purchasing ocean container freight, global transportation and IT. The participants included Ford Motor Company, St. Luke’s Hospital in Maumee, Ohio, Instituto de Empresa and the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority.

In conjunction with the symposium, the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, UT’s Intermodal Transportation Institute and the Geographic Information Science and Applied Geography Center held the third meeting in a series aimed at increasing freight movements on the Great Lakes. Please see the article on page 4 of this issue.

Thursday evening a dinner was held in the historic Libbey Hall at the University. Over 70 symposium attendees and guests listened as Dr. Tom Gutteridge, Dean of the College of Business Administration, gave the welcoming remarks and spoke about the vision of the University of Toledo as a research university and the College of Business as a leading institution with D. Rao and Hong, Symposium leaders, third and fourth from the left, join UT and international participants at dinner.
solid business research and instructional capabilities in the areas of global supply chains, intermodal transportation and logistics. Mr. James Hartung, CEO/President of the Toledo-Lucas Country Port Authority and International Chairman of ICHCA as well as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the ITI, spoke with passion on the mission of the Port and the role of transportation and commerce in promoting world peace.

A core group for forming an international research network of universities, industries and businesses was established at a meeting during the symposium. This core group includes practitioners and researchers from organizations such as Ford Motor Company, St. Luke’s Hospital, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority; twelve universities from the U.S. (The University of Toledo, Eastern Michigan University, the University of Detroit - Mercy, Texas A & M, Bowling Green State University & Wayne State University which are UT-UTC partners, Ball State University, Bryant College, College of Charleston, the University of Indiana at Purdue, the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire, New Mexico State University) and eight universities from major U.S. trading partners including Korea (Kyungpook University and Youngdoing University), Japan (University of Tokyo), Taiwan (National Cheng King University), China (Yanshan University), Malaysia (Universiti Utara Malaysia), India (PSG Institute of Management) and Europe (Instituto de Empresa).

This core group decided to continue to expand the global research network and agreed to hold future meetings in Busan, Korea (May 2008), India (December 2008) and Madrid, Spain (2009). Steering committees will be selected to develop the specific details for each of these events.

Sponsors of the symposium included the Great Lakes Maritime Institute, the University of Detroit-Mercy, the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, the University of Toledo College of Business, the UT International Business Institute, and the UT Intermodal Transportation Institute.

International Symposium Proves Valuable Experience for Graduate Students

Graduate students in the Information Operations Technology Management Department of the College of Business not only were able to attend the International Symposium and Workshop, but were integrally involved in putting the event together and in the presentations. From developing the web site, finalizing the program, putting the materials together, serving as session chairs, enjoying the comradery with other participants at dinner and even joining faculty as event photographers, they were part of it all.

Without the cost of travel or registration, this was a great opportunity to participate in the exchange of information, and to meet and visit with noted academicians and transportation professionals from the region and around the world. Drs. Rao and Hong, symposium leaders, from the beginning planned the inclusion of the students. This thus proved not only to be a valuable educational experience for them but greatly added to the success of the event with their hours of effort and the use of their many talents.

Dr. Hong, Symposium Co-Chair, Author of Most Downloaded Articles

Dr. Paul Hong, Co-PI on the UT-UTC project “Global Supply Chain Management/Transportation: Building a Global Network of Scholars and Educators” and leader in putting together the International Symposium at the University of Toledo in October, received word that his article “Global Supply Chain Strategy: A Chinese Market Perspective” in the 2004 Supply Chain Symposium special issue in the Journal of Enterprise
Management was ranked fourth among the Most Downloaded in 2007 and third among Immediate Impact – the articles downloaded the most during the six months starting the month after publication.

Third Great Lakes Workshop on Data and Markets Held

A workshop titled “Great Lakes: From Data to Markets to Shipping Opportunities – The Third in a Series” was held at The University of Toledo October 26, 2007. Sponsored by the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute (University of Wisconsin - Superior and University of Minnesota - Duluth), the Intermodal Transportation Institute and the Geographic Information Science and Applied Geography Center (both at the University of Toledo), and the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, the workshop aimed at increasing freight movements on the Great Lakes.

The two previous meetings focused on data needs and sources. This third meeting centered on implementation of the data delivery system including mapping ports and docks, and developing a vessel tracking system. The goal is to develop a comprehensive information resource accessed at a single location that will support a variety of interests. Additional discussions addressed ship technology and shipbuilding on the Great Lakes.

Pete Lindquist and Samir Dhar of the Geography Center gave a report on the recent development activities of the data base following a progress report by Carol Wolosz, Assistant Director, on the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute. During lunch, uses of the data base to define market opportunities and how the information could aid economic development efforts was discussed.

Integral to shipping opportunities on the Great Lakes are new designs and new uses of ships themselves. David Singer from the University of Michigan presented his research on opportunities for ship building on the Great Lakes. The workshop closed with a very frank discussion on the development of a specific program plan for commercialization.

Attendees included representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes Commission, the Port of Monroe (Michigan), the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, the Maritime Administration, the U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, the U.S. Coast Guard, Steiner & Associates, and the Lake Carriers Association. Also in attendance were students from the classes of Dr. Lindquist, who wrote short papers on the presentations, and many graduate students from the Department of Geography and Planning.

2007 Ohio Conference on Freight: ITI Leaders in the Spotlight

The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) held the first annual 2007 Ohio Conference on Freight (http://www.tmacog.org/ocf.htm) September 17th and 18th in downtown Toledo. Among the 200 plus attendees were transportation professionals from all regions of Ohio plus six other states and representatives from Canada’s border crossing services, trucking interests, public sector leadership, airport and seaport operators, and academic researchers.

Members of the ITI Executive Committee were prominent contributors to the event as was UT-UTC administration. Rich Martinco, UTC director, made a presentation along with former director, Mark Vonderembse, in the workshop section “University Transportation Centers and Freight Planning.” Dave Dysard, Ohio Department of Transportation District Director and member of the ITI Executive Committee gave the keynote address at the Tuesday luncheon titled “Ohio’s Challenge: Growth in Freight Demand.” Mr. Dysard also served as a session moderator along with other ITI Executive Committee members Tom
Kovacik, Executive Director of the Transportation advocacy Group of Northwest Ohio (TAGNO) and Warren Henry, Vice President of Transportation, TMACOG. Jim Hartung, CEO/President of the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority and Chair of the ITI Executive Committee, introduced the dinner speaker, Collister “Terry” Johnson, Administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.


Heading the Conference was Tony Reams, President of TMACOG and another ITI Executive Committee member. Quoted in the TMACOG November 2007 newsletter, The Big Picture, he said of the event: “It was gratifying to see collaborations between organizations that normally don’t encounter each other. I saw railroad people talking to highway planners and construction professionals sitting down with shippers.” He promises even greater things for next year. To assist in those efforts, both Director Martinko and Assistant Director, Christine Lonsway, have joined the planning committee.

**ITI/UT-UTC Represented at Annual GLMRI Meeting**

Director Martinko and ITI/UT-UTC researcher and Chair of the Geography and Planning Department, Peter Lindquist, attended the Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute in Duluth, Minnesota September 27th and 28th at the Lake Superior Marine Museum. As part of the proceedings, Dr. Lindquist gave an update on “The Great Lakes Maritime Information Delivery System: A Resource for the Regional Analysis of Intermodal Freight Flows in the Great Lakes Region.” This project was largely funded through GLMRI with additional work supported by the UT-UTC.

It has been announced that Phase III of this project is among the FY2008 research projects that will receive GLMRI funding. The University of Toledo is an affiliate university of GLMRI.

**Coming in the next issue:**

- Student of the Year
  The UT-UTC SOY
  The MIOH-UTC SOY is also from UT

- UT-UTC and ITI papers presented at TRB

- Dock study contract with the US Corp of Engineers

- UT researchers work with national UTC CFIRE

- Meet our researchers at partner universities Bowling Green State University and Wayne State University

- UT-UTC joins NW Ohio economic development leaders in the Transportation Cluster and Transportation Opportunity District development

and more . . .