**Findley Selected for EU Partnership Opportunity**

Dr. Daniel Findley, PE, Senior Research Associate in the Highway Systems Group, recently participated in a mobility scholarship through the Transatlantic Partnership for Excellence in Engineering (TEE). The TEE is an Erasmus Mundus-Action 2 Project funded by the European Commission. The objective of the program is to encourage structured cooperation between European, US, and Canadian Higher Education Institutions. Under this arrangement, Dr. Findley spent one month at the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV) in Valencia, Spain collaborating with researchers in the Highway Engineering Research Group at UPV.

Among his activities, Dr. Findley participated in multiple research efforts, including experimental design and data collection. In a study to evaluate driver’s reactions to large radius horizontal curves on two-lane roads, measurement of speeds and lateral position were collected at the beginning, middle, and end of the curve.

Another research effort that Dr. Findley contributed to was the evaluation of passing maneuvers along a two-lane road with several passing zones. This effort focused on driver’s behavior when passing a large truck which involved the measurement of distance of the passing vehicle behind the truck, video of the passing maneuvers, and the speed of the passing vehicle based on the change in distance from the truck.

Dr. Findley also joined the Highway Engineering Research Group in planning and setting up a research study along a roundabout corridor in Valencia (CV 300) with a review of the experimental design and field reconnaissance to observe traffic conditions and appropriate data collection equipment installation locations. The effort will analyze accepted gaps on roundabouts along CV-300 between Albalat dels Sorells and La Pobla de Farnals.

This international collaboration fostered improvements in future research efforts, both in terms of experimental design and data collection equipment, as well as, connections with researchers, faculty, and students at UPV. Dr. Findley also delivered a seminar to the Highway Engineering Research Group, with open access to undergraduate and graduate Civil Engineering students on the topic of horizontal curve safety and geometric design. Professor Alfredo Garcia, Ana Moreno, and Carlos Llorco hosted and supported Dr. Findley’s visit. For further information about this project email Daniel at daniel_findley@ncsu.edu.

**Coverlab Releases Analytics Center to NCSHP Motor Carrier Enforcement**

Coverlab, part of the newly formed Geovisual Analytics and Decision Management program at ITRE, is releasing Coverlab Analytics, a web-based decision support application for NC State Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Enforcement (NCSHP MCE).

Coverlab Analytics will provide NCSHP MCE with online scorecards to gauge up-to-date performance on operational goals, dashboards for in-depth trend and comparison analysis, dynamic reports to streamline and simplify common data requests required for Federal reports, and map analytics to identify times and locations for prioritized enforcement.

ITRE has been working closely with a third party vendor, Idea Integration, to develop the map analytic portion of Coverlab Analytics. The mapping application filters commercial motor vehicle (CMV) crashes, inspections, and citations by location and time, enabling planners to analyze patterns and trends to make informed decisions on when and where to allocate resources. The first version of Coverlab Analytics will be officially released in late January to MCE command staff at the annual Motor Carrier Conference in Greensboro, NC, followed by troop supervisor training in early March.

For more information, please email Coverlab Program Manager Greg Ferrara at gpferrar@ncsu.edu.
A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Zachary Bugg came to ITRE in August 2009 after completing Bachelors of Science degrees in Civil Engineering and Mathematics at Mississippi State University. During his graduate studies at North Carolina State University, Zachary has contributed to two NCHRP projects, 03-98: Guidelines for the Use of Auxiliary Through Lanes at Signalized Intersections, and 03-100: Evaluation of Corridors with Roundabouts, under the direction of Dr. Nagui Rouphail and Dr. Bastian Schroeder.

While at ITRE he has published three papers in the Transportation Research Record and one paper in the ASCE Journal of Transportation Engineering. He is also the recipient of the Eno, Eisenhower, and Tau Beta Pi fellowships. His dissertation concerns the development of a lane choice model at auxiliary through lanes and is intended to contribute to microsimulation target lane algorithms. After completing a PhD, Zachary will work as a transportation analyst in the Baltimore, Maryland, office of Kittelson & Associates, Inc. He hopes to take advantage of the strong relationship between KAI and ITRE to continue to work with ITRE staff on national research projects.

Katy Salamati came to North Carolina in August 2008 after finishing her masters’ degree in Industrial and Systems engineering from University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Working as a researcher for METRANS transportation center in Los Angeles on project: “Intermodal Goods Movement Systems for Inland Ports for Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach” made her interested in Transportation Engineering. She was fortunate that North Carolina State University has one of the strongest and best programs in Transportation engineering and a lead research institute in transportation such as ITRE. Katy started her PhD in Transportation Engineering under supervision of Dr. Nagui Rouphail and Dr. Bastian Schroeder.

Katy has contributed to national and international projects such as NCHRP 03-78A: “Crossing Solutions for Blind Pedestrians at Roundabouts and High Speed Turn Lanes”, the National Eye Institute Study on Blind Pedestrian Crossings at Complex Intersections, FHWA’s Accelerating Roundabout Implementation in the United States, STRIDE’s Empirically-Based Performance Assessment and Simulation of Pedestrian Behavior at Unsignalized Crossings and a National Science Foundation grant, for which she traveled to Portugal to study roundabouts.

Katy has published four papers in the Transportation Research Record Journal of Transportation Research Board. She has received several scholarships throughout her academic education. She was also awarded the CTE student of the year award in 2012. After completing her Ph.D., Katy will continue her work with NCSU as a Teaching Assistant Professor, will teach a Highway Safety course in spring 2013, and work as a post-doctoral fellow at ITRE.

ITRE acquires additional office space to accommodate growth

After being on the cusp of outgrowing existing office space for several years, the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) at North Carolina State University, recently acquired an additional 2,500 square feet of space that was recently vacated in the Research IV building on Centennial Campus. The new space, which consists of the 3200 suite, is adjacent to existing ITRE offices and includes seven walled offices, two large open areas for multiple workstations, a conference room, a storage room, and a break area.

The new suite is currently occupied by the director of the NextGen Air Transportation Center in Planning (NGAT). The Travel Behavior Modeling Group will join NGAT in the new suite when they move in early 2013. One of the open areas will provide their stakeholders with much needed work space to conduct research.

ITRE is excited about the growth it has been experiencing and the new opportunities it represents. The additional office space allows for more efficient use of the existing areas by moving some staff closer to their core program groups and will also create three work areas that will be preserved as flex spaces for visiting researchers and temporary employees.