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Tian's Message

It has been nearly three years since our Transportation Engineering Program was established in 2004. With great support from many transportation agencies and professionals in Nevada, our program has been well established, reflected by active research activities, course offerings, and outstanding achievements by our group members.

Our group has grown to about 10 members, and has secured more than \$650,000 in research awards with major funding from NDOT and Caltrans. We have added three transportation-related courses in our undergraduate curriculum as well as three graduate-level courses. Our faculty have been serving at professional committees at both international and national levels. Our graduate students have won prestigious awards at regional student competitions.

I have to acknowledge that the strong support from many UNR alumni, friends and colleagues is a primary reason for our success. We look forward to continuing our partnership and collaboration.

What's New



Students Present Projects with Judges from
Local ITE Professional Members

An ITE student chapter was established in June 2006. The name of the chapter is UNITE (**U**niversity of **N**evada **ITE**) with a current membership of about 15. The chapter has conducted several activities, including guest speakers and attending regional ITE conferences. The chapter successfully won two data collection funds (\$2,000) from District 6 ITE. Donations to support the chapter are welcomed and will be acknowledged!

Xuan Wang, a Ph.D. student, won several awards by ITE, including the best student paper awards for both Intermountain Section and District 6 and a best student presentation in the Las Vegas Fall Conference.



Xuan Wang

Tian attended several conferences, including travels to Japan and China. Of course, TRB and ITE conferences are considered routines. He warns you to be aware of the traffic rules in China if you do go there:

- Driver's critical gap is ≤ 0 seconds
- Travel time is optimal on the Wall by bike
- Through traffic yield to left turn (gain right-of-way quicker)



Riding on the City Wall in Xian, China

Research News

- An ongoing research project related to diamond interchange signal phasing strategies produced significant improvements on traffic operations at a test site near UNR. The research was reported by KTVN Channel 2 TV and a press release by RTC.
- Two new research projects are underway, both sponsored by NDOT. One deals with implementation and testing of the *SafetyAnalyst* software developed by the FHWA. The other one deals with development of crash surrogates.
- UNR will partner with UNLV to conduct research for the newly established UTC (University Transportation Center) program at UNLV.

Members



A Group Photo Taken During Feng Xu's Thesis Defense

New Members:

- Hongyan Gao, originally from China, is pursuing her Ph.D. degree.
- L.J. Johnson graduated from UNR in 2006 with a B.S. and is currently pursuing his M.S. degree.
- Varun Mangal, an undergraduate student from the Indian Institute of Technology, is working as a summer intern.
- Nalleli Herrera, an undergraduate student at UNR, has been working as a McNair Scholar.



Varun Mangal

Good-byes:

- Feng Xu graduated in May 2007 with a M.S. degree and is now working at Katz Okitsu and Associates in L.A. as a traffic engineer.
- Ian Griswold-Shutte graduated in May with a B.S. degree.

Courses

Three transportation-related courses will be offered in the Fall Semester of 2007:

- CEE 771: Applications of Mathematics in Transportation (New)
- CEE 463/663: Traffic Engineering (focus on traffic impact studies and supporting materials)
- CEE 427: Capstone Design (focus on an Interchange Design Project)

Miscellaneous



Effective Traffic Control Devices in Yellowstone



What You Can Expect in China