

focus on RESEARCH

Researchers from the Center for Rural Studies ask: Do seasons affect our mobility? Our livability?

Dr. Jane Kolodinsky and her team of researchers, including Chip Sawyer, Thomas DeSisto, Erin Roche and graduate student David Propen, have nearly completed the first phase of the UTC-funded project, "Mobility and Livability: Seasonal and Built Environment Impacts". The team has collected panel data, one survey for each season—spring, summer, autumn, and winter that includes data

from 700 respondents from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

The investigators will estimate the impact of season on the level of both revealed and unserved travel demand using activity-based analysis for rural northern communities. Or, as Dr. Kolodinsky describes it, "We want to know whether or not it is true that people in northern climates are unhappy because they can't get where they want to go. If they are, there are policy options we can suggest."

"How do people manage to do what they want or need to do if they have less options for transportation?" asks Dr. Kolodinsky.

"We've only examined the data for a small group of elders in the spring season," Dr. Kolodinsky explains, "but



thus far, we've been surprised to find that there is very little unmet demand for transportation options. Basically, seniors in general are able to get where they want to go."

Dr. Kolodinsky has great respect for the TRC's approach to research, describing the transdisciplinary teams as being at the cutting edge at UVM. "It is an emerging process, in its infancy, but I'm betting that it's a wave of the future. This is a great, problem-oriented, holistic approach to major social problems," she says.

SEASONAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT IMPACTS OF MOBILITY

Principal Investigator: Dr. Jane Kolodinsky (Community Development & Applied Economics)
Funding Agency: US DOT
Partners: Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), New England Transportation Institute (NETI) and Resource Systems Group, Inc. (RSG)

UTC Students of the Year - Where Are They Now?

We are proud of our talented graduate scholars who come from a variety of colleges and disciplines and work towards finding solutions for big transportation problems. Every year in the fall, the TRC nominates one outstanding student to be awarded the USDOT University Transportation Centers (UTC) Student of the Year Award, a prize that comes with a \$1,000 award and a trip to the banquet ceremony in Washington, D.C. during the week of the TRB annual meeting. We caught up with our first three SOYs to ask: "Where are you now?"



2007 - Emily J. Stebbins is a strategic planner in UVM's Office of the Vice President for Finance & Administration, working on projects including enterprise risk management, pandemic planning, and continuous improvement. She earned a M.S. in CDAE from UVM in 2009, where her thesis project evaluated the technical and economic feasibility of biodiesel production in Vermont. Emily is the past Chair of the Burlington Planning Commission and was a member of the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Council on the Future of Vermont.



2008 - Elaine Wang is a Program Officer with the Institute for Sustainable Communities' (ISC) Climate & Environment Program, which designs and delivers programs and services that help communities become more climate-friendly and sustainable. She joined ISC in November of 2008 as the Angie Martin Fellow, and in April 2009 joined staff as a Program Assistant for the Climate & Environment Program. Elaine works to develop and implement programs that include ISC's Climate Leadership Academy in the U.S. and China.



2009 - Jim Sullivan graduated in May 2009 with an M.S. in Civil/Environmental Engineering. Jim began work full-time as a Research Analyst with the Transportation Research Center. He has had two publications come from his thesis work since then, one in "Transportation Letters: The International Journal of Transportation Research" and one in "Transportation Research Part A". As a researcher at the TRC, Jim has been focused on the areas of land-use / transportation modeling and transportation energy / system efficiency.



Workforce Development Update: Transportation Systems Academy

The Transportation Research Center kicked off the Transportation Systems Academy (TSA) in October 2009 to provide job training at the Northern State Correctional Center Facility campus in Newport, Vermont. The program is part of the TRC's workforce development program, funded by a \$1 million grant from the US DOT Transportation Education Development Pilot Program (TEDPP).

The TSA brings together partners from the TRC, Vermont Local Roads, New Hampshire's Technology Transfer Center, and educators from the Community High School of Vermont (CHSVT).

CHSVT superintendent Wilhelmina Picard describes the program as a "true 'win-win' for everyone involved." She says, "The students gain valuable skills in a field they are really interested in, and the transportation industry gains workers with the certifications to get right on the job."

"We are happy to be able to facilitate this partnership," Ms. Picard explains, "because we know that workforce development programs help our offenders gain skills to do something positive once

they reenter the community."

Eighteen participants are scheduled to graduate on May 6, 2010. The men will have completed 96 hours of course work. They will be certified in CPR and First Aid, Work Zone Flagging, and OSHA.

All of the Transportation Systems Academy participants are scheduled for release from the Northern State Correctional Center this spring and summer. Program coordinators are seeking partners—such as municipalities, state garages, or private sector employers—to provide "job shadow" situations to participants so that they can gain on-the-job experience. One participant has been released from the facility and has already started work at his



municipal transportation agency.

"Job training of this kind greatly decreases the likelihood that the offender will return to prison," Superintendent Picard explains. "They are also much more likely to acquire and retain a job when they are released."

More information about this program can be found at www.uvm.edu/trc - click on "Workforce Development".

3rd Annual Transportation RESEARCH EXPO 2010

The Transportation Research Center welcomes the public to an exposition of its projects and studies at the "3rd Annual TRC Research Expo" on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Farrell Hall on the Trinity campus of

the University of Vermont.

This is an opportunity to see and discuss the innovative,

transdisciplinary research occurring at the Transportation Research Center. The center was established in 2006 as a UVM "matrix center" with the goal of building teams of skilled researchers from diverse colleges together to contribute solutions toward critical transportation problems.

The Expo will include posters depicting work on funded research relating to: Integrated Transportation & Land Use Modeling, Tailpipe Emissions & Other Environmental Impacts, Tourism Travel, Seasonal Patterns in Mobility (including walking & biking), and Transportation Energy & System Efficiency.

Join us for this free, informative event!

UVM's TRC Takes Leadership Role in National Transportation Systems for Livable Communities Conference

The Transportation Systems for Livable Communities Conference will bring transportation researchers and key practitioners in livability together to share research results, explore practical challenges, and identify promising directions for future investigation. The conference will be held in Washington, D.C. from October 18-19, 2010 at the Keck Center of the National Academies.

Dr. Lisa Aultman-Hall, founding director of the University of Vermont's Transportation Research Center (TRC), will chair the conference. She is also assisting the National Academies of Science's Transportation Research Board (TRB) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in organizing the event, which will be the fifth annual U.S. DOT University Transportation Centers (UTC) Spotlight Conference.

The objective of the conference is

to create a research blueprint for transportation systems for livable communities. Among those expected to attend are more than 150 university researchers, practitioners of sustainable transportation, and public and private sector professionals.

The timing of the Transportation Systems for Livable Communities Conference could not be more apt. In recent years, the interplay between transportation systems and the degree to which a community is considered livable is gaining national attention.

The current Administration, under the leadership of U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, is promoting livability as a focus in national transportation policy. Secretary LaHood has described a livable community as "a community where, if people don't want an automobile, they don't have to have one. A community where you can walk to work, your doctor's appointment, pharmacy or grocery store. Or you could take light rail, a bus or ride a bike."

Dr. Aultman-Hall's committee has created a more formal definition for the conference. "Transportation for livable communities," she explains, "is a transportation system that works with land-use to give everyone multiple travel choices for meeting their daily needs affordably, safely, and efficiently." Conference participants will contribute to further development of this definition and measures of livability. The outcomes will be used to facilitate future state and federal transportation investments that promote community livability.



Vermont Clean Cities Coalition News

Find out more about these Clean Cities programs, or schedule a workshop, by contacting Tom McGrath at tmcgrath@uvm.edu or call 802-656-9864.



ECO-DRIVING WORKSHOPS provide hands-on training in proven energy-reduction strategies by encouraging more fuel-efficient driving and less idling. Eco-driving...

- saves local governments and individual drivers money;
- gets immediate GHG reductions; and
- costs little to implement.

Workshop participants will learn dozens of methods for cutting back on fuel consumption—reducing their carbon footprint, and saving money at the same time. Small changes in driving habits—such as avoiding "jackrabbit" starts and stops, keeping tires properly inflated, and removing excess weight from a vehicle—can greatly decrease the amount of fuel used. When more drivers follow eco-driving practices, roads are safer and less stressful.

THE CLEAN TRANSPORTATION EDUCATION PROJECT (CTEP), a nationwide training tour, is organized through North Carolina State University partnering with Wake Technical Community College and is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. Curriculum is provided by the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Institute and webinar will stream online. Attendance is free of charge. Registration is mandatory. More details will be available soon. Send questions or comments to kglitman@uvm.edu.



MEET OUR NEW OUTREACH STAFF...



Carrie Askren
Tell us about your focus here at the TRC.

My job focus is in supporting research and training in Transportation Workforce Development as part of our Education Development Pilot Program (TEDPP). This includes developing support for experienced workers training to become mentors, for new workers developing specialized skills, and for older workers from other fields transferring their well-honed skills to jobs in the field of transportation.

What are you most looking forward to in your new job?

I am most excited about networking with transportation field and other experts to expand our programs. Transportation touches everyone, crossing all arenas of life. Raising awareness about the environmental impact of transporting goods and people is as important to me as helping people find satisfying work in a flourishing industry.

Describe your past job experience.

My graduate studies in journalism at the University of Colorado-Boulder included several community relations internships, as well as marketing and research methodology coursework—all of which provide me with solid skills used on this job. In addition, I bring 15+ years of outreach work experience, including developing curriculum and leading literacy trainings for the Vermont Humanities Council, coordinating tobacco cessation programs for Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, and leading youth mentoring programs. Add to that my secondary school teaching experience, and you have a prime example of an older worker transferring skills to meet growing needs in the field of transportation.



Tom McGrath

What will your main job responsibilities be with the TRC?

Coordinating the National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI) - a two-week camp for high school students;

facilitating Eco-driving and Clean Cities outreach - seminars, newsletters, etc.; and organizing other TRC events such as the Research Expo.

What are you most excited about working on?

I'm really looking forward to the National Summer Research Institute, because I am passionate about education and enjoy working with high school students.

What are you spending most of your energy on currently?

Again, NSTI—I'm very busy recruiting students, counselors, and teachers. I've been acquiring all of the puzzle pieces and starting to put them together.

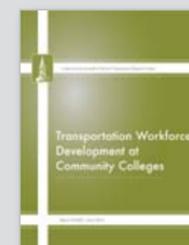
What in your previous job experience would you say is most applicable to your new position here with the TRC?

All of the outreach work I did for the UVM Canadian Studies Program—event planning, field trips, workshops, etc.—and it's been very helpful to already know most of the ins and outs of UVM. Also, working at Rice Memorial High School has made me very comfortable in a high school classroom setting, which will be useful for NSTI.

TRC RESEARCH REPORTS

Download these and many other reports from our website—www.uvm.edu/trc—click on **Publications** then **Research Reports**.

- Transportation Workforce Development at Community Colleges (Karen Glitman)
- Estimating Tourism Expenditures for the Burlington Waterfront Path and the Island Line Trail (Chen Zhang, Lance Jennings, Lisa Aultman-Hall)
- Modeling the Emissions of Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles on Interstate 89/189 and US Route 7 in the Burlington Area (Andrew Weeks)



JOIN US:

Brown Bag Discussions



The dates for the 2010 brown bag discussions focusing on critical issues in transportation will be: June 4; June 18; July 9; July 23, August 6; August 20. Topics are not yet assigned but Drs. Aultman-Hall and Lee can be contacted with ideas - call 802-656-1312.