

MAY 2008

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ONE 2 ONE

WITH DIRECTOR NANCY RICHARDSON

I care about you. I know I haven't personally met all of you, but I still care about you. It's like, once a mother (maybe a father also, but I can't speak from experience there) who has hauled her kids around in the car, you forever put your right arm out to brace that now often imaginary front seat passenger every time you slam on the brakes...it's instinctive.

My instinct is to brace you for the impact, to strengthen you and to protect you – to somehow put my arm out and keep all DOT “family members” from getting hurt. Of course, it's not that simple, as I am all too often reminded. There are government safety guidelines we follow, agency safety policies implemented, safety training provided, safety inspections completed, safety media campaigns run and safety meetings held. We have a DOT safety coordinator who oversees all our efforts and safety committees that provide “local” support. But, regardless of our efforts, DOT employees sometimes get hurt.

I was all too vividly reminded of this in a four-day period last month. Saturday morning, April 12, about 8:30 a.m. I received an E-mail that highway technician associate Lance Meyer from the Williams garage was involved in a crash while treating bridge decks on I-35 north of U.S. 20 in the predawn hours. Hit head-on by a semi...very serious...but I'm encouraged because the note says he's talking. A second note a bit later says he is being transferred to a Des Moines hospital and yet a third note provides details of multiple injuries.

Needless to say, some things seem impossible to prevent. A SUV loses control causing a semi to lose control and hit Lance's truck. He has endured multiple surgeries and is continuing his recovery in Clarion and I, and many other DOTers, think of him daily and wish him well.

On April 15 I received an E-mail that another highway technician associate, Tom Maher out of the De Witt garage, was seriously injured and on his way to the hospital. This time it was an injury sustained while clearing brush. They did surgery to place an eight-inch metal plate and several screws to repair the break. Tom is in the midst of a several week recovery period and we also wish him all the best.

These are just two recent examples of what can happen while on the job. Some injuries involve only the injured employee, while other incidents involve others. That is

why our safety efforts are focused not just on the way we employees do things, but also the behavior of others. DOT employees are particularly vulnerable when working in road work zones, a fact I was reminded of by DOT employee Bob Hubbard last year when I visited the Des Moines North garage.

Based on Bob's conversation with me about the dangers employees face from drivers in work zones, I came back and asked staff to develop a proposal to improve work zone safety for the 2008 legislative session. Steve Gent, director of our Office of Traffic and Safety, pulled together a group to develop ideas. Elizabeth Baird, our legislative liaison, drafted initial language. We reached out to Marcia Nichols, AFSCME's lobbyist, and they enthusiastically joined the effort. We finalized a proposed bill with lots of review and input and eventually it became House File 2413 which was amended into another bill that the legislature passed and was signed into law by Governor Culver. It will take effect July 1, 2008.

The bill increases penalties for speeding violations committed in a road work zone. The new fine schedule ranges from \$150 for 10 miles per hour (mph) over the speed limit and goes up to \$1000 for speeds 26 mph or more over the limit. Work zone signs will alert drivers to these new fines that are considerably higher than typical speeding fines. We

believe such steep fines will help underscore our work zone safety message to the public: slow down, be aware, and drive safely in a work zone.

Support for the bill grew beyond DOT and AFSCME as the Associated General Contractors (AGC), Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS), and representatives of counties and cities joined in. Bob Hubbard attended a House subcommittee meeting and gave a first-hand DOT perspective to legislators of what it's like to work in a road work zone with traffic passing within feet, even inches, of a worker. Without that type of personal effort by Bob and some other AFSCME members from local governments, legislators would not have had a full understanding of the importance of this legislation. Thanks to these employees, AFSCME, AGC, and DPS for all their support and effort on this bill. Thanks also to Elizabeth Baird and Steve Gent for taking my idea and running with it.

No one effort provides all the protection we want for employees. We must, and will, continue to make our work environments – whether roadside; in garages, offices or labs; at counters; in vehicles; or operating machinery – safer for all of us. I'm reminded of an old TV police drama I watched; I think it was

ONE2ONE,
continued on page 10

New commissioners take office in May

The Iowa Transportation Commission will welcome two new members at the May 13 Commission meeting in Ames. The two, Amy Reasner of Cedar Rapids and Deborah Durham of Sioux City, replace outgoing commissioners Suzan Boden and Barbara MacGregor.



Deborah (Debi) Vowels Durham, a Republican, was named president of the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce in July 1995, and also serves as president of The Siouxland Initiative, the economic development corporation serving the tri-state metropolitan area, and Siouxland Chamber Foundation.

She currently serves on the Siouxland Unidad Latino board of directors, Chamber Alliance board of directors, Orpheum Theatre Preservation board of directors, Saturday in the Park board of directors, and is chair of Girls Inc. board of directors, and treasurer of the Siouxland Heritage Foundation of the Sioux City Public Museum. Durham was named to the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame in 2003.

Durham holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration, marketing and management from Missouri Southern State University. She was a lieutenant governor candidate on the Republican gubernatorial ticket in 2002.

Durham and her husband, Joel, reside in Sioux City, and have a son, Beau, and a daughter, Jordan. Her term runs from May 1, 2008, to April 30, 2012.



Amy L. Reasner, a Democrat, is an attorney and shareholder with Lynch Dallas PC of Cedar Rapids where she practices in the areas of employment and civil rights law, ERISA litigation, business and commercial litigation, insurance defense, OSHA compliance and enforcement, trade secret and non-competition, and family law.

She has a bachelor of arts degree in broadcast communications from the University of Iowa, and a Juris Doctor degree with distinction from the University of Iowa's College of Law. She was the recipient of the Iowa Bar Association's Graduating Senior Award (2001).

Reasner is currently or was formerly active in the following community organizations: Planned Parenthood of East Central Iowa board of directors (chair - 2007-2008); Linn County Trails Association board of directors (president - 2009-2011; vice president - 2007-2009); Junior League of Cedar Rapids board of directors; the Rotary Club of Cedar Rapids; and League of Women Voters. Reasner participated in the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce Leadership for Five Seasons program in 2005-2006, and was recognized in "40 Under 40 Community Leaders" published by the Corridor Business Journal (2007).

Reasner was born in Phoenix, Ariz., and is a former broadcast journalist for KCRG in Cedar Rapids. Reasner is married to Wilford H. Stone, also an attorney at Lynch Dallas PC. Her term runs from May 1, 2008, to April 30, 2012.

Mike Tramontina, director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), is a glass-half-full kind of guy. At the recent Moving Iowa Forward Conference co-sponsored by IDED and the Iowa DOT, Tramontina painted a picture of booming freight movement through the state in the next few decades with the upswing in ethanol and wind energy. He quoted statistics from the Federal Highway Administration that suggest a 50 percent increase in freight movement on highways by 2025, not to mention double-digit increases in barge and rail freight. That's great news for freight shippers attending the conference.

When DOT Director Nancy Richardson took the stage, she commented that her message was a little on the "glass-half-empty" side in discussing the issues of deteriorating infrastructure and rising construction costs. Richardson used a myriad of statistics to bring home the point that transportation usage in all modes is far outpacing the infrastructure investments being made.

Richardson's assessment of the state's transportation system challenges were echoed by Matt Rose, chairman, president and chief executive officer of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Corporation and member of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission. Rose spoke of our national transportation system as "living off our past, not contributing to our future." He explained that current transportation usage is catching up to previous investments in transportation infrastructure, creating a supply chain inefficiency. He cited a 39 percent decrease in rail miles over the last 20 years. Highway miles have increased only 7 percent since 1988, but vehicle miles traveled (VMT) are up nationally by 96 percent. Ports have seen a 400 percent increase in freight shipments over the same period.

Is the glass half-full or half-empty?



The Des Moines Marriott ballroom held more than 200 people for a day of discussions on the future of freight shipments in Iowa and the nation at the 2008 Moving Iowa Forward Conference.

Rose said the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission's final report focused on three "Rs" – refocus, rebuild and revenue. The Commission concluded that the federal surface transportation program should not be reauthorized in its current form. Instead, the nation should make a new beginning, developing a national program to include these 10 areas.

- Rebuilding America: A National Asset Management Program
- Freight Transportation: A Program to Enhance U.S. Global Competitiveness
- Congestion Relief: A Program for Improved Metropolitan Mobility
- Saving Lives: A National Safe Mobility Program
- Connecting America: A National Access Program for Smaller Cities and Rural Areas
- Intercity Passenger Rail: A Program to Serve High-Growth Corridors by Rail
- Environmental Stewardship: Transportation Investment Program to Support a Healthy Environment
- Energy Security: A Program to Accelerate the Development of Environmentally Friendly Replacement Fuels

- Federal Lands: A Program for Providing Public Access
- Research, Development and Technology: A Coherent Transportation Research Program for the Nation

These recommendations would radically change the way transportation is programmed and funded in the United States, shifting all transportation functions into one of 10 programs, as opposed to the hundreds of programs now in place in the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Rail Administration and several other federal agencies. While three of the commissioners, including U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters, did not sign off on the commission's report, nine others did. To read the Commission's findings, go to http://www.transportationfortomorrow.org/final_report/.

The remainder of the conference focused on the shared experiences of shippers from all modes and the notion that trucks and rail, barge and air shippers will all need to work together to meet the needs of customers.

At the end of the day, attendees agreed that while the challenges are daunting, the conference provided an opportunity to network and discuss options that can be explored across all modes.

MVE awards

The Iowa DOT's Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MVE) was recently recognized by U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters for exemplary data quality for crash and inspection data.

The award honored the data collection and submittal process, and data product submitted to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) under the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP). This data includes reports for more than 60,000 inspections and motor carrier crashes for fiscal year 2007.

MVE Director David Lorenzen said, "The data we collect is generated from roadside inspections and crash reports. Then initial reporting mechanisms were designed by the Iowa DOT's Office of Driver Services. We couldn't do the work we do without that process in place. Dot Trotter in Driver Services was great to work with in getting this data collection process ironed out."

The award was presented at the FMCSA leadership workshop March 25 in Denver, Colo. Iowa received the award in the category of a medium state, one that receives \$1.5 to \$3 million in MCSAP funds each year. Captain Tony Batcheller is the leader of the MCSAP program for MVE, which has been in place since 1983. Lorenzen said, "Tony does a great job making sure appropriate data is sent to the FMCSA. There is a huge amount of information to deal with, and he continues to excel at overseeing the data transfer process."



(Photo provided courtesy of FMCSA. Photo credit: Rachel Hawthorn, Colorado State Patrol Media Center.)

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters presents awards to state officials from Hawaii, Iowa and Michigan at the 3rd Annual MCSAP Leadership Conference sponsored by FMCSA. The awards were presented March 25, during the opening day luncheon of the conference held in Denver, Colo. Awards were given in categories for small, medium and large states. Standing left to right, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters; Alexander Kaonohi, administrator, Hawaii Department of Transportation (small state); Dave Lorenzen, chief, Iowa Department of Transportation's Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement (medium state); and Captain Bob Powers, Michigan State Police, Traffic Safety Division (large state).

The Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MVE) racked up a second award in March when the Iowa Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) presented MVE with the Commissioner's Special Award for Traffic Safety. The award, presented by DPS Commissioner Eugene T. Meyer at the GTSB conference March 27 in Council Bluffs, noted MVE's "outstanding service to the cause of reducing injuries and loss of life in commercial traffic crashes in Iowa."



The Fifth Annual Iowa Motorcycle Safety Forum, "Prepare for the ride – Live for the journey" welcomed more than 325 motorcycle enthusiasts to the West Des Moines Sheraton Friday, March 14.

The group, including safety policy makers, motorcycle riders, educators, members of the insurance industry and law enforcement officials, spent the day discussing motorcycle issues, viewing vendor displays and networking.

New to this year's forum was a state-of-the-art riding simulator designed to mimic riding while impaired. The Iowa Farm Bureau and Orange County Choppers brought a display, including the E-85 chopper the bike builder manufactured for the Iowa Farm Bureau and featured on an episode of their popular television show.

The forum got a jump start on Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month (May) as designated by the U.S. Senate in 2004. This designation is an opportunity for the Iowa DOT, in cooperation with local motorcycle organizations and the Iowa Department of Public Safety's Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, to educate motorists and motorcyclists about safe driving skills that will save lives.

Toni Kerkove, Iowa DOT motorcycle safety coordinator, said, "Early in the riding season, motorists



(top two photos) Motorcycle enthusiasts from around the state attended the one-day Motorcycle Safety Forum and enjoyed networking and vendor displays.

(left) Toni Kerkove, from the DOT's Office of Driver Services, welcomes the group.

may not be used to watching for motorcyclists. With Iowa's weather finally warming up, more and more riders will be out, and motorists need to be on the lookout for them and vice versa."

In recent years, there has been a nationwide increase in motorcycle riding. Unfortunately, that increase has been accompanied by an alarming rise in motorcycle-related fatalities.

In an article in *USA Today* March 27, authors John Yaukey and Robert Benincasa quoted statistics from 1996 where 5.6 motorcyclists were killed for every 10,000 registered motorcycles. By 2006, U.S. Department of Transportation figures show that number to be 7.3 motorcycle deaths per 10,000 registered motorcycles.

A U.S. DOT action plan to reduce motorcycle fatalities released in October 2007 lists the following major characteristics of motorcycle crashes.

Major Characteristics of Motorcycle Crashes

- The majority of motorcyclists killed were white/Caucasian (77 percent), followed by African-American (9 percent), Hispanic (7 percent), and Native American (1 percent).
- In 2005, 27 percent of all fatally injured motorcycle operators had blood alcohol content (BAC) levels of .08 g/dL or higher. An additional 7 percent had lower alcohol levels (BAC .01 to .07 g/dL).
- Forty-one percent of the 1,878 motorcycle operators who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2005 had BAC levels of .08 g/dL or higher. Sixty-one percent of those killed in single-vehicle crashes on weekend nights had BAC .08 g/dL or higher.
- Forty-five percent of fatally injured motorcyclists did not wear helmets.
- Helmet use rates are lower in states that do not require all riders to use helmets. In 2006, 68 percent of motorcyclists in states requiring helmets wore DOT-compliant helmets, compared to 37 percent in states not requiring all riders to use helmets.
- Twice as many motorcycle fatalities occurred on weekends as opposed to weekdays.
- The majority of those killed in motorcycle-related crashes were motorcycle operators (90 percent), while motorcycle passenger fatalities have been constant at 10 percent for several years.
- Over the last 10 years, 90 percent of motorcyclists killed were male.
- Motorcyclists are more likely to be killed in crashes involving more than one vehicle; 55 percent were killed in multi-vehicle crashes, while 45 percent were killed in single-vehicle crashes.
- Nearly one out of four motorcycle operators (24 percent) involved in fatal crashes were operating their vehicles with invalid licenses at the time of the collision.
- The largest number of motorcycle fatalities (41 percent) is still in the 501-1,000 cc engine size group, followed by 38 percent in the 1,001-1,500 cc engine size group.
- Two-thirds of motorcyclists killed on 1,001-1,500 cc engine size motorcycles were riders over age 40.



top photo: Motorcycle simulators were a popular new addition to this year's forum. Wearing goggles on the simulator mimicked riding while impaired.

bottom photo: Attendees participated in exercises to simulate impairment.

The safety push this month involves increased emphasis on training through the awareness of the Iowa DOT's Motorcycle Rider Education (MRE) programs. These classes, mostly held at community colleges or through private instruction from ABATE (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education) of Iowa, ARIES Inc., Bandy Motorcycle Training and Riders' Edge, include a beginning rider course and an experienced rider course that may allow motorcyclists to bypass the rider portion of the motorcycle testing process, if the class is successfully completed. A motorcyclist can refresh riding skills by reviewing the Iowa Driver's Manual and Motorcycle Operator's Manual before renewing the motorcycle endorsement on the operator's driver's license.

To obtain a copy of the Iowa Motorcycle Operator's Manual, pick one up at a driver's license issuance site, call the Office of Driver Services at 800-532-1121 or 515-237-3153, e-mail ods@dot.iowa.gov, or go to iowaMRE.com.

Leading researchers attend intelligent compaction conference in Des Moines

The structure is only as solid as the foundation. Sounds simple, but when you're building a road, how do you make that happen on a consistent basis? A recent Iowa DOT-led, three-day workshop

making and increased stability. Advances in roller technology include updated measurement and control systems to provide that data. The benefits include maximum productivity of the compaction process, improved density of pave-

The basics of intelligent compaction is the ability to gather accurate data at the time soils or asphalt are being compacted...

ment materials, measurement and recording of materials stiffness values, identification of non-compacted areas, improved data on depth of compaction,

and reduction in future highway repair costs.

During the workshop, attendees spent the first day discussing the status of intelligent compaction of soils and HMA with presentations from Dr. David White from Iowa State University, Lee Galvan from FHWA, Dan Streett from the New York DOT, Frank Chaignon from Colas Inc., and discussing the Minnesota experience with IC. The remainder of the conference was spent in small groups brainstorming and identifying future initiatives, and a wrap-up session of how to take this information and move forward.

Analysis shows current compaction procedures have some limitations, especially with data collection. Finding new ways to compact soils and HMA in a manner that provides adequate data to analyze and adjust the process is the focus of several ongoing and future studies discussed at the conference.

The basics of IC include the ability to gather accurate data at the time soils or asphalt are being compacted to allow for better compaction, decision

making and increased stability. Advances in roller technology include updated measurement and control systems to provide that data. The benefits include maximum productivity of the compaction process, improved density of pavement materials, measurement and recording of materials stiffness values, identification of non-compacted areas, improved data on depth of compaction, and reduction in future highway repair costs.

(top photo) Meeting near Waseca where the IC process is being used for the Minnesota 14 reconstruction project are (from left) Tom Congdon, Caterpillar Corp.; Chad Fowlds, resident engineer at Mankato; Brian Mathiowetz, Mathiowetz Construction Co., Sleepy Eye; and Dr. David White, an Iowa State University researcher. Photo by Charlie Kremer

(middle photo) Frank Heng, Minnesota District 8 soils engineer, checks in with a roller operator on the Minnesota Highway 12 reconstruction project near Willmar.

(bottom photo) The IC-equipped roller collects data continuously as it compacts gravel on the Minnesota Highway 12 project.

Leading researchers from around the country met in Des Moines in April to discuss the emerging technology and what it could mean to the future of pavement life.



But if I got it on E-mail, it **MUST** be true

It's true, really. My mother-in-law's uncle's cousin knew someone who knew the person who sent the original E-mail about dogs dying from inhaling Swiffer solution. This myth and other urban legends are widely circulated on the Internet by well-meaning, but uninformed friends and relatives.

So how do you know if an E-mail warning is legitimate? There are several sites to check your suspicions on urban legends, folklore, myths, rumors, and general misinformation. The most commonly used is Snopes.com. Others include scambusters.org and truthorfiction.com. To make sure of your information, cross checking the suspicious E-mail on more than one site is advisable before you pass along the fountain of knowledge that has come to your desktop.

About.com suggests these tips to judge the authenticity of your incoming E-mail.

1. Note whether the text you've received was actually written by the person who sent it. Did someone sign their name to it? If not, be skeptical.
2. Look for the telltale phrase, 'Forward this to everyone you know!' The more urgent the plea, the more suspect the message.
3. Look for statements like "This is NOT a hoax" or "This is NOT an urban legend." That's a clue that the opposite is true.
4. Watch for overly emphatic language, as well as frequent use of UPPERCASE LETTERS and multiple exclamation points!!!!!!
5. If the text seems aimed more at persuading than informing the reader, be suspicious. Like propagandists, hoaxers are more interested in pushing people's emotional buttons than communicating accurate information.
6. If the message purports to impart extremely important information that you've never heard of before or read elsewhere in legitimate venues, be very suspicious.
7. Read carefully and think critically about what the message says, looking for logical inconsistencies, violations of common sense and blatantly false claims.
8. Look for subtle or not-so-subtle jokes — indications that the author is pulling your leg.



9. Check for references to outside sources of information. Hoaxes don't typically cite verifiable evidence, nor link to Web sites with corroborating information.
10. Research any factual claims in the text to see if there is published evidence to support them. If you find none, odds are you've been the recipient of an E-mail hoax.

Here's an oldie but a goodie that caught many gullible E-mailers —

Subject: FW: Microsoft and AOL merger
Date: Fri, 24 Sep 1999

I'm forwarding a forwarded message...read on, if it works you may get \$\$ from Microsoft. Certainly Bill has enough to share-maybe today we'll be blessed financially!

I am forwarding this because the person who sent it to me is a good friend and does not send me junk. Microsoft and AOL are now the largest Internet company and in an effort make sure that Internet explorer remains the most widely used program, Microsoft and AOL are running an E-mail beta test. When you forward this E-mail to friends, Microsoft can and will track it (if you are a Microsoft Windows user) for a two-week time period. For every person that you forward this E-mail to, Microsoft will pay you \$5, for every person that you sent it to that forwards it on, Microsoft will pay you \$3 and for every third person that receives it, you will be paid \$1. Within two weeks, Microsoft will contact you for your address and then send you a check. I thought this was a scam myself, but two weeks after receiving this E-mail and forwarding it on, Microsoft contacted me and within days, I received a check for \$800.



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TROPHY CASE

Professional awards

Council Bluffs Interstate Improvements Project Wins Grand Place Award

In 2002, the Iowa DOT contracted with HDR, along with major teaming partner CH2MHill, to conduct the Council Bluffs Interstate System (CBIS) Improvements Project, a major interstate planning study focused on evaluating 18 miles of Interstate highway in the Omaha-Council Bluffs area. In recognition of their work, HDR and the Iowa DOT were honored with an American Council of Engineering Companies of Iowa (ACEC-Iowa) Grand Place Award in the "Special Projects" category at the awards ceremony April 11.

The CBIS study included 11 service interchanges and 3 system interchanges: Interstates 80, 29 and 480 within the Council Bluffs metropolitan area. Serv-

ing between 20,000-75,000 vehicles daily, and with some areas of I-80 carrying more than twice the number of vehicles for which they were designed, the HDR led consultant team evaluated numerous options for handling heavy volume in the area. The result of the system evaluation and National Environmental Policy Act studies was the selection of a preferred alternative for design and construction that would improve the condition of the roadways, reduce traffic congestion and crashes, and add capacity to serve the region well into the future. HDR completed their study efforts last year with the development of a Master Aesthetics Plan, which incorporated citizen feedback

and led to numerous proposed aesthetic design elements that reflect the character of the community.

The annual ACEC-Iowa Engineering Excellence Awards program recognizes outstanding engineering achievements in Iowa and recognizes firms for projects that demonstrate a high degree of achievement, value and ingenuity. John Carns, Council Bluffs Interstate Project Coordinator accepted the award on behalf of the DOT and gave much of the credit for winning the award to Tracy Roberts, the previous DOT CBIS Project Coordinator who died tragically in a boating accident in 2005. Will Sharp accepted the award on behalf of HDR and thanked the DOT for the opportunity to work on such a complex and challenging project.

Trophy Case, continued next page

I-235 aesthetic plan award

The Interstate 235 master aesthetic plan was honored at the April 10 luncheon meeting of the American Society of Landscape Architects – Iowa Chapter. The plan, compiled by RDG Planning and Design for the Iowa DOT, was one of nine entrants recognized with an award.



ONE2ONE, continued from page 2

"Hill Street Blues." There was a shift sergeant character that was featured as each show began. He gave everyone gathered their assignments and then closed with the same plea every time - "Now let's be careful out there." That is my caution to each of you as you do your DOT job. You do your part by being careful and we will continue to do our part trying to make the work environment safer.

Hancy

Trophy Case, continued from previous page

Personal awards

We have smart kids

Alexa Warwick, daughter of Jan Warwick, information technology specialist 3, and Maria Hindt, daughter of Noel Hindt, assistant attorney general assigned to the DOT, are two of only 300 chosen nationally for the Barry Goldwater



Jan and Alexa Warwick



Noel and Maria Hindt

Scholarship for Excellence in Science and Mathematics. There were only four other winners from Iowa.

The Barry Goldwater Foundation awarded undergraduate scholarships to outstanding students this spring for use during the 2008–2009 academic year. The awards are made on the basis of merit to two groups of students, those who will be college juniors and those who will be college seniors in the 2008–2009 academic year, who have outstanding potential

and intend to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering. Four-year institutions are eligible to nominate up to four students who are in the sophomore or junior class during the 2007–2008 academic year. Each scholarship covers eligible expenses for undergraduate tuition, fees, books, and room and board, up to a maximum of \$7,500 annually.

Maria Hindt attends the University of Saint Thomas in Saint Paul, Minn., with a major in biology. Her career goal is to earn a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology, conduct research in cancer biology and teach at the university level.

Alexa Warwick attends the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, with majors in biology, Portuguese and Spanish, and a minor in chemistry. Her career goals are to earn a Ph.D. in conservation biology/conservation genetics, conduct applied research of areas in critical need of conservation, and be involved in education at a university or a non-profit organization.



Serving our country

Tyler Sorensen, son of Jennie Sorensen, maintenance management assistant in Denison maintenance, has been awarded full tuition under the “Commander’s Air Force ROTC Scholarship” program. Tyler is majoring in criminal justice at Iowa State University. Upon graduation, he will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

BIG ol’ fish



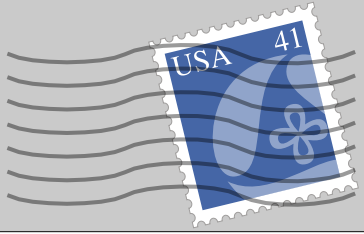
Tim Grell, highway technician associate in the Sioux City–Leeds shop, was fishing with his buddies, Tom Dibble and Mark Sadler from the Sioux City construction office, when he snagged this monster spoonbill. The fish was caught March 25 on Grand Lake of the Cherokee in Grove, Okla. While all three men caught their share of fish on the trip, this one took the cake.

Top wrestling fan

Roger Gould, retired DOTer, was named Iowa State University Wrestling Fan of the Year. ISU’s head wrestling coach, Cael Sanderson, presented Gould with the award April 1.



(from left) ISU head wrestling coach Cael Sanderson, Roger Gould and his wife, Cindy



Kudos!

These are letters that have been submitted to the editor. They may have been edited for length and continuity.

To: Iowa DOT
From: Ambri Refer, Independence

I just wanted to say thank you very much for doing an excellent job with snow removal this year. It is very much appreciated!

To: Nancy Richardson, DOT director
From: Cindy Klaasen

I work in West Des Moines and travel I-235 every morning. The morning of Feb. 6 after/during the big snowstorm, wasn't too bad on I-235, but there was snow because it was still coming down. When I went home that night, the road was dry. I couldn't even tell we had nine inches of snow. I-235 was clean. I am always so amazed on how good I-235 is after every snowstorm. Just wanted you to know that I appreciate the clean and safe roads you provide during the Iowa winters!

(Editor's note: Thank you notes from citizens continue to come in thanking the Iowa DOT crews for their efforts this winter.)

To: Nancy Richardson, DOT director,
and Kevin Mahoney, Highway Division director
From: Barry Cleaveland, DOT commissioner

Just wanted to relate to you last night's public input meeting on the public art that is planned for the four corners flanking the new 24th Street overpass. I was as always very impressed with the way Iowa DOT personnel conduct themselves so professionally. John Selmer did a very intelligent welcome and introduction to the project, patrons (Iowa West Foundation) and the artist Albert Paley. I thought the meeting went very well, was informative and well planned. Attendance was pretty good, too, I would guess there were 75-100 people.

My reaction to the planned art was, wow! The four pieces; two each 35 feet tall and two others 55 feet tall, all on 14-foot plinths, and each weighing around one ton per foot of height. I think if it all comes about it will be a very nice and impressive entrance to the state from the west. Anyway, it's nice to be a small part of such a professional group.

(Editor's note: The meeting referred to in this letter was held March 27 as part of the Council Bluffs interstate construction project.)

To: Iowa DOT
From: Jacklyn Johnson

I would just like to compliment the Ankeny driver's license station on their professionalism and concern for my son and getting his driver's license replaced. My son lost his wallet and needed to replace his license. I contacted the Ankeny office Tuesday at 9 a.m. and requested the parental consent form faxed to me.

After quite a bit of time had passed, I still had not received the form via fax. I sent an E-mail asking that the form be sent to me via fax or E-mail a.s.a.p. as my son had been driving without his license for a couple of days. After more time had passed, I still had not heard back or received the form. I placed another call and the woman I spoke to walked me through the Web site to the correct place to print the form myself.

Shortly after I had the form, I received a call from Linda making sure I had the proper form. I then received another call from Mary who was concerned on making the process for my son as simple as could be. She took some info from me over the phone and suggested that my son ask for supervisor Sandy once he arrived at the Ankeny office.

I very much appreciate the help I received from the Ankeny office and the two phone calls I received to help with the process of getting my son's license replaced.

To: Captain Dean House, Motor Vehicle Enforcement
From: Gerald Edgar, Sauer-Danfoss (Ames)

A belated thanks for a super presentation. Joe Farnsworth knew his subject, was an excellent instructor and very personable. All present gave him rave reviews (including me). We also appreciated his willingness to take the time and effort to walk out to our shipping area to double check a particular drum, with 350,000 square feet, a trip from front to back of our facility is a good stretch of the legs!

We also appreciated your 'personalizing' the first slide with 'Sauer-Danfoss' and the extra handouts. As a result, we know we can and will do a better job with our hazardous materials handling and transport.

Thanks again. The State of Iowa is sure getting its money's worth from you two!

(Editor's note: Motor Vehicle Sergeant Joe Farnsworth presented a hazardous materials handling and transportation program for employees at Sauer-Danfoss in Ames.)

Family happenings



He's 60. Steve "Sunshine" Kadolph, statistical research analyst 3 in the Research and Technology Bureau, was surprised on his 60th birthday by a party that included a very large chicken named Silly Sally. A good time was had by all.

ICPA golf outing

The Iowa Concrete Paving Association invites all DOT employees to brush off the clubs and join them, city and county engineering staff, city administrators, consulting engineers, and others for three golf outings this summer and early fall. The first outing will be May 29 at Majestic Hills Golf Course in Denison, the second June 18 at Pleasant Valley Golf Course in Iowa City, and the location of the third outing Sept. 4 will be announced in July. Each outing costs \$60 per golfer and includes 18-hole greens fees, carts, flag prizes, flight prizes, and a steak lunch. To register for any of these events, contact the Iowa Concrete Paving Association, 360 E. Delaware Ave., Ankeny, IA 50021; telephone 515-963-0606; or e-mail icpa@iowaconcretepaving.org.



In Memory

Charles A. "Chuck" Pestotnik, 86, of Boone, passed away March 30. He was the son of Andrew and Martha (Clark) Pestotnik, and lived in Boone throughout his life, and was a graduate of Boone High School, attended



John Fletcher College in Oskaloosa, and graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Civil Engineering. Chuck spent his entire working career with the Iowa State Highway Commission (later the Iowa Department of Transportation) in Ames beginning as a draftsman in 1949 and retired from his long-time position as the state bridge engineer in 1984.

In 1947, he married Pauline Thorngren. He was a veteran of World War II, serving with the U.S. Army Rangers in Africa; Sicily, Italy; and Europe. He and Pauline loved gardening, and provided friends and neighbors with produce throughout the season. Chuck enjoyed hunting and fishing. Chuck and Pauline enjoyed traveling in Europe, making numerous trips to visit relatives.

His parents; son, Mark; and sister, Mildred Ross, preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Pauline; a sister, Maxine Hartung of Bettendorf; a brother, Dick Pestotnik, and his wife, Bonnie, of Boone; a grandson, Ryan Pestotnik, and his wife, Ann, of Boone; three great-grandsons; and numerous other relatives. His coffee-drinking friends from HyVee and the walkers at the YMCA will miss him.

Harry Richard Brandt, 73, of Hampton, passed away March 20 in Mason City.

Brandt, the son of Louis and Paulina (Ammerman) Brandt, was born Oct. 4, 1934, in Hampton. His education began in the Alexander School District and later in the CAL Community Schools, graduating in 1953.

Eunice Benson became Mrs. Harry Brandt Feb. 2, 1958. Harry worked in different occupations, beginning with the Hampton Creamery hauling can milk from the farmers. He also worked at Murphey's Gas Station, Aldingers Eggs and Floor Krafters for 20 years, and as an equipment operator for the Iowa DOT for 22 years, until his retirement in 1990.

Harry had a variety of hobbies from fishing to his old tractors, especially Fords and John Deeres. Time spent with Callie and Sam, his best canine and feline friends, was an important part of his life as well.

Survivors include Harry's wife of 50 years, Eunice; sisters-in-law, Helen Brandt and Bonnie (Alan) Marken; brothers-in-law, Floyd Benson, Frank (Norma) Benson, Robert (Linda) Benson, Dale Smuck, and Dale Bailey; numerous nieces and nephews; and special people, Mel, Howard, Fran, and Bob.

Harry was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Paulina (Ammerman) Brandt; brothers, Willard and Harold Brandt; sisters-in-law, Henrietta Benson, Janice Bailey, Vivian Ringleb, and Dorothy Smuck; and brother-in-law, Laverne Ringleb.

Service Awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for May 2008

40 Years

Ronald Batterton, Manchester construction; **Joseph Shadle**, Right of Way; **Dennis Wright**, Bridges and Structures

35 Years

John Abrams, Design; **Peter Dallman**, District 6 Office; **Jeffrey Franzen**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Duane Stromley**, Hanlontown garage

30 Years

Sandra Hogan, Fort Dodge DL station; **Beverly Maxwell**, Driver Services; **Roxane McCaskey**, Highway Division bureaus; **Janet Tribolet**, Finance

25 Years

John Adam, Highway Division bureaus; **Lonny Barker**, Adair garage; **John Carns**, District 4 Office; **Claude Frazier**, Carlisle garage; **Arthur Gourley**, Dyersville field staff; **Gary Haeffner**, Donnellson garage; **Robert Hildman**, Algona garage; **Richard Homewood**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **David Maach**, Design; **Gary Makovec**, Contracts; **Kevin Martin**, Information Technology Division; **Jerry McClain**, Bridges and Structures; **Jeffrey McCollough**, Traffic and Safety; **Marilee Pityer**, Dyersville maintenance; **Thomas Reis**, Specifications; **Roger Rohlf**, Information Technology Division; **Vaughn Saxton**, Clarion garage; **Samuel Schweitzer**, Independence garage; **Cynthia Smith**, Motor Carrier Services; **Donald Stevens**, District 4 Office; **William Tucker**, Bridges and Structures

20 Years

Kent Dzuris, Jefferson construction; **James Hemberger**, District 2 Office; **Ronald Meyer**, Bridges and Structures; **Kevin Muxfeldt**, Bridges and Structures; **Raymond Prado**, Mount Pleasant construction; **Renee Shirley**, Procurement and Distribution; **Lori Wilmes**, Finance

15 Years

Charlotte Bentley, Information Technology Division; **Daryn Hamilton**, Fairfield field staff; **David May**, Procurement and Distribution

10 Years

Dawn Hackleman, Ankeny DL station; **Teresa Kern**, Driver Services; **Jason Kohl**, Council Bluffs construction; **Debra Landuyt**, General Counsel

5 Years

Thomas Doran, Ames garage; **Ronnie Dykstra**, Newton garage; **Elizabeth Fiala**, Council Bluffs DL station; **Jamie Hoefer**, Missouri Valley garage; **Robert Lehmann**, Ames garage; **Shannon McGowan**, Burlington garage; **Brian Pribyl**, Osceola garage

Personnel Updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for Feb. 8, to March 6, 2008

New Hires

Linda Anderson, executive officer 1, Employee Services; **Christopher Collison**, mechanic, Onawa garage; **Robert Ellis**, highway technician associate, Williams garage; **Susie Hall**, clerk-advanced, Equipment Services; **Jason Heimbaugh**, highway technician associate, Altoona garage; **Michael Kingery**, highway technician associate, Knoxville garage; **James Rushman**, mechanic, Ottumwa garage; **James Sailer**, land surveyor, District 3 Office; **Russell Schmidt**, highway technician associate, Boone garage; **James Sikora**, highway technician, Spencer garage; **Jodi Thiessen**, driver's license clerk, Davenport DL station; **Jeff Whipple**, highway technician associate, Knoxville garage; **Nick Witte**, highway technician associate, Allison garage

Promotions

Larry Arn, from right-of-way agent 2 to right-of-way agent 3, Right of Way; **Kelly Bell**, from transportation engineer intern to transportation engineer, Design; **Colleen Chapa**, from administrative assistant 1, Office of Policy and Legislative Services to right-of-way agent 1, Right of Way; **Todd Frank**, from garage operations assistant, Avoca garage to highway maintenance supervisor, Greenfield garage; **Robert Kurtz**, from highway technician associate to highway technician, Greenfield garage; **Tony Lazarowicz**, from transportation engineer executive to public service executive 6, District 3 Office; **Michael Moller**, from construction technician to construction technician senior, Cherokee construction; **Hale Strasser**, from information technology specialist 5 to information technology administrator 2, Information Technology Division; **Craig Van Der Wilt**, from highway technician associate to mechanic, Newton garage; **Lucas Weigel**, from construction technician associate, Design to highway technician, District 1 Office; **Randy Wheatley**, highway technician associate to equipment operator senior, Adair garage

Transfers

Terry Aldridge, motor vehicle officer, within Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Bryan Conrad**, motor vehicle officer, within Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Drew Donscheski**, motor vehicle officer, within Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Gary Huston**, from engineering technician senior, District 5 Office to program planner 3, Traffic and Safety; **Keith Truog**, motor vehicle officer, within Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Daniel Vallier**, motor vehicle officer, within Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **David Wells**, engineering technician senior, from Contracts to Construction.

Retirements

Richard Michaelis, public service executive 6, District 3 Office; **Diana Ryan**, driver's license clerk, Ottumwa DL station; **Steven Tudor**, compliance officer 1, Driver Services

Library open house draws a crowd

It's not often the DOT library draws a large crowd, but nearly 150 DOTers attended the library's open house Wednesday, March 12, that showcased the work being done on the agency's historical archive collection.

Displays placed around the library, located on the second floor of the south wing in the central complex in Ames, included showcases of historical pieces from roadway projects to photos of former DOT directors and commissioners.

"While the historical archive project may have been the initial draw for most people," said Hank Zaletel, DOT librarian, "I think many people rediscovered other treasures available in the library."

For more information on what is contained in the DOT's collections, contact the library at 515-239-1200.



INSIDE

INSIDE is developed to help keep all Iowa DOT employees informed about critical issues affecting them, recognize DOT employees for their excellent service and share interesting aspects in the lives of our co-workers. For more information contact Tracey Bramble, Office of Media and Marketing Services, at 515-239-1314 or e-mail tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov.

Nancy J. Richardson, Director

Tracey Bramble, Office of Media and Marketing Services, Editor
Lynn Purcell, Office of Media and Marketing Services, Desktop Publisher
Christina Andersen, Media and Marketing Services, Staff Writer
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Printing Staff, Office of Document Services, Printing



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On the cover: Iowa Interstate Railroad, LTD is one of the few regional railroads that connects with the entire Class 1 railroad system (BNSF, UP, CN, CP, KCS, CSXT, and NS) at multiple locations.

Service Area	Correspondent	Phone
District 1	Kay Ridgway , Des Moines	515-986-5729
District 2	Lu Mohorne , Mason City	641-423-7584
District 3	Mary Beth Banta , Sioux City	712-276-1451
District 4	Marlene Jensen , Atlantic	712-243-3355
District 5	Brenda Hadley , Fairfield	641-472-6142
District 6	Sandi Byers , Cedar Rapids	319-364-0235
Bridges and Structures	Judy Whitney , Ames	515-233-7917
Construction	Nancy McMenamin , Ames	515-239-1043
Contracts	Peg Muxfeldt , Ames	515-239-1422
Design	Judy Lensing , Ames	515-239-1469
Driver Services	Noralee Warrick , Ankeny	515-237-3253
General Counsel	Chris Crow , Ames	515-239-1509
Information Technology Division	Colette Simpson , Ames	515-233-7728
Local Systems	Kathy LaRue , Ames	515-239-1081
Location and Environment	Jean Jesse , Ames	515-239-1225
Maintenance	Cindy Shipley , Ames	515-239-1971
Materials	Brian Squier , Ames	515-233-7915
Planning, Programming and Modal Division	Mary Kay Reimers , Ames	515-239-1661
Motor Carrier Services	Diann McMillen , Ankeny	515-237-3250
Motor Vehicle Enforcement	Kerry Kirkpatrick , Ankeny	515-237-3260
Operations and Finance Division	Sheri Anderson , Ames	515-239-1340
Research and Technology Bureau	Tami Bailiff , Ames	515-239-1646
Right of Way	Linda Kriegel , Ames	515-239-1300
Traffic and Safety	Linda McBride , Ames	515-239-1557
Vehicle Services	Thelma Huffman , Ankeny	515-237-3182

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Work Zone safety lucky for one Iowa teen



Brett Sporleder of Bridgewater was beside himself with disbelief. On March 17, his 17th birthday, Sporleder was chosen as the winner of a 2008 Ford Fusion as part of the Sweet Ride on the Safe Side campaign.

The campaign, co-sponsored by the Iowa DOT, Charles Gabus Ford and KDSM Fox-17, kicked off last August at the Iowa State Fair. Young drivers ages 14-24 were directed to a fun Web site, www.sweetridecontest.com, to learn about safe driving, especially when motoring through a work zone.

The Web site, filled with fun stuff like games and a place to post photos of your own "sweet ride," included a five-minute video about work zone safety. Following the video, a 12-question quiz tested the attention of the viewer. If all questions were correctly answered, the entrant could complete a form to become eligible to win the car. Of the more than 18,000 views of the video, 3,510 qualified for the contest.



Nancy Richardson, Iowa DOT director, said, "As a group, teens and young adults are most at risk to die in motor vehicle crashes. Getting the message to them about safe driving has always been a challenge, so the Iowa DOT and other contest sponsors are very happy with the large number of young people who logged on to the Web site, accessed the video and hopefully learned helpful information about work zone safety that will save lives."

The contest was promoted on KDSM- Fox 17 and at Iowa high schools, and community, state and private colleges with posters and presentations by ThinkFirst Iowa. Events such as career fairs and advertisements in the programs of Iowa high school athletic events highlighted the contest Web site to an audience of young drivers that are often difficult to reach through traditional communication means.



(top photo, from left) Mike Wilson, KDSM Fox 17 general manager; Brett Sporleder, Sweet Ride winner; Mark Bortle, Iowa DOT safety engineer; Rich Finley, Charles Gabus Ford sales manager

(bottom photo) Sweet Ride winner Brett Sporleder from Bridgewater gives a thumbs up to safe driving.

(left photo) Sweet Ride winner Brett Sporleder speaks at a news conference where he was awarded his sweet ride.

