It seems that mobility and transportation are on everyone’s mind these days: the cost of gasoline has increased to record levels; the struggling airlines are increasing airfares and reducing service just to stay out of bankruptcy; and the nation’s roadways are degrading, highlighted by the catastrophic collapse of the I-35W bridge in Minnesota during rush hour on August 1, 2007. Indeed, many younger people may be experiencing for the first time what it is like to have limited mobility. Some people simply cannot afford to drive everywhere they want to go, and for others non-driving options are not available. The theme of the M-CASTL is “Safety and Mobility throughout the Lifespan.” This theme reflects the fact that mobility is a basic need for everyone and is intricately linked with our everyday lives. M-CASTL is dedicated to helping both young people and older adults maintain safe mobility in the face of changing external (e.g. fuel prices) or internal (e.g. medical conditions) influences.

This issue of the Messenger reports on the many programs and activities we have implemented over the past few months. I am very excited about our upcoming Transportation Research and Education Conference on May 6th. I am pleased to say that we have two excellent keynote speakers—Dr. Bruce Simons-Morton, National Institute for Child Health and Development, and Dr. Jacqui Smith, U-M Institute for Social Research—and about 100 people registered to attend. Our research program is in full swing with three newly funded projects and our next call for proposals scheduled for next month.

We have completed our 2008 synthesis report which reviews the current state of knowledge on mobility and safety issues, and identifies research and education needs. Volume 1 of the synthesis report is focused on older adult mobility and Volume 2 is focused on teen driver safety. Finally, we are starting up our professional education program, but we need to know about your educational needs. What can we do to help you or your organization?

I encourage you to visit our website (http://m-castl.org) to get the most up-to-date information about our activities and to locate the various resources we discuss in the Messenger. If you have feedback about M-CASTL, or you wish to help support our activities, please contact me at: m-castl@umich.edu.

My best regards,

David W. Eby, PhD
M-CASTL Feature

M-CASTL will hold its first annual Transportation Research and Education Conference on May 6, 2008 at the University of Michigan (U-M) Union in Ann Arbor. The Conference will draw together a diverse group of researchers and professionals with an interest in safety and mobility.

Two keynote speakers will be featured at the Conference: Dr. Bruce Simons-Morton of the National Institute for Child Health and Development, and Dr. Jacqui Smith, Co-Investigator of the Health and Retirement Study at the U-M Institute for Social Research.

The morning session will focus mainly on issues related to young drivers. The first panel is entitled: “Young driver distraction and drowsiness,” moderated by Daniel Keating (U-M Center for Human Growth and Development) with panelists Todd Amedt (U-M Psychiatry), C. Raymond Bingham (UMTRI), Gary Bubar (AAA Michigan), and Jennifer Zakrajsek (UMTRI). In the second morning panel, Frank Cardimen (Transportation Improvement Association, Oakland County) will moderate a panel entitled “Technology to improve driving for young and older drivers,” that includes panelists Paul A. Green (UMTRI), Ralph Robinson (UMTRI), James Sayer (UMTRI), and Bruce Simons-Morton. These two panels will be followed by a networking lunch. In the afternoon session, issues relevant to older drivers will be discussed in two panels. The first panel, moderated by Jeffrey Halter (U-M Geriatric Medicine), will cover “Driving and dementia,” and will feature panelists Stephen Aronson (U-M Psychiatry), David Eby (UMTRI), Bruno Giordani (U-M Psychiatry), and J. Scott Roberts (U-M Public Health). The final panel of the afternoon will focus on “Transitioning from driving to non-driving options,” moderated by Frank Asciene (U-M Pharmacy). Panelists include Cathleen Connell (U-M Public Health), Lidia Kostyniuk (UMTRI), Jonathan Levine (U-M Urban and Regional Planning Program), and Joseph Pellerito (Wayne State University).

All of these panels highlight the theme of M-CASTL: safety and mobility throughout the lifespan, with a special emphasis on young people and older adults. Given the diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise of the panelists, the Conference will provide a unique opportunity for professionals in industry, academia, and the traffic safety community to meet and discuss the latest research and ideas within these important areas. The Conference will bring together professionals in transportation safety, engineering, social work, psychology, sociology, public health, urban planning, medicine, pharmacology, gerontology, occupational therapy, childhood development, and many other areas. For more information about the Center and for Conference registration materials, please visit our website at [http://m-castl.org](http://m-castl.org).

The Conference is being sponsored in part by:

[Advantage Mobility Outfitters](http://advantage-mobility.com)  [DEER Center](http://deer-center.org)  [ADED](http://aded.org)  [The Auto Club Group](http://thecardinalgroup.com)  [Munson Medical Center](http://munsonmedicalcenter.com)
Meet James S. Jackson, PhD

James S. Jackson, the Daniel Katz Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, serves on M-CASTL’s Executive Committee. He is the director and research professor of U-M’s Institute for Social Research (ISR), a faculty associate in the U-M Institute of Gerontology, a professor in U-M’s Psychology Department and professor of Health Behavior & Health Education in the School of Public Health. He is former director of the Research Center for Group Dynamics’ Program for Research on Black Americans, which he helped to establish in 1976.

He says, “The coming aging society will profoundly change the age mix of today’s drivers. Developing research to address this coming need, to both ensure driver and passenger safety and enhance mobility among our older population are laudable goals. The main reason I enjoy serving on the M-CASTL Executive Committee is to contribute to the development of needed highway research and public policy changes.”

Dr. Jackson’s research interests include experimental and survey methodology, cultural influences on mental health, social influence, attitude theory and change, and aging and human development. He directs the National Survey of American Life, a survey funded by the National Institute of Mental Health that is designed to document the physical, emotional, mental, structural, and economic conditions of African Americans at the beginning of the new century. He has published numerous books, chapters, and scientific articles on international, comparative studies of immigration, race and ethnic relations, physical and mental health, adult development and aging, attitudes and attitude change, and African American politics. Recent publications include “African Americans in a Diversifying Nation,” “Health in Black America,” and “Being Black and Feeling Blue: The Mental Health Consequences of Racial Discrimination.”

Dr. Jackson is a previous member of the National Advisory Aging Council and the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Institute on Aging. He was elected a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science in 2002. He earned a PhD in social psychology from Wayne State University, an MA in psychology from the University of Toledo, and a BS in psychology from Michigan State University.

Did you know? In 2003, about 1 in 7 licensed drivers was 65 or older. By 2029, when the last of the baby boomers turn 65, the proportion will be close to 1 in 4.

- AARP
Meet Shekinah Errington

Shekinah Errington, UMTRI’s senior graphic artist, worked with the M-CASTL team to create a compelling and consistent visual identity—including the M-CASTL logotype, brochure, and newsletter. She will assist with design of future M-CASTL communications and photography, for print and Web.

Ms. Errington says, “I especially enjoy the more human-interface realms of transportation research, and I relish collaborative creative effort. So this opportunity to work with the M-CASTL team has been a delight. Our team leaders have excellent vision for viable project concepts. Combine that with excellent organizational skills, and you can see the evidence for yourself—we have had a winning combination for optimal design workflow and engaging output.”

Prior to joining UMTRI in 2000, Ms. Errington worked in U-M’s College of Engineering (in both its Communications and Marketing Office and the Department of Mechanical Engineering). She also held senior designer appointments with in-house design studios serving all of U-M. She ran a freelance business for several years, and also worked for an ad agency. Ms. Errington began her graphics career as assistant art director at Memphis University’s central communications office, where, in addition to supervision, her project work included design and illustration of books published by Memphis Press.

She holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Memphis University. In her personal time, she developed and teaches mandala art workshops. Her paintings, photography, and sculpture have been exhibited throughout southeast Michigan, and she has been an on-air personality, program producer-director-editor, and studio cameraperson at her local cable TV station. Music is Ms. Errington’s current passion; she and her husband perform as the musical duo, Synchronicity.

Fact:
Teenagers face a substantially higher crash risk or citation risk during the first miles and first weeks of independent driving.
- McCartt et al. (2003)
M-CASTL Activities

As part of the Professional Education program of M-CASTL, the Center provided funding for several staff and collaborators to travel to Washington, D.C. to present research results at the 87th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB). This program also provided funds for staff and collaborators to travel to the Lifesavers Conference in Portland, Oregon and present research results.

M-CASTL is pleased to announce the completion of the two-volume synthesis report for the first year of Center activities. This report will be completed annually, and is designed to help focus the Center’s research program and to maintain continuity over each year of the grant. The report identifies short- and long-term research needs that support the M-CASTL theme and reflect US DOT’s national transportation research agenda. For those interested, the synthesis report can be accessed on M-CASTL’s website at http://m-castl.org.

Lisa Molnar, M-CASTL’s Assistant Director, was recently invited to participate in a strategic planning meeting in Washington, D.C. for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The meeting was held April 28 and the goal was to help develop research goals for older adult safety and mobility.

On Tuesday, May 13, UMTRI will be hosting a site visit from representatives of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), the sponsor of M-CASTL. M-CASTL faculty and staff look forward to discussing the progress of Center activities thus far, and are excited to outline future plans to meet M-CASTL’s research, education, and technology transfer goals.

Education News

A new guidebook entitled “Promising Approaches for Promoting Lifelong Community Mobility” (authored by Lisa Molnar, David Eby, Renée St. Louis, and Amy Neumeyer) was recently completed. The guide focuses on programs aimed at retaining mobility as people age. Throughout the guide, the main issues are outlined by the authors and the efficacy of various programs is discussed. The guide was prepared with support from AARP, who plan a wide dissemination. The original printing included 10,000 copies, and conference calls with members of metropolitan planning groups from across the United States are planned. The guide will also be included in the packet of materials distributed to attendees of the upcoming M-CASTL Transportation Research and Education Conference.

As part of M-CASTL’s Professional Education Program, planning is currently underway to survey local transportation stakeholders regarding their educational needs. M-CASTL will begin this process at the upcoming Conference by collecting information on potential areas of interest and educational needs of those attending. M-CASTL will use the information as a guide for developing content or providing expertise to the stakeholders to fill those educational needs. If you have ideas for this program but will not be able to attend the Conference, please contact us at m-castl@umich.edu.
M-CASTL is pleased to announce the awarding of three research projects for the first year of our research initiative. The first project is entitled “Youth, Age, and Transportation Accessibility: An Intermetropolitan Comparison.” This project will be led by Jonathan Levine of the U-M Urban and Regional Planning Program. He will be joined on the project by co-investigators Joe Grengs (U-M Urban and Regional Planning Program), Lidia Kostyniuk (UMTRI), and Laurie Wargelin (Abt-SRBI, Inc). The project will “compare accessibility characteristics of older and younger travelers in different land-use and transportation environments,” and will “examine the travel behavior of individuals in these age cohorts in light of the accessibility characteristics of their locations.”

The second project awarded is entitled “A Behavioral Model of Driving Reduction and Cessation.” Lidia Kostyniuk of UMTRI will serve as the lead investigator, with Cathleen Connell (U-M Public Health) and Patricia Carrow (Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning) serving as co-investigators. This project will include data analysis from a representative sample of Michigan licensed drivers age 65 and older, guided by the Stress and Coping Model (SCM) and the Precaution Adoption Process Model (PAPM). The results of those analyses will be combined with driver history and crash records to develop a conceptual model of driving reduction/cessation among older drivers.

The third project that was awarded will be led by David Eby of UMTRI, with co-investigators Lisa Molnar (UMTRI), J. Scott Roberts (U-M Public Health), and Gary Bubar (AAA Michigan). In addition, two consultants, Jim Langford (Monash University Accident Research Centre) and Shawn Marshall (University of Ottawa), will lend their expertise to the project. The title of the project is “A New Approach to Assessing Self-Regulation by Older Drivers: Development and Testing of a Questionnaire Instrument.” This project will attempt to improve understanding of the process of self-regulation by older drivers and how that process relates to important driver characteristics. The study will develop and pilot test a questionnaire instrument using four different groups of older drivers, including those with clinically determined functional impairment in vision, cognition, or psychomotor ability, as well as a comparison group of normally functioning older adults.

On May 23, M-CASTL will be issuing a new request for proposals (RFP) for the second year of research funding. This funding opportunity will be available to U-M faculty and M-CASTL expects to award three projects. The maximum award for any individual project will be $100,000 and all proposals must follow a quad-team approach, with each proposal involving researchers from at least two U-M departments, an industry representative, and one or more students. The research projects must address M-CASTL’s theme and specific priority research topics, which will be identified by the M-CASTL Executive Committee with input from other Center stakeholders. UMTRI will provide a training session on May 30th related to the required cost-sharing/cost-matching for projects. Look for more information in your e-mail inbox or check our website (http://m-castl.org) for regular updates.

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Did you know?

40% of the fatal collisions of people age 70 and older occur at intersections and involve other vehicles, compared with 23% for 35-54 year-olds.

- IIHS
Technology Transfer News

As M-CASTL continues to grow and more programs get underway, the Center’s website continues to grow as well. We have recently updated our website’s look and continue to add new content. Following the upcoming Transportation Research and Education Conference, we will be adding video excerpts from the educational panels and the keynote addresses, so be sure to check our website for downloads.

On Tuesday, March 11, Dr. C. Raymond Bingham, a member of M-CASTL’s Executive Committee, presented a keynote address at the 13th annual Michigan Traffic Safety Summit. His presentation was entitled “Teen Driver Distractions: What Do We Know and What Can We Do?” For a copy of Dr. Bingham’s presentation, please see http://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/Bingham_general_session_229849_7.pdf.

As mentioned in the last issue of the Messenger, David Eby and Lisa Molnar have been serving on the planning committee for a spotlight conference entitled “Impact of Changing Demographics on the Transportation System,” to be held October 27-28, 2008. The conference will examine how the “changing sociodemographics of our society affect transportation patterns and needs,” with the overall goals of “identifying key knowledge gaps, developing a research agenda, informing transportation policy, and identifying promising initiatives for university research.” The conference issued a call for abstracts that were due on April 7 for speakers interested in participating. For more information about the conference, please see their website at http://www.TRB.org/conferences/2008/ImpactDemographics.

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M-CASTL’s Executive Committee

The responsibilities of the Executive Committee members are to develop and implement the Center’s Strategic Plan, develop the programmatic research areas, develop the programmatic educational opportunities, select research projects based on peer-review scores and Center needs, and provide guidance for all Center activities.

The following U-M faculty members serve on the Executive Committee:

**Frank Ascione**: Professor of Social and Administrative Sciences, Dean, College of Pharmacy

**William Barsan**: Chair and Professor of Emergency Medicine, Medical School

**Rosina Bierbaum**: Dean and Professor of Natural Resources and Environment, School of Natural Resources and Environment

**Richard Gonzalez**: Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology

**Jeffrey Halter**: Professor of Internal Medicine, Chief, Division of Geriatric Medicine, Director, Geriatrics Center and Institute of Gerontology

**James Jackson**: Director, Institute of Social Research, Faculty Associate, Institute of Gerontology, Professor, Health Behavior and Health Education Department, Professor, Department of Psychology, Research Professor, Research Center for Group Dynamics

**Daniel P. Keating**: Director and Research Professor, Center for Human Growth and Development, Professor, Psychology/Psychiatry/ Pediatrics

**Jonathan Levine**: Academic Program Chair and Professor, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

**Kenneth E. Warner**: Dean and Avedis Donabedian Distinguished University Professor, School of Public Health

The following OVPR representative and UMTRI Faculty serve on the Executive Committee:

**C. Raymond Bingham**: Research Associate Professor, UMTRI, Research Associate Professor, Psychiatry Substance Abuse, Medical School

**Daniel Blower**: Associate Research Scientist, UMTRI

**Steven Ceccio**: Associate Vice President, OVPR

**Timothy Gordon**: Research Professor and Head of Engineering Research Division, UMTRI, Professor of Mechanical Engineering

**Paul A. Green**: Research Professor, UMTRI, Adjunct Associate Professor, Industrial and Operations Engineering, College of Engineering

**Walter S. McManus**: Research Scientist and Head of Automotive Analysis Division, UMTRI

**Lawrence Schneider**: Research Professor and Head of Biosciences Division, UMTRI, Research Professor, Biomedical Engineering

Did you know?

In 2006, 7,463 15-20 year old drivers were involved in fatal crashes. - NHTSA
M-CASTL’s Advisory Board

M-CASTL’s Advisory Board is composed of non U-M stakeholders who have an interest in the Center’s activity. The Board is chaired by Dr. Peter Sweatman. Committee members represent local, regional, and national transportation interests. Advisory Board members provide input on the Center’s research and education program development.

The following members of stakeholder organizations serve on the Advisory Board:

- **Peter Sweatman** (Chairperson): Director, UMTRI
- **Alby Berman**: US Director of Marketing, Takata
- **Brent Bair**: Managing Director, Oakland County Road Commission
- **Frank Cardimen**: Executive Director, Transportation Improvement Association, Oakland County
- **Robert M. Clarke**: President, Truck Manufacturers Association
- **Ann Dellinger**: Epidemiologist and Team Leader, Deputy Associate Director for Science (Acting), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **John Dierberber**: State Program Manager, Federal Motor Carrier Administration Michigan Division
- **Mark Huber**: Manager, Advanced Technology, Daimler Chrysler
- **Peter Kissinger**: President and CEO, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety
- **David S. McClimon**: President, Con-way Freight, Inc.
- **Donald McNamara**: Regional Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Great Lakes Region V
- **David Morena**: Safety and Traffic Engineer, Federal Highway Administration
- **Michael Prince**: Division Director, Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning
- **Linda Scarpetta**: Manager, Childhood and Unintentional Injury Prevention Section, Michigan Department of Community Health
- **Kirk Steudle**: Director, Michigan Department of Transportation
- **James P. Vondale**: Director Automotive Safety Office, Ford Motor Company

Contact M-CASTL

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