Affiliates Program

The Affiliates Program builds relationships with other organizations in order to provide safety research in areas that concern our members. Member benefits include access to our comprehensive databases, a forum for discussing current safety issues, and an opportunity to help identify future research directions. The Affiliates Program also provides financial support for the TIFA and BIFA surveys. For information about this unique program please call the Transportation Safety Analysis Division at 734-764-0248, or e-mail us at: info-tsa@umich.edu

Events and Outreach Activities

Members of TSA attended the Transportation Research Board’s 88th Annual Meeting on January 11-15. They presented a poster session titled “Roadside Alligators and UMTRI Tire Debris Survey”.

During early March Dr. Oliver Page and Professor Ravi Anupindi (UM Ross School of Business) visited the University of Johannesburg (UJ). Under a program managed by the William Davidson Institute (UM), they are assisting the UJ in developing a Masters level program in Supply Chain Management. Dr. Page also visited the University of Limpopo where he gave a guest lecture titled “Transport Management in South Africa: Challenges and Prospects”.

Exchanging the Memorandum of Understanding between University of Johannesburg and the William Davidson Institute, from left to right: Prof. Chris Jooste, Dr. Oliver Page, Pro Vice-Chancellor: Prof D van der Merwe, Dr. Ravi Anupindi, Cynthia De Wet, and Prof. Jackie Walters

Upcoming Event sponsored by TSA:

International Conference on Efficient, Safe, and Sustainable Truck Transportation Systems for the Future

for information please go to:

http://www.magictrucks.org
TIFA and BIFA Update

The 2006 Buses Involved in Fatal Accidents (BIFA) data file has been produced, and codebooks and factbooks are now available. These publications, as well as previous years, may be viewed on the CNTBS website:

http://www.umtri.umich.edu/cntbs/

Model to Identify Unsafe Motor Carriers

TSA researchers are working with FMCSA to test a new "operational model" for identifying unsafe motor carriers and intervening to improve their safety performance. In the new model, carriers will be identified for interventions using a variety of data sources, not just crashes.

In addition, a graded system of interventions will be used to help carriers improve their safety, rather than just a compliance review and fines. The goal of the new model is to improve safety by catching potential problems early. TSA will evaluate the program to determine if it improves safety cost-effectively.

Advanced Collision Avoidance Technologies

Dr. Daniel Blower of TSA is involved in a project with the Engineering Research Division and Nissan Motor Company to develop a methodology to evaluate the safety benefits of advanced collision avoidance technologies. The project is sponsored by the NHTSA. Up to now, evaluating the safety impact of new technologies required large and expensive field operational tests. In these tests, representative drivers would be recruited and supplied with a vehicle equipped with the technology; the drivers would use the vehicle in their usual routine and the safety impact measured. This is expensive and takes a long time to produce reliable answers.

The new project uses simulation to predict the safety effect of the technologies, by modeling the types of crashes the technologies are designed to avoid, and then simulating the response of the vehicle with and without the technology in typical crash situations. The technologies being evaluated include lane departure warning, lane departure prevention, and side object warning devices.

The project was kicked-off this year. It is scheduled to run through the spring of 2010. The methodology should provide a low-cost method to identify promising technologies that can have a real impact on reducing the number of crashes on US highways.