

Transportation Science and Logistics Society Newsletter

Spring 2011



From the President, Patrick Jaillet

The Spring newsletter issue is coming a bit late this year – almost bumping into the next Fall installment. Does this mean that we are all busy solving transportation and logistics challenges, writing papers, submitting grants, teaching, learning, consulting, or simply taking long vacations?

Probably a mixture of all that, not sure – but what is clear is that TSL is a thriving society composed of very engaged and active members. It is also quite a diverse community, and this adds to its strength. The move to enlarge the footprint of the section TSS into an INFORMS society was indeed a good bet, and we are all indebted to many people who labored hard over many years to make this a reality (too many people to list here, and too much risk associated with omitting some, so I will pass on being specific here).

From its formal inception in 2004 until now, successive TSL boards have refined and clarified operational procedures and processes, introduced the use of new communication capabilities for our community (wiki, web site, social networking tools including linkedin, facebook, twitter, new logo), sponsored existing international conferences like TRISTAN, and recently introduced its own workshop. Our annual presence in the Fall INFORMS National meeting is stronger than ever. Membership has grown steadily. One of the main flagship journals of our profession, Transportation Science, is doing very well, thank you.

Good news and positive trends like this can be humbling for someone serving TSL as its president, and this has certainly been the case for me. As many mentioned before, the year goes fast, and simply keeping focus on making sure things happen on time has required some kind of disciplines that I thought I had longed gotten rid of. No regrets of course, but I wish I had a little bit more time and energy to look more carefully and engage the community at large on possible key future trends to think about so that TSL can continue to thrive. Two examples of topics that I think about from time to time (long enough to shy away from launching a formal discussion):

- 1) As a society within INFORMS, we tend to be very North American centric, this is fine, but should we try to engage more vigorously elsewhere?
- 2) Are there emerging scientific sub-disciplines or new applications domains that we should contemplate, embrace, add, collaborate with, ... within TSL.

I do have some views on these (the phrasing itself would suggest so) but I will refrain from expanding on these here. Perhaps, time permitting, at the forthcoming TSL business meeting.... See you soon.

From the Vice-President/President-Elect Elise Miller-Hooks

About this time last year I completed rather significant service work for my university. This work required extraordinary hours and I was ready to relax a bit. In my mind I was practicing how to say “no” to the next colleague requesting I take on another great challenge. Then, Theo Crainic, the Past President of TSL, contacted me to ask if I would run for Vice President/President-Elect of TSL. I let out a deep sigh, but without any further hesitation, I accepted. Why could I not say “no” to Theo?

I first joined INFORMS in 1993 and soon after became involved in the Transportation Science Section (TSS), one of the sections that came together to create the Transportation Science and Logistics Society (TSL). As with TSS, TSL has been my “home” at INFORMS. I have spent 18 years with you all (almost half of my life – ok, not quite). Our many experiences together have enriched my life and career. I have grown and learned from you. You have been there to support me and to keep me excited about academia and research even when I had decided to give up and try something else. I have colleagues and friends around the planet who I know, due to our TSL ties, will welcome me and will feel welcome by me. TSL is a Community, just as INFORMS had envisioned. It is this sense of community, this sense of feeling at home among our members, that has enabled us to build and maintain a vibrant and exciting organization – a center— if I might boast on our behalf, of all research activities related to optimization in transportation and logistics.

Since recently reading *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, I have been thinking a lot about how healthy societies are built and sustained. I ponder about how we have gone from nomads building fires and living in caves to an advanced society capable of unbelievable feats. I fret over the obstacles to change that exist for societies without stable and decent governments. And, I recognize how easy it is to destroy and how difficult and time consuming it is to build. Of course, we are only a small unit of our larger world, but our members, for many more years than I have been involved, have labored to create a great organization and community. I am proud to be part of TSL’s leadership team, and above all, feel lucky to be part of TSL’s future.

From the newsletter editor, Mike Hewitt

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. I invite everyone to submit information on conferences, special editions of journals, employment opportunities, awards, etc., to both myself (<mailto:mrheie@rit.edu>) for inclusion in the newsletter and to the Communications Chair, Maciek Nowak (<mailto:mnowak4@luc.edu>), for inclusion in the TSL community web page. As always, any comments, suggestions or feedback regarding the look of the newsletter are welcome. If you’re attending INFORMS in Charlotte, remember the TSL Business meeting will be Monday, Nov. 14 from 6:15 to 7:15 pm in the Convention Center, room C-217D. We will have a post-INFORMS wrap up newsletter at the end of 2011.

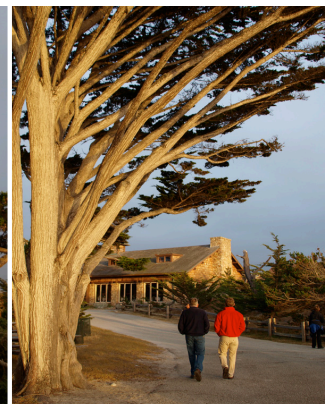
Mike Hewitt

2011 Inaugural TSL Workshop

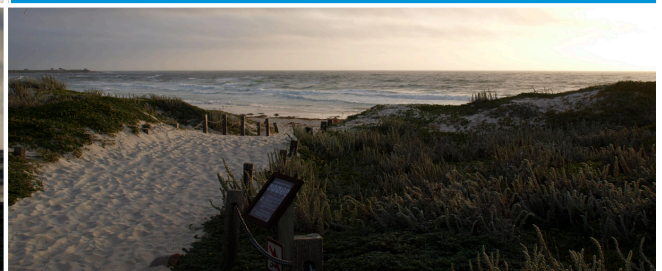
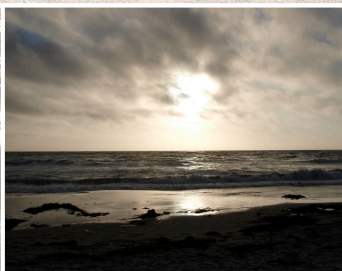
The inaugural TSL Workshop was held this past June 26th through 29th at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, CA. The organizers, Michael Ball of the University of Maryland, Michael Florian of INRO and the Université de Montréal and Toi Lawphongpanich of the University of Florida chose a topic, *Congestion Management of Transportation Systems on the Ground and in the Air*, that brought together researchers from both the road and air transportation domains. Close interactions among researchers from these two disciplines is unfortunately rare and this workshop provided an opportunity for very rich discussions and cross fertilization of ideas. The broader theme of the workshop, congestion management, is of great interest and importance both to local transportation planners and government policy makers around the world.

The TSL board and the workshop organizers planned this workshop as the prototype for an annual TSL workshop. Some specific features included a small number of participants focused on a specific topic. There was a single plenary session. The majority of attendees made presentations, however, some only participated in panel sessions and a few sponsored graduate students having no formal role. Workshop dress was informal and the venue itself provided a rustic, somewhat isolated, tranquil environment adjacent to the Pacific Ocean. Workshop attendees stayed at the conference site and ate their meals together in the conference dining room. The conference grounds and the workshop format were conducive to leisurely hikes around the ground and along the ocean and informal discussions.

There were 35 presentations organized into 10 sessions and also 2 panel discussions. There were a total of 45 attendees. Among the attendees were 12 graduate students whose room, board and registration fee



INFORMS Workshop Asilomar | June 2011



2011 Inaugural TSL Workshop continued

were covered by stipends provided by the workshop sponsors: Center for Multimodel Solutions for Congestion Mitigation at the University of Florida, INRO and the Robert H Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland. The conference web site:

<http://www.informs.org/Community/TSL/TSL-Workshop>

includes a copy of the program and copies of all presentations.

The conference venue proved to be particularly attractive. Nestled along the rocky shoreline of California's famed Monterey Peninsula, Asilomar is a tranquil ocean front retreat cradled by old growth forests and white sand beaches on 107 acres at Asilomar State Beach and Conference Grounds. Designed by acclaimed architect Julia Morgan and embracing the Arts & Crafts architectural style, Asilomar Conference Grounds harmonizes perfectly with its natural surroundings, and is home to numerous species of indigenous wildlife. It achieved the TSL goal of provided a stimulating, tranquil environment conducive to informal discussions among the participants.

In the coming weeks and especially at the TSL annual meeting in Charlotte, the TSL board and the organizers will engage in a discussion with the membership to formulate any changes in the workshop format and to make plans for future workshops.

EURO Journal On Transportation and Logistics

The new EURO Journal on Transportation and Logistics has been launched and will be published in Springer. Five special issues are being prepared, covering Carbon-Aware Transportation and Logistics, Shared Mobility Systems, Vehicle Routing, Day-to-day dynamic traffic assignment models, and Pricing in transportation networks. The Aim and Scope of the journal (from <http://transp-or.epfl.ch/euroJournal/>) is as follows:

The EURO Journal on Transport and Logistics promotes the use of mathematics in general, and operations research in particular, in the context of transportation and logistics. It is a forum for the presentation of original mathematical models, methodologies and computational results, focussing on advanced applications in transportation and logistics. The journal publishes two types of document: (i) research articles and (ii) tutorials. A *research article* presents original methodological contributions to the field (e.g. new mathematical models, new algorithms, new simulation techniques). A *tutorial* provides an introduction to an advanced topic, designed to ease the use of the relevant methodology by researchers and practitioners.

HEC MONTRÉAL

RIRL 2012
9th International Meetings
on Logistics Research
August 15-17, 2012



CALL FOR PAPERS

Every two years, the International Meetings on Logistics Research bring together researchers in the field of Supply Chain Management, under the auspices of AIRL (Association Internationale de Recherche en Logistique).

RIRL 2012 will be hosted by HEC Montréal and will focus on managerial issues of Logistics and Supply Chain Management. Presentations are expected to revolve mostly around the following themes:

- Globalization
- Collaboration
- Resilience and risk management
- Performance measure and control
- Sustainability
- New technologies
- Purchasing / Supply strategy
- Marketing channels
- Transportation
- Healthcare logistics
- Humanitarian logistics
- Event logistics
- Urban logistics

They also focus on the conceptual, methodological and epistemological bases of research on Supply Chain Management in relation to other areas of business research.

You must submit a 4-page abstract (approx. 2000 words, in French or English) of your paper to: <https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=rirl2012>.

Full papers will be published in the proceedings of the meetings and available on line through www.airl-logistique.org. The Scientific Committee will select some papers to be part of a special issue of: *Logistique & Management* (AIRL's official journal) for best French-language papers, and *Supply Chain Forum : an International Journal* for best English-language papers.

Important Dates

Submission of abstract (4 pages): December 1st, 2011

Notification of acceptance: March 1st, 2012

Submission of final papers: May 31, 2012

Contact: RIRL2012@hec.ca

Web: <http://expertise.hec.ca/rirl/en/>

FAA Design Competition for Universities



The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is continuing to offer a Design Competition for Universities for the 2011-2012 academic year and has added new design categories.

The Competition challenges individual students or teams of students (undergraduates and graduates) from U.S. colleges and universities, working under the mentorship of a faculty advisor, to address challenges in four broad areas: Airport Operations and Maintenance, Runway Safety/Runway Incursions/Runway Excursions, Environmental Interactions of Airports, and Airport Management and Planning. Students must have a faculty advisor. Cash prizes are given to first, second and third place winners in each category. The first place winners will present their design solutions at the FAA/TSA/ACC Summer Workshop Series in Arlington, Virginia, July 18-19, 2012. They also present at another professional meeting relevant to their design proposal.

Competition guidelines and full details are available at:

<http://faadesigncompetition.odu.edu>

Student and faculty participants in last year's Competition overwhelmingly found participation in the Competition to be a valuable educational experience. Many cited the opportunity to interact with and confer with industry professionals and experts on solving a modern, real world dilemma to be a rewarding and purposeful experience. Participants can engage in the Competition in many ways — for example as part of a design class, independent study, or a student professional society project.

Please share this email with anyone you feel would have an interest in the Competition.

Contact: VSGC@odu.edu (757) 766-5210

Special issue of Transportation Science

Energy and Transportation: Meeting the Challenge

Guest editors:

Diego Klabjan and Warren Powell

Deadline: January 13, 2012

Transportation accounts for almost 20 percent of the world's energy consumption and over 50 percent of the consumption of liquid fuels. As a result, it represents an important opportunity in the goal of reducing CO₂ emissions and our exposure to the risk of rising oil prices. The sheer scale of transportation in the energy equation, and the spatial nature of transportation activities, introduces special challenges. The goal of this special issue will be to encourage research in this important area by highlighting different problem areas, as well as different styles of research that may be of interest to the transportation science community.

A sampling of some of the problem areas that are of interest include

- Planning problems related to the growth of electric vehicles - This might include planning the installation of charging stations, pricing strategies, routing EVs, and understanding the value of EVs as a form of battery storage to regulate variable supplies from wind and solar
- Design and operation of delivery systems for alternative fuels such as biomass and hydrogen
- Modeling consumer choices in the presence of emerging technologies
- Understanding the impact of carbon markets on freight transportation
- Planning investments in new transportation equipment in the presence of rapidly evolving technologies
- Design and operation of logistics networks for shale gas
- Designing markets for vehicle emissions

Papers will be refereed following standard procedures for Transportation Science. Papers will be evaluated based on the significance of the problem, and the degree to which the paper advances the field either by contributing to our understanding of the *science* (for example, understanding the value of electric vehicles as a form of energy storage) or the *technology* (such as the design of new methods for pricing recharging stations). One goal of the special issue will be to highlight different styles of research.

Some papers may be accepted for publication in Transportation Science in regular issues. We will also work with other journals to find outlets for strong papers that may not be a good match for Transportation Science.

Submission: Please submit your manuscript online via ScholarOne Manuscripts at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/transci>. When choosing Manuscript Type in step 1 of the submission procedure, click "Special Issue—Transportation and Energy," otherwise your submission will be handled as a regular manuscript.