

# Student news

## HR Green Scholars

Beginning in fall 2002, the MTC matched funding provided by the Howard R. Green Company to establish a graduate assistantship in transportation at Iowa State University. HR Green is a regional engineering and planning consulting firm based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The assistantship allows students who meet rigorous selection criteria to independently select and study transportation issues under the guidance of an



Molly O'Brien helps fly a helikite.

academic advisor. HR Green has been a major employer of graduating Iowa State University students in recent years and expressed a strong interest in assisting the university in the development of human capital for the region's transportation agencies and companies.

Two students were selected to share the first

graduate assistantship. Molly O'Brien and Jonathan Rees both worked at Iowa State University's Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE).

One of Molly's projects included researching the use of helikites (helium balloon kite combinations) as rapidly deployed unmanned aerial vehicles for surveillance, data collection, and infrastructure management. She also worked on a project involving a manual method of land use change detection to help determine locations for conducting traffic counts for the Iowa Department of Transportation. For her thesis Molly is investigating the effectiveness of all-red clearance time on intersection



accidents and violation trends. She plans to graduate in December 2003 and work in the consulting industry as a traffic engineer.

Jon's first project was to identify and map all winter-related accidents that occurred in the state of Iowa over the past decade. Jon has also been working on corridor management studies for the Iowa Department of Transportation concerning U.S. 20 in Dubuque County and Iowa 163 from Pleasant Hill to Monroe, just east of Des Moines. Jon's duties include identifying access-related crashes along each corridor, mapping them using ArcView and ArcGIS, and documenting the study. Jon is currently brainstorming ideas for a thesis topic, which will likely involve corridor management. He plans to graduate in May 2004 and work for either a private or public agency as a transportation planner.



Jon Rees

# Recent

## Mid-Continent Transportation Research Symposium

The MTC co-sponsored this symposium, which was held August 21–22, 2003, at Iowa State University. Two concurrent sessions addressed asset management topics. Papers, which are available online at [www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/midcon2003/](http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/midcon2003/), included the following:

- Local Government Adoption of Asset Management by Ernie Wittwer, Jason Bittner, and Char Kasprzak, Midwest Regional University Transportation Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison
- GASB Statement 34—The On-Ramp to Transportation Asset Management or a Detour Leading to Business as Usual? by Tom Maze and Omar Smadi, CTRE at Iowa State University
- Transportation Asset Management Today: An Evaluation of an Emerging Virtual Community of Practice by Jeromie Winsor, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, and Sue McNeil, University of Illinois at Chicago; Lou