

## MTC scholar of the year

**V**anessa Amado, a PhD

candidate at the University of Missouri-Columbia (UM-C), was named MTC Transportation Scholar of the Year for 2001–2002.

The honor recognizes her outstanding contributions to the field of transportation and included \$1,000 and a trip to the Transportation Research Board's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in January.

She and her master's degree advisor, Dr. Kristen Sanford Bernhardt, presented a paper at TRB this year called "Knowledge Discovery in Pavement Condition Data."



**Vanessa Amado**

Vanessa completed her master's degree in civil engineering at UM-C in the spring of 2001. Her thesis topic was "Expanding the Use of Pavement Management Data."

Originally from Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico, she obtained a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico in 1998. For a year and a half she worked as a civil engineer at Guillermet, Ortiz, & Associates in San Juan, PR.

## Research update

**T**he MTC's research program is ending its second year of operation and has just issued its third request for research proposals. About \$400,000 in new research (including \$200,000 in MTC funds and \$200,000 in matching funds) will be approved during the first half of 2002.

One project, involving the integration of data collected with the assistance of global positioning systems (GPS) into asset management databases, has been published (it's available online at [www.ctre.iastate.edu/reports/gpslrm.pdf](http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/reports/gpslrm.pdf)). Seven other projects, which focus mainly on developing tools and techniques that can assist in the adoption of asset management by state and local government highway and public transportation agencies, are in progress.

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