

MIZZOU scholars tour Turner-Fairbank Research Center

Eleven MTC transportation scholars from the University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou) attended the 82nd Annual Transportation Research Board annual meeting held last January 12–16 in Washington, D.C.

In addition to the conference, MTC Associate Director Charles Nemmers escorted ten of the students on a tour of the FHWA's Turner Fairbank

Highway Research Center in nearby Northern Virginia (see picture). While the tour lasted only about three hours, the group saw years worth of research on display.

The students toured many laboratories in the research center including the traffic engineering simulation lab, which they found particularly interesting. The researchers in that lab place actual traffic flow information into various traffic analysis models. "It was one of many areas where we took a glance into the future and could see possibilities that we had never even dreamed about," says Nemmers. "It was an exciting time. We thank FHWA



Joey Hartman, FHWA researcher (far right), escorts Mizzou students and Charles Nemmers (far left) through the Research Center.

for their time in hosting the transportation scholars from Mizzou."

MTC Director...from p. 1

the transportation industry clearly faces a shortage of human capital in the future as many current leaders are retiring or are expecting to retire. For this reason, the MTC is also now involved in a pilot project with the Iowa DOT, Des Moines Area Community College and several Central Iowa area high schools to attract new students to careers in transportation. What makes this program unique is that current students are doing much of the recruiting.

Recruiting focuses on both technical and professional career paths and includes both transportation planning and civil engineering.

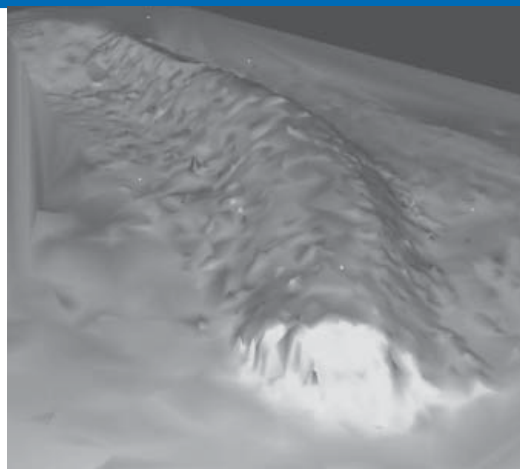
(See article in page 4 of *CTRE en route* for more information.)

Laser scanning improves efficiency

Laser scanning is a terrestrial laser-imaging system that quickly creates a highly accurate 3-D image of an object for use in standard CAD software packages. Such a system may produce more accurate as-built drawings in less time

compared to standard approaches.

This project investigates the use of laser scanning to assist the Iowa Department of Transportation with several important design and construction activities. Pilot tests will be performed on various types of projects such as an intersection, a highway segment, and a bridge.



A laser-scanned stockpile

Comparisons will be made to determine cost savings and accuracy improvements using laser scanning compared to

conventional helicopter photogrammetry techniques. A final report will be completed soon and will be available online at www.ctre.iastate.edu/mtc/.