



From the President – Rich Gritta

It is my privilege and honor to succeed Ken Button as President of the TRF. Ken has done a great deal this past year to both strengthen the viability of the TRF and to increase its visibility in both the academic and professional communities. The organization thanks him for all his efforts, as do I. He is a hard act to follow.

We enter the sixth decade of the existence of the TRF and, despite ups and downs, the organization remains stable. We hope to keep it that way and gradually improve its position over time. To accomplish that, I hope to further the goals Ken set forth this past year. Two of those goals are to expand membership by increasing its visibility in the community and to gradually get an outside publisher involved in the Forum, first with the proceedings and ultimately with the Journal. Ken has started the negotiation process with one leading publisher and it is hoped that we can get that publisher involved in next year's proceedings in Washington, D.C. The goal is to increase the visibility of the research done by members of the Forum. As Ken has frequently pointed out,

increasing our presence in the citation index, now a key measure of status in the academic world, is critical to the success of the Journal. We will keep you posted on new developments as the year progresses.



Rich Gritta

I will continue with several features started this past year. This issue contains short biographical sketches of student members of the TRF and a profile of a faculty researcher in the group. I have also added a section on airline humor and a section introducing members of the Forum to opportunities abroad available through the Fulbright Program. Finally, I welcome any suggestions for future topics and sections of the TRF Newsletter.

Jack Ventura's Transportation Research Foundation: Past As Prologue

Sometimes if you want to know what an organization is really capable of, what it is really about, it helps more to know about its past than its present. That seems to hold for the TRF Foundation, a charitable/educational affiliate of the TRF eligible for section 513(c)3 tax deductibility.

You may know that as a TRF member you vote for the Foundation's officers every year. Perhaps you're less aware that the Foundation's endowment stands at almost \$80,000 as of year-end 2008 (even after losses sustained from the financial crisis), generating an annual income in interest and dividends of about \$5,000 which supports scholarship grants to transportation graduate students at University of Maryland, North Dakota State University, and occasionally University of Missouri, St. Louis University and Northwestern University. The annual income also supports travel expenses for the winner of the TRF student paper award and maintenance of a collection of primary source transportation documents, donated by members over the years, at the Mercantile Library associated with the University of Missouri at St. Louis.

It was this last use of the funds, though, that comes closest to what those who started the Foundation (notably among them Herb Whitten, TRF's own founder) had in mind as its primary mission. The Distinguished Transportation Library is what today's Foundation was known as in 1981 when it launched as part of TRF's Washington Chapter (the National TRF Council was not persuaded the first time around to give it affiliate status). The idea was to amass \$400,000 in donations, rent space, hire a librarian, and create a repository for contributions of members' research collections so as to make them accessible to others, but collections fell too short to support a stand-alone operation. Nonetheless, the group was quite activist, capturing the imagination of many in TRF with

a book drive in the mid-1980's for books to be shipped to a transportation educational facility in Africa, funded largely by a generous donation from Vincent Hog of the World Bank (as a special one-time use, rather than from the endowment's income). By 1992, when it became the TRF affiliate it is today, the Foundation's most significant collections--the complete series of Official Railroad Guides covering over 100 years and a complete series of the Proceedings of the TRF-- had been given to the St. Louis, MO, Mercantile Library to form the TRF collection within its John Barriger III National Railroad Library.

As recently as 2002, the Foundation performed a function close to what it had been originally intended for; it found a worthy home in a university for the life-long collection of books and research materials of a retiring transportation professional. The search for that home spanned across the globe and at one point involved making arrangements for international shipping. The Foundation stands ready today to receive collections from TRF members for transfer to other institutions or to include as part of the TRF collection at the University of Missouri, thereby providing tax benefits to donors. If interested in making such a contribution, please contact Jack Ventura, President, TRF Foundation at (202) 245-0319 or jack.ventura@verizon.net

But the Foundation Board over the years has looked into and given much thought to other, rather imaginative and forward-looking uses of endowment funds. When Byron Nupp was Foundation president, he took a keen interest in digitization of research materials and what role the Foundation could play in promoting it. The Foundation Board today continues to pursue this interest and expects some day to practicably advance that purpose.

In sum, in considering the TRF Foundation as a recipient of your tax-deductible contributions, consider not just what it is doing today in supporting transportation students but what the original purposes were for which it was conceived and what its potential is in other

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ways in furthering the cause of transportation research. You can contribute by adding to your dues renewal payment (note the line designated for TRF Foundation in your TRF dues form) or by sending a check separately, made out to TRF Foundation, to:

Capt. James R. Carman
Treasurer, TRF Foundation
700 Port Street, Apt. 340
Easton, MD 21601 8155

The 50th Annual Transportation Research Forum Meeting

The 50th Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Forum was held March 16-18, 2009, at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, Oregon. The full conference program and paper abstracts are available at: <http://www.trforum.org/forum/2009/program.php>.

The meetings started informally with a reception Sunday evening that featured food and live music by Oregon fiddlers while attendees registered and picked up programs. The conference included 9 concurrent sessions with approximately 115 papers, 8 panel sessions, and 12 posters in the new poster session in addition to the keynote speakers and breakfast and luncheon panel sessions.

In line with the mission of TRF, attendees represented a broad array of interests from government, industry, and academia. There was a particularly large contingent of student attendees representing the diverse fields that encompass research in transportation: public policy, engineering, and economics, to name a few.

The Monday morning welcome was delivered by Bill Wyatt, Executive Director of the Port of Portland. He emphasized the importance of investing in infrastructure to remain competitive in an increasingly global economy. Maintaining flexibility and being innovative were other elements he named as being critical to providing an effective and competitive transportation system. This introduction led into a plenary

panel session on ports which emphasized port productivity, profits, and strategies for success.

Daniel McFadden, Professor of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley and recipient of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Economics, was the recipient of the 2009 TRF Distinguished Researcher Award. Professor McFadden gave the keynote luncheon address entitled "Sociality, Rationality, and the Ecology of Choice" (www.trforum.org/forum/2009/mcfadden.pdf). His talk emphasized the need to question the assumption of rationality made by economists in modeling and to incorporate behavioral research into models if they are to provide meaningful results.

On Tuesday the luncheon panel, "Funding Transportation Infrastructure," was chaired by Ken Button. The panelists, Genevieve Giuliano (University of Southern California), Joung H. Lee (AASHTO) and Jack L. Schenendorf (Council, Covington & Burling, LLP) have all been involved in study of this issue from a variety of perspectives. They discussed the need for alternative financing for transportation infrastructure and promoting an efficient transportation system in the U.S.

Daniel O'Neal, former ICC commissions and Washington State Transportation Commission Chair, was the recipient of the TRF 2009 President's Award for his contributions to transportation in both the public and the private sectors. Other awards included:

Best Paper Award: "Ownership Forms Matter for Airport Efficiency: A Stochastic Frontier Investigation of Worldwide Airports" by Tae H. Oum, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University & University of British Columbia; Jia Yan, Washington State University; and Chunyan Yu, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University & University of British Columbia

Graduate Student Best Paper Award: "A Dynamic Congestion Pricing Strategy for High-Occupancy Toll Lanes" by Kitae Jang, University of California, Berkeley

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Agricultural and Rural Transportation Paper

Award: “Price Dynamics and Market Structure in Transportation: For-Hire Grain Trucking Along the Alberta Saskatchewan Border” by James Nolan, U. of Saskatchewan and Andrew Laing, Carleton University

Herbert O. Whitten TRF Service Award: John (Jack) Wells, U.S. Department of Transportation

Distinguished Transportation Researcher Award: Daniel McFadden, University of California, Berkeley

Airline Humor [true incidents]

The flight attendant had the following announcement as the aircraft descended in preparation for landing: “The weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we will try to fix them before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Southwest.”

“According to Simon and Garfunkel, there may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways to get off this plane!” remarked the flight attendant.

After taking off from JFK on Flight 293, non-stop from NYC to LA, and reaching cruising altitude, the pilot made the usual announcement: “The weather ahead is good, and therefore we should have a smooth and uneventful flight. Now sit back and relax..... OH MY GOD!!!” Silence followed, and after a few minutes, the captain came back on the intercom and said, “Ladies and gentlemen, I am sorry if I scared you earlier. While I was talking to you, a flight attendant spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!” A passenger in business class yelled, “That’s nothing. You should see the back of mine!”

On a Continental flight with a very “senior” flight attendant crew, the pilot said, “Ladies and gentlemen, we have reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants.”

As the plane was coming in to a stop at JFK, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: “Whoa, big fella. WHOA!”

Fulbright Program Opportunities for TRF Members

What is a Fulbright and how do you get one? There are several different types of Fulbright Awards, but the two key types are the Senior Fulbright Scholar Grant and the Senior Fulbright Specialist Grant. In effect, you get a grant from the government to travel abroad to do research, work on a project, or teach while you have a wonderful experience. And you actually get paid to do it! The Scholarship Grant can be an award for up to 6 months, while the Specialist is a shorter term grant, usually of 42 days duration. Grants are available to a large number of countries around the world and are highly competitive. Industry people can apply. The key is to show how you can contribute your talents to an institution in a foreign country. I urge you all to get on the website www.cies.org There you can see the current listing of grants by country and by topic.

I am a two time Fulbrighter. My first Fulbright was a Senior Fulbright Scholar Grant to the Transportu Katendra [Transport Institute] at the Warsaw School of Economics in February-June, 1996, where I taught seminars and conducted research for my group. My second was a Senior Fulbright Specialist Grant to the Groupe ESC-The Toulouse School of Business during August through November of 2007. I taught several seminars to Airbus executives [and others from around the world] enrolled in the ESC’s MBA Program with a major in Air Transport Management. I also did research with a faculty member, Dr. Sveinn Gudmundsson, who was the Head of CERMAS [The Center for European Research in Aviation Management]. Both experiences were life changing for me and my family. My 12 year old daughter, who is fluent in French, had such a great time enrolled in a small Catholic school [where no one spoke English] that she wanted us to live in France!

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(Fulbright Program continued)

Past TRF President Tony Pagano has just received notice that he has been awarded a Senior Fulbright Scholar Grant to Panama. Tony will teach courses in international business, logistics and supply chain management and assist Santa Maria La Antigua University in Panama in the development of their curriculum in these areas. In addition, he will perform research in the area of pricing of transportation services for the Panama Canal Authority.

I have contacts at several schools in Europe, South America and the Far East. Many of you members of the Forum have your own contacts or have friends or associates who have contacts. The key, since the grants can be very competitive, is getting an invitation from a university or other entity and creating a match between your skills and the skills needed in that country. I stand ready to help anyone who is interested. There are deadlines for the Scholar Grants. The most important deadline is August 1 each year for the majority of the opportunities. The Specialist Grants have rolling cutoff dates several times during the year, so less forward planning is necessary.

TRF Member Anthony Pagano Awarded Fulbright

Anthony M. Pagano, associate professor of management at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach courses in international business, logistics and supply chain management at Santa Maria La Antigua University in Panama City.

Pagano's fellowship will begin in January. He will assist in the development of a curriculum for the university. Additionally, he will perform research in the area of pricing transportation services for the Panama Canal Authority.

"This grant will help my research on how decisions at the canal can affect the cost and availability of goods imported to and exported from the United States and the rest of the world," Pagano said.

Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic achievement, teaching ability and demonstrated research and leadership in their fields. The Fulbright Scholar program sends 800 U.S. faculty and professionals abroad each year.

Pagano is director of the UIC Center for Supply Chain Management and Logistics. He is also associated with the UIC Urban Transportation Center.

The author or co-author of more than 150 articles, technical reports, and papers presented at professional meetings, he is also co-author of the book "The External Environment of Business: Political Economic, Social and Regulatory," (1995; 2nd ed. 1997).

Pagano's research includes asset management and strategic planning at state departments of transportation, private sector involvement in public transportation, and measurement of the output of government and service organizations. He has also conducted research in measuring quality and efficiency in the delivery of transportation services and methods of transportation demand management.

He has consulted on transportation and trade issues internationally, including the Republic of Peru and the People's Republic of China.

Past President Profile: Frederick J. Beier

After serving as President of TRF in 1990 I continued to teach and do research at the University of Minnesota. In the late 1990s I served as interim chair of the Department of Marketing and Logistics Management but even the temporary nature of the appointment could not make academic administration attractive.



Frederick Beier

In 2000, the school appeared to be receptive to curriculum revision that would allow an integrated program of study in supply chain management. I devoted most of my energies in helping to organize the marketing, operations and IT faculty which resulted in a comprehensive

supply chain curriculum for both undergraduate and MBA students. The major is now more popular among both undergraduates and MBAs than our traditional logistics major ever was.

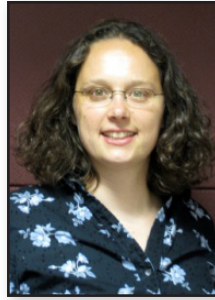
I formally retired from the University in 2005 following some health issues. After a hiatus of about 3 years the school asked if I was interested in doing some part-time work advising students involved in consulting projects. I gladly accepted and have continued a loose association with the school ever since my retirement.

Part-time retirement seems to be going well. We have 9 grandchildren distributed in Minnesota, Connecticut and Texas. Our health is intact and we're still able to be active, e.g., travel, some golf and fly fishing.

Regards to my friends and colleagues at TRF,

Fred Beier
fbeier@umn.edu

Young Member Profile: Dina Ribbink



Dina Ribbink

Where am I now?

Since August 2005, I have been a Ph.D. student at the R.H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland. The program focuses on logistics, transportation and supply chain management.

As my final year is approaching, I am concentrating on my dissertation. It is a two-essay study that investigates the effects of culture on buyer-supplier relationships using the theory of transaction cost as a lens. The first essay looks at the impact of culture on contractual buyer-supplier relationships using data from a global fortune 500 company. The second essay is an experimental study investigating the moderating effect of culture on information asymmetry in buyer-supplier negotiations.

In addition, I am interested in transportation-related subjects. My last study on the impact of financial distress on customer service in the airline industry was recently published in the JTRF.

Where do I come from?

Originally from Germany, I moved to Maastricht, the Netherlands, for my combined bachelor/master studies (old European system) with a study abroad period in Strasbourg, France.

While staying in Strasbourg, I focused my studies on transportation. The city, being located on the Rhine River as well as the German-French border, is a great example for intermodal container shipping. It was especially fascinating to observe that the port of Kehl (Germany) could handle ships with up to four levels of containers while the port of Strasbourg (France) less than a mile – but one bridge – further upstream could only handle those with three levels, foregoing major profits. In terms of road transportation, the bridge between Strasbourg and Kehl is a constant bottleneck as it is the only bridge for miles. In addition, one of the first European sole freight lines was in the vicinity.

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Overall, it was a great location to get firsthand logistics, and especially transportation, experience.

Hence, my master thesis at Maastricht University compared various modes of transportation and their potential environmental costs to businesses.

Making a living

After graduating, I stayed on at Maastricht University as a junior lecturer and researcher. I taught various courses in the field of international transportation and global supply chain management. I soon realized that I enjoyed pursuing my research interests.

Before coming to United States as a Ph.D. student, I worked as a research assistant at the University of Liege, Belgium. I participated in a study that assessed regional opportunities in the field of logistics and transportation.

Interests

Personally, I really enjoy discovering different countries and meeting new people. Although at heart I am German, I have spent half my life abroad and enjoyed it very much. I appreciate the openness that welcomed me to the United States and the diversity that I encounter daily in the office.

Originally, I am from a small town at the Dutch border and at times I do miss the quiet and familiarity that comes with such rural areas. However, I also very much enjoy the variety of museums and especially food options a capital such as Washington, D.C., has to offer.

Every fall, I take one day and hike through part of the Shenandoah Valley. Nature and its colors are amazing and it does bring some quiet and peace to realize such great retreats are only a day-trip away.

Being a Ph.D. candidate however also implies not having as much time for leisure excursions as I would like. My daily life revolves around the campus and College Park – so I guess, to some extent, that takes me back to my rural roots as “downtown” College Park is pretty straightforward.

My day

My regular working day is not very conventional—I come to school in the mid-morning. I attend meetings, seminars and work on day-to-day tasks or on my research. In the afternoon, I try to make it to the gym. After grabbing an early dinner at home or “downtown,” I head back to school to work on my research.

I enjoy staying late in school, when the place slowly settles down. Living within walking distance to school means that I have never spent the entire night, but it has happened that I leave when the cleaning personnel arrive.

Short Bio

Education

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK, MD

Robert H. Smith School of Business

Ph.D. Candidate in Logistics, Transportation and Supply Chain Management

Minor: Operations Management and Econometrics

Graduation date: May 2010 (expected)

Dissertation: Impact of Culture in Buyer-Supplier Relationships

UNIVERSITY OF MAASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

M.S. in International Business

Concentration: Supply Chain Management

Master Thesis: Freight Transportation on the Corridor Duisburg – Rotterdam: A Scenario Approach for 2010

Graduation date: April 2003

Publications

Ribbink, Dina, Martin Dresner and Christian Hofer (2009), “Financial distress and customer service,” *Journal of the Transportation Research Forum*, 48(1): 89-104.

Ribbink, Dina, Allard C.R. van Riel and Janjaap Semeijn (2005), “Policy decision and modal choice: An example from the European Union,” *Transportation Journal*, 44(1): 33-44.

TRF Member William Fahey Dies

William Fahey, 71, died Monday, April 27, 2009, at White Plains Hospital. The son of the late William and Mary Fahey, Bill was raised in Whippany. He earned a B.A. at St. Peter's College and a law degree at Cornell University. After his schooling, he served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. Upon his return to the states, he settled in Westchester County, NY, where he has lived for more than 40 years. He was an avid reader and had an affinity for trains. Above all, he loved his daughter Julia and spending time with her. He was past president and general counsel for the New York School Bus Contractors Association. His clients included Liberty Lines, New York Bus Company and Suffolk Transportation. A member and presenter for the American Public Transportation Association, Fahey was the former chair of both the New York State Bar Association's Environmental Law Section and the New York City Bar Association's Transportation Law Committee. Fahey was active in the TRF, most recently serving as program vice president for the New York chapter. He is survived by his daughter, Julia Jean Fahey, and his cousins, Susanne Evans and her husband Lee, and Barbara Elliott and her husband Stephan. A graveside service was held Friday, May 1 at Holy Rood Cemetery, 61 Whippany Rd., Morristown. Donations in his memory may be made to Cornell University, 130 East Seneca St. Ste 400, Ithaca NY 14850, Attn: Patricia Watson.