

MAY 2010

# INSIDE



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ONE 2 ONE

WITH DIRECTOR NANCY RICHARDSON

A couple of weeks ago I had a very interesting and enjoyable business dinner. It was a meet-and-greet type of thing with two men, both involved in transportation advocacy and research organizations, one in Iowa and the other in Washington, D.C. I have known both of them professionally for a couple of years.

Both are younger than me, one by about 15 years and the other is half my age. Both were born in countries other than the U. S., one Korea and one India. One came to this country with his family as a child; the other came here alone as a young adult to do graduate work. One is single and the other is a married father of two young adults. One is the head of his modest-size public organization, while the other is a junior colleague at his.

Needless to say, not only are there differences between them, but they are both different from me—a middle-age (okay, upper middle-age), U.S.-born, female, head of a relatively large government agency. Although this was a business dinner, there was no single, specific business matter to discuss. It was more of a networking, courtesy get-together, so the dinner conversation was casual—how work was going, travel, sports, politics and family.

I ended up feeling like the uninteresting, boring one of the group! These two had been places and experienced things that I have only read or heard about. They both talked of their experiences in relocating to this country. The youngest talked of wanting to go back to Korea for a couple of years after college for a work experience only to have his father say, “I didn’t bring you here from Korea for a better education and life just to have you graduate and return to Korea.” He didn’t go back.

The other talked about coming to the U.S. alone to study and returning home to India a couple of years later to get married—to a woman his parents had “arranged” to become his wife. He said we might not understand how he could marry someone after knowing her for only 40 minutes. The most touching revelation was when he said, “I could not have found a person who would have been a better wife for me the past 23 years.” His love and admiration for his wife was obvious.

I have experienced nothing close to either of these situations—the child of parents who gave up the life they knew to give their children untold opportunities, or one-half of an arranged marriage. It all seemed so exotic and fascinating to me, far from the “born-raised-lived most all of my life in the same place” life that I have lived. Just as I thought how different we three were, talk turned to the father’s pride in his two daughters, one in college and one just finishing, and the younger man’s girlfriend back in D.C.

It was this talk of children and dating that brought us back to our similarities. The father talked of the family sacrifices he and his wife made to live in the U.S., of sending their daughters to a highly respected academy several states away for high school, and of changing jobs and residences to move to where their daughters went to college. And the younger, single one talked of his parents nudging him because he’s not yet married at age 30 and wanting him to marry “a nice Korean girl.”

He explained that his girlfriend is a Catholic, St. Louis native—not quite the Korean girl his mother had in mind. He laughed as he said that, now that his parents have gotten to know his girlfriend, his mother says, “She’s better than a Korean girl would be for you.” As I said to him that night, she sounds to me like a typical

mother who loves her son and most of all just wants him to be happy...sound familiar?

What an interesting and enriching experience this turned out to be! I always think it is neat to learn something about a part of someone’s life that you aren’t familiar with...that is why I enjoy the occasional human interest story about a DOT employee in Inside. A glimpse into the personal life of a work colleague can lead you to view them a bit differently—more “dimensional” than just the work they do.

This experience reminded me how much more we are all alike than we are different, regardless of our heritage, age, job or stage in life. Fathers take pride in their children’s accomplishments and mothers worry about sons and daughters getting married...or not getting married. We all sacrifice for our loved ones and what is most important in our lives usually comes back to family.

I was also reminded of how interesting people are when we get to know them beyond the single dimension we usually are familiar with, and how much diversity enhances our lives. Whether on a personal or professional basis, my life is enriched by opportunities to work and socialize with people of varying backgrounds and experiences. What I was most reminded of is how boring life would be if everyone was just like me!

*Nancy*

## Bill Samuell 45 years of service



**"I really like being able to meet and talk to a lot of interesting people."**

**Bill Samuell,  
Transportation  
Data**

It was going to be a good job for a couple of months. That's what Bill Samuell thought 45 years ago this month when he began working in soils design for the Iowa State Highway Commission (ISHC). It was 1965 and Samuell, a native of Scranton, Iowa, knew he had a very good chance of getting drafted soon. The Army called later that year, so after four months at the ISHC, Samuell took his scant retirement savings from the state and headed off to the Army. After all, he was never coming back to work here, so why leave the money at the ISHC?

After his discharge from the Army in 1967, Samuell had learned to appreciate the opportunities at ISHC. So it was back to soils design. In 1969, he briefly worked as a motor vehicle officer in the Stanwood/Tipton area, but de-

ecided the varied hours and sometimes dangerous circumstances were not his style. Samuell moved back to Ames in November 1969, where he took a job with the Office of Transportation Data. He worked with this group until 1981, when he switched to the Office of Advance Planning, now called Systems Planning. Since 1991, Samuell has been back in Transportation Data, most recently working on collecting and updating city street information.

"I really like being able to meet and talk to a lot of interesting people," said Samuell. "In my job I talk to many of the city administrators and others in local governments. They are generally very helpful."

Samuell has decided to retire June 24. He and his wife, Jackie, have two grown children, daughter Tina, and son Billy.

## Grauerholz saves woman after crash on snowy road



Dan Grauerholz

Old, snowy winter days produce so many opportunities for heroes. Feb. 7 was no exception. Dan Grauerholz, highway technician from the Osage garage, was clearing snow from another winter wallop. While traveling on U.S. 218 between Saint Ansgar and Osage, three vehicles were following Grauerholz' plow. Two of those vehicles attempted to

pass. The first vehicle successfully maneuvered around the plow, but the second, driven by Maria Rubio Alejo, did not.

Alejo lost control of her vehicle. It careened off the road and rolled several times in the right of way. Roxanne Wilder's vehicle was third in the original line behind the plow. Wilder, an employee of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, said, "The plow driver was doing his job in plowing and applying sand and salt to the road. After the crash, he immediately backed up and called for assistance, and then came to help get the driver and her young passenger out of the vehicle. As the driver, a female in her early 20s, was injured and would or could not come to the back of the vehicle to get out, Dan had to reach into the vehicle and pulled her out of the passenger window. He carried her to the road and set her down. Finding that she could not walk, he carried her to my car and placed her in the back seat to wait for the emergency responders. Because there was nothing else he could do to help, he continued to do his job by plowing and making sure the roadway was as safe as possible for other travelers."

Wilder, who assisted Alejo's young son out of the wrecked vehicle, waited with the young mother and son until the ambulance arrived before continuing on her trip. She said, "Dan just acted like he does this every day, saving someone's life. It was amazing to me."

Grauerholz said, "Unfortunately this does happen too often. In fact, a similar thing happened just a few weeks later. People don't drive according to the conditions, they get in a hurry and the results can be devastating."

Wilder continued, "The Iowa DOT can be proud to have an employee such as Dan who knew what to do, did it calmly and then continued with his assigned duties."

## A little less pressure

**P**ressure — Iowa DOT snow-fighters know how to handle it. The record-breaking winter we just survived highlighted the pressure Iowa DOTers are under to keep Iowa roadways clear of snow and ice.

To lighten the load a bit, a snowplow weight control system called the “Moray,” developed by Cirus Controls, was tested in districts 3, 4, 5 and 6. The system is designed to take pressure off the front plow’s cutting edge when the full weight of the plow is not needed to clear the ice and snow from the roadway. The Moray also has the capability to apply more down pressure to the cutting edge to better remove hard packed snow and ice. This feature is only available if the truck is equipped with a plow that has a two-way cylinder allowing the operator to apply down pressure to the cutting edge. This hydraulic weight control system can allow the operator to lift the plow blade to a minimum of 150 pounds and can apply down pressure to a maximum of 2,200 pounds of plow blade weight on the road, depending on how the operator sets the controls in the cab.

Randy Kaefring, mechanic in the Coralville shop, said the system is easy to install. “The hydraulics are controlled by two microswitches in the cab of the truck. The operator can adjust the weight on the blades, less weight for lighter snow or to clear granular shoulders or more weight to cut through snowpack.”

The system can be operated in automatic or manual modes. In automatic mode, the hydraulics are set at a certain plow blade weight. As the truck speed increases, the weight of the plow decreases so the operator has full control of the truck. In manual mode, the operator can set the weight of the blade independent of the speed of the truck, so the force of the blade can be maintained to fit the conditions.



Traditional plows, without weight control systems, place the entire weight of the blade on the road all the time. Kaefring said, “All that weight can wear out a blade quickly. Being able to control the weight can really save on blade wear.”

*“The hydraulics are controlled by two microswitches in the cab of the truck. The operator can adjust the weight on the blades, less weight for lighter snow or to clear granular shoulders or more weight to cut through snowpack.”*

**Randy Kaefring,  
mechanic in the  
Coralville shop**

Todd Cogdill, equipment operator senior in Onawa, ran a plow with the weight control system this year. He said the system definitely saved blades. “We used the manual mode to make the least weight on the blades and still plow off snow. We estimate this could double the life of the plow blade, and having less weight on the blade makes it much quieter and have less vibration.”

In the Washington and Mount Pleasant shops, Brien Keltner, highway maintenance supervisor, said he has seen the benefit of the weight control system on the front plow. “This system has been mounted on Mount Pleasant Highway Technician Steve Bain’s truck for the past two years. I would like to move his system from the front plow to the coats style mid-mount wing on his truck next year. The goal of moving the system would be to save shoulder rock and to prevent wing damage.”

Saving shoulder rock was also a goal for the Coralville garage. Kaefring said being able to control the pressure on a plow did a great job saving gravel on granulated shoulders. “I know we saved a ton of rock this year using the weight control system.”

## Environmental protection DOT style

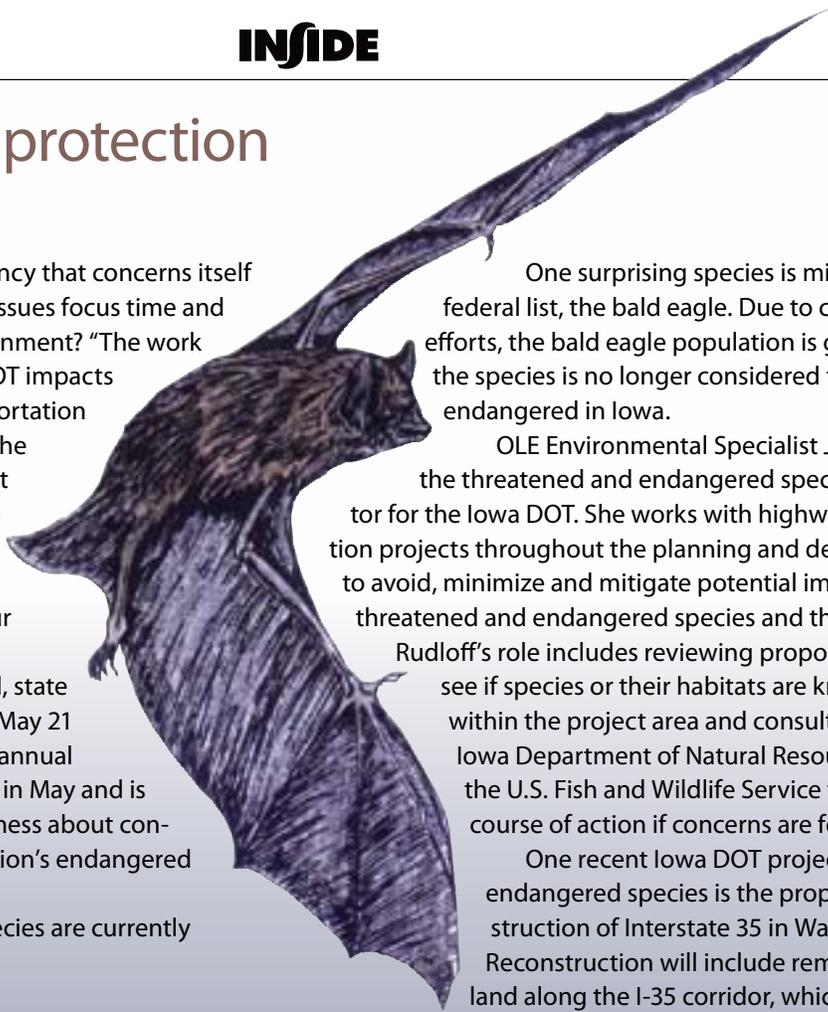
**W**hy would a state agency that concerns itself with transportation issues focus time and energy on the environment? "The work we do at the Iowa DOT impacts so much more than just the transportation system," said Jim Rost, director of the Office of Location and Environment (OLE). "Researching and protecting endangered species during our construction process is just one component of the work done in our office."

The Iowa DOT joins many local, state and federal groups in recognizing May 21 as "Endangered Species Day." This annual observance occurs the third Friday in May and is a great opportunity to raise awareness about conservation efforts to protect our nation's endangered species and their habitats.

Twelve federally protected species are currently listed in Iowa.

- **Indiana bat** (*Myotis sodalis*)
- **Higgins eye pearly mussel** (*Lampsilis higginsii*)
- **Piping plover** (*Charadrius melodus*)
- **Topeka shiner** (*Notropis topeka*)
- **Iowa Pleistocene snail** (*Discus macclintocki*)
- **Pallid sturgeon** (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)
- **Interior least tern** (*Sterna antillarum*)
- **Prairie bush clover** (*Lespedeza leptostachya*)
- **Mead's milkweed** (*Asclepias meadii*)
- **Northern wild monkshood** (*Aconitum noveboracense*)
- **Eastern prairie fringed orchid** (*Platanthera leucophaea*)
- **Western prairie fringed orchid** (*Platanthera praeclara*)

*(Note: In addition to these 12 federally listed species, another 236 state-protected species are listed in Iowa.)*



One surprising species is missing from the federal list, the bald eagle. Due to conservation efforts, the bald eagle population is growing and the species is no longer considered threatened or endangered in Iowa.

OLE Environmental Specialist Jill Rudloff is the threatened and endangered species coordinator for the Iowa DOT. She works with highway construction projects throughout the planning and design phases to avoid, minimize and mitigate potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and their habitats.

Rudloff's role includes reviewing proposed projects to see if species or their habitats are known to occur within the project area and consulting with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine a course of action if concerns are found.

One recent Iowa DOT project involving endangered species is the proposed reconstruction of Interstate 35 in Warren County. Reconstruction will include removal of woodland along the I-35 corridor, which includes habitat for the Indiana bat, listed as protected by both the state and federal governments. Habitat surveys, as well as mist net surveys, were conducted. These surveys discovered Indiana bats within the project area. Following consultation with the Iowa DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa DOT began looking for potential mitigation sites along the I-35 corridor to compensate for the impacted woodlands and habitats. The Iowa DOT is currently working with several local landowners in Warren County, including the Des Moines Water Works, to plant trees and protect woodlands on local properties. While the project will impact habitat for a listed species, the consultation and mitigation processes have been relatively smooth. This project has been a great example of how the Iowa DOT can work cooperatively to protect threatened and endangered species while continuing to provide safe and efficient transportation systems in our state.

## Cyber security tip

# Choosing and protecting passwords

**P**asswords are a common form of authentication and are often the only barrier between a user and confidential/sensitive information. By choosing good passwords for both personal and work computers, and keeping them secret, you can make it more difficult for an unauthorized person to access protected information/systems.

### Why do you need a password?

Passwords are used every day. They range from personal identification numbers (PINs) at the ATM to your network password at work. Passwords help ensure that only authorized people have access to electronic information/systems. If you do not choose strong passwords and keep them secret, they are almost as ineffective as not having any password at all. Many computer systems have been broken into due to the use of insecure/inadequate passwords.

### How do you choose a good password?

Passwords based on personal information or common words/phrases are easy to remember. However, they are also easy for an attacker to guess or "crack." Following a few simple guidelines will help you create strong passwords.

- Length: Select a password at least eight characters long.
- Letters: Use upper and lowercase letters.
- Numbers: Include numbers in the password.
- Special characters: Include at least one special character.



- Change it: Change passwords at least every 60 days.
- Default: Do not use the default password that came with your computer/account.

*While the above provide the best general guidance for selecting passwords, please keep in mind that not all systems will accept complex passwords. Mainframe computers limit passwords to no more than eight characters and will not permit special characters. On DOT computers, you can come closest to the above "best practices" while keeping your desktop and mainframe passwords synchronized by using EXACTLY eight characters, including some numbers, and including both upper and lower case letters in your password. For a DOT computer, you are required to change your password at least every 60 days and not be allowed to use default passwords.*

Once you have created a strong password, do not use it for every account you log into. Create a separate password for each system/computer you use.

### How can you protect your password?

Now that you've chosen a strong password, you need to protect it. Here are a few tips to remember:

- Do not write your password down and store it with your computer.
- Do not share your password with anyone including your co-workers and supervisor.
- Do not e-mail your password.
- Click "no" if a program offers the option of "remembering" your password.

Source: US-CERT, DAS-Information Security Office

For more information about the Iowa Department of Administrative Services—Information Security Office (ISO), visit

<http://secureonline.iowa.gov/>.

Send questions to [SecurityAwareness@iowa.gov](mailto:SecurityAwareness@iowa.gov).

# FBI Internet safety training session now available on DVD

**T**he Iowa DOT sponsored an Internet safety training program March 22 presented by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). FBI Victim Specialist Karen Gale presented the training as part of local, state and national initiatives to provide education, information and raise awareness on Internet safety for youth and families. The presentation is a program of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and is distributed and utilized in order to educate, engage and empower educators, children and families to help keep them safe while surfing the Web.

A free copy of the presentation is available to all Iowa DOT employees on DVD. To order,

1. On DOTNET, click on the "Print Work Request/Avanti" item on the left side of the main page
2. On the next page, click on "CD/DVD"
3. Click on option for label or no label on DVD  
In labeled fields, enter the following:
4. "Originals," enter "1"
5. "Qty," enter number of DVDs
6. "How much data is on your master disk?" enter "111 min"
7. "What type of disc do you want?" choose DVD
8. "What type of case do you want?"  
choose from options
9. "What is the name of your file?" "Internet Safety"
10. "What office folder is your file in?"  
enter "disc from video studio"
11. Chose "CD/DVD" from drop down menu
12. Click on "Save Values"
13. Click on "Add to Cart"
14. On the next screen, double check items, click "Check Out"
15. On the next screen, check addresses, correct and then click "Next"
16. On the next screen, enter cost center (although cost is free)
17. Enter date needed in appropriate field

This informative presentation will enhance your ability to recognize and avoid potential dangers on the Web and build confidence to make safer choices, both online and in the real world. It will also answer many questions about Internet safety, at-risk users, social networking sites, identity theft and predatory behaviors. This presentation will be given in a train-the-trainer type of setting with time for questions, discussion and audience interactions.



Linda Fevold, information technology specialist 4 in the Information Technology Division, attended the training and provided the following input, "I thought this was an excellent training. Ms. Gale was very interesting. This is a must for parents, grandparents and anyone that uses the Internet so they can be informed about what can happen on the Internet. I believe our schools should be using this resource for training our students. I came away with several Web sites to use to teach my 15-year-old how she can be a little safer on the Internet."



**Professional**

Tom Welch, state safety engineer in the Office of Traffic and Safety, was recently awarded "The Outstanding Paper in the Field of Geometric Design" by the Transportation Research Board (TRB). The paper, co-authored with Joshua Hochstein and Tom Maze from Iowa State University and Howard Preston and Richard Storm from CH2M Hill, was entitled, "J-Turn Intersection: Design Guidance and Safety Experience." The award was presented at the TRB annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in January.

**Personal**



Matthew Little has accepted a National Merit Scholarship to attend Iowa State University (ISU) next fall. Matt, son of David Little, assistant District 2 engineer, and his wife, Laura, scored in the top 1 percent of the 1.5 million kids who took the National Merit Scholar test. This earned him a scholarship covering tuition, room and board valued at \$13,500 per year that is renewable for four years. He plans to double major in physics and philosophy. Matt is currently a senior at Mason City High School, as is his twin brother, Andrew,

who also scored very well, but came up just short of qualifying for the National Merit Scholar program. Andrew will also be attending ISU, double majoring in chemistry and economics.

**In memory**

**Frederick Clark Nuss**, 62, of Pacific Junction, died March 15, 2010, in Council Bluffs. He was born August 23, 1947, in Council Bluffs, to Gerald Elbert and Cora (Livengood) Nuss. Nuss graduated from Glenwood High School in 1965. He was united in marriage to Becky Roxanne Bartles June 11, 1977. Their marriage was blessed with one son, Christopher. Nuss was an equipment operator for Iowa DOT's Pacific Junction garage from 1970 to 1999. He was former mayor and mayor pro-tem for the city of Pacific Junction, as well as a former volunteer for the Pacific Junction Fire and Rescue. He was also a member of the Eagles. He enjoyed fishing and playing cards in his spare time. Nuss is survived by his wife Becky; son, Christopher (Catie); two grandsons, Xander and Cale; many relatives and a host of friends.

**John "Jack" Muchow Jr.**, 76, of Ottumwa, died March 26, 2010, at Hospice House in Ottumwa. He worked for the Iowa DOT as an inspector at the Ottumwa RCE office for 34 years, retiring in 1994. Muchow was born Feb. 26, 1934, in Chicago, Ill., to John C. and Margaret Canny Muchow. He married Julie Fabritz on May 28, 1955, in Ottumwa at St. Mary's Church. He was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and for many years a member of the Wa-Ke-Ma motorcycle club and the Retreads motorcycle club. He also served in the U.S. Navy. He is survived by his wife, Julie; a daughter, Kim Muchow of Ottumwa; sons Steven (Vera) of Parksburg, Penn., Mark (Janet McAllister) of Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Jon of Ottumwa; five grandchildren; sisters Jeanne Callas and Sue Huffman of Ottumwa and Helen Barwick of Agency; brothers Ed and Tim of Ottumwa; several nieces and nephews.



**SEHARC Web site**  
Great deals on fun activities for state employees

**A**re you looking for discount tickets to Star Wars: In Concert at Wells Fargo Arena July 5? Maybe a trip to Adventureland or the Blank Park Zoo are in your future this summer? If so, the State Employees Health and Recreation Committee (SEHARC) has a deal for you.

The group's Web site, [www.seharc.org](http://www.seharc.org), is loaded with special offers, events and activities for state of Iowa employees. The Iowa DOT is encouraging all DOTers to visit the Web site to find great deals on many Iowa attractions and activities.

## TIPS FROM THE GREEN TEAM

### Earth friendly spring cleaning ingredients and supplies

- 32 oz. (around 950ml) spray bottle - try to use a bottle made from recycled materials, or that is recyclable.
- Water.
- White distilled vinegar. It should be vinegar made from grain or plant material. Believe it or not, some vinegar is distilled from petroleum; yes, crude oil! It gives a whole new meaning to fuel as food.
- Genuine lemongrass essential oil. Aside from helping to mask the vinegar odor (which dissipates naturally anyway), lemongrass has anti-bacterial properties. For increased disinfecting power, you can use tea tree oil, which also has anti-viral and anti-fungal properties.

**Note:** While we tend to get a little paranoid about bacteria these days thanks to marketing messages that basically paint the presence of any bacteria as being "A Bad Thing," if it is an important issue to you, lemongrass is a far more environmentally friendly option than chemicals like triclosan. These synthetic chemicals should really only be used in professional health care settings due to issues relating to bacteria becoming resistant when products containing chemicals such as triclosan are used excessively and/or incorrectly.

- Earth friendly dishwashing liquid. This can be found in just about any supermarket. The dishwashing liquid is used to clean mirrors and glass streak-free where commercial glass cleaners have been used previous. Many commercial window/glass cleaners have chemicals of a waxy nature in them, so when you switch to vinegar/water there will be streaking unless you have the dish detergent in your cleaner. Once that build-up is gone, adding dishwashing liquid is not necessary.

### Method

1. Half fill the bottle with water.
2. Add enough white distilled vinegar to nearly fill the bottle, but leave a little room for the additional ingredients and for shaking.
3. Add 10-14+ drops lemongrass essential oil.
4. Add two or three drops of the earth-friendly dishwashing liquid.
5. Replace the cap and shake to mix the ingredients. There should be a thin layer of foamy bubbles at the top, but not too many.
6. Label container clearly. Shake before each use and store out of direct sunlight.

**Tip:** While this is a tried and tested recipe made in green cleaning workshops, always spot test any cleaning fluid before going all out.

*Adapted from [www.greenlivingtips.com](http://www.greenlivingtips.com)*

## So you're retiring, what comes next?

The Iowa DOT expects to watch nearly 10 percent of our workforce retire between April and June. While these people have decided to leave the Iowa DOT, many will seek work outside the agency. Charlie Smithson, director and legal counsel for the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board, cautions retiring employees to carefully explore the legal ramifications of taking another job. Iowa Code chapter 68B lists the state employment restrictions.

**1. Iowa Code section 68B.5A** places restrictions on the ability of state officials and employees to lobby for two years after leaving state government. The ban varies on the position the person held during state government.

**2. Iowa Code section 68B.7** restricts the ability of state officials and employees to accept certain employments for two years after leaving state government. This is a very fact specific determination.

**3. Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board** opinions on these statutes can be found at:

- [http://www.iowa.gov/ethics/legal/adv\\_opn/topic-lobbying/topic-lobbying.htm](http://www.iowa.gov/ethics/legal/adv_opn/topic-lobbying/topic-lobbying.htm)
- [http://www.iowa.gov/ethics/legal/adv\\_opn/topic-post\\_state\\_employment/topic-poststateemployment.htm](http://www.iowa.gov/ethics/legal/adv_opn/topic-post_state_employment/topic-poststateemployment.htm)
- [http://www.iowa.gov/ethics/legal/adv\\_opn/topic-lobbying/topic-lobbying.htm](http://www.iowa.gov/ethics/legal/adv_opn/topic-lobbying/topic-lobbying.htm)

Iowa DOT employees leaving the state government, but interested in accepting a private sector position, should contact the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board to make sure the new job opportunity is permissible under Iowa law. Smithson says, "Relying on advice given by anyone other than the Ethics Board on provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 68B will not be an acceptable defense or otherwise bar the Ethics Board from taking action." He continued, "The last thing we want is someone accepting a job that is going to result in an ethics violation or sanctions by the ethics board."

## Retirement announcements now on DOTNET

Having trouble keeping up with all the retirement announcements? A new page has been set up on DOTNET for everything you need to know about DOT retirement parties. With so many friends and colleagues retiring between now and June 24, check the "Current specials" on DOTNET for the latest information.

Individual retirement announcements will no longer be sent via E-mail. To submit information for this DOTNET page, send an announcement to DOT-Web team distribution list on Outlook.

# Those were the days

Images from the Iowa DOT's historic photo collections



In 1914, this wooden bridge over the Sioux River was not quite strong enough to hold this thresher engine.



Shirley motorized grading equipment being used in Crawford County, circa 1922



Horse-drawn covered grader on highway 13 and 18 at McGregor, circa 1926



Aerial view of center span of Le Claire bridge to carry Interstate 80 over the Mississippi River, circa 1966. The bridge is being repaired this construction season.



(left) Covered gravel equipment on county road, circa 1922

These images and thousands of others can be viewed on the Iowa DOT's Web site at [http://historicalphotos.iowadot.gov/ermportal/historicalphotos\\_home.aspx](http://historicalphotos.iowadot.gov/ermportal/historicalphotos_home.aspx)



*Iowa State Highway Commission photographic ladder at Ames municipal cemetery*



*Road building equipment used by contractor L.C. Wood in Hardin County, circa 1916*



*Men painting white center strip on paved road in Black Hawk County, circa 1923 (note "the slow poke" sign on the painting wagon)*



*Men painting white center strip on paved road in Black Hawk County, circa 1923*



*(left) Bryant paving equipment, circa 1923*



*Man using a paving machine in Black Hawk County, circa 1921*



## Kudos!

*These are letters that have been submitted to the editor. They may have been edited for length and continuity.*

To: Nancy Richardson, Iowa DOT director  
From: Daniel Boggs, Mount Vernon city engineer

I wanted to take the time to express my appreciation for the help the Iowa Department of Transportation personnel, Cathy Cutler, Tim Simodynes and Tom Storey have extended in the planning process for the proposed U.S. 30 corridor improvements in Mount Vernon. Their guidance and participation, of which much has taken their own time, has been an instrumental component in maintaining acceptable progress for this project and gaining public acceptance. Public servants such as these are key components in a successful partnership.

(Editor's note: Cathy Cutler is the District 6 planner, Tim Simodynes works in the Office of Traffic and Safety and Tom Storey works in the Cedar Rapids field office. The city of Mount Vernon and Iowa DOT are working on alternatives for an intersection that may include a roundabout.)

To: Nancy Richardson, Iowa DOT director  
From: Paul Hanley, University of Iowa

I wanted to tell you that Stu presented to the Policy Seminar last night at the University of Iowa. He did an outstanding presentation! You sure have a very strong and capable division leader. Thank you for encouraging and supporting the outreach. I know the faculty really enjoy having you all visit.

(Editor's note: Planning, Programming and Modal Division Director Stuart Anderson was asked to present and lead a discussion on public policy to an undergraduate class at the University of Iowa.)

To: Nancy Richardson, Iowa DOT director  
From: Chuck Isenhardt, state representative, House District 27

I was hoping that you will extend these compliments down through your chain of command. I stopped by the southbound rest stop near Ames on Sunday and I was extremely impressed by the cleanliness of the facilities. The person who was working there that afternoon is to be commended.

(Editor's note: Representative Isenhardt sent this note related to the southbound Interstate 35 rest area just north of Ames.)

To: Mary Jensen, Driver Services (retired)  
From: Shirley McGuire, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

On behalf of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your outstanding efforts in the development and design of the Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS). Your dedication and commitment to the continued enhancement of this software has had benefits to the traffic enforcement officers and data users across the country. As you know, Iowa DOT is recognized as a leader in data collection timeliness and accuracy and your efforts have been a key in making this happen. I know the commercial vehicle officers using the TraCS software application have appreciated the ease and functionality the software provides. It is an amazing system and you should be very proud of your involvement in it!

(Editor's note: Mary Jensen led the TraCS program for many years. She retired from the Iowa DOT March 26.)

To: Nancy Richardson, Iowa DOT director  
From: Luke Budke, vice president, Cedar Falls Construction Co. Inc.

Cedar Falls Construction Co. Inc. conducted our company orientation on Thursday, March 25, at Junies Restaurant in Waterloo. Each year we devote an hour of the orientation to discuss safety. This year, we asked Officer Jeffrey Franzen to discuss vehicle safety with our company. Officer Franzen did a wonderful job with his presentation and many in our group commented on how much they learned. I was very impressed with how many questions were asked and how responsive our group was towards his presentation.

We are thankful for the wonderful working relationship that we have with the Iowa Department of Transportation. We often hear how other contractors in other states struggle with their working relationships with their DOT. For our company to have an actual Iowa DOT compliance officer speak to our company about how to improve our safety is a valuable asset to us and to the other contractors who perform work for the state. We would like to thank Officer Franzen, you and your staff for the time he has spent with us.

To: Nancy Richardson, Iowa DOT director  
From: Shirley McGuire, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

On behalf of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the cooperation and assistance provided by the Iowa DOT's Motor Vehicle Enforcement Chief Dave Lorenzen and Motor Vehicle Officer David Drummond.

Recently the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, helped organize a federal DOT educational seminar held March 2 in Fort Madison. Officer Drummond and Tim Knoll of my staff were to present at the seminar. On Sunday, Feb. 28, we were notified that several of our staff would be furloughed and that the staff exempt from the furlough were authorized to operate only on specific activities. Conducting educational activities was not one of those activities. This put us in a difficult position because we could provide no one to present at the seminar. On Monday, March 1, I placed a call to Chief Lorenzen, explaining the situation. We discussed our options, which were to cancel the seminar (that had been in the works for over a year) or have Officer Drummond conduct the seminar on his own. Chief Lorenzen agreed to have Officer Drummond conduct the seminar, and by all accounts, he did an outstanding job. Thanks to Officer Drummond and Chief Lorenzen, we were able to follow through on our commitment to the other organizations involved in preparing and presenting the seminar attended by more than 100 people.

Officer Drummond did an outstanding job and was a key to the success of the training session. We have always enjoyed working with Officer Drummond and appreciate the assistance he provides our office. Efforts such as this confirm the great relationship we have with the Iowa DOT's Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement.

To: Nancy Richardson, Iowa DOT director  
From: John O'Connor,  
Namasco Corporation, Dubuque

On Saturday, March 27, 2010, our company held one of our semiannual driver's safety meetings in Dubuque. We have approximately 45 drivers and another 10 company people attend the meeting. As we have done two other times, we asked Officer Paul Herburger to be a featured speaker at the meeting. This time he went over CSA 2010 and the changes coming in the future because of this legislation. Officer Herburger was very professional and did a great job in his presentation, as he has done in the past. He gets the attention of all in the meeting and was very good at answering questions as they came up. I want to commend him for his professional appearance and demeanor, and for his knowledge of the laws. Iowa is a safer state because of him and others like him in your department.

To: Nancy Richardson, director  
From: City of Coon Rapids

The city of Coon Rapids would like to thank the Iowa DOT crews that helped us out. It was greatly appreciated!

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To: Nancy Richardson, director  
From: Suzanne L. Danner, city clerk, Glidden

On behalf of the city of Glidden, we would like to thank you for your contribution to the February debris cleanup efforts. The personnel hours and equipment were instrumental in the successful cleanup efforts in Glidden. Your support helps make Glidden and Iowa a better place.

(Editor's note: These thank you letters are in response to the Iowa DOT's assistance to local governments following an ice storm in February.

To: Nancy Richardson, director  
From: Ken F. Behrens, mayor, Templeton

The city of Templeton would like to thank the Iowa Department of Transportation and its employees for providing equipment and personnel during the clean-up of our town's tree debris. The job was done in no time and the crews did a great job. The DOT's services were greatly appreciated.

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To: Nancy Richardson, Iowa DOT director  
From: Kimberly Kelly, city administration, Lake City

The city of Lake City is very appreciative of the assistance provided by Iowa DOT crews. A tremendous amount of debris was hauled, reducing the burden on the City's public works crew. These efforts made a very noticeable improvement in the appearance of our community. Thank you for your service to our community.

## Personnel updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for March 5 to April 1, 2010

### New hires

**Adam Anderson**, mechanic, Swea City garage; **Lori Judge**, program planner 1, Transportation Data; **Kurt Schneckloth**, highway technician associate, Tipton garage; **Brad Van Baale**, construction technician, Chariton construction

### Promotions

**Randal Anderson**, from information technology specialist 2 to information technology specialist 4, Information Technology Division; **Jessica Christy**, from driver's license clerk to driver's license clerk senior, Davenport DL station; **Michael Miller**, from highway technician associate to equipment operator senior, Council Bluffs-south garage; **Douglas Swan**, from highway technician associate to equipment operator senior, Washington garage; **Nancy Woody**, from equipment operator senior to garage operations assistant, Newton garage

### Transfers

**Maria Hobbs**, executive officer 2, from District 1 Office to Contracts; **Malinda Johnson**, secretary 1, from Location and Environment to Right of Way; **Chad Rumbaugh**, highway technician, from Ames garage to District 1 Office

### Retirements

**Darwin Backous**, design technician specialist, Bridges and Structures; **Richard Baker**, highway technician associate, Correctionville garage; **Bernard Banker**, public service executive 3, Right of Way; **Frederick Bartos**, transportation engineer administrator, District 5 Office; **Kenneth Bierman**, highway technician, Muscatine garage; **Robert Boyer**, highway technician associate, Rock Valley garage; **Steven Conley**, construction technician senior, Cherokee construction; **Kathleen Davis**, secretary 2, Materials; **Frank Davis**, design technician specialist, Right of Way; **David Hicks**, right-of-way agent 4, Right of Way; **Thor Highland**, vehicle dispatcher, equipment services; **Richard Hinderks**, equipment operator senior, Cedar Rapids garage; **Richard Hughes**, highway technician associate, Carlisle garage; **Darwin Huls**, motor vehicle investigator, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **James Janssen**, highway technician associate, Waverly garage; **Mary Jensen**, public service executive 3, Motor Vehicle Division; **Douglas Johnston**, right-of-way agent 3, Right of Way; **Gary Jolce**, materials technician 4, Sioux City materials; **Bernard Lawson**, highway technician associate, Carlisle garage; **Curtis McIntosh**, highway technician, Fairfield garage; **Loras Meloy**, highway technician associate, Dubuque garage; **Dale Mills**, driver's license examiner, Mason City DL station; **Eileen Myers**, driver's license clerk senior, Spencer DL station; **Larry Osborn**, highway technician, Des Moines garage; **Glenn Peterson**, design technician, Right of Way; **Christopher Steffensmeier**, equipment operator senior, Mount Pleasant garage; **John Tasker**, highway technician associate, Anamosa garage; **Lonnie Wilson**, engineering operations technician, District 3 field staff

## Service awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for May 2010.

### 45 Years

**Willis (Bill) Samuell**, Transportation Data

### 40 Years

**Loran Martensen**, Cedar Rapids construction

### 35 Years

**Yvonne Diller**, Systems Planning; **Diane McCauley**, Rail Transportation; **Larry Moeller**, Information Technology Division

### 25 Years

**LaVern Christiansen**, District 4 Office; **Tammy Jeanes**, Chariton construction; **Ruben Valenzuela**, Muscatine garage

### 20 Years

**Kay Anderson**, Employee Services; **Quinta Miller**, Driver Services

### 15 Years

**John Buck**, Decorah garage; **Melissa Davis-Oviatt**, Finance; **Karla Hocker**, Information Technology; **Lisa Husmann**, Rail Transportation; **Dennis Kimsey**, Carlisle garage; **Jane Kock**, Carroll DL station; **Jeremy Nelson**, Sloan garage; **Lance Schlumbohm**, Rock Rapids garage; **Dirk Kaiser**, Jefferson construction

### 10 Years

**Olga Gorjackovski**, Design; **Charles Levy**, Information Technology Division; **Michelle Mc Enany**, Aviation; **Martin Merical**, Grimes garage; **Michael Pawlovich**, Traffic and Safety

### 5 Years

**Katie Ferdig**, Sioux City DL station; **Rodney Floerchinger**, Neola garage; **Maria Hobbs**, Contracts; **Brian Kingery**, Martensdale garage; **Dale Miller**, Information Technology Division; **Bradley Nelson**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **John Piziali**, Iowa City DL station; **Michael Ross**, Design; **Adam Shell**, Systems Planning

*NOTE: The following were misidentified in the April edition as 20 year service awards. These employees celebrated 25 years with the department in April.*

**Kirk Authier**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Lana Bruning**, Council Bluffs maintenance; **Linda Dilocker**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Michael Holl**, Equipment Services; **James Kelly**, Contracts; **Greg Mize**, District 3 bridge crew; **Russell Pyle**, Newton garage; **Robert Thelen**, Carroll garage; **Fred Thiede**, Davenport garage; **Richard Uherka**, Creston construction; **Ronald Yarkosky**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement

**Mug shots**



**Tom Welch**, state safety engineer  
Office of Traffic and Safety

*I still use the original coffee mug I bought for my first engineering job back in June 1973 – I refer to it as my “hippie mug.” I always told staff if I ever lost it or broke it they would see a grown man cry. Well a couple years ago I dropped it and broke the handle into four pieces. I was in mourning and depressed when Jeff Stratton repaired it with “mighty putty” and super glue. It will retire with me in June – after 37 years of serving me caffeine.*

**Reaching the 35-year milestone**

*Policy 240.07 allows employees reaching 35 years of service to have a photo printed in INSIDE. Having a photo taken and printed is voluntary. Depending on when the employee chooses to have the photo taken, the photo will not necessarily appear in the same month the employee reaches the 35-year service milestone.*



**Peter Dallman**  
District 6  
May 2008

**INSIDE**

**INSIDE** is developed to help keep all Iowa DOT employees informed about critical issues affecting them, recognize DOT employees for their excellent service and share interesting aspects in the lives of our co-workers. For more information, contact Tracey Bramble, Office of Media and Marketing Services, at 515-239-1314 or e-mail [tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov).

**Nancy J. Richardson**, Director

**Tracey Bramble**, Media and Marketing Services, editor  
**Lynn Purcell**, Media and Marketing Services, desktop publisher  
**Christina Andersen**, Media and Marketing Services, staff writer  
**Keven Arrowsmith**, Media and Marketing Services, photographer  
**Printing Staff**, Document Services, printing



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**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS ISSUE**

**On the cover:** Roadway inspectors in Greene County, circa 1921. I-Spy clue: I can see for miles and miles.

Service Area	Correspondent	Phone
District 1 .....	<b>Christine Hood</b> , Ames .....	515-663-6371
District 2 .....	<b>Lu Mohorne</b> , Mason City .....	641-423-7584
District 3 .....	<b>MaryBeth Banta</b> , Sioux City .....	712-276-1451
District 4 .....	<b>Marlene Jensen</b> , Atlantic .....	712-243-3355
District 5 .....	<b>Brenda Hadley</b> , Fairfield .....	641-472-6142
District 6 .....	<b>Sandi Byers</b> , Cedar Rapids .....	319-364-0235
Bridges and Structures .....	<b>Judy Whitney</b> , Ames .....	515-233-7917
Construction .....	<b>Nancy McMenamin</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1353
Contracts .....	<b>Peg Muxfeldt</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1422
Design .....	<b>Judy Lensing</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1469
Driver Services .....	<b>Noralee Warrick</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3253
General Counsel .....	<b>Chris Crow</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1509
Information Technology Division .....	<b>Colette Simpson</b> , Ames .....	515-233-7728
Local Systems .....	<b>Gail Nordholm</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1528
Location and Environment .....	<b>Susie McCullough</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1225
Maintenance .....	<b>Cindy Shipley</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1971
Materials .....	<b>Brian Squier</b> , Ames .....	515-233-7915
Planning, Programming and Modal Division .....	<b>Cathy Mather</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1140
Motor Carrier Services .....	<b>Diann McMillen</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3250
Motor Vehicle Enforcement .....	<b>Anthony Batcheller</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3218
Operations and Finance Division .....	<b>Sheri Anderson</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1340
Research and Technology Bureau .....	<b>Tami Bailiff</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1646
Right of Way .....	<b>Mary Netten</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1216
Traffic and Safety .....	<b>Linda McBride</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1557
Vehicle Services .....	<b>Becky Sawatzky</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3182

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.



It is 72 degrees on a bright, sunny day. If you plan to take advantage of spring in Iowa by hopping on a bicycle, safety should be your number one priority. If you are hitting the road in a motor vehicle, pay attention to the task of driving, and keep a keen eye out for bicyclists.

Milly Ortiz, of the Office of Systems Planning, said, "In Iowa, bicyclists have the same right to the roadway as motor vehicle drivers, and they are bound by the same laws. Using caution, both on the part of the bicyclist and motorist, can assure the road is shared safely."

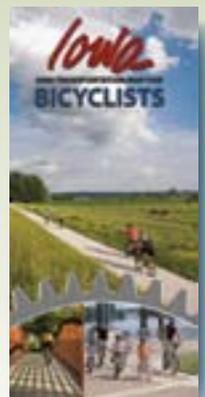
### Safety tips for motorists

- Do not honk your vehicle's horn at a bicyclist. That action may startle the bicyclist and cause the person to lose control of the bike.
- Use extra caution when passing a bicyclist. Move entirely into the left lane on a two-lane road. Do not pass a bicycle if oncoming traffic is near. Wait for safe road and traffic conditions before you pass.
- Be aware of the bicyclist's movements. The bicyclist may need to swerve to avoid road hazards, such as potholes, debris, drainage grates and railroad tracks.
- Be careful when opening your vehicle's door on a roadside. Road widths often force bicyclists to ride close to parked vehicles where they may be injured by an opening door.
- Watch for children. Children on bicycles are often unpredictable and might not know the traffic laws. Because of their size, children can be harder to see.
- Be considerate. Allow extra time for bicyclists to traverse intersections.
- When in doubt, yield to the bicyclist.

### Safety tips for bicyclists

- Always wear a helmet.
- Ride in the right lane, except when passing another vehicle, preparing for a left turn or avoiding hazards.
- Always ride with the flow of traffic.
- Obey traffic signs and signals. Use hand signals to advise motorists you plan to turn, change lanes or stop.
- Make eye contact with motorists. Never assume a motorist sees you or that you have the right of way. Expect the unexpected, such as parked vehicles pulling into traffic, vehicle doors opening into your path and debris on the road.
- At night, use a headlight, taillight and reflectors to be more easily seen by motorists.

In addition to these tips, Ortiz reminds bicyclists that the Iowa DOT has produced a transportation map specifically for their travel needs. The Iowa Transportation Map for Bicyclists shows hundreds of miles of multiuse trails that pass through woodlands, prairies and parks – all highlighting the beauty of Iowa's landscapes. In addition, traffic levels are indicated for all paved roadways so bicyclists can choose the road routes that match their level of riding experience to enhance safety.



Information highlighted on the back of the map includes trail maps of the state's largest cities, a summary of Iowa bicycling laws, information about 52 multiuse trails that are five miles or longer, cycling safety tips and contacts, including Web sites, for additional information on cycling in Iowa.

For more information on bicycling or to order a bike map, log on to [www.iowadot.gov/iowabikes/](http://www.iowadot.gov/iowabikes/).

**Bike to work week May 17-21**