

## Chair's Message



The rail industry continues to be vibrant and very active. There are many measures that show that the freight side is doing well. The AAR reports that total number of carloads is more than 20% greater for the first week of 2011 than for the first week of the previous year. Canadian Pacific plans more than 1 billion in capital projects for 2011. Support for passenger projects is not as widespread now as it was at the end of 2010. Modest projects and large projects seem to be the ones currently moving ahead. So planning and preparation for high speed rail in Florida and California continues, although with much discussion on funding. Smaller projects also seem to be doing well, particularly those that include self-propelled equipment. Examples include the Capitol Metro in Austin, Denton County outside of Dallas, Sonoma-Marin in California, and the Allegheny Valley Green Line in Pennsylvania.

There are trends of tighter integration within the industry and greater globalization of the industry. The growth of the industry coupled with these trends is leading to changes in the railroad industry's technical community. In 2007, two technical organizations arranged the Joint Rail Conference. This year *seven* technical organizations are coming together to arrange this year's Joint Rail Conference: ASME, ASCE, IEEE, TRB, APTA, AREAM, and INFORMS. The JRC now encompasses all aspects of rail transportation and engineering research, and this year ASME is the lead organization. The conference allows specialists in track, equipment, train signaling and control, operations, planning, and construction to exchange ideas with each other. International participation JRC is also increased.

RTD organizes two technical conferences each year, the second conference being the Fall Technical Conference (FTC). The FTC is tightly focused on mechanical engineering aspects of the rail industry. The 2010 FTC was held October 11-13 in Roanoke, Virginia. The conference included a terrific tour of Norfolk-Southern's Roanoke shops, and included N-S's track geometry cars and experimental battery-powered locomotive. The conference reception was held at the Virginia Museum of Transportation, which is home to a GG-1 locomotive.

Due to heavy demands at work, Phil Daum has resigned from his position as the RTD Assistant Papers Chair. Phil contributed greatly to the success of the 2010 FTC, arranging for the submissions, reviews, and presentations of papers. Phil will be missed as a member of the Executive Committee. Michelle Muhlanger has agreed to take over the vacancy left by Phil. Michelle has worked at the Volpe Center with me for the past eight years. She is a talented and energetic senior engineer who has worked on rail equipment crashworthiness, occupant protection, and vehicle/track interaction. Michelle helped organize the 2010 JRC and also provided assistance in organizing the 2010 FTC. In effect, Phil's departure accelerated Michelle's participation in the RTD Executive Committee. I am sorry to see Phil leave, but happy to see Michelle arrive.

And so I look forward to an exciting year, and the upcoming Joint Rail Conference and Fall Technical Conference. These are exciting times in the rail industry, with many opportunities to advance the technology that underlies railroading, and many opportunities to apply those advances. Exchange of information, as enabled by the FTC and JRC, allows technology and its application to advance. So if you have an interest in making railroads safer, more efficient, and more cost effective manner, I urge you to participate in the technical conferences organized by the Rail Transportation Division.

David Tyrell,  
Senior Engineer,  
Volpe Center/US DOT

## **2011 JOINT RAIL CONFERENCE PURBLO, CO - MARCH 16-18, 2011**

### **SHARED CORRIDORS, SHARED INTERESTS:**

**Hotel Registration will open Soon**

**Register now:** <http://www.regonline.com/JRC2011>

**Advertising and exhibition opportunities:**<http://www.regonline.com/JRC2011ADS>

**View abstracts for the six technical tracks,**<http://www.asmeconferences.org/JRC2011/>

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **2011 RTD FALL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE**

MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2011

This conference is the same week and location as "Railway Interchange 2011." Attend two events in one trip! Mark your calendar now and watch for future announcements.

**2012 JRC – Philadelphia, Temple University**

**2012 Fall Conference – Omaha, Nebraska**

## **2011 Fall Technical Conference – Call for Papers**

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual ASME Rail Transportation Division Fall Conference will be held in Minneapolis MN on Wednesday and Thursday, September 21-22, 2011. The conference is held in conjunction with the Railway Interchange 2011, which includes AREMA, RSI, REMSA, and RSSI. More information about the Railway Interchange 2011 can be found at [www.railwayinterchange.org](http://www.railwayinterchange.org)

You are invited to submit technical papers for presentation and discussion at the 2011 ASME Rail Transportation Fall Conference. Papers are solicited from members of the railway supply industry, rail transportation companies and transit agencies, governmental agencies, consulting/engineering firms, academia, technical organizations and others. Papers should cover a topic of current industry interest. Topics may include:

- Positive Train Control / Communications-Based Train Control
- High Speed Rail
- Track and Equipment Health Monitoring
- ECP Brakes
- Advanced Risk Reduction Data Analysis
- Passenger Equipment Crashworthiness
- Innovations in Tank Cars
- Heavy Axle Load Performance Issues
- Materials and Failure Analysis of Track and Equipment Components
- Locomotive and Freight Car Improvements
- New or Improved Mechanical Components
- Vehicle / Track Interaction
- System Safety and Emergency Preparedness
- Infrastructure and Capacity Enhancements

The abstract due date will be published soon. Advanced conference registration is required for the lead authors of papers, before final acceptance of papers for publication. For specific details and questions regarding submission of papers, please contact Matthew Dick at [dick.matthew@ensco.com](mailto:dick.matthew@ensco.com)

## **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

After the 2010 RTD Technical Meeting in Roanoke on October 12-13, we have several people signed up for the memberships. Welcome, New Members! Hope you find your active participation with RTD is very rewarding.

To help RTD to grow, please share your thoughts and RTD newsletters with your peers who would be interested in participating and contributing. Or just simply mention RTD to the railroad people who have not heard about us. Membership requirements and application forms are available on-line.

<http://tinyurl.com/2jo3cr>

**-- FEATURED UNIVERSITY --**  
**Michigan Technical University**

The Rail Transportation Program (RTP) was officially established under the Michigan Tech Transportation Institute (MTTI) in 2007. The multi-disciplinary program uses three integrated activity groups to increase rail exposure and to engage students, faculty and industry partners in rail transportation – *Education, Projects and Research, and Events & Extracurricular Activities*. Dr. Pasi Lautala, a research assistant professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Michigan Tech, has been director of the program since its inception and the Program's vision is *to expand its service to the rail industry by offering an interdisciplinary program in railroad engineering and urban rail transit that will provide opportunities for our students and faculty to participate in the development and operation of rail transportation for the 21st Century*.

From the start, the program has placed a high priority on university-industry partnerships. The Program has three official industry partners; CN, CSX and Union Pacific. The collaboration occurs in multiple levels. In February, 2010, industry supports enabled the opening of the CN Rail Transportation Education Center (CNRTEC) to house a media center and the highly popular student center. The media center, open to all faculty and students, consists of a general conference room with a large plasma TV and numerous work stations where webinars, remote conferences are broadcasts are conducted. The student center of the CN RTEC houses a library of rail resources, reports, magazines, videos and promotional materials. In addition, four computer work stations loaded with rail engineering software, provide a great learning environment for students involved in the RTP. In addition to financial support, RTP collaborates with industry sponsors in student projects and recruitment activities. To date, two student projects have been completed, over 60 students have been hired full time by the rail industry and more than 50 students have participated in rail related internships.

Currently, Michigan Tech offers four classes in rail transportation / engineering. A multi-discipline Certificate in Rail Transportation is under development and in the summer of 2010, the first week long Summer Youth Program in Rail and Intermodal Transportation was held for high school students. The Railroad Engineering and Activities Club (REAC), was the first official student chapter of American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA) and its 40+ members sponsor railway and community events such as the annual Railroad Night, Rail Info Night, Make a Difference Day, Boy Scout Merit Badges and Rail History Night.

Since 2007, the RTP has received over \$1 million in external funding which includes \$600,000 in awarded research and \$500,000 of industry and private sponsor gifts. Current research topics include:

- Tuning Transatlantic Cooperation in Rail Higher Education (TUNRail)
- Study of Greenhouse Gas Savings Associated with Congestion Reduction Using Multi-Modal Optimization of Timber Shipments in the North Central United States.
- Synthesis of Railroad Engineering Best Practices in Areas of Deep Seasonal Frost and Permafrost
- Frontier Renewable Resources Center of Energy Excellence (COEE) and Forestry Biofuel Statewide Collaboration Center – Biomass Transportation Studies
- Improving Log Transportation with Data Based Monitoring and Analysis in Northern Wisconsin and Upper Peninsula of Michigan

More information regarding the RTP at Michigan Tech can be found on our website, [rail.mtu.edu](http://rail.mtu.edu) or by contacting Director Pasi Lautala, 1400 Townsend Drive, 318 Dillman Hall, Houghton, MI 49931, (906) 487-3547 or [ptlautal@mtu.edu](mailto:ptlautal@mtu.edu).

**DRAFT 2011 JRC SCHEDULE**  
**March 16-18, 2011 – Pueblo, CO**  
**“SHARED CORRIDORS, SHARED INTERESTS”**

**JRC Conference Dress Code for all sessions and activities – Business Casual.**

Please check the printed program distributed at the conference for the final schedule

**Tuesday, March 15:**

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm – **RTD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm – **Meeting time available for other organizations**  
3:45 pm - 4:45 pm – **RTD GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
5:00 pm - 5:50 pm – **JOINT MEETING**

**NO SCHEDULED CONFERENCE DINNER - AAR ANNUAL REVIEW DINNER THIS EVENING REQUIRES SEPARATE REGISTRATION WITH AAR.**

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**Wednesday, March 16:**

7:00 am-11:30 am -- **TOUR** (registration limited to space available)  
11:30 am-12:30 pm – **BOX LUNCH at Hotel (no program) & Wednesday Authors' Orientation**  
1:00 pm- 3:00 pm – **1 - PLENARY SESSION: Welcome –**  
                                    Invited speaker from UK, plus other invited papers and/or speakers  
3:00 pm- 3:30 pm – **BREAK: Light refreshments (in exhibit room)**  
3:30 pm- 5:30 pm – **2 - 6 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

6:00 pm – **CONFERENCE RECEPTION & POSTER SESSION**  
**(Hors d'oeuvres & sponsored bar)**

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**Thursday, March 17:**

7:00 am- 7:45 am – **CONFERENCE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & Thursday Authors' Orientation**  
8:00 am- 9:30 am – **7 PLENARY SESSIONS**  
9:45 am-11:15 am – **8-11 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**  
11:30 am- 12:30 pm – **CONFERENCE BUFFET LUNCHEON (NO PROGRAM)**  
12:45 pm- 2:30 pm – **12-15 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**  
2:30 pm- 3:00 pm – **BREAK: Light refreshments. (In exhibit room)**  
3:15 pm- 5:00 pm – **16-19 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

6:00 pm- 8:00 pm **CONFERENCE DINNER & PROGRAM - KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

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**Friday, March 18:**

7:00 am- 7:45 am – **CONFERENCE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & Friday Authors' Orientation**  
8:00 am- 9:45 am – **20-23 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**  
10:00 am-11:45 pm – **24-27 CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**END OF CONFERENCE - NO SCHEDULED CONFERENCE LUNCHEON**

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**ON-SITE Registration**

Tuesday – 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM  
Wednesday – 7: am – 4:30 pm (closed during tour)  
Thursday – 7:00 am – 1:30 pm  
Friday – 7:00 am – 9:00 am



## V. Terrey Hawthorne Memorial Scholarship Fund Activity Report

The ASME RTD is proud to be able to be a strong supporter of academic professors and students involved in the rail industry through our scholarships.

For 2010 the ASME RTD has continued its support of the AAR Affiliated Laboratories (University of Chicago at Urbana – Champaign, Virginia Tech, & Texas A&M). Their continued contribution to the industry with innovative research has shown to be a great asset.

We are also proud to announce that a new scholarship is now available. Termed “*The ASME RTD Student Conference Scholarship Award*” is \$1000 USD to be paid to the university to fund expenses for a student to travel to and present a published paper at an ASME RTD conference. The scholarship may be used to pay for airfare, train, rental car, taxi, hotel, meals, etc. In addition, the student will have full registration fees waived for the conference. This scholarship will be available to 10 students per conference. There are multiple goals to this scholarship. 1) To foster student engineers involved in rail research to present their publications at a peer reviewed, industry conference. 2) To have those students meet and network with industry leaders at the conferences and hopefully consider a career in the rail industry. 3) To have high quality academic research presented at ASME conferences and help utilize those efforts for the improvement of the industry. The ASME RTD feels that this will be a positive move to help foster young engineers into our growing industry.

The first conference that this scholarship program implemented was the 2010 ASME RTD Fall Technical Conference in Roanoke VA. The ASME RTD was very proud to award scholarships to the following six students.

Student	School
Konstantin V. Redkin	University of Pittsburgh
Brad Hopkins	Virginia Tech
Ashwin Amanna	Virginia Tech
Parham Shahidi	Virginia Tech
Venkata Sura	Vanderbilt University
Clement Nagode	Virginia Tech

Given the success of the program, the ASME RTD Student Conference Scholarship Award will be continued for the 2011 Joint Rail Conference in Pueblo CO.

Should you have interest in The ASME RTD Student Conference Scholarship Award or know someone that would, please feel free to contact Monique Stewart with any questions you may have. [monique.stewart@dot.gov](mailto:monique.stewart@dot.gov)

### Phil Daum leaving RTD General

We welcome Michelle Muhlanger, appointed to the Executive Committee to fill the position of Assistant Chair, Technical Program Committee. The Technical Program Committee is responsible for soliciting technical papers for our conferences and organizing the technical session. Their work is key to successful conferences.

### RTD MEMORIAL DONATION IN MEMORY OF CHARLIE SMITH

In our Fall 2008 Newsletter, we paid tribute to long-time RTD participant Charlie Smith who passed away October 8, 2008. RTD has made a memorial contribution to the Endowment Fund of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, Strasburg, PA in Charlie’s memory.

RTD thanks the following list of companies for their generous support. These supporters make our technical conferences successful

**2009 RTD SUPPORTERS:**

2010 Reception/Dinner sponsors  
Norfolk Southern  
ENSCO  
Progress Rail Services  
FreightCar America  
Amsted Industries, Inc.  
KLD Labs  
LTK Engineering Services  
MTS Systems, Corp.  
National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Assoc.  
Railway Research, Inc.  
Rail Sciences, Inc.

Standard Steel, LLC  
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Transportation Technologies Center, Inc.

**2010 RTD Supporters**

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Rail Sciences  
ESI  
KLD Labs  
MTS

**ASME RAIL TRANSPORTATION DIVISION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
JULY 1, 2010 -- JUNE 30, 2011**

**CHAIR:**

David Tyrell (year 5)  
Senior Engineer  
USDOT / Volpe Center  
55 Broadway  
Cambridge, MA 02142

Phone: (617) 494-2687  
Fax: (617) 494-3616  
Cell: (617) 803-3094  
Email: david.c.tyrell@dot.gov

**SECRETARY-TREASURER:**

Jason Reiling (year 4)  
Director - Design Engineering  
Strato Inc.  
100 New England Avenue  
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Phone: (732)-317-5440  
Fax: (732)-981-1222  
Cell: (732)-718-8927  
Email: jreiling@stratoinc.com

**TECHNICAL PROGRAM CHAIR:**

Matthew Dick, PE (year 3)  
ENSCO, Inc.  
Staff Technical Manager  
325 Winding River Lane, Suite 204  
Charlottesville, VA 22911

Phone: (703) 321-4515  
Cell: (434) 906-7257  
Email: dick.matthew@ensco.com

**CHAIR PUBLICITY RR-8, & CHAIR  
ANNUAL LUNCHEON:**

Steven L. Dedmon (year 2)  
Director - Technology and R & D  
Standard Steel, LLC  
500 North Walnut Street  
Burnham, PA 17009

Phone: (717) 242-4972  
FAX: (717) 242-4680  
Email: sdedmon@standardsteel.com

**ASST. TECHNICAL PROGRAM  
CHAIR:**

Michelle Muhlanger (year 1)  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
John A. Volpe National Transportation  
Systems Center  
Structures and Dynamics Division, RVT-61  
55 Broadway, Kendall Square  
Cambridge, MA 02142-1093

Phone: (617) 494-2630  
Fax: (617) 494-3616  
Email: michelle.muhlanger@dot.gov

**MANAGER OF DIVISIONAL  
AFFAIRS:**

Samuel R. Williams  
5759 Scotia Court  
Dublin, OH 43016-3256

Phone: (614) 766-6970  
Fax: (614) 766-6970  
Cell: (614) 570-9197  
Email: srwilliams@columbus.rr.com

**ASME STAFF SUPPORT:**

Richard Ulvila  
Program Manager  
ASME International  
Environment & Transportation Group  
Three Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-5990

Phone: (845) 496-9792  
Fax: (212) 591-7671  
Email: ulvilar@asme.org