

# news

# NHTSA

## **New Associate Administrator for Research and Development**



Dr. R. Rhoads Stephenson, formerly Manager of the Systems Analysis Section of Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, has been named Associate Administrator of Research and Development.

In addition to responsibility for the various independent studies conducted by his section, Dr. Stephenson's functions at the Caltech Lab focused on support for multidisciplinary tasks in the areas of energy; transportation systems, with special concern for advanced automotive engine technology, electric and hybrid vehicles and a variety of urban transit systems; environmental analyses; and information systems for Federal, State and local law enforcement problems.

As one of his duties, Dr. Stephenson was the Laboratory's principal investigator of the

Automobile Power Systems Evaluation Study, funded by Ford Motor Company. The study focused on a variety of advanced automotive engines as possible alternatives to the conventional Otto engine. The final report, "Should We Have a New Engine? An Automobile Power Systems Evaluation," was published in August 1975 and received much attention from legislators and professionals. As a result, Dr. Stephenson was appointed as the NASA representative to the design panel of the Government-wide study of "Motor Vehicle Goals Beyond 1980."

Early in his career at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Dr. Stephenson was Systems Analysis Project Engineer on the Voyager Project, an early attempt to design a soft-landing mission for

**(See Dr. Stephenson on page 4.)**



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Editor M. J. Noll

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## Monthly Technical Seminars Held for NHTSA Professionals

The NHTSA Scientific and Technical Information Advisory Board sponsors monthly Technical Seminars for all professionals. Dr. William E. Tarrant, Chief, Manpower development Division, OSPA, TSP serves as Chairman of the STIAB and as organizer of the seminars. Dr. Tarrant states that the purpose of the Technical Seminars is to provide a forum for information exchange, discussion and review of various scientific and technical subjects of interest to NHTSA professionals.

For example, during the eighteenth seminar held on June 1, Mr. Clifford Paulson, Chief, Technical services Division, and a member of the STIAB, served as moderator for a panel discussion on "NHTSA Information Programs." Members of the panel

included Charles Venturi, TSP Management Information System; Winifred Desmond, Technical Reference Branch; Eunice Moran, Executive Secretariat; and Nancy Jane Stubbs, Information and Program Services Staff, National Center for statistics and Analysis. Each panel member briefly described his or her information program and responded to questions from the audience. Handout materials describing each program were distributed.

The NHTSA Scientific and Technical Information Advisory Board, sponsor of the Technical Seminars, was established in November 1974 by NHTSA Order 112-3. The Board is concerned with developing plans, policies and procedures for the Administration's scientific and technical

information program and with developing ways of meeting specific technical information needs within NHTSA. Other objectives of the STIAB include: reviewing the effectiveness of services provided to the user community, considering future Administration-wide needs for scientific and technical information, and providing channels of communication between users of technical information and the Technical Services Division. In addition to sponsoring the monthly Technical Seminars, the Board reviews and provides technical approval of papers submitted for publication in Highway Safety Literature, proposes subjects for technical literature monograph publications, and continually seeks better ways of meeting NHTSA's scientific and technical information needs.

Past Technical Seminars have covered a wide variety of subjects, with presentations made by both in-house and outside specialists. Some of the topics presented in previous seminars include:

"Emission Controls and Fuel Economy," Roger Strelow, Asst. Admin. for Air and Waste Mgmt, EPA.

"The Experimental Safety Vehicle (ESV) Program," Frank Richardson, RD.

"Vehicle Crashworthiness Program," James Hofferberth, MVP.

"Evaluation of Driver Programs," Dr. James Nichols, TSP.

"Research Safety Vehicle Programs," Dr. Kennerly Digges, RD.

"Impact of Diagnostic Inspection on Safety, Fuel Economy, and the Repair Process," Joseph J. Innes, Dr. Leslie E. Eder, and Wendell A. Cook, TSP.

"National Accident Sampling System," Dr. Russell Smith, RD.

"Application of Time Series Analysis to Impact Evaluation," Paul S. Levy, TSP.

"Research on the Use and Effectiveness of Safety Belts and Child Restraints," Dr. Charles Kahane and Peter N. Ziegler, RD and William S. Foulis, TSP.

"Effects of the 55 MPH Speed Limit and the Energy Crisis on Traffic Accidents," Ezio Cerrelli, RD.

"Societal Costs of Motor Vehicle Accidents," Ms. Barbara Faigan, P&E.

"Evaluation of Active Restraint Systems," Dr. Charles Kahane, RD.

"Accident Reduction Through Integration of Driver Education and Licensing," Dr. John W. Eberhard, RD.

"Interrupted Time-Series Methods for the Evaluation of Traffic Law Reforms," Dr. H. Lawrence Ross, Director, Program in Law and Social Sciences, National Science Foundation.

"Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety," John Fagen, Research Psychologist, FHWA.

"Evaluation of Community Programs," Dr. Leon Robertson, Senior Behavioral Scientist, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.



Participating in a panel discussion at the eighteenth seminar on "NHTSA Information Programs" were (left to right) Eunice Moran, Executive Secretariat; Nancy Jane Stubbs, RD Center for Statistics and Analysis; Winifred Desmond, Technical Reference Branch; and Charles Venturi, TSP Management Information System.

## Association Promotes Benefits of Walking

Everyone needs a friend, and the Walking Association was initiated specifically to befriend the pedestrian.

The Walking Association is a nonprofit corporation which is concerned with the neglect of walkers' rights. It currently has a membership of over 100 persons.

The Association was originally developed to conduct safety-related research on walking. However, as word of the association got around, individuals all over the nation began to write in and the comments made in their letters caused the group to broaden their emphasis to include the pleasure, health and convenience of walking.

As explained by the Association's newsletter, "No organization in the United States speaks for

the pedestrian. We want to make government and business aware of the needs and desires of people for safe, pleasant places to walk. Walking is free, healthful and nonpolluting—it needs to be promoted."

Robert B. Sleight, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Association, believes that walking has a definite place in the nation's exercise program, especially since jogging may be too strenuous for individuals with certain medical conditions. He recommends a 4 mph walking pace for exercise purposes.

For additional information about the Association and its programs, write to the Walking Association, 4113 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22207.

Interested NHTSA professionals listen to a panel discussion on "NHTSA Information Programs."





## Always in Need

It's that wonderful time of year again. It's summer! But before you go on vacation, please think about giving blood through Red Cross. The many less-lucky people lying in our hospitals are depending on you!

The problem often becomes particularly bad in the summer when many donors are away on vacation.

The Washington Regional Blood Services of the American Red Cross is faced with the task of supplying more than 700 units of blood and blood components every day to some 68 hospitals and their patients in the Metropolitan Washington area alone, and this demand keeps growing.

The attempt to meet all needs is through the daily individual donor collection at the Red Cross Blood Center, 2025 E Street, N.W., plus daily bloodmobile visits to cooperating governmental, civic and business establishments in the metropolitan area and 35 chapters in parts of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

**Give blood  
before  
you go.**

Less Lucky People  
In Our Hospitals  
Depend On You.



Washington Region  
**American Red Cross** +

The reason is that the Red Cross is committed to a policy of total supply. Anyone who needs blood will get it--but only if there is sufficient blood on hand. This means that community support of the Blood Services must be stronger, broader and without interruption. It means your cooperation and support are needed. Won't you do what you can to help?

NHTSA employees will be able to donate at the next (2) Bloodmobiles--July 14 - Nassif Building - Rm. 4234 and July 31--Trans-point Building (room to be announced).

Special Red Cross parental permission forms must be signed by parents of 17 year olds, and in the District all 18-21 year olds who live with parents must also have the same signed parental approval forms. They can be obtained from Chief Blood Recruiter, Earleen Hughes, in OPM, Room 5306.

## Awards

Seven NHTSA employees have recently received awards for noteworthy contributions on the job.

An Outstanding Performance Rating was given to Ellen M. Psillos.

Receiving Special Achievement Awards were Charles Kahane, P&P, Warren LaHeist, P&P; and Bruce E. McGuire, Region VII.

Quality Step Increases were awarded to Ethel Ezell, NTS; Donald E. Nelson, AD; and Maxine Flowers, Region IX.

## Personnel

### Welcome Aboard

Idalia Colon,  
Accounting Technician,  
AD, 5-7.

Theresa Ridgley,  
Secretary, RD, 5-7.

Billie J. Travis,  
Position Classification  
Specialist, AD, 5-7.

### 'Bye and Good Luck

David R. Ulrich,  
Supervisory Engineer  
Technician, RD, 4-28-78

Mark Brady, Management  
Analyst, AD, 5-5.

### Congrats on Promotion

Samuel Daniel, Jr.,  
Mechanical Engineer, NRM,  
5-7.

Marlene F. Hardester,  
Staffing Assistant, AD,  
5-7.

Ardella J. Pitts,  
Highway Safety Management  
Specialist, Region V, 5-7.

Sami M. Richie, Highway  
Safety Management  
Specialist, Region V, 5-7.

Diane M. Somerford,  
Program Analyst, P&P,  
5-7.

### Dr. Stephenson (from page 1)

Mars. Later this became the NASA-LRC Viking project, which successfully landed a vehicle on Mars in 1976.

The new Associate Administrator is a native of Evanston, Illinois. He received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 1961.