Landry selected as NURail Student of the Year and other RTP students in Rail Conferences

Steven Landry, PhD student in Applied Cognitive Science and Human Factors, was selected as one of the NURail students of the year. After receiving his award during TRB Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., he presented the results of his research on In-Vehicle Auditory Warning Systems to the TRB Rail Crossing Committee (AHB60). On other conference news, Pasi and two students (Aaron Dean and Soumith Oduru) traveled to Philadelphia in early April to present papers in the 2017 Joint Rail Conference. Soumith presented “Incorporating Life Cycle Assessment in Freight Transportation Infrastructure Project Evaluation”; Aaron presented “Effectiveness of Using SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study Data to Analyze Driver Behavior at Highway-rail Grade Crossings” and “Selection of Representative Crossings Database for the Evaluation of Driver Behavior Over Highway-rail Grade Crossings”. Pasi presented "Sensor Fusion of Wayside Visible and Thermal Imagery for Rail Car Wheel and Bearing Damage Detection" on behalf of Hanieh Deilamsalehy.

Student Project Spotlight—Sawyer International Airport Transportation Improvements

Fourteen students from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department worked with Steve Schenden, Sawyer International Airport Director of Operations, and Eric Anderson, Manager of Planning, Community Development, Forestry & Recreation for Marquette County to develop conceptual plans for rail and highway service to the airport. One group tackled unit train rail service for a proposed refinery operation south of the airport, while another group worked on rail and highway access to a proposed transload and warehouse complex west of the runway. The project provided students with experience working on a real-world project. Airport and County representatives will use the student work as a base for discussions with prospective airport tenants.

K-12 Outreach

RTP and REAC continued to support K-12 outreach projects. On Feb 20 David Nelson, Aaron Dean, Modeste Muhire and Smruti Dash conducted a rail activity in support of the Transportation Engineering After School program for students in Grades 1 and 2. Fourteen students had a blast learning a little about trains and playing with our Brio rail and maglev train sets!
NURail Projects completed

Since 2012, the National University Rail Center (NURail) has been a core component of RTP’s research portfolio. The spring saw completion of several projects funded by the NURail, together with various co-sponsors. Some of the projects included:
- **Rail Embankment Stabilization Needs on the Hudson Bay Railway** by Thomas Oomen, Priscilla Addison and Pasi Lautala (co-sponsored by Omnitrax)
- Austempered Ductile Iron (ADI) For Railroad Wheels by Karl Warsinski and Paul Sanders
- **National University Rail Transportation Center (NURail) Tier 1 – Final Report** by Pasi Lautala and David Nelson (included several projects co-sponsored by Michigan Department of Transportation)

RTP & AREMA Scholarships

Congratulations to our scholarship winners! Derek Owen and Haylee Lakenen grabbed the local CN Railroad Scholarships offered through RTP. Aaron Dean, Alex Lakenen, and Alyssa Leach each earned an AREMA Michigan Tech Alumni Scholarship. Derek also received an AREMA Committee 24 – Education and Training Scholarship, and Modeste Muhire got an AREMA Committee 12 – Rail Transit Scholarship. You can get more details at our [website](http://www.rail.mtu.edu), and again, congratulations to all of our winners!!

RTP Students Awarded Fellowships

Two of our REAC students won prestigious awards on campus this spring! Darian Reed was selected for a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) with his proposal to compare head-tracking data from the Naturalistic Driving Study with similar work in the driving simulator housed in the Dept of Cognitive and Learning Sciences. Aaron Dean was selected to continue work started in last year’s SURF with a new award through the Undergraduate Research Internship Program (URIP). Both students work will aid with our research project looking at driver behavior at highway-rail grade crossings, using the data from the SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study. Congratulations Aaron and Darian!

REAC Spring Field Trip

Fourteen REAC members traveled to Janesville & Madison, WI to tour WSOR Facilities. Students received an in-depth look at their locomotive facility, recent track rehabilitation projects, as well as bridge and industry projects across the railroad. The students also joined the UW-Madison AREMA chapter for a joint cookout and social gathering.

MORE NEWS AT [www.rail.mtu.edu](http://www.rail.mtu.edu)