A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The current economic situation has created challenges for everyone, and the Center for Intermodal Freight Transportation Studies at the University of Memphis is no exception. Almost daily in our interactions with transportation providers, shippers, and government officials we hear questions like; when will the economy recover and how will it affect the freight business? How will the government stimulus plan affect business in the region, state and country? What can we do to position our company to better respond when the recovery begins? What technological advances are being made to help my company operate in a more cost effective manner? What projects can the State of Tennessee embark on that will help promote the successful transportation of freight? What are the most important infrastructure projects to support freight movement in our community.

It is obvious that the days of “doing business as usual” have long passed. The Government and the private sector have reached a critical point of co-dependence and CIFTS is serving as a liaison between these two groups to develop viable options to answer today’s critical questions.

In this issue, you will see how CIFTS is working to ensure smart strategies are used in the re-development of the area around the Memphis International Airport, America’s Aerotropolis. With work being conducted by both CIFTS and the Sparks Bureau of Economics, we are looking at how to improve the movement of freight in that area and to develop a transportation infrastructure to support economic development.

One of the accomplishments we are most proud of is also highlighted in this issue. As we prepare tomorrow’s workforce of transportation engineers, we conducted our first graduate level intermodal freight transportation class. Offered during the spring semester in a distance learning environment, the course was taught jointly by faculty from the University of Memphis and Vanderbilt University. Students from both institutions participated in the course. The highlight of the course was the end of the semester, two-day field trip to freight facilities in Memphis and Vanderbilt University. Students from both institutions participated in the course. The highlight of the course was the end of the semester, two-day field trip to freight facilities in Memphis.

As you can see, we are fulfilling our mission of becoming the nation’s premier research transportation facilities in Memphis. The University of Memphis and Vanderbilt University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University.
The final product will be a transportation and freight model for the area surrounding the airport. This data will be used to develop a strategic plan for the airport and determine the state of the transportation system associated with the growth of the area surrounding the airport. The key note speaker was Frederick Smith, President and CEO of FedEx Corporation. His discussion centered on “Global Logistics and the Global Economy.” This year’s event also featured an additional session that focused on the role of freight transportation in the economy. The key note speaker was Patrick J. Williams, President and CEO of the Center for Intermodal Freight Transportation (CIFTS) at Vanderbilt University.

The last day of the conference was focused on the future of freight transportation. The keynote speaker was John G. Holaday, President and CEO of the Port of Long Beach. His discussion centered on “Navigating the Challenges of the Future.” The keynote speaker was Frederick Smith, President and CEO of FedEx Corporation. His discussion centered on “Global Logistics and the Global Economy.” The keynote speaker was Patrick J. Williams, President and CEO of the Center for Intermodal Freight Transportation (CIFTS) at Vanderbilt University. His discussion centered on “Navigating the Challenges of the Future.” The keynote speaker was John G. Holaday, President and CEO of the Port of Long Beach. His discussion centered on “Navigating the Challenges of the Future.”

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