The Highway Safety Research Group (HSRG) would like to thank all of the attendees that participated in our annual HSRG LACRASH User Conference, held on October 7th, 2016. We received several suggestions and great feedback. The HSRG is always looking for topics to continually improve the content of the conference.
Welcome to LACRASH!

The HSRG would like to welcome the following agencies as some of our newest members to join LACRASH:

- Glenmora Police Department
- Jena Police Department
- Gibsland Police Department

The HSRG team looks forward to working with you!!!

New Focus

In 2015, 95% of Louisiana crash reports submitted electronically from law enforcement agencies were received within 30 days. This improvement in timeliness allows the HSRG to focus more resources on evaluating the quality of data. The HSRG and the LADOTD work together to define and analyze more data elements within crash reports. Data quality staff members from the HSRG attend training sessions moderated by qualified LADOTD personnel, comprised of a law enforcement liaison and a data quality engineer. These sessions teach protocol on how to accurately validate fields within the Louisiana crash report. Evaluating more data elements will allow the HSRG to provide more data through statistical analysis and website dashboards.

New Faces at HSRG

The HSRG would like to welcome Mary Churay. Mary Churay graduated with undergraduate degrees in History and Political Science from LSU in 2014. She has also completed her coursework for an MA in Public History at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and will graduate summa cum laude in 2017. Mary joined the HSRG in August of 2016 as a Research Associate. As a part of the HSRG, Mary examines crash data to determine accuracy and better define crash data concepts and measures of agency performance. Mary has a background in leading projects dealing with community education and outreach, research and writing, digitization, and GIS.
HSRG Involvement

Bayesialab Conference

Dr. Cory Hutchinson and Mark Verret attended the Bayesialab Conference held in Nashville, TN. Bayesialab is a powerful Artificial Intelligence software application which utilizes sophisticated learning algorithms to generate structural models from data. Cory presented his research on injury levels of youth drivers involved in crashes occurring within curves on state roads. His research was performed using Bayesialab software to construct a network model for analyzing factors affecting injury levels.

Tableau Conference

Dr. Helmet Schneider, Dr. Cory Hutchinson and Mark Verret attended the Tableau Conference held in Austin, TX. Tableau is a graphical software application used to visualize data elements and their interactions on one another. HSRG uses Tableau to create and disseminate dashboards used by stakeholders to obtain crash related information to help them make more informed decisions. The HSRG attended this conference to learn more about how the new features being integrated in the latest release of the software can help further advance the goals and mission of the organization.

Decision Science Institute Conference

Dr. Cory Hutchinson, Director of HSRG, attended the Decision Science Institute Conference held in Austin, TX. The Decision Science Institute is a professional organization of Academicians and Practitioners interested in the application of quantitative and behavioral methods to the problems of society. This was Cory’s first year attending this conference, and he went to learn more about how data analytics is being used in other disciplines.

2016 FARS System Wide Training (SWT)

Sara Graham, Research Associate at HSRG, attended the FARS SWT held in Anaheim, California on December 5-9th, 2016. HSRG works with the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) team at LADOTD to ensure consistency between FARS data reported to the Federal government and the State data. The FARS SWT provides updates to requirements regarding crash data requested by the Federal government.

2016 GHSA

Dr. Emily Pfetzer, Research Associate at HSRG, attended the annual Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) conference held in Seattle, Washington. The conference provides an opportunity to engage with highway safety professionals across the nation and a forum for sharing information and best practices regarding programs concerning behavioral highway safety issues of national concern, such as occupant protection and impaired driving.
2015 Louisiana Traffic Records Data Report

The 2015 Louisiana Traffic Records Data Report is now available on our website. Click here to view the book in PDF format.

Officer Training Opportunities

The Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC) recently voted to approve funding for the Louisiana State Police to offer Crash Data Retrieval I and II, and Crash Investigation I and II trainings. These classes will be conducted in several locations throughout the state by Northwestern University and open to all agencies. Please watch the HSRG website and future newsletters for additional details and registration information coming soon.

LACRASH 2.0 Status

Over 215 agencies have been upgraded or newly installed with the LACRASH 2.0 software! All but one agency that was previously using the LACRASH software has been upgraded to the LACRASH 2.0. The HSRG staff is still performing new installations as requested, generally within 2 weeks of initial contact. If you have a request for installation, support or training, please contact us at 225-578-0366.
## The Fun Zone

**Q:** What do you call it when a dinosaur crashes his car?  
**A:** Tyrannosaurus Wrecks

### Holiday Mocktails

**Mint Chocolate Mock-tini**
- Chocolate syrup
- 1/2 cup chocolate milk
- 1 cup mint-chocolate chip ice cream
- 4 ice cubes
- 1 candy cane

Coat inside of glass with chocolate syrup. Blend together milk, ice cream and ice. Garnish with candy cane.

**Faux Champagne**
- Ginger ale
- White grape juice
- Pineapple or orange juice
- Frozen grapes

Combine equal parts ginger ale, white grape juice and pineapple/orange juice. Serve in champagne flute. Garnish with frozen grapes.

**Grinch Punch**
- 2-13oz packets Unsweetened Lemon-Lime Kool-Aid
- 2 Cups Sugar
- 1-12oz Can Pineapple Juice
- 1-12oz Frozen Lemonade Concentrate, thawed
- 1/2 liter of Sprite
- Ice
- Red Sanding Sugar for Glass Trim

Pour 2 quarts of water, Kool-aid mix and sugar into a 1 gallon pitcher. Stir until dissolved. Add the pineapple juice and lemonade and stir well. To top the rim of a glass, dip the top in water then dip into the sanding sugar. Just before serving, add the Sprite and ice.

### Can’t See the Forest for the Trees

A cop was driving down a country road when he saw a car in the ditch. He got out of his car to see if anyone was in the car. The driver popped his head out the window and said “Thank god officer! I got in an accident!” The officer replied “Well, I can see that! Are you okay?” The driver looked forward and said “Well yeah... I think so.” Then the officer looked around and said “Sir.... your car looks like an elephant stepped on it. How did you crash?” The driver looked at him and said “It was so strange. I was driving down the road and out of nowhere a tree jumped in front of me. I swerved to the other side and another tree was in the way, so I swerved again, but another one was there again. One last time, I swerved to the other side, but the dang tree got me, and caused me to go in this ditch!” The officer started to laugh hard. “What’s so funny?” the driver asked. The officer took a second to catch his breath, then said “Sir, there are no trees on this road for miles ahead. That was your car air freshener swinging back and forth!”

Highway Safety Research Group

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