FALL 2017 ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE OFFICER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Did you miss your chance to attend a Crash Investigation I & II course in 2017? No worries! Louisiana State Police will be partnering with local agencies in 2018 to offer more trainings, which will include Crash Investigation I & II, and the full Reconstruction Series (Crash Investigation I & II, Vehicle Dynamics, and Reconstruction I & II). Through a grant funded by the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee, these courses will be free of charge and taught by Northwestern University instructors for P.O.S.T. certified law enforcement officers. Please check our website in early 2018 for further details and how to apply to attend!

2016 FACT BOOK NOW AVAILABLE!

A new fact book regarding statistical trends in Louisiana crash data is now available! This book provides analysis, charts, and other helpful information to crash data users based on the data collected from 2016 crashes. Please note that, for the first time, our fact book is offered exclusively online at our Data Reports website.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LACRASH USERS:

Georgetown Police Department
West Feliciana Parish Sheriff’s Office
Avoyelles Parish Sheriff’s Office

PERIPHERAL DEVICES AVAILABLE

The HSRG has a limited number of card readers and GPS devices available for law enforcement at no charge. If you are in need of these devices, please contact the HSRG at 225-578-0366 to make a request.

HOLIDAY CONTACT INFORMATION

With the holidays upon us, the best way to get in touch with any of our staff members will be to call our office at 225-578-0366. This is now the only way to leave a message.

Please join us in extending best wishes to Ramona Forbes, who will be retiring in January 2018. Ramona has worked for LSU for over thirty years and has been with the Highway Safety Research Group since its inception in 1999. Ramona has worn many hats at the HSRG, but she currently works with our grants, contracts, and budgetary matters, along with personnel matters and payroll. She is also at the helm of compiling and publishing the HSRG’s annual Traffic Records Data Report.
The Louisiana Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (LATRCC) recently hosted the 2017 Traffic Records User Conference on October 19, 2017 with the assistance of the HSRG. Previously the HSRG’s LACRASH User Luncheon, the HSRG worked with the LATRCC to expand the day-long conference to include more highway safety data systems and users across the state. At the day-long conference, highway safety researchers, public health officials, emergency responders, traffic engineers, and other traffic records users gathered at the LSU Business Education Complex to discuss various research studies, safety projects, and improvements throughout Louisiana. Presentations included a report from the state crime lab on emerging drugs of abuse and impairment trends, the importance of data quality, updates on LADRIVING (the state’s electronic DWI arrest reporting system), and a discussion regarding upcoming TRCC projects and trainings.
Data Visualization in Las Vegas!
In October, Dr. Cory Hutchinson, Mark Verret, and Executive Director Dr. Helmut Schneider attended the 2017 Tableau conference in Las Vegas, NV. Tableau is a data visualization software that a number of HSRG employees use to create interactive graphics that display data of interest to the community. Decision-makers can access these graphics, called dashboards, on the HSRG website and use them to prioritize and support future initiatives to improve highway safety.

Seatbelt Research in Baton Rouge!
Drs. Helmut Schneider, Emily Pfetzer, and Jeff Dickey recently completed a special report entitled Factors Influencing Seatbelt Utilization in Louisiana and Strategies to Improve Usage Rate for the Louisiana Transportation Research Center. To read their findings, visit the Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC) website.

Applications of Business Analytics in Washington DC!
Dr. Helmut Schneider, Mark Verret, and Dr. Cory Hutchinson attended a conference for the Decision Science Institute in November. The conference hosts academics and practitioners of the decision sciences as they apply new methods in business analytics to various disciplines. Our staff presented on the essential knowledge and skills for students working with analytics and big data, analyzing crash data to reduce fatalities and serious injury crashes, and qualities that the best visualizations have in common.

Highway Safety Summit in Baton Rouge!
HSRG Directors Dr. Helmut Schneider and Dr. Cory Hutchinson, along with staff members Dr. Jeff Dickey, Bethany Campbell, David Whitchurch, and Karla Houston, attended the 2017 Louisiana Highway Safety Summit hosted by the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) in November. Several of these staff members presented on topics including driver behaviors and motivations regarding safety belt use, and using GIS to evaluate the safety of enhanced signage at curves.

HSRG IN THE NEWS
- “Mail: Driving to holiday celebrations? Stay alert,” The Town Talk (Alexandria, LA)
- “Voices: Be safe while traveling this holiday,” Daily Advertiser (Lafayette, LA)
THE FUN ZONE!

Because we know just how stressful holiday travel can be, we’ve linked up a few of our favorite ways to keeps spirits light while on-the-go. From all of us at HSRG, we wish you a safe and joyful holiday season!

1. **Scavenger hunt!** Try printing out [this](#) scavenger hunt if you’re going on a road trip. Or, if you’re traveling by plane, check out [this hilarious list](#) of things to look for when “people-watching” in the airport. Even if you’re staying in town, check out [this holiday-themed version](#) suitable for your own neighborhood!

2. **Bingo!** This classic game has a ton of different iterations suitable for all ages and situations. Adults might love a version with [car brands](#) or [fast food chains](#). If you’re with kids, consider taking the opportunity to teach them a little about highway safety by playing bingo with [road signs](#). Even if you’re in an airport, get your group to look for [these common airport finds](#). For the tech-savvy, there’s even a [Road Trip Bingo](#) app that allows you to customize a game board based on your surroundings and method of transportation.

3. **Geocaching!** Part game and part treasure hunt, this activity is beloved by adults and children alike. Using a GPS or smart phone, everyone in your group can search for small containers hidden near your location that have trinkets, notes, and the like. This is the perfect activity for stops on your road trip and it’s a unique way to explore your final destination. There are at least four geocache locations [here at LSU’s campus](#), and there are even some geocaches in airports! Visit the [Geocaching website](#) to learn how to play, and download a FREE geocaching app for [iOS](#) or [Android](#) to look for caches near wherever you’ll be for the holidays.

4. **Mad Libs!** There are whole books out there, but there are also plenty online that are easily available for printing ahead of time or for use via the official [Mad Libs app](#). There are Mad Libs with [holiday themes](#), [silly stories](#), retellings of [famous movies](#), and, of course, [travel-themed options](#).

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