

Westernite

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President's Message

By Alyssa Reynolds,
Western District President

RECONNECTING

Ten years ago I was newly employed in the Las Vegas Valley. I attended the local ITE chapter meetings, but as I considered my own fledgling ITE career it was difficult to imagine serving on the board anytime soon. A few months later, I was invited to run for the Nevada Chapter board, and now I am serving as Western District President. I am so grateful for this opportunity, and I feel a lot of responsibility to do a good job.

As I have moved through the leadership positions in the Nevada Chapter, the Intermountain Section, and the District, I have noticed a phenomenon that concerns me. I believe that the average ITE member has become disconnected from the Western District. Did you vote in the last election? Do you know who won the election? Can you name all the officers on the Board?



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2011 Annual Board Meeting Highlights

By Walter Okitsu, Western District Vice President

The Western District leadership met on July 10, 2011, at the Anchorage Hilton for the Annual Board Meeting. More than 30 people attended the Board meeting, including committee chairs, chapter and section officers, candidates, and student officers. This meeting focused on how the District would weather through tough economic times.

President Edgar Perez opened the meeting by asking the committee chairs to each read a paragraph from the Western District Strategic Plan. Over the past year, he had issued presidential proclamations to Constantinos Papacostas of Hawaii Section, Bill Coleman of New Mexico Section, Melissa Rosas of Colorado-Wyoming Section, Bob Johnson of San Diego Section, and Pierre Jomini of Intermountain Section.

Vice-President Alyssa Reynolds reported on the WesternITE Committee's plans on raising advertising revenue, which has dropped in recent years. They had set the front page website ad price of \$300 for 90-day placement. She had revised the leadership organization chart, greatly simplifying the layout.

Secretary-Treasurer Walter Okitsu forecasted the District financial reserves as possibly being drained within two years, due to sharp revenue drops in membership dues and advertising, unless budget deficits were reduced and eventually eliminated. He recommended a combination of dues increases and expenditure cuts. Any dues increase in

(Continued on page 3)



International Director's Report

By Dalene J. Whitlock, Western District International Director

The International Board of Direction met on August 11 and 12, 2011, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Representing the Western District were Senior Director Ken Ackeret, whose term expires at the end of 2011, as well as Dalene J. Whitlock and Michael Sanderson. The early part of the meeting had a somber note to it as Executive Director Tom Brahms reported on the Institute financial status, including the projected loss at the St. Louis Meeting. Mr. Brahms noted that he has not hired staff to fill positions established by the Board during the meeting in Orlando due to the economic forecasts. While the Institute is doing well in terms of the income from publications, it is anticipated that about \$300,000 will need to be taken from reserves to cover actual expenses. The Institute continues to lose members as those who have lost their jobs often cannot afford to maintain their membership.

Progress has been made in terms of the electronic distribution of information, with two e-newsletters to be issued monthly. Staff is working towards getting all reference materials into digital format, then decisions will need to be made about what to index based on its content, timeliness, topic, and applicability. All of the Institute's safety related publications have been digitized and are available on the ITE Bookstore for purchase and download, and work proceeds on conversion of the Safety 101 series to be available 24/7. As work progresses staff will also be working on the look of the website to make it more appealing.

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What do the committee chairs do? What are your dues used for? Do you know what the District President is supposed to do (besides write this column)?

If you can't answer these questions, you're not alone. I don't believe we've done a good job at sharing that information, so, over the next year, we plan on changing that. Expect more outreach from our committee chairs and officers. Anticipate more information in the WesternITE newsletter regarding District functions and activities. Look for opportunities to participate. We'll do our best to reconnect.

My travels so far have taken me to St. Louis, Missouri; Sacramento, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Denver, Colorado; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. In each of these places, I was pleasantly reminded of the dedication and enthusiasm of ITE members. Some of the highlights included: witnessing Brigham Young University's success in the student traffic bowl, attending the awards ceremony where two District members, Brian Hoeft and Gang Xie with RTC FAST, won the Management and Operations/ITS Council Best Project Achievement Award, learning about Northern California's efforts to recruit and retain membership, touring the 2013 conference site in Phoenix, and witnessing the innovative efforts to involve all members in meetings in the Colorado-Wyoming Section. I'm looking forward to future section and chapter visits.

In the spirit of information exchange, please share your activities, successes and concerns with us. And make sure that you update your contact information with ITE headquarters (www.ite.org).



ITE International 80th Anniversary Fund

Your contribution to the 80th Anniversary Fund will help provide ITE with a welcoming and technologically advanced home for the next 15 years or more. Your gift will be appropriately recognized in the new space.

Thank you for your support.

For additional info please visit

<http://www.ite.org/anniversary/default.asp>



Arizona Section Travels

Thank You 2011 Annual Meeting LAC!

The Anchorage 2011 Western District meeting was a terrific success and many people deserve thanks. Thanks to RITA Director Peter Appel, Musher Lance Mackey, and transportation visionary Tom Warne for inspiring addresses to the group. Lance caught the attention of our ITE President Robert Wunderlich and inspired his September ITE Journal President's Address. In total the Alaska LAC entertained 205 full time registrants, 68 students and over 40 one day registrants. Our Kincaid Park family night treated attendees to more time with Musher Lance Mackey's dog Amp and others with a moose sighting on the trails. The Annual Banquet with special Duct Tape costumes and local entertainer, Mr. Whitekeys, kept us laughing until our cheeks muscles were sore. Technical sessions, student and professional traffic bowls, and student competitions embracing traffic counts with Guitar Hero rounded out a terrific conference. A special thanks to the local arrangements committee for their hard work and the vendors and sponsors that supported the Annual meeting. Thanks to all attendees who traveled North to Alaska and enjoyed what Alaska has to offer. We will see you all down the road!

Anne Brooks & Joann Mitchell
2011 General Co-Chairs

*(Continued from page 1)***International Director's Report**

President Robert Wunderlich and Executive Director Tom Brahms reported on their attendance at a recent Global Road Safety Partnership meeting, and noted that while the Institute is committed to the underlying principles, it was decided not to invest in full membership at this time, but rather to offer to serve as a technical resource.

President Wunderlich discussed issues relative to International elections, including the amount of travel that candidates are doing and also the way that social networking has impacted the way candidates run their campaigns, and noted that the Institute's rules do not always provide sufficient guidance relative to new technologies. The Board concurred with his recommendation to establish a panel to solicit input from various types of members, including younger members and those who have been nominated to run for International Vice-President in the past, on what changes we should consider in terms of the format of our elections. It was noted that consideration will be given to the cost of candidate travel and the benefit to the Institute versus having the elected officers traveling more.

The Board took action to allow the use of social media, specified what meetings can be attended that are not counted towards the maximum a candidate can attend, noted that logos of other organizations cannot be used on ITE-sanctioned media, and resolved that candidates cannot accept any new appointments to ITE committees or other positions during candidacy. The Executive Board was asked to prepare updated rules to be voted upon in October.

Vice-President Rock Miller noted that he hopes to have ITE co-sponsor the Pro-Walk-Bike conference that will be in Long Beach next year.

Though the 2012 budget was not adopted until the October Board Meeting, the Institute's finances were reviewed and feedback provided to staff for their use in developing next year's budget. The need to raise dues to close the gap between income and expendi-

tures was discussed and were reviewed further in October along with spending cuts to try and achieve a balanced budget.

The cost of annual meetings was a topic of great concern, as always, but especially in these difficult economic times. It was noted that the "welcome" event was moved out of the vendor area and made a theme event (Route 66) this year, and lunches were included as part of the base price rather than being an added cost. Rock Miller noted that there are many issues that underlie the attrition in meeting attendance, including the cost, the economy, and a sense of needing more value for the cost. It was suggested that staff try to build on what works, which are the District meetings, and to depend more on volunteer time to cut staff time allocated to each meeting. Another suggestion was to change the format of the meetings as there have been no big changes in a long time, and changes may be needed to find something that members can get at the Annual Meeting that they cannot get anywhere else. The potential to eliminate the Spring conference should also be considered.

Coordinating Council Chair Pat Noyes reported that all of the Councils have been working on action plans to support and align with the Institute's Strategic Plan.

Michael Sanderson gave the report for the Leadership Development Committee. He presented the results of a member survey that indicated there is strong support for the training. He noted that the program developed by the Southern District would likely need some changes to work at the International level. President Wunderlich thanked the Southern District for their work, and said he would appoint a new committee to work on developing a program to develop ITE leaders at the International level.

The Board's next meeting was on October 14-15 in Washington, D.C.

*(Continued from page 1)***2011 Annual Board Meeting Highlights**

excess of 10 percent per year would require a vote of the membership. He suggested an increase of dues, currently at \$22 per year, to \$40. For comparison, the Texas District's dues are \$50. He presented a draft budget with broad cuts in expenditures for Board review.

Monica Suter, who served as Past President for the first half of 2011, announced that Patti Boekamp and Wes Pringle would join the Advisory Committee when the terms expire for Rich Romer and Rory Grindley at the end of this meeting. Bob Crommelin was added earlier at the Mid-Year meeting. The Advisory Committee had been asked to consider a means to reduce the workload on the District Secretary-Treasurer. The Committee strongly recommended against splitting the office into two positions, and suggested consideration of delegating some treasurer duties to the District Administrator. Using a bookkeeping service could cost as much as \$1,000 per month. A survey of other professional societies of similar size found that none use outside bookkeeping services.

International Director Ken Ackeret recommended a District election rule change to have petitioning candidates show the names of nominated candidates on the petition. The Board approved the rule change. He also recommended that, as he had done this past year, future Senior Directors review the travel reimbursement requests of officers.

International President Robert Wunderlich described the Institute's Strategic Plan that emphasized road facilities first and leadership training next. International Vice President Rock Miller informed the District Board that he is available to help deal with the 2014 joint Western-Midwestern Annual Meeting in Rapid City. ITE Executive Director Tom Brahms announced changes for International Annual Meetings such as posting papers in advance, shifting Annual Meeting dates into the weekend, and making documents available on tablet computers.

In her District Administrator's report, Jenny Grote announced she could make Certificates of Achievement for student groups and/or their professors. The mileage rate for Board and committee chair travel was revised to 55.5¢ per mile. The Board passed a motion accepting the bylaws and charter for the University of Southern California student chapter. Draft bylaws were also presented for the University of Colorado, Denver. Their Charter was approved at the Mid-Year Board meeting in February.

WesternITE Managing Director Zaki Mustafa described the measures taken in response to reduced advertising income, such as sending printed issues only twice a year. Advertising Manager Ahmed Aburahmah reported revenues of \$7,000 this year.

Website Manager Nathan Mustafa exhibited the new District website format, using a magazine format to replace the previous blog format that could not show certain displays. Committee chairs and Local Arrangements Committees would be able to create sub pages. Some ideas that he might implement soon include displaying ads from non-industry firms like Toyota, posting annual meeting compendia on-line, and displaying recorded presentations of winning papers.

Technical Committee Chair Karen Aspelin announced that four Data Collection project reports have been submitted. Patty Camacho de Cano, the Career Guidance Committee Chair, described awards and mentoring activities of the past year. Janna McKhann, the vendor Committee Chair, reported coordination with IMSA has improved to get better vendor sponsorship.

Student Endowment Chair Cathy Leong announced a \$5,000 donation was received from the Washington Section. The Endowment Fund is now invested at a 70:30 split between fixed income and securities, respectively. The Board considered but took no action to adjust that ratio. A student raffle would occur at the Anchorage Get Acquainted event, requiring a state gaming permit.

Future Annual Meetings

The District Board selected the San Diego Section as the host for the Annual Meeting in 2017. Although originally considered for 2016, the Board felt that having a meeting in San Diego the same year as the International Meeting in Anaheim would hurt attendance at both meetings. Invitations will be sought from sections outside of California to host the 2016 Western District Annual Meeting.

Tom Mericle of the Central Coast Section provided an update on the Santa Barbara Annual Meeting, to be held June 24 to 27, 2012 at the Fess Parker Doubletree Resort. He anticipates a good turnout from vendors, filling out all available booths.

Kim Carroll and Andrew Smigielski, co-chairs for the 2013 Annual Meeting in Phoenix, outlined their activities to date. That meeting will be held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort from July 14 to 17, 2013.

Western District will hold a joint 2014 Annual Meeting with the Midwestern District June 28 to July 2 in Rapid City, South Dakota. President Edgar Perez appointed Randy McCourt to be the Local Arrangements Committee General Chair.

Other Business

The Cal State Long Beach student chapter, who defeated three other schools in the Southern California Section traffic bowl competition, arrived in Anchorage to discover all nine slots for the Annual Meeting's Traffic Bowl were filled. Patti Camacho worked with the Anchorage LAC to set up another round to allow for three more teams.

Budget Discussion

The Board amended the Secretary-Treasurer's draft budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. For the next year, the Board authorized a 10 percent increase in dues for all categories. Eliminated budget items included cash prizes for professional Traffic Bowl winners, a schol-

arship award, student books for new chapters, and travel reimbursements for Council Chairs. Cash awards were not included in the budget for next year for section membership increases, section activities, the WesternITE Editorial Award, Annual Meeting Best Papers, and travel for the student chapter traffic bowl winners to the International competition. Expenses and stipends were reduced for the WesternITE Managing Editor, Advertising Coordinator, and Web Manager. Only two printed issues of WesternITE would be mailed out. Endowment fund financial expenses, which had been subsidized by the District, would be paid for by the Fund itself, and the Fund would also pay for Student Chapter reports and the Student Data Collection Program.

This budget, to be presented to the general membership at the subsequent Annual Business Meeting, would still result in a \$17 thousand deficit. The Board therefore moved to hold a special vote of the membership under an expedited process to increase the authorization of dues under certain categories to a maximum of \$40 per year.

Annual Business Meeting Highlights

At the Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, July 12 President Edgar Perez led a moment of silence for District members who passed away since the last Business Meeting, including Robert Bernstein, Thomas Ferrara, John Komaru, Paul Steiner, and John Taylor. His State of the District report showed membership in the District's 16 sections totaled 4,696, a 6 percent decrease. He presented the steps to improve the District according to its Strategic Plan.

International President Robert Wunderlich provided an update on ITE's activities. During his presentation, he obtained a pledge from the audience to stop using mobile phones while driving.

Secretary-Treasurer Walter Okitsu showed that while total District financial assets appeared healthy at over \$300,000 for the past 4 years, accounts not tied to the Endowment Fund have shrunk rapidly because of loss of membership, reduction in WesternITE ad revenue, operating subsidies to the Endowment Fund, and Annual Meeting registration discounts to students. To avoid depleting cash reserves, he presented a plan to reduce expenditures by 25 percent, increase dues by 10 percent, and have the Endowment Fund, presently at \$280,000, begin to pay for Student Initiatives immediately instead of waiting for the balance to reach \$500,000. Even with these measures, he projected a \$17 thousand deficit for the coming year. To avoid depleting the District's financial reserves the Board will pursue a future special vote of the membership to increase dues to \$40. The budget was approved by voice vote of the members.

President Perez announced that the San Diego Section would host the 2017 District Annual Meeting. Because the 2016 International meeting would be held in Anaheim, he invited sections outside of California to submit for the 2016 District Meeting. He announced he was leaving the District, having been transferred by his employer to Qatar. He accepted the tellers committee report and announced the newly-elected 2011-2012 District officers:

President Alyssa Reynolds
 Vice President Walter Okitsu
 Secretary-Treasurer Karen Aspelin
 International Director Monica Suter (3-year term begins January 2012)

The meeting was adjourned until the 2012 Annual Meeting in Santa Barbara.

Legislative Update



Steve L. Eagan
Legislative Chair

Congress and President Obama Extend SAFETEA-LU One More Time Until March 31, 2012

From *Transportation Issues Daily*:

On Thursday, September 15, the President signed legislation to extend SAFETEA-LU through March 31 and aviation programs through January 31. The House had passed the legislation unanimously on Tuesday, September 13. The Senate passed the bill on Thursday after a delay over a demand to

eliminate the Transportation Enhancements. The program funds mostly bicycle and pedestrian projects and accounts for less than 2% of SAFETEA-LU funding.

The agreement authorizes SAFETEA-LU funding at fiscal 2011 levels, but the final funding level will be subject to fiscal 2012 appropriations agreements.

The deal may be bittersweet for advocates of the Transportation Enhancements program. To gain passage of the extension, Senate leaders agreed to include language in the multi-year bill changing the program. However it is not entirely clear what the change will be. Senator Tom Coburn (Oklahoma) believes the language will allow states to opt out of the program. Senator Barbara Boxer disagreed and said the language provides “more flexibility” to the states on the use of the Enhancement funds.

The extensions give legislators more time to reconcile the Senate-House differences on the highway/transit bill. However, most stakeholders are pessimistic about a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill passing before 2013.

From *Cronkite News*, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ:

Navajo leader bemoans tribes’ lack of control over transportation funds

In Washington DC on Thursday, September 15, the Navajo Nation’s top transportation official complained to Congress that his tribe’s members are treated as “second-class citizens” when the government allocates road funds.

“Our nation still finds itself being held to different standards and in many regards as second-class citizens,” said Paulson Chaco, director of the Navajo Division of Transportation, in testimony to a Senate Indian Affairs Committee oversight hearing.

Chaco and other witnesses said tribal governments can currently get transportation funds directly from the federal government in only a handful of cases. Most of the time, they said, tribes must have a state-government partner in order to apply for federal grants, a pairing that typically benefits nearby state highways more than it benefits projects deep within Native communities.

Chaco called for legislation that put tribes on equal footing with state governments when applying for transportation funds. Direct funding would give the Navajo more power to maintain the rural roads across their 25,000-plus square miles in parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, he said.

Recognizing tribes at the same level as states would allow “more services to be provided in areas not of interest to any particular state government,” he said.

But a Federal Highway Administration official testified that tribes have benefited under the current system. John Baxter, FHWA’s Associate Administrator for Federal Lands, pointed to a Year 2010, \$31 million USDOT TIGER Fund award to the Navajo Nation and the state of New Mexico, who used the money to add two lanes on US 491 and make safety improvements to a highway that connects the tribe to the rest of the state of New Mexico and Colorado.

The committee hearing brought together federal transportation officials and representatives of several tribes and umbrella Indian organizations.

Chaco said that tribal governments are additionally handcuffed by the fact that they cannot collect taxes the way local and state governments do, even though the tribes pledge to maintain new roads. Because the federal government generally does not allocate funds for maintenance – opting to create new roads instead – highways on Navajo lands are falling into disrepair.

“Unlike state governments that have an array of methods for generating revenue to assist in road maintenance, the Navajo Nation is not so fortunate,” Chaco said.

“It’s basically an unfunded mandate,” he said after the meeting. There is a federal pot of money dedicated solely for Indian road projects. Tribes do not need a partner to apply for funds from the Interior Department’s \$450 million Indian Reservation Roads program. But even that ends up being shared with state and local governments, witnesses testified Thursday.

Paul Tsosie, the Chief of Staff for the Assistant Interior Secretary for Indian Affairs, testified that the department is currently reviewing the program to make sure that the money is going to roads that primarily benefit the 565 member tribes

He said the department has hired an independent auditor to review 75 percent of the projects. That will help determine which projects are primarily maintained by state or local governments and could be reclassified.

Legislative News Column: State Legislation California poised to give speed power to local governments September 21, 2011

By Steve Eagan, ITE Western District Legislative Committee Chair

From *Land Line (Trucking Industry Blog)*:

On Thursday September 15, 2011, it was reported by Keith Goble, Land Line state legislative editor, that a bill that has completed its trek through the California statehouse would give communities leeway in setting speed limits and, as a result, reduce yellow light intervals.

Since 2004, California law has required cities to round up their speed limits starting at the 85th percentile of travel speeds. The posted speed must be rounded to the nearest 5 mph increment.

Assembly lawmakers voted to sign off on Senate changes to a bill – AB529 – to give local governments the option to round speed limits down after a traffic study. The bill moved to Governor Jerry Brown's desk, and he signed it on October 7, 2011 .

Assemblyman Mike Gatto, D-Los Angeles, said the current setup allows speeders to dictate the limits set.

Another issue resulting from lower posted speeds is shorter yellow times. In California, the yellow signal cycle phase time on roads posted at 30 mph is 0.4 seconds less than at 35 mph.

The issue is of particular concern in California because communities throughout the state use red-light running automated enforcement cameras. Billed as increasing safety on roadways, violators face fines topping \$500 with court costs.

Critics of the plan to authorize lower speeds say the change provides communities an opportunity to set up speed traps. They say if politicians in California and elsewhere are truly concerned about safety, they should make a point of extending yellow times or providing advance warning signs.



Cathy Leong
Endowment Fund Chair

Thank you to all of our supporters at the recent Western District Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was kicked off by a generous \$5,000 donation to the Student Endowment Fund by the Washington State Section, our first Emerald-Level contributor, and was quickly followed by a very successful Student Raffle during the Get Acquainted Social. Donations and ticket sales by the student chapters at Brigham Young University, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Montana State University, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Long Beach, San Diego State University, University of Washington, University of Wyoming, and University of California, Berkeley raised over \$2,000 for the Endowment Fund. Overall, we raised over \$13,000 during the meeting for the Student Endowment Fund bringing the current balance of the fund to \$290,000.

Please visit <http://www.westernite.org/endowment> to learn more about the fund and how to contribute.

The Spotlight was written by Emad Elias, recent recipient of the Western District's Outstanding Transportation Student of the Year award. The following is his article:

I have been a student member of ITE for over three years now. I attended District 6's Denver, San Francisco, and Alaska annual meetings. In these three years, I tried to attend as many Southern California section monthly meetings and student presentation nights as I could. Attending these monthly meetings and sessions at conferences gave me great perspective on the transportation engineering profession, all before I even took any transportation engineering classes at school.

I was the only student from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) to attend the 2009 Denver annual meeting. Consequently, I had to get out of my comfort zone and interact with as many people as possible to make the most out of my experience there. Needless to say, everyone I met and interacted with was open to converse and provided guidance for any questions I had. The following academic year, I became vice-president of the student chapter at CSULB.

Similarly in the 2010 San Francisco conference, the schedule allowed for a great deal of interaction between students and professionals. It soon became clear to me that the core beliefs in our District is to get the students more involved, and create more opportunities for the students and professionals to interact. Leaving the conference, our four students were inspired to take the mentoring and guidance gained to promote the transportation engineering profession to our university.

The following academic year, I became the president of our school's ITE student chapter and put to use the knowledge gained at the conference. Our student officers had so much enthusiasm for ITE and that spread like fire among our student body. Our meeting's attendance tripled, we went on many tours, won the So. Cal. Student Traffic Bowl, got first place in the Student Presentation Night, and most importantly, many more students at our university now excited about the transportation engineering field.

One of the most common tips that professionals give college students is to improve their communication skills, whether oral presentation skills or written skills. To promote this advice to our student chapter, we created a segment called 5-Minute Student Presentation during our meetings. This is where one of our students would give a 5-minute presentation about any transportation engineering topic and practice their public speaking skills. Our faculty was very supportive of this idea and our students really enjoyed it.

At the Alaska annual meeting, our students were sure to attend every session, participate in all the student competitions, and take every opportunity to interact with professionals. I was awarded with the Outstanding Transportation Student of the Year award. To say the least, I am very thankful for all that the District has done for the students. Promoting the transportation engineering profession among our students wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the District's continuous efforts to invest in its students. Now that I am a graduate from California State University, Long Beach, I vow to donate part of my first (real) paycheck to the Student Endowment Fund. To every person/company/group that contributed to the Endowment Fund, THANK YOU! And please keep donating generously. With everyone's help, we can promote the transportation engineering profession to limits never thought possible.



Some of the Annual Meeting Winners



Lifetime Achievement Award
Nazir Lalani



Individual Achievement Award
Patricia Camacho de Cano



Student Traffic Bowl Winners
Brigham Young University
(BYU also won at the International Level!)



Young Professional Technical Paper Award
Wei Feng



Wisest and Windiest Scribe
Leah Kelsey, Idaho Chapter



Outstanding Student Chapter
Oregon State

Young Professional Achievement Award
Karthik Murugessan



Western District Web Site Award
Alaska Section



Outstanding Graduate Student
Ian Barnes



Student Paper Competition
Runze Yu

Outstanding Under Graduate Student
Emad Elias



Wayne T. Van Wagoner Award
Kevin Chang



Traffic Bowl First Place
New Mexico Section



James H. Kell Award
Cal Poly Pomona
Trisha Munoz, Victoria Park

Chapter Spotlight—Montana Chapter

I am always impressed by how much the Montana Chapter accomplishes with few members spread over a large distance. Our membership continues to be in the mid thirties spread across our large state. The cities in Montana with pockets of members are separated by 90 miles or more. Over the past year, the chapter has held a number of technical presentations, facilitated webinar training sessions for the new Highway Capacity Manual, and Donated over \$2,475 to student initiatives at the district, section and chapter levels. Here are some highlights from the last few months.

In June, the Montana Chapter supported the Summer Transportation Institute (STI) both financially and with volunteer faculty. STI is a program coordinated by the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University that provides a two-week program for group of high school students from around the country to learn about different areas and careers and transportation engineering and research through field trips and classroom activities.

Pierre Jomini, who received special recognition by a Western District presidential proclamation at the Intermountain Section meeting last May, continues to contribute to the Chapter by spearheading a technical project. The chapter members are currently collecting data on cell phone use while driving by conducting counts across Montana. The results of the project will help connections between the level of cell phone usage with different demographics.

Our members continue to have leadership roles in ITE. I would like to congratulate DJ Clark from Billings, MT as the next Secretary/Treasurer for the Intermountain Section, and Danielle Scharf from Bozeman, MT as the Western District student initiatives chair. I would also like to thank Michael Sanderson from Billings, MT for his service as an International Director for the District and Danielle Scharf for her service as an Intermountain Section officer (currently past president).

The Chapter has put together a great set of speakers for the transportation track of the Montana Joint Engineers Conference. The conference will be held in Helena, MT November 2nd-4th. Further information can be found at <https://www.jecregistration.com/index.php>.

Submitted by Montana Chapter Officers:
Patrick McGowen, President
Erin Claunch, Vice President
Joseph Staszczuk, Secretary/Treasurer



Scott Keller provides STI students a tour of a Montana DOT-constructed wetland project



Pierre Jomini (left) receives a presidential proclamation from International Director Michael Sanderson (right) (photo taken by Zaki Mustafa)



D.J. Clark, newly elected secretary/treasurer for the Intermountain Section

Section and Chapter Activities

BYU Student Chapter

Since April 1, 2011, the Brigham Young University (BYU) ITE Student Chapter has been involved in various social activities, conferences, and service activities. Additionally, some chapter members have received awards. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on chapter events from April 1 to September 25, 2011.

Activities

The BYU ITE student chapter has hosted several activities to promote interest and student participation in the transportation profession.

2011 Data Collection

In April 2011, our student chapter completed a data collection project for trip generation and parking demand at mini-warehouse facilities. A report was prepared, submitted, and will now be considered for inclusion in the 9th edition of *Trip Generation* report and the 5th edition of the *Parking Generation* report.

Winter 2011 Closing Social

On April 8, 2011, we held a closing social as an activity to wrap up the Winter 2011 semester. To start the meeting, we held officer elections to fill vacancies left by graduating students. Shawn Larson, Trevor Youd, and Scott Johnson were elected by those in attendance to fill the offices of Service Coordinator, Student Coordinator, and Treasurer respectively. Following officer elections, student members played 'Who Wants to be a Dollaraire', a spinoff of the popular game show, 'Who Wants to Be a Millionaire'. Contestants answered transportation-based trivia in order to win up to a dollar in prize money. The activity was well attended and fun was had by all.

Involvapalooza and Club Rush

Involvapalooza and Club Rush are events hosted by the university and the College of Engineering and Technology, respectively, to promote involvement in the various extracurricular activities and clubs available to BYU students. Our student chapter hosted a booth to generate interest our chapter activities and the transportation profession. Interested students were invited to sign up to our mailing list.

Fall Opening Social

To kick off the Fall 2011 semester, our student chapter hosted an opening social on September 15, 2011. At the start of the meeting, our chapter president, Steven Dudley, gave an overview of the purpose of ITE and of the activities that will be held this semester. Dr. Schultz and Dr. Saito were then able to explain the opportunities

that are available in the transportation profession. Pizza and soda were provided to those in attendance followed by the main event, a potato derby. Students carved their own derby cars out of potatoes and we raced them down a ramp. Everyone enjoyed mingling with new and returning members as they watched the races. There was an estimated attendance of 65 people of which over 20 students signed up to our mailing list.

ITE Meetings

Students have had several opportunities to attend ITE meetings and conferences.

Western District Annual Meeting

In July 2011, the Western District ITE Annual Meeting was held in Anchorage, Alaska. Four students from our chapter were able to attend and compete in student competitions, including the Western District Traffic Bowl. Students also had the opportunity to attend information sessions and interact with transportation professional and student members from other schools. In the Traffic Bowl, the BYU team competed against 11 other teams and ultimately won the competition. The BYU team was then invited to attend the International Collegiate ITE Traffic Bowl Grand Championship at the ITE International Annual Meeting in St. Louis.



Western District Traffic Bowl Champions

ITE International Annual Meeting

Student members of the BYU Traffic Bowl team attended the ITE International Annual Meeting in St. Louis in August 2011. Students attended socials, information sessions, and represented the Western District in the International Collegiate Traffic Bowl Grand Championship. Our team advanced to the finals and won with a score of 4001 to 0, becoming the 2nd annual International Collegiate Traffic Bowl Champions. The students enjoyed interacting with professional and student members in attendance at the conference.



ITE International Collegiate Traffic Bowl Champions

ITE Utah Chapter field trip to UTA Maintenance Facility

On September 20, 2011, the ITE Utah Chapter hosted a field trip to the new UTA Maintenance Facility in Salt Lake City. Twelve students and two faculty advisors from the BYU ITE student chapter were in attendance. UTA employees gave ITE members a tour of the new state-of-the-art facility, which is being used to provide maintenance on 73 new Siemens LRT cars and boasts a new operations center for all three Trax LRT lines.

Awards

Students from our student chapter have received various awards. Award recipients along with the awards they received are listed below.

Aaron Wilson – 1st place in the ITE Utah Chapter Paper Competition (\$150)

Steven Dudley – ITE Western District Fellowship (\$1000)

BYU Traffic Bowl Team – Brad Brimley, Buffie Chau, Steven Dudley, and Clancy Black – ITE Western District 2011 Traffic Bowl Champions

2011 ITE International Collegiate Traffic Bowl Champions – Steven Dudley (\$2000)

Colorado/Wyoming Section

The Colorado/Wyoming ITE Section held their 2011 Annual Business Luncheon on Friday, September 23rd at the Embassy Suites Hotel in the Denver Tech Center. 2010-2011 Section President, **Greg MacKinnon**, presided over the Section's business meeting luncheon with 50 members in attendance.

The meeting began with MacKinnon welcoming the luncheon's special guests – **Alyssa Reynolds**, the ITE Western District President and **Kevin Flynn** of RTD. He also recognized the Section's Executive Committee for all of their work over the past year. The attendees then gave self-introductions.

Alyssa Reynolds, the Western District President, gave a short informational presentation about the Western District's purpose and structure. ITE International has 17,000 members in over 90 countries. The Western District consists of the western thirteen states, including Alaska and Hawaii. Her goal for her presidency is to reconnect the Western District with its members. The District is currently looking for volunteers for the public relations, legislative, and technical committees. Visit WesternITE.org for more information.

Reynolds then swore in this year's officers. **Chris Sheffer** was sworn in as the Section President; **John LaSala** as Vice President; and **Aaron Heumann** as Secretary/Treasurer.

Chris Sheffer presented **Greg MacKinnon** with the Past President award to recognize his contributions as last year's Section president. Sheffer praised MacKinnon's energy and dedication to the Section which has cumulated in MacKinnon's development of a Strategic Plan for the Section, creation of updated Section Bylaws and updating the Section's website.

Sheffer's goals for the upcoming year includes increasing the Section's networking opportunities. He is working on increasing the outreach to students, younger members, and members on the Western Slope and in Wyoming. To this end, the Section has started using webcasting (via GoToMeeting.com) to allow the luncheon presentations to be remotely viewed by Section members that are unable to attend in person. This format allows the web attendees to actively participate by viewing and listening to the presentation and asking questions to the presenters via the web. If you are interested in mentoring a student or younger member, please contact **Chris Sheffer**. Contact Chris Sheffer at for additional information on joining our next Section meeting via webcast.

Chris Sheffer also informed the students that there is an Undergraduate/Graduate Student Paper Competition. Abstracts are due October 14th to the Western District. More information can be found at WesternITE.org.

Greg MacKinnon announced that there is a call out for Western District Director nominations. If you have recommendations, please contact Greg MacKinnon.

Sheffer announced that the new FHWA regulations are open for comment until November 23rd. Please visit <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/legsregs/> for more information.

www.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/legsregs/ for more information.

Engineers Without Borders will be hosting a wine tasting networking/fundraiser event on November 3rd from 6-9pm at Museo De Las Americas in Denver. More information is available at <http://www.ewbdenver.org/2011/10/05/ewb-wine-tasting-2011/>.

John LaSala and **Aaron Heumann** discussed the Section's proposed 2011-2012 budget. The Section is looking to try to subsidize a portion of the training this year. They have also set aside a budget for career guidance and student outreach. The membership voted unanimously to approve the proposed budget.

Dave Hattan announced the call for nominations for the Section's Lifetime Achievement Award. Nomination forms were handed out at the luncheon. Contact Dave Hattan if you have nominations that you would like to submit for consideration.

Melissa Rosas announced that applications for the Section's Undergraduate and Graduate Student Scholarships were available on the Section's website. Applications are due on October 21st. There is a total of \$4,000 available this year for the student scholarships. Application forms can be found at <http://www.cowyite.org/scholarship/>.

If you are interested in helping out with the University of Colorado Denver student chapter or reaching out to high school students that may be interested in our profession, please contact **Chris Sheffer**.

Joe Henderson announced that upcoming Section training opportunities would be announced on the Section's website, www.cowyite.org.

Vice President, **John LaSala** introduced the program speaker, **Kevin Flynn** with RTD. Flynn is the Eagle Project Public Information Manager for RTD's Fastracks project. Flynn gave an update on the Eagle P3 Transit Project, discussing the project schedule, budget, and funding innovations.

Our next Section luncheon will be held on Friday, November 4th at the Budweiser Event Center in Loveland. **Bill Hange** will be giving a presentation and tour of Loveland's new continuous flow intersection. Registration will be available at www.cowyite.org.

The Colorado/Wyoming Section contact is **Chris Sheffer** of the City of Centennial, (303) 325-8000; csheffer@centennialcolorado.com. Contact information for committee chairs and a calendar of upcoming events can be found by visiting our Section's website at www.cowyite.org.

Intermountain Section

On May 19-21, 2011 the Intermountain Section of ITE hosted its 51st Annual Meeting in Jackson, Wyoming. With attendance approaching 130, the Section was pleased with the turnout considering the tough economic climate. A strong technical program provided the foundation for the meeting and covered varying topics from innovative corridor improvements, project prioritization, roundabout guidelines, and automated wind controls. In addition, 15 vendors attended the meeting and added a strong marketplace component.

The Thursday afternoon session is a relatively new addition to the Intermountain Section Meeting format, and is generally dedicated to a single topic. This year, we arranged for a panel session on "Doing More with Less." The first half of the session focused on Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) applications and second half focused on improved signal time and management systems. Overall, the session provided a good introduction into strategies for system management and making the dollar go further during tough economic times. The Thursday afternoon program also consisted of a session for students and younger members entitled "Career Planning for Success," which addressed topics such as the importance of good communication skills, licensure and certification, and participation in professional organizations.

Notably, students from many of the student chapters within the section attended the meeting, bringing the total student attendance to 20. **Joey Markuson** (the Section's Professional Liaison to the student chapters) organized and held the third annual student social following the Thursday technical sessions. Free pizza and beverages were provided and students were encouraged to mingle through a scavenger hunt game. Each attendee was tasked with finding someone in the room who had each of the items (iPhone, calculator, etc.) in their possession. The winners received iTunes gift cards.

During the Friday business meeting, the Section received reports from the four member Chapters: Montana, Idaho,

Nevada and Utah. Each of student chapters also provided reports. Significant contributions were made to the scholarship fund by the chapters, and the Section plans to contribute over \$4,000 to the scholarship fund as a result of the donations and dues collection. **Paul Eng-Wong**, International Past President, provided insight into International ITE's current operations and focus areas. **Ken Ackeret**, Western District International Director, provided a District report and **Michael Sanderson**, Past President, presented **Pierre Jomini** with a Presidential Proclamation for his many years of outstanding service to ITE and the profession. The Intermountain Section was also pleased to have International Vice President Candidates, **Zaki Mustafa** and **Ray Davis** attend the meeting. The business meeting finale is the announcement of the election results.

The Section is pleased to announce the new Board members:

Jay Nelson – President (Murray, UT)
Molly O'Brien – 1st Vice President (Las Vegas, NV)
Bruce Christensen – 2nd Vice President (Shoshone, ID)
DJ Clark – Secretary/Treasurer (Billings, MT)
Danielle Scharf – Past President (Bozeman, MT)

The section would also like to recognize the following individuals for their contributions:

Terry Smith – Registration and Record Keeping (Billings, MT)
Pamela Pyle – Vendor Registration and Vendor Social (Logan, UT)
Phil Rust – Webmaster (Boise, ID)
Joey Markuson – Student Chapter Liaison (Las Vegas, NV)
Tim Harpst – Young Professional Course Organizer (Salt Lake City, UT)

The Friday afternoon Vendor Social was very well attended, as usual. This event allows attendees to mingle with each other while investigating the latest products available to the industry. A prize give-away marks the end of the Social. Congratulations to the winners of the coveted Intermountain Section ski jackets!

Prior to heading to the golf course for the Annual Golf Tournament sponsored by the Montana State University student chapter, conference attendees converged for the Annual Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. This year's guest speaker was **Grey Turner** from Wilbur Smith Associates in Salt Lake City, UT. Grey provided an interactive presentation based on the power and

influence that exists in believing in yourself, believing in your team, and the belief that you can and will succeed. Awards were presented to the following:

Student Scholarships

James Fishelson – Utah State University
Luis Miguel Hidalgo – Utah State University

Student Paper Awards

Derek Freckleton – Utah State University – “Human Factors and Safety Challenges in Transitioning to an Automated Electronic Transportation System”
Samuel Ahiamadi – University of Nevada-Reno – “Comparison of Roundabouts with Other Intersection Controls”

Project of the Year Award

TransCore and UDOT – Trailblazer Variable Message Sign System for I-15 CORE

Outstanding Technical Paper Award

John Grant, TransCore; Jae Pullen, NDOT; Mike Fuess, NDOT - “Analysis of Automated Wind Controls and Related Operational Procedures, Algorithms, and Infrastructure”

The Section also presented the infamous Missing in Action Award. But since what happens in Jackson, stays in Jackson, we'll keep that one to ourselves.

For those who have never been able to attend an Intermountain Section meeting, the event provides an excellent technical program, magnificent scenery and recreation opportunities, networking opportunities with some of the founders and leaders of our industry, and a laid-back, western attitude. Next year's annual meeting is sure to be another you won't want to miss. Leave your ties at home and join us May 10-12, 2012 as we continue to honor the traditions of the Intermountain Section.

Northern California Section

The Northern California Section began the 2011-2012 year with great energy and an ambitious agenda for the next year. Our new officers include **Matt Weir** as President, **Jason Shykowski** (Vice President), **Angie Louie** (Secretary), and **Joe Anderson** (Treasurer). Joe is the newest member of the Board, while the others were “promoted” to their current office as part of the annual membership election. During the first two months of the new year, the Board has already accomplished a number of significant objectives.

- Hired a professional communications firm, Endicott Communications, to develop a Section-specific brand, including a new website, logo, and materials. Endicott has also been valuable in advising the Board on related organizational development and membership issues.
- Presented newly-elected Western District President **Alyssa Reynolds** with a check for \$4,000 for the Student Endowment Fund at our September monthly luncheon. These funds had been raised by the Northern California Section in recent events. It was great having Alyssa not only install our new officers but also to provide an insightful presentation on asset management and induction lighting programs in her home jurisdiction of Henderson, Nevada. We highly recommend Alyssa to anyone looking for an engaging, accomplished speaker!
- Completed a tentative calendar of events for the year with a strategically-balanced program that will appeal to the broad cross section of our membership – from our operations technicians to transportation planners to traffic, civil, and electrical engineers.
- Continued actively soliciting interest in additional luncheons for the far northern and southern ends of our Section. Anyone interested?

The accomplishments in the opening months of the year were in part the result of the significant time and energy invested during the previous two years during which we transformed many of our traditions. The Northern California Section Board has continued to emphasize relevance to our fluid membership that had been impacted -- like all of our profession -- by the changing economy. The Northern California Section also wanted to improve service to our public and private sector members as they deal with fewer resources, new requirements, and new technologies/methodologies.

Our Section continues to innovate and experiment with new formats for monthly luncheons, hosting professional development/training webinars, and providing greater professional support to the Student Chapters. The key change that has maintained our organizational health in recent times is to make our monthly luncheons free to attend for all transportation professionals, regardless of their membership status. Rather than have luncheon sponsors

make a cash donation to the Section, sponsors are asked to provide the lunch. Our average monthly attendance is 45-75 persons and most importantly we've had frequent participation from several hundred agency staff, consultants, and product vendors. The attendance at each specific event is correlated to the targeted sub-set of our membership.

Looking forward, our Section is looking to build upon our recent work and is considering the following strategies to maintain the long-term health of our Section!

Leveraging the increase in new and frequent event attendees to an increase in paid memberships.

Investing in social media and other forms of streamlined electronic announcements/RSVP processes.

Working with the Western District leadership to align our Section initiatives with District initiatives to achieve improved education, communication, and increased membership.

Expanding our support to Student Chapters within the District.

Oregon Section

The joint WTS/ITE April luncheon was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at the Governor Hotel in downtown Portland, Oregon. The combined meeting featured guest speaker **Raymond Mabey**, ODOT's OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program Manager. Mr. Mabey shared an overview of the agency's first experience using the Construction Manager/General Contractor delivery method and what the agency has learned along the way on the Interstate 5 Willamette River Bridge replacement project in Eugene-Springfield.

The May luncheon was a joint meeting with OTCDC held on Friday, May 13, 2011 and focused on the Willamette River Crossing in Salem, Oregon. The Draft EIS is in the final stages of review and guest speaker **Julie Warncke**, City of Salem Transportation Planning Manager, discussed the challenges the project team has faced in identifying a location for a new bridge over the Willamette River in Salem and its interaction with the connecting street system, land uses and natural environment.

Portland State University faculty and students were very active at this year's ITE Western District Annual Meeting, held July 10-14 in Anchorage, Alaska. Nine students and one faculty member from PSU attended, with more than 10 presentations (largest

student group in this meeting). PSU students (**Kristi Currans**, **Adam Moore** and **Eric Albright**) also won second place in the student Traffic Bowl Competition. ITS Lab graduate student **Wei Feng** (with co-authors: his adviser **Miguel Figliozzi**, **Scott Price** and his adviser **Wu-chi Feng** from Computer Science department, and **Kristina Hostetler** from Urban Planning department) won the Best Paper by a Young Professional award. The paper was entitled "Techniques to Visualize and Monitor Transit Fleet Operations Performance in Urban Areas."

The Oregon Transportation Summit was held on Friday, September 9th, 2011 at Portland State University; hosted by OTREC in partnership with the Portland Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar, the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Oregon Section of ITE. The Oregon Transportation Summit brought together Oregon's academic and practicing transportation professionals to advance the state of the art by accelerating new research into practice and shaping the agenda for the future. The plenary session was on the transportation implications of the census, featuring **Johanna Zmud** (RAND) and **Tom Hughes** (Metro) with a keynote presentation by **Mark Ovenden**, author of *Transit Maps of the World*.

The Oregon ITE section hosted the 22nd Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, September 23rd at the Oregon Golf Association golf course in Woodburn, OR. ITE members, local vendors and a few student members hit the links for a fun day of golf and networking.

Upcoming activities include the October luncheon that will be held Wednesday, October 26th in Portland, Oregon. Current ITE International President **Rock Miller** will be in attendance to talk about ITE leadership and then participate in a bike ride through the City following lunch. Mr. Miller is interested in Portland's efforts on bicycle treatments and the bike ride will provide participants a first hand look at how Portland is making the City the best Cycling City in the U.S.

Jeremy Jackson, Scribe

Southern California Section

The Southern California Section kicked off the 2011-2012 year at the traditional Los Angeles Police Academy for the annual Steak Fry on August 2011. It was a great social gathering among friends and family. We also continued the tradition of having a raffle for Disneyland, Universal Studios, and Knott's Berry Farm

tickets. Photos of this event can be viewed from our website (www.itesocal.org) under the Photos tab.

On September 2011, we held our first luncheon at the Monterey Hills Restaurant in Monterey Park. Our guest speakers were **Peter Valk**, President and founder of Transportation Management Services, and **Clare Look-Jaeger**, Principal at Linscott, Law & Greenspan. Their topic discussed how transportation demand management (TDM) is playing a more important role in addressing congestion, mobility, parking and environmental concerns. Peter and Clare provided an overview on what TDM is, how it works, and the role it should play in traffic and parking studies.

Also in September, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach staff hosted a combined ports tour for ITE members. This was a boat tour on board the "Angelina" where our members, including students from local universities, observed the transport of cargos at two of the busiest ports in the world as well as interact with fellow professionals. This tour was free of charge courtesy of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Steve Itagaki

Washington Section

It seems as though each year, the season continues to change later and later. Summer didn't arrive in the Pacific Northwest until August. At least it bled well into September to provide warm temperatures and great views from the Alki Room of Salty's on Alki to welcome this year's first ITE Washington section meeting. Section President, **Kevin Chang** (King County), announced the start of the meeting after providing ample time for the 56 registered attendees, one more than last year, to shake off their summer vacation stories and enjoy the buffet lunch consisting of salmon, steak, vegetable lasagna with seafood chowder, salad and fruit.

Mr. Chang introduced section Vice President/Treasurer, **Jim Ellis** (Consulting Traffic Engineer), Secretary, **Dongho Chang** (City of Everett) and Past President, **Katherine Casseday** (Casseday Consulting.) He continued by inviting **Kevin Desmond**, Metro General Manager, to begin speaking on King County's system that supports the management of our regional transportation capacity.

Commencing from seven bases to cover over 2100 square miles through 39 cities and unincorporated areas, Metro was the

fastest growing transit in the U.S in 2007. Much like the iconic “golden arches” where the food, the service, the facilities is essentially identical no matter where you go, transit service throughout King County is equally consistent and reliable on each one of its 220 fixed routes.

However the recent great recession obviously took its toll. Not only did sales tax drop, but ridership dropped as well due to loss of employment. Mr. Desmond presented a sobering list of measures Metro wrestled to narrow the gap between funding and service. He then transitioned to present a sustainable Metro Transit moving forward with a \$20 congestion reduction charge for two years to preserve 600,000 annual service hours.

Metro will continue providing support and alternatives for those impacted by regional transportation projects such as the SR 520, Alaska Way Viaduct. With technologies such as Real-Time information, ORCA cards and third party apps being implemented on the Rapid Ride corridors, Metro hopes to gain acceptance from potential users and then advance to the next level. Rapid Ride, Metro’s bus rapid transit program, has already increased its ridership along the A-line by 30% and eagerly awaits the start of B-line on the east side. Those interested in Mr. Desmond’s updates can follow along at www.kingcounty.gov/metro/GMnews.

After a round of questions and answers, **Kevin Chang** advertised information cards with links to King County website as well as the ITE website. He also introduced **Ash Sabnekar** (PACLAND), chair for the new ITE Directory. Just as Mr. Chang greeted the member with a smile, so he adjourned the meeting.

Paul Cho

UC Berkeley Student Chapter

In 2011, the University of California, Berkeley ITE student chapter (also known as Cal ITE) has planned to host many of its historically successful events while working to branch out to new audiences. While Cal ITE has elections on a semiannual basis, the officer team for the upcoming academic year consists of almost all new officers.. Our roster shows 72 active ITE student chapter members for the past year consisting of a blend of both graduate and undergraduate students. We hope to increase our membership base.

The Department of Civil & Engineering, the

Department of City & Regional Planning, the University of California Transportation Center, and the SF Bay ITE Professional Chapter have all be vital to our student chapter’s success, and we continue to collaborate with them to provide a truly engaging and inclusive transportation experience for our members.

The ITE student chapter is planning to focus our events on internship opportunities, the bridge between engineering and planning, as well as international transportation. We have organized technical tours and office receptions to various places in the Bay Area, which allow our members to integrate their knowledge of transportation from academia with the real world. We keep our members updated on upcoming graduate transportation seminars, transportation conferences, and employment opportunities, and always do our best to sponsor a select group of our members to attend the ITE Western District Annual Meetings.

Many of our members attended the 2011 Western District ITE Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska as events like this are great ways to connect with other students and transportation professionals. Even though the University of California, Berkeley ITE student chapter’s goal is to enhance the overall transportation experience here at Berkeley, our chapter hopes to continue providing these amazing opportunities to our members.

Thomas Wong, Student Chapter President

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Western District Dues Increase to be Voted On

As announced at the Annual Business Meeting July 12, 2011 in Anchorage, the Western District Board will conduct a vote of the District membership on a proposed dues increase to take effect in 2013. Our Bylaws require a membership vote for increases exceeding 10% per year. For 2012, the Board exercised its power to increase dues by 10%, raising dues for the Member, Fellow, and Institute Affiliate classes from \$22 to \$24.20, and for Retired members from \$12 to \$13.20. The proposal on the spring ballot would raise 2013 Member, Fellow and Institute Affiliate dues to \$40. Retired members' 2013 dues would remain below the 10% cap. The reasons for raising the dues are described in the 2011 Annual Board Meeting Highlights elsewhere in this newsletter.

Call for Abstracts

The Central Coast Section and Western District Board are working hard on the 2012 Western District Annual Meeting next June 24th through 27th in beautiful Santa Barbara, CA. This conference will provide a great opportunity for learning and networking with your transportation colleagues in a relaxed and comfortable setting.

We will be meeting at the dramatic mission-style Fess Parker Doubletree Resort on 24 beautiful beachfront acres in Santa Barbara. There are lots of adventures and relaxing excursions in the greater Santa Barbara area including world-class wineries and shopping.

If you are interested or know someone that may be interested in presenting your sustainable transportation project or program please download the submittal packet at <http://westernite.org/santa-barbara-2012/>

We look forward to seeing you all in Santa Barbara next summer.



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