

SPRING 2007 NEWSLETTER

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**8TH ANNUAL NEITE/UMASS
TECHNICAL DAY FOCUSES ON FUTURE
OF TRANSPORTATION**

On Wednesday, March 7th, the UMass Student Chapter of ITE hosted the 8th Annual Technical Day at the UMass Amherst Campus. The event, which brings together students and professionals, was held in the Massachusetts Room of the Mullins Center.

The day began at noon with a "Future of Our Field" working lunch moderated by Dr. Michael Knodler, UMass Student Chapter Faculty Advisor, and Phil Caruso, Deputy Director of ITE International. The lunch focused on workforce development and included discussions on what employers expect from new engineers as well as what new engineers look for when

deciding where to work. The lunch was followed by a speaker session on the Future of our Cities which focused on the relationship between transportation and sustainable development. Speakers for this session were Peter Plumeau of Wilbur Smith Associates, Ellin Reisner of Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership, Jeff McCullough of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and Bill Lyons of Traffic Solutions.

Following the social hour and student research poster session, dinner included the presentation of awards and keynote speaker Dr. John Mullin, Dean of the UMass Graduate School and Professor of Urban Planning.

The following awards were presented:

Jane F. Garvey/UMass ITE Transportation Leadership Award:

Lucy Garliauskas, FHWA

UMass ITE Distinguished Alumni Award:

Kim Hazarvartian, TEPP

UMass ITE Student Service Award:

Heather Rothenberg

TEAAM Travel Scholarship:

David Hurwitz



Peter Plumeau presents on sustainable transportation.



Attendees enjoy the social hour.



Kim Hazarvartian receives the UMass ITE Distinguished Alumni Award.

IN MEMORIAM: ANSON TRIPP

On Thursday, March 29, UMass ITE Student Chapter member Anson Tripp passed away. Anson was an active member of the chapter, most recently having traveled to the TRB Annual Meeting and the MAITE Student Research Symposium with the group. He was also a devoted attendee of the Transportation Seminar Speaker Series. His graduate work was focused on public transit infrastructure. Professor John Collura noted that he was "one of the brightest students we've ever had in the program over the last 30 years." Anson will be missed by many.



UMASS HOSTS MASSACHUSETTS ITE STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The 3rd Annual Massachusetts ITE Student Research Symposium was held on February 9, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel in Boston, MA. This year's event was hosted by the University of Massachusetts and was attended by more than 80 students and professionals.

The event, which is designed to provide a forum for students to share their research with professionals, featured presentations by 22 students from 7 schools; students were asked to discuss their research during a presentation session and prepared posters for a poster session held before lunch.

Associate Dean of the UMass Amherst College of Engineering, Dr. Ted Djaferis offered the opening remarks. Keynote speaker, MassHighway Commissioner Luisa Paiewonsky, spoke about lessons learned over the course of her career and the importance of public service.

Nine UMass ITE Student Chapter members presented their research on topics including a discussion of transit planning, interactive vehicle modeling, driver distraction for novice drivers, lane departure crashes, and evacuation modeling.



Jenn Kennedy and her poster on congestion and safety on MA roads.



Christopher Ahmadjian presents on the potential for privatizing the MassPike.

The Transportation Engineering Applied Academics Mentoring (TEAAM) program, is designed to help students identify how to meet their academic requirements while developing additional skills.

TRANSPORTATION MENTORING PROGRAM IS COLLABORATIVE EFFORT



The Student Chapter collaborated with UMass Civil and Environmental Engineering and the UMass Transportation Center to develop and implement a formal mentoring program.

The TEAAM program consists of four components aimed at helping students identify how to meet their academic requirements while simultaneously using the resources available to them to understand career op-

tions and develop skills that will make them strong candidates for employment in transportation engineering.

1. Individual mentoring for graduate students provided by faculty and staff;
2. Mentoring for undergraduates provided by graduate students;
3. Career and skills development seminars; and
4. Drop-in hours for students.

2006-2007 was the pilot year for this program which received a grant from the UMass Graduate School for its implementation



Grad mentors David Hurwitz and Lisandra Garay with undergraduate mentee Seth Rowell.

STUDENT CHAPTER MEMBERS GAIN/SHARE KNOWLEDGE AT CONFERENCES ACROSS U.S.

In addition to their academic work, Student Chapter members are active in research activities and seek to share that experience—as well as learn from others—at conferences across the country. In March, students and faculty attended a symposium on the Big Dig held at Smith College.

In the recent and upcoming months, student chapter members present at a variety of conferences:

- ITE Technical Meeting and Exhibition (San Diego, CA)
- Society of Automotive Engineers World Congress (Detroit, MI)
- ITE District 1 Annual Meeting (Providence, RI)
- International Symposium on Human Factors in Driver Assessment, Training and Vehicle Design (Stevenson, WA)
- ITE Annual Meeting (Pittsburgh, PA)

UMASS ITE FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

FutureCity

The Student Chapter participated in the 2007 National Engineers Week Future City competition. Chapter President Heather Rothenberg served as the Engineer Mentor for Monument Valley Regional Middle School in Great Barrington, MA. The Chapter prepared bags for participating students with ITE shirts and other UMass College of Engineering goodies.



Clothing Drive

During the month of February, the Student Chapter sponsored a clothing drive. The Chapter solicited support from the College of Engineering and the surrounding community. The clothes collected through this effort (approximately 25 bags), were donated locally to the Amherst Survival Center.



BSCES Thinkfest

On March 24, the Student Chapter sponsored a table for "Thinkfest," sponsored by the Boston Society of Civil Engineers and held at Merrimack College. The event was geared towards middle school and high school students interested in pursuing careers in science and engineering. The Student chapter presented micro-simulation models of UMass Amherst campus roads.



STUDENT CHAPTER PRESENTS AWARD TO HONOR OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN TRANSPORTATION

The 8th Annual UMass/NEITE Technical Day included the inaugural presentation of the new Jane F. Garvey/UMass ITE Transportation Leadership Award.

The Jane F. Garvey/UMass ITE Transportation Leadership Award will be presented annually to a woman who has demonstrated leadership and outstanding skill in the field of transportation. The award is named in honor of Jane F. Garvey, to recognize her contributions to the field and her legacy as a pioneering woman leader in transportation.

The University of Massachusetts Student Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers is honored to recognize Ms. Garvey's contributions and to continue to highlight the

achievements of outstanding women in the field.

This year, the award was presented to Lucy Garliauskas, FHWA Division Administrator for Rhode Island who is responsible for overseeing Rhode Island's Federal aid program that currently includes accelerated construction of five major projects and a capital budget of around \$400 million. She is one of only five female FHWA Division Administrators.

During Lucy's tenure as national president of the Women's Transportation Seminar from 1996-98, WTS grew from 26 to 34 chapters, which was the single largest advancement in over 15 years. She continues to be active with WTS and currently serves on the WTS National advisory board. She also

serves on the Transportation Research Board Committee on Women's Issues in Transportation.

The award selection committee includes the UMass Transportation Center Director, UMass ITE Faculty Advisor, UMass ITE Student Chapter President, and Jane Garvey.



Lucy Garliauskas receives the inaugural Jane F. Garvey/UMass ITE Transportation Leadership Award.

Order Your UMass Transportation Engineering Polo Shirt!



Please indicate cut (standard or women's), size, and quantity.

\$35 + \$5 Shipping each

Checks should be made payable to ITE Student Chapter and sent to Elsa Chan, UMass ITE Treasurer, 139 Marston Hall, Amherst, MA 01003.

Info:
echan@student.umass.edu

CALLING ALL UMASS ALUMNI



Send us your
contact
information!

Email to:
kdmoriar@
student.umass.edu

The UMass ITE Student Chapter is currently in the process of compiling a database of all UMass alumni currently working as transportation professionals. This list will be used to keep UMass alumni up-to-date on ITE Student Chapter activities, announcements, etc. This list will also be used to put graduates in touch with potential employers, and to help employers recruit from the pool of UMass transportation students.

Sends us your...

Name

Year of Graduation

Degree (Bachelors, Masters, or PhD)

Program (Civil Eng., Planning, etc)

Company

Address

Phone Number

Email

Web Address

STUDENT RESEARCH CORNER— NATALIA LANDRON:



Pedestrian related crashes and fatalities are all too common at crosswalks due in part to the low conspicuity and expectation of pedestrians while crossing the road.

Multiple studies have proven that drivers yield more at crosswalks with in pavement warning lights (IPWL) as compared to traditional crossings without this kind of treatment. However, some professionals believe that the use of amber as the selected light color in the IPWL (the light color currently used for the IPWL system), may not optimize the potential benefits and in part may result in an incorrect driver interpretation of the intended message. Moreover, during the day the amber

color is hardly noticeable defeating the whole purpose of the system.

This research focuses on the application of new colors/ combinations for the IPWL that may increase the visibility distance, transmit a clear a message to motorists, and be visible during the night as well as during the day. The experiment being undertaken employs the Human Performance Lab's driving simulator where drivers' reactions will be evaluated while driving the simulator car in a virtual world where the scenarios will include the IPWL system.

The experiment was divided into two groups: a control group (amber color lights) and an experimental group (new proposed color combinations). Results will be compared between the two groups to determine which color combination

is more effective. Afterwards each subject will have to fill out a survey to examine how much experience they have concerning IPWL and their interpretation of the message when exposed to different colored lights (i.e., amber, red, or blue). The type of data collected includes the percentage of drivers yielding to pedestrians, the braking distance when approaching a crossing with IPWL, the driver reaction based on the interpreted message transmitted by the color of the lights, and the overall driver reaction based on the associated visibility distance.

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