

**VOLUME 2
MAY
2010**



South Texas Section
Institute of Transportation Engineers

Section News...

The South Texas Section is the winner of the 2010 TexITE Section Activities Award!

This award recognizes sections for actively organizing activities which promote the objectives of ITE. The section will be receiving a certificate and 200 dollars at the TexITE Summer Meeting, which is being held in Sugar Land from June 17-19. The Section report was assembled and submitted by **Rob Belarmino**, STITE Vice President.

Thank you to all section members for your participation and to **Our Sponsors** for your continued support which make our activities and programs possible. Special thanks goes to the section officers, especially current President **Garry Ford** and Immediate Past President **Eduardo Mendoza** for their leadership and planning.

STITE offers a wide range of programs and training opportunities, such as our recent webinar on the proposed changes to the 2010 MUTCD. Also, last year we awarded our Section's first scholarship to UTSA student **Husain Ezzi**.

We are now working to prepare a submittal to compete for the International ITE Activities award. Thanks again to everyone for making this possible!



In this issue

SECTION NEWS

PAST MEETINGS

UPCOMING MEETING

We will be holding a joint meeting with the Capital Section on Friday, May 21, 2010 at 11am at the City of San Marcos Activity Center. The meeting will offer informative presentations by:

- James R. Earp, CPM – Interim City Manager, City of Kyle
- Alison Schulze – Lone Star Rail District
- Kevin Balke, PhD, PE – Research Engineer Center Director, TTI

We look forward to seeing you there, and stay tuned for updates on the meeting.



2010 STITE Officers:

President

Garry Ford, P.E., PTOE
City of San Antonio
garry.ford@sanantonio.gov

Vice President

Rob Belarmino, P.E.
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.
rbelarmino@pape-dawson.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Garza, P.E.
Pate Engineers
OMGarza@PateEng.Com

Section Representative

Marc Jacobson, P.E., PTOE
City of San Antonio
marc.jacobson@sanantonio.gov

Immediate Past President

Eduardo Mendoza, P.E., PTOE
City of McAllen
edmendoza@mcallen.net

Committee Chairs:

Membership: Mike Garza,
Pate Engineers.

Website: Garry Ford,
City of San Antonio

Nominations: Rene Arredondo,
AC Group LLC

Newsletter: Kerri Collins,
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.
Derek Mueller,
Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

Student Liaison & Scholarship:
Mike Garza, Pate Engineers

 **South Texas Section**
Institute of Transportation Engineers

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San Antonio, TX
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STITE JANUARY LUNCH MEETING

March 30, 2010

FEATURED SPEAKER:



Judy Babbitt,
Director of Accessibility
Planning,
City of San Antonio

“ACCESSIBILITY IS MORE THAN A RAMP”

Photos and text for this meeting were provided by Derek Mueller



STITE President Garry Ford, Secretary/Treasurer Mike Garza, and Vice President Rob Belarmino with Speaker Judy Babbitt

The March 31st meeting was held at TransGuide. President **Garry Ford** and Vice-President **Rob Belarmino** opened the meeting and discussed plans for a family-friendly fall meeting in a South Texas location such as South Padre Island. This would consist of a meeting and technical sessions at a hotel on a Friday, allowing STITE members to stay with their families for the weekend. Also, a joint meeting with the Capital Area Section will be held on May 21st.

Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Garza** reported there are currently 56 STITE members; an increase from 41 members in January. He also thanked companies for purchasing business card ads in the newsletter and announced that 16 companies have signed up for business card ads, which is significantly more than was projected. Section Representative **Marc Jacobson** encouraged members to come to the TexITE meeting in Sugar Land from June 17-19. The meeting will include presentations on the 2010 MUTCD, roundabouts, transportation funding, transit, and sustainability. **Joe**

Bared from the FHWA will also be making a presentation on alternative intersections.

Vice-President **Rob Belarmino** introduced the featured speaker, **Judy Babbitt, Director of the City of San Antonio Accessibility Planning Department**. Judy has been



working with the City of San Antonio for over 25 years, and gave a presentation spotlighting various locations in San Antonio which have accessibility issues. She

explained both how these locations created accessibility challenges for pedestrians and how they could be avoided.

Judy also provided personal insight into the problems sub-standard pedestrian design can pose to wheelchair users such as cross slopes on pedestrian walkways greater than a two percent grade. The presentation highlighted how pedestrian access can be affected by a variety of design aspects such as driveways, drainage structures, utility placements, and maintenance. Judy stressed the importance of considering accessibility concerns at all stages of planning and design to provide usable, safe, and ADA compliant pedestrian facilities.

STITE APRIL LUNCH MEETING

April 28, 2010

FEATURED
SPEAKER:



Kwaku Obeng-Boampong
Assistant Research
Engineer, TTI

AN INTRODUCTION TO TRAFFIC SIGNAL OPTIMIZATION SOFTWARE

Photos and text for this meeting
were provided by
Rob Belarmino



STITE Officers with
Speaker Kwaku Obeng-Boampong



The April 28 meeting was held at UTSA's north campus. The meeting was opened by section President **Garry Ford** and section Vice-President **Rob Belarmino**. Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Garza** gave the Treasurer's report. He stated that the section currently has \$6,639.07 in the account.

Section Representative **Marc Jacobson** announced that the South Texas Section was the recipient of the TexITE Section Activities Award.



STITE Section Representative
Marc Jacobson

Vice President **Rob Belarmino** invited everyone to attend the joint meeting with the Capital Area Section in San Marcos on May 21st.

STITE Scholarship Award Winner **Husain Ezzi** delivered a presentation by video on "Pavement Management Information Systems".

Following Section business, the officers introduced featured speaker **Kwaku Obeng-Boampong**, an Assistant Research Engineer with TTI. Kwaku has been involved with TTI since 2002 and is experienced with many types of traffic simulation software.

His presentation, "An introduction to Traffic Signal Optimization" gave an overview and history of traffic signal operation and software. He also focused on Synchro Traffic Signal Software and demonstrated some of the basic concepts behind building networks and optimizing coordinated signal systems using Synchro.



WTS – San Antonio Region is pleased to announce that **Hope Andrade, Texas Secretary of State** will be the featured speaker at the monthly lunch meeting on **June 24, 2010** at the Plaza Club.



Registration: 11:30 AM
Program: 12 to 1:00 PM

Members: \$25.00
Non-Members: \$35.00
Government Agency Rate: \$20.00

For more information, contact Valerie Collins at vcollins@pape-dawson.com.

Visit www.wtsinternational.org for membership information

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Interested in or placing your business card ad here?
The cost is \$100.00 per year for a business card ad size space and includes your logo posted on the Section website, and at meetings. Funds help support Section activities including the STITE Scholarship.
For more information contact Kerri Collins, Newsletter Editor, at kcollins@pape-dawson.com.

SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

First Annual Future Cities Competition

The first Annual Future Cities Competition for the South Central Texas Region was held January 23rd at Texas State University. Fourteen teams competed in the competition, designed to help 7th and 8th grade students discover and foster interest in math, science and engineering. The 1st Place team, St. Thomas More School from Louisiana, went on to Washington D.C. to compete at the national level.

The students were judged on three primary categories: 1) developing a computer model of their Future City using SIMCity, 2) researching and writing an essay about the City and 3) developing a 3D Model of their City. This year's theme was, "Providing an affordable green living space for people who have lost their home due to a disaster or financial emergency."

The winners were:

1st Place: EOS Team: St. Thomas More School, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Teacher: Shirley Newman

Students: Conley Bourgeois, Theresa Sherburne, David Richardson,

Engineer Mentor: William Harmon Wall, P.E.

2nd Place: Pro Boto Team: Our Lady of Grace Homeschool, San Antonio, Texas

Teacher: Melissa Lutz

Students: Colton Lutz, Jaren Carrasco, Kenneth Graham

Engineer Mentor: James A. Lutz, P.E.

3rd Place: Hihihihihihihihihihhi Team: Corbett Junior High School, Shertz, Texas

Teacher: Glenda Schneider

Students: Jonathan Mitchell, Joseph Barth, Kenneth Miess

Engineer Mentor: Andrew Hunt

A special thanks to our volunteers for helping make the Future Cities Competition a success.

Norma Antunano, Hewlett-Packard, IEEE, ASQ

Rob Belarmino, Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc., ASCE, TSPE, NSPE, STITE, ITE

Lyle Boyea, Teacher Retirement System of Texas, IEEE

Mehmet Boz, URS Corporation

Laura Force, Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc., ASCE

Alisa Gruber, Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc.

Sani Nassif, IBM, IEEE, ACM

Kevin Powers, Future City New England (judged SimCity4 simulations)

Carl Schwing, City of Laredo, ASCE, AAEE

Dean Schneider, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, IEEE, AFA, HKN, Sigma Xi

Rosie Smiley, Alan Plummer Associates, Inc., ASCE, WEAT

Ty Tuner, Klotz Associates, ASCE, USGBC

Gary Winters, BCP Engineers & Consultants, IEEE

Mijia Yang, University of Texas San Antonio, ASCE, ASME, NSPE

Submitted by James Lutz



TexITE District News:

Upcoming District Meetings

2010 Summer Meeting
Sugar Land
June 17-19, 2010

2011 Winter Meeting
Fort Worth
February 2011

Transportation Engineer and Younger Member Nominations

TexITE announces its call for nominations for the 2010 **Transportation Engineer of the Year** and **Younger Member of the Year**. Nominations for these prestigious awards are due on May 15. Please see the awards nomination page at www.texite.org for more details and to download the nomination form.