

**VOLUME 4**  
**November**  
**2011**



**South Texas Section**  
Institute of Transportation Engineers

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**Nominations:** Miguel Sanchez,  
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**Newsletter:** Derek Mueller,  
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**Student Liaison & Scholarship:**  
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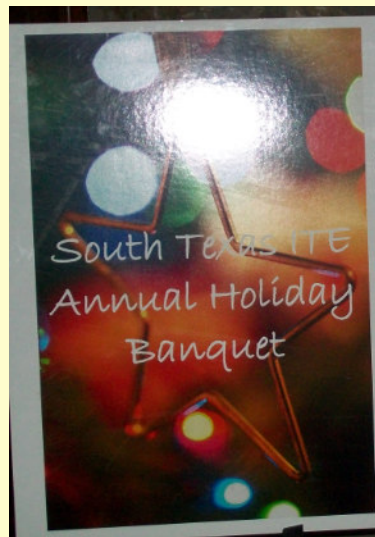
**Section News...**

**2011 STITE Holiday  
Banquet this Friday!**

**Registration deadline  
Today!**



The STITE Holiday Banquet will be held this Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the Club at Sonterra. The deadline to register for the banquet is **today**, November 29. STITE members should have received an email with a link to the registration site.



**In this issue**

SECTION NEWS  
PAST MEETINGS

**STITE Elections**

Remember to vote in the STITE elections! STITE members should have received an email with instructions on accessing the online voting. The following positions can be voted on in the election:

**President**

Mike Garza

**Vice President / President Elect**

Amy Lewis

**Secretary – Treasurer**

Derek Mueller

**Business Card Renewal Reminder**

This is the final 2011 newsletter. We would like to thank all our newsletter sponsors for their support and encourage them to renew their business card ads for 2012. The ads are a great way to advertise your business to the transportation engineering community while supporting STITE programs such as the scholarship fund. Please contact Derek Mueller at [dmueller@pape-dawson.com](mailto:dmueller@pape-dawson.com) for details.



**South Texas Section**  
Institute of Transportation Engineers

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## Second Annual Regional Conference, Corpus Christi

September 30, 2011



Mike Garza and America Garza with  
Conference Speakers

The Second Annual Regional Conference was held in Corpus Christi, TX at the TxDOT District Office on September 30, 2011. After lunch, STITE President **Mike Garza** welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers.

The first speak, **Troy Walden, Ph.D**, from the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) gave a presentation on the effectiveness of red light cameras. Dr. Walden said that of the 3,600 traffic fatalities in Texas last year, one half were intersection related. Based on a study Dr. Walden performed at 275 signalized intersections before and after red light cameras were installed, the crash rate at intersections with red light cameras was reduced by 11 percent and the number of red light-running related crashes was reduced by 23 percent. Based on this study, Dr. Walden said the red light cameras are shown to significantly reduce crashes at signalized intersections.

The next speaker, **Ismael Soto**, Director of Traffic Operations for the TxDOT Corpus Christi District, gave a presentation on the changes to the 2011 Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD). Mr. Soto's informative presentation covered a wide variety of changes and additions to the TMUTCD. He showed a variety of new signs, pavement markings, and signals, such as the flashing yellow arrow which were included in the latest version.

After Mr. Soto's presentation, presentation, **Peter Harrison** of HNTB gave a presentation on the Disaster Recovery Program, of which HNTB is the program manager. The Disaster Recovery Program is designed to help rebuild after the damage from Hurricanes Ike and Dolly. These two hurricanes affected over 45 percent of the Texas population

and cost more than an estimated \$29 billion in damages. The Disaster Recovery Program is the largest public works program in Texas history and involves more than 5,000 projects.

Next, **Gary Schatz**, Traffic Engineer for the City of Austin, gave a presentation on new initiatives in Austin. Mr. Schatz talked about Austin's Great Streets plan, which aims to increase mobility in the downtown area for all users such as bikes and pedestrians. He showed the modifications they had implemented on South Congress including the addition of bike lanes and reverse angle parking. Mr. Schatz also gave an overview of the HAWK pedestrian beacons which are being implemented in Austin at locations with heavy pedestrian traffic. The Hawk stops traffic with a flashing red signal when pedestrians are crossing and is unlit at other times. He also discussed roundabouts and gave examples of when their installation may be appropriate.

A vendor session followed Mr. Schatz' presentation. Following the vendor session, George P. Hartman of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers gave an ethics presentation. Mr. Hartmann gave updates on new rules and legislation as well as case files of ethics violations.

Following the conference, attendees had dinner at Snoopy's on the pier. The fishing tournament was held the next day. Photos and awards from this tournament can be seen on the next page. The STITE board would like to thank all of the vendors for helping to sponsor the event and America Garza and the TxDOT Corpus Christi District for hosting and organizing the conference.





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 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 Derek Mueller, Newsletter Editor, at [dmueller@pape-dawson.com](mailto:dmueller@pape-dawson.com).

## STITE Regional Conference Dinner & Fishing Tournament



### TexITE News

- ◆ STITE member Gilmer Gaston was elected as the Texas Representative to the ITE International Board of Directors.
- ◆ The TexITE Spring Meeting will be held in San Marcos, March 28-30, 2012.
- ◆ Chris Poe of TTI, was named the 2011 Transportation Engineer of the Year.
- ◆ Jennifer Butcher of Savant Group, Inc., was named the 2011 Younger Member of the Year.