



Annual Report 2012-2013



*Dedication to Professional Development, Social Enrichment and Service
through Transportation Engineering*

Annual Report of Student Chapter Activities



For the Period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

Student Chapter of:		
University of Texas at Austin		
1. Current Chapter Officers		
President	Meredith Cebelak	
Vice President-Membership	Diniece Peters	
Vice President-Activities	Kan Long	
Treasurer	Brice Nichols	
Secretary	Zhe Han	
2. Student Chapter Membership		
Number of Student Chapter Members: 44		
Number of Student Members of the Institute: 44		
Number of Students eligible to be Student Member of Institute: 58		
Number of Faculty members who are current ITE Members: 7		
3. Information on Transportation Engineering Enrollment		
Number of undergraduate students (sophomore-senior) years in academic department: 588		
If not Civil Engineering, specify Department: Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering		
Full Time: 554	Part Time: 34	
Does your curriculum allow Undergraduate students to major or minor in Transportation: No		
Number of Graduate Students in Transportation:	Full Time: 55	Part Time: 3
4. Student Chapter Activities Summary – see attached (Refer to Pages 4-14)		
5. Roster of Student Chapter Members – see attached (Refer to Page 15)		

Report Submitted by

Zhe Han

Zhe Han
 Student Chapter Secretary
 Email: hanzhe@utexas.edu

Approved By

Dr. Chandra Bhat,
 Student Chapter Advisor
 Email: bhat@mail.utexas.edu

Submitted: March 29, 2013



Contents

Student Chapter Message

Chapter Activities

Summary

- Professional Development
- Service Activities
- Conferences & More
- Social Events

Communication

- Website
- Newsletters
- Social Media-Facebook
- Resume CD
- Bulletin Board

Student Recognition

Membership Roster

Student Chapter Message

We are pleased to submit the 2012-2013 Annual Report for the University of Texas at Austin Student Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). Once again we have had a very successful year. Our chapter continues to strive for excellence with our dedication to professional development, social enrichment, and service within the transportation field.

Our ITE Student Chapter has been very active welcoming our new graduate students and expanding our undergraduate membership. The new members joining our organizations have brought with them more energy and new ideas to our chapters increasing our total to members 44 (a 37% increase

from the previous year). Diversity is also important to our chapter and our membership is comprised of more than 40% international students and has undergraduate representation at approximately 10% of our members. Members of our organization are recognized for their outstanding achievements both locally and nationally. We continued our favorite recurring professional activities, including attending and presenting at the Texas ITE meetings and Annual TRB Conference, hosting distinguished and technical speaker presentations providing valuable industry insight to our members, and organizing the new graduate student orientation events to promote cohesion within our chapter.

As always, we continued our search for new ways to improve our chapter and be involved in the community. This year, we were invited to assist the City of Austin's Traffic Management Center (TMC) during the Formula 1 Grand Prix of the United States weekend, thus furthering our association with area traffic professionals. Additionally, we strove to foster a better relationship with our local professional ITE chapter, the Capital Area Section, and encouraged our members to attend local chapter meetings and hosted a student and professional chapter social to encourage relationships between the chapters. Recognizing the impact of social media, in March, the chapter launched a Facebook page to better connect with our current and potential students as well as our alumni.



Chapter Activities Summary

Professional Development

Our ITE chapter works exceptionally hard to offer a variety of professional development activities. Our members participate in discussions with and learn about transportation challenges from prominent leaders in transportation through our distinguished and technical speakers, gain practical experience through technical projects, and are encouraged to attain professional licensure.

Distinguished & Technical Speakers

Over the past year we have focused on providing our chapter access to a diverse group of industry professionals. These professionals spoke on topics ranging from on-going research in the transportation field to the financial factors influencing transportation projects. This year we began a Student Lecture Series, which highlights the research being done by our PhD candidates. The individuals we hosted this year included:

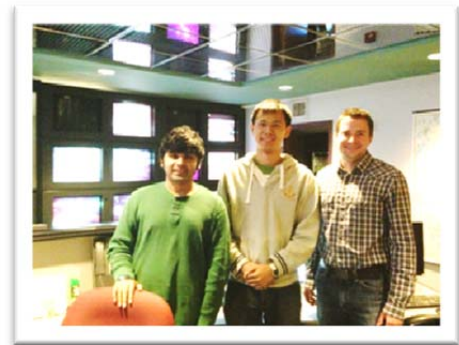
- ❖ **Dr. Sia Ardekani**; University of Texas at Arlington; Topic: Bob Herman & Traffic Science; April 13, 2012
- ❖ **Dr. Cesar Queiroz**; World Bank; Topic: Technical and Financial Factors for Successful Infrastructure Public-Private Partnership Projects; October 12, 2012
- ❖ **Steve Johnson**, PE, **Alex Reyna**, PE, and **Valerie Kaiser**, EIT from Bury + Partners; Topic: Downtown 3rd Street Reconstruction and Traffic Control Planning; November 2nd, 2012
- ❖ **Dr. Steven W. Dellenback**; Southwest Research Institute; Topic: Transportation of the Future: The Role of the Intelligent Vehicle"; November 16, 2012
- ❖ **Robert Skinner, Jr.**; Executive Director, TRB; Topic: Emerging Issues in Transportation; December 3rd, 2012
- ❖ **Scott Moore**; Marketing Director, Car2Go; March 1, 2013
- ❖ **Mason Gemar**; PhD Candidate; Topic: Subnetwork Analysis for Dynamic Traffic Assignment Models"; March 29nd, 2013



ITE Students Join in a Great Conversation with Mr. Robert Skinner, Jr. on Emerging Issue in Transportation

Formula One City of Austin TMC Volunteering

The City of Austin hosted the return of Formula 1 to the United States November 16-18, 2012 and anticipated a large increase in traffic for the event. To ensure operations at the TMC went smoothly, the City recruited several of our students to assist in the daily operations. Students members participated by manning the TMC 18 hours a day throughout the weekend, executing tasks such as monitoring queues, optimizing signal timings, and detecting incidents. Through the efforts by the City and our students, the weekend went by without any major traffic breakdowns! We are thankful to the city for providing this opportunity to experience a TMC in action.



From Left: ITE Members Rohan Shah, Kan Long, and Mason Gemar at City of Austin TMC

Licensure

We are fully supportive of our members as their advance in their careers and encourage our members to pursue professional licensure. Some of our student members have obtained their Professional Engineering (PE) License and we encourage them to keep their licensure up to date by encouraging them to attend local and state meeting to meet their continuing education and professional ethics training requirements. Members Kan Long and Zhe Han have been preparing for the Engineer in Training examination and will be



taking the exam this spring. Student Mason Gemar has been preparing for the Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE) Exam and will be sitting for the exam later this year.

Service Activities

Service is an integral part of our ITE chapter. Each year we participate in a variety of volunteer activities through the University of Texas at Austin and other organizations. We see service activities as not only a way to give back to the community but also to expand people's awareness of transportation.

Distinguished Achievement Plan Projects

In May 2012, three of our students (Michael DeGaspari, Mason Gemar, and Meredith Cebelak), assisted the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders as judges for the Distinguished Achievement Plan Project competition, where middle school students were asked to convert a community of UT apartments to solely use renewable energy using a scale model that demonstrated solar, wind, and hydrogen fuel cell technology.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (Girl Day) is celebrated during Engineers Week each year at the University of Texas at Austin. On Saturday, February 23, 2013, thousands of girls in grades one through eight arrived at the UT College of Engineering to learn about engineering through hands on activities. Recognizing



Some of our ITE Student Volunteers for Girl Day

the importance of educating young women about the sciences, our chapter volunteered at this event by hosting an activity room to educate the girls about transportation engineering. We shared several traffic operations simulations, one of which was created by chapter member Ravi Venkatraman, that were very well received by the students. The girls learned about driving safety



and basic traffic operations, as well as how transportation engineers make transportation safer and more efficient.

Explore UT



Explore UT, the biggest open house in Texas, provides the opportunity for Texas families to come and explore the campus and participate in fun and educational activities hosted by many organizations throughout campus. We volunteered on Saturday, March 3, 2012, to run a demonstration teaching hundreds of children and adults the role of transportation in everyday life. Our members used a simple traffic signal simulation that allows the player to control the operations of traffic signals. Through this fun and easy simulation, people of all ages were able to gain some insight about the field of transportation engineering. Our members actively answered the many transportation questions participants had.



Our Members at the Traffic Engineer Module of Explore UT

Conferences & More

UT ITE student members are encouraged to attend transportation related conferences to keep abreast of emerging technologies, foster professional development, and improve networking with transportation professionals and other students like themselves. Our members attend and present their research at conferences throughout the US.

TexITE Meetings

The UT Austin ITE Chapter was present at the spring and fall Texas ITE (TexITE) meetings this past



year. We participated in technical sessions and chapter members Dan Fagnant, Mason Gemar, and Michael DeGaspari presented research during student poster sessions. Additionally, our students participated in the Texas Hold 'Em poker game and enjoyed meeting professionals in this competitive setting. Our members also got the chance to meet with the students from other ITE Chapters, interact with the professionals in our area and to get real perspectives on topics we discuss in the classroom during these meetings.

Our traffic bowl team for the 2012 spring competition solicited area professionals to prepare for the event. This preparation helped our 2012 team to advance past the first round and eventually finishing the competition in second place. Building off of this effort, we began our recruiting for our 2013 team after the fall meeting and have been vigorously preparing for the upcoming 2013 competition. Two of our chapter members, Mason Gemar and Meredith Cebelak, who both have Professional Engineering licenses, have been serving as coaches for our 2013 traffic team.

Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS)



ITE Students attend INFORMS

Some of our student members traveled to Phoenix, Arizona attend and present papers at the INFORMS Annual Conference, October 14-17, 2012. Students were recognized at these events for receiving scholarships, fellowships, leadership, and paper-writing awards sponsored by these organizations.

Center for Transportation Research Social

The Center for Transportation Research (CTR) hosted its 1st Annual Fall Social on November 30, 2012. Under the new director, Dr. Chandra Bhat, the Center hosts events each semester that



Dr. Bhat (Far left) along with ITE Students at CTR Social



encourage students, faculty, and staff to interact in a social setting. Many of our members attended the event and took advantage of the opportunity to network with the Center's research community.

2013 Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Conference

The 2013 TRB Annual Conference, held during the week of January 14-17 was attended by the majority of our members. In total, our students presented research from a total of 34 papers and posters! In addition to the conference, the ITE Chapter sponsored our fifth annual UT Alumni Happy Hour at Big Hunt on January 14, 2013 giving us an opportunity to both relax and reconnect with our alumni.



Some ITE Members at the 2013 TRB Conference

Social Events

Students really enjoy getting together at our social activities. We are very proud of the sense of community among the graduate students and faculty in our department, and the social activities are a key component of fostering this spirit. We have had events to welcome summer interns, visiting students, new students and current students. Our chapter has the goal of providing at least one opportunity each month of our members to get together in a social setting.

This year we endeavored to have a variety of activities for our members to participate in, ensuring everyone would find at least one activity that interested them. We were actively involved in intramural sports during the past year and participated in the UT Intramural soccer competition.



This year we coordinated with the TexITE Capital Area Section to have a joint happy hour event. The event took place at a local restaurant and provided a way for current students to network with professionals. Throughout the past year, students have participated in many lunches, potlucks and other gatherings. We held an International potluck as well as a Thanksgiving potluck, which provided a setting for everyone to enjoy the different cultures that make up our diverse program. Additionally, we host end of the semester celebrations to allow everyone to get together one last time with graduating students.

Illustrations listed below document some of the aforementioned activities:



Soccer Intramurals



ITE Students' Thanksgiving Potluck



ITE Happy Hour: End of Year Celebrations



ITE Students Hosting a Prospective Student



International Potluck Showing Our Diverse Membership



Mason Gemar Received Award at Capital Area ITE



Graduate Students Participate in Rock Climbing as Part of Their Orientation Activities

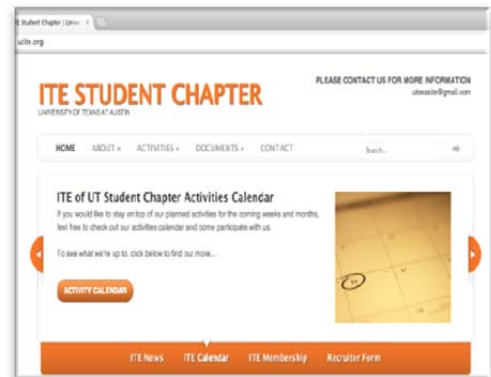


ITE Student Chapter hosted New Student Orientation Social Events During the First Week of the Internship Program

Communications

UT Austin ITE Website

Our website provides an avenue of communication that displays information related to our current events, our activities and any organization related information that we want to share with students, alumni and the general public.



Biannual Newsletter



In collaboration with the ITS America student chapter, our chapter produce a biannual newsletter for the Transportation Program here at UT Austin. The newsletter highlights events for spring, summer and fall as well as students' accomplishments and is distributed to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and corporate partners.



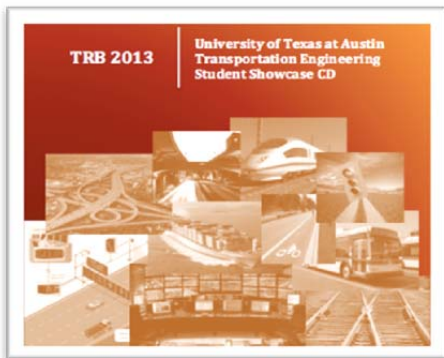
Social Media: Facebook

In efforts of expanding our outreach, the executive board launched a Facebook page for the UT Austin ITE Chapter in March 2013. This social media tool features lists of our meetings, lectures, social events, and event pictures along with occasional articles and information about transportation. While we are in the beginning stages, this move forward will allow us to communicate with other current students, alumni, regional ITE student chapters, and other transportation organizations.



Resume CD

Throughout the year we collected resumes from our members and compiled them into a Resume CD database. The Resume CD is an excellent means of highlighting our accomplishments while serving as a networking tool. In fact, a few of our recent graduates connected with their current employers through these CDs. We distributed the CDs to many of the transportation professionals during conferences, including the TexITE meetings and TRB.



Bulletin Board

One of our main goals this semester is to encourage undergraduates to get involved in our activities by advertising many of our professional and departmental activities through our bulletin boards. Our undergraduate recruiting efforts paid off and we have undergraduate participation in several of our activities including traffic bowl competition preparations, speaker presentations as well as the Transportation Department's internship program.



Student Recognition, Awards & Honors

- ❖ PhD student, **Yiyi Wang**, supervised by Dr. Kara Kockelman, received the **2012 Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship**, awarded by the Heart of Texas Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS).
- ❖ Recent graduate and former PhD student, **Katherine Kortum**, supervised by Dr. Randy Machemehl, received the **2012 Leadership Legacy Scholarship**, awarded by the Heart of Texas Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS).
- ❖ PhD student, **Daniel Fagnant**, supervised by Dr. Kara Kockelman, was chosen for the **2012 Eno Transportation Foundation's Leadership Development Conference**, held in Washington DC on June 3-7, 2012 and had his research work selected for the second annual William P. Eno Research Paper.
- ❖ Recent graduate and Former Ph.D. student, **Nazneen Ferdous**, supervised by Dr. Chandra Bhat, received an Honorable Mention in the international **2011 Eric Pas Dissertation Prize** for one of the top two dissertations in the travel behavior field (award presented at the 13th International Conference on Travel Behaviour Research, Toronto, Canada, July 2012).
- ❖ PhD student, **Tarun Rambha**, supervised by Dr. Stephen Boyles, received the **2012 Milton Pikarsky Memorial Award** for the best MS thesis in the transportation science and technology area, awarded by the Council of University Transportation Centers. His thesis is entitled "Adaptive Routing in Schedule Based Stochastic Time-Dependent Transit Networks."
- ❖ PhD student, **Daniel Fagnant**, supervised by Dr. Kara Kockelman, received the 2012 SWUTC William J. Harris **Outstanding PhD Student Award**, awarded by the Southwest Region University Transportation Center. He was also selected to represent SWUTC at the annual UTC/CUTC Awards and Banquet Ceremony during the TRB Annual Meeting in



January 2013.

- ❖ PhD student, **Zelalem Arega**, supervised by Dr. Amit Bhasin and PhD student, **Mubassira Khan**, supervised by Dr. Chandra Bhat were chosen to participate in the **2013 IRF Road Scholar Program as an Executive Fellow**, held in Washington D.C. during January 9-18, 2013.
- ❖ PhD student, **Mason Gemar**, supervised by Dr. Randy Machemehl, received a **\$2000 scholarship** through ITS Texas in November at the ITS Texas 2012 Annual Meeting. He also received the **2012 Outstanding Student Award**, awarded by the Texas Institute of Transportation Engineers to recognize the outstanding student member in each of the TexITE Student Chapters.
- ❖ **Christina Bernardo, Meredith Cebelak, Donna Chen, Chris Melson, and Diniece Peters** received **2012-2013 Eisenhower Graduate Transportation Fellowships**, awarded by the Universities and Grants Programs of the National Highway Institute, Federal Highway Administration.
- ❖ Meredith Cebelak, supervised by Dr. C. Michael Walton, was selected for the **2013 Eno Transportation Foundation's Leadership Development Conference**, to be held in Washington DC on June 2-6, 2013.



Membership Roster

No.	Last Name	First Name	Status
1	Al-Amin	MD.	Graduate
2	Porras-Alvarado	Juan-Diego	Graduate
3	Arteaga	Janette	Undergraduate
4	Berliner	Aria	Graduate
5	Bernardo	Christina	Graduate
6	Born	Kathryn	Graduate
7	Bringardner	Jack	Graduate
8	Cebelak	Meredith	Graduate
9	Chen	Donna	Graduate
10	DeGaspari	Michael	Graduate
11	Deng	Jun	Graduate
12	Fagnant	Daniel	Graduate
13	Gemar	Mason	Graduate
14	Hakimi	Shadi	Graduate
15	Han	Zhe	Graduate
16	Higgins	Sam	Graduate
17	Hoklas	Megan	Undergraduate
18	Khan	Mubassira	Graduate
19	Kurker	Michael	Graduate
20	Larsen	Katherine	Graduate
21	Li	Chen	Graduate
22	Liu	Ruoyu	Graduate
23	Long	Kan	Graduate
24	Martinez	Sergio	Graduate
25	Melson	Christopher	Graduate
26	Motamed	Arash	Graduate
27	Motamed	Moggan	Graduate
28	Necessary	Mallory	Graduate
29	Nichols	Brice	Graduate
30	Owens	Travis	Graduate
31	Peters	Diniece	Graduate
32	Pool	Matt	Graduate
33	Rambha	Tarun	Graduate
34	Reiter	Matthew	Undergraduate
35	Rodriguez	Joshua	Undergraduate
36	Seraj	Saamiya	Graduate
37	Serigos	Pedro	Graduate
38	Shah	Rohan	Graduate
39	Stone	Cody	Graduate
40	Soriano	Marc	Undergraduate
41	Venkatraman	Ravi	Graduate
42	Wall	W. Jared	Graduate
43	Wang	Yiyi	Graduate
44	Zhang	Ti	Graduate

END OF REPORT