

# The University of Texas at El Paso

## Institute of Transportation Engineers

### Annual Report 2012-2013



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President

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Faculty Advisor

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## **UTEP ITE Vision and Goals**

It will be our duty as transportation engineers to provide safety, mobility, credible research, through technology and knowledge in the engineering field. As an ITE student organization, it will be our mission to prepare the chapter members for the responsibilities that lay ahead and to equip them with the tools and credentials to ensure a career in this path. In order to achieve this mission the ITE chapter of UTEP has outlined goals for the year of 2012-2013.






- Provide ITE members with networking events
- Help students prepare for presentations and interviews
- Give back to the community through community service events
- Gain hands-on experiences by observing transportation engineering applications
- Learn more about members and support them in their collegiate journey



**“The road to success is always under construction”**— *Anonymous*

**STUDENT CHAPTER OF: The University of Texas at El Paso**

**1. STUDENT CHAPTER OFFICERS**

	<p><b>PRESIDENT</b></p> <p>Civil Engineering Graduate Student</p> <p><a href="mailto:eavarela@miners.utep.edu">eavarela@miners.utep.edu</a></p>
	<p><b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b></p> <p>Civil Engineering Graduate Student</p> <p><a href="mailto:trendl@miners.utep.edu">trendl@miners.utep.edu</a></p>
	<p><b>SECRETARY</b></p> <p>Civil Engineering Undergraduate Student</p> <p><a href="mailto:ynholguin@miners.utep.edu">ynholguin@miners.utep.edu</a></p>
	<p><b>TREASURER</b></p> <p>Civil Engineering Graduate Student</p> <p><a href="mailto:mavrova@miners.utep.edu">mavrova@miners.utep.edu</a></p>
	<p><b>WEBPAGE DESIGNER</b></p> <p>Civil Engineering Graduate Student</p> <p><a href="mailto:kstrelcova@miners.utep.edu">kstrelcova@miners.utep.edu</a></p>
Chapter Website:	<a href="http://civil.utep.edu/student/ITE/index.htm">http://civil.utep.edu/student/ITE/index.htm</a>
Chapter Email:	<a href="mailto:ite@utep.edu">ite@utep.edu</a>

**2. STUDENT CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP**

Number of Student Chapter Members: **26**

Number of Student Members of the Institute: **26**

Number of Students eligible to be a Student Member of the Institute: **26**

Number of faculty members who are current ITE members: **2**

**3. INFORMATION ON TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING ENROLLMENT**

Number of undergraduate students (sophomore – senior years) in your academic department: **14**

If not Civil Engineering, specify department: Na

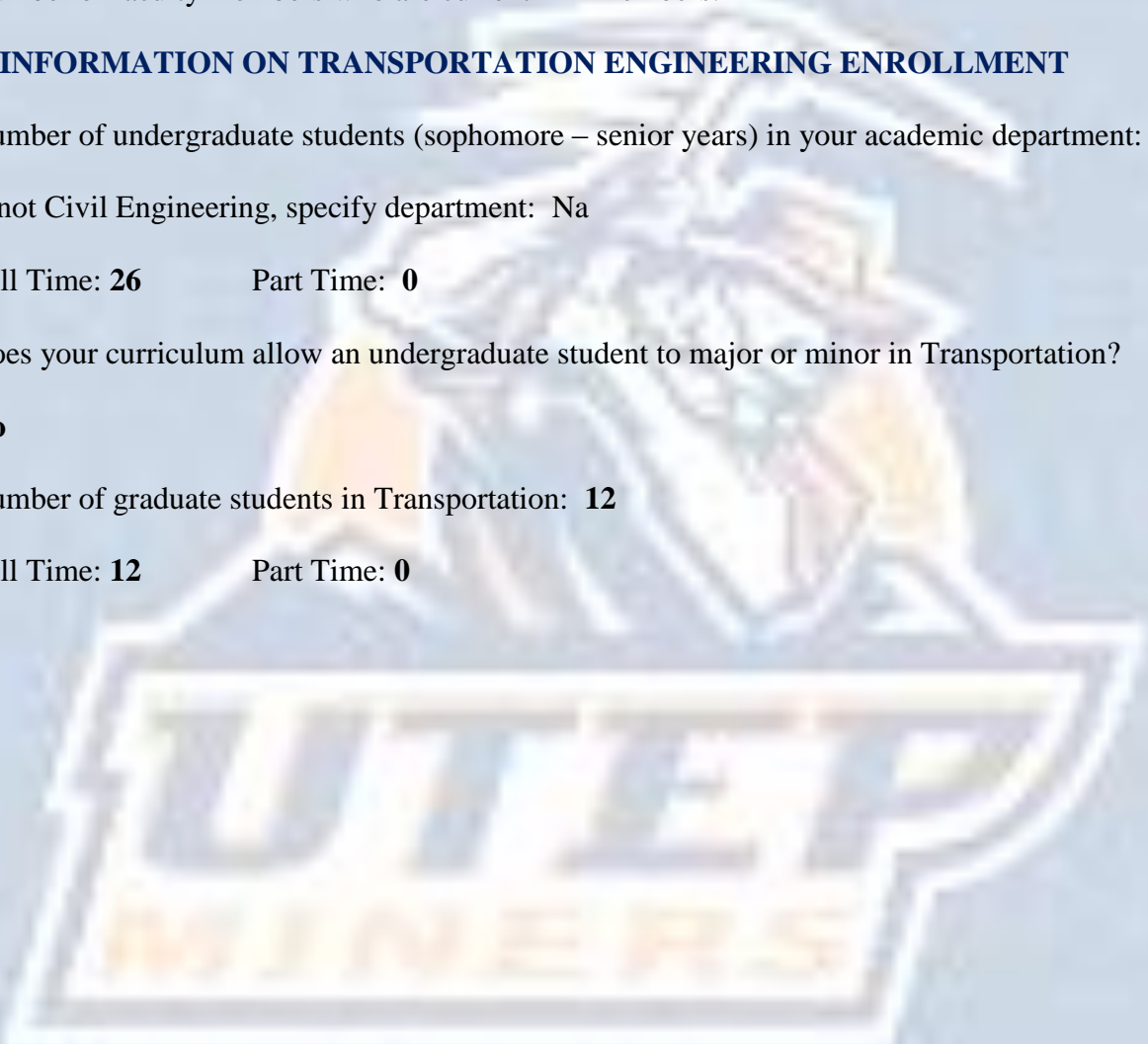
Full Time: **26**          Part Time: **0**

Does your curriculum allow an undergraduate student to major or minor in Transportation?

**No**

Number of graduate students in Transportation: **12**

Full Time: **12**          Part Time: **0**



## Summary of Chapter Activities: Professional development

### ITE Meetings

Every week the Student Chapter of the University of Texas at El Paso holds a meeting in which two members of the chapter make either a technical or cultural presentation. The technical presentation consists of their topic of research for either a thesis or information they have learned during an internship. The purpose of this type of presentation is to gain experience in making technical presentations and to help

students who intend on defending their thesis. There is a time stipulation for the technical presentation; while the presentation occurs, the other members observe and make constructive comments so that the



presenter may improve in the future. In addition to the technical presentation, another member of the organization conducts a cultural presentation. It is here where the UTEP chapter learns about their members' interests and background information. This is also a helpful method to allow the younger members of the organization to become accustomed to presenting in front of audiences.

## Summary of Chapter Activities: Professional development

### Transportation Engineering Field Experience



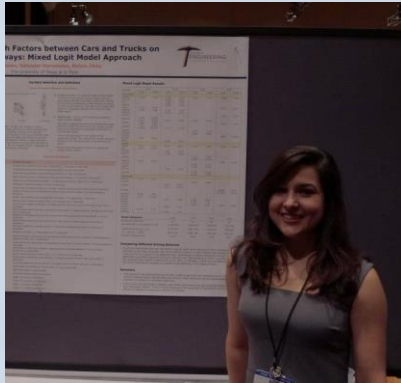
As part of a project in a master's degree course in Transportation Engineering at UTEP, the ITE student chapter organization was approved to observe and participate in the implementation of traffic counters throughout the university. The

data was used to record the volume of cars in designated areas around campus with the use of Road Tube Counters. The members learned how the counters work, how to install them, and the safety precautions necessary to use when doing field work in the profession of transportation engineering. Video cameras had also been installed to observe the areas of importance, in which the members could observe the car counting process done by the graduate students on the monitor. The experience was enjoyable and allowed the students get a hands-on experience of what they could be doing in the field.



## Summary of Chapter Activities: Professional Development

### Transportation Research Board (TRB) Meeting



The Transportation Research Board (TRB) 92nd Annual Meeting was held in Washington, D.C., January 13-17, 2013.

The conference attracted nearly 12,000 transportation professionals from around the world. The TRB Annual Meeting program covered all transportation modes, with more than

4,000 presentations in nearly 750 sessions and workshops addressing topics of interest to all attendees—policy makers, administrators, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions. More than 40 sessions and workshops addressed the spotlight theme for 2013: Deploying Transportation Research - Doing



Things Smarter, Better, Faster. Two of UTEP's very own conducted a presentation on safety factors for drivers and revenue-finance framework to analyze vehicle miles traveled fee implementation. The conference was very helpful in informing members of the newest information in transportation and provided students with a prospect to interact with researchers, and create potential network for future projects and job opportunities. TRB was a valuable learning experience and will continue to be an annual trip that the members will be attending in the future.



## **Summary of Chapter Activities: Professional Development**

### **Officer Elections**

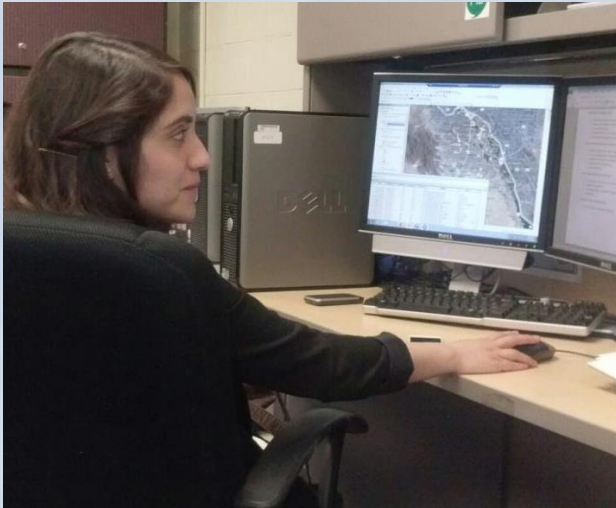
Every fiscal year, the UTEP ITE chapter holds an election meeting to nominate and elect new officers for the coming year. Other members of the organization nominate the officers based on their integrity, leadership, and dedication that they have showed previously in the organization. This year's officers were Edwin Varela, Tomas Rendl, Yvette Holguin, Marketa Vavrova, and Katerina Strelcova. The first officer's meeting established the goals and visions that the officers created for the organization.

### **Recruitment**

ITE officers gave a brief presentation with announcement of upcoming ITE events in the transportation engineering undergraduate class to recruit new ITE members. They emphasized the benefits of ITE membership, the ITE UTEP chapter activities and available opportunities in the transportation engineering field. This presentation on ITE new member recruitment opens up a wide scope of networking with professional engineers as well as potential future employers in transport sector for the new transportation students particularly at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

## Summary of Chapter Activities: Professional Development

### Learning Transportation Software



It is very important to have a resume built with skills that are crucial to transportation engineering like knowing how to use various transportation software. Software that was emphasized to the UTEP ITE organization was VISSIM©. Two members of ITE whom took the liberty to share their knowledge and give

brief tutorials on how to use it are currently using VISSIM. Secretary Yvette Holguin gave a technical presentation during a weekly meeting on VISSIM as to how it is important, and general uses of the programming software.

### Border Master Plan

ITE members were fortunate to be part of the Border Master Plan in the El Paso, Santa Teresa, and Chihuahua Border which focuses on the Port-of-Entry project.



Flyers about a public information event were distributed by ITE members to various places in the El Paso area. Members attended the meeting that they helped plan for the city. Several ITE members were able to work with the Texas Department of Transportation as well as the public that they could be serving in



the future. This was a great networking experience that allowed ITE members to participate in transportation engineering events concerning the community.

## **Summary of Chapter Activities: Professional Development**

### **Guest Speakers**

Dr. Tomas Horak is a visiting member from the Czech Republic who came to speak with UTEP ITE students about a foreign exchange student opportunity through the European Union-United States ATLANTIS Program. This was a great opportunity for students who wanted to travel and see other aspects of transportation engineering in other countries. Two of the graduate students in ITE are members of this program and have taught the others a lot about their culture and how different the transportation aspects are in Texas compared to the Czech Republic, which they have learned from the other students.

Dr. Pavel Varacha also came to speak to the UTEP chapter about a program that his corporation has engineered, how the entrepreneurial process works and how the students can use this to benefit them in the future.

## Miners Give Back to the Community

### Canstruction

Canstruction is an event in which teams compete to build a large structure made entirely out of cans. All of the cans used to make the sculptures are then supplied to local El Paso food banks. UTEP ITE partnered up with the engineering company Walter P. Moore and constructed a life-size R2D2 made of almost 1,000 cans of food. This was a great networking opportunity as ITE worked and spoke to the transportation engineers at Walter P. Moore. The most important part about the event is that the UTEP chapter was able to give back to the community and help stop hunger one can at a time. The UTEP ITE chapter intends to make this a continuous event and collect cans year-round for the following years' competition.



### Adopt-A-Highway



Three times each semester the ITE miners get together on a Saturday morning and help make the road ways safe and sanitary for the city by participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program in El Paso, Texas. ITE has contacted the Texas Department of Transportation

(TxDOT) in regards to the selection of location, as well as, essential information to perform this activity.

## **Future ITE Events**

### **Teens in the Driver's Seat**

ITE will be joining The Texas Transportation Institute in promoting a safety awareness campaign for teen drivers. The program is intended for high school students that are still developing good driving behavior to increase the awareness of the safety factors that come with the responsibilities that come with driving. The activity will include presentations to teachers and school directors on how to incorporate this activity and why it is important to avoid driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, speeding and road racing, driving while using cellular devices, and other factors that can cause fatalities while driving.

MathCounts

### **TexITE Trip**

This April, eight ITE students will be attending the TexITE trip in Dallas, Texas. Two of the UTEP students will be presenting during the conference. This will be a great opportunity for the miners to show what UTEP has to offer in research for transportation engineering. Every year the UTEP ITE chapter attends this conference and learns a lot of valuable information on the transportation engineering that is taking place in Texas.

## **Future ITE Events**

### **Adopt-an-Undergrad**

The UTEP ITE chapter has a diverse mixture of future Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. degree holders. Many of the older graduate students have had a lot of experience and opportunities in the transportation field and have done very well in class. To take advantage of graduate students' wisdom and create new bonding relationships amongst members, ITE will be employing an "Adopt-an-Undergrad" year-long event. During this exchange undergraduate students will be paired with a graduate student who will give scholarly advice when needed and attend social activities in which the students can learn more about each other. It is important to build networking relationships while still in college and gain more out of students' collegiate experience; by starting the "Adopt-an-Undergrad" initiative, members can gain a lot of knowledge and lifelong relationships with their peers.

### **End of the Year Picnic**

Every year, ITE enjoys having a celebratory picnic to conclude all the work that the organization has done throughout the year. It is a time to recall on all the memories that were experienced, say goodbye to graduating students, and get excited for what bigger and better things the following year has in store for UTEP ITE.

## 5. ROSTER OF STUDENT CHAPTER MEMBERS

#	Name	ITE ID	Degree	Expected Graduation Date
1	Aidoo-Rodriguez, Frankie	1045506	B.S.	Dec-13
2	Borrego, Marianna	1045196	B.S.	Dec-13
3	Colmenero, Yvonne	1045544	B.S.	May-14
4	Cornejo, Lorenzo	1033602	M.S.	Dec-12
5	Cuellar, Elvia	1037570	B.S.	Dec-12
6	Hernandez, Eric	1044036	B.S.	May-13
7	Hernandez, Jassivy	1045197	B.S.	Dec-13
8	Hernandez, Luis	1042888	B.S.	May-14
9	Holguin, Yvette	1043036	B.S.	Dec-13
10	Ibarra, Iraki	1025267	M.S.	Dec-13
11	Islam, Mouyid	1031273	Ph.D.	Dec-12
12	Malina, Petr	1037358	M.S.	Dec-12
13	Manzano, David	1033597	M.S.	Dec-12
14	Miramontes, Jessica	1045198	B.S.	May-14
15	Moran, Daniel	1036512	B.S.	Dec-13
16	Olivas, David	1045505	B.S.	May-14
17	Rendl, Tomas	1042753	M.S.	May-13
18	Romo, Alicia	1025157	Ph.D.	Dec-13
19	Salcido, Juan	1039575	B.S.	May-12
20	Sgmanova, Stefania	1037356	M.S.	Dec-12
21	Sosa, Teresa	1023906	Ph.D.	Dec-13
22	Strelcova, Katerina	1042887	M.S.	May-13
23	Torres, Eduardo	1045195	B.S.	May-14
24	Varela, Dan	1038153	B.S.	May-16
25	Varela, Edwin	1033599	M.S.	Dec-13
26	Wang, Yubian	1020459	Ph.D.	Dec-13

**ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013**

**Institute of Transportation Engineers**

**The University of Texas at El Paso**

*Student Chapter*

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