

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS STUDENT CHAPTER

Report Submitted by:

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PRESIDENT

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FACULTY ADVISOR

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Letter from the President

As president of the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Student Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), I am pleased to submit our *2016-2017 Student Chapter Annual Report*. We met the goals from last year of maximizing the learning experience in both transportation software and networking, and increasing professional development. Below are some of the highlights of this last academic year:

- The chapter was (and will be) represented at both the fall 2016, and spring 2017 TexITE District Meetings in Fort Worth and Frisco, respectively.
- The chapter was represented at the 96th Annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.
- The chapter took part to make our State of Texas more beautiful by cleaning-up trash for a two-mile section of highway in east El Paso.
- Professionals from the community spoke to the chapter regarding transportation planning, connected vehicles, and the use of TRANUS software in the Binational Model of El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico.

As we have transitioned from past students to current students, the UTEP ITE student chapter looks ahead to a successful 2017 and 2018. As the chapter president, I plan to improve the student chapter, including better communication with members, better collaboration at meetings, better planning of events, and more involvement with UTEP and the community. As a chapter, we would like to further encourage civil engineering students to apply themselves towards transportation engineering and planning by participating in our chapter.






I would like to acknowledge and thank UTEP ITE Past-President Esmaeil Balal for his leadership during the calendar year 2016 and our faculty advisor Dr. Kelvin Cheu for his continued support and guidance. I would also like to thank UTEP ITE officers and members for their participation to make this chapter a success. Lastly, I would like to thank those who spoke and gave seminars to the chapter for their encouragement and time. The chapter strives to engage students' interest in transportation, bridge the gap between students and professionals in the community, and make a difference in our region.



Matt Vechione, E.I.T.

UTEP ITE Student Chapter President

Student Chapter Officers

	<p>PRESIDENT Civil Engineering Graduate Student Matt Vechione mmvechione@miners.utep.edu</p>
	<p>VICE-PRESIDENT Civil Engineering Graduate Student Salvador Borrego sborrego@miners.utep.edu</p>
	<p>SECRETARY Civil Engineering Undergraduate Student Andrea Gamez ajgamez@miners.utep.edu</p>
	<p>TREASURER Civil Engineering Undergraduate Student Mariana Mercado mmercado3@miners.utep.edu</p>
	<p>WEBPAGE DESIGNER Civil Engineering Graduate Student Lukas Gold lgold@miners.utep.edu</p>

Student Chapter Membership

Number of Student Chapter Members: **10**

Number of Student Members of the Institute: **9**

Number of Student eligible to be a Student Member of the Institute: **10**

Number of Faculty Members who are current ITE Members: **1**

Information on Transportation Engineering Enrollment

Number of Undergraduate Students (sophomore- senior year) in Academic Department: **2**

If not Civil Engineering, Specify Department:

Full Time: **2**

Part Time: **0**

Does your curriculum allow an undergraduate student to major or minor in Transportation? **No**

Number of Graduate Students in Transportation: **8**

Full Time: **8**

Part Time: **0**

ITE Weekly Meetings



The Institute of Transportation Engineers at the University of Texas at El Paso consist of weekly meetings that include, but are not limited to, cultural and professional presentations, software workshops, and volunteer work. ITE also helps students with their presentation skills by assigning them all with a technical and cultural presentation that must be no shorter than 10 minutes. Students are expected to practice their presentations and be ready to answer questions

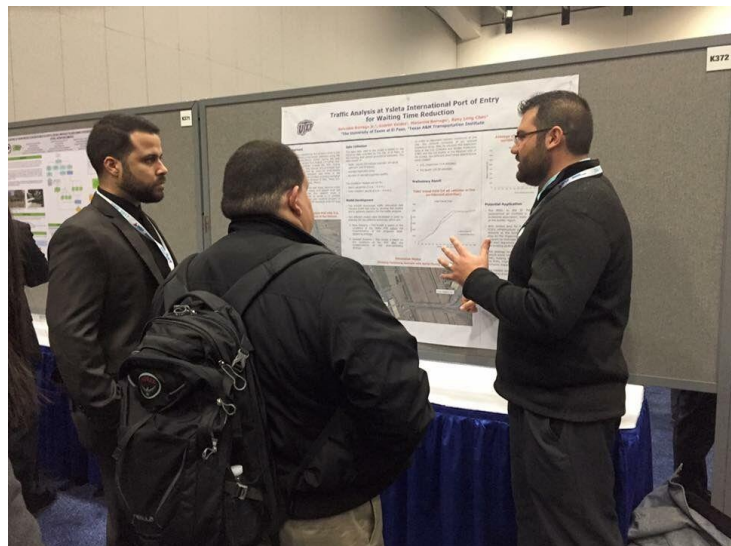
by peers. Critics are asked to evaluate the presenter and their presentation in regards to knowing their topic, good slides, good font size, interesting, tone of voice and much more. The technical presentations help to familiarize with the researcher topics that are taking place in the transportation researcher lab to increase our knowledge on transportation cutting edge topic. The UTEP ITE student chapter is a multicultural chapter which includes students with different backgrounds such as: American, Mexican, Czechs, Peruvian, Nepalese, Turkish, and Persian. To get a better understanding of the different backgrounds, cultural presentations were held by students focusing on different aspects of transportation within their respective culture.

Professional Development

96th TRB Annual Meeting

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) 96th Annual Meeting was held in Washington, D.C., in January, 2017. The conference attracted nearly 12,000 transportation professionals from around the world. The TRB Annual Meeting program covered all transportation modes, with more than 5,000 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.

Vice-president, Salvador Borrego, attended the conference. The conference was very helpful in informing Salvador of the newest information in transportation and provided him with a prospect to interact with researchers, and create potential network for future projects and job opportunities. Salvador was



awarded the Dwight D. Eisenhower Scholarship at the conference. The Eisenhower scholarship program comprised of posters, presentations, and reception with the award recipients. TRB was a valuable learning experience and will continue to be an annual trip that the members will be attending in the future.

Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 Tex-ITE Meeting



The UTEP chapter was represented at the fall, 2016 TexITE District Meeting – which was held in Fort Worth, TX on September 21-23, 2016 by past-president Esmail Balal. Typically, during the conferences, UTEP students can participate in workshops, meetings, poster sessions, exhibit sections, and social events with professionals and other students around the state of Texas. Hundreds of professionals attend the conference and the students can network with many of them. The students can talk to professionals and talk about potential employment in the future after graduation. Esmail gave a poster presentation over his research, “Concept of Smart Bus System for Smart Cities: Systems Engineering Approach.”

The UTEP chapter will also be represented at the upcoming spring, 2016 TexITE District Meeting – which will be held in Frisco, TX on April 19-21, 2017 by president Matt Vechione. Similar to Esmail’s experience at previous TexITE District Meetings, Matt will attend workshops, meetings, social events, exhibit sections, and give a poster presentation over his current research, “Comparisons of Discretionary Lane Changing Behavior.”

UTEP and the ITE student chapter greatly benefit from these experiences because the students come back with new knowledge about the transportation field in Texas that they will share with other UTEP students. Topics discussed at the fall, 2016 conference include innovative intersection designs, new technologies in transportation, innovative planning for multiple modes, and roundabouts. With the great experience, Esmail recommended others to participate in this conference, and thus make it a regular activity so UTEP could be represented every semester in the conference. This is one importation reason current president Matt Vechione was aware of the District Meetings and could attend.

TSPE El Paso Chapter 2017 Engineer of the Year Banquet

The El Paso office of Walter P. Moore invited faculty advisor, Dr. Kelvin Cheu, and president, Matt Vechione, to the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) El Paso Chapter 2017 Engineer or the Year Banquet. This was a great opportunity for Matt to network with local

engineers. Moreover, it was a great learning experience, as Matt was able to talk to engineers from other fields about transportation engineering and how it collaborates with their work.

Distinguished Guests & Technical Speakers



Luis David Galicia, Ph.D. | March 2017

In March 2017, Dr. Luis David Galicia of The Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) gave a presentation to the ITE student chapter of the use of TRANUS software, specifically as it relates to transportation planning. Dr. Galicia informed the chapter of how he and his team at TTI utilized the TRANUS software for their Binational Model of El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico.



Eduardo Calvo | April 2017

We had the pleasure of inviting Mr. Eduardo Calvo to give a presentation regarding his experience at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and HNTB. Mr. Calvo is scheduled to give a presentation to the chapter on April 25, 2017.



Jeff Shelton | May 2017

The chapter has invited Mr. Jeff Shelton of the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) to give a presentation regarding his current research in connected vehicles. The chapter has coordinated this presentation with the UTEP Transportation Leadership Council (TLC) for a joint presentation and TLC's next general meeting during the first week of May 2017.

Field Trips | January, March, and April, 2017

We have been on two field trips as a chapter to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in El Paso, Texas. The first field trip was for the monthly Transportation Policy Board (TPB) Meeting on January 20, 2017. The students were able to experience the policy aspect of transportation planning with local community leaders.

The second field trip to MPO was for the Transportation Project Advisory Committee (TPAC) Meeting on March 1, 2017. The students were able to experience a second MPO meeting which was more technical than the TPB meeting. Members from TxDOT, MPO, the City of El Paso, and consultants were present at both meetings. The students were able to ask questions and network with experienced members of the El Paso transportation community.

The third field trip the chapter attended was on April 13, 2017 at a local elementary school in west El Paso. The meeting was hosted by the City of El Paso and was in regards to the installation of speed humps in the neighboring residential area. Students were able to experience the structure and format of a public meeting and how engineers must continually work with the public throughout all phases of the engineering process (i.e. planning, design, and construction).

Giving Back to the Community

Adopt-a-Highway

Since the fall of 2012, UTEP ITE members have participated in the Adopt-a-Highway program, which is a Texas-born program developed in an effort to keep Texas highways clean. The ITE



chapter has worked with the Chi Epsilon UTEP chapter tighter in the program. On Saturday, March 11, 2017, the ITE members and Chi Epsilon members met at the city of Socorro, which is located at the city limits on the east side region of El Paso, Texas, to pick up litter on a two-mile stretch of highway. UTEP ITE members

have met at least once per semester at this location to help beautify the El Paso community.

Scholarships

Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program

One of our students, Salvador Borrego, was awarded the Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation fellowship during the 96th TRB meeting at Washington D.C. This fellowship awards students pursuing degrees in transportation-related disciplines. Also, the annual meeting provides an exceptional opportunity to any person to get involve in the latest research and

technology that other students and professors were developing around the country. This program advances the transportation workforce by attracting the brightest minds to the field through education, research, and workforce development. Salvador was able to give a poster presentation regarding his research during the TRB meeting.

Patricia and Jonathan Rogers Fellowship



One member, Matt Vechione, was awarded the Patricia and Jonathan Rogers Fellowship by the UTEP College of Engineering for first-year Ph.D. students. As part of the fellowship, Matt was able to attend a luncheon with other Ph.D. fellowship recipients in the College of Engineering as well as a Scholarship Donor Ceremony with undergraduate and graduate students from other disciplines in UTEP.

Future Plans

The UTEP ITE student chapter will go forward with its traditional events such as Adopt-a-Highway, the TexITE meeting, the TRB meeting, Project Move, the general meetings, and the annual ITE social cookout. New events have been discussed and ITE would like to implement these new plans in the near future. Many of the graduate members are currently working with different transportation software such as Vissim, TRANUS, and ArcGIS. ITE plans to hold workshops so these graduate students may teach others the software they are using.

Other ITE events include field trips to the TxDOT El Paso District Office or El Paso MPO. Field trips like these allow students to learn more about transportation engineering as well as network with professional transportation engineers in the community. ITE also plans to help consultants in El Paso with traffic counts as volunteer work or as a fundraising event for the chapter; and reach out to local consultants to give presentations or workshops to the chapter. ITE has already done this by reaching out to Mr. Jeff Shelton from the Texas A&M Transportation Institute to give a presentation regarding connected vehicles to the ITE student chapter and the Transportation Leadership Council Student Chapter at UTEP during May 2017.

Another plan ITE has is to get more involved at UTEP by participating in intramural sports such as basketball, volleyball, and dodgeball. Intramural sports like these not only allow ITE members

to bond with each other and connect with other UTEP students, it also allows members to destress and get exercise throughout the academic school year. The UTEP ITE chapter has a bright future ahead and plans to grow and become an organization in which the university may be proud of.

Roster of Student Chapter Members

#	Name	ITE ID	Degree	Expected Graduated Date
1	Balal, Esmaeil	1047534	Ph.D.	Dec-16
2	Borrego, Marianna	1045196	M.S	Dec-16
3	Borrego, Salvador	1058636	M.S	May-17
4	Gamez, Andrea	-	B.S.	May-18
5	Gold, Lukas	1064321	M.S.	May-17
6	Gurbuz, Okan	1064320	M.S.	Dec-17
7	Mercado, Mariana	1064348	B.S.	May-17
8	Salcedo, Karina	1059449	M.S	Dec-18
9	Tamrakar, Prajwol	1064214	Ph.D.	May-17
10	Vechione, Matt	1064269	Ph.D.	May-19