



Annual Report 2013-2014



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



**Annual Report of Student Chapter Activities
For the Period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014**

Student Chapter of:		
University of Texas at Austin		
1. Chapter Officers		
President	Jacob Gutekunst	
Vice President-Membership	Tyler Beduhn	
Vice President-Activities	Megan Hoklas	
Treasurer	Stasa Zivojnovic	
Secretary	Sergio Martinez	
2. Student Chapter Membership		
Number of Student Chapter Members: 50		
Number of Student Members of the Institute: 50		
Number of Students eligible to be Student Member of Institute: 50		
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: 626		
If not Civil Engineering, specify Department: Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering		
Full Time: 572	Part Time: 54	
Does your curriculum allow Undergraduate students to major or minor in Transportation: No		
Number of Graduate Students in Transportation:	Full Time: 42	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

Approved By

Sergio Martinez
Student Chapter Secretary
Email: sergio.martinez@utexas.edu

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

Submitted: March 31, 2014



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Student Chapter Message

We are pleased to submit the 2013-2014 Annual Report for the University of Austin Student Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. This year has been a great year of opportunities, some new and some from years past.

Our Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Student Chapter has included all new graduate students in activities and most in membership, and has been pursuing engagement with undergraduate students as well. The new members joining our organizations have brought with them more energy and new ideas to our chapters increasing our total to 49 (11% increase from the previous report). Our chapter membership is also very diverse

with over half being international students.

We continued some of our favorite recurring professional activities, including attending and presenting at the Texas ITE and Annual TRB Conferences, hosting distinguished and technical speaker presentations, organizing the new graduate student orientation events, and hosting our summer intern program. Highlights of the year included volunteering at the Adopt a Highway clean-up projects with the Texas Department of Transportation and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day. This year we also organized and attended a software training event for Synchro at the Sugar Land, TX offices of Trafficware, to train our members in this traffic software. Several members of our organization have received awards and recognition for their research as detailed later in this report. The chapter continues to manage a Facebook page and to partner with the University's Center for Transportation Research in an effort to reach a larger audience, including alumni, and prospective students for our program. In summary, the chapter strives to continue its dedication to professional development, social enrichment, and service in Transportation Engineering.

Chapter Activities Summary

Professional Development

Our chapter worked hard to offer various professional development activities this year which included participation at various technical conferences, networking events, and discussions with experts. Especially important was the opportunity to engage in discussions with prominent leaders in different transportation fields through our distinguished speaker series.

Distinguished & Technical Speakers

- ❖ **Jim Dale**, City of Austin. Topic: Traffic management strategies for Austin, and traffic calming devices. April 5, 2013.
- ❖ **Dr. David Brownstone**, University of California, Irvine. Topic: The neglected impact of measurement error on disaggregate transportation demand models. April 15, 2013.
- ❖ **Victor Mendez**, Federal Highway Administration. Topic: Pursuing innovation in Transportation. May 3, 2013.
- ❖ **Todd Hemingson**, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Topic: Project Connect. October 21, 2013.
- ❖ **Joseph Medici**, City of Austin Aviation Department. Topic: Comprehensive Airport Planning – Austin Style. October 25, 2013.
- ❖ **Dan Fagnant**, The University of Texas at Austin. Topic: Autonomous Vehicles: Anticipating impacts in a world of increasingly shared mobility. November 8, 2013.
- ❖ **Helen Adlington & Stephen McIlwane**, Transport of London. Topic: London cycle super highways. November 22, 2013.
- ❖ **Dr. Yi-Chang Chiu**, University of Arizona. Topic: Transportation demand ecosystem, and “Smartrek,” an application that rewards commuters for avoiding traffic. February 13, 2014.



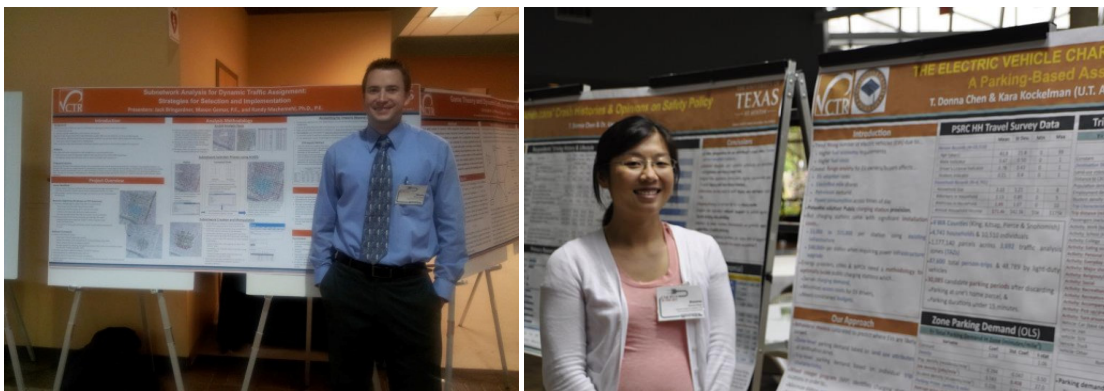
Mr. Victor Mendez, then Federal Highway Administrator, talking about innovation in transportation.

Conferences & More

Our member students at UT are highly encouraged to attend and present at transportation conferences to be at the cutting edge of research, foster their professional development, and to network with transportation professionals and students.

CTR Symposium

The Center for Transportation Research (CTR) at The University of Texas at Austin hosted its 11th Symposium on April 3, 2013. The Symposium's theme was "Energy is the Key," and our members were present not only to attend the sessions, but also to present their research, as seen in the pictures below.



Our students presented their research at the CTR Symposium. Left, Mason Gemar. Right, Donna Chen.

TexITE Fall Meeting

Our members attended the fall Texas ITE (TexITE) meeting this past September in Clear Lakes, where some presented their research in the student poster sessions, and the rest participated in the discussions. We also had a team participating in the Texas Hold'Em poker game.



UT's ITE chapter members at the TexITE meeting. Left, Brice Nichols receives a TexITE fellowship. Right, PhD student Daniel Fagnant presents his research in the student poster session.

2014 Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Conference

The 2014 TRB Annual Conference was held in Washington, D.C., January 12-16. As usual, most ITE members attended and many presented their research. Additionally, the ITE Chapter sponsored our sixth annual UT Alumni Happy Hour on January 13, giving our student members a great chance to meet and connect with UT alumni.



PhD student Mubassira Khan presenting her research poster.

SYNCHRO Training

Almost a dozen of our members attended a hands-on training session to learn Synchro traffic software, as well as to tour Trafficware's offices in Sugar Land, TX, on March 21, 2014. The students were accompanied by Dr. Randy Machemehl, UT Austin's professor of Traffic Engineering and Life Member of ITE. It was a great experience for all involved and future events are hopeful.



Service Activities

Community service is an integral part of the mission at our ITE chapter because we see it not only as a way to give back to the community, but also as an effective way to enhance awareness about the importance of transportation in everyday life. As such, each year our members participate as volunteers in various activities through the University and the city.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

A traditional event during Engineers Week at the University of Texas at Austin is the annual Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day for girls in grades first to eight. During this day, students and their parents are invited to UT to spend an afternoon learning how fun it is to be an engineer.

The ITE chapter once again volunteered and hosted an activity room to teach the girls about transportation engineering. Specifically, activities included traffic operations simulations and conversations about basic traffic operations and the importance of safe driving.



Our students helping during the traditional “Introduce a girl to engineering” day.

Adopt-a-Highway

UT’s ITE chapter, in conjunction with the Intelligent Transportation Society of America student chapter, joined the “Adopt-a-Highway” Program, a nationally and internationally recognized



litter-prevention effort, which attempts to save taxpayers' dollars and keep our rights of way clean. Our organization adopted a two-mile stretch of highway for two years, and agreed to pick up litter two times per year. The first pick-up was done on Saturday, May 5, 2013, while the second one was on October 18, 2013. The Adopt-a-Highway Initiative allows our organization to make a direct impact on our area's roadways while raising awareness about littering.



Taking care of our adopted highway. Left, Diniece Peters and Tyler Beduhn. Right, Brice Nichols.

PSU Bicycle Survey

Researchers at Portland State University are carrying out a national study of separated bike lanes in six cities across the United States. The project's goals are to find out how well the cycle tracks are working, how they are impacting neighborhoods, what people experiences are with them, and what needs to be improved. Our organization identified this effort as a great opportunity to help fellow transportation researchers with their study and for this reason, our members helped distribute surveys to bicyclists in June and November of 2013. We organized teams and helped them at various locations and during different time periods.

Social Events

Our chapter makes sure to provide opportunities to relax and socialize to our members, and they love it! We are very proud of the sense of community among the graduate students and faculty in our department, and the chapter's social activities are a key component of this.

In the past year, we created a variety of social events to welcome summer interns and new graduate students and also to entertain our current students.



ITE members included: Mason Gemar, Juan Diego Porras and Sergio Martinez (standing) and Pedro Serigos and Mallory Necessary (kneeling).

Intramural competitions always provide a great opportunity to exercise and this year we had a great participation. Some of our members played in the soccer tournament where they reached the second position in their division, making it undefeated until the final game. Way to go guys!

While in Washington D.C. to attend the TRB conference, we sponsored the sixth annual UT Alumni Happy Hour on January 13, which gave our members a chance to network with UT alumni, students from other universities, and transportation professionals.



Enjoying the UT Alumni Happy hour during TRB. Left: Jake Gutekunst, Tyler Beduhn, Ankita Chaudhary and Sudesh Agrawal. Right: World Bank engineer Alex Serrano departs with UT students Sergio Martinez and Sebastian Astroza.



As part of the Undergraduate Summer Internship in Transportation (USIT) program, in the summer of 2013 we hosted a group of top undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing graduate studies in transportation. Our chapter was in charge of helping and entertaining the interns with a variety of activities.



ITE members having a good time with the USIT interns.

This year we coordinated with the TexITE Capital Area Section to have a joint happy hour event. The event took place at Trudy's Texas Star near the University of Texas Campus and provided a way for current students to network with professionals.

Additionally, we hosted an end of the semester celebration for everyone to get together one last time before the holiday break and to say goodbye to the many graduating students.

Throughout the past year, students have participated in many lunches, potlucks and other gatherings. This semester we held an International potluck as well as a Thanksgiving potluck.

These are great events for everyone to connect with each other and enjoy different cultures.

Communications

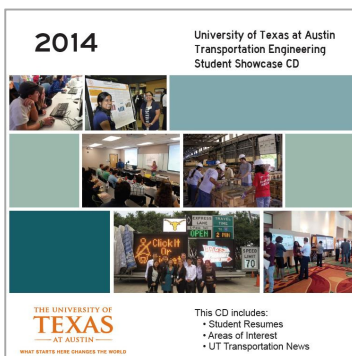
Biannual Newsletter



In collaboration with the ITS America student chapter, we produce a biannual newsletter for the Transportation Program here at UT Austin. The newsletter serves to highlight events and activities as well as the many achievements of our transportation students. It is distributed to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and corporate partners of our program.

Social Media: Facebook

In March 2013, UT Austin’s ITE Chapter launched a Facebook page to feature announcements about our many activities: meetings, lectures, and social events, as well as to share updates on the latest news and articles about transportation. The page has been a success, allowing the chapter to communicate with students, alumni, other ITE student chapters and transportation organizations.



Resume CD

We collected the resumes of our members to be compiled into a Resume CD. This CD serves to highlight our accomplishments and it is a great networking tool: a few of our recent graduates had been contacted by their current employers through the information contained in this CD. The ITE student chapter



distributes the CDs to transportation professionals during conferences, such as the TexITE meetings and TRB.

Bulletin Board

A great way to encourage undergraduate engineering students to get involved in the ITE chapter activities, as well as to highlight the chapter to faculty and visitors is by advertising what we do. For this, all of our professional and departmental activities are posted on our bulletin board in the Civil Engineering building.





Student Recognition, Awards & Honors

- ❖ Former PhD student & ITE student member, **Marisol Castro**, supervised by Dr. Chandra Bath, received the 2013 Leadership Legacy Scholarship, awarded by the Heart of Texas Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS).
- ❖ PhD student, **T. Donna Chen**, supervised by Dr. Kara Kockelman, received the 2013 Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the Heart of Texas Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS).
- ❖ PhD student, **Meredith Cebelak**, supervised by Dr. C. Michael Walton, was chosen for the 2013 Eno Transportation Foundation's Leadership Development Conference, held in Washington DC on June, 2013
- ❖ PhD student, **Pravat Karki**, supervised by Dr. Amit Bhasin was chosen to participate in the 2013 IRF Road Scholar Program as an Executive Fellow, held in Washington D.C. during January 8-17, 2014.
- ❖ PhD student, **Mubassira Khan**, supervised by Dr. Randy Machemehl, received a **\$1000 scholarship** through ITS Texas in November at the ITS Texas 2013 Annual Meeting.
- ❖ PhD student **Rajesh Paleti**, supervised by Dr. Chandra Bhat, received the 2013 Milton Pikarsky Memorial Award for the best PhD dissertation in the transportation science and technology area, awarded by the Council of University Transportation Centers. His dissertation is entitled "On Integrating Models Household Vehicle Ownership, Composition, and Evolution with Activity-Based Travel Models."
- ❖ MS student **Sriram Narayanamoorthy**, supervised by Dr. Chandra Bhat, received the 2013 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 "On Accommodating Spatial Dependence in Bicycle and Pedestrian Injury Counts by Security Level."
- ❖ M.S. student **Christina Bernardo**, supervised by Dr. Chandra Bhat, received the 2013 C.V. Wootan Memorial Award for the best MS thesis in the transportation policy and planning area, awarded by the Council of University Transportation Centers. Her thesis is entitled "An Empirical Investigation into the Time-Use and Activity Patterns of Dual-Earner Couples With and Without Young Children."
- ❖ M.S. student **Christina Bernardo**, supervised by Dr. Chandra Bhat, received the 2013 SWUTC Naomi Ledé Outstanding Masters Student Award, awarded by the Southwest Region University Transportation Center.
- ❖ PhD student **Meredith Cebelak**, supervised by Dr. C. Michael Walton, received the 2013 Outstanding Student Award, awarded by the Texas Institute of Transportation Engineers to recognize the outstanding student member in each of the TexITE Student Chapters.
- ❖ PhD student **Daniel Fagnant**, supervised by Dr. Kara Kockelman, had his research work for the annual William P. Eno Research Paper on vehicle automation presented to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.



- ❖ PhD student **Daniel Fagnant**, supervised by Dr. Kara Kockelman, received First Place for the 2013 Student Essay Competition, awarded by ITS America. The Student Essay Competition is designed to encourage student interest and future participation in the development of ITS solutions. His paper is entitled “Environmental Implications for Autonomous Shared Vehicles Using Agent-based Model Simulation” by D.J. Fagnant and K. Kockelman.
- ❖ MS student **Christopher Melson**, supervised by Dr. Stephen Boyles, received the 2013 Outstanding Student Paper Award, awarded by the Texas Institute of Transportation Engineers to recognize the outstanding technical paper prepared by a student member of TexITE. His paper is entitled “The Influence of Bridge Facility Attributes on Bicycle Travel Behavior” by C. Melson, J.C. Duthie, and S.D. Boyles.”
- ❖ MS student **Christopher Melson**, supervised by Dr. Stephen Boyles, received the 2013 Daniel B. Fambro Student Paper Award, awarded by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), in recognition of his paper entitled "The Influence of Bridge Facility Attributes on Bicycle Travel Behavior" by C. Melson, J.C. Duthie, and S.D. Boyles.
- ❖ **Sergio Martinez, Daniel Fagnant, and Brice Nichols** received 2013-2014 Eisenhower Graduate Transportation Fellowships, from the Universities and Grants Programs of the National Highway Institute, Federal Highway Administration.



ITE Student Chapter Advisor, Dr. Chandra Bhat with the Council for University Transportation Center’s awards recipients. (L - R) Sriram Narayanamoorthy, Chandra Bhat, Christina Bernardo, and Rajesh Paleti.

**Member Roster**

	Last Name	First Name	Degree
1	Agrawal	Sudesh	Graduate
2	Ahsan	Sanjida	Graduate
3	Al-Amin	Md.	Graduate
4	Arega	Zelalem	Graduate
5	Arteaga	Janette	Undergraduate
6	Astroza	Sebastian	Graduate
7	Bansal	Prateek	Graduate
8	Beduhn	Tyler	Graduate
9	Bringardner	Jack	Graduate
10	Buddhavarapu	Prasad	Graduate
11	Burton	Maria	Graduate
12	Cebelak	Meredith	Graduate
13	Chaudhary	Ankita	Graduate
14	Chen	Kuan-Yu (Tommy)	Graduate
15	Chen	Tong Donna	Graduate
16	Choubassi	Carine	Graduate
17	Dubey	Subodh	Graduate
18	Fagnant	Daniel	Graduate
19	Gutekunst	Robert J. (Jake)	Graduate
20	Hall	Andrea	Graduate
21	Han	Zhe	Graduate
22	Hoklas	Megan	Graduate
23	Jafari	Ehsan	Graduate
24	Jaeger	Chelsea	Undergraduate
25	Karki	Pravat	Graduate
26	Khan	Mubassira	Graduate
27	Kim	Moo Yeon	Graduate
28	Levin	Michael	Graduate
29	Lim	Taehoon	Graduate
30	Martinez	Sergio	Graduate
31	Motamed	Moggan	Graduate
32	Murshed	Mohammad Neaz	Graduate
33	Nyanhongo	Solomon	Undergraduate
34	Porras Alvarado	Juan Diego	Graduate
35	Rambha	Tarun	Graduate
36	Ratke	Stephen	Graduate
37	Reiter	Matthew	Undergraduate
38	Sakib	Nazmus	Graduate
39	Serigos	Pedro	Graduate
40	Shah	Rohan	Graduate
41	Singh	Amit	Graduate
42	Stone	Cody	Graduate
43	Suescun Contreras	David	Graduate
44	Sultana	Sharmin	Graduate
45	Tang	Shoupeng	Graduate
46	Wafa	Zeina	Graduate
47	Walthall	Rydell	Undergraduate
48	Wang	Tan	Graduate
49	Xu	Qinwu	Graduate
50	Zivojnovic	Stasa	Graduate