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President's Message

C. Brian Schamburger, P.E., PTOE

Howdy TexITE Members!

I hope everyone is having a wonderful 2011. Many of you were fortunate enough to attend our first ever Fall TexITE meeting in Garland. I'm pretty sure my numbers are correct, but I think the Garland meeting was the highest attended meeting in the history of TexITE. A special thanks to Allison Williams (City of Garland) and the rest of the Local Arrangements Committee for hosting an amazing meeting. It was truly a meeting to remember (especially with Dave Carter's singing).

As we approach the holiday season, I'm hopeful that our TexITE family can give something back to our communities. If you attended the meeting in Garland, you may remember the session on Distracted Driving. That presentation left a lasting impression on me, and I think about it daily as I drive around town with my iPhone tucked by my side. I'll be the first one to admit that I still struggle with it. I want to be responsive to my family, friends, and clients. And what's the harm? How dangerous can it be to take a few seconds to respond to a text with a simple "Yes" or "No"? Well, as transportation professionals we know just how dangerous it can be. Those few seconds can change lives forever, and it's just not worth it.

I first heard the Distracted Driving presentation at an Oklahoma Traffic Engineering Association (OTEA) meeting earlier this year. Since then, our Oklahoma ITE partners have initiated a public outreach program focused on educated local high school students on the severity of distracted and impaired driving. The response they received from their local school districts has been promising, and I would like TexITE to follow in their footsteps. I asked for support following the presentation in Garland, and the response I received was overwhelming. So what's next? The Board is establishing a committee to develop a strategy to move forward. I will chair the committee, which should give me something to do as I ease into the role of Past President. I recently received the presentation material from OTEA, and our committee plans to

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Save the Date!
TexITE Spring Meeting
San Marcos, Texas
March 28—30, 2012

South Texas Regional Conference

Derek Mueller, EIT

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 speaker, **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

(Continued on page 5)

Fall Meeting Wrap Up

Allison Williams, EIT

For the first time in TexITE history, the City of Garland hosted a TexITE District Meeting. The September meeting was held at the newly opened Hyatt Place Hotel. After two months of weather in the 100's and an exceptional drought, the golf tournament teams enjoyed playing in a light rain brought in by a long awaited cool front. The



The Hyatt Place in Garland

Wednesday night Highway Products Group Reception was a great success with all booths selling out! The night continued with the popular Texas Hold 'Em tournament sponsored by the Consultant's Council of TexITE.

This year's technical program, orchestrated by Dave Carter, was packed with excellent sessions, including two current hot topics, Distracted Driving and Roundabouts. The Kickoff Luncheon featured keynote speaker Mayor James Brainard from Carmel, Indiana



Mayor Brainard and Robert Wunderlich

who spoke on the positive impacts roundabouts have had on his city. A Highway Capacity Manual Workshop was also offered and not only was there 37 in attendance, but with it came an abundance of requests for more HCM training and future offerings.

The Thursday night social was highlighted by everyone feasting on the famous fixins from the local favorite res-

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The Winner Is...

Melisa Finley, P.E.

Transportation Engineer of the Year



Chris Poe, P.E.

Section Activities Award—1st Place



Greater Houston Section

Younger Member of the Year



Jennifer Butcher, P.E.

Technical Paper Award



Dhruva Lahon, P.E.

The Winner Is...

Texas District Traffic Bowl Winner



Texas A&M University

Texas District Fellowship



Katherine Kortum

A View from Campus

UTEP Student Chapter



The University of Texas at El Paso – Institute of Transportation Engineers (UTEP-ITE) chapter had the highest participation level among all other graduate schools in the Texas District at the TexITE Fall, 2011 Meeting. We attended with a group of ten transportation engineering graduates (David Manzano, Lorenzo Cornejo, Edgar Saucedo, Nela Blejcharova, Marketa Vavrova, Stefania Semanova, Ivana Simkova, Jana Cervinska, Petr Malina and Jiri Tylich) and two doctoral students (Mouyid Islam and Yubian Wang). Within our group of twelve students, there is a special group of seven graduate students who were exchange students from the Czech Republic and Slovakia as part of a very recent Dual Master's Degree Program between UTEP and the Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU), in the Czech Republic and the University of Zilina (UNIZA) in the Slovak Republic. TexITE meetings are considered very important for our ITE chapter because they offer us an opportunity to network, attend technical presentations and to continue our tradition of TexITE participation. We intend to continue sending UTEP-ITE delegations to TexITE meetings in the future.

We enjoyed our time in Garland while we participated in the Highway Capacity Manual Workshop and the Technical Tours in the Dallas area, the Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament, Karaoke Night at the Firewheel Pavilion and the luncheons. The professional members of ITE were welcoming and friendly to our students. We also appreciated their willingness to share updates on their technical projects. The friendly environment created by the members of ITE

President's Message, Cont.

(Continued from page 1)

start working to update the presentation to include current statistics from Texas.

I urge you to get involved and see if TexITE can make a presentation in your community. Even if you aren't comfortable in making the presentation

South Texas Regional Conference, Cont.

(Continued from page 2)

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. 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.



A View from Campus, cont.

(Continued from page 5)

made us comfortable enough to participate in the various meeting activities, which, in turn, allowed us to enhance our overall knowledge of the transportation engineering field.

The Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament was a sheer fun social event where our members interacted friendly with other ITE members. Karaoke Night was the most memorable experience for us as a group because of our song by The Beatles called *I want to hold your hand*. After this song we were proclaimed the "International BEATLES signing society" by ITE International President, Mr. Robert Wunderlich. A very noticeable and attractive event was the student poster session where the UTEP-ITE chapter presented four posters (more than any other school) on their recently conducted research, *Framework Analysis of Cross Border Mass Transit Operation*, by David Salgado; *Single and Multiple Vehicle Large Truck-involved Collisions on Highways: An Exploratory Analysis*, by Mouyid Islam, EIT and Salvador Hernandez, PhD; *Village of Vinton Multipurpose Center Parking Lot Design*, by Edgar Saucedo, EIT and Lorenzo Cornejo, EIT; and *Safety of Dual Right-turn Lanes*, by Yubian Wang and Dr. Yi Qi. We had the opportunity to answer many challenging and interesting questions on the practical aspects of research by the experienced, and well-known, transportation engineers at the meeting. UTEP-ITE members were also encouraged and inspired by the UTEP alumni currently working for transportation firms around Texas.

The TexITE poster presentations motivated our members to increase our public speaking, improve our presentation skills and to socialize in a professional atmosphere. In addition to all of the technical and social events, the business luncheon was a fun memory for our chapter because we won 2nd place for the student paper award and a door prize. We are looking forward to attending and participating in the TexITE Spring Meeting in San Marcos.



Fall Meeting Wrap Up, cont.

(Continued from page 2)

restaurant Babe's Chicken House. The evening was topped off with Karaoke night that was not only a hit for the members, but also the students!

The meeting closed with the Business Luncheon where Brian Shamburger ended his year term as President and Gary Thomas ended his three year term as International Director. Their leadership during their time in office is very much appreciated by all within the organization. Next years officers were installed with Dave Carter as president, Melisa Finley as Vice President, Kirk Houser as Secretary/Treasurer and Gilmer Gaston as International Director.




The meeting hosted 43 students representing 5 different schools, nine of which presented posters during the session breaks. There were 37 vendor booths sold, an additional 36 vendor badges, 221 members and speakers, which brought the meeting attendance to a grand total of 337 registrations.

For those who were in attendance, thank you for your participation. Our organization is as great as it is because of everyone's willingness to be an active member. I look forward to our next district meeting, and can't wait to see everyone again in San Marcos!

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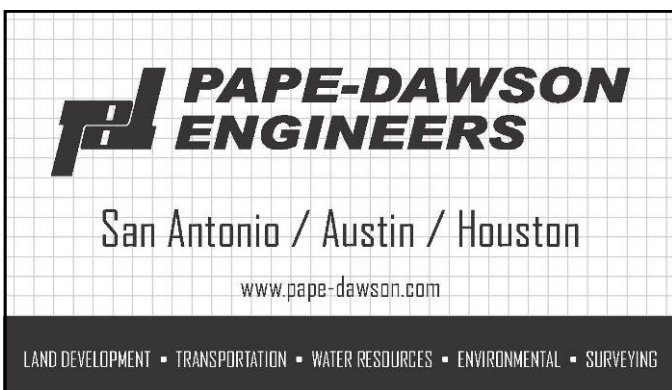
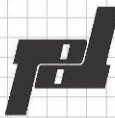
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Committee Chairs

<p>Newsletter Editor: Matt Johnson Freese and Nichols, Inc. Phone: (832) 456-4729 OMJ@freese.com</p> <p>Past Presidents: Wayne Kurfees Kimley-Horn and Associates Phone: (972) 770-1320 wayne.kurfees@kimley-horn.com</p> <p>Legislative: Walter Ragsdale Ragsdale Consulting Phone: (214) 893-3230 walter.ragsdale@ragsdaleconsulting.com</p> <p>Technical: Paul Luedtke HDR/WHM Paul.Luedtke@hdrinc.com</p> <p>Consultants Council: Paul Luedtke HDR/WHM Paul.Luedtke@hdrinc.com</p>	<p>Webmaster: Gary Thomas Texas Transportation Institute Phone: (979) 458-3263 g-thomas@tamu.edu</p> <p>Highway Products Group (HPG): Vacant Contact Dave Carter if you are interested in this position. Dave.Carter@cor.gov</p> <p>Membership: Nanditha Togar Urban Engineers Group Phone (214) 252-1600 nandithatogar@urbanengineersgroup.com</p> <p>Younger Members: Matt Sneed Kimley-Horn and Associates Phone: (972) 776-1762 matt.sneed@kimley-horn.com</p> <p>Awards: Melisa D. Finley Texas Transportation Institute Phone: (979) 845-7596 m-finley@tamu.edu</p>	<p>District Administrator: Jim Williams University of Texas at Arlington Phone: (817) 272-2894 jimwilliams@uta.edu</p> <p>Transit: Tom K. Ryden Parsons Phone: (972) 244-6056 tom.ryden@parsons.com</p> <p>Future Engineers: Matt Johnson Freese and Nichols, Inc. Phone: (832) 456-4729 OMJ@freese.com</p> <p>Program Committee: Dave Carter City of Richardson Phone: (972) 744-4320 dave.carter@cor.gov</p>
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Freese & Nichols
c/o: Matt Johnson, PE, PTOE, PTP
11200 Broadway Street
Suite 2332
Pearland, Texas 77584