



texite

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Brian Bochner Elected ITE Honorary Member

Author: Emily Braswell, AICP, Wilbur Smith Associates

Congratulations to Brazos Valley Section member Brian Bochner. Brian was recently elected to honorary membership in ITE. Honorary membership is the highest recognition of notable and outstanding professional achievement presented by ITE. Since 1933, when the first Honorary Member was selected, only 74 individuals have been so honored. Brian joins the distinguished ranks of Honorary Members such as Charles DeLeuw, Robert Barton, Burton Marsh, Jack Keese, Larry Dondanville, John De Shazo, Neil Rowan, John Exnicios and John Edwards.



Brian Bochner

Brian has long been an active member of ITE and a leader in Traffic Engineering and Transportation Planning. He received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley in 1966 and his Master's degree in Transportation Engineering in 1967. He went to work for DeLeuw Cather in 1966 and then moved to Barton Aschman Associates in 1969 where he stayed until 2000 achieving the position of Senior Vice President for Parsons Transportation Group. Since that time he has served as a Senior Research Engineer in Transportation Planning at Texas Transportation Institute.

When asked about his early involvement, Brian said, "I couldn't imagine ever being in a leadership role at the national level. Those are the folks you read about in books."

He first became involved in ITE in Chicago in 1970 where he participated in the local chapter. He found the group to be a lively invigorating group with a strong social and technical orientation focused on traffic and transportation. When he first volunteered to serve on a national committee for public relations for transportation engineers, he never dreamed that he would become so involved at the national level.

In 1977 at the International ITE meeting, Brian proposed an idea to Dean Quinby who was an early multi-modal specialist at PB. Brian suggested that it would be really good to come up with a protocol for Planning Urban and Regional Arterial Systems by merging and updating two existing ITE recommended practices for planning freeway systems and arterial systems. When Quinby suggested that Brian form a committee to do just that and to chair it, Brian naively agreed. The result was one of the few guides for planning urban and regional arterial systems.

Luckily, he didn't learn his lesson then and kept actively volunteering. He served on the Technical Council for over a decade and rose through the ranks to serve as the final chair of that council before it evolved into the present Coordinating Council of which he became the first chair in 1993. During his years on the two councils, he was involved in establishing the Transportation Planners Council and served as a member of the Consultants Council Executive Committee.

It was during this time that TexITE named Brian the 1991 Transportation Engineer of the Year,

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Welcome to the

2007 TexITE Summer Meeting

Fifth Season Inn

Amarillo, TX

June 14—16, 2007

Register Now, Online
at

www.texite.org/summermeeting

Details on Page 7

From the Editor's Desk

I am very glad to present the first newsletter of the year. The Newsletter Committee has made certain refreshing changes to the newsletter, based on your responses to the readership survey conducted last year.

First, the newsletter has been moved out of the Members Only area of the TexITE web site. You no longer need to log in to download any of the TexITE newsletters. The change came into effect after the TexITE Winter Meeting at Houston on February 5, 2007. The initial response to the change seems to be positive. As of January 30, 2007, before the change, Fall 2006 newsletter was viewed 173 times and Winter 2006 newsletter 110 times. After the login-in restrictions have been removed, the Fall 2006 newsletter has been viewed 260 times and Winter 2006 newsletter 355 times till date.

Second, in order to keep you up-to-date with the latest news and research activities from around the country, several new sections have been added to the newsletter. Informed Reader, News You Can Use and interviews with distinguished professionals from our field are some of the new features. We hope to include these three sections in the future issue of the newsletter regularly.

Third, a section titled 'Student Research Corner', which highlights a research project conducted by students from one of the universities in Texas is a new addition. In this issue, a project being conducted by students at University of Texas at El Paso is

presented. I thank Dr. Ruey Cheu, assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at University of El Paso and the University's Student Chapter advisor for encouraging the students to submit their research work to TexITE newsletter. In addition, I also appreciate the students for taking their time to send us an abstract of their research work.

Finally, don't forget to provide us with articles for the next issue of the newsletter. Hope to see you all in Amarillo!

Praveen Pasumarthy
Editor



Praveen Pasumarthy

What's Your E-mail?

This newsletter is distributed primarily by e-mail. If you are a TexITE member and did not receive this newsletter electronically from TexITE, please update your information. You can do this by contacting the roster manager, Susan Langdon at roster@texite.org

Awards Committee Update

The District 9 (TexITE) Awards Committee would like to promote the following awards. Please consider applying for or nominating someone for these awards. The announcements and applications for these awards may be accessed at www.texite.org. Questions should be directed to Melisa Finley, Awards Committee Chair, 979-845-7596, m-finley@tamu.edu.

TexITE Younger Member of the Year Award

The TexITE Younger Member of the Year Award is presented annually to recognize an individual young member of TexITE for leadership, commitment to excellence and activism within TexITE and other professional groups. Eligibility criteria for award are limited to those members of TexITE who are age 35 or younger. Past recipients of this award are not eligible. Nominees shall have demonstrated unusual or continuing and out-

standing contributions to TexITE and other professional groups through their leadership, commitment to excellence and activism. The deadline to apply for the award is May 15, 2007.

TexITE Transportation Engineer of the Year Award

The Transportation Engineer of the Year Award is presented annually to recognize an individual member of TexITE for outstanding practice, teaching or research of the science and art of transportation engineering in the State of Texas. Criteria for award is that nominees shall be a member of TexITE, licensed to practice engineering in the State of Texas and have demonstrated unusual or continuing and outstanding contributions to the transportation engineering profession in any of the areas of administration, professional practice, teaching or research. The deadline to apply for the award is May 15, 2007.

International Director's Message

Dear Texas District Colleagues:

It gives me great pleasure to report that Brian Bochner of Texas and Andrew O'Brien of Australia were elected as Honorary Members by the ITE Board of



Robert Wunderlich
International Director

Direction. Honorary membership is the highest honor that can be bestowed by the Institute. Those of us in Texas are already familiar with Brian's many contributions to transportation engineering, to the profession, and to ITE as an organization. Likewise, Andy O'Brien of Australia has played a key role in fostering the international aspects of ITE. I like to say that Andy brought Australia to ITE. I was introduced to Andy by Dan Fambro to work on opportunities for bringing new ideas to professionals in Texas. Andy subsequently volunteered to present workshops on both Road Safety Audits and Traffic Calming – Down Under Style at the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Both Brian and Andy have had a profound influence on my career and life, and it was a privilege to be on the Board at the time of their election. I cannot imagine two more deserving individuals.

Our own Jason Crawford is on the ITE Task Force for a Membership Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation Plan and participated in a brainstorming session on this very topic in Washington, D.C. The results of that meeting are being used to develop a plan of work for this effort. If you have ideas about this issue, please let Jason or me know about them. Texas is being held forth as an

(Continued on page 16)

Message from the President

Summer is close at hand. At the end of May, kids complete another school year. Summer vacation and travel will kick-off with Memorial Day weekend. And, the Texas Legislature will be concluding a very busy session with actions that directly impact our profession and our state's transportation system.

Our own, Walter Ragsdale regularly follows the legislative actions relating to transportation. Again this year, basic information on bills was provided to our District membership. There are several bills that greatly impact our profession relating from automated enforcement to comprehensive development agreements. It is very important that we educate ourselves of the intent and language in these bills, and to make our opinions known to our state representatives. The legislative process on the floor of the House or Senate can be much like a white water rafting trip – very fluid, very quick, with bumps and surprises along the way.

Amarillo is hosting the summer meeting from June 14-16. Watch your email for the registration notice. Rick Charlton is putting together an interesting technical program. Ballots will be collected to elect the District Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer and to approve by-laws changes. Our host, Taylor Withrow, arranged our Friday dinner with clean, fresh air and talented live entertainment – Palo Duro Canyon and the spectacular show Texas! Bring the family and learn more about the West and some of Texas' rich history.

You will see a new call for abstracts for the Winter 2008 meeting in this issue. Our first call for abstracts for the Winter 2007 meeting didn't yield any response. The Summer 2007 meeting call yielded only two responses. You have success and lessons to share with your peers. I challenge you to respond to the current call for abstracts. Your response will ensure that a strong, diversified technical program is developed.

During the summer, ITE International will send out ballots for International officers. Our own Rod Kelly is a candidate for International Vice-President. I encourage you to cast your vote when you receive notice. It is a quick, painless, and more seriously, an important process. Let's make sure that the Texas District has a strong turnout.

In the winter issue, I stated that I would seek to improve our meetings. Winter meeting attendees received a meeting feedback survey. The results will be used to improve future meetings. Also, the Special Committee on Technical Meetings, chaired by Dave Carter, has begun their work. If you have any comments or concerns, please share them with Dave.

Have a safe, fun, and memorable summer!

Jason Crawford



Jason Crawford
President

Announcements

Houston Transportation and Mobility Conference

The 2007 Houston Transportation and Mobility Conference will be held on May 16 and 17 at the Hilton Hotel located at the UH main campus. The goal of the Conference is to provide a communication forum for transportation planners and engineers to better understand the transportation and mobility challenges encountered in the Houston Metropolitan area while providing the opportunity to learn about unique and successful national and international transportation projects.

Transportation professionals recognize the need to partner with educational and research institutions to meet current and future challenges. For this purpose one of the conference objectives is to raise funds and create scholarship endowments that will provide permanent scholarships at the University of Houston for area high school graduates wanting to pursue a career in transportation engineering.

This year's conference has the following topics:

- Funding of future transportation infrastructures and public private partnership
- Innovation in public transit projects and regional mobility
- Regional ports, freight traffic demand on regional transportation network
- Transportation, quality of life and economic development

Additional information about the conference can be obtained online at www.transportationandmobility.com

Call for Abstracts

Winter 2008 Technical Conference, Irving, Texas

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 2, 2007

The conference will be held on January 13-19, 2008 in Irving, Texas. Your ideas and proposals for technical session presentations are hereby requested! Conference information will be available on the district website (www.texite.org) along with contact information should you have any questions.

The conference will feature presentations chosen from abstract submittals that offer practical and innovative solutions to contemporary engineering and planning challenges. In our daily lives, many of us are involved in recently completed or on-going projects, successful agency programs, or research activities from which topic presentations may be developed. Most of us tend to humbly minimize the importance of our accomplishments, but in reality, sharing them with fellow professionals creates an environment of invigorating and innovative thought. Policies, procedures, and technical analysis methods are sought. The conference organizers invite you to submit abstracts on all transportation topics, such as:

- Public Involvement and Outreach
- Transit Planning or Operations
- Transportation Safety Issues
- Traffic Operations
- ITS Design and Communications
- Mitigating Construction Impacts
- Planning
- Signs and Markings
- Low-cost Congestion Solutions
- Pedestrians and Bikes
- Managing Special Events
- Resource Planning/Scheduling

E-mail abstracts prior to November 2, 2007 to rickc@ci.waco.tx.us. Please keep the abstract to 300 words and one page, including the following information: Author(s) and affiliation(s), mailing address, email, and FAX for author contact. Accepted abstracts will NOT be expected to prepare a technical paper for the conference.

If you have any questions about the abstracts please contact Rick Charlton, at E-mail rickc@ci.waco.tx.us or Telephone (254) 750-6634.

Freeway and Tolling Operations in the Americas

May 20-23, 2007 at Omni Hotel, Houston, Texas

TRB is sponsoring the Freeway and Tolling Operations in the Americas conference on May 20-23, 2007 in Houston, Texas. This conference is being hosted by the Texas Transportation Institute and additionally supported by Texas Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Transportation.

The conference will bring together professionals from freeway and tollway operations, emergency evacuation & highway finance to explore how pricing & public-private partnerships impact the operations of freeways & tollways. Registration, tentative program, & conference details are available online at www.tti.tamu.edu/conferences/ftoa

Obituary

Stewart C. Fischer

"If I were asked to express my philosophy of life I could sum it up in the admonition of Jesus that you should 'love the Lord your God with all your mind and all your heart and all your soul, and your brother as yourself.' I feel that I have had a good life and have been blessed in many ways. I have no way of knowing what is in store for me in the future, but I look forward to whatever time I have left in this life, and I believe that, in some way or another, there will be a life in the hereafter."

- Autobiography by Stewart Fischer, 1990

Stewart C. Fischer, P.E., a TexITE stalwart, passed away peacefully at his home in San Antonio, Texas on April 28, 2007 at the age of 83.

Stewart Fischer was born to Adolph and Anna Fischer on January 25, 1924 near Fischer Store in Comal County, Texas. His parents moved to New Braunfels in the latter part of 1924. Stewart attended public schools in New Braunfels and was high school class president for his freshman through senior grades.

He decided he wanted to be a Civil Engineer while he was still in high school for two reasons: he was interested in construction because of his father's trade, and Civil Engineers were paid \$125/month...a sum that seemed to be all the money in the world to him.

Stewart entered The University of Texas at Austin in 1942, where he studied Civil Engineering and played tuba in the Longhorn Band. While at UT, he joined the Enlisted Reserve Corps and entered the Army on June 1, 1943. In the spring of 1944, he was assigned to the 99th Infantry Division and went to the European Theater of Operations with the Division. He was wounded by a mine in a hedge row in Belgium and was taken to a hospital in England. After recuperation, he was assigned to the 6850th Press Censorship Detachment stationed in Paris, France where he served until the spring of 1946. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and other medals.

After Stewart returned to New Braunfels, he married Myra on September 10, 1946, a decision that he called "the smartest thing I have done in my entire life". Stewart received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in August 1948.

Upon graduation, Stewart went to work for the Texas Highway Department in the Houston Urban Expressways office. In August 1950, Stewart began post-graduate studies at the Bureau of Highway Traffic at Yale University on scholarship.



Stewart C. Fischer
(1972)

After graduating, Stewart accepted a position as the first traffic engineer for the City of San Antonio, earning the princely salary of \$505 per month. One of Stewart's goals was to serve the needs of the drivers, rather than to just build roads. He said that while attending UT he learned that engineering is 10% education and 90% common sense. He said that it requires four years to get the education, but the common sense comes over a lifetime.

After about 10 years as Traffic Engineer, Stewart's job title was changed to Director of Traffic and Transportation. As a result of his efforts, San Antonio completed its basic freeway system before any other major city in the state. During his tenure, San Antonio became the first city in the country to adopt reflective street name signs, to use raised ceramic buttons for pavement markings. He also installed the first computerized system to synchronize traffic signals...a decision that was characterized in the newspaper as "Fischer's Folly".

In July of 1980, Stewart took a leave of absence from the City and accepted a short-term contract to design a new state-of-the-art traffic signal system for Kuwait City, Kuwait. Shortly after returning from Kuwait in 1981, Stewart retired from the City of San Antonio and opened the San Antonio office of Walter P. Moore & Associates. Stewart retired from Walter P Moore in 1991, and had an active retirement. He and his wife continued traveling, eventually going to all 50 states and 35 countries during their life together.

Stewart was a charter member of the Texas Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and held all the offices, including the Presidency in 1965-66. In 1976, the Texas Section named him the "Traffic Engineer of the Year". He was a member of the International Board of Directors of the Institute of Transportation Engineers in 1971-72.

Stewart is survived by his wife Myra of San Antonio, daughter Nancy Shindler & her husband Don of Austin, son Ken Fischer & his wife Jackie of Gonzales, grandson Jeff Shindler & his wife Mandy of Dripping Springs, grandson Greg Shindler of Austin, great-granddaughter Kinley Shindler of Dripping Springs, his brother Elmo Fischer of New Braunfels, brother Al Fischer & his wife Martha of Shreveport.

Note: Much of the material above was taken from Stewart's autobiography entitled "Why I Am As I Am". In many cases, these are his words.

Amarillo ITS Program

Author: Praveen Pasumarthy, EIT, Wilbur Smith Associates

When you attend the TexITE Summer Meeting at Amarillo, you will have an opportunity to visit TxDOT's Transportation Management Center.

The Transportation Management Center is a part of Amarillo's ITS system also known as Panhandle Electronic Guidance and Safety Information System (PEGASIS). The Amarillo Region is located in the Texas Panhandle and corresponds to the 17-county TxDOT Amarillo District. The Amarillo Region is predominantly rural in nature, with the City of Amarillo serving as the major population center in the Region. Primary interstate and state routes that traverse the Region include I-40, I-27, US Highway 87/287, US 60, US 83, US 385 and Loop 335.

In the fall of 2002, the Amarillo Region completed Phase I of its ITS implementation, which includes:

- A transportation management center (TMC) at the TxDOT Amarillo District Office;
- ATMS software, developed by TxDOT, to manage & control the system from TMC;
- Five dynamic message signs (DMS) for motorist information on I-40, I-287 and US 287/87 (all are located near the City of Amarillo);
- Highway advisory radio (HAR), also to provide motorist information;
- Ten closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras on I-40, I-287 and US 287/87; and
- Telecommunications infrastructure.

With this initial phase in place, there is a foundation for continued ITS deployment and integration in the Region. Four additional phases are planned for the Region. Construction for Phase II of the ITS system began in the fall of 2006. Phase II will add additional cameras and DMS signs along I-40 and is expected to be completed by fall 2007. In addition, a T1 communication line is being constructed to link TMC with City of Amarillo's Emergency Management Center during Phase II. Robin Frisk, head of ITS Operations, informs that the remaining phases of ITS deployment are in the planning stage. "Phase III will focus on implementing the ITS facilities near the loop 335 around Amarillo and the subsequent phases will expand further outward", she said.

Recently PEGASIS introduced a new feature to the public called 'Mobile Web'. This feature enables people to access camera snapshots and DMS message signs through their cell phones

and/or blackberries. Robin says that this new feature is very useful to her and the supervisors, as it allows them to monitor the roadway information remotely and respond quickly to an emergency.



Traffic Management Center at TxDOT Amarillo District Office

I-40 is one of the most heavily traveled truck routes in the United States. Incidents, hazardous weather conditions, and/or major delays along I-40 will impact several other routes, and potentially I-40 motorists in neighboring states. Therefore, Amarillo's Traffic Management Center coordinates with the Department of Transportation and Police Departments of New Mexico and Oklahoma to minimize any impacts. There are also long stretches of this corridor through the Amarillo Region that are not convenient to any alternate routes. For that reason, Robin says, one of the main objectives of Amarillo's TMC is to inform the public of any roadway hazards in the panhandle before they leave Amarillo.

Make sure to add the technical tour to your calendar when you visit Amarillo for Summer TexITE Meeting and learn more about this nascent ITS program.

Note: Editor thanks Robin Frisk, ITS Operations at PEGASIS, for volunteering to talk about Amarillo's ITS program.

9th International Low Volume Road Conference

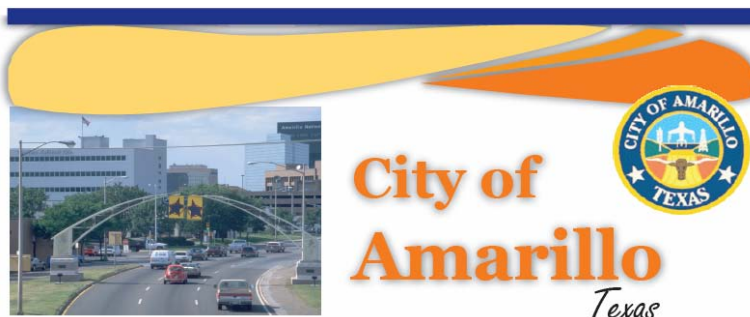
The 9th International Low Volume Roads Conference will be held June 24-27, 2007 at the Sheraton Austin Hotel in downtown Austin, Texas.

The conference, organized by the Transportation Research Board, is expected to bring more than 200 industry professionals to Austin in order to network and discuss many topics related to low volume roads, including construction, maintenance, planning, economics, environment, and more.

During the four-day event participants can choose from more than 20 different sessions, three field trips, and seven workshops. Two of the workshops will be conducted in both English and Spanish. An additional field trip to the Texas Transportation Institute is scheduled for June 28 for those interested. For more information, please visit the website www.trb.org/conferences/9lvr

2007 Summer TexITE Meeting

Fifth Season Inn
Amarillo, Texas
June 14—16, 2007
www.texite.org/summermeeting



Dear TexITE Member:

The City of Amarillo is pleased to host the Summer 2007 meeting of the Texas District of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. The meeting will be held June 14 through June 16 at the Fifth Season Inn, 6801 Interstate 40 West in Amarillo, Texas. Room rates are \$60 per night for single, double, or family. Call the motel directly at 806-358-7881 for reservations. Mention the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Room rate includes a breakfast bar. The special room rate expires May 24, 2007.

The program starts Thursday with a golf tournament and a technical tour of the TxDOT ITS facilities and the City of Amarillo shop. Thursday night the Highway Products Group opens their display followed by a Texas Hold'em Tournament sponsored by the Consultant's Council.

On Friday, the Highway Products Group continues to show us what is new in our chosen field. For TexITE members the day will round out with the Kickoff lunch and technical sessions. Spouses and kids will have trips to the Discovery Center, "Splash" Water Park, and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. Friday night's social will be a Bar-B-Que dinner in beautiful Palo Duro Canyon followed by the musical "Texas" about the history of the Texas panhandle.

Saturday are more technical sessions followed by the business lunch. Spouses and kids will have another chance to visit the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum.

Plan on spending some time before or after the convention on a family vacation in the Texas panhandle.

Sincerely,

Taylor Withrow

Local arrangements chair

Guest Activities

Don Harrington Discovery Center: Come get your hands-on science! Over sixty different permanent exhibits and three traveling exhibitions a year invite visitors of all ages to experiment, explore, create, tinker, play, solve, and discover with their own hands.

Splash Amarillo: The Panhandle's only water park is Splash Amarillo! There are shaded areas, a children's activity area, water slides, wave pool, a concession bar, and large arcade.

Panhandle Plains Historical Museum: Welcome to Texas' largest history museum. Explore our site and take a peek at more than 500 million years of history that spans the 26,000 square mile expanse and brings to life the vibrant spirit and history of the Panhandle Plains region.

Friday Night Social

Come join us for some spectacular scenery and entertainment at Palo Duro Canyon. Also known as the "Grand Canyon of Texas", Palo Duro Canyon is 120 miles long, as much as 20 miles wide, and has a maximum depth of more than 800 feet. Its elevation at the rim is 3,500 feet above sea level.



We'll enjoy a fantastic BBQ dinner & then attend TEXAS! Sit back & enjoy over 80 singers, dancers and musicians performing a musical about the settling of the Texas Panhandle with a 600-foot cliff in Palo Duro Canyon State Park as a backdrop.

Statements by Candidates for 2008 International Vice-President

Rodney (Rod) W. Kelly, P.E., Fellow

Vice President, Parsons Transportation Group, Dallas, TX, USA

ITE has been my passion for 45 years. I have supported and still do fully support ITE. I am committed to the educational and scientific principles that it stands for and its continuing mission to enrich and enhance the movement of people and goods worldwide.

ITE exists for the benefit of its members, the transportation professionals. ITE's officers and International Board of Direction are charged with knowing and anticipating the needs and expectations of members and responding accordingly.

If elected International Vice President, I will fulfill the responsibilities of my office through the enactment of **five major areas of emphasis** that I have developed and which are outlined below. I will further dedicate myself to ensuring that ITE is working for its members. ITE strives to continually excel in its commitment to the transportation profession. My pledge is to provide the leadership and support needed to fulfill that commitment.

PROVIDING MEMBERSHIP SERVICES FOR YOU

The theme, **membership services for you**, is timely and critical to the continued growth of ITE, the enrichment of its members and its responsibility to the transportation profession. To fulfill this vision, I have established membership growth and service goals that include:

- Advancing technical excellence and credibility
- Developing and mentoring the next generation of ITE leaders
- Increasing volunteer participation
- Identifying and grooming new members
- Sustaining current and seeking new revenue sources to keep ITE robust

I have developed **five major areas of emphasis** to accomplish these goals.

1. Knowing What Members Want and Need

- Seeking continuing, periodic input from the members on all aspects of membership services, especially regarding mega-issues
- Using focused communication mechanisms such as surveys, forums, e-mail and listening sessions at local meetings to identify and understand member needs

2. Responding with Specific Actions

Addressing and prioritizing mega-issues such as:

- Safety
 - Developing partnerships with agencies and groups such as TRB, AARP and AASHTO to address mutual issues of concern
 - Focusing on emerging issues such as aging drivers and driver distractions
 - Promoting the issues to elected officials and other decision-makers responsible for the allocation of funds
- Workforce Development
 - Partner with universities to promote careers in transportation
 - Continuing to provide relevant continuing education
 - Work with employers to promote value-based salary structures
 - Identifying other concerns through input and feedback from you, the members.



3. Developing Next-Generation Engineer/Professional Member Participation

Implementing a progressive Next-Generation Engineers council, standing committee, or forum that offers the following:

- Technical, management and ITE leadership training
- Mentoring programs
- Advice on professional registration and certification
- Forums to express membership needs and desires
- Opportunities to present innovative ideas to the entire membership

4. Enhancing Member Interaction Worldwide

- Supporting recommendations of Canadian and District 8 white papers
- Developing partnerships with professional societies, agencies and groups
- Expanding the Transit Council efforts in publishing articles on technical topics of worldwide interest to all technical councils

5. Increasing Participation in Council Activities

- Creating incentives to attract volunteers
- Implementing white paper recommendations to enhance member recruitment, management and recognition
- Focusing on next-generation members to take advantage of their energy, enthusiasm and insights
- Consulting similar organizations for additional ideas

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE TO FULFILL THE VISION

Served at all levels of ITE, including the International Board of Direction, representing two different Districts. Provided leadership and involvement in a broad range of ITE activities as a current member of the Coordinating Council and Chair of the Transit Council. Experienced with all modes of transportation and most technical areas of the profession. Experienced in the planning, design and operation of transportation systems. Experienced in the public, private and academic sectors. Served in numerous professional and private life leadership roles that afford the expertise and skills to serve as International Vice President.

SUMMARY

In summary, I have the technical knowledge and management skills to proficiently preside over the broad range of issues and personalities involved in the fulfillment of my vision for ITE.

If elected your International Vice President, my commitment will be to reduce my professional workload significantly and devote a substantial amount of my time to accomplishing the membership growth and service goals that are necessary to the continued growth of ITE. I will work diligently, patiently and persistently to ensure that ITE continues to extend and enhance the services we need and expect.

My proposed **five major areas of emphasis** are designed to accomplish the goals of seeking member input and providing services. It is my quest to see ITE offer every opportunity for each of its members to participate in ITE-sponsored activities that will be beneficial to both the individual member as well as the transportation profession as a whole.

Statements by Candidates for 2008 International Vice-President

Kenneth H. Voigt, P.E., Fellow

Senior Traffic Engineer, Ayres Associates, Waukesha, WI, USA

Over the past 40 years, I have been a traffic engineer, a transportation planner, a university adjunct professor and a proud member of ITE. I have just completed three years as an ITE International Director, developing our mega-issue program strategies. All of this has allowed me to appreciate the many facets of our ITE family. We have challenges ahead that we can meet with my toolbox of ideas.



do not want to see the future as a Bureau of Sewer, Water and Transportation!

- Awards
 - National awards recognize our profession as well as its outstanding achievements.
 - We need to publicize these successes at the grassroots level.
- Elected officials and the media
 - Establish a local elected officials briefing on transportation issues similar to ITE's monthly *Executive Digest*. We must encourage elected officials and media contacts to seek out ITE for current information.

KEN'S TOOLBOX FOR ITE'S FUTURE

Four main areas are critical to our profession's growth:

1. Core Technical Excellence. We must enhance our technical leadership in transportation.

- ITE Journal
 - Sponsor articles on timely technical topics.
 - Seek grassroots articles on current practices.
 - Increase university-published articles.
- Workshops and urban forums
 - Our Webinars reached 10,000 people last year. Webinars can be augmented with face to face workshops.
- Sponsored publications
 - Increase technical materials available and expand our financial support of important technical publications.

2. Membership (Project 20,000). We need to grow locally and internationally.

- Existing members
 - Enhance core services for our practicing transportation engineers and planners with a focus on increasing our government agency memberships.
- Student and academic members—Increase our appeal to academic members, by creating:
 - A "University Page" in every issue of *ITE Journal*
 - A peer review program that qualifies for tenure consideration
 - A national student competition that energizes university chapters and provides national media recognition for ITE
- Planners and designers
 - We must reach out to transportation planners and designers. They are an important part of the transportation solution for our communities.

3. International Membership. ITE's international role is a mega-issue, and all members benefit from understanding transportation issues around the world.

- Communication
 - Co-sponsor international symposiums.
 - Create International Activities Page in each issue of *ITE Journal*.
 - Sponsor an ITE international reception during TRB when many members are in the United States.
- E-membership
 - An e-membership category for international members could increase international benefits and reduce costs.
- Regionalism
 - Create international regions for transportation communication in regions such as Europe, Asia and South America. We need to work with transportation partners in developing countries where transportation safety is a major issue.

4. Enhancing Our Image. Communities and universities are dropping transportation engineering departments and programs. We

- ITE gear shop
 - Create an ITE gear shop, with logo clothing, portfolios & other items to show our pride in ITE and promote our organization.

ITE EXPERIENCE

2004–2006 International Director; 2006 International Annual Meeting Co-Chair; 2005 Transportation Achievement Award Committee Chair; District 4 Annual Meeting Chair; Wisconsin Member Program for Growth Chair; Traffic Engineering for Small Communities Workshop Founder; Technical Council Department Chair; District 4 Vice Chair; Wisconsin Section President; Multiplex Theater Trip Generation Task Force Chair; Nominations Committee; Smart Growth Task Force; Elected Leadership Task Force; Consultants Council Executive Committee.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

- M.S., Transportation Engineering, Univ of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
- B.S., Civil Engineering, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- Registered Professional Engineer in Wisconsin

AWARDS

2003 Voigt Soccer Park, City of Brookfield; 2002 Olympic Torch Runner; 2000 Wisconsin State Soccer Hall of Fame Inductee-Administrator; 2000 HNTB Fellow Technical Expert; 1998 Wisconsin Distinguished Service Award; 1998 University of Wisconsin–Madison Student Chapter Outstanding Instructor Award; 1998 AASHTO Exemplary Partner Award; 1996 Wisconsin Association of Consulting Engineers Engineering Excellence Award

WHY KEN?

It has been an honor to serve ITE as an International Director for the past three years. During this time, I have been actively involved in developing our mega-issues and determining how ITE can move these issues forward. I co-authored a white paper for our next mega-issue, "Raising the Image of Our Profession." I was co-chair for the ITE 2006 Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Milwaukee, WI, USA. I am also on the committees that developed our Elected Leadership Webinars and our current Membership Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation Task Force.

When I first joined ITE, I was mentored by Harvey Shebesta. I never thought I would have the opportunity to follow in his footsteps and run for ITE International Vice President. I have learned so much about the ITE family. This knowledge strengthened my commitment to ITE and what it stands for. My Olympic flame still burns with a passion to use my toolbox of ideas for ITE's future. I ask for your support in making a difference for our profession.

Brian Bochner Elected ITE Honorary Member

(Continued from page 1)

one of Brian's most treasured recognitions.

Brian became ITE International Vice President elect in the 1996 international ITE election. He served as the ITE International Vice President in 1997, the President in 1998 and Past President in 1999.

In addition, to his distinguished service to the profession through ITE, Brian has been a leader in transportation planning throughout his career in the United States. He was actively involved in the TOPICS program and helped to establish the first U.S. contra flow bus lanes and the first reversible streets in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1971.

In the late 1970's he was involved in the planning of a new arterial that was identified to serve the north end redevelopment of that city and the new TVA Building. The arterial traversed an historic area with several Civil War hospital buildings and was critical to the success of the redevelopment of the area. However, such an improvement had been considered for over 50 years and no one had been able to get it approved and funded. Brian was able to develop the project and move through the public involvement and approval process and get it built.

In the early 1980's he was involved in the planning for the 1982 World's Fair and developed a Parking and Transportation Operations Plan for 10,000 parking spaces and 750 tour buses per day in an area where there was very little land available. The plan resulted in the design and operations of the busiest bus terminal outside of New York City during the 6 months of its operation.

After completing his term as an officer for ITE, he decided that it was time to take a new direction in his career. He wanted to have the opportunity to develop new techniques and technologies for transportation and bring them into practice. He joined TTI's Center for Air Quality and was active in analyzing many of the proposed policies in air quality for TxDOT and TCEQ. He was instrumental in developing list of 100 ways to reduce roadway emissions. He also has led the statewide 'Drive Clean Across Texas' air quality public education and outreach campaign.

He was involved in the development and implementation of the safety protocols on METRO's Rail after a run of early accidents in Houston. When asked about that challenge, Brian said, "We had 30 days to study the accidents and get some solutions for METRO to put in place immediately and we succeeded."

Brian has also been involved in developing the prototype for a highly efficient border inspection station for commercial vehicles on the Texas-Mexico border and in developing the information on innovative financing that would expand and add to finance tools included in HB 3588 in 2003. He also put together a guidebook on partnering between state DOTs and local agencies using case studies of such projects as the Grand Parkway in Houston and Lake Woodlands Drive in the Woodlands.

Three major advances Brian would like to see happen in Texas and to help accomplish are to help bring a greater understanding of the benefits of access management to developers and public agencies; to position TxDOT and counties to more effectively preserve ROW for future corridors; and to convince Texans that toll roads are the best finance tool to fund the bulk of new routes and capacity on major highways.

"It feels good to receive the kind of recognition that the Honorary Membership brings and to be only the 74th one in ITE history. ITE has been a wonderful experience for me, giving me a chance to meet and work with people I would otherwise never have met. ITE is about networking, and lessons learned, and in building the confidence to try new things and get things done for better transportation. ITE has allowed me to meet people in all walks of Transportation and to exchange ideas with people from all over the world.

"I owe a debt of gratitude to Tom Brahm's the Executive Director of ITE, to Dean Quinby for giving me my first chance to serve in a leadership role, to Gene Wilson who encouraged me to take on leadership roles and to Fred Schweiger and Marty Blachman at Barton Aschman Associates for supporting me in my early ITE participation.

"I just learned an amazing amount and variety of technical, leadership, and coordination aspects of our profession, and had a lot of fun doing it."

On a personal note, I had the opportunity to work for Brian Bochner at BAA in Houston at the beginning of my career and to serve on the committee he formed to establish the Transportation Planners Council. Brian was and still is a great supporter of ITE and of young professionals getting involved and making a meaningful contribution.

Kudos to you, Brian!

Note: The Editor thanks Emily for volunteering to conduct the interview and Brian for accepting to take part.

Informed Reader

A Survey of Research From Around the Country

Eliminating Cross Median Fatalities

Source: www.onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/trnews/trnews248rpo.pdf

Thirty years ago, a driver crossing the median of an Interstate roadway had a good chance of crossing over the opposing lanes without conflict. Today, according to Missouri data, a motorist crossing the median is more likely to collide with another vehicle, and the chances are high that the opposing vehicle will be a large truck. To address this issue, the Missouri Department of Transportation (DOT) researched several options and decided to install a median cable barrier system on I-70 and on other Missouri Interstates. When the cable is struck, the posts yield and the cable deflects up to 12 feet, effectively catching and decelerating the vehicle and keeping it in the median. The installation of median cable barrier costs \$60,000 to \$100,000 per mile, depending on the amount of grading work required. An internal Missouri DOT study determined that the cable catches 95 percent of vehicles entering the median and keeps the vehicles from entering the opposing lanes. On Interstate 70, which links Kansas City and St. Louis, the number of cross-median fatalities had been increasing, reaching a peak of 24 motorists killed in 2002. The installation of 179 miles of median cable barrier on the freeway has nearly eliminated cross-median roadway deaths. In 2006, only two cross-median fatalities occurred on Interstate 70, a staggering 92 percent decrease.

Edge Line Effects on Rural Highways

Source: www.utexas.edu/research/ctr/pdf_reports/0_5090_2.pdf

The Center for Transportation Research at the University of Texas at Austin has released a report that explores the impacts of edge lines on driver behavior and reactions, including vehicle navigational and positioning issues, speed selection, and effect on driver visual perception.

The researchers observed that pavement markings located to the right of the car are detected more easily and at distances farther away when compared with the corresponding markings placed to the left of the car. However, compared to other types of longitudinal markings, the effect of edge lines on safety and driver behavior has been much less investigated. Stationary traffic observation, test driving, and several laboratory experiments were conducted on the selected rural two-lane highways with different roadway width before and after edge lines placement. The studies found that edge-line treatments on rural two-lane roadways may reduce accident frequency up to 26 percent and the highest safety impacts occur on curved segments of roadways with lane widths of 9 to 10 feet. Further, the treatments can increase speed on average by 5 mph, reduce vehicle fluctuation around trajectory center line by 20 percent and improve driver's estimation of roadway curvature.

Safety Effects of Left-Turn Phasing Schemes at High-Speed Intersections

Source: www.cts.umn.edu/Publications/ResearchReports/reportdetail.html?id=1124

The Center for Transportation Research at the University of Minnesota and researchers Gary A. Davis and Nathan Aul released a report that explores the safety effects of left-turn phasing schemes at high-speed intersections.

This research describes an effort in estimating crash modification factors (CMFs) associated with different left-turn phasing schemes, at intersections where the major approach speed limit exceeds 40 mph. For installation of signals at previously thru/stop-controlled intersections, rear-end crashes increased while right-angle crashes decreased. At one intersection where a signal was originally installed with permitted/protected phasing on the major approaches, researchers found evidence for an increase in major approach left-turn crashes, which vanished when the major approach left-turn treatment was changed to protected-only. For several other phasing changes it was not possible to con-

struct an after-treatment data set of sufficient size to permit reliable estimation of an effect.

This project also describes a simple simulation model for left-turn cross-path crashes, where a probabilistic gap acceptance model for the turning driver is combined with a standard braking model for the opposing driver. The model characterizes left-turn crashes as resulting when the turning driver accepts a minimal gap and takes an atypically long time to complete his/her turn, while the opposing driver takes an atypically long time to react before braking. Reconstruction of an actual fatal crash however was more consistent with the opposing driver reacting normally, but with the turning driver selecting an atypically short gap. Characterizing the rate at which such selection errors occur would then be necessary to accurately predict left-turn crash frequencies.

News You Can Use

A Collection of Articles and Events to Help Keep You Up-To-Date

Cell Phones and Highway Safety

Source: www.ncsl.org/print/transportation/2006cellphone.pdf

The National Conference of State Legislatures has released a report that explores the issue of cell phones and driving, as well as issues associated with the larger debate on driver distraction. The report examines the latest statistics and studies, details relevant laws and legislative activity, and analyzes critical issues related to this topic.

The report concludes that State legislative interest in cell phones and other potential distractions in motor vehicles is likely to continue. The trends in state legislation seem to indicate growing concern about both the quantity and sophistication of information and entertainment devices available to drivers. In addition, lawmakers now are turning their attention to a variety of other potentially distracting behaviors.

Existing **Texas State Law** prohibits driver under age 18 from using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle during the six-month period following the original issuance of a class A, B or C license. It also prohibits driver under age 17 from using a wireless communication device while operating a motorcycle during the six-month period following the initial license issuance. In addition, no video-receiving equipment, including a television or similar equipment, can be visible to the driver. Navigation systems are allowed. Digital systems used for commercial purposes are allowed.

Tax Credits for Hybrid Vehicles

Source: www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/07Jan/RS22558.pdf

Hybrid vehicles are propelled by a standard gasoline (or diesel) internal combustion engine in combination with an electric motor (and battery storage system), which improves fuel economy. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 replaced a \$2,000 deduction for hybrids with a system of tax credits that vary according to fuel efficiency and estimated lifetime fuel savings, compared with a 2002 comparable gasoline-only model. These credits, which range from \$250 to \$3,400 per vehicle, went into effect on January 1, 2006, and are available through December 31, 2009. However, there is an approximately 60,000-per-manufacturer limit on the number of hybrid vehicles that would qualify for the full credit. The 60,000-vehicle limit was imposed to limit the benefits accruing to foreign hybrid manufacturers, which currently dominate the hybrid market.

New TRB Circular

Source: *Traffic Engineering Council Spring 2007 Newsletter*

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) will be publishing a new circular entitled “Interim Materials on Capacity and Quality of Service Analysis of Interchange Ramp Terminals,” in fall 2007. The special weaving and short queue storage conditions typical of many freeway interchange ramp intersections require operations analysis techniques not currently available in the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM). This circular addresses this shortcoming of the HCM by providing new analytical tools for systematically evaluating the capacity, queuing and delay at freeway interchange ramp terminals. This circular also includes analytical approaches for quickly evaluating the traffic operations trade-offs of different interchange configurations.

Comments or questions regarding this circular can be referred to Dr. Lily Elefteriadou (elefter@ce.ufl.edu), lead author of this circular; Mr. Joel Marcuson (joel.marcuson@jacobs.com), chair of the subcommittee on interchange ramp terminals; and Dr. Richard Dowling (rdowling@dowlinginc.com), chair of the committee on Highway Capacity.

Congestion Pricing—A Primer

Source: www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/congestionpricing/index.htm

FHWA has released a report designed to be a primer on congestion pricing. The report includes a general overview of the problem of congestion and an explanation of congestion pricing. The primer explores the benefits of congestion pricing, examples of the practice in the United States and abroad and federal policies and programs on congestion pricing. The report concludes with answers to some frequently asked questions on the topic.

AASHTO's Transportation Vision Website

Source: www.transportationvision.org

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has launched a website. It contains reports published by AASHTO to assist the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission to examine future surface transportation needs, demographic trends that will shape traffic demand, the future of the Interstate System and the potential for expansion, upgrades, and other changes to the surface transportation system to meet the nation's needs.

New Fellows

Elections to the Grade of Fellow

Election to the grade of fellow of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) recognizes transportation professionals who have met stringent requirements in the areas of professional experience, level of responsibility, professional registration and peer evaluation. The grade of fellow is the highest ITE membership grade.

An applicant for the grade of fellow must be a legally registered engineer (unless specifically exempted by the ITE Board of Direction); must have held the ITE grade of member for at least five years; and must have had responsible charge of important transportation or traffic engineering work for at least five years or important scientific, educational, or managerial activities for at least five years.

TexITE is pleased to announce the transfer to the grade of fellow of the following ITE members:

- Gordon L. Alderman**, P.E., PTOE, senior professional engineer in the city of Fort Worth, TX, USA.
- Robert P. Babineaux Jr.**, P.E., vice president at Wilbur Smith Associates in Manvel, TX, USA.
- Andrew J. Ballard**, P.E., PTOE, research engineer at the Texas Transportation Institute in San Antonio, TX, USA.
- Christopher M. Barnes Sr.**, P.E., engineering manager at Gunda Corporation Inc. in Richmond, TX, USA.
- Ronnie L. Bell**, P.E., senior traffic engineer in the city of Plano, TX, USA.
- James A. Bonneson**, P.E., research engineer at Texas Transportation Institute in College Station, TX, USA.
- K. Stephen Bonnette**, P.E., senior vice president at Pape-Dawson Engineers Inc. in San Antonio, TX, USA.
- Darrell W. Borchardt**, P.E., research engineer at Texas Transportation Institute in Houston, TX, USA.
- Murray A. Crutcher Jr.**, P.E., engineer at Landgraf, Crutcher & Associates Inc in Odessa, TX, USA.
- N. Ruth Davis**, P.E., of Tyler, TX, USA.
- Michael A. Feeney**, P.E., planning/ traffic manager at Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam Inc. in Houston, TX, USA.
- Kay Fitzpatrick**, Ph.D., P.E., research engineer at Texas Transportation Institute in College Station, TX, USA.
- John D. Friebele**, P.E., PTOE, principal traffic engineer at Wilbur Smith Associates in San Antonio, TX, USA.
- Rene U. Garza**, P.E., PTOE, senior program manager at PBS&J in Austin, TX, USA.
- David G. Gerard**, P.E., PTOE, manager, Transportation Division in the city of Austin, TX, USA.
- Mark G. Goode III**, P.E., director, Central Region at Jacobs Civil Inc. in Dallas, TX, USA.
- Ramesh Gunda**, P.E., PTOE, president at Gunda Corporation Inc. in Houston, TX, USA.
- Chi-Ping Ha**, P.E., PTOE, traffic engineer at Gunda Corporation Inc. in Houston, TX, USA.
- Donald R. Hatcher**, P.E., city engineer in the city of Brownwood, TX, USA.
- John F. Hickman**, AICP, principal at John F. Hickman & Assocs. Inc. in Austin, TX, USA.
- Robert W. Jenkins**, P.E., vice president at Turner Collie & Braden Inc. in Fort Worth, TX, USA.
- David C. Johnston**, P.E., vice president at URS Corporation in Dallas, TX, USA.
- Isaac F. Joskowicz**, P.E., PTOE, senior project manager at Brown & Gay Engineers Inc. in Houston, TX, USA.
- Sholeh Karimi**, P.E., traffic engineer in Grand Prairie, TX, USA.
- Timothy J. Lomax**, P.E., research engineer at the Texas Transportation Institute in College Station, TX, USA.
- Daniel F. Lynch**, P.E., PTOE, chairman at Traffic Engineers Inc. in Houston, TX, USA.
- Randy B. Machemehl**, Ph.D., P.E., professor at the University of Texas in Austin, TX, USA.
- A Hameed Merchant**, P.E., Metropolitan Transit Authority in Richmond, TX, USA
- Danny R. Middleton**, P.E., program manager at Texas Transportation Institute in College Station, TX, USA.
- Ali A. Mozdbar**, P.E., PTOE, senior signal engineer in Austin, TX, USA.
- Joe F Nix**, P.E., PTOE, senior traffic engineer at Civil Engineering Consultants in San Antonio, TX, USA.
- Wade Odell**, P.E., engineer VII at the Texas Department of Transportation in Austin, TX, USA.
- Christopher M. Poe**, P.E., senior research engineer at Texas Transportation Institute in Dallas, TX, USA.
- Peter A. Polk**, P.E., The Louis Berger Group in Pearland, TX, USA.
- Lee Jane Ream**, P.E., PTOE, traffic di-

(Continued on page 16)

2007 TexITE Winter Meeting, Houston, Texas



Heading out to the Technical Tour



Visiting Houston METRO Facilities

The 2007 TexITE Winter Meeting was held at Crowne Plaza in downtown Houston, Texas between February 1 and 3, 2007.

To cover the wide range of topics on the agenda, TexITE Board Meeting was held in two sessions with the first session conducted in the afternoon of February 1st and the second session on February 2nd morning.

The TexITE board of directors approved the charter for a new student chapter at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Dr. Jose Wiessmann is the faculty advisor. There are now seven student chapters in the TexITE district.

Because of your feedback to the newsletter survey conducted in 2006, the board decided to move the TexITE newsletters out of the Members Only area of the web site. You no longer need to log in to download any of the TexITE newsletters.



At the Downtown Transit Center



Business Luncheon



Listening Attentively!



Getting Ready for the Luncheon

2007 TexITE Winter Meeting, Houston, Texas



**Discussion between VP Candidates—
Ken: I am going win the election;
Rod: No Ken, I am going to win this time**



Jason presiding at the Business Luncheon



**Brian Van De Walle Receiving Award for
Outgoing District 9 President**

Over 250 people attended the meeting in Houston. Business Luncheon was held on February 3rd and President Jason Crawford presided over the business meeting. Awards were presented to outgoing section representatives and board members. **David Fenno**, Texas Transportation Institute, was posthumously given the Professional Practice Area Distinguished Service award. David's wife, Monica, and other family members were present to accept the award. San Antonio was selected to host the 2008 summer meeting.



**Jason Crawford, President (right) and
Rick Charlton, Vice-President (left)**



Monica Fenno Accepting Professional Practice Area Distinguished Service Award give posthumously to David Fenno



From Left to Right: Jason Crawford, Robert Wunderlich and Earl Newman

New Fellows

(continued from page 13)

rector in Pasadena, TX, USA.

Randolph V. Schulze, P.E., PTOE, principal at Walter P. Moore & Associates Inc. in Woodlands, TX, USA.

Harry C. Simeonidis, P.E., president at Ergonomic Transportation Solutions Inc. in Houston, TX, USA.

Tom J. Simerly, P.E., vice president at DeShazo, Tang & Associates Inc. in Dallas, TX, USA.

James B. Sparks, P.E., director of transportation services in Grand Prairie, TX, USA.

Mandayam A. Srinivasan, P.E., PTOE, traffic engineering manager in Mesquite, TX, USA.

Robert E. Sutton, P.E., vice president at Turner-Collie-Braden Inc. in Austin, TX, USA.

Gary K. Trietsch, P.E., district engineer at the Texas Department of Transportation in Houston, TX, USA.

Gerald L. Ullman, P.E., research engineer at the Texas Transportation Institute in College Station, TX, USA.

Daniel S. Walsh, P.E., senior highway engineer at the National Transportation Safety Board in Arlington, TX, USA.

Billy M. Ward, P.E., project coordinator in Tyler, TX, USA.

Thomas A. Warner, P.E., director in Beaumont, TX, USA.

Russell P. Wiles, P.E., ITS manager and railroad project manager in Fort Worth, TX, USA.

Jiann-Shing Yang, P.E., PTOE, project manager at PBS&J in Austin, TX, USA.

Director's Message

(continued from page 3)

example of a District that fosters membership by supporting student and younger member activities. We should try to ensure that this support translates into full ITE membership by those who make their living as transportation professionals in Texas.

It was very good to see so many Texans at the Technical Conference in San Diego. These Tech Conferences continue to grow in attendance and I encourage you to look for opportunities to attend.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for San Antonio in 2009 and we will begin working with ITE HQ Staff this year on planning the meeting. Please put this on your calendar. We'll want to put our best boot forward at this meeting.

Robert C. Wunderlich, P.E.



Refresher Courses

Web Seminars

Your Gateway to Knowledge and Advancement

ITE Web seminars are available to assist you in meeting your professional development needs. The single site registration fee allows you to maximize training opportunities by allowing as many employees as you like to view the Web seminar of your choice at the designated time. Successful course completion earns 1.5 PDH or .15 IACET CEU.

ITE also offers a series of courses called the Refresher Course Suites for Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE) and Traffic Operations Specialist (TOPS) examinations. Purchase the entire suite or just the one seminar that you need to prepare for the exam.

Please visit the ITE website at www.ite.org/education/webinars.asp to learn more about ITE's Web seminars, register and to find answers to frequently answered questions.

Implementing Safety Considerations into Transportation Planning: Current Experiences - May 23, 2007

Advanced Signal Timing - May 31, 2007

Overview of Safe Routes to Schools - June 5, 2007

Certification Board Update

The board has scheduled the following dates for the exams—Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE), Professional Transportation Planner (PTP), Traffic Operations Practitioner Specialist (TOPS) and Traffic Signal Operations Specialist (TSOS):

July 14, 2007

- Portland, OR

August 4, 2007

- Pittsburgh, PA

October 20, 2007

- Atlanta, GA; Baton Rouge, LA; Denver, CO; Minneapolis, MN



Legislative Report

Author: Walter Ragsdale, Jacobs Civil

Every two years, the Texas state legislature meets to discuss the budget and pass or repeal laws that affect our profession. This year, the 80th Legislature meets from mid-January to mid-May. They will consider approximately 5000 new or revised laws; however, less than one-third will be approved. The approved new laws will take effect September 1, 2007 or January 1, 2008. Detailed information on this process or draft legislation can be found at Texas Legislature at www.capitol.state.tx.us. The Legislature will also allocate the spending of \$147 billion for the state's two year budget.



Walter Ragsdale

- Cell phones while driving – SB154, HB397
- Detectors sensitive to motorcycles – HB1279
- Environmental Studies – HB549
- Enhancement Funds – SR2
- Eminent Domain – HB 217
- Funding – SB165, SB257, SB275, HB51, SB126, HB422, HB705, HJR7, SJR25
- Golf carts on streets – HB227
- Penalty for failure to yield right of way – HB528
- Photo Enforcement – SB125, SB195, HB55, HB614, SB939, SB1119, HB1621, HB1052, HB1570, HB3620
- Require flashing beacons on all school zones – HB2111
- Require school board approval to build road adjacent to school – HB3822
- Rail transit – HB107
- Safe Routes to School – SB1451
- Sobriety Checkpoints – HB253
- Speed Limits – HB1499
- TMUTCD add elderly crossing – HB2025
- Toll Roads – SB149, SB245, SB256, HB570, HB719
- Trans-Texas Corridor – HB857, HB1688, HB1881, HB2775, HB3479, HB3831, SB718, SB890, SB1151, SB1374, SB1683
- Vehicles passing bicycles – HB1790, SB248

This year, TXDOT has developed a "Report to the Texas Legislature – Meeting the Transportation Challenge" at www.DOT.state.tx.us. As of April few of these bills have been passed. This year's Session ends on May 28, 2007. Below is a listing summarizing some of the bills that have been filed by April 2007 as the cut off for filing new Bills has passed. Some of these bills will impact our profession substantially. It is difficult now to tell which of them will or will not pass. Now is the best time to contact your Legislator about any bill in the process and let your view be known.

- Abolish Transportation Commission – HB154
- Adds pregnant women to eligible for handicapped parking – SB315
- Air Quality Standards – SB124, HB344
- Automated Speed Control – HB922, HB985
- Billboards – SB111, HB671
- Bus only lanes – SB132, HB1081

Texas Fun Facts

- **Oldest highway** - A 20-mile section near present-day US 281 between Falfurrias and Encino in Brooks County was the first road built by the highway department in 1920.
- **Longest highway** - US 83 extends 899 miles, from the Oklahoma state line in the Panhandle near Perryton to the Mexico border near Brownsville.
- **Highest highway** - SH 118 on Mount Locke in the Davis Mountains of West Texas stands 6,791 feet above sea level.

Newsletter Articles

To submit an article or a news item for future newsletter publications, please send information to Praveen Pasumarthy at vpasumarthy@wilbursmith.com or contact him at 713-785-0080 ext. 56

Student Research Corner

Traffic Analysis and Improvement of Alameda and Paisano Interchange

By Carlos Duran, Valeria De la Cruz, Daniel Arroniz, Min Wang and Dora Francis (University of Texas at El Paso)

Paisano and Alameda streets function as one of the main traffic connection between Downtown and the Lower Valley area in El Paso, TX. Since its construction during the 50's, many businesses, restaurants, a major hospital, shopping and food centers were developed around the intersection of these two main streets. There are still many businesses in the area now, and a major medical school development is scheduled to open in the following years. Additionally, the possibility of a new shopping development and the creation of new medical and offices complex, as well as a convenient store requires someone to anticipate possible traffic problems in the area. The main objective of this project is to come up with an accurate simulation model to replicate actual condition and to simulate future traffic condition at Paisano and Alameda intersection. Using the results from this simulation, our team will locate hot spots that need to be improved, and the final goal is to provide a sustainable traffic configuration for the location to maintain traffic flow at optimal conditions.

The two main traffic simulation software to be used for this project are Synchro and VISSIM. Using the configuration of these two software, our research team will replicate this neighborhood's condition. Our focus is the interchange of Alameda and Paisano, but it is necessary to consider the adjacent intersections for our simulation network as seen visually in **Figure 1**. The network centers at the Alameda and Paisano interchange, extends North along Paisano to South of the I-10 Highway, to the east at Alameda/Buena Vista intersection and to the west limit at the Reynolds/Alameda and Val Verde/Paisano intersections.

The city of El Paso's traffic department provided the traffic signal timing and traffic counts for the seven intersections in the

area. These traffic counts consist of 2001 data. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and our team are required to update these traffic counts. In order to achieve this task our team has started working closely together with the TXDOT and with Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) on video and manual data collection. Our main objective at this stage is to tally the peak traffic flow in this area, later allowing this data to be inputted into Synchro, which allows the user to synchronize and optimize traffic timing.

Members of our research team have already developed the traffic network for VISSIM as seen in **Figure 2**. Once all the traffic flow is counted, it will be entered into the VISSIM and Synchro models. The optimized signal timing from Synchro will be imported into VISSIM. The future stage of the project will consist of determining the future traffic conditions and possible traffic problems, with projected traffic demand. The conclusion for this project will be to propose different alternatives to analyze with this simulation model, and suggest a realistic solution for this interchange vicinity, such as different geometric designs, turning restrictions, and/or changing the optimal signal timing.

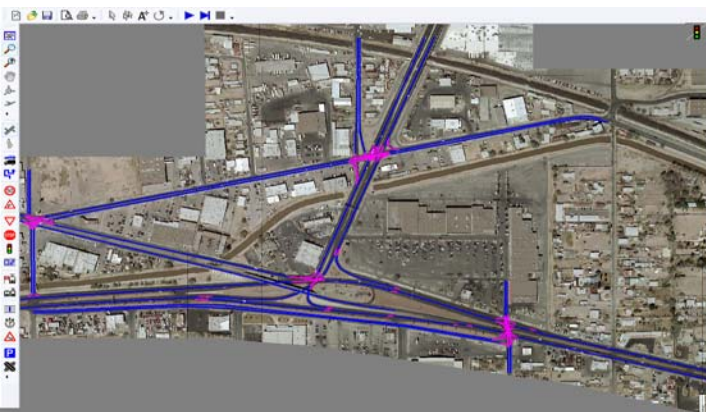


Figure 2: A Section of VISSIM Network



Figure 1: Intersection of Alameda and Paisano, El Paso, TX

About the Authors:

Carlos Duran, Valeria De la Cruz, Daniel Arroniz and Dora Francis are senior year students at University Texas of El Paso. They are expected to graduate with BSCE degree later in 2007. Min Wang is a junior year student and is expected to graduate with BSCE next year.

The Editor thanks Dr. Ruey Cheu, assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at University of El Paso and the University's Student Chapter advisor for encouraging the students to submit their research work to TexITE newsletter.

Student Chapter News

Congratulations to all the students graduating in May!

Students, as you graduate and begin your careers, please remember to update your contact information with TexITE. This can be done online in the "Members Only" section of the TexITE website, www.texite.org

To the future employers, student resumes are available on CDs and are distributed at the TexITE Meetings.

Texas A&M University

As of April 2, 2007, the TAMUite Student Chapter has 32 active student members. All of the Student Chapter members are also student members of International ITE or have memberships pending.

The TAMUite Student Chapter participates in a variety of activities throughout the year, including meetings, professional conferences, field trips, technical projects, community service, and social events.

In January 2007, 10 members of the Student Chapter traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the Transportation Research Board's 86th Annual Meeting. In February 2007, 16 students represented the TAMUite Student Chapter at the TexITE Winter Meeting in Houston, Texas. During this event, Jeremy Clark, Tom Hartmann, Lindsay Liggett, Rachael Stensrud, and Cameron Williams attended the Younger Member Committee meeting and assisted in the development of plans for promoting more involvement of the younger members in ITE. Additionally, one of the student chapter members, Ben Sperry, represented Texas A&M University with a presentation on internal trip capture at mixed-use developments.

On March 30, 2007, 12 Student Chapter members attended a field trip to the

George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston. Dr. Kent McLemore, Assistant Director for Planning, gave a presentation over the Bush Intercontinental Airport Master Plan. Additionally, Mr. Jeff Kelly, Airport Business Development Manager, led the student members on a tour around various sections of the airfield.

Recently, in response to a March 2007 RFP issued to student chapters by International ITE, the TAMUite Student Chapter submitted a proposal to collect trip and parking generation data for a copy and print retail store located near campus.

Recognizing the desire for litter-free highways, the Student Chapter participates in the Adopt-a-Highway litter cleanup program. Litter cleanup events were held on April 8, 2006, September 16, 2006, October 21, 2006, February 10, 2007, and March 31, 2007.

In February 2007, seven students participated in "Aggieland Saturday" as part of an engineering recruitment weekend for prospective students. Student Chapter members provided information at resource booths about civil engineering and each of its disciplines, including transportation engineering. In March 2007, 12 students participated in The Big Event, the annual campus-wide day of community service sponsored by the University.

The TAMUite Student Chapter maintains a presence on the World Wide Web through its website (<http://ite.tamu.edu>). Ben Sperry was appointed the webmaster in December 2006, replacing James Bryan at the position.

Texas A&M University - Kingsville

In December 2006, the TAMUK ITE Student Chapter was inaugurated into the National ITE Student Chapter families.

(Continued on page 20)

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Student Chapter News *(continued from page 19)*

Eduardo Garcia is the current student chapter president. The chapter consists of thirteen members of which two are student members of ITE. The chapter will begin nominations in April for officer positions for the 2007-2008 year. Given their location in South Texas, this will provide the student chapter with a great opportunity for liaisons with TxDOT, TTI, ITE, and other organizations and companies in the South Texas Region.

On December 4, 2006, the TAMUK ITE Student Chapter co-hosted a meeting with the TAMUK ASCE Student Chapter. The students were informed about the new ITE Student Chapter that was recently established in TAMUK. On March 22, 2007, a meeting was held where students were informed and encouraged to join the ITE organization. Technical guest speaker Yifang Zhu, Ph.D., from Texas A&M University – Kingsville Department of Environmental Engineering spoke to chapter members on the topic of ‘Ultra fine Particles and Freeways’.

The chapter will co-sponsor meetings with TAMUK ASCE student chapter to get more undergraduate students aware of the vast topics that a transportation career can provide.

The sudden growth of the south Texas region has lead to many maintenance and construction projects of highways and bridges. They will provide interesting locations, such as TransGuide, TranStar ITS center, for future field trips of the TAMUK ITE student chapter.

Eduardo Garcia and Jonnae Hice were both selected to attend the 10-week program at Texas A&M University to work along side mentors conducting research in Transportation related fields. Both students produced papers and oral presentations at the end of the program to their mentors and coworkers.

- Eduardo Garcia – Identification of Positive Guidance Deficiencies in Urban Interchange Work Zones
- Jonnae Hice – Driver Comprehension of Diagrammatic Advanced Guide Signs and Their Alternatives

Two students, Eduardo Garcia and Dan Koeshma, attended the annual transportation research board meeting in Washington, DC. Both students were recipients of the Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship Program.

University of Texas at Austin

The University of Texas at Austin ITE Student Chapter is always busy with exciting activities, and last year was one of the most memorable and active we have ever had. Over the past year, our ITE Chapter sponsored several professional development activities, including speakers, site visit trips, and conferences. We also had the amazing opportunity to become thoroughly involved in improving our transportation engineering department by developing a new department website, creating new promotional materials, recruiting new graduate students, and mentoring undergraduates interested in transportation.

The ITE Chapter participated in a variety of service activities this year as well, such as Adopt A Highway, ExploreUT, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, the Spring Engineering Expo, and Habitat for Humanity. Our Chapter knows how to have a good time too, and we sponsored barbecues, parties, intramurals, and other events throughout the year. Finally, we participate in all of the Texas ITE activities, including attending/presenting at the Winter and Summer TexITE meetings, contributing to the TexITE Newsletter, and coordinating with other ITE Student Chapters in Texas. Over the past year,

many of our ITE members have achieved significant awards and honors, and even more have had their research published in well-respected journals.

The Student Chapter reports that their membership currently stands at 27. The current student chapter officers are: Rachel Copperman (President), Eric Spurgeon (Vice-President, Activities), Kristen Torrance (Vice-President, Coordination), Jeff LaMondia (Secretary), Kate Flanagan (Treasurer) and Ashley Chang (Historian).

The Student Chapter holds various meetings throughout the year. At these meetings, speakers from outside the Chapter address the membership on different topics.

In further addition to presentations, the Chapter has also provided opportunities for students to interact informally with national transportation leaders. On March 29, 2006, our Chapter hosted a lunch with Dr. Lance Neumann, President of Cambridge Systematics. Students from the transportation engineering and community and regional planning departments discussed with Dr. Neumann some potential solutions to state and national transportation funding shortages, including changes to the existing gas tax structure as well as introduction of innovative user fees. On April 7, 2006, the Chapter hosted an informal discussion with Mr. Robert Skinner, Executive Director of the Transportation Research Board. Students discussed with Mr. Skinner the current state of transportation research in the U.S., as well as prospects for the future.

In order to prepare for the TRB annual meeting and the TexITE conference, the Chapter hosted The First Annual ITE Presentation Practice Workshop. The objective of the workshop was to aid stu-

(Continued on page 21)

Student Chapter News *(continued from page 20)*

dents in preparing and presenting quality technical presentations. The workshop allowed interested students to present all or part of their TRB or TexITE presentation.

Service is an integral part of our ITE Chapter. Our longest-running service activity is the Texas Adopt a Highway program. The UT Chapter of ITE has adopted a section of FM. 973 in southeast Austin and has assumed responsibility for the bi-monthly cleanup of the 2-mile section of roadway.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (Girl Day) is celebrated internationally during Engineers Week each year at the University of Texas at Austin. On Saturday, February 24th, 2007 thousands of girls in grades first through eighth grade, em-

barked on the UT College of Engineering to learn first hand about engineering. ITE volunteered in this event by hosting an activity room to teach young girls about transportation engineering.

Most of our ITE members have presented their research at local, regional & national conferences. Twenty-five of our ITE members presented at the TRB Annual Meeting this past January. Two students presented their research at this year's TexITE conferences. This year, five ITE members presented at the INFORMS Annual Meeting and three members presented at the NARSC Annual Meeting.

This past year, ITE student members have been recognized for their academic and research excellence through a variety of awards and honors. In January, at the

Council of University Transportation Centers banquet one ITE member was honored with the Milton Pikarsky Memorial Award for the best masters thesis in the area of transportation science and technology. At the same banquet, another ITE member represented the Southwest University Transportation Center (SWUTC) as their Student of the Year. The Woman Transportation Seminar Heart of Texas Chapter presented a scholarship to an ITE student member honoring her as an outstanding graduate student in transportation. This past May, one ITE member was one of twenty students from around the country who attended the ENO Leadership Development Conference. In January, two ITE members attended the International Road Federation (IRF) Executive Leadership Program.

This Day, That Age

25 Years Ago

President: Jack Hatchell
Vice-President: Gary Santerre
Secretary/Treasurer: Jim Lee

TexITE Executive Committee meeting was held at the Tyler TexITE meeting on January 29, 1982. A Financial and Membership Report was given by Jim Lee. The TexITE membership then stood at 426. TexITE had a checkbook balance of \$4,537.70.

Fort Worth Citizens and City Council have placed a high priority on traffic improvements in the April Bond Election. The Transportation Department was the only department to submit an 82-84 CIP package to the City Council for review.

Travis County is involved in safety projects on three of its highest accident roadways—Mt. Bonnell Road, City Park Road, and Anderson Mill Road.

15 Years Ago

President: Robert Jenkins
Vice-President: Carol Walters
Secretary/Treasurer: Daniel B. Fambro

TxDOT Fort Worth District is acquiring Right-of-Way for construction of the IH-30/IH-35W interchange in downtown Fort Worth and for the extension of IH-30 to West Summit Street.

The City of Dallas DOT implemented the first lane-designated, changeable message sign in Dallas. Further, they are currently working on revisions to the PASS-Network for the City of Dallas in an effort to identify funding sources for an additional grade separations recently added to the DART Starter Line by the DART Board.

The City of Garland's Buckingham Road Signal System Project is finished.

10 Years Ago

President: Jim Carvell
Vice-President: Jim Williams
Secretary/Treasurer: Robert Wunderlich

The City of Fort Worth has progressed on their CMAQ project to expand and upgrade the Fort Worth Traffic Signal System. Recent project activities by the City Staff include replacing 133 controllers in the CBD with new Type 170 controller, and rewiring all of the downtown interconnect system.

The City of Abilene recently completed a small signal system near the new Super Wal-Mart store. TxDOT is also constructing right-turn lanes and ramp work to improve mobility in the area.

David Noyce, President of the Texas A&M University student Chapter, has been selected as a 1997 Eno Fellow.

Section News & Activities

Brazos Valley Section

As of December 31, 2006, the Brazos Valley Section had 19 members, 15 section affiliates, and 2 student members. This membership includes professionals from the Texas Department of Transportation, City of Bryan, City of College Station, Bryan/College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization, Texas Engineering Extension Service, Texas Transportation Institute, private consulting firms, and the Texas A&M Student Chapter. Of the 36 members and affiliates, 17 are ITE members and 22 are TexITE members.

Compared to previous years, membership was down slightly in 2006; some of the members in 2005 have moved out of the area, and others chose to continue as affiliates rather than pay International dues. However, the Executive Board has identified sectors of the profession's local population where the Section can intensify recruitment efforts. With the installation of a Membership Chair and increased emphasis on recruitment, the membership is expected to increase in 2007.

The Brazos Valley Section ended the year 2006 with a balance of \$869.21, an increase of \$228.03 from the beginning of the year.

The Brazos Valley Section held six meetings in 2006, with an average of attendance of seventeen members.

Capital Area Section

The Capital Area Section had 48 members in 2006 with 15 being part of agency memberships. The Section is currently working on updating its agency membership and anticipates a modest increase from the City of Austin in agency membership in 2007. Of the 48 members, 31

were international ITE members within the Capital Area Section boundaries.

The Section holds regular bi-monthly meetings on the first Friday of every other month. The first meeting of 2007 was held on February 16th at One Texas Center, 3rd Floor Training Room. Lance Kinney P.E., Deputy Executive Director of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers was the guest speaker at this meeting. He emphasized the recent changes to the rules and questions that the board has been discussing. The second meeting was held on April 5, 2007 and discussed the recent approval of on-street parallel and head-in parking on arterial roadways by the Austin City Council.

As of January 2007, the account balance of Capital Area Section was \$3,748.18.

Greater Dallas Section

The Section holds a meeting on the second Friday of each month. There have been seven meetings in the second half of last year with an average attendance of 57 members. In year 2007, so far, four meetings have been held. The fifth meeting will be held on May 11th.

As of January 2007, Dallas Section has 92 paid members. With the completion of collecting dues for the year, the Section expects the total membership to increase to approximately 125. The Section's account balance as of January 2007 stands at \$4,178.

Greater Fort Worth Section

As of April 2007, this Section has 111 international ITE members within its boundaries. This number includes 19 student members, 2 institute affiliates, 89 members and 6 fellows.

The Section holds regular monthly meet-

ings on the third Thursday of each month, generally at Joe T. Garcia's Restaurant located at 2201 N. Commerce St. in Fort Worth. The Section held ten meetings in 2006, with an average attendance of 33 members. So far, the Section has held meetings on January 18 and March 15. The next meeting is scheduled for May 17. The Section's account balance as of April 1, 2007 stands at \$2,028.

(Continued on page 23)

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Section News & Activities *(continued from page 22)*

Greater Houston Section

The Houston Section holds monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at the Houston Engineering and Scientific Society (HESS), located at 5430 Westheimer Road in Houston. The average attendance at these meetings in year 2006 was 78. As of January 31, 2007, the account balance for this Section stands at \$9,900.

South Texas Section

The South Texas Section had 24 members in 2006. As of December 2006, there were 51 international ITE members within the South Texas Section boundaries.

The Section had a difficult year in 2006. However, the Section finished the year

strong with an election of new officers, a meeting at South Padre Island in November (38 attendees including vendors) and its Annual Christmas Party/Meeting in San Antonio in December (approximately 45 attendees). In the past, the Section generally held four to five meetings throughout the Section. Beginning this year, the Section will begin holding monthly general meetings (with the exception of TexITE meeting months) at Grady's Bar-B-Que Restaurant in San Antonio as well as two mini-conferences in Corpus Christi (May 25th) and South Padre Island (September 28th). The Section has reformatted the "Back-Roads of South Texas" newsletter and will continue to serve as meeting notification.

As of January 31, 2007, the Section's account balance stands at \$2,199.03.

People News

The Officers of **Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.**, are pleased to announce their acquisition of **Overby Descamps Engineers, Inc.**, a civil engineering firm in San Antonio. The Overby Descamps staff and operation have been integrated with Pape-Dawson Engineers at their headquarters on East Ramsey.

In recognition of his dedicated service, the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System bestowed upon **Dr. Conrad Dudek** the title of Professor Emeritus. Dudek, a



Conrad Dudek

long-time member of the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering faculty, retired in August 2006 after over 40 years of service in the Texas

A&M System.

Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation (BWR) announced a merger with **R&B Associates, Inc.** (RBA) effective January 1, 2007. RBA will assume the BWR name. RBA principal and cofounder **Robert Franke, P.E.** and **Robert Helmsberger, P.E.**, have been named a BWR principal.

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce the addition of **Erin Eurek** in the Fort Worth office. Erin recently received her Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University.

Brian Shamburger, P.E. of Kimley-Horn's Fort Worth office welcomed the addition of his second child on January 31, 2007. Carter Thomas weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz., and was 18-1/4 inches long.

New Student Chapter

TexITE is pleased announce the formation of a new student chapter.

University of Texas at San Antonio

Student chapter was chartered on February 1, 2007 by the Texas District.

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