President’s Message

Jim Westmoreland (NC)

Time flies when you’re having fun! And, it’s hard for me to believe that I am already moving into my final quarter as President of SDITE. While we’ve made significant progress on many of our “SDITE Connections 2010” goals, much good work remains to be done and there is always time for you to get connected. Provided below is an update on a few of our key activities and accomplishments.

SDITE Leadership Development Program:

Our SDITE leadership development program continues to exceed expectations and garner strong interest from our Sections and International ITE. Thanks to the continued passion and efforts of our leadership oversight team (Richard Atkins – NC, Dan Turner – AL, Bill Seymour – KY, John Edwards – GA, Brent McKinney – NC) the program and its materials continue to be improved. Key accomplishments this year include: Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia Sections all participating in the program; the leadership oversight team providing a program overview at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Portsmouth; and my opportunity to review our program with the International ITE Board of Directors in Vancouver, BC, Canada (which resulted in the Board creating an ITE task force to determine the feasibility and sustainability of an ITE Leadership Program -- look for more details soon in the next edition of “The Connector”).

2010 SDITE Officers

President: Jim Westmoreland (NC)
(919) 733-2520
jwestmoreland@ncdot.gov

Vice President: Tim White (VA)
(804) 673-3882
tim.white@kimley-horn.com

Secretary-Treasurer: Becky White (AL)
(205) 940-6420
bwhite@sain.com

Past President: Karen Mohammadi (KY)
kmohammadi@msn.com

ITE Intl. Director: Bob Stammer (TN)
(615) 343-8060
bob.stammer@vanderbilt.edu

District Administrator: Craig Hanchey (TN)
(615) 383-8420
craig.hanchey@neel-schaffer.com

2010 Annual Meeting Award Winners

Each year, ITE colleagues select top projects and individuals from around the world to receive special recognition for outstanding work. Here are this year’s Southern District award winners!

Transportation Achievement Award for Safety
Mississippi Department of Transportation in recognition of “Innovative Interagency Partnerships – The Mississippi MS Traffic MEDcom Project.” Daniel Helms, Mississippi DOT, Jackson, MS.

Wilbur Smith Transportation Educator Award
Dr. John M. Mason, Associate Provost and Vice President for Research, Auburn University.

Transportation Planning Council Best Project Award
Nashville Area MPO for its project “Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Study.” Leslie Meehan, Nashville Area MPO and Bob Murphy, RPM Transportation Consultants, Brentwood, TN.
News from ITE International

Bob Stammer (TN)

The sentence “Economy Moves Traffic Bowl!” summarizes three major efforts with International ITE currently. The slow “Economy” and reduced revenues flowing into the ITE coffers is a concern. ITE Staff has done a great job at cost containment and we will know more about the exact status of our “bottom-line” as the end of the year approaches. Overall, ITE appears to be weathering the storm as well, or better, than most professional societies.

“Moves” has to do with ITE Headquarters moving into new digs. I have not seen the new headquarters yet, but look forward to doing so in October at our next Board of Direction Meeting in Washington, D.C. The location atop the Army & Navy Club is a convenient location and the 80th Anniversary Fund has raised over half of its intended goal of $200,000.00. It is NOT too late to still contribute. The $200,000 is not to pay for bricks and mortar or paint, but to fund technological advancements. ITE strives to be “No. 1″ is all that it does. Your transportation organization wants to be the BEST professional organization with the best and latest technology and audio-visual equipment. The new headquarters has state of the art technology, but paying for this must come from contributions and not from regular operating funds. Please consider contributing. You are welcome to visit the new headquarters on your next trip to D.C. Staff will be glad to give you a tour. An Open House is planned in January in conjunction with the TRB Meeting.

And finally “Traffic Bowl”! ITE held its first “International Traffic Bowl” in Vancouver in August. The completion was lively and the room was crowded with extra chairs having to be added. International Annual Meetings will now enjoy what the Southern District Meetings have enjoyed for years. Nine teams participated in Vancouver and the Southern District was proudly, and ably, represented by the team from Georgia Tech. Texas A&M was the ultimate winner, but I am confident that teams from SDITE will continue to be fierce competitors each year. Plans are already underway for the next event at the 2011 Annual Meeting in St. Louis.

Please contact me (bob.stammer@vanderbilt.edu or 615.343.8060) anytime I can assist you on any ITE matter. It is truly an honor to be your representative to the ITE International Board of Direction.

International Meeting Recap

John Edwards (GA)

President Paul Eng Wong welcomed members on the Institute to Vancouver and western Canada at the 2010 Annual Meeting and Exhibit. Vancouver provided impressive examples of multi-modalism, and its innovative programs in the areas of sustainability, accessibility and livability are renowned. Vancouver’s transportation plan demonstrated many of ITE’s core focus areas, as its roadway solutions include traffic signal system upgrades, walking and bicycling enhancements and safety and transit investments.

The meeting provided attendees not only with the opportunity to learn about the city’s Olympic transportation plans and witness the infrastructure erected to support them, but also to experience the city’s cutting-edge advances in safety and green modes of transportation.

While the U.S. is experiencing its worst year economically in the recent memory, the attendance was sufficient to make the meeting a financial success.

At the August meeting in Vancouver, Rock Miller, Vice President of the KOA Corporation, a planning and engineering firm with five offices in California, was elected as ITE’s Vice President-elect. Congratulations also to the other candidates, Ray Davis, and the Southern District’s own Troy Peoples. Some information on Mr. Miller,

- 32 years traffic engineering and transportation planning experience
- Registered Traffic Engineer in California
- Certified Professional Traffic Operations Engineer
- Registered Civil Engineer in California and Hawaii
- Municipal and Private Sector Experience, including former City Traffic Engineer
- Director (2004-2006), International Board of Direction, Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), a 16,000-member professional association of traffic and transportation engineers
- President (2000-2001), Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), District 6 (serving over 4,000 members in 12 Western States)
This summer, the Alabama Section hosted a pilot Leadership Development Program at the Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talledega, Alabama. Utilizing matching grant money awarded by the SDITE Leadership Oversight Team, the program was presented at two separate sessions this summer (June 25-26 and August 27-28). ALSITE’s overall goal was to motivate the participants to improve their leadership effectiveness and to have them make a commitment to “give back” to our profession. ITE members from the Associated Businesses Division, academia, private and public sectors participated in the training. Guest instructors at the event included Richard Atkins, John Edwards, Bill Seymour, Darrell Skipper, Dan Turner and Becky White.

Over the two weekend sessions important topics such as “Having a Positive Influence”, “Conducting Effective Meetings”, “Mentoring Employees”, and “Developing Vision and Action Plans” created an environment of self reflection, learning, and interaction among participants and instructors. Participants enjoyed classroom time together, shared meals together, and after dinner on Friday took some time to socialize and build better relationships with classmates and instructors.

After a very successful pilot program, ALSITE is committed to continuing and further developing the Leadership Program. Several of the training modules will be included on the Fall meeting (October 28) agenda that will be held in Guntersville, Alabama. Other plans being discussed include the possibility of participating graduates showcasing the program as a service project to other venues/agencies and preparing for a Second Annual ALSITE Leadership Development Program.

As part of the evaluation process at the end of the program, each participant was asked to share their thoughts regarding what they might tell others in reference to their experiences at the ALSITE pilot Leadership program:

“It is an eye-opening program that can be a very strong help to you as you endeavor to be a more effective person – not just a leader. A great opportunity to grow as a leader, as an employee, as a citizen, and as a person. It was very much worthwhile and I highly recommend you take part in the program.”

“This program provides tremendous value for participants. The material is excellent, the cost is low, and the time spent yields benefits in increased knowledge and stronger relationships. If you or your staff needs leadership training, you’d be stupid to pass on this program.”

“It was a very productive program and I learned a lot of practical-every day actions. It built on my self-confidence and inspired me to take a leadership role.”

“If we'll take these principles of the Leadership Program and put them into practice, it has the power to do more than make us stronger leaders; it will also help you become a stronger person, a better human being. More importantly, it can make you a more caring father or mother, a more loving husband or wife, and yes...even a more humble servant to those around you. Taking part in a program like this will change your life and the way you look at it. It puts you on a path to improving yourself, your family, your job, and every aspect of your life, be it physical, emotional, or spiritual.”
Georgia Young Members Set the Standard for Fun!

Winter Horbal (GA)

Spring Hike at Blood Mountain—The weather was good (started to rain on the hike down but we had good tree cover), there was a great turnout, and I have had many e-mails stating this was a great event. Taylor Stokes would like to add that he indeed made it off the mountain thanks to iridescent pink surveyor’s tape, and he does not own a ’60s vintage GI Joe canteen.

Day at the Lake—Another great event by the Ga. Section Young Members Committee was organized by Winter Horbal and Tim Brandsetter of the Young Members Committee with the support of Joe and Kathy Garland, Keith and Renee Golden and Buddy and Karen Gratton— all of who provided boats, inner tubes, accommodations and a lot of work!!!! Also assisting in the financing of the event was the sponsorship of Clark, Patterson, Lee and Moreland Altobelli and Associates. A great time was had by 55-60 members and guests of the Section.

The day began on Lake Hartwell near “full pool” with sunshine, hot weather (to encourage one to be in the water) and a variety of water activities including tubing, boat rides, swimming and wave runner rides and ended with great food, fellowship, fun and games. The pictures attest to the good times had by all. The ITE members did a great job of bringing sides, drinks, plates, cups, etc. and there was more than enough – we could have fed at least 50 more people. For those of you who missed this event, there is talk that you will get a second chance next year!

“I want to thank David Low for getting this event started. I want to thank the hosts for offering up their homes, being so hospitable, and working so hard to make this a GREAT event. And I want to also thank the ITE members and families who showed up with boats, sides, and other items making this one of the most successful events of 2010! “

The Georgia Section ITE and the Young Members Committee wishes to express our appreciation to Kathy & Joe Garland, Renee & Keith Golden, Karen & Buddy Gratton, and all who attended to help make this ITE event a HUGE success.

“At one point we had 5 tubes hooked up to Joe’s boat and at least 14 people on the tubes.”
Aggies Claim Inaugural Collegiate Traffic Bowl Prize

ITE Report

Texas A&M University stands victorious as the winner of the first ITE International Collegiate Traffic Bowl held on Wednesday, August 11 during the 2010 Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Vancouver, BC, Canada. The team, Philip Dunham, Kristopher Ball, Ben Sperry and Andrew Persyn, received the grand championship prize of $2000 (US).

Nine District collegiate teams competed in a Jeopardy style competition that tested the student’s knowledge of transportation planning and engineering topics. Texas A&M beat out the University of Manitoba and the University of Florida to take the top prize in this inaugural event.

Congratulations to our team from Georgia Tech, Alek Pochowski, Matt Kittelson and Rama Chilukuri, which represented the Southern District well!

SDITE Traffic Bowl and Support of our Student Chapter Members:

This year, SDITE sent our winning Traffic Bowl team from Georgia Tech to participate in the first ever ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl in Vancouver, BC, Canada. While our team battled hard, they unfortunately did not make it to the finals (the event was eventually won by Texas A&M). Even so, it was with a great deal of SDITE pride and satisfaction that I had the opportunity to watch/witness the inaugural ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl and to realize that had it not been for the passion, hard work, and leadership of many in our District, the event and the opportunity to cultivate a new generation of young professionals in our profession, would not exist. So a very big thank you to all of the organizers and supporters of our very own William Temple Scholarship Traffic Bowl (the ABD, Temple, Inc., Blair Temple, James Stewart, Tommy Lee, James Foster, Richard Caudle, and many others) and to the leaders of our Student Chapter activities (Dyan Damron, members of the SDITE Education and Student Chapter Committee, Student Chapter Faculty Liaisons, Officers, members, and many others). You all should be proud of the fact that you had a role in helping SDITE create the ITE Collegiate Traffic Bowl standard and that your efforts will most certainly have a lasting impact on our profession.

Enhanced Communications -- Sharing Information and Ideas:

A key focus of “SDITE Connections 2010” is to enhance information and idea sharing among our members, Officers, Sections, and Student Chapters. This year we have elevated our efforts in several ways including: the introduction of “The Connector,” a quarterly e-bulletin update on our activities and other items of interest; holding quarterly conference calls with Section Presidents and Officers to share updates on Section/District activities, ideas, and best practices; scheduling upcoming student chapter webcasts to further engage our Student Chapter members and provide them information on ITE resources and different transportation career options; and continued work on our new SDITE website to enhance information sharing (which we hope to launch by the end of the year).

In closing, it remains my highest privileged and honor to serve as the President of the Southern District of ITE. Please do let me or any of our Officers know if you have an interest in serving. We could always use your help, talents, and good ideas to advance the work of SDITE and the profession! As you can see, SDITE remains an International leader and we want you on the team...so don’t delay, get connected with SDITE today!
Congratulations to the 2010 Southern District Award Winners!

Herman J. Hoose Distinguished Service Award
Stanley F. Polanis

Marble J. Hensley Outstanding Individual Activity Award
James D. Foster

Joseph M. Thomas Young Member Award
Dyan C. Damron

John F. Exnicios Public Employee Service Award
Steven C. Strength

Excellence in Transportation Engineering Education Award
Daniel S. Turner

President’s Award
Richard Atkins

Outstanding Section Award Group 1
North Carolina

Outstanding Section Award Group 2
Alabama

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award
Jeffery Karafa from the University of Memphis for a paper titled “State-of-the-Art in Freight Modeling”

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award
Ismail Zohdy from Virginia Tech for a paper titled “Physical Approach for Modeling Left-Turn Gap Acceptance Behavior”

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award Runner-Up
Priyanka Alluri from Clemson for a paper entitled “Comparison of traditional and advanced methods in identifying roadway sections for safety improvements”

Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award Honorable Mention
William Minor, Auburn University, “Use of Ramp Metering in Metropolitan Seattle”

Zachary Bugg, NCSU, “An Exploration of the Relationships between Auxiliary Through Lane (ATL) Utilization, Congestion, and Delay Savings”

Cheng Zhong, UAB, “Crash Prediction on Rural Roads”

Outstanding Student Chapter Award
Georgia Tech

ITE’s new address:
Institute of Transportation Engineers
1627 I (“Eye”) Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20006
(Phone) +1 202-785-0060
(Fax) +1 202-785-0609
"News of the South" is the official publication of the Southern District (5) of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). Any comments or suggestions are welcome and should be submitted to Jeff Hammond, Editor (615) 370-8410, jeff-hammond@rpmtraffic.net

Section Correspondents
Richard Caudle (AL)
Jeff Moore (KY)
Becky Bottoms (TN)
Dale Privette (NC)
Todd Long (GA)
Bob Mabry (DS)
Jeff Davis (SC)
Bill Cashman (VA)

Jeff Hammond, P.E.
SDITE Editor
C/O RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC
214 Centerview Drive, Suite 240
Brentwood, TN 37027