



Annual Report

The University of Texas at Austin Institute of Transportation Engineers Student Chapter

For the Year of April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009

Report Submitted By:

Katherine Kortum
Student Chapter Secretary
512-673-0869
kkortum@gmail.com

Report Approved By:

Dr. Chandra Bhat
Student Chapter Advisor
512 471 4535
bhat@mail.utexas.edu

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Section 1: Executive Summary



The University of Texas at Austin Institute of Transportation Engineers Student Chapter had another very successful and exciting year since April 2008. Not only did we continue to participate in many of our favorite activities, but we also introduced a variety of new activities as well. We are always searching for new ways to improve our Chapter and help

others, and this year was no exception. Some of our favorite recurring professional activities included attending and presenting at the Texas ITE and Transportation Research Board Conferences, hosting Distinguished and Technical Speaker presentations, mentoring summer transportation interns, and organizing the new graduate student orientation. Each year we volunteer at the ExploreUT and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Events, and this year we continued to use the virtual driving test activity that had proven popular in the past. This activity was a success again this year. Some other new activities we introduced this year were volunteering local elementary schools as part of Engineering Week festivities and creating a team to walk in the Race for the Cure. We've also continued to attend the Capitol Region ITE Meetings, helping us to keep in touch with our local ITE community. Our ITE Chapter and ITE members have received several awards over this time as well, including the Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship, the Ann Irwin Leadership Scholarship, the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship, Eisenhower Fellowships, ENO Scholarships, William J. Harris Outstanding Doctoral Student Award, and others. We are pleased to share all of these activities and more with you in the following report. Enjoy!

Section 2: Student Chapter Summary

Chapter Officers as of March 31, 2009

President:	Eleni Pappas
Vice President, Activities:	Sergey Grebenshikov
Vice President, Coordination:	Beatriz Rutzen
Secretary:	Katherine Kortum
Treasurer:	Belinda Yu
Historian:	Ashley Chang
Advisor:	Dr. Chandra Bhat

UT Austin Chapter Membership as of March 31, 2009

Number of student chapter members:	23
Number of student members of Institute:	23 (100% eligibility)
Number of faculty ITE members:	7

Transportation Engineering Enrollment

The Undergraduate Civil Engineering Program at the University of Texas at Austin has nearly 500 enrolled students as of April 2009. Our ITE Chapter encourages undergraduates to get involved in our activities by advertising many of our professional and departmental activities through flyers, emails, and class visits. As a result, several undergraduates participate in our field trips, classes, speakers, and intern programs.

Our Graduate Transportation Engineering Program is part of the Civil Engineering Program, and it offers Masters of Science in Engineering (MSE) and Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering (PhD) degrees. We are very proud of our strong reputation and track record of students who have gone on to be leaders in the public, consulting, and academic fields. Our faculty advisors are also worthy of recognition for their continued success in transportation research and education. Our students receive excellent backgrounds in transportation engineering, as we frequently work on technical research projects through the Texas Department of Transportation and other noteworthy organizations. In addition to our challenging transportation curriculum, the Transportation Engineering program encourages all of the students to also pursue classes in the community and regional planning, operations research, policy, and economics departments.

Section 3: Professional Development



Our ITE Chapter works exceptionally hard to offer a variety of professional development activities. Our members participate in discussions with prominent leaders in transportation through our distinguished speaker series, learn about transportation challenges in the technical series, receive hands on experience through technical tours, expand their speaking and networking

skills at a variety of conferences (including ITE), and gain practical experience through technical projects.

Distinguished Speakers

We started our student-run Distinguished Lecture Series for the Transportation Engineering Program in 2005, and it has been growing ever since. Our goal in developing this series was to allow our students to listen to, learn from, and interact with nationally renowned transportation leaders from government, industry, and academia. In addition to scheduling a formal lecture, our Chapter arranged informal discussion times, individual meetings, and small group meals with visiting lecturers to allow interested students, faculty, and researchers further interaction. These lectures were advertised campus-wide to relevant departments, as well as to local governments, consultants, and alumni. This past year we were especially pleased to invite the following exceptional Distinguished Lecturers to our program:

Shelly Row, Director of the ITS Joint Program Office
"National ITS Program and Future Trends" - September 29, 2008



Ms. Shelly Row was a much anticipated speaker for the University of Texas this year. She was also the first female Distinguished Lecturer in the series. Ms. Row is the head of the Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office. She spoke about ITS in general and the developments that she and her department have been working on, as well as the direction that ITS is headed for the future. Students enjoyed listening to her presentation and appreciated the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the future of ITS.

T. Peter Ruane, President and CEO of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)
"The American Road and Transportation Builders Association" – April 1, 2008



Mr. T. Peter Ruane, President and CEO of ARTBA, came to speak to the students at the University of Texas in April of 2008. He led an informal discussion in which ITE members and other interested students were able to find out more about ARTBA and its proceedings. Students were able to ask a wide variety of Mr. Ruane and had the benefit of learning from his expertise.

Technical Speakers

In addition to our Distinguished Lecturers, our ITE Chapter welcomed a number of national and local transportation consultants, academics, and industry advocates to speak to our students. These speakers expanded student knowledge of technical and political issues, as well as provided insight into careers in transportation. In addition, recent graduates have been introduced to their future employers through these presentations. Our Chapter hosted the following presentations since April 2008:

- **James Brogan**, Senior Associate, Cambridge Systematics
"An Introduction to Cambridge Systematics"
November 10, 2008

- **Dr. Ram Pendyala**, Professor, Arizona State University
"The High and Low of Travel: Stochastic Modeling of Travel Time Expenditure Frontiers in a Global Context"
May 1, 2008
- **Dr. Laurie Garrow**, Assistant Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology
"Airline Passengers' Searching and Purchasing Behaviors"
March 27, 2009

Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Conference



Almost all of our ITE members attended the 2008 Transportation Research Board Annual Conference from January 11-15, 2009. We had a wonderful time and represented our Chapter and program well. In total, ITE members presented their research in ten oral presentations and nine poster sessions. In addition to the conference, the ITE Chapter sponsored our third annual UT

Alumni Happy Hour at the Russia House. The event was a great success, and many alumni came to reconnect with their past classmates.

ITE Conferences

The UT Austin ITE Chapter was present at all of the Texas ITE (TexITE) Conferences this past year. These included the Summer 2007 meeting in San Antonio (June 26-28, 2008) and the Winter 2009 meeting in Lubbock (February 5-7, 2009). We participated in discussions, presented research during student presentation sessions, produced ITE Student Resume CDs, and gave updates on our Chapter to the



division. Our members love being able to meet with the students from other ITE Chapters, interact with the professionals in our area and to get real perspectives on topics we discuss in the classroom during the TexITE Conferences.

CTR Symposium

The CTR (Center for Transportation Research) Annual Symposium is a yearly conference held at the University of Texas's Pickle Research Center in north Austin. The 2008 Symposium was held on April 2, 2008, and its theme was "Moving Texas Forward." Speakers included Dr. Randy Machemehl, CTR director and UT transportation professor, Dr. Ben Streetman, dean of UT's College of Engineering, among many others. Several students attended this



symposium and had the opportunity to display their research on posters for the symposium attendees to see. The students were also thrilled to have lunch with other attendees of the symposium.

Texas Transportation Forum

The Texas Transportation Forum, held in Austin from January 5 to January 7 of 2008, was another big success. Students who attended had the chance to meet a huge variety of consulting firms and government agencies who converged on the forum from all over the state. Dr. C. Michael Walton, one of the professors at the University of Texas and the chair of the 2030 Committee, spoke to all of the attendees.

Other Conferences



In addition to the TRB annual meeting and the TexITE conference, ITE student members traveled across North America to attend and present papers at a number of other transportation related conferences. These events included the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) Annual Conference from October 12-15, 2008, and the Women in Transportation Annual Gala on May 1, 2008. Our ITE student members were additionally recognized at these events for receiving scholarships, fellowships, and paper-writing awards sponsored by these organizations.

Section 4: Transportation Engineering Department Development

Our UT Austin ITE Student Chapter is very proud of our many contributions to the transportation engineering department. Not only are we making the department more exciting today, but we know our efforts will have a lasting effect for years to come.

Promotional Materials



The transportation engineering department, Student Chapters of ITE and ITS, the students, and the faculty are all engaged in a variety of educational, technical, and social endeavors. We feel it is very important to let not only current students and faculty know about these endeavors, but also prospective students, past students, and others involved and interested in the University of Texas at Austin transportation engineering program. As a result, we

continue to create, write, and edit three types of promotional material for the department: Department Newsletter; Student, Faculty, and Alumni Fact Sheet; and the Transportation Research Board UT Presentation Program Schedule. The Department Newsletter includes information about various ITE and departmental activities; each issue of the newsletter is e-mailed to all current transportation engineering department students, faculty, and staff as well as to transportation engineering alumni and corporate sponsors. The Department Fact Sheet shares all of our accomplishments with prospective students and potential employers. It also contains the backgrounds of the current graduate students as well as lists awards and scholarships, national fellowships, and leadership programs current and past students have received or attended during the past four years. Finally, the UT TRB Presentation Schedule lists authors, title, location, and time of each presentation, workshops, and committee meetings given by UT faculty and students.

Graduate Student Recruitment

ITE officers work closely with faculty and staff to schedule productive and enjoyable visits for potential students in the Transportation Engineering Department. ITE officers arrange meal groups and social activities to ensure that visiting

recruits meet as many current students as possible and have the opportunity to discuss classes, research, and extracurricular activities with those who share their interests. Officers also arrange campus and building tours, transportation to and from the airport, and sleeping accommodations. For potential students unable to visit in person, particularly international students, ITE officers work with staff to identify current students with common backgrounds and interests to communicate with recruits through email.

Undergraduate Summer Internship in Transportation (USIT)



The Undergraduate Summer Internship in Transportation (USIT) is an 11-week summer program for undergraduates interested in transportation. Many of our members are paired with interns and get to mentor them as they work together on the same projects for the summer. ITE sponsors many activities with the interns over the summer, including a monthly series of luncheon presentation practices. We love the opportunity to share our interest in transportation and

help cultivate the new generation of transportation professionals.

Map Board & Picture Board

For several years, our Chapter's officers have been responsible for maintaining the department's "Map Board." This board, located on the transportation engineering floor of the civil engineering building, provides biographical information and a picture for each student in the department. Each student's biography is attached by string to a pin located at their hometown. At the beginning of the year, this board helps many students to learn about their new classmates, and throughout the year reminds students, faculty, and visitors of the diverse backgrounds of our student population. Our Chapter also maintains and updates the department's "Picture Board" which provides a place for students, faculty, and staff to post pictures of exciting non-academic activities, including weddings, births, trips, social activities, and athletic events.

New Graduate Student Orientation

This past August, the transportation engineering department at UT Austin gained nineteen new graduate students. ITE took an active role in welcoming the new students into the program. ITE was in charge of organizing the week-long new student orientation social events. ITE organized a number of activities that allowed the new students to get to know other students and learn about ITE, the transportation engineering department, and the City of Austin. The orientation included lunch at a nearby pizza place, mini-golfing, dinner at local Tex-Mex locations, bowling, barbeques, a scavenger hunt, and an introduction to the famous 6th Street nightlife. By the end of the orientation, the new graduate students felt much more comfortable with their new surroundings and were excited to begin the next step in their academic lives.

Section 5: Service Activities

Service is an integral part of our ITE Chapter. Each year we participate in a variety of volunteer activities through the University of Texas at Austin and other organizations. We see service activities as not only a way to give back to the community but also to expand people's awareness of transportation and encourage more people to become involved in the field.

E-Week Volunteering at Local Elementary Schools

As part of Engineering Week, ITE members volunteered at several local elementary schools. Members teamed up with professionals from throughout the city to talk to elementary school classes about engineering and what engineers do. Each class then got to take part in an engineering project, which included making hoop gliders and testing their flight distance, making boats out of tinfoil, and creating marble roller coasters. The ITE members had at least as much fun as the students, and this is likely to become a favorite yearly event.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day (Girl Day) is celebrated during Engineers Week each year at the University of Texas at Austin. On Saturday, February 21, 2009, thousands of girls in grades first through eighth grade arrived at the UT College of Engineering to learn first hand about engineering. ITE once again volunteered at this event by hosting an activity room to teach young girls about transportation engineering. We showed off a virtual driving test that has

been a big success in years past, and was this year as well. The girls learned about driving safety as well as how transportation engineers make roads safer. Our volunteers answered questions about transportation engineering, and offered plenty of driving tips. If the student finished the driving test they received a handmade commemorative driver's license.

Explore UT



Explore UT, the biggest open house in Texas, provides the opportunity for Texas families to come and explore the campus and participate in fun and educational activities hosted by many organizations throughout campus. UT ITE volunteered on Saturday, March 7, 2009, to run a demonstration teaching both children and adults about the role of transportation in everyday life. Our members used a computer program virtual driving test to show the users the challenges that come with driving on the existing transportation network as well as all of the situations we need to consider when doing so. Everyone that successfully finished the test received a handmade commemorative driver's license.



UT Spring Engineering Expo

Each spring, our Chapter volunteers at the UT Spring Engineering Expo. While this event is focused only on engineering, it is still the largest career fair on campus with engineering firm recruiters coming from all of the US. On Feb 8, 2008, the ITE members worked all aspects of the fair, from checking students in at the door, to directing students and recruiters, to assisting the recruiters. We were very pleased to be able to help promote the engineering profession and assist with such a phenomenal event.

Habitat for Humanity

Five members of our ITE Chapter volunteered this summer for Habitat for Humanity on July 26, 2008. In the course of one day we all helped paint a house and construct a fence. It was very rewarding to see how much we accomplished at the end of the day. We find it to be one of the most rewarding activities we do, especially when we get to meet the family for whom we are helping build the home. We intend to do another build this upcoming summer.



Race for the Cure



On Sunday, November 1, five ITE members, as well as friends and family members, took part in Austin's Race for the Cure. This event is a 5k through the streets of Austin to celebrate breast cancer survivors, remember those who have died of the disease, and raise money for future research. Over 20,000 people participated in the Race for the Cure in 2008 – the ITE members found it very rewarding to feel a part of such a large outpouring of support.

Hopefully, this event will become an annual tradition for the group.

Section 6: Social Activities

The UT Austin ITE Chapter isn't solely about professional growth- we love to have fun too! We really enjoy getting together at our social activities. We are very proud of the sense of community among the graduate students and faculty in our department, and the social activities are a key component of fostering this community.

Intramurals

UT ITE was actively involved in intramural sports the past year. We have created volleyball, football, softball, soccer and basketball teams in the UT intramural program. We have had a great time and managed to win a few games along the way.

Parties and Barbecues



Throughout the year, ITE members have participated in a variety of parties and barbecues. Some of these focus around the holidays; for example the grad students held a Thanksgiving feast for all of those in town over the holiday weekend. We have barbecues for the Fourth of July and Memorial Day, as well as “just because.” During finals week of

the fall semester in 2008, we also held a “piñata party,” in which we could take out our frustration on a piñata and be rewarded with candy. These are great events for everyone to connect with each other and to welcome new interns and students.

Holiday Party

In order to celebrate the end of the Fall 2008 semester, ITE members threw a holiday party on Saturday, December 13, 2008. Finals were over, and members dressed up and came out to enjoy themselves. For those who were graduating, it was a last chance to have fun with the students they’d grown close to over the past few years.



Monthly Birthday Parties, Happy Hours, and Coffee Hours

Each month, UT Austin ITE sponsors Birthday Parties for students, faculty, and staff in the transportation engineering department where everyone gets together to celebrate and eat cake or other sweet treats. We also continued the tradition of a monthly ITE Happy Hour at different bars around campus. Additionally, this year we introduced a coffee

hour, held on occasional afternoons, and providing a great study break to students and faculty. These activities are quite popular and nearly all of the department participates in at least one of them.

Football Games



Our ITE members got together this past year to attend the University of Texas football games as a group. Football games are a great way to encourage school spirit. Members cheered on the Longhorns as they had a great season, nearly making it to the BCS Championship game.

Section 7: Chapter Coordination

Our ITE Chapter is active within Division 9 (TexITE). We attend all of the ITE conferences, have students present their research during the student presentations, participate in the TexITE newsletter, attend the Capital Area meetings, participate in the Texas ITE Student Resume CDs, and work with other Chapters.

TexITE Conferences

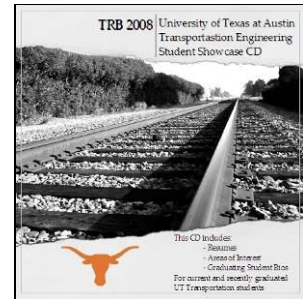
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TexITE Capital Area Meetings

During the past year, we have continued to attend the TexITE Capitol Region meetings. These meetings are the first Friday of every other month at the One Texas Center in Austin, Texas. We are very pleased to be able to interact more with our local ITE members, and we are currently working on ways to build on these relationships.

TexITE Student Resume CDs

Throughout the year we collected resumes from our members and compiled them into a Resume CD database. The database is searchable based on students' interests and current location. During the TexITE meetings in San Antonio and Lubbock, we passed out the CDs to many of the Texas transportation professionals. The Resume CD is not only good for networking, but it also serves as an excellent means of highlighting our accomplishments. In fact, a few of our recent graduates connected with their current employers through these CDs.



TexITE Newsletter

We continued over the past year to share our UT Transportation Engineering Department Newsletter with the TexITE newsletter editors. We like the opportunity to let everyone know what we are up to during the year, and we look forward to continuing this relationship.

Communication with Other Student Chapters

Our Student Chapter enjoys working with the other ITE Chapters in Texas as well. We meet up with them during the seasonal TexITE conferences and even at the annual TRB Conference.

Section 8: Member Awards/ Publications

We are very proud of how accomplished our ITE members are in their academic and research pursuits. Some of our members have received regional and national honors, awards, scholarships, and fellowships this past year and many of our members have presented and published their research at national conferences and in reputable journals.

Member Honors and Awards

This past year, ITE student members have been recognized for their academic and research excellence through a variety of awards and honors, including:

- Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) Scholarships: Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship, Ann Irwin Leadership Scholarship, and the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship
- Southwest Region University Transportation Center (SWUTC) William J. Harris Outstanding Doctoral Student Award
- Eisenhower Graduate Transportation Fellowships
- ENO Leadership Development Conference

Presentations and Publications

Most of our ITE members have presented their research at local, regional, and national conferences. Many of our ITE members presented at the TRB Annual Meeting this past January. Students also presented their research at this year's TexITE conferences. This year, eight ITE members presented at the INFORMS Annual Meeting. ITE was even represented at the 4th Annual Inter-University Symposium on Infrastructure Management. Many of these presentations have gone on to become papers in a number of journals.

Section 9: Member Roster

First Name	Last Name	State/Country of Origin	Undergraduate Institution	ITE Office
Jose Pablo	Aguiar	Costa Rica	Universidad de Costa Rica	
Abdul	Aziz	Bangladesh	Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology	
Ambarish	Banerjee	India	Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology	
Michael	Brannon	Texas	Texas A&M University	
Migdalia	Carrion	Puerto Rico	University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez	
Naveen	Eluru	India	IIT Madras	
Erin	Ferguson	Oregon	Portland State University	
Sergey	Grebenschikov	Illinois	Michigan State University	Vice President, Activities
Andrew	Karl	New York	Manhattan College	
Katherine	Kortum	Pennsylvania	University of Pittsburgh	Secretary
Jeff	LaMondia	Connecticut	University of Connecticut	
Jason	Lemp	Missouri	University of Missouri – Columbia	
Rajesh	Paleti	India	IIT Kharagpur	
Aris	Pantelias	Greece	National Technical University of Athens	
Eleni	Pappas	Texas	Vanderbilt University	President
Sruthi	Peddibhotla	India	Andhra University	
Beatriz	Rutzen	Puerto Rico	University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez	Vice President, Coordination
Kanthimathi	Sathasivan	Texas	Louisiana State University	
Tara	Snell	Texas	Vanderbilt University	
Patricia	Trujillo	Texas	Texas State University	
Christian	Vazquez	Ecuador	Pontificia Universidad Catolica Del Ecuador	
Hui	Wu	China	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	
Belinda	Yu	China	Tianjin University	Treasurer