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## President's Message By Stan Polanis

Last year, in New Orleans, we reached a milestone, half a century of service. Now as we look forward to our Annual Meeting in Winston-Salem, and we start our next fifty years it's tempting to wonder what the future will look like and what the role of the Southern District will be.

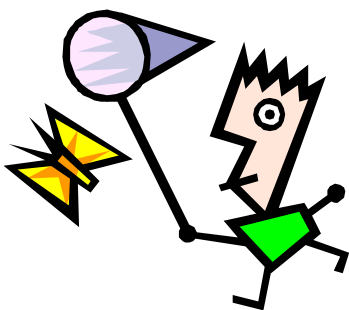
One method of predicting the future is looking at the past. Early Traffic Engineers arrived on the scene faced, in many cases, with chaos. There was neither a Manual of Uniform Manual of Traffic Control Devices nor nationally recognized design standards. There was congestion and a growing concern about the human and economic toll extracted by traffic crashes. In those early days, our profession became synonymous with both the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, because they brought order to chaos and improved both the safety and efficiency of transportation.

Today the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled is at an all time low. Yet the number of people killed on our highways is about equal to 737 crashing each day without survivors and public health officials consider the death's and injuries produced by traffic crashes an epidemic. As for congestion, it is obvious, pervasive and threatens our quality of life. Many considered it the number one transportation problem facing the country.

In many ways, the issues we face today look much like those faced in the past and those we will probably face 50 years from now. However, today there are more stake holders involved in the decisions we make and the tools we have to help make these decisions are more complex and sophisticated. Today, more than anytime, ITE is necessary to bring people together to listen to each other and learn from each other. The Southern District has a long proud history of allowing professionals to do just that.

Our Annual Meetings have always had just the right combination of technical and social functions that allow us to learn and have fun together. Our Annual Meeting is the most important thing we do. However, we must also look for other opportunities to serve. To that end, Vice President Rick Day will be leading a group that will be looking at what else we can do and how we can do things better. There efforts will be a continuation and update of the strategic plan completed a few years ago.

There is little doubt about the contributions of our profession to the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Southern District members have been and will continue to make major contributions to the betterment of our society and the Southern District will help them do that.





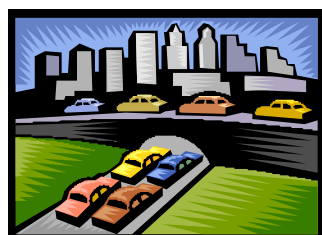
### Vice President's Report *by Rick Day*

I am continually impressed with the quality of work performed by our Southern District ITE leaders. Whether they are an elected board member, or a committee member, each is always ready to lend a helping hand to make the organization and profession excel. At this time of year, we especially want to thank Brent McKinney and others on the local arrangement committee who are preparing for our upcoming meeting in Winston-Salem.

There is an old saying that is applicable to ITE, or any professional organization... "You only get out of it what you put into it." I believe this to be true. So whether you want to volunteer your time to make ITE a better organization, or you're looking to get something back, GET INVOLVED. You can start by volunteering at your section level, or writing a paper for publication. If you can't think of a way, let me know. I'm just now beginning to think about Southern District committee work we'll need for 2004. I'd like to hear from you if you'd be inclined to serve.

As with everything we do these days we continue to think about our men and women overseas, defending the many freedoms. Please be with me in prayer as they perform their duties. I know many of you have relatives, neighbors or friends that are touched by this war in way or another. Please know we're thinking of you often.

Thanks again for all of your support over the last year. I look forward to seeing you in Winston-Salem!

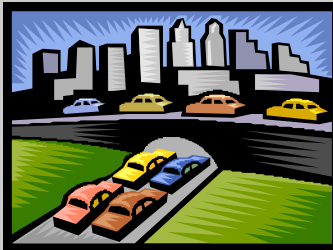


## Transportation Tips

Co-editors: Martin Bretherton & Bridget Smith

### Roundabouts

Kansas State University has developed an informative website dedicated to roundabouts. The website has studies about the benefits and effectiveness of roundabouts, many pictures of new roundabouts in the U.S. and around the world, video of roundabouts, current news on roundabouts and other roundabout sites (an extensive list). The website address is [www.engg.ksu/roundabouts](http://www.engg.ksu/roundabouts).



A syllabus and the complete decision are available at [www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html](http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html)

### Surprise – Economy Expands While Air Quality Is Improving!

For more information, you may contact Gene Russell, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, (785) 341-6588, or email is [geno@ce.ksu.edu](mailto:geno@ce.ksu.edu).

### Pierce County, Washington v. Guilen

The U.S. Supreme Court (No. 01-1229) unanimously decided a landmark case about open records request for accident records. The case was published on January 14, 2003. States and local governments are protected from open records requests for accident records used for identifying hazardous locations.

Congress adopted the Hazard Elimination Program (USC 152) which provides state and local governments with funding to improve the most dangerous intersections and sections of their roads and adopted USC 409 which provided that Materials “compiled” for USC 152 purposes “shall not be permitted into evidence in Federal and State court”. Congress later modified USC 409 to close a loophole. The change expressly made the statute applicable to pre-trial discovery and added the phrase “or collected” after the word “compiled”.

The court agrees with the United States that USC 409 protects only information compiled or collected for USC 152 purposes, but does not protect information that was compiled or collected for purposes unrelated to USC 512. This is described as the difference between a Public Works or Engineering Department giving out accident records or police departments giving out the accident reports. The police departments are not collecting the reports for USC 152 purposes, so they are not exempt from open records requests.

Many residents in the Bay Area, especially San Francisco, are used to the effects of earthquakes. Recently San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) started testing speed humps at various locations throughout the City. Soon afterwards DPT received phone calls from residents saying that the vibrations from the speed humps were like an earthquake and was damaging their homes.

Upon research on the internet, DPT found a report from the UK’s Department of Transportation where they tested various speed humps, soil types and the effect of vibrations related to each. In summary, the report states:

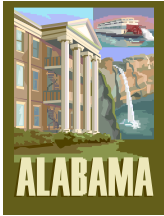
“Very minor hairline cracks should not occur unless the road humps are placed less than 4m (13 feet) from a dwelling even in the softest soil. However, it is quite possible that the effects of a commercial vehicle crossing a road hump could, on the softest soils be sensed up to 76 m (250 feet) away. It is unlikely that any road hump will result in structural damage occurring to neighboring buildings.”

Therefore, if speed humps are placed on soft soils, like bay mud which is common in San Francisco, residents may sense speed hump vibrations 250 feet from the measure. While this may be an annoyance to many residents, their claim of structural damage can be questioned unless the speed hump is placed less than 13 feet from the building.

The report provides scientific background that will help DPT and other transportation agencies alleviate fears raised by residents that speed hump vibrations damage the foundation of their homes. However, speed hump vibrations are a negative side effect that residents should be aware of when they request speed humps.

Further information may be found at [www.roads.dft.gov.uk](http://www.roads.dft.gov.uk).

## News from the Sections



### Alabama Section

The Southern District ITE Board met in Covington, Kentucky, December 2, 2002, the site of the 2004 Annual meeting. This was the annual "year-end" meeting and 18 members attended. This a very exciting time of the year, having all the Sections and Southern District Committees give their annual reports to the Board. It's the time of the year when we look back at the past year and start the process of transiting to the next.

Our District President, Mr. John Van Winkle has worked diligently on setting primary goals on both student chapters and communications. Communications, is the lifeblood of the many tasks we try to convey, and hinders us to no end if we cannot find the right avenues to follow. Communication (or lack of) seems to be a common hurdle in most of our daily tasks, and even sometimes, we bog ourselves down with too many memos, letters, faxes, and e-mails (too much information), to the point of losing our productivity. The student chapter tasks have been slow in development, but now we have a liaison for each chapter and well on our way in developing better (I think) communications. An ALSITE group, Jim Meads, Stacey Glass, Ken Cush, Doc Dorsey, and I met with the Auburn Student Chapter recently. Jim and Doc gave short presentations and then we all met with the students to talk about ITE and our hopes of interacting with them more often.

As part of the district meeting, the board also voted in a new student chapter!

#### Welcome

**University of Alabama - Birmingham**  
**Our new ITE Student Chapter!**

**Dr. Virginia Sisiopiku, Ph.D., Faculty Advisor**  
**Jim Meads, ALSITE Liaison**

Let's get involved with them and show our support! (We may even have the beginnings of an Auburn - Alabama new rivalry!)

#### Future Annual Meeting Schedule:

2003 Winston-Salem, North Carolina April 13 - 16, 2003  
2004 Covington, Kentucky April 18 - 21, 2004

2005 Savannah, Georgia  
2006 Gulfport, Mississippi

#### Future Events Around the Nation:

February 9-15 Child Passenger Safety Week  
April 7-11 National Work Zone Awareness Week  
May 11-17 National Transportation Week



### Deep South Section



The Deep South Section of ITE has had a very busy start to the year. The current 2003 officers are:

President: Alison Catarella  
Vice President: Scott Boyle  
Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Fulton  
Section Representative: Tony Tramel  
Newsletter Editors: Alison Catarella and Bob Canfield

The Deep South winter meeting was held in Jackson, Mississippi on March 13 and 14, 2003. Approximately 50 people attended. A technical tour of local projects was given to the attendees in the morning that included a visit to the MDOT's Traffic Management Center. A complete program of six technical presentations was given in the afternoon following lunch. Four \$600 scholarships were awarded to ITE Student Chapter members.

This summer, the Deep South Section will conduct a joint meeting with the Alabama Section. These two sections get together in Gulf Shores every other summer. The meeting will include a golf outing, a scholarship auction, and the newly established Traffic Bowl Competition between the sections.

More recent activities this year included several members taking time to visit some of the active Student Chapters in the section. Doug Robert spoke at LSU earlier this year, while Bob Mabry visited MSU and Ole Miss.

The Deep South Section is also beginning preparations for the 2006 SDITE Annual Meeting. This meeting will be held on the Gulf Coast in Biloxi, Mississippi. Arrangements are being made to set a meeting location by the end of the year.



## Georgia Section

Feb 13, 2003

1<sup>st</sup> ITE Luncheon - Mary Mac's Restaurant - Atlanta, GA

Speaker: Major Darryl Tolleson, City of Atlanta Police

Topic: Traffic Control for large events

Attendees: 65

March 7, 2003

2nd ITE Luncheon - Holiday Inn Select - Atlanta, GA

Joint ASCE/ITE Meeting

Speaker: Dr. Roberto Leon, Chair, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Georgia Tech

Topic: Earthquake Resistant structures and the future of Civil Engineering profession

Attendees: 100 total (ASCE and ITE)

Next Meeting

April 10, 2003

Hosted by Georgia Tech Student Chapter

Speaker: Mr. George Black, NTSB

Other Activities:

Held well attended planning session for 2005 District Meeting. Georgia will be the host in 2005.

## Kentucky Section



The Kentucky Section of ITE is off to a good start for 2003. Our January Officers Meeting was held on January 24, 2003, in Frankfort. Our officers and committee chairpersons for 2003 are:

Section Officers for 2003:

President: Paula Osborne Wahl

Vice President: Steven W. Cummins

Secretary: Brian Aldridge

Treasurer: Larry Irish

Section Representative: Bill Seymour

Director: Ron Herrington

Director: Mark Nouri

Committee Chairs:

Advertising: Andy Terwilleger

Awards: Nick Stamatiadis (Past President)

Newsletter: Paul Slone

Website: Eric Green

Nominations: Jo Anne Tingle (Immediate Past President)

Technical: Ken Agent

Membership: Steven W. Cummins

Legislative Coordinators: Duane Thomas, Brent Sweger

Scholarship/Student Outreach: Karen Mohammadi

Scholarship Auction: Paula Osborne Wahl, Karen Mohammadi

The Kentucky Section's Spring Meeting was held on March 28th in Covington at the Radisson Riverfront (site of the 2004 SDITE Annual Meeting) as a joint meeting with the Ohio Section. A total of 39 people were in attendance. Speakers for the luncheon meeting were Chris Cowan of Gresham, Smith and Partners, Mark Adams of Louisville Metro Government, Barry House of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and Brent Sweger of the FHWA. The subject was Access Management Advancements at the local, regional, state and federal levels.

KYSITE will hold its summer meeting in Louisville in early June and make this our annual golf scramble and picnic. The fall meeting will be held at the new Lexington Traffic Operations Center and include a tour of the TOC. Our Annual Meeting/Banquet and Scholarship Auction will be held at Claudia Sanders' Dinner House in Shelbyville, Kentucky on November 20, 2003.

We are also in the process of changing our KYSITE website address. The University of Kentucky will continue to house the site but the new address will be [www.KYSITE.org](http://www.KYSITE.org).

Plans are proceeding for the 2004 SDITE Annual Meeting under the able guidance of Karen Mohammadi, LAC Chairperson. The Radisson Hotel in Covington, Kentucky, will be the host site for the meeting. All committees are in place and working to make this meeting special for all those in attendance. The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area is in the midst of major tourist-oriented growth that is sure to benefit our membership in 2004.

In addition to the Golf Outing, Technical Sessions and the Spouses' Program, we are working to include a Youth Program in the 2004 Annual Meeting. This would provide activities for kids while parents are in sessions, banquets or spouse tours. Stay tuned for more information on this. We

*(continued on page 6)*

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look forward to hosting the Southern District on the southern side of Cincinnati in 2004.

And, the Kentucky contingency – student presenters, advisors, members and officers – looks forward to being in Winston-Salem for the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern District ITE.



## Tennessee Section

### **TTU Chapter Hosts TSITE**

*Student Emphasis Highlights Winter Meeting*

Weather forecasters predicted possible snow, sleet, and freezing rain for the morning of February 26. It didn't matter. Approximately 65 TSITE members, speakers, and Tennessee Tech professors and students gathered at Roader University Center on the Tech campus for the 2003 TSITE Winter Meeting.

Dr. Robert Bell, President of the University, welcomed the group and Drs. Chris Pionke and Glenn Graber of the University of Tennessee led spirited and insightful discussions on the ethics of engineering in the morning sessions. "What we try to show is that the role of engineers can be a complex one and that the 'right thing to do' can't always be summarized by an organizational Code of Ethics," said Pionke. He's right, and attendees proved it by asking thoughtful questions and bringing real-life experiences to the discussion.

A lunch and business meeting followed at which Bob Murphy swore in new officers Greg Judy (SDITE Section Representative) and Renny Stinson (TSITE Affiliate Director). Other issues covered can be found on Page 2 of this issue.

The afternoon session was a showcase of current research being undertaken at Tennessee Tech. Adam Bordon, Jason Carder, and Sudhakar Sathyanarayanan represented our newest chapter well through informative presentations.

### **TSITE Celebrates Engineers Week**

*Members Support Statewide Activities*

February 16 – 22 were the dates established by the National Society of Professional Engineers for this year's National Engineers Week. Members participated in various activities both

individually and as part of events organized by TSPE. Several classrooms were visited in Nashville in Knoxville promoting the profession to middle school students. Also, TSITE members help in an annual display at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville for several hundred school children.

The highlights of EWeek activities are engineers' banquets held throughout the state. Approximately 180 members of the Knoxville engineering community gathered to hear radio personality and writer Haller Hill. In Nashville, attendees were entertained by the Volunteer String Band, reveling in the sweet strains of the only one of six official state songs usually punctuated by fireworks.

### **TSITE Newsletter Goes Electronic**

In an attempt to free a significant portion of TSITE funds, many members are reading the Tennessee Transportation News, the official publication of TSITE, in a new way. For the first time, postcards were sent to inform readers of the publication's availability on the web at [www.tsite.org](http://www.tsite.org).

"We hope this change will accomplish a couple of things," said Jeff Hammond, TSITE's editor. "First, we spend roughly \$1400 per year in printing and postage costs; we expect to reduce that to about \$300. Second, we'd like to increase traffic to the website." Active links in an electronic version also make follow-up reading easier.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

TSITE Spring Meeting, Farragut, TN, May 6, 2003

TSITE Summer Mtg. & Auction, Fall Creeks Falls State Park, TN, July 11 – 12, 2003

TSITE Fall Meeting, Huntsville, AL, October 16, 2003 – This will be a joint meeting with the Alabama Section.

### **2003 Officers**

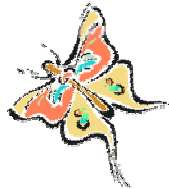
President: Anthony Todd  
 Vice-President: Bill Kervin  
 Secretary-Treasurer: Jeff Hammond  
 Section Representative(02-03): John Gould  
 Section Representative(03-04): Greg Judy  
 Immediate Past President: Cindy Pionke  
 Affiliate Director: Renny Stinson

## 2002 Southern District Officers

President: Stanley Polanis  
(336)-727-2707  
stanp@ci.winston-salem.nc.us



Vice President: Rick Day  
(404) 249-7550  
rday@daywilburn.com



Past President: John Van Winkle  
(423) 757-5005  
vanwinkle@mail.chattanooga.gov

ITE International Director: Brent McKinney  
brentm@partnc.org

Secretary/Treasurer: Bob Murphy  
bobmurphy@rpmtraffic.net

### ITE Websites

**International ITE:** <http://www.ite.org/>

**Southern District ITE:** <http://www2.ncsu.edu/sdite/>

**Alabama:** <http://www.alsite.org>

**Deep South:** <http://www.translab.lsu.edu/dsite>

**Georgia:** <http://www.traffic.ce.gatech.edu/itegeorgia/>

**Kentucky:** <http://www.engr.uky.edu/student.orgs/ite/kysite/index.htm>.

**North Carolina:** <http://www.Itre.ncsu.edu/ncsite/>

**Tennessee:** <http://www.tsite.org>

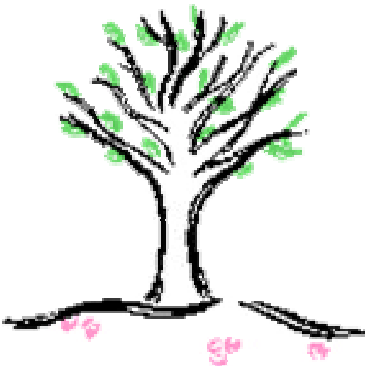
**Virginia:** <http://www.vasite.org/>



### Upcoming SDITE Annual Meetings

The Southern District has a rich heritage of conducting informative and educational Annual Meetings, mixed with plenty of social occasions for members to learn from each other. The following sites have been selected for upcoming SDITE Annual Meetings:

- 2003 – Winston-Salem, NC
- 2004 – Covington, KY
- 2005 – Savannah, GA
- 2006 – Biloxi/Gulfport, MS
- 2007 – Tennessee
- 2008 – South Carolina



**News of the South — Newsletter of the Southern District (5)**

“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 Robert Walker, Newsletter Editor, (601) 948-3071, [rwalker@neel-schaffer.com](mailto:rwalker@neel-schaffer.com)

**Section Correspondents**

Rosemary Sawyer (AL) [rosemarysawyer@volkert.com](mailto:rosemarysawyer@volkert.com)  
Todd Long (GA) [todd.long@dot.state.ga.us](mailto:todd.long@dot.state.ga.us)  
Colin Kinton (SC) [ckinton@wilbursmith.com](mailto:ckinton@wilbursmith.com)  
Ed Bohlman (VA) [ebohlman@city.hampton.va.us](mailto:ebohlman@city.hampton.va.us)

Bob Canfield (DS) [rrcbrla@aol.com](mailto:rrcbrla@aol.com)  
Bill Seymour (KY) [bill\\_seymour@gspnet.com](mailto:bill_seymour@gspnet.com)  
Jeff Hammond (TN) [jhammond@neel-schaffer.com](mailto:jhammond@neel-schaffer.com)  
Troy Peoples (NC) [tpeoples@dot.state.nc.us](mailto:tpeoples@dot.state.nc.us)

Robert Walker  
Neel-Schaffer, Inc.  
P.O. Box 22625  
Jackson, MS 39225-2625