

News of the South

A Publication of the Southern District of the Institute of Transportation Engineers



Fall 2009

SDITE Members Take International Honors in San Antonio

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The Southern District was well represented during the awards portion of this year's Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Our members took roughly a quarter of all the awards presented. Here's a run down of the people and organizations recognized:



ITE Transportation Achievement Award in Operations—**Mississippi**

Department of Transportation in recognition of its project titled "Reconnecting Mississippi's Coastal Communities Through ITS."

Edmund R. Ricker Transportation Safety Award—**Marty Lipinski, University of Memphis**, in recognition of his global knowledge of transportation safety.

ITS Council Award—**Mississippi Department of Transportation** in recognition of its project titled "Reconnecting Mississippi's Coastal Communities Through ITS."

Coordinating Council Award—**Bob Stammer, Vanderbilt University**, in recognition of the outstanding Expert Witness Council project titled "The Expert Witness Notebook," selected as the best project completed during 2008 by an ITE Council.

Past Presidents' Award for Merit in Transportation Engineering—**Ning Li, Virginia Department of Transportation**, in recognition of his paper titled "Improving Data Accuracy of Roadway Departure Crashes: Virginia Practice and its National Implications."

Best Newsletter (circulation under 250) - "Driver," **South Carolina Section**, Editor: **Jae Mattox**

Section Activities Award—**Georgia Section** in recognition of the overall program of services offered to the Georgia Section membership.

News From the Southern District Director

Bob Stammer (TN)



The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) is governed by the International Board of Direction. The board charts a path for ITE and its many programs and activities and also sets ITE policy.

It is composed of the International President, the International Vice President, the Immediate Past International President, directors from each of ITE's districts and an ex officio representative from the Coordinating Council. Bob Stammer of Vanderbilt University represents the Southern District on the International Board of Direction for a three year term ending in 2011.

ITE is a very healthy professional organization. Membership is actually up 3.26% from this time last year. We

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Technical Committee Provides Local Links

Database

Steve Bryan (TN)

The SDITE Technical Knowledge Committee has recently assembled information on standards and guidelines for each state within the Southern District. This information was gathered in response to the 2007 SDITE membership survey which included a series of questions regarding technical services. From over 300 survey respondents, two of their top three valued "very useful" responses from the technical services categories were Design Standards and Guidelines (77% at No. 1) and Information Sharing (63% at No. 3).

The information includes technical resource data and/or web page links for not only the State DOT's, but also Counties and Cities. These technical resources include engineering and planning department information such as technical standards, drawings, specifications, details, manuals, studies, guidelines, traffic counts, subdivision regulations, and zoning maps.

The amount of information provided varies by state. The SDITE Technical Knowledge Committee plans to update the technical resources information at least once a year. Participation from ITE Student Chapters is encouraged by the Southern District and has resulted in some states arranging for ITE Student Chapters to maintain this information as part of their student chapter activities. For instance, Tennessee Tech University is currently responsible for updating the Tennessee technical information.

Please visit the SDITE (www.sdite.org) to access this information. From the SDITE home page, click on "Resources" and then "State Technical Resources". From there, click on the state in which you are seeking technical resource information.

The SDITE Technical Knowledge Committee hopes that these technical resources become useful in your everyday activities. If you have any comments or questions regarding the standards and guidelines information, please forward them to Martin Bretherton at martin.bretherton@gwinnettcounty.com.

The SDITE Technical Knowledge Committee is chaired by Martin Bretherton (GA) and includes Jonathan Byrd (AL), Robert Canfield (DS), Eric Green (KY), Dale Privette (NC), Joe Maddox (SC), Steve Bryan (TN), and Jeff Minnix (VA).

Driver Gets National Award

Jeff Davis (SC)

The ITE Section Newsletter Award recognizes the sections that during a specific period of time produce the best newsletter. Since 1986, the awards have been presented in three categories, based on size of circulation.

The Spring 2009 Edition of the *Driver* (Volume III, Issue 1) was named the 2009 Best Section Newsletter for circulation under 250. This is the first time our section has received this honor. SCSITE was recognized at the Honorees Banquet at the 2009 ITE Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas on August 11, 2009.



The first edition of the *Driver* was published under the direction of the editor Jae Mattox in the Fall of 2007. Since then, the newsletter has been published quarterly. All past editions of the

Driver have been archived on the SCSITE website at www.scs-ite.org. The *Driver* has been instrumental in the growth and success that the South Carolina Section has experienced in the last few years.



Congratulations to Caroline Kone of the North Carolina Section (4th from left) and Dyan Damron of the Tennessee Section (3rd from right) for being selected as recipients of the Transportation Consultants Council Young Member Scholarship. Each received a stipend to attend the International Meeting in San Antonio.

Georgia Section Named Best

Scott Mohler (GA)

I am proud to report that the Georgia Section has received the Best Section Activities Award (Best Section Award) from International ITE. The award is given annually and “recognizes the overall quality of section activities, be they technical or non technical in nature, and may include meetings, committees, technical reports, seminars, career guidance, public relations and training programs.” The Georgia Section previously received this award in 1997. John Edwards accepted the award from ITE President Ken Voigt at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio. John’s acceptance speech follows:

“In 1962 a young traffic engineer from Cincinnati, Ohio moved to Atlanta, Georgia and with Karl Bevins, Atlanta’s City Traffic Engineer and Bill Derrick, the State Traffic Engineer formed a local organization of traffic engineers -the Atlanta Association of Traffic Engineers, which subsequently became the Georgia Division ITE and then the Georgia Section ITE. From 10 founding members in 1963 the organization grew to 333 members in 2009.

On behalf of the Georgia Section Board, President Scott Mohler, Past President Carla Holmes and the entire Section membership, I accept this award. We are honored and are appreciative of the selection by International ITE.”



Ken Voigt and John Edwards

SDITE’s Top Achievers

2009 Awards presented in Birmingham, AL

Marble Hensley Outstanding Individual Activity Award

Hollis Loveday, Tennessee Section

Herman Hoose Distinguished Service Award

Bob Stammer, Tennessee Section

Joseph Thomas Young Member Award

Mike Ridgeway, South Carolina Section

John Exnicios Government Employee Service Award

Lynn Allsbrook, Virginia Section

Excellence in Transportation Engineering Education Award (inaugural)

**Paul Cribbins, Professor Emeritus,
NC State University**



“This morning I had the honor and pleasure, along with Bob Foyle and Keith Lewis, to present the first SDITE Excellence in Transportation Education Award to Dr. Paul Cribbins. Dr. Cribbins resides in an assisted care facility here in Raleigh and his wife and daughter were present for award. I wanted you to know that the presentation was made and both Dr. Cribbins and his family were very appreciative of the award. I want to thank the SDITE for creating this new award and for selecting Dr. Cribbins as its initial recipient.”—Bill Martin

Students Honored for District Contributions

Dyan Damron (TN)

I just want to, first of all, thank all of you for your outstanding work and participation in this year's Southern District ITE !

The Education & Student Chapter Committee and entire District 5 are proud to have an energetic and growing group of student chapters and faculty advisors as a part of this organization. This year saw undoubtedly the highest level of participation in the student chapter and student paper competitions we have ever had – not only in terms of the number of chapters submitting reports, but the activities exhibited throughout the reports. Also, we had a huge increase in the number of graduate and undergraduate paper submittals this year. The hard work of our chapters has shown through in the reports and papers.

Student Chapter Results

The committee received chapter reports from 15 universities. The list of the universities (in no particular order) that submitted a Chapter Report for 2008 include the following:

- University of Alabama-Birmingham
- University of Kentucky
- University of Tennessee
- Vanderbilt University
- Auburn University
- Clemson University
- University of Mississippi
- University of North Carolina Charlotte
- North Carolina State University
- Tennessee Tech
- Georgia Tech
- University of Memphis
- University of Louisiana – Lafayette
- Virginia Tech
- Mississippi State University

We had a VERY close race this year with about six chapters that were all near the top. In the end, **Clemson University** was selected as the top student chapter, closely followed by **Auburn University** as runner-up.

Graduate Student Paper Results

The 2008 Graduate Student Paper Competition Winner is Alexander Shoemaker from Auburn University. His paper was titled "Effects of Speed Tables on Vehicle-Pedestrian Interactions and Safety Impacts on a College Campus Street".



The runner-up for the Graduate Student Paper Competition is Fransisco Moraes Oliveira-Neto from University of Tennessee with a paper entitled "Tracking Large Trucks in Real-Time with License Plate Recognition and Text-Mining Techniques".



Undergraduate Student Paper Results

The 2008 Undergraduate Student Paper Competition Winner is Ryan Brumfield from UNC Charlotte. His paper was titled "Ridership Forecast for the Cornelius Stop on the Proposed Charlotte North Corridor Commuter Rail: A Summary of Three Basic Estimates".



The runner-up for the Undergraduate Student Paper Competition is Sarah Wicklund from North Carolina State with a paper entitled "Investigation of a Continuous Flow Interchange at I-40 and US 1 in Raleigh, NC".



Congratulations to all of our student winners!

SDITE Welcomes Newest Student Chapter

Earlier this year, South Carolina State became the 24th student chapter of the SDITE. Past President Craig Hanchey was on hand to celebrate the charter with the students. SCSU is located in Orangeburg, SC and has an enrollment of approximately 4,400 undergraduate and graduate students.



SCSU student Dirk Francis receives the student chapter charter from SDITE Past President Craig Hanchey.

SCSITE Members Go to School

Statewide effort geared toward grade schools

Jeff Davis (SC)

Led by member Mike Ridgeway, the South Carolina Section of ITE Coordinated a School Outreach Initiative as part of the SDITE Information, Communications & Outreach Committee. The goal was to get as many people as possible to give a talk or presentation to a group of students about Traffic Engineering and the Transportation engineering profession. The age of students and topics are open to fit what opportunities the membership finds in their local area. Here is a summary of the presentations provided through this initiative:

- Columbia, Brennen Elementary, 5th graders – Mike Ridgeway
- Beaufort, Elementary School students – Colin Kinton
- Columbia, SC State Museum Career Day, Girls in Science ages 10-14, SC DOT
- Greenville, Summer Program, City of Greenville,
- Chester, SC DOT Career Day, Elizabeth Carpenter

Approximately 200 students directly participated in one of these events. The benefits of increasing the visibility of our profession to schoolchildren are an obvious connection for our organization. Plans are already under for next year's initiative.



Dear ITE Members and Friends...

Scott Rumble and Becky White (AL)

What a good time we had with you in Birmingham! You showed us that your commitment to the Southern District is so strong, even a recession won't keep you from gathering together. We had 372 registered attendees - fifty more than we anticipated!

Our thanks go out to all of the program speakers for their contribution to a varied and interesting technical program. Special thanks to Marsha Anderson Bomar and David Mockbee for leading Wednesday morning's professional development seminar. We also want to send out our congratulations to all of the District's award winners. Thank you for the technical and service contributions you make to SDITE.

A giant THANK YOU to all of the members of the 2009 Local Arrangements Committee from Alabama. You worked tirelessly and without complaint. We are so honored to have had the opportunity to work alongside you.

Photographs from the meeting are posted on the website. We look forward to seeing you all in 2010 in Portsmouth!

From Page 1.

do expect a shortfall in revenue vs. expenditures this year, but it is not because we are losing members. We have managed to accumulate some surplus funds during earlier good years to see us through these difficult economic times. There have been six staff reductions at ITE Headquarters and this has helped reduce expenses. Publications and the certification programs continue to do well. Attendance at recent technical conferences and annual meetings has been down from previous years. A task force of Board members is studying this trend. One of the MOST EXCITING statements I heard at the Board Meeting was that the technical conference and annual meeting program formats may change drastically. This is exciting news!

I also personally invited everyone at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio to join us in Savannah, GA next spring for a great meeting filled with lots of Southern hospitality. You WILL want to make your hotel reservations as early as possible because this Spring Technical Conference just happens to fall on St. Patrick's Day and we all know what a grand time that is in Savannah. Southern District members SHOULD be in Savannah in March, 2010 to show everyone that the Southern District really is the BEST District in ITE's realm!

ITE Headquarters thought they had a sweetheart deal to move across the street in D.C. to the Mortgage Bankers Building. Now some questions have arisen. The eventual move may be further than just across the street, but it will happen. Stay tuned for WHEN and WHERE!

Our 2010 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia will have our first Student Traffic Bowl. What the Southern District has been doing so well for years is being copied on the International level. Southern District members continue to assume leading roles in bringing a team from each District for this initial competition. This is another meeting you want to place on your calendars. Don't forget to get your passport.

The International Board continues to work on our Strategic Plan and the reduction of mega issues into a few identifiable and doable tasks. As mentioned earlier, our certification programs are doing well and should soon repay in full the last of the "initial loan" that funded this program several years ago. They will then become true moneymakers. The Board continues to reach out to encourage more international members to join our ranks. The Consultants Council also finds itself in transition. Heretofore, the Consultants Council has been largely employer or consulting firm based. It will soon be more member or individual consultant based.

Finally, speaking of Councils...GET INVOLVED in one of ITE's many councils! I know many of you are involved already, but this is really a great opportunity to be in the middle of the action. And even in difficult economic times, your organization wants to serve our members better. Currently every member may join one council free. That could be changing in the near future so that each member could join TWO councils free. Thus you could join the Consultants, Public Agency, or Education Council on the employer side and the Traffic Engineering, Planning, Transportation Safety, Expert Witness, or one of ITE's many others to enhance your professional and technical skills.

I came away from our latest Board Meeting even prouder of our great organization. Yes, ITE has tightened its belt, but the organization is still clearly working to better meet the needs of its members...and without raising dues! Please contact me any time you have questions, praises, or complaints. I appreciate the opportunity to serve you so make me work on your behalf.

SCSITE to Host 1st Vendor Day

Liz Carpenter (SC)

The first of its kind in South Carolina, SCSITE has planned a Vendor Day for traffic-related exhibitors. The event is intended to give city and local governments, transportation consultants and SCDOT roadway and signal maintainers an opportunity to meet the vendors and see what the latest and greatest technologies are.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. and end around 2 p.m. on October 8 at Brookland Banquet and Conference Center in West Columbia, SC.

This event will be free and there will be an opportunity to gain PDH's with technical presentations.

If you are a vendor that is interested in exhibiting your product, equipment or service, please contact Liz Carpenter (carpenteeh@scdot.org) for a registration form. The expo fee is \$100 per booth.



Leadership Development Program Ready for Lift-Off

John Edwards (GA)

What Will SDITE Leadership Training Do For You ??

Are you interested in improving your management skills? Are you interested in advancing your career? Are you "totally involved" in the transportation profession as a career? Then this program is right for you.

The Southern District Board approved the development of a Leadership Development Program in 2007 for use by the District and Sections in training current members who are managers in their respective positions. At the Spring Board meeting the Board approved the expenditure of \$2000. on a matching basis with the Georgia Section ITE for the development and implementation of the first training session. The first sessions will be held in Georgia on September 11 and 12 in Atlanta and the second session will be held November 6 and 7, 2009 with an anticipated attendance of 20-25 persons.

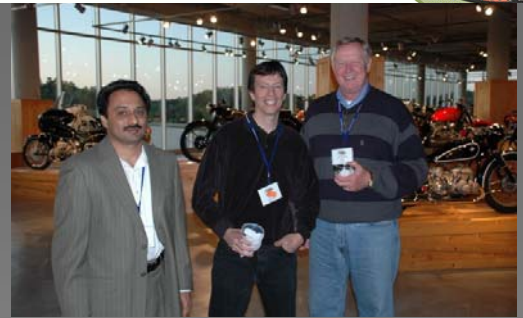
The development of the program content has been done by Richard Atkins, P.E. with the help of an "Oversight Team" of five persons representing various Sections of the District. The members of the "Oversight Team" and their affiliation are:



- Jim Westmoreland N.C. Section, Chairman
- Brent McKinney N.C. Section
- John Edwards Georgia Section
- Bill Seymour Kentucky Section
- Dan Turner Alabama Section

Jim Westmoreland chairs the Leadership Development Oversight Team The presentations will be done in a series of seven modules titled Core Management Practices including conducting meetings, developing relationships with political leaders, effective communications, developing vision and action plans, engaging stakeholders, evaluating leadership effectiveness, and mentoring and coaching employees. In addition to the modules outlined above there will be a general session on Key Leadership Characteristics. All of the modules outlined above will be presented in a Power Point Format with plenty of time for interaction and discussion between the moderators and the attendees. A leadership handbook, composed of the Power Point presentations, will be given to each of the participating members of the leadership sessions.

After this series in Georgia, the Oversight Team and the participants anticipate the evaluation and modification of the presentations based on what is learned. The revised presentations will then be available to other Sections and Districts on an invitation basis.



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

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