

The Chevron

Pointing Students in the Right Direction

Student Chapter Update

We received chapter reports from 17 universities this year. We had even more submittals than the previous year! The universities that submitted a Chapter Report for 2009 include the following:

Auburn University*
Clemson*
Georgia Tech*
Jackson State University
Mississippi State University
North Carolina A&T
North Carolina State
South Carolina State
University of North Carolina Charlotte*
University of Alabama-Birmingham
University of Kentucky
University of Mississippi
University of Louisiana Lafayette
University of Memphis*
University of Tennessee
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Tech

It was a very close race for the winners - there were five vying for the top spot. Those top five are listed with an *. The committee chose Georgia Tech as the 2009 Student Chapter Award Winner and Clemson as the Runner-up. Georgia Tech was also the winner of the 2010 Traffic Bowl Competition!



Student Paper Update

The 2009 Graduate Student Paper Competition Winner is Ismail Zohdy from Virginia Tech. His paper was titled "Physical Approach for Modeling Left-Turn Gap Acceptance Behavior".



The runner-up for the Graduate Student Paper Competition is Priyanka Alluri from Clemson with a paper entitled "Comparison of traditional and advanced methods in identifying roadway sections for safety improvements".

There are three Honorable Mentions for the Graduate Student Paper Competition

- William Minor, Auburn, "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"

The 2009 Undergraduate Student Paper Competition Winner is Jeffery Karafa from the University of Memphis. His paper was titled "State-of-the-Art in Freight Modeling".

“On the Move”

The New Jackson State University Student Chapter

By: Leroy Harrison Jr., Undergrad at JSU

2009 was a big year for the Engineering department at Jackson State University (JSU). With the completion of a new on campus facility for engineering students, also came greater opportunities for more organizations to be formed. After attending many ASCE meetings and seeing the interest from certain students and advisors, we knew that more and more student chapters would prosper. JSU formed its inaugural ITE student chapter in December of 2009 with five officers and one advisor. The ITE chapter was focused on getting students interested in the field of Transportation and all that was involved in helping students learn more about traffic and infrastructure. The initial purpose was to teach students the basics and allow them to further enhance their studies on Transportation. All students were invited to join, especially those who had a curiosity in transportation. Even though the initial outlook on our chapter was satirical, and no one thought it would succeed, there were many supporters for our chapter. Our main goal after the chapter was formed was to garner as much support from many local engineering firms. After the support of professors and many local engineering companies, such as the Mississippi Department of Transportation and Neel-Schaffer Inc., we were able to be invited to participate in the Deep South Section ITE Traffic Bowl competition. This was the first Traffic Bowl competition in JSU's engineering history for any student chapter. The five officers and one faculty advisor attended the conference. The attendees were: President Leroy Harrison Jr, Vice President Paul Forster, Secretary DeMarco Harris, Tresurer Andrew Hooker, and student Nathan Kebede, all undergraduate Civil



Deep South Section Traffic Bowl Competition

Engineering students at JSU and faculty advisor Dr. Yadong Li. As the advisor of the design team, Dr. Yadong Li supervised their presentations and other activities during the conference. The JSU team took part in the Traffic Bowl competition with two other schools: Mississippi State and Ole Miss. The Traffic Bowl consisted of questions that were referenced from the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Roadway Design Manual, and the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM). JSU team members were: Leroy Harrison Jr., DeMarco Harris, and Nathan Kebede. At the end, JSU came in 2nd place. Even though we did not win first place, it was a great accomplishment for the school, as it was our first ever competition and no one expected us to come that far. JSU is so proud of everyone involved and hopefully next year we will win it all!

In the future, the student chapter plans to participate in more competitions, on both the local and national stage, incorporate more students and gain more recognition throughout the state. Hopefully with the established support, and more participation from the students, the chapter could grow into one of the more prestigious in the south.

“SDITE Travels To...”

The University of Memphis An Opportunity for Growth

By: Stephen Edwards (ITE Student Chapter Treasurer) and Ethan Skaggs (ITE Student Chapter President)

The University of Memphis ITE student chapter was reinstated five years ago to increase the professional involvement and development of students interested in a career in the transportation field. The faculty advisor for the chapter, Dr. Stephanie Ivey, along with several dedicated students, saw the opportunity to advance the transportation program within the Herff College of Engineering through community involvement and hands-on learning. To understand the goals of the chapter you first have to understand Memphis.

The city of Memphis is a city built upon the transportation industry. Memphis has always been a center of commerce and trade in the South. However, the city's real obsession with transportation began with the courtship of FedEx in 1973. It was during this time the city became known as “America's Distribution Center”. Today, Memphis is home to the world's top cargo airport, five Class 1 railroads, the fourth busiest inland port in the nation, and soon four major interstates.

All of the intermodal capabilities that Memphis developed over the years are a bittersweet reward for the city's residents. While the city has grown, it has created a cityscape which is unfriendly to pedestrians and bicyclists. This past year, Memphis was named one of the most dangerous cities in the United States for pedestrians.

It is this complex environment that has fueled the growth of The University of Memphis' transportation program and the ITE student chapter. In 2007, the Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute (IFTI) was established.

IFTI houses three research centers, including the Center for Intermodal Freight Transportation Studies (CIFTS), the Center for Advanced Intermodal Technologies (CAIT), and the CN-E. Hunter Harrison Institute for Intermodal Safety and Emergency Preparedness (CN).

These centers have not only increased the research funding in the department, but have attracted new faculty and graduate students, and increased the transportation courses that are available at the undergraduate level. This increased exposure of the transportation program has helped the ITE student chapter grow from the original eight members to more than thirty members today.

In the chapter's short existence, several members have won state and organizational awards, scholarships, and paper competitions. The ITE Data Fund project was awarded to the chapter for 2008 and 2009 project years. Recently the chapter was Awarded the Robert



E. Hunter Harrison, former Memphian and current president of Canadian National Railway visits IFTI

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“SDITE Travels To...” Continued

Stammer Outstanding Student Chapter award for the Tennessee Section, which allowed the university to send a team of four students to represent Tennessee in the 2010 William Temple Scholarship Challenge Traffic Bowl at the Southern District conference.

The conference was an excellent experience that provided the students with an immersion into the professional world of engineers. Technical sessions and tours detailed growing trends and past challenges that expanded the academic knowledge and understanding of the students. More importantly, students were able to interact with the professionals during social events. It was at one of these events that Paul Eng-Wong, international president of ITE, impressed upon the students the importance of leaving the group of people they knew and meeting new people, he said “be aggressive”.

The chapter has also been active in the community, working with Memphis City Schools and The University of Memphis' City and Regional Planning program, to develop design plans following Safe Routes to Schools guidelines. The chapter has participated in an elementary school outreach program that engages the students through traffic count activities and the use of the ITE

Transportation Council Educational Toolbox.

As we move forward, The University of Memphis's ITE chapter will continue to find the opportunity to grow and be successful. The student chapter's involvement at the section, district, and international ITE levels, provides our students the education and skills sets to mold them into successful and prepared professionals in the transportation engineering workforce.

The Road to International ITE

Are you a professional or student working in transportation engineering and design, planning, research or policymaking? This international meeting is for you!

ITE is calling our multidisciplinary community of transportation professionals—engineers, planners, academicians, policy leaders and advocates—to come together to **LEARN** new applications and analyses; **COMMUNICATE** best practices; **COLLABORATE** on technical projects; and **NETWORK** to create new business and professional opportunities.

The meeting offers four key technical tracks—engineering and design, safety, planning and transportation operations.

Also, you can come support Georgia Tech who will be representing the Southern District in the first annual Intercollegiate Traffic Bowl Competition! Go GT and SDITE!



If you'd like to nominate a student or chapter to be featured in the next issue of the Chevron, please submit your request to Dyan Damron, dyan.damron@neel-schaffer.com

www.sdite.org