



Winter 2013

Volume 26

Issue 3

## **DEEP SOUTH TRANSPORTATION NEWS**

[www.ite.org](http://www.ite.org)

### **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Over ten years ago, I embarked in an adventure of a lifetime...I left my family, friends, home in Honduras and everything I knew, to pursue a new path. Equipped with a big dream, the support of my family and the vision to conquer my goals, I graduated from college and ended up "drinking the traffic engineering kool-aid." Since then, I have never been the same. I am truly honored and humbled to serve as President of such a great organization.

First of all, I want to thank Jonathan Kiser for his leadership, guidance and outstanding work as an officer over the past three years. With the start of the New Year, I reflected on the values I have learned and come to appreciate as a member of DSITE. Knowledge, leadership, support, friendship and opportunities for professional growth, are among a few of those values that have become very important to me. With these values in mind, for 2013, here are some of my goals:

#### **Increase marketing for our section through member outreach and participation in other non-ITE related meetings.**

In the past years, our section created a DSITE brochure and distributed these at the LADOTD conference. This resulted in getting new members to participate in our section. During the 2012 year end meeting, it was decided that we would allocate yearly funds towards marketing expenses at meetings such as the LADOTD conference, GRITS, ASCE, among others. I strongly believe that this initiative will continue to increase our membership, enhance our knowledge and experience pool, as well as increase revenues. I have taken advantage of the experience that our DSITE members possess in order to become educated on subjects that I had never worked on before. It is my firm belief that ITE is the best source of information for our professionals. These resources are at your disposal and I encourage each of you to use them.

#### **Increase sponsorship at our meetings.**

These sponsorships allow our members to market their companies and it also provides them with a way to give back to our student chapters. As most of you know, all of our revenues go toward funding our yearly scholarships. Last year we were able to award \$7,000 which is a huge jump from the \$4,000 contributions of past years. Thumbs up to last year's sponsors; let's keep up the good work!

#### **Increase student participation.**

I encourage all of you to reach out to our members that serve as liaison to the various Universities in Louisiana and Mississippi and volunteer to speak at one of their student meetings. They would love to have you! Our current National President, Zaki Mustafa, said it best "we should all strive toward introducing more students to our organization." After all, they are the future of our profession.

For many years, I have been amazed at how our work impacts the lives of millions. The infrastructure that we design provides access and mobility to everyday people who we have never met. I want to reach out to those of you who don't know us and those of you that do, and invite you to one of our upcoming events. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year. If you have any ideas or questions, please contact me at [gaby.tassin@neel-schaffer.com](mailto:gaby.tassin@neel-schaffer.com). I'd love to hear from you.

Gaby Tassin, PE, PTOE  
DSITE President



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### **CALENDAR**

Southern District ITE Annual Meeting—Charlotte, NC.  
April 7-10, 2013

Deep South Section Summer Meeting and Leadership Series—  
Biloxi, MS. July 17-19, 2013

ITE Annual Meeting—Boston, MA. August 4-7, 2013

GRITS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.  
September 15-19, 2013

Deep South Section Fall Meeting—Natchez, MS.  
October 10-11, 2013

### **Going To Charlotte?**

Attention Deep South Section ITE Members going to Charlotte for the Southern District Annual meeting—be prepared to make a special entrance at the opening session Roll Call of the States on Monday morning! Contact Gaby Tassin for more information. Also we will have the traditional Section Breakfast at the Westin Charlotte on Tuesday morning, followed by a brief Deep South Section Business Meeting. See y'all in the Tarheel State!

### **DSITE SHIRTS**



Deep South ITE shirts are still available. They are \$30 plus shipping. Please contact Linda Canfield at 225-293-9609 or [rcanfield14@cox.net](mailto:rcanfield14@cox.net) to purchase a shirt. Deep South ITE shirts come with the Deep South logo (shown above).

### **NEW ORLEANS RTMC HOSTS SUCCESSFUL DSITE WINTER MEETING; LEADERSHIP SERIES WELL RECEIVED**

Deep South Section ITE members, student members, and guests packed the large conference room of the New Orleans Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC) for their Winter Meeting February 27-28, with over 90 in attendance. Highlights of the meeting included a continuation of the SDITE Leadership Series, an interesting and wide ranging technical program, an enjoyable social hour, and the 2013 edition of the Deep South Traffic Bowl. Twenty nine students attended all or part of the meeting, and tours of the RTMC control room were conducted giving the students a look behind the scenes of an ITS center in operation.



### **TRAFFIC BOWL RESULTS**

In a hotly contested match, the Bulldogs of Mississippi State overcame tough opposition from the Jackson State Tigers to win the Mississippi Student Chapter Traffic Bowl held in New Orleans on February 28. MSU will now represent the State of Mississippi in the William H. Temple Challenge Traffic Bowl at the Southern District ITE Meeting in Charlotte, April 7-10. In the match for bragging rights in the Bayou State, LSU tried to mount a fierce comeback but could not overcome the talented UL-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns, who earned the trip to Charlotte with an impressive early lead that held up in the end. Though both MSU and ULL will get to send teams to the next level, the unofficial playoff for Deep South bragging rights was held at the end of the competition, and Mississippi State edged UL for the unofficial title of "Best of the Deep South." All the teams did well and are to be congratulated for their efforts in making this one of our best Traffic Bowls ever. Good luck to our students in Charlotte!



Senior Operator Mark Maher (right) explains operations of the DOTD TMC Control Room to Deep South students as Dr. Sun of UL-Lafayette (left) looks on

### Harry Rivero Honored—ITE Life Member

A presentation was held in honor of Harringly A. Rivero, Jr., as a Life Member of ITE for his service as Sign and Marking Superintendent for Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. The certificate was presented by Jonathan Kiser, DSITE Past President, and current Section President Gaby Tassin during the Winter meeting in New Orleans. Doug Robert, who worked with him throughout his career, spoke about Harry's contribution to quality signing and other traffic control improvements over the years. Doug believes Harry



was one of the first DSITE members not in a Traffic Engineer position, though he could have easily done much of the work of a Traffic Engineer in the public sector.

Harry began working for Jefferson Parish in 1969 as a Sign Mechanic, and retired in 2004 with over 35 years of service. During his tenure, Harry oversaw the fabrication, installation, and maintenance of all the signs and pavement markings for all of unincorporated Jefferson Parish. He made sure Jefferson Parish stayed current with technology especially with the design and fabrication of signs. He also helped the Parish stay at least one step ahead of Manual requirements for the reflective materials used. Harry was always the person to go to with any question on MUTCD standards, but also on designing sign layouts so the driver understood the message being conveyed.

Harry also was famous for his artistic talents in the sign

shop, designing many special and commemorative signs including the famous Mardi Gras "No Parking" signs which were given as commemorative tokens by local authorities and even ended up as fund raising items at DSITE scholarship auctions from time to time.

An ITE Life Member is one who has paid dues to the Institute for at least 25 years and has reached the age of 65.

### TECHNICAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The DSITE Winter Meeting Technical Program featured a diverse and interesting mix of presentations:

- Introduction & Welcome by Walter Brooks, Executive Director, New Orleans Regional Planning Commission, discussing the role of NORPC in Planning, Operations, and Sustainability
- Working with elected officials – Technical presentation by Nick Verret, Parish Engineer for Natchitoches Parish, LA., formerly Program Manager of Louisiana LTAP
- Discussion panel on Working With Elected Officials –
  - \* Mayor Ronnie Harris, City of Gretna
  - \* Ms. Connie Standige, DOTD District 62 Administrator (Retired)
  - \* Mr. Walter Brooks, Executive Director, New Orleans Regional Planning Commission
- Welcome After Lunch by Mr. Michael J. Stack, District Administrator, LADOTD, New Orleans
- Steven Strength, LADOTD District 02, "Gone Bowling XLVII: A Super NFL Experience"
- Martin Bretherton, HNTB – SDITE Overview and "Roundabouts - The Latest Research"
- Jonathan Kiser, Neel-Schaffer, "Bicycle and Pedestrian Applications in the Netherlands"
- Betsey Tramonte, FHWA Louisiana Division, "Louisiana's Strategic Highway Safety Plan" and MAP-21 Update
- Acey Roberts, Mississippi DOT, "Smart Work Zones"
- Adam Moser, Gresham Smith Partners, "Adaptive Signal Control: Is It Right for My Agency?"



Former ITE International President Marshall Elizer signs in at the New Orleans Meeting on February 28.

**New Orleans meeting (continued)**

After the Technical Program and Traffic Bowl competition, DSITE members enjoyed the Social Hour held at The Bulldog in Mid City, courtesy of the ABD. On Friday morning the Business meeting was held at the RTMC, followed by a technical tour of the West Closure Complex in nearby Plaquemines Parish, part of the refurbished and expanded post-Katrina New Orleans flood protection system. The complex consists of a sector gate on the Intracoastal Waterway that can be closed to block storm surge from the Gulf of Mexico, and a pumping station that can be used to help drain the metropolitan area when the gate is closed. The pumping station is the largest of its kind in the world, with a pumping capacity of 29,000 cubic feet per second.



**Deep South ITE members pose in front of the world's largest pumping station near Belle Chasse, LA. on March 1, 2013.**

**New Orleans Program Sponsors—THANKS!!!**

- Thursday Breakfast—ITS Regional
- Lunch—Urban Systems
- Afternoon Break—Neel Schaffer
- Traffic Bowl Break—ARCADIS
- Friday Breakfast—AECOM

**SDITE LEADERSHIP SERIES MOVES FORWARD AT NEW ORLEANS MEETING**

Eighteen early arrivals to the Deep South Section meeting in New Orleans took advantage of the latest installment of the Southern District Leadership Series, co-sponsored by the Louisiana LTAP Center in Baton Rouge. Led by LTAP Director Dr. Marie Walsh, the series focuses on leadership skills of particular value to the transportation professional. The workshop began Wednesday morning February 27, with an inspirational video, group exercise, and discussion on “Creating a Shared Vision.” After lunch, Denny Silvio and Sherri Dupre of LA DOTD’s Quality and Continuous Improvement Program talked about “Creating Positive Change,” followed by a session on “Strategic Planning.” They introduced a concept called “ADKAR” which is a model for evaluating and implementing change in an organization or one’s

personal life. The afternoon was concluded with a session on “Conducting Effective Meetings” led by Karl Rothermel of AECOM. After hearing Karl’s delivery, none of us will ever dare conduct a meeting without an agenda!



**Presenting on Change Management were Denny Silvio and Sherri Dupre of LADOTD’s Quality and Continuous Improvement Program. Dr. Marie Walsh, center, of the Louisiana LTAP Center is coordinating the Leadership Series for Deep South ITE as part of LTAP’s outreach efforts.**

Thursday morning, the Leadership series continued with a session on “Identifying and Engaging External Stakeholders,” presented by Blanche Hill of the Louisiana LTAP Center. The Leadership Session was concluded with a panel session on “Working With Elected Officials” that dovetailed into the regular Deep South technical agenda.



**Presenters for the Panel Discussion on “Working With Elected Officials” included, from left: Connie Standige, Nick Verret, Mayor Ronnie Harris, and Walter Brooks**

All who participated came away with a book, lots of helpful resource materials, and plenty of food for thought. We hope to conclude our Leadership Series with another full slate of interesting topics in Biloxi. Many thanks to the Southern District Leadership Development Team and especially to Dr. Walsh and her team for putting together this worthwhile program!

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DEEP SOUTH SECTION 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

**Financials:**

**Balance at January 1, 2012 \$ 12,841.20**

**Income:**

Dues 2011	3,955.00
Dues 2012	5,400.00
Scholarship Fund -Individual Donations	1,375.00
-Raffle	519.51
-Scholarship Auction	1,835.00
-Temple Scholarship	1,000.00
Winter Meeting Registration	6,000.00
Summer Meeting Regist. (with ALSITE)	400.00
Fall Meeting Registration	4,130.00
Newsletter Ads	800.00
Miscellaneous SDITE Reimbursement/Grant:	
Travel Reimbursements	1,400.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 22,859.51</b>

**Expenses:**

Student Chapters Travel:	
Section Traffic Bowl	385.56
Travel: District Traffic Bowl	3,512.58
Chapter Meetings (Pizza/drinks)	141.00
Leadership Training	458.09
Winter Meeting	1,366.81
Summer Meeting (Joint with AL)	0.00
Fall Meeting	3,016.45
District Representative Travel	653.20
Website/On-Line voting costs	336.57
Clerical Supplies	551.50
Raffle Items	160.49
Awards/Plaques	278.53
2013 Winter Meeting Deposit	200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 11,060.78</b>

**Checking Account Balance Dec. 18, 2012 \$ 24,639.93**

**ITE Scholarship Balance Dec. 19, 2012 \$ 24,608.14**

### SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2012

DSITE awarded \$7,000 in scholarships in 2012 to:

- Ole Miss – 4 (\$1,000/\$700/\$600/\$500),
- Mississippi State – 2 (\$700/\$600),
- Jackson State - 1 (\$600)
- UL-Lafayette – 3 (\$700/\$600/\$500)
- LSU – 1 (\$500)

Scholarship donations are raised by individual donations, the scholarship auction, and a portion of our membership dues dedicated to the scholarship fund. Our scholarship fund, which is managed by International ITE, has grown to over \$24,000, with a \$10,000 check planned to be deposited in 2013 to raise the total to over \$34,000. The DSITE Section continued the scholarship drive where we took donations above our normal scholarship allocation, utilizing raffle tickets to raise money based on a pur-

chased or donated item at each meeting, and raised an additional \$519 through this effort.



**2013 Scholarship recipients who attended the Winter meeting in New Orleans are congratulated by Scholarship Chair Doug Robert, right, and student chapter liaisons Bob Mabry, second from right, and Jonathan Kiser, at left.**

Each year, DSITE awards scholarships to deserving student members in varying amounts. Eleven scholarships were awarded in 2012 as follows:

- Corey Hamil University of Mississippi, \$1000 (Temple Scholarship)
- Stephen Burdine University of Mississippi, \$700
- Subasish Das Univ. of Louisiana at Lafayette, \$700
- Yi Wen Mississippi State University, \$700
- Preston Bridges University of Mississippi, \$600
- Leia Kagawa Univ. of Louisiana at Lafayette, \$600
- Zhitong Huang Mississippi State University, \$600
- Paul Forster Jackson State University, \$600
- Neil Schneider Univ. of Louisiana at Lafayette, \$500
- Mark Genre Louisiana State University, \$500
- Alper Durmus University of Mississippi, \$500

A listing of the Faculty Advisors and Chapter Liasons for the Student Chapters within the Deep South ITE Section is as follows:

<u>Student Chapter</u>	<u>Faculty Advisor</u>	<u>Chapter Liason</u>
Mississippi State	Dr. Li Zhang	Jonathan Kiser/ Bob Mabry
Ole Miss	Dr. Waheed Uddin	Jonathan Kiser/ Bob Mabry
Jackson State	Dr. Feng Wang	Jonathan Kiser/ Bob Mabry
UL-Lafayette	Dr. Xiaoduan Sun	Thomas Swanson
Louisiana State	Dr. Sherif Ishak	Murat Korkut

## SDITE PRESIDENT BRINGS DISTRICT NEWS, TRIVIA TO WINTER MEETING

Southern District ITE President Martin Bretherton spoke at the Winter meeting, discussing roundabouts and other innovative intersection treatments, but also sharing some information about SDITE and the Deep South Section’s role in making it a success. Citing his goal of visiting each Section during his term, Martin spoke about some milestones and some goals for the Sections:

- This is the Year of Women in SDITE, with 2 of 4 officer Executive Board positions, 6 of 12 Committee Chairs, and 6 of 14 Section Representatives being women
- The Deep South Executive Board has 3 of 4 positions held by women this year
- With a membership of 226, Deep South now qualifies for a second representative on the SDITE Board
- Deep South’s 82 Student Members make it among the highest ranking in SDITE
- Deep South has had seven Presidents of the Southern District. The first President, Paul Ristroph, served for three years!
- John Exnicios is an Honorary Member of ITE, one of the Institute’s highest honors
- Hibbett Neel is serving as International Vice President this year

*(Editor’s note: There is actually an 8th SDITE President from the Deep South. Can you name this former Deep South member who held that office?)*



### SDITE President Martin Bretherton addresses the group

Martin also encouraged the group to GO THE EXTRA “MILE”  
**M – Membership**—add agency members, recruit ‘old’ members, improve communications & technical knowledge transfer  
**I – Involvement**—You get what you put in- GET INVOLVED!  
**L- Leadership**—Budget in good shape, continue strong planning, improve sponsorships, support Section Presidents  
**E – Education**—Develop Education Fund, Promote Professional Development

## CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to all of the certified individuals in our two states. This list will be updated regularly. More information can be found on the Transportation Professional Certification Board website at [www.tpcb.org](http://www.tpcb.org).

### PTOE

#### Louisiana

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Charles Adams       | Lucy Kimbeng        |
| Peter Allain        | Vijay Kunada        |
| David Backstedt     | Rebecca Lala        |
| Tanya Bankston      | Laurence Lambert    |
| Byron Becnel        | David LeBreton      |
| Jacob Benfield      | Frank Liang         |
| Pratapsingh Bhonsle | Kimberly McDaniel   |
| Scott Boyle         | Alison Michel       |
| Akhil Chauhan       | Bert Moore          |
| Guangxiang Cheng    | Chris Morvant       |
| Shelby Coke         | David Othling       |
| Alben Cooper        | Ingolf Partenheimer |
| Elmer Darwin        | Cynthia Pennington  |
| Sarah Edel          | Lauren Picou        |
| Michael Erlund      | Karl Rothermel      |
| Christopher Ewing   | Robert Schmidt      |
| Nick Ferlito        | Nicole Stewart      |
| Brin Ferlito        | Steven Strength     |
| Jonathan Fox        | Tom Swanson         |
| Nicholas Fruge      | Gaby Tassin         |
| Kirk Gallien        | Dean Takell         |
| Stephen Glascock    | Tony Tramel         |
| Scott Gros          | Lei Wang            |
| Carmelo Gutierrez   | Brian Wolshon       |
| Steve Jiles         | Hong Zhang          |

#### Mississippi

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Mark Bailey  | Jonathan Kiser   |
| Tim Bryan    | Bob Mabry        |
| James Epps   | Ariane May       |
| Brian Fulton | Stephen Mosher   |
| Karl Hector  | Mark Sorrell     |
| Dan Helms    | Bradley Williams |
| Tait Karlson |                  |

### PTP

#### Louisiana

- Akhilendria Chauhan  
 Denis Finigan  
 Vijay Kunada  
 Raju Porandla

#### Mississippi

- Jonathan Kiser

### TOPS

#### Louisiana

- Eugene Babb



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