University Transportation Centers

21st Annual Outstanding Student of the Year Awards

Transportation Research Board

91st Annual Meeting

Omni Shoreham Hotel

Washington, DC

January 21, 2012

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Innovative Technology Administration

WELCOME

Welcome to the 21st Annual Student of the Year Awards ceremony, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Each year at the annual winter meeting of the Transportation Research Board, the Department honors the most outstanding student from each participating University Transportation Center for his/her achievements and promise for future contributions to the transportation field. Students of the Year are selected based on their accomplishments in such areas as technical merit and research, academic performance, professionalism, and leadership.

The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) administers the University Transportation Centers program, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. This year, continuing the tradition of One DOT, the Department will also honor a student from the Air Transportation Centers of Excellence, sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration.

University Transportation Centers Program

Developments in transportation technology over the decades have caused the world to expand, not in dimension but in terms of accessibility. Transportation has always played a major role in society. The degree of efficiency in getting people or goods from one point to another plays a pivotal role in determining the health of an economy and in the general well-being of a nation.

Recognizing the need to encourage efficient movement in all transportation sectors of the country, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) established the University Transportation Centers (UTC) Program in 1987 (Title 49, U.S. Code Appendix 1607 c) to establish and operate 10 transportation centers, one for each of the federal regions. Since that time, the UTC Program has expanded to include 60 centers with a $69.7 million annual budget, as authorized by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

The mission of the UTCs is to advance U.S. technology and expertise in transportation through education, research, and technology transfer. Of the 60 UTCs, 52 are required to match federal funds dollar for dollar. The UTC Program is managed by USDOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration.

Federal Aviation Administration
Air Transportation Centers of Excellence

Under the authority provided in Public Law 101-508, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) establishes Air Transportation Centers of Excellence (COEs) to create cost-sharing partnerships with academia, industry, and government. The FAA has established COEs to address long-term aviation related topics such as: Computational Modeling of Aircraft Structures, Airport Technology, Operations Research, Airworthiness Assurance, General Aviation, Aircraft Noise and Aviation Emissions Mitigation, Advanced Materials, Cabin Environment and Intermodal Research, and Commercial Space Transportation.

Supporting the FAA and other government and industry organizations, Air Transportation COEs perform basic research through engineering development and prototyping, education, and training. These multi-year, multi-disciplinary competitive partnerships forge unions between the public sector (FAA, airport authorities, state/local governments, etc.), the private sector (airlines, manufacturers, etc.), and academic institutions. FAA COEs help create these world-class consortia to focus on identifying solutions for existing and anticipated aviation and related transportation problems, support the education and training of a pool of scientists for the next generation, and to engage in technology transfer.

Since 1992, the FAA has established nine COE partnerships with more than 75 universities throughout the U.S., and has supported over 700 research projects and 1,250 students. Critical research outcomes are documented in over 2,000 publications, reports, and doctoral theses. FAA COEs now reflect a level of effort exceeding $425M, funded through federal contract and grant awards, and matching funds provided by academia and industry.

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Mohamad Abdul-Hak
University of Detroit Mercy

Douglas Gregory Allen
Colorado State University

Jeffrey Bazzo
Cleveland State University

Andrew L. Berthaume
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Laura Black
University of Delaware

Allison M. Bondanza
University of Denver

Zachary Bugg
North Carolina State University

Bradley Cheetham
University of Colorado at Boulder

Kenneth Chong
University of Wisconsin-Superior

Angela Coates
The University of Akron

Mathew Coppage
Youngstown State University

Brian Davis
University of Minnesota

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Luis de la Torre
Northwestern University

Christopher DeLorto
University of Idaho

Kristen Derewecki
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Travis Eckhoff
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Levi Ewan
Montana State University

James Fishelson
Utah State University

Royce W. Floyd
University of Arkansas

Robert Frazier
Oklahoma State University

Vikash Gayah
University of California, Berkeley

Radhameris Gomez
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Phillip Haas
University of Florida

Scott Himes
The Pennsylvania State University

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Christian Hoover
Northwestern University

Celine Kalembo
Morgan State University

Alex Karner
University of California, Davis

Donald Katz
Georgia Institute of Technology

Nga Lam
California State University, San Bernardino

Lisa Larsen
Texas A&M University

Jonathan Maddison
University of Vermont

Justin Messina
University of Rhode Island

Cortney Mild
University of Oregon

Theodore D. Minch
University of Southern California

James E. Mooradian
University of Connecticut

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Nathan P. Muncy
Missouri University of Science and Technology

Rodney Neely
George Mason University

Robin O'Hara
San Jose State University

Nicole Oneyear
Iowa State University

Brian Pailes
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Scott Parr
Louisiana State University

Jeffrey C. Peters
Purdue University

Tara Rodrigues
University of South Florida

Kaveh Farokhi Sadabadi
University of Maryland

Katayoun Salamati
North Carolina State University

Brie Salmons
Western Carolina University

Ethan Skaggs
The University of Memphis

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Wilson Smith
Kansas State University

Scott Sorensen
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Ben Sperry
Texas A&M University

Moses Tefe
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

Khatereh Vaghefi
Michigan Technological University

Jonathon Vivoda
University of Michigan

Dionne West
Hampton University

Erica Wygonik
University of Washington

Mohamad Abdul-Hak

University of Detroit Mercy

Michigan Ohio University Transportation Center

Mohamad Abdul-Hak is a PhD candidate in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM). Mohamad received his bachelor's and master's degrees with honors in electrical and computer engineering from Wayne State University and the University of Michigan, respectively.

Under the leadership of Dr. Nizar Al-Holou, Chairperson of UDM's Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, Mohamad contributed extensively to two MIOH UTC-funded research projects. The first project was titled, "A New Approach to Enhance and Evaluate the Performance of Vehicle-Infrastructure Integration and ITS Communication Systems," while the second was called "A Multi-Dimensional Model for Vehicle Impact on Traffic Safety, Congestion, and Environment." As a result of his research, the student team of which Mohamad was a member, won the Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan's 2011 Silver Award for their paper titled, "ITS-based Eco-Routing for Car Navigation Systems."

Presently, Mohamad's research efforts are aimed at developing a Predictive Intelligent Energy Management System. This system provides the on-board navigation unit of an electric vehicle with real-time traffic information which is then used to optimize the route selection based on reduced energy consumption and emissions, resulting in improved air quality. Mohamad's doctoral dissertation working title is "Predictive Intelligent Energy Management System to Enhance the Performance of Electric and Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles."

In addition to his academic pursuits, Mohamad is an advisory committee member for both Wayne County Community College and Underwriters Laboratories Inc. He is also a student member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers. Mohamad has two patents pending relative to transmission oil pressure/flow in hybrid electric vehicles. Further, he has been active in community service as a volunteer at Star International Academy.

In recognition of Mohamad's significant contributions to MIOH UTC projects and his exemplary academic performance, the Michigan Ohio University Transportation Center is pleased to select Mohamad Abdul-Hak as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Douglas Gregory Allen

Colorado State University

Mountain-Plains Consortium (MPC) Region 8

A carpenter for over 12 years, Doug Allen decided to further his education by seeking a bachelor of science in civil engineering at Colorado State University in 2006. He chose to continue his education by obtaining a master's degree in 2010. Doug completed his thesis, entitled "Evaluating the Long-Term Durability of Fiber Reinforced Polymers via Field Assessments of Reinforced Concrete Structures." As an undergraduate and graduate student, Doug has worked on numerous Mountain-Plains Consortium research projects, which include "Sustainable Concretes for Transportation Infrastructure," "Low Impact, High Toughness Transportation Barriers," "Rapid Load Rating of Short Rural Bridges," and "Long-Term Performance of FRP Repair Materials." He will be named as a coauthor on reports for three of these projects.

Doug has pursued other research opportunities, and in the summer of 2009, he traveled to Japan for seismic testing of a seven-story structure and participated in a Research Experience for Undergraduates with the National Science Foundation. His extensive participation in MPC-related research and Doug's outstanding academic ability led to his selection for this award.

The Mountain-Plains Consortium is pleased to select Doug Allen as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jeffrey Bazzo

Cleveland State University

Cleveland State University Transportation Center

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Jeff Bazzo is pursuing a master's degree at Cleveland State University (CSU). He is currently studying civil engineering with a focus in structures and foundations. Jeff graduated cum laude in August 2011 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from CSU. As a combined bachelor's/master's degree student, Jeff was immediately admitted to the graduate program.

Jeff is the principal investigator for an Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) student study, entitled "Uncontrolled Concrete Bridge Parapet Cracking," which is using a forensic engineering approach to investigate concrete cracking problems in ODOT District 12 (Cleveland area). His project is supervised by Professors Norbert Delatte and Paul Bosela. Jeff previously performed research under a National Science Foundation grant on integrating failure case studies and forensic engineering in education, and authored a case study of the I-35W Minneapolis Bridge collapse as well as a poster, entitled "Learning from Failures."

In addition to being a Cleveland sports fan, Jeff enjoys running marathons and playing guitar in a rock band.

The Cleveland State University Transportation Center is pleased to select Jeff Bazzo as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Andrew L. Berthaume

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of Massachusetts Transportation Center

Andrew Berthaume is a PhD candidate studying civil engineering at the University of Massachusetts (UMASS), Amherst. He received his bachelor of science in civil and environmental engineering and a master of science in civil engineering in the spring of 2009 and summer of 2010, respectively. Andrew is a self-motivated PhD candidate with a strong background in traffic engineering, specifically traffic flow theory and traffic simulation. He also possesses significant leadership qualities.

Andrew co-authored an article that appeared in *Safety Today*, entitled "Estimated Wait Time," which examined the challenges faced by transportation officials and contractors as they look to reduce negative impacts of work zones on driver mobility. He also presented a number of papers and posters at the ITSMA Annual Meeting in April 2010, the ITE Northeastern District 2010 Annual Meeting, and the TRB Annual Meeting in 2010. Since 2009, Andrew has worked as a graduate student assistant in the College of Engineering Transportation Center at UMASS. Prior to this, he worked as a traffic engineering research assistant where he devised means and methods to analyze the ability of TSIS 5.0 and CORSIM to simulate merging traffic in construction zones. Andrew is also a member of Chi Epsilon, the Civil Engineering Honors Society at UMASS.

Based on his high academic achievement and experience in traffic flow theory, the University of Massachusetts Transportation Center is proud to select Andrew Berthaume as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Laura Black

University of Delaware

Delaware Center for Transportation

Laura Black is a PhD candidate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Delaware. She holds a bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering with honors, and a minor in history. She also earned a master of arts in urban affairs and public policy, as well as an MCE in infrastructure systems, all from the University of Delaware. The title of Laura's dissertation is "Investing in Interdependent Infrastructure."

Laura was a research assistant for several UTC-funded and related projects including, Transportation Performance Index, Infrastructure Security and Emergency Preparedness, and Understanding the Impacts of Climate Change on the I-95 Corridor in Maryland and Delaware. Laura mentored an undergraduate student in the UTC summer research program and was an active participant in organizing the Annual Interuniversity Symposium on Infrastructure Management at the University of Delaware in 2010. Most recently, Laura has been instrumental in getting the Delaware Signal Timing Enhancement Partnership (DSTEP) project (a partnership between the university, the Delaware Department of Transportation, and a consultant) off to a successful start. This effort has included coordination and training of undergraduates.

In 2010, Laura was awarded a Graduate Assistantship in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Fellowship focused on transportation infrastructure. In addition, she is involved in teaching and is working toward earning a Higher Education Teaching Certificate.

Based on her academic credentials and extracurricular activities, the Delaware Center for Transportation is pleased to select Laura Black as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Allison M. Bondanza

University of Denver

National Center for Intermodal Transportation (NCIT)

Allison M. Bondanza is a doctoral student at the University of Denver and a research assistant with the National Center for Intermodal Transportation (NCIT). Her current research interests are in the areas of workforce development and career advancement for women in transportation, job stress, and the psychological and health related consequences of exposure to accidents and critical incidents in the transportation industry. She has been a significant contributor to a number of key projects that have been initiated by the NCIT and its partner, the Intermodal Transportation Institute, most notably: fatigue and hours of service, workforce development, barriers to career advancement for women in transportation, and sustainable freight transportation.

While receiving her bachelor's degree from Providence College, she worked at the Commission for Human Rights in Providence, Rhode Island and interned with Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) in the U.S. House of Representatives. Later, she completed her master's degree in psychology at Columbia University where she was also a research assistant and intern at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

In addition to her research, Allison addressed the national meeting of the Transportation Workers Union on the topic of fatigue and the changing passenger hours of service regulations mandated by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008. Allison also helped design and later implement a survey and interview protocol to assess women's perceptions of their career experiences and potential barriers to promotion at MTA and NJIT in the greater New York City area. She was also a member of the research team gathering information in Panama City on the intermodal operational practices likely to affect freight transportation in the southeastern United States. She interviewed a number of key transportation officials who were designing policy that would have significant implications for the U.S. Most recently, she was a member of a research team working to identify key issues in fatigue and hours of service for passenger commuter service in the Los Angeles area. She was also a presenter at the Transportation Research Forum and a recent invited speaker at the regional meeting of the American Short Lines Railroad Association.

Based on her academic achievements and research activities outside of the classroom, the National Center for Intermodal Transportation is pleased to nominate Allison Bondanza as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Zachary Bugg

North Carolina State University

Southeastern Transportation Center (STC) Region 4

The North Carolina State University (NCSU) transportation faculty nominated Zachary Bugg for the Southeastern Transportation Center (STC) Student of the Year Award because of his exemplary research on the safety and operational effects of auxiliary through lanes (ATLs). He presented a poster and paper on ATL operations at the 2011 Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting. He will present two additional papers on ATL capacity analysis and microsimulation at TRB's 91st Annual Meeting in January 2012. Zachary recently submitted a paper on the safety effects of ATLs to the STC Journal of Transportation Safety and Security. His dissertation will focus on the development of a driver behavioral model for lane choice at ATLs.

Zachary is an outstanding student and a leader among his transportation peers. He has been a doctoral student at NCSU since August 2009, and STC has supported him since 2010. He carries a GPA of 3.95. Zachary served as ITE student chapter president at Mississippi State University and at NCSU. As NCSU ITE student chapter president, he coordinated two fund raisers for travel expenses for ITE and STC students to attend theTRB 90th Annual Meeting. Zachary aspires to be a professor and is currently working as a teaching assistant with three transportation professors.

Based on his outstanding academic accomplishments and contributions to the study of ATLs, the Southeastern Transportation Center is pleased to select Zachary Bugg as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Bradley Cheetham

University of Colorado at Boulder

FAA Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation

Bradley Cheetham received his undergraduate aerospace engineering degree at the University at Buffalo. Bradley is currently a graduate research assistant at the Colorado Center for Astrodynamics Research at the University of Colorado at Boulder where he received his master's degree and is pursuing a PhD in aerospace engineering sciences. His research and personal interests include three-body astrodynamics, commercial space development, and educational outreach. Bradley is currently working on research supported through the FAA Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation (COE for CST) and is engaged in related activities.

The title of Bradley's PhD dissertation is "Evaluating Orbit-Determination Methods and Accuracies in the Earth-Moon Three-Body Regime with Operational ARTEMIS Data." Operating in the highly dynamic Earth-Moon libration point orbits (LPO) region is a challenge because of prominent perturbations caused by the earth, moon, and sun. The ARTEMIS mission operated by the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and the University of California at Berkeley recently became the first to ever maintain orbits in this regime. The resulting operational data provides significant opportunity for analysis to better understand these orbits and their operational constraints. Future efforts to quantify orbit determination results, recover un-modeled accelerations, realistic uncertainty propagation, and ultimately LPO utilization will grow out of an ability to post-process this operational data for further understanding of the dynamics involved. Bradley's work in this area has the potential to have a significant impact in the COE for CST research area of Space Traffic Management and Operations, impacting the analysis, management and integration of orbital spacecraft traffic with respect to other orbital objects.

Bradley has received a number of prestigious awards, distinctions, opportunities, and fellowships, including the 2008 Goldwater Scholarship, 2009 SUNY Chancellor's Award, participation in the 2008 NASA Academy at the Goddard Space Flight Center, a NASA Space Grant Fellowship, National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Fellowship, National Defense Science and Engineering (NDSEG) Graduate Fellowship, and recognition as a "Distinguished Guest" for one of the final Space Shuttle launches. Mr. Cheetham has founded and led many student organizations, including space organizations ("UB Students for the Exploration and Development of Space" (SEDS), and the "Space Outreach Fellowship") and STEM outreach programs ("Inspiration from Exploration" and "We Want Our Future"). He currently serves as graduate advisor to the CU SEDS chapter.

Based on the depth and significance of Bradley Cheetham's academic achievements, contributions to the field, distinctions and work, the FAA joins the DOT in proudly acknowledging him as our 2011 DOT FAA Center of Excellence Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kenneth Chong

University of Wisconsin-Superior

National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE)

Kenneth Chong has been an extremely active and successful student at the University of Wisconsin-Superior as he has pursued a degree in transportation and logistics management. His academic work is of the highest caliber, and he has been awarded scholarships for his academic excellence. Kenneth is an inquisitive and hardworking student who takes a keen interest in learning about transportation and is very engaged in his classes.

Kenneth has worked in the package delivery area of the transportation industry and has brought that knowledge into the classroom and his research. He spent a year in Korea teaching English as a second language to elementary students. The mentoring skills he learned are clearly evident when he helps other students. While he was living overseas, Kenneth also gained a global perspective and appreciation of different cultures that he applies to coursework and research. Globalization may make the world seem smaller, but transportation and logistics are still the key to bringing it together. Future leaders who possess a world perspective like Kenneth, are essential.

Kenneth is vice president of the very active student-run Transportation and Logistics Club. He has a very effective leadership style that inspires others to collaborate with him on projects. While Kenneth has been an officer of the club, he has helped to bring in numerous speakers from industry, led student meetings, organized facility tours, and other transportation club related activities. The club continues to grow and is one of the most active on campus.

Kenneth attends professional society meetings of the Institute of Supply Management and the Duluth Superior Transportation Association. In the fall of 2011, he was one of a select group of students who was awarded funding by the Intermodal Association of North America (IANA) to attend the annual expo in Atlanta, Georgia and the AST&L annual meeting. He is a hardworking dedicated student who is constantly striving to broaden his experiences and knowledge inside and outside of the classroom.

Because of his exemplary academic record and important research work in the area of transportation and logistics, the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education is pleased to select Kenneth Chong as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Angela Coates

The University of Akron

The Ohio Transportation Consortium

As a graduate research assistant at the University of Akron, Angela Coates has consistently proved that she is a valuable asset to their research team. She is a quick learner, and is able to easily grasp difficult technical concepts in complex transportation system design and analysis. Angela has shown her reliability and dedication to her group's research through her valuable and effective problem solving initiatives as well as her ability to meet deadlines while producing quality work. She has co-authored paper submissions to the Ohio Transportation Consortium and the Transportation Research Board (TRB), the latter resulting in selection for both publication and presentation at the 2012 TRB Annual Conference.

Angela has shown outstanding academic performance having graduated summa cum laude from the University of Akron with a bachelor of science in civil engineering. She has continued to perform at the top of her class throughout her graduate studies. Angela is an extremely focused and motivated student, and these qualities shine through in every aspect of her work. She is a role model for her fellow students, displaying a great sense of responsibility and intellectual capability. Angela has already made great contributions through her research efforts as she continues to excel in her work.

For Angela's academic achievement and important research work in the area of transportation system design and analysis, the Ohio Transportation Consortium is pleased to select Angela Coates as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Mathew Coppage

Youngstown State University

The Center for Transportation and Materials Engineering

Mathew Coppage is a senior at Youngstown State University (YSU) studying civil engineering with a minor in math. Since joining the Center for Transportation and Materials Engineering in March 2011, Matt has worked on various transportation-related research projects. His association with the center is not limited to research. Matt has also been a part of the center's outreach program, including the summer camps for pre-college teachers, talking to local YMCA summer camp children about buoyancy and transportation, assisting Dr. Hazel Marie with the Summer Honors Institute by running the labs as required, and giving local high school students a tour of the engineering labs and facilities during YSU's Transportation Career Day.

In addition to his academic studies, Matt has worked with a local community to solve their flooding problems; the solutions are being brought to council for implementation. He is an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers student chapter and participated in Contractor for Day.

Matt was selected for this award based on his ability to work with a team as well as alone. He has shown leadership and the ability to independently solve problems. Matt has a strong interest in the field of transportation and plans to work on a transportation construction project in the summer of 2012.

The Center for Transportation and Materials Engineering is pleased to select Mathew Coppage as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Brian Davis

University of Minnesota

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Institute

Brian Davis is currently pursuing a master's degree in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Minnesota with a focus on intelligent transportation. Brian's thesis research focuses on designing and evaluating a system capable of determining vehicle miles traveled (VMT) aggregated by the pre-determined geographic zones in which the vehicle was driven. The title of his dissertation is "Aggregating VMT within Predefined Geographic Zones by Cellular Assignment: A Non-GPS Based Approach to Mileage-Based Road Use Charging." In addition to his research, Brian has also served as a teaching assistant in the Department of Mechanical Engineering's Introduction to Robotics course. Brian's advisor notes that "Brian is a self-starter and has been able to do the work with very little supervision on my part. He is a creative and independent thinker."

Brian was selected for this award because of his self-motivated approach to his research work and his exemplary academic record. The Intelligent Transportation Systems Institute is proud to select Brian Davis as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Luis de la Torre

Northwestern University

Center for the Commercialization of Innovative Transportation Technology (CCITT)

Luis de la Torre is currently a fourth-year PhD student in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences (IEMS). He received a bachelor of arts in economics, and a bachelor of science in mathematics from the University of California at Davis, and a master of science in IEMS from Northwestern University. Luis' research focuses on developing stochastic and dynamic optimization models for transportation and distribution of critical supplies for disaster relief, as part of the humanitarian logistics team at Northwestern and as a graduate student intern in the CNLS Summer Student Program at Los Alamos National Lab.

Luis' co-advisors are Karen Smilowitz and Irina Dolinskaya. He is the principal instructor for IEMS 326, Economics and Finance for Engineers. Luis is also a member of the IEMS Graduate Liaison Committee, and is helping to prepare a new mini-course for incoming PhD students to teach and review fundamentals in mathematical analysis, statistics, and AMPL. In his spare time, he plays oboe in the Northwestern University Philharmonic.

Luis was selected as the CCITT Student of Year for his research and academic excellence and the key role he played in developing humanitarian logistics initiatives at Northwestern University. The Center for the Commercialization of Innovative Transportation Technology is proud to select Luis de la Torre as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Christopher DeLorto

University of Idaho

National Institute for Advanced Transportation Technology (NIATT)

Christopher DeLorto earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Idaho. He has an excellent academic record, an outstanding work ethic, and possesses a cheerful demeanor that has earned him the respect and admiration from those around him.

As an undergraduate, Christopher spent one summer in Idaho and two summers in Seattle as a transportation intern at various agencies. For his thesis work, Christopher focused his research on gap reduction, a timing component in actuated traffic signals that allows the gap timer to reduce from a higher to lower ceiling as a green phase progresses. His research project applied gap reduction to stop-bar detection, and studied how this technology allows the signal to respond to discharging queues. The simulation study showed a potential reduction in early termination time, translating into smaller queue spillbacks and a safer intersection.

Christopher currently holds a one-year position as a transportation scholar, a program managed by the National Park Foundation. He works at North Cascades National Park studying the vulnerability of the park's transportation system to climate change and how the park can best adapt. Aside from his passion for transportation, Christopher enjoys writing music and lyrics.

On the basis of Christopher's academic achievements and research work, the National Institute for Advanced Transportation Technology is pleased to nominate Christopher DeLorto as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kristen Derewecki

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) Region 2

Kristen Derewecki is a master of science candidate at the School of Engineering at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Kristen's graduate thesis is on developing specifications to use the 4 mm Dynamics Shear Rheometer (DSR) parallel plates on performance grade asphalt binders. Additionally, she is attempting to relate the results of other existing binder tests to the results obtained using the 4 mm parallel plates. In doing so, Kristen hopes to reduce the amount of material needed for forensic testing of binders, maintaining the integrity of the roads as well as reducing the amount of solvents needed to extract binder from asphalt samples, which will make the process less expensive and more environmentally friendly.

Kristen is active in the Rutgers community as a Bunting-Cobb Graduate Mentor for Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. She has helped to foster the academic, professional, and personal development of the residents through regular interactions, programming, and mentoring sessions. Kristen also volunteers her time as a coach for the Rutgers Women's Rugby Club.

In recognition of her outstanding academic performance, the technical merit of her research topic and her service to the university community, the UTRC Region 2 is pleased to select Kristen Derewecki as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Travis Eckhoff

University of Alaska, Fairbanks

The Alaska University Transportation Center (AUTC)

Travis Eckhoff graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2010 with a bachelor of science in civil engineering. He is currently pursuing a master of science in environmental engineering: water and wastewater treatment from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Travis began working with AUTC in the spring of 2009. He assisted Dr. Dave Barnes in the development of instrumentation and methodology for determining in situ palliative performance for dust control on paved roads and runways known as DUSTM. Travis has used DUSTM in over 30 remote Alaskan villages to monitor dust palliative performance. Development of this methodology was extremely challenging due to the complexity of the uncontrolled environmental parameters. While others have developed different types of instruments to measure fugitive dust, until now no one has developed a repeatable methodology.

Travis is a professional, talented, hardworking, and dependable individual. He performs under the hardest of conditions. Travis has learned to deal with harsh weather environments, a lack of accommodations, and other challenges that relate to conducting fieldwork in Alaska. By understanding how dust palliatives perform and degrade over time, Travis and Dr. Barnes hope to develop dust control strategies to improve local air quality and increase the longevity of the gravel transportation infrastructure in Alaska.

The Alaska University Transportation Center is pleased to select Travis Eckhoff as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Levi Ewan

Montana State University

Western Transportation Institute

Levi Ewan is currently pursuing a master's degree in civil engineering with a focus on transportation at Montana State University (MSU) in Bozeman. He received his bachelor of science in civil engineering at MSU as well. His thesis is titled "Evaluation of a Variable Speed Limit System for Wet and Extreme Weather Conditions." Levi currently works as a research assistant at the Western Transportation Institute and has played a key role on several research projects. He has co-authored a number of publications, which include the following: "Montana Intercity Bus Service Study," "Replacing Thermally Sprayed Zinc Anodes on Cathodically Protected Steel Reinforced Bridges," and "Livability Benchmarks for Montana Transportation: Interim Report."

Levi has excelled in the classroom, developing a working travel demand forecasting model for the city of Bozeman, and taking a leadership role in a group project evaluating the local bus system. He is also an active member of the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society.

Based on his strong academic achievements and research work, the Western Transportation Institute is pleased to select Levi Ewan as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

James Fishelson

Utah State University

Utah Transportation Center

James Fishelson was born and raised on Long Island, New York. After completing his undergraduate work at Yale University, James drove from New York to Key West, and the Arctic Ocean in a 1938 Dodge. During this trip, James became interested in transportation infrastructure issues and the challenges posed by a rapidly developing, urbanized, and interconnected world. James has also worked and studied in places such as Vietnam, Russia, the Philippines, and Kazakhstan.

James came to Utah State University for their Automated Electric Transportation (AET) project, which is a concept for network-automated vehicles electrically powered via in-motion energy transfer from the roadway itself. His current focus is on modeling platoons of vehicles in an AET system, and demonstrating the capacity and safety improvements that AET can provide over traditional roadways. The title of James' thesis is "Modeling Automated Electric Transportation Platoons." James is particularly interested in the potential for AET as a sustainable solution to the congestion issues of the world's sprawling megacities.

James was selected as this year's student of the year for not only his past academic achievements but his potential future impact within the transportation field. The Utah Transportation Center is proud to nominate James Fishelson as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Royce W. Floyd

University of Arkansas

Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center

Royce Floyd is a rarity among students, combining exceptional academic ability, a strong work ethic, and a remarkable sense of 'real world practicality' regarding his graduate work. He is easily among the top one percent of all graduate students at the College of Engineering. Royce was the first engineering student to move directly from his undergraduate program to a PhD program, and win the highly competitive Distinguished Doctoral Fellowship (DDF) at the University of Arkansas. Nationally, the American Concrete Institute (ACI) recognized his abilities and awarded him their Presidents' Fellowship in 2009.

For his PhD studies, Royce is examining strand bond in lightweight, self-consolidating concrete. His research will impact both the construction and design of prestressed concrete bridge girders. A prolific writer, Royce has published three journal articles and 14 conference proceedings. He has presented his research at conferences in the United Kingdom and New Zealand. As a testament to his abilities, he has taken on the role of instructor in senior-level design courses. Students have praised his practical approach, availability, and problem-solving abilities as an instructor.

On the basis of his strong academic merit, body of written work, and overall research activities, the Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center is pleased to select Royce Floyd as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Robert Frazier

Oklahoma State University

The Oklahoma Transportation Center (OkTC)

Robert M. Frazier recently joined B&T Engineering, a nationwide provider of structural engineering services in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he works on various transportation projects. Robert holds a bachelor's and master's degree in engineering. His master's thesis work at Oklahoma State University (OSU) was supported by the Oklahoma Transportation Center University Transportation Center.

Robert's transportation career path has included experiential activities, which involved undergraduate research, as well as being a member of the 2011 winning OSU Timber Bridge Team in the National American Society of Civil Engineers–International Forest Products Society Timber Bridge Competition. Robert's work has included utilizing a micro-CT scanner to examine the distribution of air voids in concrete and their response to pressure. He has presented at the National American Concrete Institute Conference, the Oklahoma Transportation Center Summer Symposium, and the annual Minnesota DOT Research Day. Robert has co-authored three papers, which are currently under peer review for publication.

He was selected for this award based on his outstanding academic achievement, contributions to transportation improvement, and a genuine interest in helping his peers at OSU. The Oklahoma Transportation Center is pleased to select Robert Frazier as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Vikash Gayah

University of California, Berkeley

University of California Transportation Center (UCTC) Region 9

Vikash Gayah is a PhD candidate in civil and environmental engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Central Florida. Vikash's research focuses on the aggregate behavior of vehicles on urban street networks. His dissertation work identifies how to better operate and organize networks to increase efficiency. Vikash currently has eight journal publications, including articles in Transportation Research Parts B and C, Transportation Research Record, and the Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems. He has also served as a graduate student instructor for three graduate courses: Public Transportation Systems, Logistics Systems Analysis, and Highway Traffic Operations.

Vikash is active on campus, having served as both the president and vice president of the Transportation Graduate Student Organizing Committee at UC Berkeley. He was a member of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering's curriculum committee and helped to organize the 17th annual UCTC student conference at UC Berkeley.

Vikash was selected for this award because of his major accomplishments in academics, teaching, and service. The University of California Transportation Center is pleased to nominate Vikash Gayah as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Radhameris Gomez

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

New England University Transportation Center (Region 1)

A native of the Dominican Republic, Radhameris Gomez received her dual bachelor of science degrees from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in civil engineering and psychology. Currently, she is a PhD student enrolled at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering–Transportation Engineering.

Since joining UMass, Radhameris has focused her work on transportation safety and human factors, examining areas such as pedestrian safety, injury outcomes from crashes, and the use of a driving simulator to research and develop methods for evaluating traffic signals and signs. In addition to her research interests, Radhameris has been an active member of the UMass Student Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, where she is currently serving as the president and ethics committee member. She is an active member of the New England Chapter of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society and serves as the treasurer of the Women's Transportation Seminar–Boston UMass Student Chapter.

Radhameris has been recognized as an Eno Fellow, NSF-AGEP Fellow, is a recipient of the NEITE Thomas E. Desjardins Memorial Scholarship, and the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center Best Research Presentation Award, among others.

Radhameris' academic excellence, her numerous awards and her participation in several professional organizations all contributed to the basis of her selection for this award. The New England University Transportation Center is pleased to nominate Radhameris Gomez as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Phillip Haas

University of Florida

Transportation Research Center

Phillip Haas graduated from the University of Virginia with a bachelor of science and master of science in civil engineering and a minor in engineering business. The research for his thesis was on the development of safety performance functions for Virginia, which resulted in papers published by the Virginia Transportation Research Council and presented at the 2010 Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting. Phillip is currently pursing a PhD at the University of Florida, where his research topics include calibration of the Highway Safety Manual for Florida and Enhanced Penalty Zones for crash reduction on Florida freeways, which will be presented at the 2012 TRB Annual Meeting.

Phillip has portrayed excellence in the classroom, taking a variety of upper-level transportation courses, including the pursuit of a graduate minor in Urban Planning. He was also selected as the instructor for the undergraduate course: "Transportation Engineering" for the fall 2011 semester. Phillip was honored as one of the country's top transportation students through his selection as an Eno Fellow to attend the 2011 Eno Leadership Development Conference. He served as the vice president of the UVA-ITE student chapter, and is currently the treasurer for the UF-ITE student chapter and a member of the two-time Florida District champion UF-ITE traffic bowl team.

The Transportation Research Center at the University of Florida is pleased to select Phillip Haas as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Scott Himes

The Pennsylvania State University

The Thomas D. Larson Pennsylvania Transportation Institute (Region 3)

Scott Himes is a research assistant at The Thomas D. Larson Pennsylvania Transportation Institute. He is currently a PhD candidate in civil engineering, having earned both his bachelor of science and master of science degrees in civil engineering at Penn State. His research focuses on the operational and safety effects of ighway geometric design. His current research includes performing research participant assessments and vehicle installations for the Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP 2) Naturalistic Driving Study. He also co-authored a Federal Highway Administration informational guide related to speed concepts, and was an investigator on NCHRP Project 15-34, "Performance- Based Geometric Design Analysis of Highways and Streets." Scott has been the laboratory instructor for an introductory class in transportation engineering, a class in traffic engineering, and Penn State's capstone highway design course.

Scott is a young member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Committee on Geometric Design and a friend of the TRB Committee on Operation Effects of Geometrics. He has reviewed papers for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Journal of Transportation Engineering, as well as for his TRB committees. He has been involved in the Penn State student chapters of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and ASCE.

Scott has published four refereed journal articles, two technical reports, and presented findings from his research at several technical meetings. He has been nominated for the MAUTC student of the year award because of his outstanding research contributions, effective teaching, and service to the transportation profession.

The Thomas D. Larson Pennsylvania Transportation Institute is pleased to nominate Scott Himes as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Celine Kalembo

Morgan State University

National Center for Transportation Management, Research and Development

Celine Kalembo received both her primary and secondary educations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo before coming to the United States in 2001. In 2004, she received her associate's degree in engineering from Baltimore City Community College, and then her bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Morgan State University in 2006.

Celine obtained her first employment as a consultant/civil engineer with Daniel Consultants in 2007. A year later, she was employed by the Maryland State Highway Administration (MD SHA) as a Transportation Engineer. Her responsibilities at MD SHA included providing pavement and geotechnical recommendations, conducting field and laboratory data analysis, and performing project site inspections.

Celine began her master of science in transportation in the fall of 2009 in the Department of Transportation and Urban Infrastructure Studies with a concentration in traffic engineering. She is currently working on her thesis and is expected to graduate in May of 2012. Through her hard work, Celine was able to maintain her status as a recipient of the National Transportation Center Fellowship. Also, a paper she authored on the topic of her thesis titled "Evaluation of the Impact of Pavement Roughness on Vehicle Gas Emissions in Baltimore County," was selected for presentation at the 2012 Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting.

On the basis of her hard work and academic achievements, the National Center for Transportation Management, Research and Development is pleased to nominate Celine Kalembo as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Alex Karner

University of California, Davis

University of California Transportation Center/Institute of Transportation Studies

Alex Karner is a PhD candidate in civil and environmental engineering at the University of California, Davis. He received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Toronto in 2006 and a master's degree in civil and environmental engineering from UC Davis in 2008 before entering the PhD program. For his dissertation, Alex is evaluating the influence of environmental justice concerns on transportation planning and the implementation of climate change policy in California. His work has taken him well beyond the traditional boundaries of civil engineering and into the theories and methods of many different disciplines. As described by his advisor, Alex is "an exceptional scholar with a critical eye towards improving practice."

Alex's research has the potential to help state, regional, and local agencies in connecting their policies to their goals. This award recognizes his excellent performance in the classroom, his innovative and independent research program, and his outstanding leadership potential.

The University of California Transportation Center/Institute of Transportation Studies is pleased to select Alex Karner as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Donald Katz

Georgia Institute of Technology

Georgia Transportation Institute University Transportation Center

Donny Katz is a graduate of North Carolina State University. As a student in the Park Scholarships program at NC State, he earned a bachelor of science in civil engineering in May 2007. After graduation, Donny spent one year in Dhaka, Bangladesh as a U.S. Fulbright Student Scholar. After his return to the United States, Donny spent several months conducting research at the Regional Plan Association in New York City where he studied high-speed rail options for the Northeast Corridor with America 2050. Subsequently, Donny conducted research at the Institute for Transportation Research and Education at North Carolina State University on an evaluation of new highway work zone pavement markings, as well as a study on the effects access management techniques have on local businesses.

Donny began his graduate education at Georgia Tech in August 2009. In addition to conducting research to examine airline operations and schedules at airports, Donny is also the president of Georgia Tech's ITE Student Chapter.

The Georgia Transportation Institute University Transportation Center is proud to nominate Donald Katz as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Nga Lam

California State University, San Bernardino

William and Barbara Leonard Transportation Center

Nga Lam is a senior majoring in supply chain and transportation management at California State University (CSU) San Bernardino. He is interested in the process of procurement, manufacturing, and delivery of everyday goods. Nga maintains a high level of excellence in his studies and has been on the Dean's List since the beginning of his college career. In the summer of 2011, Nga worked as an intern for the Fuel Relief Fund to develop an emergency fuel relief program to prepare for natural disasters in the Inland Empire of southern California. He also volunteers at the Leonard Transportation Center where he helps organize conferences and outreach programs. Nga serves on CSU's Student Union Board of Directors for the Finance Committee, Contracts Committee, and the Commercial Services Committee.

Nga is currently finishing school and will be attending the United States Air Force Reserves in the summer to further his education in transportation and logistics. He hopes to gain essential military skills that are transferable to a civilian management position.

The William and Barbara Leonard Transportation Center is proud to nominate Nga Lam as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Lisa Larsen

Texas A&M University

The Transportation Center for Mobility

A Utah native, Lisa Larsen completed her bachelor of science in civil and environmental engineering at Brigham Young University in 2009. She earned her master of science in civil engineering from Texas A&M University in August 2011 with a perfect 4.0 GPA. She is continuing her studies in the civil engineering PhD program at Texas A&M with a focus on transportation engineering. Her record of academic excellence in her undergraduate and graduate career is evidenced by more than eight scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships. She is also a member of Tau Beta Pi, Golden Key, and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Societies.

Lisa's research skills were developed through her master's thesis work, which considered the equity impacts of a possible change from the Texas state gas tax to a vehicle miles traveled fee. This work was funded through Texas Transportation Institute's UTC programs. In September, Lisa presented results of this work at a Ports-to-Plains Alliance Conference in San Angelo, Texas. She is scheduled to present results of this work at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting. Lisa is currently preparing a related journal article for peer review.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Lisa has been actively involved in the community and has served in a leadership capacity for several professional organizations. She currently serves as an Aggie Ambassador, and is the vice president for Outreach in the Texas A&M Student Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Lisa was recently elected by her peers to serve as the 2012 chapter president. She also tutors elementary school students in mathematics, and plays the clarinet.

On the basis of her academic merit and numerous awards and distinctions, the Transportation Center for Mobility is pleased to select Lisa Larsen as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jonathan Maddison

University of Vermont

University Transportation Center

In September 2009, Jonathan Maddison began pursuing a master's degree in public administration at the University of Vermont (UVM), after completing a bachelor's degree in community and international development in 2009. During his studies, Jonathan worked as a research assistant at the Transportation Research Center where his primary area of expertise was in transportation policy.

As a UTC Scholar, Jonathan's research focused broadly on the social construction of knowledge around transportation policy issues. He worked closely with his research advisor, Dr. Richard Watts to conduct novel research applying political science and media theories to understand how transportation issues are framed in the national news media. The research resulted in two journal articles for which Jonathan is the lead author. The first paper is titled "Source Diversity in News Media Coverage of Motor Vehicle Emissions 2000-2008" and the second "The Technology Fix as a Frame in Media Debates about Tailpipe Emissions."

In addition to his research work, Jonathan independently partnered with the American Pain Foundation on a policy project to study traffic safety and the use of pain medications. The study focused on obstacles and solutions for driving dependency for those requiring medication due to severe pain. After graduation Jonathan will pursue a career in community development and policy advocacy.

The University Transportation Center at UVM is pleased to select Jonathan Maddison as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Justin Messina

University of Rhode Island

URI Transportation Center

Justin Messina is a master of science candidate in systems and industrial engineering focusing on transportation systems. Justin's journey toward transportation-related study began with his senior year project that earned 3rd place honors for the Federal Aviation Administration Design Competition for Universities. Following this success, in summer of 2010 Justin joined the project, "Pilot Study for Integrating Simulation into Rhode Island Teen Driver Education," sponsored by the University of Rhode Island Transportation Center (URITC) which involved the URITC driving simulator.

Since November 2010, Justin has worked under the supervision of Dr. Jyh-Hone Wang on the project, "Studying the Bottleneck Issue at Work Zones and Assessing the Effectiveness of a Portable Dynamic Lane Merging System in Promoting Zip Merging Behavior." The project is co-sponsored by the URITC and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation.

Justin presented a poster at the UTC Spotlight Conference in Washington, DC in September 2011. He will also be presenting, "Assessing the Message Design on Variable Message Signs in Mitigating the Bottleneck Issues at Work Zones," at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in January. Because of his research accomplishments, Justin was awarded a Transportation Fellowship by the New England University Transportation Center.

The URI Transportation Center is proud to select Justin Messina as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Cortney Mild

University of Oregon

Oregon Transportation and Education Research Center (OTREC)

Cortney Mild is currently pursuing her master's degree at the University of Oregon (UO). In her first year at the University of Oregon's Master of Community and Regional Planning program, Mild led LiveMove's monthly speaker series. In her second year at the university, she is serving as LiveMove's president. She has distinguished herself academically in the classroom and beyond. In the summer of 2011, Cortney participated in a UO Study Abroad course in Amsterdam and then completed an internship with the Dutch consulting firm, Goudappel Coffeng that specializes in bicycle and pedestrian facility design.

Mild's thesis research is examining the mechanisms by which international study tours influence domestic practice in the area of bicycle and pedestrian planning. Mild graduated from the University of Utah with a bachelor of fine arts in ballet and performed as a professional dancer before choosing to attend UO for a graduate degree in planning.

On the basis of her academic merit and interest in bicycle and pedestrian planning, the Oregon Transportation and Education Research Center is pleased to select Cortney Mild as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Theodore D. Minch

University of Southern California

National Center for Metropolitan Transportation Research (METRANS)

Theodore Minch has always been fascinated with transportation. As a youngster, his parents took him to the airport to watch aircraft take off and land. That interest still persists as Teddy is currently a graduate student at the University of Southern California (USC) School of Policy, Planning, and Development conducting empirical infrastructure finance research. Teddy first discovered the infrastructure finance field during his junior year while studying abroad in London, where he began multi-year independent research on comparative airport benchmarking and performance analysis. While at USC, Teddy has broadened his research focus from airport and aviation economics to include analytical and technical research in high speed rail, public-private partnerships, and the implementation of alternative infrastructure financing. His current research includes work identifying pre-implementation success metrics for public-private partnerships, as observed across a dataset of 100 global transportation public-private partnerships. The current national transportation and infrastructure finance climate presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities. Teddy greatly looks forward to applying his research expertise and passion for the field upon graduation from USC in May.

On the basis of his academic achievement and the breadth of his research work, the National Center for Metropolitan Transportation Research is pleased to select Theodore D. Minch as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

James E. Mooradian

University of Connecticut

Connecticut Transportation Institute

James Mooradian is a graduate student at the University of Connecticut, where he received his bachelor of science in civil engineering. He is currently pursuing his master of science in transportation engineering and anticipates completing a second master of science in statistics.

James' current area of research is in statistical analysis and modeling of traffic safety operation, with a focus on trends in senior crash severity. His research involves determining the extent and impacts of the relative risk of senior drivers involved in more severe accidents, as well as proposing a potential new procedure for accurate crash severity modeling.

On the basis of his academic accomplishments and research work in the area of statistical analysis and modeling, the Connecticut Transportation Institute is proud to select James Mooradian as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Nathan P. Muncy

Missouri University of Science and Technology

The Center for Transportation Infrastructure and Safety (CTIS)

Nathan Muncy received a bachelor of science in civil engineering with cum laude honors from the Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) in December 2010 and is expected to graduate from Missouri S&T with a master's degree in civil engineering in May 2012.

During his undergraduate studies, Nathan was a member of the Missouri S&T chapters of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the American Concrete Institute (ACI). He was also highly involved in the Missouri S&T Steel Bridge Team as a leader and coordinator of bridge fabrication. Additionally, Nathan was a member of the Concrete Canoe Mix Design Team where he served two years as the lead mix designer. Nathan also completed a National Science Foundation (NSF) supported OURE that studied the long-term in-situ bond behavior of externally bonded carbon fiber reinforced polymer (CFRP) laminates that were subjected to eight years of field conditioning. This work has added important field data to a very limited database on in-situ FRP strengthened bridges.

As a graduate student, Nathan studied the field performance of three bridge approach slab designs including a new most cost-effective and innovative prestressed-precast approach slab design. The research evaluated the field performance of bridge approach slabs including the deflection and rotation based on static and dynamic load testing. This work has been sponsored by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and the NUTC at Missouri S&T. Nathan has also continued to document the field behavior of FRP strengthened bridges throughout Missouri, creating a database of CFRP bond behavior under varied environmental and mechanical conditioning.

Nathan was selected as the 2011 Outstanding Missouri S&T UTC Student of the Year for his outstanding academic performance, the technical merit and national importance of his research, as well as his service to the Missouri S&T campus and surrounding community.

Rodney Neely

George Mason University

Center for Transportation and Economic Development

Rodney Neely is pursuing a master's degree in transportation policy, operations, and logistics at the School of Public Policy at George Mason University. He currently holds an MBA from George Mason University, a graduate certificate in procurement and contract management from the University of Virginia, and a bachelor of art from James Madison University.

Rodney, who is himself blind, has extensive experience working on transportation services for the blind and visually impaired. He has served as state liaison between a Virginia network of public transportation providers and the National Federation of the Blind in Virginia on issues related to both fixed-route and paratransit systems. Related service includes managing challenges to eligibility rulings for Metro Access for paratransit services. Rodney served as a contract specialist from 2002-2009 in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Veterans Administration, and the Department of the Interior.

As testified to by his classroom instructors, Rodney is an exemplary student in George Mason's transportation master's degree program. He has been called "conscientious" and "tenacious," and one professor says, "He participates fully in class discussions and asks salient questions."

The Center for Transportation and Economic Development is pleased to select Rodney Neely as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Robin O'Hara

San Jose State University

Mineta Transportation Institute

Robin O'Hara works as a Marketing and Communications Manager for the LA Metro transit system. Robin is involved with helping to reduce how often Southern Californians use their automobiles. She is able to achieve success with campaigns that have just enough LA "attitude" to stand out against the onslaught of cross-purposed media with which Los Angeles residents are bombarded each day.

Recently, three of Robin's campaigns were recognized with first place honors at the 2011 American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Conference. She has helped gain recognition for LA Metro by winning awards not only in transportation-based contests, but also in general marketing competitions against commercial giants such as Mattel and Ford.

As a student, Robin has excelled in every aspect of the Master of Science in Transportation Management Program, maintaining a near-perfect GPA. As the mother of a son with a genetic syndrome, Robin put both career and education on hold in order to care for her child, and is grateful for the opportunity to return. She plans to use her education in transportation management to help influence mindsets, alter behaviors, and transform lives with innovative solutions to our nation's transportation problems.

The Mineta Transportation Institute is very pleased to nominate Robin O'Hara as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Nicole Oneyear

Iowa State University

Midwest Transportation Consortium

A native of Dubuque, Iowa, Nicole Oneyear is a first year PhD student in civil engineering at Iowa State University. She also received her bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Iowa State University in May 2009 and August 2011, respectively. Nicole has worked under Dr. Shauna Hallmark at the Institute for Transportation since May 2008 and has been supported through the Midwest Transportation Consortium since August 2009. She has been president of the Student Chapter of ITE, as well as a young member of the Transportation Research Board Traffic and Law Enforcement Committee since 2010. Nicole was awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship for 2010-2011 and received an Iowa State University Dean's Fellowship for 2011-2012.

Nicole was selected for this award because she exemplifies the type of students who will make a difference in the transportation profession. Nicole has been productive in publishing papers and contributing to numerous research projects, and she has also been involved in several efforts to promote transportation as a career to young women.

The Midwest Transportation Consortium is pleased to select Nicole Oneyear as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Brian Pailes

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT)

Brian Pailes is a PhD candidate at the School of Engineering at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Brian's dissertation is on the combination of different nondestructive techniques (NDT) to better characterize damage of reinforced concrete bridge decks.

Brian's research involves using NDT like ground penetrating radar, impact echo, half-cell potentials, electrical resistivity, and surface wave testing on reinforced concrete structures and combining the data in order to better detect concrete degradation. By using the strengths of each test method and combing the data, a more reliable and detailed evaluation can be determined. Brian has performed nondestructive evaluations (NDE) on many different types of bridge structures throughout the United States. He has also been studying the effectiveness of bridge deck overlays in preventing water from penetrating into the deck below. Brian is using several different kinds of embedded sensors and nondestructive sensors to determine the moisture content of a bridge deck and the overlay and how the moisture is changing with time.

Brian has been working on several projects including, FHWA Long-Term Bridge Performance Program, NIST's Automated Nondestructive Evaluation and Rehabilitation System, and the SHRP2 Nondestructive Testing to Identify Concrete Bridge Deck Deterioration.

In recognition of his outstanding academic performance, the technical merit of his research topic and his service to the university community, the Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation is pleased to select Brian Pailes as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Scott Parr

Louisiana State University

Gulf Coast Center for Evacuation and Transportation Resiliency

Scott Parr's research career began after he received an undergraduate Department of Homeland Security Summer Research Internship on urban evacuations. Upon completion, he worked as a research assistant at the Center for Intermodal Transportation Safety and Security located at Florida Atlantic University. Scott later went on to receive an International Study Abroad Internship, traveling to Cologne, Germany to conduct research on First Responders and Transit Disasters. When Scott returned to the U.S., he started his master of science at Florida Atlantic University in transportation engineering.

Scott has worked on several projects related to no-notice urban evacuation. He now conducts research at the Gulf Coast Center for Evacuation and Transportation Resiliency at Louisiana State University, while working to complete his PhD in transportation engineering. Earlier this year, Scott spoke at the Department of Homeland Security Annual Summit and the Technologies for Critical Incident Preparedness Conference. These meetings gave Scott the opportunity to share with practitioners the current state-of-the-art in modeling emergency events. Scott has engaged in a full course load while writing two papers for the 91st Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting.

On the basis if his superior work and excellent performance, the Gulf Coast Center for Evacuation and Transportation Resiliency is proud to select Scott Parr as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jeffrey C. Peters

Purdue University

NEXTRANS Center (Region 5)

Jeff Peters is currently pursuing a master of science in economics and a PhD in transportation engineering and infrastructure systems at Purdue University. He received a bachelor of science in aerospace engineering from the University of Michigan in 2008, after which he worked for two years with Northrop Grumman Space Technology. His research interests include public policy, infrastructure policy, infrastructure resiliency, sustainability, energy security, national security, and system-of-systems.

In addition to his studies, Jeff actively pursues opportunities to become involved in his community. Prior to attending Purdue, Jeff worked with the Los Angeles city government to address infrastructure issues as an auxiliary member of the American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) Metro Los Angeles Branch (MLAB). Currently, Jeff maintains steady involvement in outreach activities in the Purdue and Greater Lafayette area. Most recently, he volunteered as a session chair and judge for a summer undergraduate research symposium, judged an elementary and middle school science fair, and addressed the need for informed policymaking as a graduate mentor for an undergraduate engineering team. Jeff also founded two different organizations at Purdue dedicated to connecting students, faculty, and staff with similar interests and goals across disciplines. As part of one of these organizations, he raised over $12,000 and has secured several high-profile speakers to bring TEDx (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) events to Purdue to help foster commercialization of university research.

Jeff was selected for this award because of his technical vision, passion for mentorship, leadership in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and professional achievements in the field of sustainable transportation and its linkage to energy and policy. The NEXTRANS Center is pleased to nominate Jeffrey Peters as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Tara Rodrigues

University of South Florida

National Center for Transit Research

Since 2009, Tara Rodrigues has been a graduate research assistant at the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida (USF). While working at CUTR, she completed a bachelor of science in civil engineering and successfully passed the Fundamentals of Engineering Licensure Exam. In 2008, Tara was awarded the Keith A. Crawford Transportation Scholarship, which is sponsored by the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Tara is currently a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in civil engineering. She hopes to enter the workforce as an engineering professional at a state department of transportation after she graduates in May. Recently, Tara played a major role in collecting, preparing, and summarizing data used in a National Center for Transit Research project titled "Improving Value of Travel Time Savings Estimation for More Effective Transportation Project Evaluation." She also worked on an evaluation of the Los Angeles Orange Line bus rapid transit (BRT) system and gained significant expertise with the National Transit Database (NTD) by collecting and compiling annual NTD data for each reporting transit agency in Florida. These data are used in the annual Florida Transit Handbook and for other ongoing technical assistance to the Florida DOT.

As a Professional Engineer, Tara hopes to work and continue to collaborate with her peers to research innovative ways to improve our nation's infrastructure, help create a sustainable world, and enhance the global quality of life. The National Center for Transit Research is proud to select Tara Rodrigues as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kaveh Farokhi Sadabadi

University of Maryland

Center for Integrated Transportation Systems Management (CITSM)

Kaveh Sadabadi is a PhD candidate studying transportation in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Maryland. He holds two master's degrees in transportation planning and engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington and Sharif University of Technology. His main areas of interest are vehicular traffic operations, freeway and arterial traffic monitoring, and control. In the past few years, Kaveh has submitted his work to the Transportation Network Modeling (ADB30) and Traffic Flow Theory (AHB45) committees of the Transportation Research Board (TRB). He has given several presentations at the TRB annual meetings and his work has been published in Transportation Research Record.

Recently, Kaveh has focused his studies on dynamic vehicular traffic modeling, data fusion, and traffic estimation in the context of short-term travel time prediction. He has developed a systematic framework and model to incorporate travel time data into traffic estimation process. Since 2008, Kaveh has been actively involved in developing relevant guidelines and algorithms for innovative traffic monitoring technologies such as Bluetooth signature matching.

The Center for Integrated Transportation Systems Management is pleased to select Kaveh Farokhi Sadabadi as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Katayoun Salamati

North Carolina State University

Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE)

Katayoun (Katy) Salamati is currently enrolled in the transportation engineering PhD program at North Carolina State University. She is leading an effort to formulate a research program to identify, quantify, and mitigate risk to blind and low-vision pedestrians when negotiating complex intersections.

Katy's current research focuses on developing surrogate measures for risk identification, as well as assessing mitigation strategies. In the past two years, she contributed to two highly visible national research projects, specifically NCHRP 3-78 A on "Crossing Solutions for Blind Pedestrians at Roundabouts and High Speed Turn Lanes," and the National Eye Institute Study NEI R01EY12894 on "Blind Pedestrian Crossings at Complex Intersections."

Ironically, these accessibility problems have emerged as a result of the wider implementation of modern roundabouts in the U.S., which have maintained a good safety record for vehicles. These traffic structures have also presented a challenging acoustical environment for blind pedestrians. Katy's research included close collaboration with non-engineers in the field of blind and low-vision, orientation and mobility specialists, and subjects of various visual acuities. She was able to navigate this complex and new field with determination and an excellent scientific focus.

Recently, Katy led the drafting of a research paper titled, "Development and Implementation of a Conflict-Based Assessment of Pedestrian Safety (CAPS)," which earned high praise and an invitation to present the paper at the 91st Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB). The paper was also accepted for publication in an upcoming Transportation Research Record journal of TRB.

Katy's work has included extensive field observational studies as well as the use of an on-campus driving simulator to evaluate different treatment options for improving roundabout accessibility. Katy also worked on simulating different roundabout designs and treatments in the simulator and measured drivers' compliance with these strategies. The results of Katy's work are documented in a research paper titled, "Simulator Study of Driver Responses to Pedestrian Treatments at Multilane Roundabouts," which has been accepted for presentation at the TRB Annual Meeting in January.

The Center for Transportation and the Environment is pleased to select Katy Salamati as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Brie Salmons

Western Carolina University

Nick J. Rahall Appalachian Transportation Institute

Brie Salmons recently completed a master's degree in project management at Western Carolina University. Her primary focus as a full-time graduate student and project manager at the Rahall Transportation Institute (RTI) was on managing multimodal transportation research programs and projects. From developing scopes to overseeing schedules and budgets, Brie works closely with principal investigators to ensure transportation projects are delivered within the project's constraints.

Brie has been instrumental in developing RTI's livable and sustainable transportation initiatives, specifically with the creation of an extensive bicycle and pedestrian trail system in Huntington, West Virginia. By using her experience with alternate transportation systems and knowledge obtained through her master's degree, Brie has provided guidance for the development of a project management plan being used to develop an alternative transportation corridor similar to Huntington's system.

Kim Baker, Administrative Operations Officer at RTI remarked, "Brie's professionalism and leadership has been proven over and over. She has worked diligently to test and investigate existing project management software packages available on the market, and then recommends and implements the chosen tool at RTI." Baker continued, "She is highly motivated and very much a team player."

The Nick J. Rahall Appalachian Transportation Institute is pleased to select Brie Salmons as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Ethan Skaggs

The University of Memphis

Center for Intermodal Freight Transportation Studies

Ethan Skaggs received a bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of Memphis in 2009 and is a 2012 candidate for a master of science in civil engineering. He held an internship with the engineering firm Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. where he was responsible for conducting traffic impact studies (TIS) and preparing transportation planning reports (TPR).

As an undergraduate, Ethan's interests focused on school safety and Safe Routes to School projects. As a graduate student, his primary focus has been rail safety, as well as modeling and simulation of traffic networks. Ethan was a principal contributor to a research project titled, "Evaluating the Establishment of Quiet Zones: A Memphis Case Study." He demonstrated leadership on this project by being responsible for preparing a comprehensive review of the literature and practice on quiet zones and directing data collection connected.

Ethan is currently completing his master's thesis on the topic, "Improving Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Accident Prediction Methods by Using Localized Data Sets." This research is being conducted for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). The results of this project will be used in establishing priorities for TDOT to invest in grade crossing safety improvements. Ethan expects to complete this work and graduate in May 2012.

Ethan Skaggs was selected as the 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year by the Center for Intermodal Freight Transportation Studies because of his academic achievements and his leadership on research conducted by the center.

Wilson Smith

Kansas State University

Kansas State University Transportation Center

Originally from Independence, Missouri, Wilson Smith earned his bachelor of science in civil engineering from Kansas State University in December 2009. Shortly thereafter, he began working on his master's degree in geotechnical engineering. Wilson's research involves investigating the feasibility of calcium lignosulfonate (lignin) as a soil stabilizer for unpaved roads. The research addressing early age strengths of lignin-sand mixes has just been completed. Wilson's research, which is currently underway, will provide an assessment of the feasibility of lignin use. This will be accomplished by allowing specimens to dry in a controlled temperature and humidity environment. Wilson's research has been featured in the Capitol Graduate Research Summit in Topeka, Kansas. Wilson has also been an advisor and participant in the American Society of Civil Engineers Regional Conference Geotechnical Competition at Kansas State.

On the basis of his academic achievement and ASCE Regional Conference body of research work in soil stabilization for roadways, the Kansas State University Transportation Center is pleased to select Wilson Smith as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Scott Sorensen

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) Region 7

Scott Sorensen is currently pursuing dual degrees in transportation engineering and regional and community planning at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was awarded the NU Regents Scholarship as an outstanding undergraduate student, receiving a full tuition waiver for his degree program. Scott has been actively involved in student chapters of Chi Epsilon, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and is a member of the ASCE Concrete Canoe team. Scott also participated in several study abroad opportunities in Poland, Italy, and Egypt. As a Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) undergraduate researcher, Scott collected field data for a Nebraska Department of Roads project that investigated the possible safety risks of broken-back curves. He also modeled single and dual-lane roundabouts using MicroStation for use in the Nebraska Driver's Manual.

His research as a graduate student has focused on the modeling and optimization of freight networks. In addition to his research, Scott serves as a mentor for transportation engineering afterschool programs at three middle schools in Lincoln, Nebraska. The goal of these programs is to spark student's interest in transportation engineering and increase their awareness of career opportunities in the transportation field. Beginning in April 2012, Scott will serve on the Transportation Research Board Committee on Public Transportation Marketing and Fare Policy.

The Mid-America Transportation Center is pleased to nominate Scott Sorensen as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Ben Sperry

Texas A&M University

Southwest Region University Transportation Center (SWUTC) Region 6

Ben Sperry is a graduate researcher in the Multimodal Freight Transportation Division at the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI). Currently a PhD candidate in the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University, Ben will graduate with a doctorate in civil engineering in May 2012. The title of his dissertation is "Development of Improved Traveler Survey Methods for High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Planning." A native of Springfield, Illinois, he received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Evansville (Indiana) in 2006. Ben earned his master's degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M in 2008.

Developing and analyzing rail passenger survey data, Ben's research focuses on understanding how existing passenger rail lines contribute to mobility and economic development in intercity corridors. He is active in Texas A&M's Student Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and has received numerous awards and recognition for his academic endeavors.

Ben was selected as the Southwest Region University Transportation Center 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year in recognition of his exemplary performance in academics, research quality and productivity, and leadership activities.

Moses Tefe

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

University Transportation Center for Alabama

Moses Kwame Tefe is currently a PhD student in civil/transportation engineering at the University of Alabama. Moses graduated from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana in June 1992. Upon graduation, he worked with a civil engineering consulting firm in Ghana until October 2002. He won a Netherlands Government sponsored scholarship that enabled him to travel to the Netherlands to pursue a master of science in civil engineering. After receiving his master's degree, he returned to his former employer where he worked until 2006. Soon after, Moses received a Research Assistantship at the University of Alabama, where he has worked on a variety of topics ranging from school bus seat belt safety to intercity bus service.

Moses currently works as a teaching assistant, instructing students in traffic engineering and geometric design software, and engineering surveying. Reviewers for the UTC Student of the Year Award were highly impressed with Moses' work on a National Science Foundation GK-12 Fellowship that he won in 2011. For that project, Moses developed a module that will enhance the teaching of science and engineering in the elementary education system in a west Alabama school district.

The University Transportation Center for Alabama is pleased to nominate Moses Tefe as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Khatereh Vaghefi

Michigan Technological University

University Transportation Center for
Materials in Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure (UTC-MiSTI)

Khatereh Vaghefi is a PhD student and graduate research assistant at Michigan Technological University. She completed her master of science in structural engineering at Newcastle University, United Kingdom in 2009 and her bachelor's degree in civil engineering in her home country of Iran. Khatereh's current research is part of a project titled "Bridge Condition Assessment Using Remote Sensors," which is sponsored through the U.S. DOT Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA). She is working with her advisor, Dr. Tess Ahlborn, and a research team at Michigan Technological University to enhance current bridge inspection practices. As part of this research, Khatereh is evaluating commercial remote sensors for bridge condition assessment and publishing the results in the ASCE Bridge Engineering Journal.

Khatereh's research is specifically focused on developing thermal infrared (IR) imagery technology, so that it may be adopted by transportation agencies to address challenges in bridge inspection practices. Her contribution will allow bridge inspectors to detect and quantify subsurface defects which are not visible or detectable during a visual bridge inspection. Applying this technology can enhance the current bridge inspection practice by speeding up the data collection process and reducing lane closures and traffic disruption over and under the bridge, as well as providing useful information for maintenance and repair decision making. Khatereh presented the results and progress of her study at the Prestressed/Precast Concrete Institute (PCI) convention and the National Bridge Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah in October 2011. Her paper was also published in the conference proceedings.

On the basis of her academic merit and important work in the area of bridge inspection practices, the University Transportation Center for Materials in Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure is pleased to nominate Khaterah Vaghefi as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jonathon Vivoda

University of Michigan

The Michigan Center for Advancing Safe Transportation throughout the Lifespan (M-CASTL)

Jonathon Vivoda is currently enrolled in the Health Behavior and Health Education (HBHE) department's PhD program at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Jonathon worked at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) between 1998 and 2011, and has been employed by the Michigan Center for Advancing Safe Transportation throughout the Lifespan (M-CASTL) since its inception. While working for M-CASTL, Jonathon served as the Program Coordinator and had primary responsibility for M-CASTL's educational mission, as well as contributing to the technology transfer and research missions of the center.

Jonathon earned a master of public health in HBHE and a bachelor's degree in psychology, both from the University of Michigan. His research interests include age-related driving issues, motor vehicle occupant restraint system use, driver distraction, the effects of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology on driver behavior, and understanding motor vehicle crash trends. He is an expert in organizing and managing field data collection for occupant protection use surveys, and has developed methods of using hand-held electronic devices for collecting many types of field data. Jonathon is currently a graduate student instructor for a course titled "Research Methods in Psychology."

The Michigan Center for Advancing Safe Transportation throughout the Lifespan is proud to nominate Jonathon Vivoda as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Dionne West

Hampton University

Eastern Seaboard Intermodal Transportation Applications Center (ESITAC)

A native of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Dionne West has excelled in her studies, over-coming a number of challenges since her freshman year. She has persisted in her academic, athletic, extracurricular, and professional endeavors, which make Dionne a model Hampton University student.

Dionne is an outstanding person, student, and peer leader with great potential. She is well respected by faculty, staff, and fellow students across the Hampton University campus. Dionne has a close, working relationship with her mentor and classroom professor, Dr. Sid Howard Credle. Within the classroom, Dionne meets and exceeds the expectations of academic achievement.

Despite the rigorous course load associated with being a student in Hampton University's five-year MBA program, Dionne is a valued member of the Women's Golf Team. She also serves as the secretary for the Society of Business Professionals, president of the student chapter of the National Association of Securities Professionals, and is a research assistant in Dr. Credle's office helping to prepare for an Opportunity Funding corporation presentation in Atlanta, Georgia. Additionally, Dionne enjoys participating in a variety of community service initiatives around the Hampton Roads area, such as Girls, Inc., and the American Heart Association.

The Eastern Seaboard Intermodal Transportation Applications Center is pleased to nominate Dionne West as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Erica Wygonik

University of Washington

Transportation Northwest (TransNow) Region 10

Erica Wygonik is pursuing a PhD in transportation engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Washington. She is interested in the relationship between land use, transportation, and modeling of complex systems. Erica holds a master of science in engineering (transportation) from the University of Washington, a bachelor's degree in engineering from the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College, and a bachelor of arts in cognitive science from Dartmouth College.

Before matriculating at the University of Washington, Erica worked for Resource Systems Group, Inc., a transportation and environmental engineering consulting firm based in Vermont. As a Senior Associate at RSG, Inc. she led the Microsimulation and Traffic Operations practice areas. Erica is a licensed professional engineer. She was selected for this award by the TransNow faculty for her outstanding academic record, participation in CEE department activities, and overall promise as a future faculty member in transportation engineering.

Because of her outstanding academic record and interest in the area of urban goods movement and livability, Transportation Northwest is proud to select Erica Wygonik as its 2011 Outstanding Student of the Year.