University Transportation Centers

22nd Annual Outstanding Student of the Year Awards

Transportation Research Board

92nd Annual Meeting

Omni Shoreham Hotel

Washington, DC

January 12, 2013

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

WELCOME

Welcome to the 22nd Annual Student of the Year Awards ceremony, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT).

Each year at the annual winter meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), the USDOT honors the most outstanding student from each participating University Transportation Center (UTC) 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 UTC Program, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). This year, continuing the tradition of One DOT, the USDOT will also honor students from the Air Transportation Centers of Excellence (COE), sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

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.

The purpose of the University Transportation Center (UTC) Program is to advance U.S. technology and expertise in transportation through education, research, and technology transfer at university-based Centers of Excellence (COEs). The UTC Program was created by Section 314 of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987, 49 U.S.C. §5317. In 1998, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) reauthorized the UTC Program for an additional six years and increased the total number of centers from the original 10 to 33. In 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) increased the number of centers to 60. In addition to the 10 regional centers which were competitively selected, 10 Tier-1 funded centers were also competitively selected. With the exception of the Title III centers, all of the UTCs are required to provide a 1-for-1 funding match.

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) determined that all current UTCs had been sufficiently funded and made UTC Program funds available for a competition. The competition was completed in January 2012, and 22 new centers were selected as grantees. Under the recently enacted surface transportation reauthorization, Move Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), a new UTC competition will be held during fiscal year 2013, in which 35 new grantees will be selected.

The UTC Program is managed by USDOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA).

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 in: 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.

Following a competitive process conducted in 2012, the FAA Administrator selected a new COE for General Aviation research under the leadership of Purdue University. The FAA is currently planning to establish a COE for Alternative Jet Fuels and Environment in 2013.

With the FAA and other government and industry organizations, Air Transportation COEs perform basic research through engineering development and prototyping, education, training, and technology transfer. These multidisciplinary partnerships forge unions between the public sector (FAA, airport authorities, state/local governments, etc.), the private sector (airlines, manufacturers, etc.), and academic institutions.

Through COE partnerships, the FAA helps to create world-class consortia to focus on identifying solutions for existing and anticipated aviation and related transportation concerns. The COEs provide a trusted business structure and long-term research strategies while supporting the education and training of a pool of scientists for the next generation.

Since 1992, the FAA has established 10 COE partnerships with more than 75 universities throughout the U.S., supporting more than 800 research projects and educating more than 1,500 students. Critical research outcomes are documented in 2,000 publications, reports, and doctoral theses. FAA COEs now reflect a level of effort exceeding $450M, funded through Federal contract and grant awards, and matching contributions provided by academia, industry, and state and local entities.

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Martin M. Barna
San Jose State University

José E. Bernardo
Georgia Institute of Technology

Kelly Bertolaccini
University of Connecticut

Jeremy Bonifacio
California State University, Long Beach

Brandon Stallone Bortz
Kansas State University

Jamie Boydstun
Mississippi State University

Amy Cavaretta
University of Florida

Wesley Cook
Utah State University

Kristina Currans
Portland State University

Gabriela DeFrancisci
University of California, San Diego

Stephen Edwards
University of Memphis

Jenny Elyard
West Virginia University

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Daniel J. Fagnant
University of Texas at Austin

Tyler Feralio
University of Vermont

Charlotte Frei
Northwestern University

Cyrus Dalton Garner
University of Arkansas

Alexa C. Hollinshead
Hampton University

Zahid Hossain
University of Oklahoma

Aleksandar Jovanovich
Youngstown State University

Robert M. Kluger
University of Virginia

Mindy Laybourne
University of Delaware

Taylor Lochrane
University of Central Florida

Trevor J. Looney
Missouri University of Science and Technology

Yeganeh Mashayekh
Carnegie Mellon University

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Christopher Mazzotta
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Eric A. Morris
University of California, Los Angeles

Geoffrey M. Morrison
University of California, Davis

Daniel Moser
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Christina Nzekwe
Morgan State University

Piotr J. Rachtan
University of Massachusetts

Ted Reinhold
The Ohio State University

Vivek Shah
University of New Orleans

Abhishek Singhal
City College of New York

Joshua D. Swake
Oregon State University

Kyle Taniguchi
University of South Florida

Li-Wei (Chris) Tung
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Chris Van Dyke
University of Kentucky

Gema Vinuales
University of Rhode Island

James Wong
Georgia Institute of Technology

Jonathan S. Wood
University of Utah

Aaron Zimmerman
George Mason University

Ismail Zohdy
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Jason Zottola
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Martin M. Barna

San Jose State University

Mineta Transportation Institute

After growing up in the Washington, DC area and earning an undergraduate planning degree from the University of Virginia, Martin Barna spent five years working for a McLean-based transportation consulting firm. In 2010, he relocated to the San Francisco Bay Area to pursue a master's degree in transportation management at the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University. With the help and support of his professors, co-workers, managers, and fellow students, Martin was able to excel in his coursework and hone his interests in public transportation planning, operations, and management. He next parlayed his degree into his current job as a Transit Service Development Specialist for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority. In this role, Martin develops bus schedules, evaluates potential service improvements, and helps plan future service for new bus rapid transit lines, the new San Francisco 49ers stadium, and the Silicon Valley BART extension. These projects allow Martin to leverage the transportation principles he learned at the Mineta Transportation Institute to directly improve the region's mobility and accessibility. Martin looks forward to contributing to the continued growth of transit in the Bay Area and is honored to represent the Mineta Transportation Institute as its Outstanding Student of the Year.

In recognition of his academic achievements and outstanding work in the area of transit service planning, the Mineta Transportation Institute is pleased to select Martin M. Barna as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

José E. Bernardo

Georgia Institute of Technology

Partnership for AiR Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction (PARTNER)

José Bernardo is currently completing a PhD at the Georgia Institute of Technology, under the direction of Dr. Dimitri Mavris and Dr. Michelle Kirby. José has presented aspects of his thesis work titled, "Formulating and Implementing a Generic Fleet-level Noise Methodology" at the 50th AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting, and is in the process of submitting a paper to the Journal of Aircraft on the same subject. José's thesis work is closely related to fleet-level noise, expanding on the work done in developing ANGIM to examine fleet-level behaviors with respect to noise.

Born in Lima, Perú, José moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania when he was five. He excelled in science and math in high school, receiving both engineering honors and study abroad scholarships from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Engineering. José went on to receive his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 2008, capping his undergraduate career by flying a microgravity experiment on NASA's microgravity research vehicle. José then accepted a research assistantship and a Goizueta Foundation Fellowship award at Georgia Institute of Technology. José received his master's degree in aerospace engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2009, also receiving an OMED Tower Award for academic excellence.

José is being selected for this award in recognition of his outstanding contributions toward generating a generic aircraft fleet incorporating noise elements for rapid environmental decision-making under PARTNER Project 14. The Partnership for AiR Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction is pleased to select José Bernardo as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kelly Bertolaccini

University of Connecticut

Center for Transportation and Livable Systems

New England University Transportation Center (Region 1)

Kelly Bertolaccini earned dual undergraduate degrees in civil engineering and English from the University of Connecticut (UConn) in 2010. After graduating, she entered UConn's Transportation Engineering and Urban Planning graduate program. Kelly recently defended her master's thesis on the equitable distribution of transit services, and will continue her graduate studies as a PhD student in UConn's transportation program. Kelly will participate in a graduate exchange program with the University of New South Wales, Australia this spring semester.

Since entering UConn's graduate program, Kelly has explored a range of research topics related to social equity, public transportation, and economic development. In her first year, Kelly received an Eisenhower Fellowship to compare the transportation policies and strategies of countries from around the globe and partnered with a Ghanaian colleague to assess the effects of highway design in the capital city of Accra. Recently, Kelly worked with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to investigate methods for strengthening the linkage between the state's capital investments and its long-term transportation goals. Her dissertation research, funded by the Eisenhower Fellowship program, will focus on creating effective and equitable Bus Rapid Transit systems.

Kelly is currently serving as the president of UConn's chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). In addition to being selected as the New England University Transportation Center and the Center for Transportation and Livable Systems student of the year, she has received the ITE Connecticut Chapter Scholarship and the Overly Memorial scholarship from the Women's Transportation Seminar.

In recognition of Kelly's accomplishments and academic merit, the Center for Transportation and Livable Systems, as well as the New England University Transportation Center are pleased to select Kelly Bertolaccini as their 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jeremy Bonifacio

California State University, Long Beach

METRANS Transportation Center

Jeremy Bonifacio received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from California Polytechnic University, Pomona in the spring of 2007 and a master's degree in mechanical engineering with a focus in thermal and fluid sciences from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) in the spring of 2010. He is currently pursuing a PhD in engineering and industrial applied math through the joint PhD program between CSULB and Claremont Graduate University. His master's thesis was titled "Numerical and Experimental Investigations of a Venturi Flow Discharging into a Cross Flow" (with applications in enhancing diffusion of stack smoke emissions).

Jeremy has authored and coauthored several papers at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, American Physical Society, and National Urban Freight conferences. He is currently involved in numerical simulations of particles (virus) transport and diffusion aboard public transportation systems, while working on his doctoral dissertation titled "Numerical Simulations, Experiments and Optimization of a Seawater Scrubber for Reducing PM Emissions of Ocean-Going Vessels."

Jeremy is conducting his research at the Center for Energy and Environmental Research and Services (CEERS) under the direction of Professor Hamid Rahai. Jeremy is also a part-time lecturer in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at CSULB.

On the basis of his academic accomplishments and exemplary research work, the METRANS Transportation Center is pleased to select Jeremy Bonifacio as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Brandon Stallone Bortz

Kansas State University

Kansas State University Transportation Center

Brandon Bortz is pursuing a PhD in the Civil Engineering Department at Kansas State University. He graduated from Kansas State with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in December 2008, and received a master's degree in May 2010. While taking a full course load and maintaining a GPA of 3.667, Brandon has been instructing undergraduate students since the fall of 2010 through the fall of 2012. He is the lab instructor for the Civil Engineering Materials I course and the graduate level Hot Mix Asphalt course. He also instructed the pavement section of the Highway Engineering course. In addition, Brandon served as the lab manager for the 2012 Superpave Certification Course at Kansas State.

Having grown up on a farm in Pratt County, Kanas, physical work is no stranger to Brandon. Along with the help of other student workers, Brandon has completed a series of tests using the accelerated pavement testing machine at Kansas State's Civil Infrastructure Systems Laboratory. Brandon is a hardworking and goal-minded individual who has been a great asset to the Kansas State University Transportation Center and the Civil Engineering Department.

Based on his hard work and outstanding accomplishments in teaching, research, and Transportation Research Board service, the Kansas State University Transportation Center is pleased to select Brandon Bortz as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jamie Boydstun

Mississippi State University

National Center for Intermodal Transportation for Economic Competitiveness

Jamie Boydstun is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology and works as a graduate research assistant at the Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University. Her research interests lie broadly within transportation, social demography, and medical sociology. Jamie's current research projects explore social aspects of transportation. Working with Dr. Guangqing Chi, Jamie has completed one research project titled "Gasoline Price Changes and Residential Relocation: Evidence from the American Housing Survey, 1996-2008," which is currently under review at *Demography*, the best journal in the field of demography.

Jamie's research won second place at the 4th Annual Transportation Workshop held at Mississippi State University in February 2012. With guidance from Dr. Chi, Jamie is now taking a lead role on a new project supported by the National Center for Intermodal Transportation for Economic Competitiveness. This research examines intermodal transportation systems by using the 2009 National Household Travel Survey, and it is the first attempt to comprehensively understand passenger usages of the intermodal transportation system. Jamie's future research plans are to investigate explanations for increasing obesity prevalence in relation to transportation, as well as to investigate transportation's role in socioeconomic differences of medical care access.

In recognition of her excellent academic achievements and exciting work in the area of social demography, the National Center for Intermodal Transportation for Economic Competitiveness is pleased to select Jamie Boydstun as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Amy Cavaretta

University of Florida

Southeastern Transportation Research, Innovation, Development, and Education Center (STRIDE) Region 4

Amy Cavaretta holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Florida (UF). She is currently a second-year student in the master's degree program in Urban and Regional Planning at UF. Her graduate studies focus on federal and state transportation and infrastructure policy. Amy is an active leader on the executive board of the UF Student Planning Association and the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) UF Student Chapter. As a research assistant for Ruth Steiner, PhD, an associate professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at UF, Amy has been a key contributor to several research projects for the Florida Department of Transportation.

Amy was recognized as the Florida American Planning Association Outstanding Student Planner of the Year in 2012, and awarded the UF David F. and Cynthia A. Davis Engineering Scholarship in 2011, the WTS National Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship in 2010, and a WTS Frankee Hellinger Scholarship in 2009. Amy's internships include the Harvard Graduate School of Design, the city of Casselberry, Florida, and the transportation engineering/planning firm of Kittelson & Associates. Amy was the first Thomas J. O'Bryant Transportation Policy and Finance Fellow in 2012 at the Eno Center for Transportation in Washington, DC where she worked on transportation policy, finance research, and briefings with lawmakers. After graduation, Amy plans to return to Washington, DC to begin her career in transportation policy.

Based on her academic merit and research work in the areas of transportation planning and policy, the Southeastern Transportation Research, Innovation, Development, and Education Center is pleased to select Amy Cavaretta as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Wesley Cook

Utah State University

Utah Transportation Center

Wesley Cook was raised in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He excelled in cross country and choir while in high school. Wesley received a full scholarship to New Mexico State University (NMSU), where he participated in American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) steel bridge competitions while working at the NMSU Center of Transportation and Research performing bridge inspections until his graduation in 2006. Wesley's experiences at NMSU solidified his desire to conduct bridge-related research. After graduation, Wesley worked as a consultant at Forsgren Associates, Inc. for three years.

In 2010, Wesley received a master's degree in structural engineering from Utah State University, focusing his research on full-scale destructive testing of bridge sections that were constructed with an accelerated bridge construction technique. His latest work seeks to determine epistemic risk of bridge failures from historical data, which quantifiably defines the probability of bridge failures. This research has the potential to transform vulnerable bridge assessments. Wesley is interested in expounding upon risk assessment with individual cause of failure probabilities, consequences, and consideration of predictors.

In recognition of his interdisciplinary research achievements and commitment to improving bridge management systems, the Utah Transportation Center is pleased to select Wesley Cook as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kristina Currans

Portland State University

Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC)

Kristina Currans is a PhD candidate studying transportation engineering at Portland State University, where she earned a master's in civil engineering in 2012. She received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Oregon State University in 2010. Kristina has earned numerous awards and honors and was recently inducted into the Denice Dee Denton Women Engineers Hall of Fame at Portland State University. She has interned for the Transportation Planning Analysis Unit of the Oregon Department of Transportation, where she worked on the statewide travel demand model (SWIM2), helping to combine the statewide integrated model with a greenhouse gas forecasting tool. Kristina has been an active leader in Students in Transportation Engineering and Planning at Portland State, serving as Event Director, Webmaster/Historian, and she cochaired the 2011 Region X Student Conference.

Based on her academic achievements and research work in the area of traffic impact analysis trip generation estimations, the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium is proud to select Kristina Currans as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Gabriela DeFrancisci

University of California, San Diego

FAA Center of Excellence for Joint Advanced Materials and Structures (JAMS)

Gabriela DeFrancisci received her bachelor's degree in 2008 from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo's Department of Civil Engineering. She received her master's degree in 2010 and is currently completing her PhD at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in structural engineering. In 2008, Gabriela received the UCSD Structural Engineering Department Fellowship. She was a Transportation Research Board Fellowship Recipient on Public Sector Aviation Issues in 2009-2010 and a California Space Grant Fellowship Recipient in 2010. Gabriela's main research focus is wide area, blunt impact on composite structures, similar to accidental contact between a ground service vehicle and a commercial aircraft. In her free time, she enjoys rock climbing, running, and backpacking.

In recognition of her academic successes and research in the area of blunt impact on composite aircraft structures, the FAA Center of Excellence for Joint Advanced Materials and Structures is proud to select Gabriela DeFrancisci as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Stephen Edwards

University of Memphis

Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute

Stephen Edwards received his undergraduate degree from the University of Memphis and will receive a master's degree in civil engineering with a concentration in transportation in the spring. The title of his thesis is, "Integrated Traffic Modeling for Site Impact Analysis." Stephen was selected for this award for his outstanding work in and out of the classroom. He is always willing to help with any K-12 program, and he is an outstanding mentor to both undergraduate and prospective high school students. Stephen works with the Engineers Without Borders program and the high school engineering summer camp program.

On the basis of his academic accomplishments and mentoring of undergraduate and high school students, the Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute is pleased to select Stephen Edwards as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jenny Elyard

West Virginia University

Rahall Transportation Institute

Jenny Elyard is an engineer in training (EIT) certified master's student at West Virginia University. She holds a bachelor of science in civil engineering, a minor in mathematics, and is currently pursuing a master of science in civil engineering with a focus on transportation engineering. As an undergraduate, she received the Promise Scholarship, Presidential Scholarship, and graduated summa cum laude with a 3.92 GPA. Jenny worked part-time at KCI Technologies in Morgantown, West Virginia on several civil/electrical projects using AutoCAD and Microstation. She was also involved in an undergraduate research project for the West Virginia Department of Highways, which dealt with detecting and warning motorists of end-of-queue locations in freeway work zones.

Jenny has been critical to the success of many Rahall Transportation Institute research projects, which exemplify her selection for this award. Her excellent technical and reasoning skills have allowed Jenny to quickly catch-on and learn new concepts and easily apply them to solve problems. She was an integral part of the research project "Signing to Prevent End of Queue Accidents," performing the majority of the literature review and interview tasks, as well as a significant portion of the final report.

On the basis of her excellent academic record and important work in preventing end of queue accidents, the Rahall Transportation Institute is pleased to select Jenny Elyard as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Daniel J. Fagnant

University of Texas at Austin

Southwest Region University Transportation Center (Region 6)

Daniel Fagnant is a PhD candidate in transportation engineering at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin. He obtained a bachelor of science in computer engineering at Gonzaga University and a master's degree in civil engineering from UT. After completing his undergraduate studies, Dan spent five years at Alaska DOT's Southeast Regional Traffic and Safety section where he helped run the Highway Safety Improvement Program, proposing, evaluating, and designing numerous projects. In addition to being the youngest team member to develop Alaska's Strategic Highway Safety Plan, Dan has also received numerous awards and fellowships, including the Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship. Dan is also an Eno Transportation Leadership Fellow. Dan's research experience includes traffic and safety analysis and design, transportation project evaluation, autonomous vehicles, motorcycles, transportation policy and economics, and transportation networks and modeling.

On the basis of his academic achievements and experience with a number of transportation-related projects, the Southwest Region University Transportation Center is pleased to select Daniel Fagnant as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Tyler Feralio

University of Vermont

University of Vermont Transportation Research Center

Tyler Feralio received his bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2004 and 2005, respectively. His thesis work involved computational modeling of an internal combustion engine. Tyler then worked at Honda Research and Development as a design engineer in the chassis group. From there, he transitioned to designing aftermarket suspensions for all-terrain vehicles for a small company in the northeast. He decided to return to academia in order to shift his focus to more environmentally conscious endeavors.

Tyler enrolled at the University of Vermont (UVM) in August 2009 in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. His current research focuses on quantifying and modeling the differences in particulate emissions from light-duty diesel engines fueled by diesel and biodiesel fuels. Tyler's hands-on mechanical skills and ability to quickly master new concepts, combined with his enthusiasm and dedication to his research project have resulted in the development of UVM's unique light-duty diesel particulate emissions sampling apparatus in the TAQ Lab. This sampling apparatus will be a valuable resource to future UVM students studying vehicle emissions and their control.

For his excellent research work in the area of light-duty diesel particulate emissions, the University of Vermont Transportation Research Center is proud to select Tyler Feralio as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Charlotte Frei

Northwestern University

Center for Commercialization of Innovative Transportation Technology (CCITT)

Charlotte Frei is a fourth year PhD student in civil and environmental engineering at Northwestern University where she is studying transportation systems analysis and planning under the direction of Professor Hani Mahmassani. Charlotte earned a bachelor of science in civil engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research projects focus on public transportation demand and travel behavior. The goal of her thesis work is to model customer satisfaction in order to explicitly account for transit user behavior in the design of public transit operating schemes.

Charlotte is active in the Chicago chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar, where she is currently developing partnerships and resources to enhance knowledge of transportation related careers among high school girls. She is also the cochair of the Society of Women Engineers graduate student committee. In this role, Charlotte organizes programs to engage female graduate students.

Charlotte was selected for this award for her contributions to a research project conducted with and for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), She provided detailed spatial and temporal analysis of transit ridership for use in an optimization model to allocate the CTA's bus fleet. The Center for Commercialization of Innovative Transportation Technology is pleased to select Charlotte Frei as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Cyrus Dalton Garner

University of Arkansas

Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center

Cyrus Garner is a PhD candidate in civil engineering (geotechnical emphasis) at the University of Arkansas. Cyrus was born in New York City and raised in Brooklyn, New York and Vinalhaven, Maine. He graduated from the Groton School in Groton, Massachusetts. Cyrus received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Northwestern University and his master's degree from the University of Arkansas.

Between his bachelor's and master's degrees, Cyrus worked as part of a construction management team, building correctional facilities in Arizona and Colorado for J.E. Dunn Construction Company. Cyrus' master's research focused on the characterization of tunneling induced subsidence, using finite element modeling and closed form solutions. This work resulted in three journal publications. Cyrus' current research builds upon his previous work, focusing on ground deformation associated with unsaturated soils (specifically, expansive clays). He is using remote sensing methodologies, utilizing a wide range of the electromagnetic spectrum to determine soil color, mineralogy, volumetric moisture content, temperature, and volume change. Cyrus' intelligence has allowed him to conduct pioneering research, which has enabled him to make a significant contribution to the profession. Simply put, his seminal research will change the way geotechnical engineers classify unsaturated soils.

The Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center is pleased to select Cyrus Dalton Garner as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Alexa C. Hollinshead

Hampton University

Eastern Seaboard Intermodal Transportation Applications Center (ESITAC)

Alexa Hollinshead is originally from Atlanta, Georgia. After graduating from high school with honors, Alexa went on to attend Hampton University where she is currently a senior majoring in psychology, with a minor in business management. She has maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.40. Alexa has been an active member of several on-campus organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Psi Chi Honor Society, Girls Inc., as a mentor, and Beta Kappa Chi Honor Society.

In January 2012, Alexa was selected by the Eastern Seaboard Intermodal Transportation Applications Center (ESITAC) to work as a research intern. ESITAC is a Tier II UTC directed by Dr. Kelwyn D'Souza. As a research intern at Hampton Roads Transit, Alexa has conducted driver distraction surveys, transit bus route observations, survey data input and statistical analysis, and prepared reports. On October 10, 2012, Alexa had the honor of presenting a joint paper titled, "A Conceptual Analysis of Cognitive Distraction for Transit Bus Drivers" at the National Conference on Intermodal Transportation. After graduating from Hampton University in May 2013, Alexa plans to enroll in a doctoral program for clinical psychology.

Alexa was nominated for this prestigious award because she is a dedicated and hardworking student, and she possesses a strong motivation to learn new theories. The Eastern Seaboard Intermodal Transportation Applications Center is proud to select Alexa Hollinshead as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Zahid Hossain

University of Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Transportation Center (OkTC)

Zahid Hossain graduated with a PhD in civil engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He received dual master's degrees in civil engineering and computer science from the University of Oklahoma, and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh. Zahid's research focus is on transportation materials, primarily in asphalt pavement. He has made significant contributions in characterizing unmodified and polymer modified asphalt binders through mechanistic, surface science, and spectroscopy techniques. Furthermore, Zahid has conducted applied research in developing sustainable pavement infrastructures using warm mix asphalt and asphalt recycling technologies. He has been published in 13 peer-reviewed journal papers and 17 peer-reviewed conference papers. Two additional journal manuscripts are currently under review. In addition, Zahid has assisted in teaching several undergraduate and graduate courses.

Zahid is an associate member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineering. Recently, Zahid became an Assistant Professor of civil engineering at Arkansas State University, where he focuses on applied research in sustainable transportation materials and technologies, and will teach statics and transportation engineering.

Zahid was selected for his award because of his academic achievements, outstanding research, contributions to transportation improvement, teaching, and genuine interest in helping peers during his studies at the University of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Transportation Center is pleased to select Zahid Hossain as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Aleksandar Jovanovich

Youngstown State University

Center for Transportation and Materials Engineering

Aleksandar Jovanovich is a graduate student at Youngstown State University seeking a master's degree in computing and information systems. He is currently employed as a graduate research assistant and works under the guidance of Dr. Graciela Perera. His research interests are in the application of data mining techniques in structural health monitoring. Specifically, Aleksandar's research focuses on the implementation of machine learning techniques in developing condition monitoring, fault diagnosis, and damage detections for bridges. Aleksandar has a strong grasp of mathematics and algorithms which he applies to modeling. His experience includes data gathering, feature extraction, and the development of a model used to forecast and predict damage to the Youngstown I-680 Bridge.

His work includes damage predictions and forecasts of existing bridges in the Youngstown area. Aleksandar successfully deployed a wireless network system that gathers data (i.e., acceleration and temperature) pertaining to the structural stability of a bridge. The data collected was used to develop models that would classify damage. Aleksandar has published his work on modeling in the 2012 Midwest Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science Conference. He is currently working on a technical conference paper titled, "Damage Detection on Bridges Using Support Vector Machine Coefficients."

Aleksandar has the qualities and potential to become a great researcher and professional in the transportation field as he applies his mathematical and computation skills to transportation systems. The Center for Transportation and Materials Engineering is pleased to select Aleksandar Jovanovich as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Robert M. Kluger

University of Virginia

The Connected Vehicle/Infrastructure University Transportation Center

In three years, Robert Kluger completed his undergraduate studies and received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering with a focus on transportation from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He began his graduate studies at the University of Virginia in the summer of 2012. His current research interests include Intelligent Transportation System applications for traffic management and connected vehicles. Robert is also interested in government policies on emissions from transportation sources, and the effects of climate change on transportation infrastructure.

Robert is playing a critical role in the Connected Vehicle/Infrastructure University Transportation Center. His current project involves the connected vehicle test bed in northern Virginia. Robert is looking to use a connected vehicle environment to detect "near-miss" collision events. Locations with frequent near-misses will be identified and analyzed in order to detect hot spots where geometric or operational improvements are necessary.

In addition to his work with the University Transportation Center, Robert has been active in various professional groups including the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Robert helped design and build a concrete canoe for ASCE's Carolina's Conference while at Georgia Tech. More recently, he participated in the VASITE Traffic Bowl in Virginia.

Robert exemplifies the best of the UTC Program in his research and leadership. He has garnered the praise and respect of both faculty and staff. The Connected Vehicle/Infrastructure University Transportation Center at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is pleased to select Robert Kluger as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Mindy Laybourne

University of Delaware

University of Delaware University Transportation Center

Mindy Laybourne is pursuing a master's degree in civil engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Delaware (UD). She currently holds a bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering from UD. Mindy's master's thesis focuses on developing a hybrid performance measure for signalized intersections that uses both delay-based and volume-based levels of service.

Mindy serves as a mentor for CIEG 461 Senior Design, a lecturer in CIEG 451 Transportation Engineering Laboratory, and a teaching assistant in CIEG 467 Traffic Engineering and Modeling. She oversees the Delaware Signal Timing Enhancement Project (DSTEP). This requires morning and evening intersection data collection, followed by data review, modeling, reporting, and presentation of results to the Delaware Department of Transportation. Mindy manages roughly 40 undergraduate students for the data collection effort including training and supervision.

In 2011, Mindy was the recipient of a UD University Transportation Center Graduate Student Fellowship. Based on her academic achievements and research in the area of signalized intersections, the UD University Transportation Center is proud to select Mindy Laybourne as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Taylor Lochrane

University of Central Florida

National Center for Transportation System Productivity and Management

Taylor Lochrane holds master's and bachelor's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Central Florida (UCF). As a PhD candidate at UCF, he is currently leading a study of driver car-following behavior to improve the accuracy of modeling and simulation of traffic through work zones. Taylor was selected for a position with the Federal Highway Administration under the Student Career Experience Program to continue his work at Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center in the Office of Operations R&D. Prior to this position, Taylor worked at UCF as a graduate research assistant at the Center for Advanced Transportation Systems Simulation on a project that investigated congestion on toll roads and the impact of traffic information displayed on Dynamic Message Signs. He also gained valuable leadership experience as the first civil engineer and PhD student to be elected in 2010 as the Student Body Vice President at UCF, the second largest school in the county with 56,000 students. Taylor also gained four years of valuable experience in the private sector as an engineering technician in land development for multiple projects across the state of Florida.

The National Center for Transportation System Productivity and Management is pleased to select Taylor Lochrane as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Trevor J. Looney

Missouri University of Science and Technology

Center for Transportation Infrastructure and Safety

Trevor Looney obtained a bachelor of science in civil engineering with *summa cum laude* honors from the Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) in December 2010, and is scheduled to graduate from Missouri S&T with his master of science in civil engineering in December 2012.

During his undergraduate career, Trevor was a member of the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society. Also, he was selected to participate in the Missouri S&T National Science Foundation supported Opportunities for Undergraduate Research Experience, during which he conducted research evaluating the effectiveness of reinforcing bar coatings for enhanced concrete-steel bond strength and corrosion resistance.

As a master of science candidate, Trevor has studied and made technical contributions to the effects on bond strength of two sustainable construction materials, namely high-volume fly ash concrete and self-consolidating concrete for infrastructure applications. During his graduate work, Trevor has been advised by Dr. Jeffery S. Volz.

Trevor was selected as the 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year by the Center for Transportation Infrastructure and Safety for his outstanding academic performance, the technical merit and national importance of his research, as well as his service to the Missouri University of Science and Technology campus and surrounding community.

Yeganeh Mashayekh

Carnegie Mellon University

Technologies for Safe and Efficient Transportation (T-SET)
University Transportation Center

Yeganeh Mashayekh is a dual PhD candidate at Carnegie Mellon University in the Civil and Environmental Engineering and Engineering and Public Policy Departments. She received her bachelor of science in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and her master of science in civil and environmental engineering–transportation engineering from the University of California–Berkeley. Prior to joining Carnegie Mellon, Yeganeh was a practicing transportation engineer at Iteris, where she worked on transportation planning and traffic operations projects in the states of California and Nevada.

Since joining Carnegie Mellon, Yeganeh has focused her work on the economic and environmental cost-effectiveness analyses of land use and congestion management strategies. Her primary research interest is to gain an understanding of the holistic, economic, health, and environmental impacts of transportation strategies across multidisciplinary boundaries. Yeganeh's work has been published in Transportation Research Records, ASCE Journal of Urban Planning and Development, and Environmental Science and Technology. She has been a recipient of the Steinbrenner Institute Robert Dunlop Graduate Fellowship Award, CMU Dean's Fellowship Award, and ITE's Best Young Member Paper Award, among others. Yeganeh is an active member of ITE and ISIE, former president of the ITE student chapter, and a former board member of the Orange County Traffic Engineers Commission.

On the basis of her academic accomplishments and research work in the areas of land use and congestion management strategies, the Technologies for Safe and Efficient Transportation (T-SET) University Transportation Center is pleased to select Yeganeh Mashayekh as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Christopher Mazzotta

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT)

Christopher Mazzotta is a master's and future doctoral student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. His primary focus is structural engineering, but he also has working knowledge of geotechnical and water system engineering. Currently, Christopher works at the Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT) conducting research into nondestructive testing (NDT) of structural infrastructure systems.

Christopher draws inspiration from his extensive studies of history. Engineering feats from ancient Rome's extensive roadway and infrastructure systems to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's National Interstate and Defense Highway Act pushed him into civil engineering. His current position as a researcher at CAIT allows Christopher to work on the modern infrastructure systems whose ancestors he has studied. He has worked with several different NDT systems and is researching how they can be used to assess the condition of prestressing strands in concrete bridge girders at the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center. This research will ultimately help in developing assessment protocols for prestressed girders to be used by inspectors in the field.

In appreciation of Christopher's academic performance and service to both the University Transportation Center and Rutgers, CAIT is pleased to name him as their 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Eric A. Morris

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California Transportation Center (Region 9)

Eric Morris is an assistant professor of city and regional planning at Clemson University. His primary focus is transportation, particularly how transportation contributes to our quality of life. His current research focuses on transportation and happiness; transportation, time use, and activity patterns; and transportation and access to employment, shopping, food, and medical care. Eric has a strong interest in transportation equity and disadvantaged populations.

Eric conducts research in the field of transportation history, and is currently coauthoring a book on the development and financing of the freeway system. Eric's other interests include transportation and land use, transportation finance and economics, transportation policy, and transportation and the environment. Eric wrote a column on transportation for the New York Times for several years, and is now a regular contributor to the *Freakonomics* website. He was also the Associate Editor of *Access* magazine. Before returning to academia, Eric worked as a travel writer, a sports writer, and as a television writer and producer.

Eric Morris was selected as the University of California Transportation Center's 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year for his major accomplishments in academics, teaching, and service.

Geoffrey M. Morrison

University of California, Davis

Sustainable Transportation Center at UC Davis

Geoffrey Morrison is a PhD student in the Transportation Technology and Policy Program at the University of California, Davis where he also earned master's degrees in civil and environmental engineering and agricultural and resource economics. He previously served in the United States Navy and continues to serve in the United States Naval Reserves.

For his dissertation, Geoffrey is exploring the role of a "peer effect" in explaining the preference of U.S. military members to commute by automobile, and analyzing the effects of changes in employment density resulting from base realignments and closures on commute time. Geoffrey's study, which is the first to examine the personal travel choices of U.S. military members, provides a basis for improved transportation policy for military bases. Geoffrey has won several prestigious awards, including the 2012 National Defense Transportation Association Award and a 2009 Eisenhower Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Transportation. As described by his advisor, Geoffrey possesses "the qualities and character of a great leader and has tremendous potential for leadership in the transportation energy field."

This award recognizes Geoffrey's outstanding leadership potential and excellence in transportation research. The Sustainable Transportation Center at UC Davis is pleased to select Geoffrey Morrison as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Daniel Moser

University of Wisconsin-Madison

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

Daniel Moser is pursuing a career in transportation policy and is currently enrolled in the master's degree program through the La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has a certificate in transportation management and policy through the Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies. Dan is a returning student and University of Wisconsin alumnus, having received a master of science in urban and regional planning in 1997. Since then, Dan has worked as an urban planner in both the public and private sectors, specializing in land use and growth management. He is also a veteran of the United States Army and Wisconsin Army National Guard, having deployed to Iraq in 2003-2004.

Dan's primary professional and academic interests include policies and management practices that promote more environmentally sustainable, equitable, and efficient land use and transportation systems, particularly in urban settings. In addition to his studies, Dan works as a part-time research assistant at the National Center for Freight Infrastructure, Research, and Education (CFIRE). His CFIRE research includes work on a study of waterborne freight on inland waterways and the Great Lakes for the Mid-America Freight Coalition's Regional Freight Study. Dan is a volunteer member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Transportation Board.

The National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education is pleased to select Daniel Moser as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Christina Nzekwe

Morgan State University

National Transportation Center

Christina Nzekwe attended the University of California, Los Angeles on a full basketball scholarship and earned a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics. She continued her education at Morgan State University where she is currently pursuing a master of science in transportation. During her time at Morgan State, Christina has conducted research on Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) for the Maryland State Highway Administration under the supervision of Dr. Mansoureh Jeihani. She also interned as a project development liaison at the Maryland Transit Administration. Christina is a recipient of the Eisenhower Graduate Fellowship, and is working to figure out TOD effects on vehicle miles traveled. Upon completion of her master's degree, Christina plans to work as a transportation analyst.

On the basis of her academic work and promise as a future transportation professional, the National Transportation Center is pleased to select Christina Nzekwe as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Piotr J. Rachtan

University of Massachusetts

University of Massachusetts Transportation Center

Piotr Rachtan grew up in Krakow, Poland. His primary focus at 6th High School in Krakow was to learn German and English. After graduation, he chose to pursue a civil engineering degree at the Krakow University of Technology. In May 2009, Piotr graduated from Springfield Technical Community College with an associates degree in engineering and science, receiving highest honors. In May 2011, Piotr graduated *summa cum laude* with a bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Piotr has remained at the University of Massachusetts to complete his master of science in civil engineering in transportation. His thesis titled "Spatial and Temporal Correlations of Freeway Link Speeds: An Empirical Study," consisted of the development and cross-validation of a regression model to describe factors affecting correlation of speeds in a freeway corridor. The main points of the thesis have been gathered in a paper under the same title. The paper will be presented at the 92nd Annual Transportation Research Board meeting in Washington, DC. Piotr recently joined the Traffic Engineering Design Division of the Maryland Department of Transportation.

The University of Massachusetts Transportation Center is pleased to select Piotr Rachtan as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Ted Reinhold

The Ohio State University

NEXTRANS Center (Region 5)

Ted Reinhold contributes significantly to Ohio State University's (OSU) Campus Transit Lab, a living lab based on OSU's Campus Area Bus Service. Recently, Ted managed a team of 12 students collecting onboard bus route origin-destination (OD) flow data. His thesis addresses the integration of OD flow estimates across route service patterns and multiple routes to identify passenger traveler flows over corridors and networks. He is applying the methodology to the CTL CABS network and Central Ohio Transit Authority routes.

Ted received the 2011-2012 Allan V. Johnson graduate fellowship. He is president of OSU's Transportation Student Group, is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and has worked for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Tuhin Basu & Associates, and Vericon Construction. Ted received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Notre Dame in 2010.

Ted was nominated for this award for his strong academic standing, research contributions, organization and management of team-based research activities, efforts in representing OSU's transit research to stakeholders, leadership in planning and executing Transportation Student Group activities, broad professional experience, and his interest in advancing transportation systems analysis and planning. The NEXTRANS Center is pleased to select Ted Reinhold as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Vivek Shah

University of New Orleans

Gulf Coast Research Center for Evacuation and Transportation Resiliency

Vivek Shah recently completed his master's degree in urban and regional planning at the University of New Orleans with a focus on transportation and environmental/hazard mitigation planning. His thesis titled, "The Feasibility of Closing Vehicle Crossings along St. Charles Avenue: A Study in Transit Safety and Performance," uses traffic modeling to address safety issues between the St. Charles streetcar line in New Orleans and automotive traffic.

Vivek was born in Manhattan and grew up in Rockland County, New York, a nearby suburb of New York City. He received his undergraduate degree in anthropology and religious studies in 2006 from the University of Rochester. After college, Vivek moved to Washington, DC where he worked as a policy analyst, but struggled to find a career that combined all of his diverse interests and desire to create positive change in his community. In 2008, Vivek moved to New Orleans and has worked in urban planning and community development ever since. He is an avid Frisbee player and cyclist, and serves on the board of directors of Bike Easy, the Greater New Orleans region bicycle advocacy organization.

In recognition of his academic achievements and desire to be a positive force in urban planning and community development, the Gulf Coast Research Center for Evacuation and Transportation Resiliency is pleased to select Vivek Shah as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Abhishek Singhal

City College of New York

University Transportation Research Center (Region 2)

Abhishek Singhal is currently a PhD candidate studying transportation engineering at the City College of New York (CCNY). During his master's program at CCNY, Abhishek successfully developed a corrosion monitoring system for a New York City Department of Transportation bridge under a research project sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration. In 2011, Abhishek won the Intelligent Transportation Systems NY Best Student Paper award for this research which was also presented at the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Research Showcase, and during the Research and Innovative Technology Administration's visit to the Region II University Transportation Research Center (UTRC). His expertise in geographic information systems facilitated two research studies on Water Quality Mitigation Banking and Seismic Design Considerations for the NJDOT. Abhishek also received the Grove School of Engineering Graduate Citation for outstanding performance as a graduate student.

As a research assistant at UTRC, he has contributed in research projects dealing with improving taxi services for airline passengers arriving at John F. Kennedy International Airport, and in evaluation of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority New York City Transit's (MTA-NYCT) advanced traveler information systems called "On the Go." Taking JFK airport as the case study, the taxi project highlighted the challenges in managing efficient taxi dispatching at high-volume airports and discussed the complexities in centralized taxi dispatching in consideration of city-specific taxi regulations, airport-specific operational protocols, and technology implementation. The study also presented opportunities for operational improvements and gave recommendations for increasing central taxi dispatching efficiency through procedural and technological changes. The MTA-NYCT's "On the Go" ATIS project included installation of five touch screen information kiosks at five subway stations of the MTA-NYCT. The study resulted in suggestions based on variability of passenger usage, by day of the week, effect of station location (hub/non-hub), and kind of information sought. The study also recommended measures to improve the passenger experience and potential for revenue generation through location-based services.

On the basis of his strong academic record and research in the area of advanced traveler information systems, the University Transportation Research Center is pleased to select Abhishek Singhal as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Joshua D. Swake

Oregon State University

Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium (PacTrans) Region 10

Joshua Swake is a second year civil engineering master's student at Oregon State University (OSU), specializing in transportation engineering. His thesis research examines the influence of mobile work zone barriers on driver behavior through a series of driving simulation experiments which measure the glance patterns, vehicle trajectory, and lateral position of subjects as they proceed through right and left lane drop work zones with and without mobile barriers. He is also the lead graduate student on the Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium (PacTrans) Outreach Project aimed at increasing the awareness of 2,000 teenage drivers regarding the potential dangers of distracted driving. Joshua has meaningfully contributed to research supported by the National Science Foundation, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium, and PacTrans. He is an active member of the OSU Institute of Transportation Engineers student chapter, and is very excited to complete his graduate work at OSU and begin a career in transportation engineering.

Outside his pursuit of a career in transportation engineering, Joshua has exhibited his entrepreneurial interests by contributing to the founding of a successful men's apparel store (Harding & Wilson) focusing on the manufacture and distribution of bow ties. The Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium is proud to select Joshua Swake at its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kyle Taniguchi

University of South Florida

National Center for Transit Research

Kyle Taniguchi is currently a graduate research assistant at the National Center for Transit Research at the University of South Florida. He earned a master's degree in civil engineering with a concentration in public transportation. His master's thesis is titled, "Work Trips on Public Transportation: An Analysis of Trends, Select Markets, and Users Using the National Household Travel Survey Series."

Kyle assisted in producing several Florida "Trends and Conditions" reports which examine how Florida's transportation system has changed over time. He helped produce the Florida Transportation Pocket Guide and was the lead analyst in examining travel in Florida using the 2009 National Household Travel Survey.

Kyle interned at the Federal Transit Administration where he managed research grants, participated in field visits, witnessed the implementation of the transit safety component of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and learned about the Federal New Starts program.

He is a young member on the Transportation Research Board Light Rail Transit Committee and serves on the American Public Transportation Association's Scholar Committee. He has held several officer positions with the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Kyle's career goal is to make public transit more efficient and effective by conducting planning and operations work that makes a difference in the daily travel of those that use transit. The National Center for Transit Research is pleased to select Kyle Taniguchi as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Li-Wei (Chris) Tung

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Mid-America Transportation Center (Region 7)

Li-Wei (Chris) Tung is a PhD student studying civil engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His adviser, Dr. Aemal Khattak, asserts that Chris is an individual with the potential to make significant contributions to the transportation profession.

Chris demonstrates himself to be both a keen student and a consummate professional. He is a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and the National Society of Professional Engineers. Chris uses these opportunities to mentor undergraduate students, leading them in discussion and analysis of transportation issues. He is also a reviewer for the Transportation Research Board and the ASCE Journal of Transportation Engineering. Chris maintains a 4.0 GPA and continues to produce exceptionally well-researched and interesting projects, ranking third place in the 2012 MOVITE student poster competition.

His current research project, "Distracted Highway Drivers at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings," is funded by the Mid-America Transportation Center. Chris will collect and analyze data to investigate the frequency and characteristics of distracted highway users at highway-rail grade crossings. Presently, Chris counts two peer reviewed journal publications, three proceedings papers, and two technical reports among his published papers with an additional journal paper forthcoming.

In recognition of his outstanding academic achievements and contributions to the area of distracted highway drivers at rail grade crossings, the Mid-America Transportation Center is pleased to select Chris Tung as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Chris Van Dyke

University of Kentucky

Multimodal Transportation and Infrastructure Consortium (MTIC)

Chris Van Dyke is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Kentucky. His research interests encompass fluvial geomorphology, biogeomorphology, natural hazards, and sustainable transportation systems. Chris has contributed to a number of projects that focus on transportation issues in the state of Kentucky, including research that evaluates the sustainability of the state's roadways, finding new methods to mitigate the loss of roadside ditches during road construction or relocation, and determining strategies to protect roads from sudden flooding events. He is also engaged in two Multimodal Transportation and Infrastructure Consortium (MTIC) projects. One is a predictive model that forecasts barge movement along the inland waterway system to understand how it can operate more efficiently given present structural constraints, such as an aging system of locks and dams. The second MTIC project focuses on port sustainability, and understanding what types of measures inland ports can implement to improve their economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

Chris was chosen for this award because he has proven himself as a flexible, diligent, and conscientious researcher who has contributed to a broad range of transportation projects. Above all, Chris exhibits concern with conducting research with an eye toward policy implementation. The Multimodal Transportation and Infrastructure Consortium is proud to select Chris Van Dyke as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Gema Vinuales

University of Rhode Island

University of Rhode Island Transportation Center

Gema Vinuales is pursuing a PhD in marketing and supply chain management at the University of Rhode Island. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Zaragoza (Spain), and a master's of business administration from the University of Rhode Island. In addition, Gema has participated in international research exchanges with the Brno University of Technology in the Czech Republic, and the MIT-Zaragoza Logistics Center in Spain. In 2008, Gema was the recipient of the Dwight David Eisenhower Summer Transportation Fellowship, developing a case study on the regional and global economic impact of the Port of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Gema serves is a research manager at the University of Rhode Island Transportation Center (URITC). She led the development of a Rhode Island Transportation Fact Book that highlights the current status of Rhode Island's transportation infrastructure and financial constraints. Gema has collaborated on several transportation research studies and is currently working on a study titled, "The Economic and Social Role of Bike Paths in Rhode Island." This research will serve as a baseline for using the bike path infrastructure in Rhode Island and will identify the economic and social benefits bike paths bring to local communities.

Gema's research interests fit within the intersection of marketing and supply chain management, a discipline that encompasses transportation issues. She has presented scholarly research at the U.S. National Decision Sciences Institute, at the International Conference of the International Association of Intercultural Communication Studies in Mexico, and at the Discovery@URI Big Ideas Take Shape Conference.

In recognition of her academic accomplishments and outstanding body of research, the University of Rhode Island Transportation Center is pleased to select Gema Vinuales as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

James Wong

Georgia Institute of Technology

Georgia Tech—The SAFETEA-LU Center

James Wong is an avid transportation enthusiast with interests in public transportation, traveler information, transit data, and civic engagement. As a graduate student at Georgia Tech, James' research has been primarily in exploring the use of newly available transit datasets for agency analysis and customer information. He has also studied Georgia's opportunities for improved multimodal traveler information.

Before starting the dual-degree program in civil engineering and city and regional planning, James studied transit systems engineering at the University of Pennsylvania. Following his undergraduate degree, he worked with consulting firms on transportation planning and traffic engineering projects throughout the mid-Atlantic, and regions in South Africa. His favorite projects included transit corridor planning studies, roundabout designs, and university transportation master plans. James currently serves as president of the Georgia Tech chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and vice chair of the Atlanta chapter of Young Professionals in Transportation. Outside of his academic pursuits, James enjoys playing volleyball, running, cooking, and vermicomposting.

The Georgia Tech SAFETEA-LU Center is very proud of James' work and is honored to name him as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jonathan S. Wood

University of Utah

Mountain Plains Consortium (Region 8)

Jonathan Wood earned a master of science in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Utah in December 2012. He also holds a bachelor of science in civil and environmental engineering from the same institution. The title of his thesis was, "Safety Impacts of Design Exceptions in Utah."

Jonathan has performed research on the safety performance of road segments; particularly related to the safety effects of geometric design and maintenance decisions. His thesis work focused on modeling the safety impacts of design exceptions on road segments in Utah. He also worked on developing performance-based methods for making safety-based maintenance decisions, including those related to wildlife fencing, snow removal, and pavement conditions. Jonathan was a teaching assistant for the junior-level civil engineering course in transportation engineering. He was also the president of the University of Utah's student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Jonathan coauthored two peer-reviewed journal papers and one final research report during his master's program. He plans to pursue his doctoral degree at The Pennsylvania State University beginning in spring 2013.

The Mountain Plains Consortium is pleased to select Jonathan Wood as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Aaron Zimmerman

George Mason University

Center for Transportation and Economic Development

Aaron Zimmerman is currently a senior transportation planner with the Loudoun County, Virginia Office of Transportation Services, and is in his final semester of the George Mason University TPOL master's program. After earning his undergraduate degree in urban planning from the University at Albany, Aaron worked as a multimodal transportation planner with consulting firms in Southern California and western New York. In 2008, he relocated to the Washington, DC area to lead an effort for the Institute of Transportation Engineers to expand their transportation planning educational and research programs. At that time, Aaron was also instrumental in founding the organization Young Professionals in Transportation, and has since served as secretary on the board of directors. Aaron's professional topics of interests include bus rapid transit systems and car-sharing initiatives, as well as governance and transportation policy in developing countries.

The Center for Transportation and Economic Development recognizes the work and accomplishments of Aaron Zimmerman and is pleased to select him as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Ismail Zohdy

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

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

Ismail Zohdy is a PhD candidate in the transportation systems area at the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, where he received a master's degree in 2009. Ismail is also working as a graduate research assistant at the Center for Sustainable Mobility at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute under the supervision of Professor Hesham Rakha.

Ismail's research interests lie in the operational side of transportation engineering, and include driver behavior analysis, inclement weather impact studies, and intelligent transportation systems (ITS). He has been receiving financial support from the Mid-Atlantic Universities Transportation Center since his enrollment in August 2008. Since then, Ismail has completed his required coursework successfully with a cumulative GPA of 3.97. He is the lead author of four journal papers and has authored eight refereed conference publications and four research project reports. Ismail received the Graduate Student Research Excellence Award for distinguished Master Research in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech. He has won numerous student paper competitions, including the SDITE Outstanding Student Paper Competition, the International Road Federation Essay Competition (two consecutive years), and the National Rural ITS paper competition.

In addition to his research work, Ismail has been engaged in outreach activities. He was elected president of Virginia Tech's Alliance of Transportation Engineering Students, ATES (2010 – 2011). A central goal of the student organization is to promote the dissemination of knowledge and information related to transportation infrastructure and systems issues, problems, and solutions. Ismail is also an affiliate member of several other transportation organizations as well as a member of multiple abstract reviewing committees.

Based on his academic achievements and research in transportation operations and engineering, the Thomas D. Larson Pennsylvania Transportation Institute is pleased to select Ismail Zohdy as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jason Zottola

University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Alaska University Transportation Center

Jason Zottola earned a bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in 2011 and is currently pursuing a master of science in arctic engineering from the same institution. Jason's research considers the thermal effects of groundwater flow through a roadway embankment underlain by permafrost. He has conducted field and laboratory work and is currently calibrating a nuclear magnetic resonance device that will measure the unfrozen water content in frozen soil samples. This data will be used as input for computer modeling.

In the past year, Jason has served as chapter secretary for Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, and as chapter secretary and treasurer for Chi Epsilon, the civil engineering honor society. In August 2012, Jason presented a paper that he coauthored on his research to a capacity audience at the 15th International Conference on Cold Regions Engineering in Quebec City, Quebec.

Jason has juggled the responsibilities of research work, academics, honor society officer positions, volunteer work, and professional conferences all while raising his three daughters with his wife, Starr. He has excelled at all of it. Jason has demonstrated professionalism, confidence, leadership, organization and academic excellence throughout the years of his academic career.

Based on his academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, leadership, and research in the area of arctic engineering, the Alaska University Transportation Center is proud to select Jason Zottola as its 2012 Outstanding Student of the Year.