University Transportation Centers

25th Annual Outstanding Student of the Year Awards

Transportation Research Board

95th Annual Meeting

Marriott Marquis

Washington, DC

January 9, 2016

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology

WELCOME

Welcome to the 25th Annual Student of the Year Awards ceremony, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT).

Each year at the annual winter meeting of the Transportation Research Board, the U.S. DOT 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 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R) administers the UTC Program, with funding from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. This year, continuing the tradition of One DOT, the U.S. DOT will also honor two students 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.

The purpose of the 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.

The Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011 (the Extension Act), gave discretion to redistribute the funds allocated to specific research projects and programs designated in SAFETEA-LU. In accordance with the Extension Act, the U.S. DOT competitively awarded grants to 22 UTCs in the amount of approximately $3.5 million each to 10 Tier 1 UTCs, two Tier 1 Transit-Focused UTCs, and 10 Regional UTCs. These grants were awarded in 2011, and fiscal year 2012 funds were added following additional extension legislation.

Under the surface transportation reauthorization, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), 35 grants were awarded in September 2013 and two additional grants were awarded in early 2014. UTCs under the MAP-21 authorization represent five national UTCs funded at up to $3.5 million per fiscal year; 10 Regional Centers funded at up to $2.75 million per year; and up to 20 Tier 1 UTCs funded at up to $1.5 million per fiscal year. Tier 1 UTCs are required to provide a match of 50 percent of the amount of the grant; all other UTCs must provide a match in an amount at least equal to the U.S. DOT grant.

The UTC Program is managed by U.S. DOT's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology.

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 organizations throughout the U.S. 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 academic institutions and the public sector (FAA, airport authorities, state/local governments, etc.), and the private sector (airlines, manufacturers, etc.). The FAA has created COEs to address short- and long-term aviation related issues to focus on: Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Alternative Jet Fuels and Environment, General Aviation Safety, Commercial Space Transportation, Advanced Materials, Cabin Environment and Intermodal Research, Aircraft Noise and Aviation Emissions Mitigation, General Aviation Research, Airworthiness Assurance, Operations Research, Airport Technology, and Computational Modeling of Aircraft Structures.

Following a competitive process that will be conducted over the next year, the FAA Administrator will be selecting a new COE team to focus on Technical Training and Human Performance for the Air Traffic Organization. This COE is expected to be operational in 2016.

Since 1992, the FAA has established 12 COE partnerships with more than 100 universities throughout the U.S. Critical research outcomes are documented in more than 2,500 publications, reports, master's level theses and doctoral dissertations. Funded through contract and matching grant awards, FAA COEs currently reflect a level of effort exceeding $600M. The one-to-one matching contributions are provided by academia, industry, state and local entities, international affiliates, and other non-federal sources.

Strengthening the relationships with industry and other partners, the FAA makes a 10-year commitment to support each COE. These joint investments facilitate the education of a pool of scientists to serve as the next generation of aviation professionals. FAA COEs provide a trusted business structure and the research and organizational strategies necessary to assure a cadre of world-class scientists are prepared to identify solutions for existing and anticipated aviation and related transportation concerns.

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Joseph P. Abrahamson
The Pennsylvania State University

John Ash
University of Washington

Brenda C. Burdick
Western Michigan University

Andre Carrel
University of California at Berkeley

Kali Carroll
University of Central Florida

Daniel Ivan Castaneda
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Kristie Chin
University of Texas at Austin

Alice Chu
University of Texas at Austin

Katrina Corcoran
University of South Florida

Tessa Elwart
University of Michigan

Nathan Ferraro
University of Oklahoma

Cole Fitzpatrick
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Tenzin Getso
City College of New York

Daniela Gonzales
Old Dominion University

Aaron Todd Greenwood
Georgia Institute of Technology

Kyle Griffith
University of New Orleans

Ana Guajardo
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Corey Harper
Carnegie Mellon University

Evan Harrison
Georgia Institute of Technology

Alejandro Henao
University of Colorado Denver

Anabel Hernandez
University of Nevada, Reno

Azadeh Jaberi Jahromi
Florida International University

Syndney Jenkins
Louisiana State University

Aaron Jermier
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Alexander J. Johnson
Syracuse University

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Beaux Kemp
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Daniel King
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Gabriel Lade
University of California, Davis

Clark Letter
University of Florida

Benjamin Lichty
San Jose State University

Alexander Lovett
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Andrea Mather
Oregon State University

Brendan Murphy
University of Minnesota

Daniel Oldham
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Marea Pappas
Texas A&M University

Gabriela Perales
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Kelcie Ralph
University of California, Los Angeles

Erratum

Arnold Valdez

University of Southern California

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Kumasi A. Salimu
Tuskegee University

Rostyslav Shamborovskyy
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Mackenzie C. Shelton
Harris-Stowe State University

Patrick Singleton
Portland State University

Alma Siulagi
The University of Pennsylvania

Kayla Sykes
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Christopher Torres
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

Travis Wallace
University of Maine

Peter A. Webb
The University of New Orleans

Cody West
Montana State University-Bozeman

Brittany S. Wood
Florida State University

Jonathan S. Wood
The Pennsylvania State University

Joseph P. Abrahamson

The Pennsylvania State University

FAA Center of Excellence for Alternative Jet Fuels and Environment

Joseph Abrahamson is a doctoral student in the Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering at The Pennsylvania State University. He has studied how to use various types of energy sources as efficiently and cleanly as possible. His areas of expertise are gas turbine turbo machinery and fuel compositional effects upon non-volatile particulate matter (nvPM) particle formation, oxidation chemistry, and reaction chemistry.

Joseph maintains a superior academic record. He has a unique blend of training and education with a bachelor's degree in mechanical/aerospace engineering and a master's in fuel science. For his PhD, Joseph is developing a kinetic method to predict nvPM emissions from aircraft. His doctoral thesis is titled "Development of Predictive Methods for Turbo Fan Jet Engine non-volatile Particulate Matter Emissions and Soot Source Identification by Laser Derivatization."

Within the FAA Center of Excellence for Alternative Jet Fuels and Environment, Joseph is developing two sets of predictive tools; one set to separate nvPM fuel dependence from engine conditions based on data compiled across a comprehensive set of field campaigns, and another set for nvPM emission indices for alternative fuels. To increase the use of nvPM predictive tools, he is also using laser diagnostics to identify nvPM by source. The emerging use of alternative fuels with varied compositions is markedly changing nvPM emissions. Joseph's nvPM predictive tools will be tremendously valuable to the FAA, enabling future fuels to be evaluated without requiring expensive rig or full-scale combustor testing. They will also be relevant to future FAA regulations, given the increasing recognition of their impacts on both climate and human health.

Because of his exemplary academic record and the importance of his research efforts, the FAA Center of Excellence for Alternative Jet Fuels and Environment is proud to select Joseph Abrahamson as is 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

John Ash

University of Washington

Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium (PacTrans) Region 10

John Ash is a second year PhD student in the PacTrans Smart Transportation and Applications Research (STAR) Laboratory, under the supervision of Dr. Yinhai Wang. John is originally from Wisconsin and enrolled in the University of Washington (UW) in 2014. He completed his master's degree in civil and environmental engineering (with a transportation emphasis) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he also completed his bachelor's degree with a double major in civil engineering and mathematics in 2012. John's major research interests include traffic safety (the focus of his master's thesis), intelligent transportation systems, and applications of data science in transportation.

In 2015, John had two papers accepted for presentation: one at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting and one at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Smart Cities conference. He also reviewed papers for both events. John received the Valle Scholarship at UW for the 2014–2015 school year.

John has actively participated in campus activities to recruit new graduate students, promote science and engineering to elementary/middle/high school students (e.g., Engineering Discovery Days), and showcase lab research to visitors from academia and industry. Other examples of his dedication include working with one other student in planning the 2015 PacTrans student conference and helping international students at the STAR Laboratory to revise their papers and publications.

Based on his academic achievements and contributions to various educational programs, the Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium is proud to select John Ash as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Brenda C. Burdick

Western Michigan University

Transportation Research Center for Livable Communities (TRCLC)

Brenda Burdick is a civil engineer graduate student and research assistant at Western Michigan University's Transportation Research Center for Livable Communities (TRCLC). Brenda was accepted into the accelerated degree program while an undergraduate at WMU and expects to graduate in December 2016 with a master's degree in civil engineering, majoring in transportation engineering. While tending to her studies, she also serves as a graduate teaching assistant in the university's Department of Civil and Construction Engineering.

Brenda has shown outstanding promise and performance in both research and academia, having garnered recognition by several organizations. This past year, Brenda was awarded a scholarship from the Michigan section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, as well as the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship from the Women in Transportation Foundation. At WMU, she is currently leading a research project that focuses on analyzing pedestrian and bicycle crashes in Michigan to determine potential countermeasures.

As a graduate student, Brenda has assisted in research funded by the Michigan Department of Transportation pertaining to engineering improvements and their effect on older drivers. She is in the process of developing the framework of another research project, this one funded by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, to analyze overtime traffic enforcement performance of law enforcement agencies.

On the basis of her academic achievements and commitment to research, the Transportation Research Center for Livable Communities is pleased to select Brenda C. Burdick as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Andre Carrel

University of California at Berkeley

University of California Transportation Center (Region 9)

Andre Carrel is a postdoctoral associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Center for Transportation and Logistics. His current research focuses on using large-scale data sets to improve supply chain operations in retail.

Andre graduated from MIT and ETH Zurich. He previously worked with Transport for London and Deutsche Bahn, the German national rail operator, and has been an Eisenhower, UPS Foundation and Eno Leadership fellow. Andre obtained his PhD in transportation from the University of California at Berkeley, under the supervision of Professors Joan Walker and Raja Sengupta. He was the lead researcher conducting the San Francisco Travel Quality study, a large-scale, smartphone-based study with 840 participants investigating the links between public transportation and service quality, rider satisfaction, and ridership retention. Andre's doctoral thesis is titled "Traveler Satisfaction Surveys meet Mobile Phone and Vehicle Tracking: Linking Individual Experiences to Travel Habit Changes with Panel Data."

The University of California Transportation Center is proud to select Andre Carrel as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kali Carroll

University of Central Florida

Center for Safety Research using Simulation (SAFER-SIM)

Kali Carroll is completing her master's degree in civil engineering with a track in transportation systems engineering at the University of Central Florida (UCF). She completed her bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UCF and worked as a research assistant with Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Aty. As a graduate research assistant, Kali has focused her efforts on the NADS miniSimTM driving simulator installed in a toll plaza located in Orlando, Florida. This included creating toll plaza driving scenarios for the simulator, obtaining Institutional Review Board approval, providing project updates to SAFER-Sim, recruiting simulation participants, and performing data collection and analysis. Kali's research will contribute to setting national design, marking, and signage standards that toll facilities are presently lacking.

Kali is a member of the Central Florida Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS). She accepted a full-time engineering internship position with the Wantman Group, Inc., in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Based on her dedication and ability to prioritize tasks making up a research project--from design and development through data collection, analysis, and reporting--the Center for Safety Research using Simulation is proud to select Kali Carroll as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Daniel Ivan Castaneda

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Research on Concrete Applications for Sustainable Transportation (RE-CAST)

Daniel Castaneda is a PhD candidate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a RE-CAST consortium partner. His dissertation is titled "Effect of Cold Climates and Early-Age Consolidation Practices on Air-Entrained High Performance Concrete." Daniel is researching the consequences of design, handling, and placement of fresh materials as they relate to the long-term durability of the civil infrastructure. His work includes examining the loss of air entrainment in extensively vibrated fresh concrete with adapted rheology; evaluating bond of repair materials in non-ideal placement conditions; making thoughtful selections of absorptive aggregates to control diffusion processes in alternative, sustainable binder systems; developing a field-test to measure residual stresses in plain concrete pavements and structures; and instrumentation of recycled aggregate pavements.

Originally from southern California, Daniel attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he completed his bachelor's degree in 2008. He then worked as a systems analyst in Silicon Valley for the FAA and drafted analytical solutions to aircraft excursions out of protected Class B airspace.

Throughout Daniel's academic and professional career, he has been strongly motivated to increase the number of qualified women and underrepresented persons in STEM fields and has been involved in numerous outreach and retention efforts. He intends to continue as a researcher of civil engineering materials after he defends his dissertation in early 2016.

Daniel's adviser, David A. Lange, believes this award affirms Daniel's contributions to RE-CAST's themes of adapted rheology of high-performance concrete and using recycled materials in new construction; and it summarily recognizes Daniel's overall accomplishments. The Research on Concrete Applications for Sustainable Transportation is proud to nominate Daniel Castaneda as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kristie Chin

University of Texas at Austin

Southwest Region University Transportation Center (Region 6)

Kristie Chin is a visionary leader in transportation with experience in performance management, strategic planning, and public policy. She is pursuing a joint master's degree/PhD in transportation engineering at the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) and is currently working as a graduate research assistant with Dr. C. Michael Walton. Her research with the Texas Technology Task Force focuses on developing a Strategic Technology Business Plan (STBP) for the Texas Department of Transportation. The STBP identifies key strategies for deploying emerging technologies in an effort to improve safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness, and is based on close collaboration with public agencies, industry thought leaders, and research institutions. In her thesis, "Communicating Value to Stakeholders: A Customer-Oriented KPI System for State DOTs," Kristie is developing a framework for aligning state DOT goals with external stakeholder priorities.

In addition, Kristie is actively involved in professional development activities. Recently, she represented UT Austin at the 2015 Eno Future Leaders Development Conference. As a former president of the Institute of Transportation Engineers student chapter, she led the organization by growing a passionate officer team, galvanizing members, and spearheading the inaugural TexITE Student Leadership Summit. Her work experience includes positions with the city of South Bend, Indiana, David M. Schwarz Architects, DLZ, and Gilbane. Kristie graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a master's degree in architecture and from Brown University with a joint bachelor's degree in civil engineering and architectural studies.

By applying her interdisciplinary knowledge, Kristie has excelled in technical and creative tasks that have generated innovative and sustainable solutions. The Southwest Region University Transportation Center is proud to select Kristie Chin as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Alice Chu

University of Texas at Austin

Data Supported Transportation Operations and Planning (D-STOP) Center

Alice Chu transitioned into the field of transportation engineering with more than five years of experience in web development, project management, product development, and technical analysis for Software-as-a-Service solutions for financial institutions. Her main research interest is intelligent transportation systems, in particular disruptive technologies such as connected and automated vehicles.

Alice received her master's degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 2015, where she also served as president of the ITS student chapter. She received a bachelor's in computer science from the University of California, San Diego in 2008. During her graduate studies, she conducted extensive research in the area of transportation safety. Her master's thesis presented a comprehensive model of roadway safety, covering types of collisions and types of vehicles. By analyzing how explanatory factors simultaneously influences multiple crash type outcomes, it is possible to devise countermeasures while minimizing unintended consequences.

Alice also played a key leadership role on a research project for the Texas Department of Transportation to explore the potential for communications and radar technology to improve roadway safety. She then presented a poster session at the 9th UTC Spotlight Conference on Connected and Automated Vehicles showcasing the team's research on vehicular ad-hoc network simulations of overtaking maneuvers on two-lane rural highways. As a rapporteur for the conference's planning breakout session, she helped synthesize the group's discussion for future publication.

The Data Supported Transportation Operations and Planning (D-STOP) Center is proud to select Alice Chu as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Katrina Corcoran

University of South Florida

National Center for Transit Research

Katrina Corcoran received her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary social science and economics from the University of South Florida (USF). During this time, she also worked as an undergraduate research assistant at USF's Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). Projects ranged from complete streets, transit demographic analyses, collecting and analyzing data from the National Transit Database (NTD) for Florida transit agencies, and national transit safety using the NTD. The topic of her honors thesis was transit safety.

Katrina is currently a graduate student in the Urban and Regional Planning program at USF. She is continuing her work at CUTR as a graduate research assistant, focusing on NTD and safety data, and is looking forward to new challenges in the area of automated transportation.

Katrina's research at CUTR, along with her other academic work, not only has inspired her to write her undergraduate honors thesis on the topic of transit safety, but has also inspired her field of graduate study and a future career in public transportation planning.

Katrina has impressed her supervisor and others at CUTR with her diligence, thoroughness, and dependability. Based on her exceptional work performance, the National Center for Transit Research is proud to select Katrina Corcoran as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year. She definitely has a bright future among the next generation of public transportation professionals, and is most deserving of this recognition.

Tessa Elwart

University of Michigan

Center for Advancing Transportation Leadership and Safety (ATLAS)

Tessa Elwart graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan in December 2015. During her junior and senior years, she worked at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute's (UMTRI) in the Driver Interface Group for Dr. Paul Green, conducting research on the ATLAS-sponsored study "Predicting Driver Distraction using Computed Occlusion Task Times: Estimation of Task Element Times and Distributions." The purpose of this study was to estimate task times using a navigation radio to determine if a task was excessively distracting. The results can then be used to change the navigation radio design to be less distracting. Tessa was responsible for several aspects of this research study, including conducting literature reviews, data reduction and analysis, and writing and editing reports. Based on her extensive contributions, in addition to her excellent writing skills and in-depth knowledge of the study, she was named first author of the technical report. Tessa's future plans are to obtain work experience in the automotive industry before attending graduate school.

Tessa has continually impressed her mentors with her diligent work ethic and meticulous attention to detail. Her overall professionalism and commitment to transportation safety research has made Tessa Elwart an excellent choice to receive the ATLAS Center's 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year award.

Nathan Ferraro

University of Oklahoma

Southern Plains Transportation Center (SPTC)

Nathan Ferraro of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is currently a graduate student in the School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science (CEES) at the University of Oklahoma (OU). Under the guidance of his advisor, Dr. Amy B. Cerato, he is earning a master's degree in civil engineering with an emphasis in geotechnical engineering. Nathan has received numerous honors and awards, including the Letzeiser Honor List, awarded to the top 13 male and female graduating seniors university-wide; 4.0 University Medallion, awarded for graduating with a perfect overall GPA; PE-ET; Top 10 Senior Honor Society, awarded to the top 10 seniors university-wide; President's Award for Outstanding Transfer Student; Penn State's President Sparks and President's Freshman Awards; and first place at both the 2015 Gallogly College of Engineering's Graduate Student Community Research Poster Fair and the 2014 University of Oklahoma's Undergraduate Research Day. He has also received various scholarships, including the Dolese Tomorrow's Engineer Scholarship, Terracon Foundation Scholarship, McNair Scholars Program, Guy Bradford Treat Memorial Scholarship, and the Society of American Military Engineers Scholarship.

Nathan has been active in multiple CEES organizations, including leadership roles in the Architectural Engineering Institute Student Chapter, the American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter, and the ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition Team. Nathan also holds active memberships in Tau Beta Pi (the Engineering Honor Society) and Chi Epsilon (the Civil Engineering Honor Society). He currently is program director of OU's Warrior-Scholar Project, an intensive week-long gateway program to prepare college-bound veterans for the rigors of a four-year degree.

Nathan is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and has accumulated over 1,000 flight hours on the E-6B Mercury aircraft between 2008 and 2012. He worked as a supervisor for an eight-man airborne communication team that provided a communications link between the President and the nation's strategic nuclear forces.

Outside of work and the classroom, Nathan is an accomplished ultra-endurance athlete who has completed some of the most challenging single and multiday races in the world. His greatest athletic accomplishment includes finishing the infamous Badwater 135 Ultramarathon, a 135-mile trek through the deserts and mountain ranges of Death Valley, California, in July when temperatures regularly exceed 115°F. Only 100 athletes world-wide are invited to compete.

The Southern Plains Transportation Center is proud to select Nathan Ferraro as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Cole Fitzpatrick

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

New England University Transportation Center (Region 1)

Cole Fitzpatrick is a PhD candidate at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (UMass). His research focuses on roadway safety and human factors. In 2014, Cole was awarded a National Science Foundation Innovation Corps grant. This led to Cole receiving a fellowship in 2015 from the UMass Isenberg School of Business to continue his research. Cole served as the UMass Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Student Chapter President during 2014–15. In addition to receiving the Outstanding Student Paper Award from the ITE Northeastern District, UMass was named ITE Student Chapter of the Year in the Northeastern District.

Cole's leadership extended beyond ITE as he also served on the Graduate Student Senate in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. This experience led to his selection as an Eno Fellow and attendance at the Eno Future Leaders Development Conference, where he had the opportunity to learn about the top transportation issues facing Capitol Hill and met U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx.

Cole's strengths are his research skills, academic performance, leadership, and professional contributions both within and outside of academia. His work on driver behavior spans several topics of interest to the transportation and policy communities, including maintenance of roadways and their surrounds, driver distraction, and individual safety.

The New England University Transportation Center is proud to select Cole Fitzpatrick as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Tenzin Getso

City College of New York

University Transportation Research Center (Region 2)

Tenzin Getso immigrated to the United States in 2007. In 2009, he enrolled in the Grove School of Engineering at the City College of New York and began working toward a bachelor's degree in civil engineering with a specialization in structures. During his senior year, Tenzin joined GACE Consulting Engineers DPC as an engineering intern. After graduating in 2013, he joined GACE as an engineer and enrolled in the Structural Engineering and Mechanics program at the City College of New York.

Tenzin was an outstanding undergraduate student, having received various scholarships and awards while maintaining active membership in several honor societies. More recently, Tenzin became the first recipient of the Abe Gutman Memorial Scholarship: a scholarship established by Thornton Tomasetti to honor Abe Gutman, one of the firm's founding principals and an internationally recognized structural engineer and concrete foundations expert.

Tenzin has a keen interest in understanding the behavior of structures in finite element level. Some of his other interests include plastic behavior of steel members, behavior of concrete elements in general, and finite element modeling of concrete slabs.

Based on his academic success and work in the area of structures, the University Transportation Research Center is proud to select Tenzin Getso as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Daniela Gonzales

Old Dominion University

Mid-Atlantic Transportation Sustainability (MATS) Center (Region 3)

Daniela Gonzales lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and attends Old Dominion University, where she will receive her bachelor's degree in civil engineering with a minor in mathematics in spring 2016. In addition to being an active member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers student chapter and the Transportation Engineering Student Organization, she is also actively involved in the local community as a youth leader through her church.

Daniela is an Honors College student and is currently working on a project to promote STEM as a career to local high school students. Her interests in engineering—in particular, transportation—began in her early teen years during family road trips seeing ongoing highway construction sites, especially those in the Hampton Roads area. Daniela's curiosity about roads combined with a love of math and a passion for efficiency turned into a career interest. Her experience in the MATS UTC Undergraduate Summer Research Program at the University of Virginia marked the beginning of her career in the engineering field, and she has developed a research interest in intelligent transportation systems and sustainable practices. Her summer project focused on the "Application of Wider Economic Benefits Tools on I-77 Active Traffic and Safety Management Systems." A paper featuring her research will be presented at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting. Daniela hopes to continue her education in civil engineering by pursuing master's and doctoral degrees and teaching at the university level.

The Mid-Atlantic Transportation Sustainability (MATS) Center is excited by her accomplishments as a MATS UTC summer undergraduate researcher and is proud to select Daniela Gonzales as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Aaron Todd Greenwood

Georgia Institute of Technology

The National Center for Transportation Systems Productivity and Management (NCTSPM)

Aaron Todd Greenwood is working towards his PhD in civil engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), where he received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering. Aaron has focused on cross-disciplinary human factors, in particular driver perception of work zone traffic control. On a broader level, he is evaluating how drivers interact with the roadway system, and is integrating experimental methods from cognitive psychology and human-computer interaction to better understand how drivers react to visual information. Aaron's dissertation is titled "Evaluating the Comprehension of Temporary Traffic Control."

Aaron has been an undergraduate teaching assistant for several semesters, teaching the fundamentals of transportation. He also was Instructor of Record for an Introduction to Transportation Planning and Design course and received very positive student feedback. In addition to research and teaching, Aaron has played an active role in the Student Government Association, including Vice President of Campus Organizations, where he oversaw the chartering of new student organizations and the management of over 450 existing campus groups. He is also a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) at Georgia Tech, and, when elected president, coordinated outreach and fundraising efforts to support ITE students.

Aaron is actively involved in outreach and is a mentor for middle school educators in the Georgia Internship for Teachers program. He has also developed educational resources to help local STEM outreach programs at the elementary and middle school levels. In his free time, Aaron enjoys long-distance running and flying small airplanes.

The National Center for Transportation Systems Productivity and Management is proud to select Aaron Todd Greenwood as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kyle Griffith

University of New Orleans

Maritime Transportation Research and Education Center (MarTREC)

Kyle Griffith is a PhD student in urban studies at the University of New Orleans (UNO), where his focus is freight transportation planning and economic development. A California native with cultural roots in the Caribbean, Kyle attended the University of Miami (FL) College of Engineering, where he earned his bachelor's degree in architectural engineering. He also holds a master's degree in civil engineering from Drexel University in Philadelphia. His master's thesis focused on the challenges to port cities from freight planning and economic development. Kyle's professional career includes engineering design of commercial structures in Southern California and research at both public and private institutions, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

As a researcher with the UNO Transportation Institute (UNOTI), in partnership with the Port of New Orleans, Kyle investigated the feasibility of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as a marine fuel. He coauthored a paper discussing an expanded role for public administrators in transportation planning in the Journal of Public Works Management & Policy; presented and won honorable mention in the 12th annual student paper competition for the American Society of Public Administration's Section on Transportation Policy and Administration; presented at the 2013 Southeastern Conference of Public Administration; and facilitated roundtable discussions and break-out sessions at the 2013 Disaster Resistant University Conference. Additionally, Kyle has served as a manuscript reviewer for the Transportation Research Board and Natural Hazards Review.

Kyle was selected as a Research Fellow for the 2014 Pan-American Advanced Studies Institute on Sustainable Urban Freight Systems (PASI-SUFS) in Colombia, where he presented his LNG research.

Based on his research achievements, the Maritime Transportation Research and Education Center is pleased to select Kyle Griffith as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Ana Guajardo

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) Region 7

Ana Guajardo is currently pursuing her master's degree in mechanical engineering under the supervision of Drs. John Reid and Cody Stolle at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in May 2015.

Dr. Stolle, Research Assistant Professor at the Midwest Roadside Safety Facility, describes Ana as "quick to adapt to circumstances and new material," and adds that "her positive attitude encourages others around the office to work harder."

Ana has researched transportation safety-related topics, including a crashworthy pedestrian safety rail. The focus of her current research, and the topic of her thesis, revolves around two Department of Defense projects: "Vehicle Performance Limits," and "Traffic Calming and Passive Safety Measures," which relate to traffic calming measures for military bases. Ana has made significant advances in analyzing threat and non-threat vehicle reactions to passive safety measures using computer simulations and analytical methods, and is actively involved in setting up physical tests to calibrate and validate the computer models.

The Mid-America Transportation Center is proud to select Ana Guajardo as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Corey Harper

Carnegie Mellon University

Technologies for Safe and Efficient Transportation (T-SET)

Corey Harper is a second year doctoral candidate in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). His research interests include the environmental, infrastructure, and safety implications of autonomous and connected vehicles. He is the author of two peer-reviewed conference papers, both of which were presented at the 94th Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting.

In 2015, Corey was awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship to support his research on analyzing the safety costs and benefits of partial vehicle automation in light-duty vehicles. While at CMU, Corey has served as a representative for the College of Engineering for the National Society of Black Engineers and social chair of the Black Grad Student Organization. He received a master of science from CMU in 2014 and a bachelor of science from Morgan State University in 2013. Corey's career goal is to become a faculty member at a historically black college or university to mentor minority students so they will have the same opportunities as him.

Based on his academic achievement and contributions outside of the classroom, the Technologies for Safe and Efficient Transportation is pleased to nominate Corey Harper as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Evan Harrison

Georgia Institute of Technology

FAA Center of Excellence for General Aviation Safety

Evan Harrison is a graduate student at Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) where he is conducting his research through the FAA Center of Excellence for General Aviation Safety. He has developed a performance model for a typical fixed-wing general aviation aircraft by characterizing the aircraft's state and response over a full envelope of flight conditions. This model presented many unique challenges, such as the propulsion and aerodynamic behavior of the aircraft, which must accurately model extreme conditions under which the behavior of the aircraft is more non-linear, harder to predict, and more difficult to model.

Evan developed a detailed and high-fidelity internal combustion cycle engine model that can accurately predict the power output over a breadth of operating conditions based on key engine characteristics. His efforts presented complexities that he addressed in an organized and technically sound manner. Evan successfully completed a rigorous model validation study against published engine data, showing excellent agreement of his predictions against the real system. He then developed a propeller performance model and successfully implemented a propeller matching routine to produce a complete characterization of aircraft power, propeller efficiency, and thrust for all operating conditions. In the next step, he combined his model with airframe aerodynamic models developed by other team members and conducted a comprehensive calibration and validation study for the entire aircraft performance model against pilot operating handbook data for all operating conditions. Evan investigated these issues in great depth, leading to key findings about performance model assumptions and key parameters that were revised to generate accurate predictions.

Evan has conducted extraordinary research, demonstrating significant initiative, interest, self-motivation, and the capacity for independent research, while being responsive to the input and guidance of senior faculty and others. He faced many challenges and consistently found a way to approach his tasks in new and innovative ways, while contributing significantly to the collective research output.

Because of his exemplary academic record and the importance of his research, the FAA joins the DOT in proudly selecting Evan Harrison as a 2015 FAA Center of Excellence Outstanding Student of the Year.

Alejandro Henao

University of Colorado Denver

Mountain Plains Consortium (Region 8)

Alejandro Henao is a transportation engineering PhD student in civil engineering at the University of Colorado Denver, a member institution of the Mountain Plains Consortium. Alejandro completed his bachelor's degree in civil engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder before gaining his master's in civil engineering at UC Denver. He is a recipient of the Eisenhower Fellowship, a National Science Foundation (NSF) Bridge-to-Doctorate Program Fellowship, and an NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Fellowship.

The married father of two boys serves as the president of the Institute of Transportation Engineers Student Chapter and is a student leader of the Active Communities/ Transportation research group. His dissertation research is evaluating the accuracy of new information technologies and analyzing the travel behavior impacts of such technologies and evolving transportation services.

Alejandro worked extensively on the Mountain Plains Consortium project "Building a Framework for Transportation Resiliency and Evaluating the Resiliency Benefits of Light Rail Transit," has published several papers in peer-reviewed journals, and presented his work at numerous national conferences. Other research topics have included transportation infrastructure investments, mode share changes, and parking around sports stadiums.

Academically, Alejandro is eager to elaborate on his research that is focused on creating more sustainable and equitable places with respect to active transportation, multimodal and intermodal options, information technologies, and evolving transportation modes.

With a consistent track record of demonstrating excellence in research, leadership, professionalism, and overall academic performance, the Mountain Plains Consortium is pleased to select Alejandro Henao as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Anabel Hernandez

University of Nevada, Reno

Center for Advanced Transportation Education and Research (CATER)

Anabel Hernandez received her bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and is now working toward a master's degree, also at UNR. As an undergraduate, Anabel was a member of the university's Center for Advanced Transportation Education and Research (CATER). She has continued to work with CATER and with the SOLARIS UTC for her graduate research. Anabel's focus is benefit-cost analysis of transportation projects in Nevada and she has established economic parameters that more clearly represent Nevada's transportation system characteristics. She has performed extensive research on existing parameters and how other states are addressing benefit-cost analysis on transportation projects.

The Center for Advanced Transportation Education and Research is proud to select Anabel Hernandez as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Azadeh Jaberi Jahromi

Florida International University

Accelerated Bridge Construction University Transportation Center (ABC-UTC)

Azadeh Jaberi Jahromi is a structural engineering PhD student at Florida International University (FIU) under the supervision of Professor Azizinamini. She received her master's degree from the Iran University of Science and Technology in Tehran, Iran. After completing her bachelor's degree, Azadeh worked as a structural engineer for seven years before entering the PhD program. She completed one year of her studies at North Dakota State University before transferring to FIU. Azadeh has published four papers based on her master's research work, all related to bridge engineering.

Azadeh is developing a customized service life design manual for designing bridges using the Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) approach. Her research is a continuation of a major research document developed by the FHWA's SHRP2 R19A program for the service life design of bridges. The design of ABC projects based on service life is one of the top questions being asked by bridge professionals across the country. Once completed, Azadeh's manual will be an extremely valuable resource for bridge engineering design.

The quality of Azadeh's work is excellent. She has also made outstanding contributions to the American Concrete Institute student chapter at FIU.

The Accelerated Bridge Construction University Transportation Center is proud to select Azadeh Jaberi Jahromi as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Syndney Jenkins

Louisiana State University

National Center for Intermodal Transportation for Economic Competitiveness (NCITEC)

Syndney Jenkins is a native of Charleston, South Carolina. She received her bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Louisiana State University (LSU) in December 2013 and will receive her master's degree in civil engineering in December 2015. Her thesis is titled "Exploration of the SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study: Development of a Distracted Driving Prediction Model."

Throughout her tenure at LSU, Sydney has been a member of Dr. Sherif Ishak's Traffic Engineering research team, working on projects to improve traffic mobility and safety in the state of Louisiana. Syndney is a highly motivated, determined team player who always ensures quality work is completed. She has demonstrated great leadership skills on the research projects she has worked on, as well as within the professional organizations she belongs to. She is vice president and treasurer for the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) student chapter at LSU, and is a member of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS). She also participated in the steering committee that recently established the first WTS chapter in Louisiana.

Syndney will graduate with an impressive 4.0 GPA and is the proud recipient of three fellowship awards: FHWA's Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Graduate Fellowship, the National GEM Consortium's GEM Fellowship, and the American Association of University Women's Selected Professions Fellowship. After graduation, she plans to work in the traffic engineering consulting field.

The National Center for Intermodal Transportation for Economic Competitiveness is proud to select Syndney Jenkins as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Aaron Jermier

University of Wisconsin-Madison

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

Aaron Jermier's undergraduate studies were in atmospheric science and air traffic control at the University of North Dakota. He is currently enrolled in the Transportation Engineering Master's Program and the Transportation Management and Policy Graduate Certificate Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Aaron's primary transportation area of expertise focuses on inland commercial ports/multimodal freight policy.

Aaron has been a project assistant at the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE) since beginning graduate studies in the summer of 2014. Joining CFIRE provided Aaron with an opportunity to gain valuable research experience in modes other than aviation. He has worked on many different CFIRE projects, including collaboration with FHWA and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials for the MAP-21 mandated compilation of existing state truck size and weight laws and the Wisconsin Commercial Ports Development Initiative.

One of Aaron's favorite graduate classes was the practicum for the Transportation Management and Policy Certificate. A small group of graduate students worked with Madison Metro Transit to perform a cost-benefit analysis of adding an additional satellite bus garage to expand the system's capacity. In this project, Aaron helped develop a geographic information system network to model deadhead and relief costs that an additional bus garage would incur.

Aaron hopes to begin a career in transportation research or engineering, but would also consider a career with the Federal Aviation Administration as an air traffic controller. Based on his academic achievement and contributions to his field of study, the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education is proud to select Aaron Jermier as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Alexander J. Johnson

Syracuse University

Transportation for Livability by Integrating Vehicles and the Environment (TranLIVE)

Alex J. Johnson received a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Iowa State University in 2014, graduating magna cum laude. He conducted undergraduate research in a project measuring carbon fluxes in agricultural watersheds, and participated in a National Science Foundation REU Project (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) at the University of Notre Dame for one summer while at Iowa State.

Alex entered the graduate program at Syracuse University in the summer of 2014. He started work on his master's research focusing on vehicle-emitted trace metal pollutants in stormwater runoff from building roofs. Alex has conducted numerous field experiments in dry and wet weather in Syracuse and has become skilled at operating the Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer, which analyzes trace metals. He supervises three undergraduate students in this research and served as a teaching assistant for a required sophomore class where he had his own recitation section.

Alex has completed eight graduate courses at Syracuse University, earning a 4.0 GPA. He expects to receive his master's degree in environmental engineering in May, after which he will enter the doctoral program. Alex is being nominated for this award due to his highly productive research, excellent supervisory skills in working with undergraduates, outstanding academic performance, presentations at professional meetings, and leadership in the Syracuse University Student Chapter of the American Society of Engineering Education.

The Transportation for Livability by Integrating Vehicles and the Environment is pleased to select Alex J. Johnson as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Beaux Kemp

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Center for Environmentally Sustainable Transportation in Cold Climates (CESTICC)

Beaux Kemp is a master's student in the civil engineering program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), where he received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering with a minor in mathematics. At UAF, he serves as a teaching assistant for the Properties of Materials course in addition to his role as a math tutor. Beaux is also an Engineer-In-Training in the state of Alaska.

Since his final year as an undergraduate, Beaux has been working as a research assistant on a CESTICC project titled "Characterization of Alaskan Hot-Mix Asphalt Containing Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement Material." In this project, he has conducted substantial laboratory work from materials collection, sample preparation, and performance tests, but also data analysis and reporting. Beaux aided CESTiCC with its 2015 International Symposium on Systematic Approaches to Environmental Sustainability in Transportation as a local organizing committee member and has helped local elementary students gain a better understanding of civil engineering through the Kids2College program.

Beaux is active in several professional societies and is a student member of both the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Concrete Institute. He also serves as President of the Chi Epsilon Chapter at UAF.

His academic and leadership excellence has led to several awards, including a 2015 Coral Sales Scholarship, a 2015 Student Leadership and Achievement Award, the 2014 Bill Mendenhall Scholarship, the 2013 Ralf Migliaccio Scholarship, and recognition on the Chancellor and Dean's Honor List.

On the basis of his academic achievements and research pursuits, the Center for Environmentally Sustainable Transportation in Cold Climates is pleased to select Beaux Kemp as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Daniel King

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Center for Highway Pavement Preservation

Daniel King has been a graduate research assistant in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at the University Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since May 2013. He completed his CEE master's thesis in December 2015.

As an undergraduate researcher, Daniel has worked on performance and response of bonded concrete overlays of asphalt pavements constructed in Illinois over the past 15 years. For his master's degree research, Daniel is studying the efficiency of photocatalytic cement to remove nitrogen oxide from the near road environment and application of this cement type to concrete preservation inlays. Flowable fibrous concrete containing titanium dioxide nanoparticles have been developed for concrete preservation inlays to provide multi-functional preservation objectives such as a longer-riding surface service life and better crack resistance while reducing environmental impacts.

Daniel has shown leadership and professionalism by his active involvement in the American Concrete Institute student chapter where he was treasurer, participant in the annual Engineering Open House at Illinois for visiting elementary and secondary school students, and outreach activities to a local high school. Daniel has also authored several peer-reviewed articles.

Daniel King was selected as the Center for Highway Pavement Preservation 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year for his exceptional academic performance, transportation research findings, experience as a teaching assistant, and multiple archival publications related to transportation.

Gabriel Lade

University of California, Davis

National Center for Sustainable Transportation

Gabriel Lade received a PhD in agricultural and resource economics from the University of California, Davis in June 2015. Prior to coming to UC Davis, he received a master's degree in economics from Rutgers University and a bachelor's degree in economics from The George Washington University. Gabriel served as a staff assistant and legislative correspondent in the U.S. House of Representatives. He is now an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at Iowa State University.

Gabriel's research lies at the intersection of energy and environmental economics. In his dissertation, Gabriel studied the effects and efficiency of two policies that seek to reduce carbon emissions in the transportation fuel sector: the federal Renewable Fuel Standard and California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard. In his current projects, Gabriel is studying residential energy and water demand, and the efficacy of flaring restrictions in the North Dakota Bakken shale formation.

Gabriel is a truly outstanding researcher. Across his many high-quality papers, he has used an impressive variety of theoretical and empirical methods, including microeconomic theory, dynamic programming, numerical modeling, and frontier methods in time series econometrics and applied econometrics. His models are relevant to policymakers as well as business practitioners, and he has presented his work to the California Air Resources Board and to regulators from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia.

Based on his outstanding research and contributions to the field of economics, the National Center for Sustainable Transportation is proud to select Gabriel Lade as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Clark Letter

University of Florida

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

Clark Letter is a PhD student in the University of Florida (UF) transportation program. He has bachelor and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Florida, and has extensive research experience with Florida Department of Transportation and University Transportation Center projects. The title of Clark's dissertation is "Efficient Control of Automated Vehicles on Freeway Merge Segments." Through the STRIDE center, he has worked together with Florida International University to investigate Active Transportation and Demand Management strategies to reduce probability of vehicle breakdown.

Clark has conducted innovative transportation research in his time at UF, and has been recognized for his research related to variable speed limits, fuzzy logic ramp metering, probability of breakdown, and automated vehicle control. He currently is the instructor for Transportation Engineering (TTE4004), which is a core course for all undergraduate civil engineering students at UF. In addition to teaching, Clark is working on the coordination of autonomous vehicles at on-ramp junctions, which is the topic of his doctoral dissertation. He hopes to graduate in the summer and pursue a career in academia.

On the basis of his academic achievement and contributions to the field of transportation engineering, the Southeastern Transportation Research, Innovation, Development, and Education Center is pleased to select Clark Letter as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Benjamin Lichty

San Jose State University

Mineta Transportation Institute

Ben Lichty is a graduate student at San Jose State University (SJSU), where he is pursuing a master's degree in transportation management. He earned his first master's degree in urban land development from Sacramento State University after receiving a bachelor's degree in economics while at Brigham Young University.

Ben has amassed 12 years of professional experience in the field of transportation infrastructure planning and implementation, and currently works for the California High-Speed Rail authority as a senior transportation planner in the Division of Commercial Planning and Integration. His primary responsibilities include station area planning and network integration for a portfolio of investments in Northern California.

Ben elected to continue his academic pursuits after fusing his education with work experiences in the construction industry. His graduate education has helped him prepare for work at the California High-Speed Rail Authority in a capacity that has the most potential to link transportation and land use in the area of train station area planning. The married father of three young boys has maintained a 4.0 GPA while at SJSU.

On the basis of his distinguished career in transportation planning and outstanding record of academic achievement, the Mineta Transportation Institute is pleased to name Ben Lichty as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Alexander Lovett

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

National University Rail (NURail) Center

Alexander Lovett is a graduate research assistant in the Rail Transportation and Engineering Center (RailTEC) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). He is currently working on a joint MBA-PhD degree, having earned his master's in civil engineering from UIUC in 2013 and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Brigham Young University in 2011.

Alexander's research interests are in the areas of railroad track maintenance optimization and economics. With the support of the NURail University Transportation Center, Alexander has completed leading research on the cost of train delays, improving on previous academic efforts in this area. He has also synthesized various track degradation models into a planning framework that evaluates the costs and benefits of adjusting track maintenance schedules.

His research has produced two journal papers and multiple presentations at international conferences. When he's not invested in his research, Alexander enjoys spending time with his wife and two young children. He is also a past board member of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association at UIUC's student chapter, and has organized several railroad-related STEM outreach events with the Boy Scouts of America.

Based on his research, his exemplary academic record, professionalism, and leadership qualities, the National University Rail Center is pleased to select Alexander Lovett as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Andrea Mather

Oregon State University

Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium (PacTrans) Region 10

Andrea Mather is a second-year graduate student and teaching assistant at Oregon State University (OSU), where she is studying transportation engineering. It was at OSU where Andrea earned her Engineer In Training certification and graduated with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 2014.

Her passion for public service has been shown through four internships at the Oregon Department of Transportation. Each internship has increased in responsibility and ranged from field inspector on a large construction project, to managing her own project. This past summer, Andrea was entrusted in a role that had her working in the transportation and land use planning section.

Andrea has also distinguished herself as a leader in the classroom. She is currently the president of both transportation student chapters at OSU (Institute of Transportation, American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association). In addition, Andrea is also active in the Women's Transportation Seminar out of Salem, Oregon, and acts as a liaison to her fellow students.

Her master's research spans both bus and rail modes of public transportation. She is using advanced data acquisition technology and a crash test dummy to characterize vehicle dynamics that are associated with tipping incidents of wheeled mobility aids.

A top-tier student with the skills and personality to become a leader in the transportation industry, the Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium is pleased to name Andrea Mather as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Brendan Murphy

University of Minnesota

Roadway Safety Institute (Region 5)

Brendan Murphy holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Minnesota (UM), where he is currently a research fellow in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geo-Engineering. Brendan is also the Lead Data Scientist at the university's Accessibility Observatory, the nation's leading resource for the research and application of accessibility-based transportation system evaluation.

Brendan's research interests connect bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and safety, multimodal transportation systems, and intelligent use of data in transportation and city planning. As a graduate student, his approaches were used to work toward resolving two challenges identified in existing research of non-motorized travel safety: the need for metrics that reflect the risk exposure produced by cross-modal traffic volume interactions, and the need for risk models that can be applied in local contexts such as individual streets and intersections.

At UM's Accessibility Observatory, Brendan's efforts assisted in the development and maintenance of tools and systems for collecting and analyzing data describing transportation systems and accessibility.

An avid cyclist, Brendan enjoys analyzing the structure of transportation networks, how they work, and how to improve them while keeping an eye on walkability and reclaiming our urban spaces. The title of his thesis is "Accessibility and Centrality Based Estimation of Pedestrian Activity and Safety of Urban Areas."

Based on his academic achievements and commitment to safety, the Roadway Safety Institute is proud to name Brendan Murphy as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Daniel Oldham

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

Southeastern Transportation Center (STC)

Daniel Oldham is a first-year nanoengineering PhD student at North Carolina A&T State University (NCA&T), where he also earned his master's degree in civil engineering.

As a certified North Carolina DOT Division of Highways Escort Vehicle Operator, Daniel has worked in oversize and overload transportation, including planning, surveying, and escorting oversized structures on the highway. He spent two summers at the Illinois Center for Transportation where he engaged with DOT and elected officials of the Warm Mix modernization project at O'Hare International Airport. Daniel assisted in testing the warm mix for O'Hare and investigated the use of aged asphalt with bio-binders as an intern at the University of Illinois's Center for Excellence for Airport Technology. He now works as the laboratory manager conducting transportation material studies at the Sustainable Infrastructures Material Lab.

His academic achievements have earned Daniel a multitude of scholarships and awards, including the Southeastern Transportation Center Education Award from NCA&T as an undergraduate, and the prestigious Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship in 2012–2013 and 2014–2015. In 2014, Daniel was an ENO Transportation fellow. He was also selected as the primary investigator for Phase I NSF STRR and SBIR, as well as the 2015 recipient of the four-year NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. To top it all off, he has been featured on the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy blog.

In total, Daniel's time as a graduate student resulted in six presentations, four conference papers, and three journal papers, which included publication in the Transportation Research Record and Journal of Construction and Building Materials.

On the basis of achievement in academics and within the scientific community, the Southeastern Transportation Center is proud to select Daniel Oldham as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Marea Pappas

Texas A&M University

National Center for Transit Research

Marea Pappas recently graduated with a master's degree in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University after receiving a bachelor's degree in international business from Sam Houston State University.

As a graduate research assistant at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, the native of Bryan, Texas, investigated the nexus of transit and livability at the community level by distributing surveys and analyzing data. She then assisted in documenting the results of case study findings in rural America for specific stakeholders to benefit transit agencies, rural communities, and policy makers.

As a student, Marea interned with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, where she explored the contribution of smallholder livestock production systems to poverty reduction and economic growth. She was also a fellow with the Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA), providing project management support to activities that connected GCCA members to international opportunities related to agriculture supply chain, trade, and private sector investment.

Her work and academic experiences have strengthened her desire to work with developing countries in securing sustainable resources. Currently, she assists Food for the Hungry as the Food Security and Livelihoods Program Coordinator, increasing long-term development through the program's vision and mission.

Based on her academic achievements, enthusiastic contribution to rural transit research, and future contributions to the transportation sector, the National Center for Transit Research is pleased to name Marea Pappas its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Gabriela Perales

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

University Transportation Center for Railway Safety (UTCRS)

Gabriela Perales is a graduate student and research assistant at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she is studying civil engineering.

Originally from Monterrey, the capital city of Mexico's Nuevo León state, Gabriela graduated from Sharyland High in Mission, Texas before earning her bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas-Pan American in 2014. During her time as an undergraduate, Gabriela worked with Dr. Mohammad Azarbayejani on research pertaining to a health monitoring system. She also worked alongside Dr. Enad Mahmoud on pavement research that resulted in the publication of a study titled "Investigation of Relationships between AIMS Shape Properties and VST Friction Values" in February 2015.

Gabriela's commitment to academia has continued as a graduate student as she presented at the 2015 International Highway Engineering Experience Program conference. Over the summer, Gabriela mentored undergraduates as they worked to calculate friction values along horizontal curves using ITS devices and software.

Outside of the classroom, Gabriela has completed a number of internships. She worked for the Texas Department of Transportation during the summer of 2013 and the Nebraska Transportation center as part of the 2014 UTCRS Summer REU Program, where she did research on violations at railway grade crossings. When not devoted to railway safety, Gabriela donates her time at a local church.

Based on her research achievements, the University Transportation Center for Railway Safety is pleased to select Gabriela Perales as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kelcie Ralph

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California Center on Economic Competitiveness in Transportation (Region 9)

Kelcie Ralph is an assistant professor at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. Prior to her tenure at Rutgers, Kelcie earned her bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Alaska, Anchorage (UAA). While a student at UAA in 2009, she was selected as a Marshall Scholar, a postgraduate scholarship awarded to up to 40 students each year on the basis of academic achievement and leadership potential.

As a Marshall Scholar, Kelcie earned a master's degree in environmental policy from Cambridge University and tacked on a master's of science in city design and social science from the London School of Economics. Kelcie returned stateside and earned a PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Kelcie's current research employs experimental and quasi-experimental research designs to explore the efficacy of travel behavior change programs. Her thesis was titled "Stalled on the Road to Adulthood? Assessing the Nature of Recent Travel Changes for Young Adults in America, 1995–2009," and examined the causes and consequences of the decline in driving among young people in the United States. The thesis topic earned her the Barclay Gibbs Jones Award for Best Dissertation in Planning in 2015.

On the basis of her achievements in academia, the University of California Center on Economic Competitiveness in Transportation is proud to select Kelcie Ralph as its Outstanding Student of the Year for 2015.

Kumasi A. Salimu

Tuskegee University

Electric Vehicle Transportation Center

Kumasi A. Salimu is a third-year undergraduate student at Tuskegee University, where he is majoring in physics. Kumasi has served as a teacher's assistant since arriving at Tuskegee in the fall of 2013, and has spent his last two summers as a lab technician with the Aerospace Corporation.

As part of Electric Vehicle Transportation Center (EVTC) Day activities, Kumasi developed the use of toy electric motors as part of electric vehicle demonstrations which involved audiences of K-12 students, teachers, and parents with presentations by university students and professors. Kumasi's detailed knowledge and understanding of the program, as well as the ability to reach such a diverse audience, served as a benefit to both the program and those in attendance. He then spent a great deal of time fielding questions from both students and parents, demonstrating a breadth of knowledge and ability to answer a variety of questions concerning electric vehicles and their operations.

In the academic realm, Kumasi has received the Society of Physics Students Research Award (2015), the Alabama Academy of Science Research Award (2015), Alabama Academy of Science 2nd Place Poster Presentation (2015), and a Tuskegee Merit Scholarship (2014–present). Kumasi was presented a scholarship from the United Negro College Fund in 2013 as one of its Rising Stars, a distinction that was presented to him by comedian Kevin Hart, actor Nick Cannon, and musicians Nelly and Robin Thicke on the set of "The Real Husbands of Hollywood."

Beyond his achievements in the classroom, Kumasi has been active in many extracurricular activities. He was captain of the robotics team in high school and served as team captain for the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology Robotics Competition in 2013. He has also been involved with the Alabama Academy of Science, Society of Physics Students, National Society of Black Physicists, National Society of Leadership and Success, and Tuskegee Satellite and Radio Club.

Based on his academic achievements and relentless dedication to EVTC outreach and teaching, the Electric Vehicle Transportation Center is pleased to select Kumasi A. Salimu as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Rostyslav Shamborovskyy

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT)

Rostyslav "Rusty" Shamborovskyy is a civil engineering master's student at Rutgers University. He is conducting research under the Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT) Pavement Resource Program's asphalt laboratory, where he has worked as a technician since his third year of undergraduate studies and has risen to the position of lead testing engineer. The title of Rusty's theses is "Asphalt Binder and Mixture Characterization of Airfield Runways with Fatigue Cracking."

His dedication, hard work, and qualitative skills have been recognized by his instructors and the asphalt industry, which have led to numerous awards. Upon graduating with his bachelor's degree, Rusty was presented with the Outstanding Engineering Scholar award from the School of Engineering. He also received an award from the North/Central New Jersey section of the American Society of Highway Engineers, as well as the David R. Jones Scholarship from the Association of Modified Asphalt Producers. In May 2015, Rusty was presented with an award from the New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association. His most recent recognition came from the Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists in the form of a $2,000 scholarship.

Rusty is a member of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and has participated in the concrete canoe and steel bridge design competitions. He was drawn to studying asphalt because it is a "hands-on" field. Rusty's ultimate goal is to make asphalt pavement more cost effective and durable.

Based on his academic achievements and well-earned recognition, the Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation is proud to nominate Rostyslav Shamborovskyy as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Mackenzie C. Shelton

Harris-Stowe State University

Mid-America Transportation Center (Region 7)

Mackenzie Shelton is an undergraduate student at the Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU) Anheuser-Busch School of Business, where she has achieved notable academic success. The title of Mackenzie's research paper is "The Economic Sustainability of Inner City Streets: A Collaborative Transportation and Safety Model."

Some of Mackenzie's recent accomplishments include: representing HSSU as a Historically Black College and Universities Student Leader of Tomorrow delegate to China, where she studied at the Beijing Language and Culture University and Hangzhou Wanxiang Polytechnic College; achieved Vice-President Scholastic Honors List; serves as Vice-President, of the American College of Health Care Executives Student Affiliate; student member of the Mid-America Transportation Center (MTC) Research Team; and she presented at the HSSU Fall Faculty Institute 2015.

In addition to her academic success, Mackenzie is a member of the HSSU women's softball team. She also volunteers as a trainer at Sport Camps and the Belleville Area Humane Society. Mackenzie has worked with the Illinois Harmony School District 175, Elite Tractor, and the Belleville Sportsplex as a means to fund her bachelor's degree in health care management.

Mackenzie is a student researcher because of her professionalism, experience, and dedication to the HSSU/MTC grant. Her expertise is vital in performing quantitative, qualitative, and observational research regarding study variables such as pedestrian control, sidewalks, and lighting, as well as social and economic variables including accident and crime statistics and real estate values.

Mackenzie was selected for this award because she exemplifies integrity and commitment and she possesses the team leadership qualities necessary for achieving grant research goals. The Mid-America Transportation Center is proud to select Mackenzie Shelton as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Patrick Singleton

Portland State University

Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC)

Patrick Singleton is a PhD student in civil engineering at Portland State University (PSU). His research spans travel behavior, transportation planning, and travel demand modeling, with an interest in walking and bicycling. While at PSU, Patrick has worked on improving regional estimates of pedestrian demand, explored synergies between bicycling and public transit, reviewed how regional planning processes consider the health impacts of transportation, and conceptualized the suite of influences on people's trip-making decisions.

Patrick's dissertation explores a concept called the "positive utility of travel" and its effects on travel behavior. While travel time is usually considered a disutility to be minimized, this idea is that some people actually like to travel and they may use their travel time productively, find pleasure in movement, or travel to express a personal value. Patrick intends to illuminate this concept, which has implications for transportation planning and policymaking, including the adoption of autonomous vehicles.

Patrick is also involved in his community and has served as treasurer and vice president of PSU's transportation student group, and he volunteers for the city of Portland as an active transportation ambassador. Before graduate school, Patrick earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and worked in traffic engineering consulting. While in Pittsburgh, he also served on the local transit agency's advisory council and was vice president of his neighborhood association. Outside of school, you will likely find Patrick exploring and photographing his current city.

On the basis of his academic achievement and contributions to the areas of travel behavior and travel demand modeling, the Transportation Research and Education Center is pleased to nominate Patrick Singleton as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Alma Siulagi

The University of Pennsylvania

Technologies for Safe and Efficient Transportation (T-SET)

Alma Siulagi is a 2015 Eisenhower Fellow and master's degree candidate at the University of Pennsylvania in the Department of City and Regional Planning. As a Portland native, she has always been fascinated and passionate about efficient, effective, and equitable urban transportation systems. Working with the Technologies for Safe and Efficient Transportation UTC has allowed Alma to expand her knowledge about autonomous vehicles and their equity implications, as well as the role of roadway design in vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle crashes.

Alma's area of expertise is in urban transportation, including the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program, parking programs and policies, roadway design and crash literature, gas-powered and electric motorcycles, developing cities and transportation, autonomous vehicles, and vulnerable road users. Other areas of Alma's research include the effect of equity and capacity on winning a TIGER grant; policy design for parking pricing in Mexico City; and the roadway efficiency and environmental impacts of motorcycles both in Asia and around the world.

Based on her academic success and interest in urban transportation, the Technologies for Safe and Efficient Transportation is pleased to nominate Alma Siulagi as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kayla Sykes

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Connected Vehicle/Infrastructure University Transportation Center (CVI-UTC)

Kayla Sykes is a graduate research assistant for the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI). She currently holds a 3.61 GPA and will complete her graduate coursework for her master's degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech in the fall of 2015. Kayla has presented several posters related to her research with VTTI at both the Undergraduate Research Symposium and the Civil Engineering Research Day at Virginia Tech. Kayla also presented a poster on her CVI-UTC project and master's research at the 9th Annual UTC Spotlight Conference on Connected and Automated Vehicles on November 4, 2015.

Kayla's master's thesis focuses on a human factors analysis of an in-vehicle Active Traffic and Demand Management (ATDM) system. The title of her master's thesis is "Human Factors Evaluation of an In-Vehicle Active Traffic and Demand Management (ATDM) System." She worked closely with VTTI employees to create an in-vehicle device that provides the following information to the driver: 1) dynamic speed limits, 2) dynamic lane use/shoulder control, 3) High Occupancy Vehicle restrictions, and 4) other traveler information through variable message signs. The study's research addresses driver distraction, desirability, and driver behavior while using the in-vehicle system in various traffic conditions. The results of this study will add to the body of knowledge for the effectiveness of in-vehicle signage and ATDM features.

Kayla has accepted employment with Toxcel following graduation and plans to focus on improving transportation through human factors research and implementation. Kayla was selected for the 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year Award from the Connected Vehicle/ Infrastructure University Transportation Center for her outstanding academic performance and excellence in research.

Christopher Torres

University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

Institute for Sustainable Transportation and Logistics Transportation Informatics (TRANSINFO)

Christopher Torres was born and raised in the city of Bayamon, Puerto Rico. In 2012, he received a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), Bayamon campus. Soon after, he started pursuing a Master of Public Administration specializing in program administration, which he completed in the summer of 2014. That same year, Christopher started pursuing a second master's degree in computer engineering specializing in computing systems at UPR, Mayagüez campus.

Christopher has been active in the academic community as both an undergraduate and graduate student. He was elected by UPR's general student council to serve as student representative to the university board for the 2011–2012 academic year, as well as student representative to the board of trustees the following year. In April 2013, Christopher served as the graduate student representative to UPR's governing board. When he started graduate school at Mayagüez, Christopher was elected by the university's general student council to serve as the student representative to the discipline board; he was later elected to serve as their chair, a position he still holds to this day.

Christopher also worked as a teaching assistant at his current school, and as a reports programmer. He is currently part of the TransInfo UTC in UPR Mayagüez, working on an information system with a client-server architecture for issuing citations for Puerto Rico's police department.

The Institute for Sustainable Transportation and Logistics Transportation Informatics is pleased to select Christopher Torres as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Arnold Valdez

University of Southern California

Metropolitan Transportation University Transportation Center (METRANS)

Arnold Valdez is a first-generation Hispanic college student currently obtaining my Masters degree in Planning at the University of Southern California. He was born in Compton, CA and raised in Nashville, TN. Arnold received his Bachelors degree in Geography at Brigham Young University where he met his wife, Laura. Arnold's academic interests are in spatial analysis, modeling, and transportation land use dynamics.

Arnold is committed to a career in transportation, and has taken every opportunity to not only take as many transportation courses as possible, but also to participate in seminars, field trips and professional development activities. He started working for METRANS as a volunteer, and eventually became a METRANS research assistant. He proved to have a variety of talents - he proposed the idea of doing student podcasts, and these podcasts have become an important part of student media outreach.

Arnold is especially skilled in GIS and computer programming. For the Center for Sustainable Cities, he has managed large datasets on groundwater and produced profiles and maps for the Southern California groundwater basin. As an intern at the Southern California Association of Governments, he generated maps for the Regional Transportation Plan. In addition, Arnold is the co-author of two academic papers. His passion is in solving complicated problems that involve space and data. He is plans to further his education pursuing a Ph.D.

Because of the importance of his research efforts and his exemplary academic record, the Metropolitan Transportation University Transportation Center (METRANS) is proud to select Arnold Valdez as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Travis Wallace

University of Maine

Marine Engine Testing and Emission Laboratory (METEL)

Travis Wallace is a PhD candidate in mechanical engineering at the University of Maine. His graduate work is on the application of thermoelectrics, as he is investigating optimizing thermoelectric materials for his dissertation work. The title of his doctoral dissertation is "Optimization of Thermoelectric Materials for Marine and Power Plant Applications."

Travis has demonstrated his academic performance by completing a master's thesis in 2012 on the optimization of a thermoelectric heat exchanger for marine applications, for which he authored several papers. He demonstrated his leadership and professionalism through his professional work as a research engineer at the DOT UTC Marine Engine Testing and Emissions Laboratory (METEL). He currently holds a U.S. Coast Guard 3rd Assistant Engineer's Unlimited Tonnage License and sails as a marine engineer aboard the Maine Maritime Academy ship, TS *State of Maine*. Travis has been funded by METEL for the last three semesters.

On the basis of his academic merit, the Marine Engine Testing and Emission Laboratory is pleased to select Travis Wallace as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Peter A. Webb

The University of New Orleans

Maritime Transportation Research and Education Center (MarTREC)

Peter Webb is a native of New Orleans. He attended Louisiana State University from spring 1990 to fall 1992. In 1992, Peter transferred to the University of New Orleans where he received a bachelor's degree in anthropology in May 1994. He then enrolled in the University of Memphis to pursue a master's degree in anthropology with an applied urban focus.

Peter received a master's degree in anthropology in December 1997, and is currently pursuing a PhD in urban studies at the University of New Orleans with a concentration in urban anthropology, focusing on human factors in freight transportation. The title of Peter's dissertation is "The Human Element in Freight Transportation: An Anthropological Case Study of the Port of New Orleans Board of Directors' Role in Value-Added Commodity Flows."

The Maritime Transportation Research and Education Center is proud to nominate Peter Webb as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Cody West

Montana State University-Bozeman

Western Transportation Institute (WTI)

Cody West is a senior at Montana State University-Bozeman, pursuing a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Cody has a diverse background, from working with the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) the last four summers, to his research and academic work. His knowledge of the transportation industry includes surveying (grade checks, level loops, etc.), curb replacement, roadway alignment design, batching of concrete, mix designs for asphalt, and spread calculations. Cody also had the opportunity to manage his own project for MDT.

Cody's research focused on safety and entailed an accurate mapping (by use of ArcGIS) of the Montana highway system correlated with three years of crash data collected from the Montana Highway Patrol. Data in the analysis included driver type (in-state or out-of-state), severity of the crash, season in which the crash occurred (spring, summer, fall, or winter), and crash location. This project allowed the Montana Highway Patrol to determine if there was a significant difference in the location of crashes for in-state or out-of-state drivers, and whether resources needed to be allocated differently to prevent crashes.

Attending TRB's Annual Meeting will allow Cody to see a broad cross-section of transportation issues, and will help him determine where he can best influence the nation's transportation system. Cody was selected for this award because he has shown an interest in all aspects of transportation, including his course work, research projects, and field work. The Western Transportation Institute is pleased to nominate Cody West as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Brittany S. Wood

Florida State University

Center for Accessibility and Safety for an Aging Population (ASAP Center)

Brittany Wood is a PhD candidate in Florida State University's (FSU) Department of Geography. Brittany comes from the Center for Accessibility and Safety for an Aging Population (ASAP), a multidisciplinary Tier I UTC at FSU, involving researchers from civil and transportation engineering, geography, urban planning, psychology, and health care management. The title of Brittany's dissertation is "Measuring Spatial and Travel Disparities in Aging Populations: The Unintended Consequences of Aging in Place."

Brittany received her master's degree in geography from FSU. Since joining the geography department's PhD program, she has focused extensively on accessibility in the context of transportation systems, and specifically areas related to disadvantaged and aging populations, geographic information systems, and time geography.

Brittany has worked as a research assistant on two UTC grant-funded projects that have focused on aging populations. Her contributions to these research projects have been presented at the annual TRB conference. In 2015, Brittany was awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship for her dissertation. In addition to her research interests, Brittany has also been an active member of her department's student association Geographic and Environmental Studies Student Association, where she served as the secretary and webmaster for one year. She also taught an undergraduate course, Spatial Data Analysis, which focuses on statistical analysis in a geographic context.

Brittany's outstanding academic achievement, meaningful results of her research, and involvement in numerous activities contributed to her selection as the Center for Accessibility and Safety for an Aging Population's 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jonathan S. Wood

The Pennsylvania State University

The Mid-Atlantic University Transportation Center (Region 3)

Jonathan Wood is a PhD candidate in civil engineering at The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State). He has published five referred articles in the top archival journals in the field of traffic safety. Jonathan is the author of two papers currently under review and he is preparing eight additional manuscripts for submission. The title of Jonathan's dissertation is "Causal Inference in Traffic Safety Research: Comparison of the Empirical Bayes and Propensity Scores-Potential Outcomes Methods."

His dissertation topic applies causal inference methods to evaluate geometric design features and traffic engineering countermeasures, which will produce more robust approaches to assess surface transportation safety performance. The quality and quantity of Jonathan's scholarly activity is exemplary among PhD students at Penn State. He recently was awarded the College of Engineering Dean's Teaching Fellowship, and will be developing and delivering a junior-level introductory transportation engineering course during the spring 2016 semester. This fellowship is the top teaching award for graduate students in the College of Engineering at Penn State, and Jonathan was one of only 12 awardees this year.

Jonathan has an exemplary service record. He served as president and vice president of the ITE student chapter, is currently a young member of the TRB Committee on Geometric Design, and is co-chairing the 5th Urban Street Symposium technical planning committee.

Based on his outstanding contributions to transportation research and education, the Mid-Atlantic University Transportation Center is pleased to select Jonathan Wood as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year.