

University Transportation Centers

13th Annual Student of the Year Awards

Transportation Research Board 83rd Annual Meeting

Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC

January 10, 2004



U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration

WELCOME

Welcome to the 13th Annual Student of the Year Awards ceremony, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Each year at the annual winter meeting of the Transportation Research Board the Department honors the most outstanding student from each participating University Transportation Center for her/his 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 University Transportation Centers program is administered by the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) with funding from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. This year, continuing the tradition of One DOT, the Department will also honor an awardee 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 the general well being of a nation.

Recognizing the need to encourage efficient movement in all transportation sectors of the country, the U.S. Department of Transportation established the University Transportation Centers (UTC) Program in 1987 (Title 49, U.S. Code Appendix 1607 c), to establish and operate 10 transportation centers, one for each of the Federal regions.

Since that time the UTC Program expanded to include 33 centers, as authorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), enacted by Congress on June 9, 1998. TEA-21 authorized up to \$194.8 million for grants to establish and operate up to 33 UTCs throughout the U.S. in FY 1998-2003.

The mission of the UTCs is to advance U.S. technology and expertise in transportation through education, research, and technology transfer.

TEA-21 also established education as one of the primary objectives of a UTC, institutionalized the use of strategic planning in university grant management, and reinforced the program's focus on multi-modal transportation. All UTCs are required to match federal funds dollar-for-dollar.

The UTC program is managed by the Office of Innovation, Research, and Education of the Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Air Transportation Centers of Excellence

Congress authorized the Air Transportation Centers of Excellence in 1990 to assist the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with researching critical strategic issues relating to developing and maintaining a safe and efficient air transportation system.

These centers now serve as a network of national resources to advance U.S. technology and expertise in aviation-related disciplines through education, training, basic and advanced research, information dissemination, and technology transfer.

Funding for basic research at centers is provided by the sponsoring organization through a cooperative agreement; these funds are matched dollar by non-federal sources. Joint funding initiatives solidify long-term partnerships that extend from three to 10 years. Thereafter, each center is expected to be a self-supporting national resource.

Since 1992, center partners have supported more than 150 aviation-related research projects reflecting a level of effort of more than \$35 million. The centers are managed by the FAA.

University Transportation Centers

Students of the Year

Ryan P. Avery

University of Washington

Jeffrey R. Busby

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Washington Homer Carlisle

George Mason University

Patrick R. Clark

University of Alabama

Dan Cordon

University of Idaho

Peter Joseph Dailey

Marshall University

Samuel K. Eisenbeiser

University of Rhode Island

Stacy Eisenman

University of Maryland

Richard W. Erickson

San Jose State University

Julie A. Goodwill

University of South Florida

Jessie Xu Jones

University of Arkansas

Tanya Kunberger

North Carolina State University

Kelly Leone

New Jersey Institute of Technology

Jamie Luedtke

lowa State University

Anne Meehan

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Bruno Miller

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

University Transportation Centers

Students of the Year

Steven W. Mitchell

University of Central Florida

Chatavie Metron Newton

South Carolina State University

Brett Ripkin

Morgan State University

Jennifer Russell

University of Southern California

Katherine Sanderson

University of Minnesota

Grant Schultz

Texas A&M University

Lisa Schweitzer

University of California-Los Angeles

Jacinta Simmons

North Carolina A&T University

Peter Smolenski

Montana State University

Lavenia Toole-Holt

University of South Florida

An Vinh Tran

Colorado State University

Gergis W. William

West Virginia University

John Wirtz

Northwestern University

Rebbeca Wuellner

University of Wisconsin

Transportation Northwest (Region 10) UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON W/CONSORTIUM

RYAN P. AVERY received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at Colorado State University in May of 2002. An internship in a transportation group at a local engineering firm encouraged him to pursue graduate education in transportation.

Since beginning his studies in the fall of 2002 with a Valle Scholarship appointment, he has become very interested in Intelligent Transportation Systems. He worked at the Washington State Transportation Center (TRAC) for several months, developing an update to the "Central Puget Sound Freeway Network Usage and Performance" manual. Ryan also wrote a paper detailing Smart Card technology and its role in fare collection for transit applications, which is currently being considered for publication as an industry white paper by Sound Transit. In addition, he coauthored a paper with Professor Yinhai Wang and Professor Scott Rutherford entitled, "Development of a Length-Based Vehicle Classification System Using Uncalibrated Video Cameras," that has been accepted for presentation at the 83rd Annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board in January 2004. This work has also led him to remain at the UW to earn a PhD in Civil Engineering.

Throughout his time here Ryan has also been involved in ITE, attending the annual Traffic Bowl competition between schools last November and the annual ITE conference in Seattle this past August. Ryan also organized and ran a graduate student conference sponsored by TransNow (Region 10 UTC). The conference, scheduled to coincide with the annual ITE meeting, was held on the University of Washington campus and attracted attendees from Portland State University and Oregon State University, as well as the UW. Ryan is currently working with Professor Wang on a proposal for a paired loop detector and video detection system, and plans to pursue computer vision related topics for his dissertation. He has broad interests, and is presently mastering Swedish in hopes of studying there on the Valle Exchange Program in a couple of years.

Ryan is an outstanding student who can always be counted on to give his best. TransNow is proud to select Ryan P. Avery as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

New England University Transportation Center (Region 1)

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY W/CONSORTIUM

JEFFREY R. BUSBY is pursuing a Master of Science in Transportation degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is a member of the Tren Urbano, San Juan, P.R., Chicago Transit Authority and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority project group - a collaborative research effort between MIT, local universities and the public sector. His research focus is on development of a transit network model of the CTA. The model is being applied toward development of an accessibility-based planning and decision-support tool integrating census travel information and agency data. Jeff spent the past summer as an intern in the Strategic Planning Division of the CTA, gaining first-hand knowledge of current agency planning practices.

Jeff holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering, Civil Specialty from the Colorado School of Mines in Golden near his hometown of Westminster, Colorado. His interest in urban transportation was shaped by a part-time job for a suburban Denver municipality he held while pursuing his undergraduate degree. His work for Commerce City, Colorado included a wide range of municipal engineering applications including building permit and land development review, right-of-way construction, inspection and capital improvement project management. His interests were peaked by his experience with traffic calming, traffic engineering, a 25-year US-85 Corridor Plan, and a New Lands Transportation Plan for a twenty-five-square-mile region of rapidly developing suburbs. Jeff's other interests include travel, architecture, wine tasting, movies, and history.

Jeff's continuing research excellence, his excellent academic record, his professional experience, his demonstrated technical merit and clear promise of future leadership and contribution to the transportation profession provided the basis for his selection.

The New England Region Transportation Center is proud to have Jeffrey R. Busby as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

National ITS Implementation Research Center

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY W/CONSORTIUM

HOMER CARLISLE, originally from Auburn, Alabama, is currently a full-time student in the Master's in Transportation Policy, Operations & Logistics program at George Mason University's School of Public Policy. He also works as a Graduate Research Assistant under the supervision of program director, Associate Professor Jonathan L. Gifford.

Mr. Carlisle has made significant contributions to the research efforts of our university. His most significant research to date resulted in a paper co-authored with Dr. Gifford that examined the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) implementation of web-based performance measures in the agency's highway construction program. Dr. Gifford and Mr. Carlisle have also co-authored a paper that explores data retention and access issues in a context designed to provide guidance for the future development of ITS services. They will present the latter paper, "Data Retention & Access Regimes for Wireless Message Logs in the U.S.: An Exploratory Analysis", at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board in January, 2004.

In addition, Homer has assisted numerous ongoing university research efforts including a current benchmarking study that is examining transportation-related technical standards and policy development within local governments. Mr. Carlisle expects to complete his degree in August of 2004. Prior to studying at George Mason, Mr. Carlisle earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in government from Georgetown University in 2000.

The National ITS Implementation Research Center is proud to select Homer Carlisle as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

University Transportation Center for Alabama

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

PATRICK R. CLARK was nominated for the 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year Award because of the quality of his work on research projects for the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), and for his work as principle author on the final report for one of the projects.

Mr. Clark is native of Huntsville, Alabama. He attended Grissom High School and was a member of the varsity baseball and swimming teams. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering (BSCE degree) from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and is currently pursuing a MSCE at the University of Alabama (UA), specializing in transportation. His hobbies include playing golf, biking, PC gaming, and working on old cars.

Mr. Clark has participated in the "Adjustments to Pavement Life-Cycle Cost Analysis Procedures" and "Work Zone Data Collection for Use in a Pavement Life-Cycle Cost Analysis" research projects. The first project reviewed ALDOT's current pavement life-cycle cost analysis procedure and made recommendations for improvements. The report identified new data sources and new software, and provided details on the operation of the new software. Mr. Clark conducted most of the work and co-authored the final report with Dr. Jay K. Lindly.

ALDOT was delighted with the project and praised both Mr. Clark and the project. As a result, ALDOT funded the second, related project, which is scheduled for completion in May of 2004 and will serve as Mr. Clark's master's thesis.

The University Transportation Center for Alabama is proud to select Patrick R. Clark as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

National Institute for Advanced Transportation Technology

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

DAN CORDON, a native of Dexter, Oregon, is currently a Ph.D. candidate in mechanical engineering and a research assistant for the National Institute for Advanced Transportation Technology (NIATT). Mr. Cordon received his BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Idaho.

Mr. Cordon's MS thesis focused on modifications of a transit van to operate on either gasoline or aqueous ethanol, and development of a test protocol that uses the NIATT steady-state chassis dynamometer to approximate emissions and fuel consumption. While working on his MS, Mr. Cordon was a member of Idaho Engineering Works-a small team of graduate student mentors who work closely with the Capstone Design students to improve understanding and implementation of the engineering design process.

Along with his academic studies, Dan runs NIATT's small engine test facility to support several University Transportation Grant university projects like the Future Truck, Clean Snowmobile Challenge, and Formula SAE. His work in the engine research facility has helped produce a two-time winning Clean Snowmobile, a 75 HP Formula SAE engine, and a Ford DOHC 3.0L V6 that runs on E85 fuel. Through interaction with the users of the facility, he has influenced many students to pursue careers in the automotive and transportation industry.

Mr. Cordon teaches a course in Internal Combustion Engines that focuses on various aspects of modeling including: engine design parameters, vehicle road-load, chemical thermodynamics, combustion kinetics, heat release, and engine testing. He has published papers with the Society of Automotive Engineers, and Frontiers in Education.

The National Institute for Advanced Transportation Technology is proud to select Dan Cordon as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year

Nick J. Rahall II Appalachian Transportation Institute

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

PETER J. DAILEY lives in Charleston, West Virginia with his wife Anna and son Brendan. He worked as a Graduate Assistant for RTI while completing the Master of Science degree in Technology Management from 2002 through the summer of 2003. During this time Pete was employed s a graduate assistant at RTI for the "Integrated Railroad Track Stability Assessment and Monitoring System Project".

Pete seized the initiative in obtaining the knowledge of high accuracy Global Positioning Systems technology to enable this tool to be deployed in the field for railroad track surveying applications. He developed mobile instrument platforms capable of recording continuous rail location data to an accuracy of a half inch, at speeds up to 30 miles per hour.

Part of the results of his field work was accepted for publication at 2003 Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems in San Antonio, as well as the 2003 American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association meeting in Chicago, IL.

Peter has the distinction of being the first RTI graduate assistant to be listed as a co-author on papers accepted for publication at peer reviewed conferences. The expertise he gained from his field research was extremely valuable to the development of a new remote sensing laboratory at Marshall University that will support new transportation courses. Most recently, Mr. Dailey joined the Rahall Transportation Institute as full time Research Associate in Engineering.

For his excellence in academic achievement as well as his contributions to both his university and the community, the Nick J. Rahall II Appalachian Transportation Institute is pleased to select Peter J. Dailey as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

University of Rhode Island Transportation Center

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

SAMUEL K. EISENBEISER earned his masters in community planning degree from the University of Rhode Island in May of 2003, achieving a GPA of about 3.9. As a graduate assistant, he played a key role in the University of Rhode Island Transportation Center (URITC) -funded project "Developing and Applying a Transportation Model for Aquidneck Island." As part of this effort, he researched transportation models and demonstrated the use of GIS models in case studies related to planning efforts in three towns on Aquidneck Island.

After graduation, Mr. Eisenbeiser accepted a position at Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc., a full-service planning consulting firm involved in many transportation studies. At Fitzgerald and Halliday, he has worked on a corridor study and performed traffic analyses to optimize roadway lane configurations and signal timing. Prior to his graduate studies at URI, Mr. Eisenbeiser worked as a transportation planner in Connecticut. He also served in the US Coast Guard and was awarded the Guard's Commendation Medal for outstanding achievement following an active duty tour.

Samuel was selected for the 2003 URITC Outstanding Student of the Year award because of his excellent academic achievement and professional background. As an outstanding graduate of the URI Community Planning program, Mr. Eisenbeiser is a promising young transportation planner.

It is with great pride that the University of Rhode Island Transportation Center selects Samuel K. Eisenbeiser as its2003 Outstanding Student of the Year

University Transportation Research Center (Region 2)

CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK W/CONSORTIUM

STACY EISENMAN is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In 2002 she received a BS in Civil Engineering and in 2003 she received an MS in Civil Engineering. In the fall of 2003, Ms Eisenman began her doctoral program at the University of Maryland (College Park), where she was awarded the University Fellowship and joined the Maryland Transportation Initiative. Stacy was selected as Outstanding Student of the Year in Region II because of her exceptional academic achievements and her demonstrated research talents. Stacy already has six conference papers to her credit (two of which she will be presenting at TRB this coming January). Two of these should become journal articles. She also has been the author or co-author of three additional presentations. Six of these nine conference papers / presentations, she has or will given personally.

Stacy is already on her way to achieving her career goal of becoming a highly successful university professor. Her research interests are in the area of traffic operations, including work on the Highway Capacity Manual Applications Guidebook, operational and safety analyses of roundabouts, and data collection and reduction strategies. She is currently working in the area of roundabout simulation, performance estimation and prediction. Stacy is active in numerous professional organizations including TRB, ITE, ITS America, ASCE, and ASEE.

The Region 2 University Transportation Research Center is proud to have Stacy Eisenman as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Norman Y. Mineta International Institute for Surface Transportation Policy Studies

SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

RICHARD W. ERICKSON is a candidate for a Master of Science degree in the Graduate Transportation Management Program at San Jose State University. Richard works for Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) as the Program Scheduling Manager for the City of San Jose on the 10-year, multi-billion dollar Mineta San Jose International Airport Master Plan Implementation Program. The Mineta Airport Program is transitioning from the planning to the implementation phase, and over the next several years, more than 2 billion dollars will be spent in design and construction of new terminal, roadway and parking facilities. Richard's expectations are to manage the program through its next phase, and in the process make a significant contribution to its successful completion.

A graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics (1985), Richard started his career with Bechtel as a project controls engineer assigned to the nuclear power division. In addition, he spent 3 years in Hong Kong where he met his wife Meilynda while working on the International Airport program and has two children - Benjamin David and Jade Victoria.

Recently Richard was approved for certification as a Project Manager. This certification means that Richard has joined approximately 1,000 others in the Parsons Brinkerhoff (PB) family of companies who are an integral part of PB's Project Management Program. This is a high achievement, which demonstrates Richard's project management capabilities and future success as a valuable contributor to PB's future endeavors. In June of 2002, Richard was voted Airport Employee of the month and is a member of the American Association of Cost Engineers (AACE). Richard has also been awarded both MTI's CTM Fellowship award and the MSTM Fellowship award for outstanding academic performance.

For his excellent academic and professional achievements, the Mineta Institute is proud to select Richard W. Erickson as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

National Center for Transit Research UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

JULIE A. GOODWILL was awarded a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Development from the University of Florida in May of 2001, with a final grade point average of 3.8. In August 2001, Julie enrolled in the University of South Florida (USF) Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program. She graduated from this program in December 2003 with a grade point of average of 3.88. In addition to receiving her MPA degree, Julie also earned a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management through the USF Public Administration Program.

In May 2002, Julie joined the USF Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) as a graduate research assistant assigned to the Transportation Demand Management Team, where she quickly became a valued and trusted contributor to a number of research reports. Ms. Goodwill was the Co-Principal Investigator for the National Center for Transit Research (NCTR) report: Building Transit Oriented Development in Established Communities. Julie also contributed to the NCTR report entitled: "Commuter Choice Manager and Parking Managers Coordination." Currently, Julie is completing the NCTR project entitled: Evaluation of Shared Use Park & Ride Impact on Facility Providers. In November, Julie and her co-researchers made a presentation on this project at the Florida Public Transportation Association's Annual Conference in Key West.

The University of South Florida is pleased to have Julie Goodwill as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

JESSIE XU JONES currently works for the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD). She graduated in 1992 from FoShan University in China and worked for five years as a Transportation Engineer. Jessie immigrated to the United States and worked two years for engineering firms in Arkansas prior to returning to college. She enrolled at Arkansas State University graduating Summa Cum Laude.

Since receiving her degree, she has worked for AHTD. Due to her exceptional potential, she was one of two AHTD employees selected to enter a Masters Degree program at the University of Arkansas. Jessie will graduate in December 2003 with a MSCE in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in structures.

During her time at the University of Arkansas, Jessie has done an inclusive survey of bridge sites throughout the state that were constructed using pre-cast channel beams that have experienced problems, and proposed corrective procedures on site. She has validated the proposed retrofit technique with very promising results. She authored a paper which will be presented at the TRB 2004 Annual Meeting and that has been recommended for publication in the Transportation Research Record. Jessie's experience as a bridge engineer, research experience during her graduate studies and her academic performance as a student present her as a young engineer who will make a significant contribution to the engineering profession.

It is for her academic excellence, professionalism, accomplishments and potential that the Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center at the University of Arkansas is proud to select Jessie Xu Jones as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Center for Transportation and the Environment

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

TANYA KUNBERGER, a native of Ashville, NC is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Civil Engineering at North Carolina State University. Tanya's research project is titled, Temperature Effect of Desorption Kinetics of Petroleum Constituents on Various Soils, which addresses the need for more sophisticated remediation technologies for highway runoff. Runoff from highway construction and repair materials, in addition to the inevitable vehicular traffic and petroleum constituent spills, create a complex environmental impact on the subsurface environment. Constituents detrimental to the environment are transported by rainfall runoff, enter the subsurface and can either sorb to the soil or leach to the groundwater. Although leached portions are customarily detected and addressed, the sorbed phase often goes untreated due to the difficulty and time-consuming nature of the remediation process. Ms. Kunberger's research aims at investigating the benefits of decreased viscosity and increased mobilization and volatilization associated with increased temperatures, while incorporating a more cost-effective remediation scheme. Ms. Kunberger's work will be of interest to state and local transportation departments throughout the country and offer international application as well.

It is for her outstanding academic achievements and professionalism that the Center for Transportation and the Environment is proud to select Tanya Kunberger as Outstanding Student of the Year for 2003.

The National Center for Transportation and Industrial Productivity

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

KELLY LEONE is from Reston, Virginia and is completing a doctorate in transportation at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. She began her studies while working full time with the Federal Aviation Administration as the Technical Lead for explosives and weapons detection systems integration in the former Aviation, now the Transportation, Security Research and Development Laboratory in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Today, she is a Division Manager in the Transportation Security Administration Office of Operations Policy, where she is developing national standards, policies and guidance for security measures in the maritime and land transportation modes.

Ms. Leone began her career over 18 years ago in the transportation industry working on improving the U.S. National Airspace System, in addition to, the German civil aviation system in Frankfurt, Germany. Her pursuit of a Ph.D. in Transportation is a natural extension of her formal training and dedication to improving the transportation system. Ms. Leone's goals are to conduct and promote research that improves our understanding of security measures and to add to the knowledge base for planning, implementing and conducting security screening in all transportation modes.

Her article, titled, "Measures of Effectiveness for Passenger-Baggage Security Screening" was published in the Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board (2003). Her earlier education consists of a Bachelors of Science in Computer Science, Seton Hall University, 1985, and a Masters of Aviation Science and Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, 1994, graduating Summa Cum Laude. Ms. Leone has lectured at various conferences on security, and is a licensed private pilot.

The National Center for Transportation and Industrial Productivity is proud to have Kelly Leone as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Midwestern Transportation Consortium (Region 7)

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY W/CONSORTIUM

JAMIE LUEDTKE is a recent graduate of the Iowa State University interdisciplinary Master's Degree Program in Transportation. While at Iowa State, she also obtained a Bachelor's degree in Community and Regional Planning. Ms. Luedtke served as a Research Assistant at the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE), working on a variety of projects ranging from a plan for the Iowa portion of the Mississippi River Trail to an economic analysis of a replacement for a 100 year old bridge over the Mississippi River. Her Masters thesis involved a multivariate statistical analysis of the relationship between levels of access control and adjacent commercial property values in the Des Moines, Iowa metropolitan area. Ms. Luedtke was also awarded an AASHTO François Scholarship early in her graduate school career.

Jamie was very active in the award-winning Iowa Transportation Student Association, serving as the organization's President during her final year at Iowa State. Upon receiving her degree, she will be beginning a promising career with the Federal Highway Administration- Iowa Division in January, 2004.

For her academic accomplishments, her professionalism and contributions to her university, the Midwestern Transportation Consortium is proud to select Jamie Luedtke as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Center for Advanced Infrastructure & Transportation

RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

ANNE MEEHAN was raised in Maybrook, New York. She graduated from the School of Engineering at Bucknell University in 2002 with a Bachelors Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Upon graduation, Ms. Meehan continued her education at Rutgers by pursuing her Masters Degree, specializing in Transportation Engineering. She is expected to receive her Masters Degree in Spring 2004.

While at Bucknell University, Ms. Meehan was awarded a Presidential Fellowship, which provided opportunities for her to become involved in research starting early in her freshman year. Working with Dr. Richard McGinnis, she chose a fellowship in transportation safety, and her first project was an investigation of individual state Graduated Licensing Programs for teenaged drivers. In response to a call for papers, her research was presented at the Traffic Safety on Two Continents conference in Malmö, Sweden as well as the Pennsylvania Research Showcase at the Transportation Research Board meeting in Washington, D.C.

Presently, Ms. Meehan is a Graduate Assistant of the Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT) working under the direction of Dr. Kaan Ozbay, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Ms. Meehan's primary research project is an NJDOT project, The Future of Transportation Modeling, which investigates and compares transportation planning modeling software to identify future trends in the industry. Ms. Meehan's Master's Thesis investigates the toll plazas on the Garden State Parkway in New Jersey. She is interested in comparing the benefits associated with revenue generated from tolls with the costs associated with delay, accidents, and pollution. Additionally, she is investigating whether or not operational improvements to the toll plazas, such as the addition of Electronic Toll Collection, has reduced delay at the expense of safety, a serious consequence with regard to Safety Conscious Planning.

The Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey is pleased to have Anne Meehan as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

FAA Centers of Excellence WILLIAM J. HUGHES TECHNICAL CENTER

BRUNO MILLER is a native of Costa Rica and became a permanent resident of the U.S. in January of 2000. He received his Bachelor of Science (BS) degree and a Masters of Science (MS) degree in Aeronautics & Astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a MS in the Technology and Policy Program (TPP). He is currently a Ph. D. candidate in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT. The TPP masters thesis of Mr. Miller focused on mitigation of environmental effect of air transportation, particularly on emissions reductions through operational measures. His current research focuses on the impact of air transportation in the socioeconomic growth of nations and regions, especially in Third World countries. For his Ph. D. dissertation, he is developing a methodology to support rational investment decisions in air transportation infrastructure using a combination of system dynamics and Monte Carlo simulation in a real options framework. This work is being applied to various FAA's capital investment programs. Bruno was also part of an initial design team for the System for Assessing Global Emissions (SAGE), a tool that will be utilized to study the impact of aviation emissions under different scenarios.

Mr. Miller is currently consulting for the Costa Rican government diagnosing the network of local airfields and establishing a strategy for its modernization. He consulted for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) investigating the feasibility of introducing fuel-cell buses in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1999-2000. He has participated in a number of multi-disciplinary projects focused on designing relief housing for victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras (1998) and the August 1999 earthquake in Turkey. Mr. Miller is member of the National Engineering Honor Society (Tau Beta Pi) and Sigma Xi. He was recognized as a Martin Family Fellow for Sustainability for his work at MIT in 2000 and 2001 and won the Carroll L. Wilson Award for International Projects in 2002.

The FAA Centers of Excellence are proud to have Bruno Miller as Outstanding Student of the Year for 2003.

Center for Advanced Transportation Systems Simulation

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

STEVEN W. MITCHELL has a wide range of experience in both electrical and transportation systems engineering gained through positions in public agencies and in private consulting. Steven was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Central Florida and received a Master of Science degree in Transportation Engineering from the University of Florida. He is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Transportation at the University of Central Florida. Steven's dissertation work involves emergency evacuation framework. He also assisted in an airport evacuation simulation study.

Steven has been associated with numerous public agencies including the Florida Department of Transportation for which he coordinated the operation of an Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) within a major urban area. This ATMS operation included video surveillance cameras, freeway detector stations and changeable message signs. Mr. Mitchell is also the author of a white paper for the Federal Transit Administration. The paper provides an overview of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and transit rail, describing the current state if ITS technologies in the transit rail industry and estimating benefits from the application of various technologies.

Mr. Mitchell has extensive private sector experience with the c onsulting firm of Kimley-Horn and Associates, TEI Engineers & Planners of Lake Mary, FL, Mitretek Systems of Washington, DC, Barton-Aschman Associates of Dallas, TX, and Lockheed Space Operations, Titusville, FL.

The Center for Advanced Transportation Simulations at the University of Central Florida is proud to select Steven W. Mitchell as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

University Transportation Center SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

CHATAVIE METRON NEWTON is the younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Newton, Jr. from Estill, South Carolina. She is currently a junior at South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, South Carolina double majoring in Mechanical Engineering Technology and Professional Mathematics. Chatavie is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Scholar, Gates Millennium Scholar, and a Life Scholar.

During the summer of 2003 Chatavie participated on a research project entitled, Risk Management of Hazardous Materials Transportation in South Carolina with Dr. Tom C. Whitney at South Carolina State University. This project was undertaken to identify fundamental steps to strengthen South Carolina's ongoing effort to address both the safety and security of transporting hazardous materials within and across the state. It concluded with five recommendations, which address both immediate needs as well as steps to help the state meet, a serious challenge that is likely to persist far into the future.

Ms. Newton's academic performance coupled with her zealous work ethnic make her a well-qualified candidate for the award. Chatavie was selected based upon her accomplishments in her research internship this past summer, her leadership and professionalism shown both in academic and social settings. In the year 2003 alone Chatavie accumulated fifty-six college credit hours and still maintained a grade point average of 3.9.

The University Transportation Center at South Carolina State University is proud to select Chatavie Metron Newton as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

National Center for Transportation Management, Research and Development

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

BRETT RIPKIN will receive his Masters Degree of City and Regional Planning from Morgan State University in the spring of 2004. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sports Management from the University of Maryland in 1997. While attending Morgan State, he has worked on several National Transportation Center research projects, including an examination of regional environmental justice and social equity issues in transportation planning and a focus group study of pedestrian safety among youth and the elderly. While working on these projects, Brett has taken on a leadership role among the student investigators. Along with the coordination of interviews and focus group research, he has provided detailed reviews of previous research literature as well as editing and transcription work. These contributions to NTC projects have been made while Brett has maintained a perfect grade-point average during his progress toward graduation.

Brett has also demonstrated interest and potential in the transportation field with his work outside the university as well. As a Mayoral Fellow during the summer of 2003, he worked in the City of Baltimore's Department of Transportation, identifying alternative and innovative funding sources for capital transportation projects.

Upon graduation Brett desires to pursue a career in transportation planning and research. Previous to enrolling at Morgan State, he worked as a land development supervisor for U.S. Home Corporation and worked for two years as a project supervisor for Ryan Homes, a residential real estate developer.

The National Center for Transportation Management, Research, and Development is pleased to select Brett Ripkin as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year

National Center for Metropolitan Transportation Research (METRANS)

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WITH CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

JENNIFER RUSSELL is a first year Ph.D. student in Industrial and Systems Engineering, University of Southern California, where she is pursuing a field concentration in human factors and transportation system optimization. She is currently developing her dissertation proposal, and expects to conduct research on design and throughput of airport security systems, considering limits on human cognition and vigilance. Her interest is in bridging the gap between decision theory and cognitive load. The theoretical basis of her work is in organizational behavior, human cognition, and new technology implementation.

Jennifer graduated at the top of her class in the US Military Academy, West Point and served as a Transportation Officer in the US Army for 8 years, attaining the rank of Captain. She has a Masters Degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Southern California. During her brief military service, she analyzed and developed courses of action based on operational needs for the rail, air and sea deployment of over 15,000 soldiers and 5,000 pieces of U.S. and Allied Forces equipment. She also established interconnectivity between two computer networks to allow an exchange of information between U.S. Army and Air Force planners.

Jennifer has demonstrated potential to make significant contributions to the academic world and to transportation research. She received a University Provost Fellowship for PhD study, and was selected as Teaching Assistant of the Year for the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department in 2003. Jennifer has also contributed to a chapter on Human Computer Interaction in The Engineering Handbook. She also completed an internship on a Human Factors Engineering team at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. Jennifer would like to make a significant contribution to the field of human factors and transportation through innovative research and teaching in a top-ranked university.

The National Center for Metropolitan Transportation Research (METRANS) is proud to select Jennifer Russell as Outstanding Student of the Year for 2003.

Intelligent Transportation Systems Institute UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

KATHERINE SANDERSON is enrolled in the Civil Engineering Ph.D. program at the University of Minnesota. She received her Bachelor of Engineering, from the University of Sydney, Australia and her Master of Science at the University of Minnesota. She is currently a transportation engineer at URS in Minneapolis.

As a graduate student Katherine has shown excellence in the classroom earning a 3.863 GPA. She was also awarded the 2000 NCITE Graduate Scholarship and the 1999 WTS Minnesota Graduate Scholarship.

Research contributions include Building Our Way Out of Congestion?, A Network Design Problem for the Twin Cities, Development and Testing of a Vehicle/Pedestrian Collision Model for Neighborhood Traffic Control, and Why People Drive? Ms. Sanderson's thesis research attracted attention for the findings on the extent of highway expansion needed to accommodate future travel demand, and was featured on local television news and in an editorial.

Katherine has served the University of Minnesota and the transportation community in several ways. In addition, Katherine was a teaching assistant in several Transportation and Traffic Engineering classes. Dr. Gary Davis described her as a "can-do" person and a natural leader. Sanderson has proven her leadership abilities as Vice-president of the NC-ITE student chapter, President of WTS Minnesota, and by spearheading efforts to create an Interdisciplinary Transportation Student Organization (ITSO) that is now a reality and a valued networking group for students interested in transportation.

The ITS Institute 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year Award serves as a valued recognition of Kate's accomplishments to date and the contributions we expect she will make in the future.

Southwest Region University Transportation Center (Region 6)

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY W/CONSORTIUM

GRANT SCHULTZ received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in April 1994 from Brigham Young University and as well as a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering in April 1995. Grant received his Ph.D. degree at Texas A&M University in December 2003 under the guidance of Dr. L. Rilett.

During his time at Texas A&M, Grant excelled academically including the receipt of several scholarships and awards including the SWUTC Outstanding Student, the SWUTC Ph.D. Student of the Year, the ITE District 9 Outstanding Student, and an Academic Excellence Award. Grant was selected as an Eno Fellow and served as the President of the Texas A&M ITE Student Chapter. Grant has been privileged to present the results of his research at several conferences including the past three ITE Annual Meetings, the TRB 5th National Conference on Access Management, the Integrated Graduated Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Conference, and will present at the 83rd TRB Annual Meeting in 2004.

Prior to attending Texas A&M, Grant was employed as a practicing engineer in the Salt Lake City office of the consulting firm of Sear-Brown. Grant is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Utah and a Professional Traffic Operations Engineer under the Transportation Professional Certification Board, Inc. Mr. Schultz has recently accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Grant has been married to his wife Karen for 11 years and enjoys spending time with his three children, Jessica, Courtney, and Tyler.

The Southwest Region University Transportation Center (Region 6) is proud to select Grant Schultz as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

University of California Transportation Center (Region 9)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY

LISA SCHWEITZER grew up in rural lowa. She attended the University of lowa for both her baccalaureate and master's degrees, earning credentials in social work, economics, and urban planning.

Lisa's professional experience includes planning and program evaluation for the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Transportation, and more recently for Caltrans. She is currently completing a Ph.D. in Urban Planning at UCLA, where she studies the intersections between environmental and transportation planning, with a special focus on how planning and policy decisions affect impoverished and minority groups. Coupled with these are her interests in appropriate community technologies and open source software.

The University of California Transportation Center is proud to have Lisa Schweitzer at its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Transportation Institute NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY

JACINTA SIMMONS, has displayed outstanding scholarship as a member of the University Honors Program, leadership, and character at NC A&T. However, her academic success (a near perfect 4.0 grade point average) is only a small part of what she has accomplished.

Jacinta has held positions of leadership in the many campus organizations. She served as president of the campus chapter of the national transportation fraternity, Delta Nu Alpha, as well as president of the Midwest Aggie Club. Other memberships include the Honda Campus All-Star Quiz Bowl Team, Aggie Toastmasters, and voter registration volunteer for the NAACP. She served as an intern with the Central Ohio Transit Authority in Columbus in the Paratransit and Special Services Department and was a research analyst with Battelle Memorial Institute.

Jacinta enhanced her research skills as an assistant to the United Parcel Service Distinguished Professor in Transportation at NCA&TSU, Dr. Kofi Obeng. She worked on his project, Public Transit Boards: Organization, Roles, and Characteristics in which she was responsible for creating databases, implementing surveys, and analyzing research results. In addition, she participated in a co-op experience with Harley Davidson in Milwaukee and on an audit team that evaluated the performance of the parts and accessories marketing unit. She also participated on the supplier diversity team and was APICS certified in the basics of supply chain management and master planning of resources.

Jacinta is currently a Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship recipient. She was a Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) scholarship recipient and is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Golden Key honor societies.

The Transportation Institute at North Carolina A&T State University is proud to have Jacinta Simmons as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Western Transportation Institute MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, BOZEMAN

PETER SMOLENSKI is a Master's of Science Degree candidate in Mechanical Engineering at Montana State University where he also received his Bachelor's of Science degree in 2002 in Mechanical Engineering. He is currently supported by a Graduate Fellowship from the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) and has been involved in a research project to investigate deck responses of three newly-constructed bridges in Montana, designed with different deck compositions. The breadth of skills required for this project has served to promote a comprehensive Master's program for Peter while accomplishing many project goals. His many contributions began with a focus on the instrumentation and data acquisition components of the project. More recently, his efforts have been directed toward the analysis of data obtained from the bridges before they were opened to traffic. He has also been constructing a finite element model to analyze differences among the three bridge deck types. Peter will conclude his studies by compiling the results of his analysis into a thesis paper.

Peter's involvement with transportation related research has shown him that the applications of his engineering background extend much further than ever imagined. His professional interests now include finite element analysis, structural behaviors, and programming and instrumentation. His experience at WTI has inspired him to pursue a career in research.

Peter is a member of Pi Tau Sigma, Alpha Lambda Delta and National Society of Collegiate Scholars honoraries. Peter is happily married to his lovely wife Casey. He is originally from Billings, Montana and loves to flyfish.

The Western Transportation Institute is proud to have Peter Smolenski as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Southeastern Transportation Center (Region 4)

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE W/CONSORTIUM

LAVENIA TOOLE-HOLT is currently studying Civil Engineering with a focus on transportation at the University of South Florida (USF). She will graduate with her Masters of Science degree in 2004. She received a Bachelor of Science degree with Honors in Civil Engineering in 2002 from USF. Her interest in transportation and civil engineering is founded on applying her technical capabilities and her desire to improve the safety and function of the transportation system.

Mrs. Holt is an EIT and is active in several professional organizations. She is currently the vice-president of the USF Student Chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and last year served as Treasurer. She also is a member of ASCE and of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar, from which she received a student scholarship earlier this year.

Lavenia has worked at the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) since January 2002. She has contributed to numerous projects including: A Pocket Guide to Florida Transportation Trends and Conditions, the Florida Transportation Indicators Website, and the Florida Trends and Conditions Reports. She has also co-authored two papers for presentation at TRB this year from work completed on vehicle miles of travel trends: Trends in Socio-Economic Conditions and Travel Speeds and Their Influence on VMT Growth and Forecasts and Observations Regarding The Growth of U.S. Vehicle Miles of Travel. She will present the first paper at the TRB annual meeting in January 2004.

Mrs. Toole-Holt possesses the set of attributes of exceptional technical competence, excellent communication skills, strong interpersonal skills and a professional commitment that epitomize the ideal for the future transportation work force. The Southeast Transportation Center is proud to select Lavenia Toole-Holt as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year

Mountain-Plains Consortium (Region 8)

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY W/CONSORTIUM

AN VINH TRAN earned his PhD in civil engineering from Colorado State University in December 2002, Master of Science degree in May 1999and Bachelor of Science in May 1998 (Summa Cum Laude). He is a member of Chi Epsilon, Tau Beta Pl and Golden Key national honor societies.

Dr. Tran completed a computer-based study of load sharing with open-deck, timber trestle railroad bridges based on results of full-scale field load tests. The work was part of a joint project with the Transportation Technology Center of the Association of American Railroads to examine the capacity of 40+ year old bridges for contemporary train loads.

An Vinh's doctoral dissertation was titled Pier Moment Rotation Behavior of High Performance Steel HPS70W I Girders. The results will assist the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to lift code restrictions on use of such girders in bridge construction. This will optimize the use of materials and save scarce highway dollars. He completed a senior project on feasibility of a major truck bypass in Larimer County, Colorado.

During this time Dr. An Vinh Tran was also a teaching assistant, continuing as an instructor since his doctoral degree. He has taught undergraduate courses in mechanics, earning excellent teaching evaluations.

An Vinh Tran became a U.S. citizen after emigrating to the U.S. from Viet Nam following the conflict. He exhibits outstanding citizenship, participating in the Denver Rescue Mission, Open Door Mission of Fort Collins, Secret Santa, Thanksgiving Food Drive and teaching Tai Chi for senior citizens.

The Mountain Plains Consortium is proud to select An Vinh Tran as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Mid-Atlantic Universities Transportation Center (Region 3)

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY W/CONSORTIUM

GERGIS WILLIAM was born in Alexandria, Egypt. He received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with honors from Alexandria University, Egypt. After his graduation in June 1995, he joined the Consultative Bureau of Civil Constructions, Alexandria, as a structural design engineer. During his employment, he took charge of several design projects which included design of different types of hydraulic structures (Barrages, Siphons, Aqueducts, and pipelines), bridges, roads, three high-rise buildings, and three steel structures.

In 1997, he was admitted to the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at West Virginia University as a graduate student. He received Masters of Science in Civil Engineering in May 1999 and a Doctor of Philosophy in August 2003. During his graduate work, he was employed as a graduate research assistant and participated in many research projects funded by West Virginia Division of Highways, MAUTC, and FHWA. His work involved an extensive use of 3D Finite Element simulation as well as instrumentations. He published about 19 research papers in professional journals and conferences, and refereed conference proceedings. To continue his work begun earlier, Gergis is currently becoming hired by West Virginia University to work as a research assistant professor.

Gergis William exemplifies the level of excellence in scholarship, professionalism, and achievement that is reflected in MAUTC's mission and ultimately in this award.

It is for his outstanding academic performance, technical merit, and service to both the University and the surrounding community that the Mid-Atlantic Transportation Center is pleased to select Gergis William as its 2002 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Infrastructure Technology Institute NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

JOHN WIRTZ is currently a second-year graduate student at Northwestern University and is pursuing a Master's degree in transportation engineering, and expects to graduate in March.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, John received his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering, cum laude, with distinction, from The Ohio State University in June, 2002. At Ohio State, John was an active participant in numerous university and professional organizations including serving as the president of ASCE, the president of the club volleyball team, the treasurer of Chi Epsilon, the web-master for the OSU-COTA Partnership Advisory Committee, and a member of Tau Beta Pi. While at Northwestern, he was a co-chair of the transportation club and a former member of the club volleyball team. Additionally, John is serving as the Exhibit Coordinator for the Transport Chicago 2004 Conference. His current research involves pre-planning traffic disruption mitigation techniques for incident management. He is also interested in public transportation and New Urbanism.

The Infrastructure Technology Institute at Northwestern University is proud to select John Wirtz as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Midwest Regional University Transportation Center (Region 5)

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON W/CONSORTIUM

REBECCA WUELLNER, a Masters Candidate in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has been selected as Outstanding Student of the Year in Transportation. Rebecca's research focuses on evaluating ultrasonic methods of detecting cracking in steel bridge members, particularly in welded details.

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison Rebecca maintains a 3.8 grade point average, is an active member of the Society for Women in Engineering, and received the prestigious Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowship during her undergraduate studies. As well as serving as a Teaching Assistant for the Structural Analysis course in Civil Engineering.

In addition to her academic achievements, Rebecca has worked in both the Bridge Maintenance and the Bridge Design Sections of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Rebecca consistently demonstrates her ability to leverage her understanding of complex problems and technology applications with innovative solutions.

The Midwest Regional University Transportation Center is proud to select Rebecca Wuellner as its 2003 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Regional UTCs and Consortium Members

REGION 1: Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, MA

Harvard University, University of Connecticut, University of Maine, University of Massachusetts, University of New Hampshire, University of Rhode Island, University of Vermont

REGION II: City University of New York, New York, NY

Cornell University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, New York University, Polytechnic University, Princeton University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rutgers University, SUNY, Stevens Institute of Technology, University of Puerto Rico

REGION III: Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

University of Pennsylvania, University of Virginia, Virginia Polytechnic, West Virginia University

REGION IV: University of Tennessee,

Knoxville, TN

Duke University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina State University, University of Florida, University of Kentucky, University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), University of South Florida, Vanderbilt University

REGION V: University of Wisconsin, Madison, Madison, WI

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, Marquette University, Northwestern University, Richard J. Daley College, University of Cincinnati, University of Chicago, University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee)

REGION VI: Texas A&M University,

College Station, TX

Texas Southern University, University of Texas (Austin)

REGION VII: Iowa State University,

Ames, IA

Lincoln University, University of Missouri (Columbia), University of Missouri (Kansas City), University of Missouri (St. Louis), University of Northern Iowa

REGION VIII: North Dakota State University,

Fargo, ND

Colorado State University, University of Utah, University of Wyoming

REGION IX: University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

University of California (Davis), University of California (Irvine), University of California (Los Angeles), University of California (Riverside), University of California (Santa Barbara), University of California (San Francisco), University of California (Santa Cruz), University of California (San Diego)

REGION X: University of Washington,

Seattle, WA

Oregon State University, Portland State University, University of Alaska (Fairbanks), University of Idaho, Washington State University

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