University Transportation Centers

17th Annual Outstanding Student of the Year Awards

Transportation Research Board
87th Annual Meeting

Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, DC

January 12, 2008

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

WELCOME

Welcome to the 17th Annual Outstanding Student of the Year Awards ceremony, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

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

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

University Transportation Centers Program

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

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

The mission of the UTCs is to advance U.S. technology and expertise in transportation through education, research, and technology transfer. Of the 60 UTCs, 52 are required to match federal funds dollar for dollar.

The UTC Program is managed by the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

Federal Aviation Administration
Air Transportation Centers of Excellence

Under the authority provided in Public Law 101-508, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) establishes geographically equitable, multiyear, cost-sharing partnerships with academia, industry, government, and Air Transportation Centers of Excellence (COEs). These centers focus on critical aviation-related topics while maximizing federal resources. Supporting FAA and meeting the requirements of the aviation community, Air Transportation COEs perform basic research through engineering development and prototyping, education, and training.

The purpose of these competitive partnerships is to forge nationwide unions with the public sector (FAA, airport authorities, state/local governments, etc.), private sector (airlines, manufacturers, etc.), and academic institutions. Through COEs, the FAA defines a strategic research agenda and sets goals that facilitate coordinated research activities, fosters a collaborative national dialogue, and avoids duplication of effort. The FAA deliberately strives to create world-class consortia focused on identifying innovative solutions for existing and anticipated aviation problems, and enhances the nation's knowledge base while educating and training a pool of scientists for the next generation.

Since 1992, the FAA has established eight COE partnerships with more than 70 universities throughout the U.S. and has supported over 550 research projects and 1,000 students. Important research outcomes are documented in over 2,000 publications, reports, and doctoral theses. FAA COEs now reflect a $300 million level of effort, funded through matching funds provided by academia, industry, federal grants, and contracts.

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

Amanda Gale Adams
University of Oklahoma

Mesgana Ayele
Morgan State University

Gregory A. Barding, Jr.
California State University, San Bernardino

Timothy J. Bates
Michigan Technical University

Natalie Beck
North Dakota State University

Shane D. Boone
Utah State University

Andrew F. Braham
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Brandi Childress
San Jose State University

Samir Dhar
University of Toledo

Monique Ellis
University of Southern Florida

Oren Eshel
Portland State University

Sean P. Fergus
California State University, Long Beach

Eric J. Fitzsimmons
Iowa State University of Science and Technology

Megan Brett Gaudet
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Mason Gemar
The Pennsylvania State University

Nikolas Geroliminis
University of California, Berkeley

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

John Gregory Green
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Karen Greenwalt
Cleveland State University

Genesis Harrod
University of Florida

David J. Holdener
Missouri University of Science and Technology

William A. Holloway
University of Wisconsin

Eric Jackson
University of Connecticut

Mary A. Leary
George Mason University

Xiugang Li
Texas A&M University

Guillermo Madrigal
University of Idaho

Darren N. Moore
University of Akron

Kevin D. Moriarty
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Jennifer A. Pazour
University of Arkansas

LaTonya Peeples
South Carolina State University

Kelly Pitera
University of Washington

Michael Rakauskas
University of Minnesota

Benjamin Reim
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

University Transportation Centers

Outstanding Students of the Year

William Rhodes
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Craig Schiller
University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Christopher C. Schroeder
University of Detroit-Mercy

Jeffrey Sharkey
Montana State University

Benjamin Layman Shepherd
University of Utah

Amy E. Thompson
University of Rhode Island

Nathan Tregger
Northwestern University

Elaine Wang
University of Vermont

Kyle Warta
Kansas State University

Stephanie Victoria Watson
University of Alabama, Birmingham

Jonathan Weinert
University of California, Davis

Sarah Weissman
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Jennifer Mae Wieland
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Meghan Wieters
Texas A&M University

Amanda Gale Adams
University of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Transportation Center

A lifelong resident of Oklahoma City, Amanda Gale Adams is a master's degree candidate in geotechnical engineering at the University of Oklahoma. She graduated cum laude in May 2007 with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering.

Amanda started working as an honors research assistant with Dr. Amy Cerato in 2006 and is currently a graduate research assistant. She is the first author of a paper that was accepted for publication and presentation at the annual GeoCongress conference in March 2008 in New Orleans.

Amanda was selected for this award because of her important contributions to the transportation community through her work on the effects of natural sulfate content in soils during lime stabilization. The Oklahoma Transportation Center is pleased to select Amanda Gale Adams as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Mesgana Ayele
Morgan State University

National Transportation Center

Mesgana Ayele is a Master of Science degree candidate in the Department of Transportation and Urban Infrastructure Studies, with a focus on traffic engineering, at Morgan State University. He is currently employed as a transportation engineer at the Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) in Baltimore. The MdTA is responsible for toll bridges, tunnels, and roads. Mesgana also has interned at the Maryland State Highway Administration.

Mesgana received his primary education in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, in 2004.

Mesgana is a recipient of an Eisenhower Graduate Fellowship and is actively researching implementation methods of Vehicle-Infrastructure Integration Systems (VII).

The National Transportation Center is pleased to select Mesgana Ayele as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Gregory A. Barding, Jr.
California State University, San Bernardino

Leonard University Transportation Center
at California State University

Gregory A. Barding, Jr., is a senior-year chemistry major who is working on two separate projects in transportation research for the Chemistry and Physics Departments at California State University, San Bernardino. The first project is a study of the long-term stability of the polyelectrolyte membrane (Nafion®) that exists in most common fuel cells. The second project focuses on the catalyst material within the fuel cells that facilitates the conversion of hydrogen and oxygen into electricity and water. Gregory has taken ownership of his research and is performing admirably. He is an honors student who has made the dean's list repeatedly.

Gregory was chosen for this award due to his research accomplishments and his high academic performance. The Leonard University Transportation Center at California State University is pleased to select Gregory A. Barding, Jr., as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Timothy J. Bates
Michigan Technical University

Center for Materials in Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure (MiSTI)

Timothy J. Bates is a Master of Science degree candidate in civil engineering at Michigan Technical University. He is representing the University Transportation Center (UTC) for Materials in Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure (MiSTI). In 2007, he participated in MiSTI's first UTC Summer Scholars program, designed to mentor undergraduates and new graduate students toward graduate research assistantships while furthering new research.

Timothy's transportation expertise is in the area of the effects of potassium acetate deicer on airport surfaces built with Portland cement concrete. He presented at the first International RAC07 conference in Washington, DC. His paper, "Comparison of Field and Laboratory Concretes Exposed to Potassium Acetate Runway Deicer," was published in the conference proceedings, *Recent Advances in Concrete Technology*, in September 2007. His data will be used to develop alkali profiles in concrete pavements to determine failure mechanisms and will also form the basis for his thesis. Timothy expects to present his findings at a future Portland Cement Association conference.

In addition to his scholarly activities, Timothy served as director of the 2007 North Central Conference Concrete Canoe Competition. He has held leadership positions in the Michigan Tech ASCE Student Chapter and the Pavement Design, Construction, and Materials Enterprise program.

Timothy plans to complete his graduate program in May 2008 and to pursue a career in structural engineering with an emphasis on materials.

The Center for Materials in Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure is pleased to select Timothy J. Bates as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Natalie Beck
North Dakota State University

Small Urban and Rural Transit Center

Natalie Beck is a master's degree candidate in emergency management at North Dakota State University (NDSU). She previously earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from NDSU. Her master's thesis is entitled "Evacuation Simulation: Utilizing Evacuation Behavior Models with Traffic Simulation to More Effectively Simulate an Evacuation."

Currently, Natalie is employed by the Small Urban and Rural Transit Center as a graduate research assistant. Her area of interest is the role of transportation in emergency operations. At the Center, she has worked on an array of projects, including research examining the planning differences between rural and urban communities with regard to the role of public transportation in emergency operations. She has also become the student expert on the use of geographic information system (GIS) software.

Natalie was selected for this award on the basis of her excellent communications skills and her other academic contributions. The Small Urban and Rural Transit Center is pleased to select Natalie Beck as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Shane D. Boone
Utah State University

Utah Transportation Center

Shane D. Boone is pursuing a PhD in civil engineering at Utah State University. He is also employed by the Department of Energy in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Shane performed his undergraduate work and obtained his Master of Science degree in civil engineering at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. His master's thesis focused on the dynamic testing of a mass concrete fill. During this period, Shane met Dr. James A. Bay, whose research on stress-wave propagation and seismic testing of soils led him to enroll in the doctoral program. Shane is studying under Dr. Bay's direction as well as that of Dr. Paul Barr, Dr. Marvin W. Halling, Dr. Kevin C. Womack, and Dr. Thomas H. Fronk.

Shane helped to develop a combined stress-wave propagation method that incorporates several testing and analysis techniques to determine stiffness profiles and detect voids in tunnel linings and other concrete structures. He is currently applying these techniques to obtain nondestructive stress and strain measurements of several self-consolidating pre-stressed concrete bridge girders. He also developed an excitation device to detect damage in cyclically loaded concrete specimens. The ultimate goal of Shane's research is to develop instrumentation that could be embedded in concrete structures in order to obtain continuous stress-wave readings for assessing instantaneous material properties. This could lead to applications ranging from simple structural assessments to the development of "smart" structures.

After he completes his PhD program, Shane will return to Oak Ridge to continue his research and to work as a lead structural engineer.

The Utah Transportation Center is pleased to select Shane D. Boone as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Andrew F. Braham
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

FAA Center of Excellence for Airport Technology

Andrew F. Braham is a PhD candidate in civil engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, where he is studying the behavior of asphalt concrete for use in airport pavement rehabilitation under the direction of Professor William G. Buttlar. His research involves identifying and summarizing the most recent studies and technologies related to reflective cracking mechanisms and mechanics-based modeling of pavement overlay systems, as well as conducting mixed-mode fracture tests on asphalt concrete materials. Andrew's work has contributed to the Federal Aviation Administration's Centers of Excellence project "Development of New Methodologies for Mechanistic Design of Asphalt Overlays."

Andrew graduated from the University of Wisconsin with Bachelor's and Master's of Science degrees in civil engineering in 2000 and 2002, respectively. His master's thesis was entitled "The Use of Blended Recycled Foundry Sand in Hot Mix Asphalt."

He was assistant director of the 2007 Transportation and Highway Engineering Conference, and he founded the new Illinois Asphalt Paving Association (IAPA) hot-mix asphalt student design competition. He is also very active in the University of Illinois Leadership Center. He has received numerous honors, including the Ernest L. Docter Memorial Scholarship (from the IAPA) in both 2006 and 2007, the 2006 Walter K. Parr National Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists Scholarship, and a graduate fellowship in engineering from the University of Illinois.

Andrew was chosen for the UTC award because of his outstanding scholarship, his strong leadership skills, and his professional achievements. The FAA Center of Excellence for Airport Technology is pleased to select Andrew F. Braham as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Brandi Childress
San Jose State University

The Mineta Transportation Institute

Brandi Childress is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Transportation Management program, sponsored by the Mineta Transportation Institute, at San Jose State University.

In 2001, she was hired as a public communication specialist for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority in San Jose. She was recently promoted to community outreach supervisor. Brandi has managed the community outreach effort on some of the biggest highway interchange projects in Santa Clara County, including the $125 million Route 85/U.S. 101 North Interchange project in Mountain View and the Interstate 880/Coleman Avenue Interchange project in San Jose. She has also been a key team member in community outreach efforts being undertaken on the $4.7 billion BART to Silicon Valley project. In 1996, she helped to successfully communicate a $1.6 billion sales-tax initiative to community leaders and voters in Santa Clara County.

Brandi was selected for this award because of her professional and academic achievements and her determination to excel in the field of public transportation. The Mineta Transportation Institute is pleased to select Brandi Childress as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Samir Dhar
University of Toledo

University Transportation Center at the University of Toledo

Samir Dhar was born in Mumbai, India. He has an MBA in information technology (IT) and a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and biochemistry (minor concentration, dyes and drugs). Samir augmented his skill set by also working toward a master's degree in transportation planning/geographic information systems (GIS) in the Department of Geography and Planning.

Systems that Samir has developed and/or managed include the GIS Data-Viewer for the Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study; the Great Lakes Maritime Information Delivery System for the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute; the GIS of all ports and docks in the Great Lakes region for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the GIS for the City of Toledo, Ohio; EMS routing between emergency centers and trauma centers; a detailed regional database of international air freight import/export volumes from the United States to Europe, Asia, and South America; and location analysis for site selection for retail outlets and fire stations.

Samir was selected for this award because of the integral role that he played in the successful completion of the Corridor Study and the combination of IT and academic rigor that he brings to his research. The University Transportation Center at the University of Toledo is pleased to select Samir Dhar as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Monique Ellis
University of South Florida

National Center for Transit Research at CUTR

Monique Ellis is pursuing both a master's degree in civil engineering and a graduate certificate in interdisciplinary transportation studies, which comprises courses in transportation engineering, public administration, and economics, at the University of South Florida (USF). She is also a graduate research assistant at the National Center for Transit Research (NCTR) at USF's Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR).

Monique has assisted with an NCTR-funded project entitled "Incorporating Transit and Other Multimodal Strategies into the Florida Department of Transportation Development of Regional Impact Review Process." Her responsibilities involved performing literature summaries, documenting relevant performance measures, and researching potential interview questions. She has also assisted with other public transportation projects, providing research support for assessing financial or in-kind contributions from land developers and documenting improved mobility techniques for state roadway facilities.

Prior to attending USF, Monique received her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Monique is secretary of USF's student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. She received the American Public Transportation Association's Louis T. Klauder Scholarship Award as well as a Southeastern Transportation Center Student Fellowship.

Monique was selected for this award on the basis of her exceptional academic performance, her contributions to a variety of research projects, and the consistency of her professional aspirations with the theme of NCTR. The National Center for Transit Research at the Center for Urban Transportation Research is pleased to select Monique Ellis as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Oren Eshel
Portland State University

Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium

Oren Eshel is a master's degree candidate in urban and regional planning at Portland State University (PSU) in Oregon. He is also an intern in the City of Portland's Transportation Planning section.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography from the University of California at Berkeley, Oren managed the systems engineering group at San Francisco International Airport, where he worked on information technology planning in support of airport infrastructure projects. He embarked on his graduate studies to focus on public transit, equity in the provision of transit services, and regional planning. It was his interest in the last of these areas that drew him to Portland.

At PSU, Oren is a research assistant in the Intelligent Transportation Systems Laboratory, where he is working on a project to evaluate an adaptive ramp-metering system in the Portland region. He is president of the PSU transportation student group and Institute of Transportation Engineers chapter. He coordinated the fall 2007 Transportation Northwest District 10 Student Conference, which was attended by more than 70 students from across the region.

Oren was nominated for this award not only because he excels at research and in the classroom but because he has made a significant mark on the multidisciplinary transportation program at PSU. The Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium is pleased to select Oren Eshel as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Sean P. Fergus
California State University, Long Beach

National Center for Metropolitan Transportation Research (METRANS)

Sean P. Fergus is a Master of Arts degree candidate in economics at California State University, Long Beach. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of California, San Diego. After completing his master's degree, Sean intends to pursue a doctoral degree in economics.

Sean's primary research interests are transportation and international trade, and he has worked as a research assistant for numerous professors in both areas. In particular, he assisted in research on traffic mitigation fees and congestion pricing at the San Pedro Bay Ports. He is currently involved in a year-long research project focusing on the economic impact of international trade and transportation at the Port of Long Beach.

The National Center for Metropolitan Transportation Research is pleased to select Sean P. Fergus as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Eric J. Fitzsimmons
Iowa State University of Science and Technology
Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE)

Eric J. Fitzsimmons is pursuing his PhD in transportation engineering at Iowa State University (ISU) and is a research assistant at the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE). He received a master's degree in transportation engineering from ISU in 2007. He also holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from ISU.

Eric's recent research, under the guidance of Dr. Shauna Hallmark, has focused on multiple areas of traffic safety. He has evaluated the effectiveness of traffic-calming devices along major routes in rural Iowa and in work zones as well as that of the state's three automated red-light-running enforcement programs. He has also performed speed studies for research projects at CTRE.

Eric has presented his research findings at the Midwest Transportation Consortium (MTC) Scholars Conference, the Mid-Continent Research Symposium, and the Missouri Valley Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. His paper on the effectiveness of automated red-light-running enforcement won the MTC's fall student-paper competition. At ISU, he has been a guest lecturer for civil engineering classes and is involved in the Transportation Student Association.

Eric was selected for this award on the basis of his academic and research achievements and his participation in student activities related to transportation. The Center for Transportation Research and Education is pleased to select Eric J. Fitzsimmons as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Megan Brett Gaudet
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

New England University Transportation Center (Region 1)

Megan Brett Gaudet is pursuing joint master's degrees in transportation and operations research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Megan received a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering from MIT in 2004. Prior to returning to MIT, she worked as a management consultant at McKinsey and Company, serving a variety of aerospace and transportation clients.

While at MIT, Megan's main research activities have been in the areas of air transportation and airport infrastructure. Her primary research focuses on air navigation user fees. In concert with the FAA and the North Atlantic Economic Finance Group, she is exploring the harmonization of fee structures in the North Atlantic airspace. She has also conducted research on airline revenue management for a consortium of airlines and performed a study of aviation infrastructure costs in the United States.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Megan competes in triathlons, plays soccer, and enjoys traveling. She has also served as president of the MIT chapters of both the Society of Women Engineers and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Megan was selected for this award on the basis of the depth and breadth of her research activities, her leadership potential, and her professional experience. The New England University Transportation Center is pleased to select Megan Brett Gaudet as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Mason Gemar
The Pennsylvania State University

Mid-Atlantic Universities Transportation Center (Region 3)

Mason Gemar earned his master's and bachelor's degrees in civil engineering from Penn State's Pennsylvania Transportation Institute and Iowa State University, respectively, in 2007 and 2003. He is currently employed by HDR Engineering Inc. in Austin, Texas.

At Penn State, Mason was the lead student on a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation/Mid-Atlantic UTC research project to evaluate the operational effects of wide edge lines applied to horizontal curves on two-lane rural highways. He was instrumental in estimating negative binomial regression models of crash occurrence and developing crash severity distributions at interchange locations in Minnesota for a National Cooperative Highway Research Program project. He was also the lecture series chairperson on the Engineering Graduate Student Council and served on the College of Engineering research symposium committee, organizing several sessions for the graduate student research showcase.

Prior to entering graduate school, Mason was employed by HNTB, an engineering, architecture, and planning firm in Overland Park, Kansas. As an undergraduate student, Mason was a laboratory assistant at the Center for Transportation Research and Education, where he conducted research for the Iowa Pavement Management Program and aided in studies for the Iowa Traffic Safety Data Service.

Mason was selected for this award on the basis of his superb academic and technical accomplishments and his significant professional and leadership skills. The Mid-Atlantic Universities Transportation Center is pleased to select Mason Gemar as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Nikolas Geroliminis
University of California, Berkeley

University of California Transportation Center (Region 9)

Nikolas Geroliminis is a PhD candidate in the University of California, Berkeley, transportation engineering program. His dissertation (under the guidance of Dr. Carlos Daganzo) focuses on the management of traffic in urban centers. An expert in transportation science, traffic theory, and traffic control, Nikolas has already published a number of journal articles and working papers. His work is funded by the Volvo Center of Excellence on Future Urban Transport and by a UCTC project. An enthusiastic teacher, Nikolas has accepted an assistant professorship at the University of Minnesota, which will begin in January 2008.

The University of California Transportation Center is pleased to select Nikolas Geroliminis as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

John Gregory Green
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Transportation Research Center

John Gregory Green is a PhD candidate in transportation at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). He has a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degree in civil engineering from Northwestern University and Purdue University, respectively. He also has an MBA from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. Before joining UNLV, John worked as a field engineer for the Canadian National/Illinois Central Railroad in Jackson.

At UNLV, John has been very active in the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), serving as president of the student chapter in 2002–2003. His academic accomplishments include technical paper presentations at the 2007 ITE District 6 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon; the 2007 ITE Intermountain Section 47th Annual Meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and the 2002 Fall Transportation Conference in Las Vegas, where he was a cowinner of the Best Student Paper Award. In 2003, he won the American Society of Civil Engineers Jack E. Leisch Memorial National Graduate Fellowship.

John is a professional engineer (PE) in the states of Nevada, Illinois, and Arizona, and a member of the academic honor societies Tau Beta Pi and Phi Kappa Phi.

John was nominated for this award on the basis of his academic achievements. The Transportation Research Center is pleased to select John Gregory Green as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Karen Greenwalt
Cleveland State University

University Transportation Center for Work Zone Safety and Efficiency

Karen Greenwalt recently completed her graduate studies in the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering at Cleveland State University. She also has a Bachelor of Science degree in actuarial sciences from Ohio University.

As a graduate student, Karen investigated work-zone crash data covering a five-year span to determine factors contributing to the crashes. She created scenarios with use of a high-fidelity driving simulator, replicating the layout of the work zones. The zones were then programmed to comply with Ohio Department of Transportation regulations in order to improve safety for workers and drivers.

The University Transportation Center for Work Zone Safety and Efficiency is pleased to select Karen Greenwalt as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Genesis Harrod
University of Florida

Center for Multimodal Solutions for Congestion Mitigation (CMS)

Genesis Harrod is the first student to have been accepted into the University of Florida's concurrent master's degree program in transportation engineering and urban and regional planning. Her focus is on transportation and geographic information systems (GIS). She is currently a research assistant in a study of the benefits and barriers to sustainable transportation projects on university campuses.

Genesis was raised in Orlando, Florida, where she attended Dr. Phillips High School. She was a member of the marching band and participated in the Center for International Studies. She began attending the University of Florida in 2002, majoring first in physics and then in actuarial science. Reflecting her deep interest in patterns and logic, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 2007.

Outside of academia, Genesis enjoys karate and aikido and has taken part in martial arts seminars and competitions. She served as president of Butokukan Karate at the University of Florida and as a graduate senator in the university's student government.

The Center for Multimodal Solutions for Congestion Mitigation is pleased to select Genesis Harrod as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

David J. Holdener
Missouri University of Science and Technology

UMR-Missouri University of Science and Technology UTC

David J. Holdener is a Master of Science degree candidate in civil engineering at the Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T). He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering, graduating magna cum laude, from the University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR) in 2004.

For his master's research, David has studied and made technical contributions to several aspects of fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) bridge applications, including field validation of existing bridges strengthened with FRP and new bridges employing FRP technologies. His faculty adviser is Dr. John J. Myers.

As an undergraduate, David was a member of the UMR chapters of the American Society of Civil Engineers and Tau Beta Pi, the National Engineering Honor Society. He served as social chair of Chi Epsilon, the National Civil Engineering Honor Society, and as treasurer of the UMR Concrete Canoe Team. As a graduate student, he has been involved with the UMR-Missouri S&T PCI Big Beam Competition Team, helping it to secure a second-place regional finish.

David was selected for this award on the basis of his outstanding academic performance, the technical merit of his research topic, and his service to the University and the surrounding community. The UMR-Missouri University of Science and Technology UTC is pleased to select David J. Holdener as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

William A. Holloway
University of Wisconsin

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

William A. Holloway is a master's degree candidate in urban and regional planning, specializing in transportation and land use with an emphasis on public finance. After graduation he will pursue a career focused on the interaction between transportation-related infrastructure and land use in urban areas.

Since he began working for the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE) in 2006, William has played a major role in the production of the *Wisconsin Trucker's Guide*, a succinct resource for state commercial freight policies and operations; written newsletter articles; researched (through the Mississippi Valley Freight Coalition) commercial truck parking and freight flows; and helped the Center to prepare for and conduct several major conferences, including the 2007 Council of University Transportation Centers Summer Meeting and the Mid-Continent Transportation Research Forum 2006: Making Research Pay Off.

William has been a member of the Student Bus Pass Advisory Committee and was one of three student representatives on the university's Campus Transportation Committee, with responsibility for negotiating an unlimited transit pass program to be made available to all students, staff, and faculty.

The National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education is pleased to select William A. Holloway as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Eric Jackson
University of Connecticut

The Connecticut Transportation Institute

Eric Jackson is a PhD candidate at the University of Connecticut (UConn). He is currently employed by the Connecticut Transportation Institute, where he conducts research and community outreach.

Eric has a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in civil engineering, obtained from the University of Kentucky and UConn in 2002 and 2005, respectively. Between the two programs, he served a brief internship as a design engineer.

Most of Eric's research has focused on collecting and modeling on-board real-world vehicle emissions. He has presented his work to the Transportation Research Board (TRB) over the last four years and has had three papers published in the *Transportation Research Record*.

Eric was involved in restarting the UConn chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. The chapter's ambitious first project was the development of a bicycle master plan for the Storrs campus. On the basis of over 2,000 surveys, it made recommendations to improve ridership and safety, which were accepted by the university planning committee and will be incorporated into the campus design.

The Connecticut Transportation Institute is pleased to select Eric Jackson as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Mary A. Leary
George Mason University

The Center for Transportation and Economic Development

Mary A. Leary is a PhD candidate at George Mason University's School of Public Policy, where her research centers on the relationship between long-term-care reform at the state level, especially as related to Medicaid cost savings, and states' efforts to increase transportation options for seniors.

Mary has more than 20 years of experience in the public and private sectors. Her work in transportation policy began in January 2004 with a study of state- and transit-agency transportation coordination from the planning and service perspectives. The research was done at the U.S. Administration on Aging as part of a George Mason University Masters certificate internship in gerontology. The findings provided a springboard for both academic research and work at the federal level to improve transportation services for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people with limited income.

For the last three years, Mary has represented the Administration on Aging on the Federal Transit Administration's interagency initiative United We Ride, managing a number of projects aimed at enhancing coordination in community transportation. She has presented on human services transportation issues at major conferences and has collaborated with national aging and transit organizations.

The Center for Transportation and Economic Development is pleased to select Mary A. Leary as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Xiugang Li
Texas A&M University

The Southwest Region University Transportation Center (Region 6)

Xiugang Li is a PhD candidate in the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University and a fellow in the Transportation Scholars Program of the Southwest Region University Transportation Center (SWUTC). A registered professional engineer in the state of Louisiana, he has a Doctor of Highway Engineering (DE) degree from Southeast University in Nanjing, China.

Prior to coming to Texas A&M, Xiugang served as an adjunct assistant professor at Southern University in Baton Rouge and as a postdoctoral research associate at Texas Southern University, a consortium member of the SWUTC.

Xiugang's research interests are in transit, traffic operations, air quality, and highway safety analysis. He has published more than 20 journal and conference proceedings papers in these areas. Currently, he serves as a research associate on a SWUTC project, "Performance Assessment and Comparison between Fixed and Flexible Transit Services for Different Urban Settings and Demand Distributions."

He is a student member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Xiugang was chosen for this award on the basis of his dedication and his outstanding academic and research capabilities. His future career as a researcher and teacher in transportation will extend and improve on the high quality of the contributions he has already made to the profession. The Southwest Region University Transportation Center is pleased to select Xiugang Li as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Guillermo Madrigal
University of Idaho

National Institute of Transportation Technology

Guillermo Madrigal grew up in Shelley, a town of about 3,000 in southeast Idaho. The fifth of seven children, he is the first in his family to have attended college. After two years at Idaho State University, he transferred to the University of Idaho (UI), where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering in 2006. He began his graduate studies later that year.

Guillermo is conducting his research under the direction of Dr. Michael Dixon, focusing on how cycle failure can be used as a performance measure. He has shown an exceptional ability to help other students become familiar with research and modeling techniques. He has been a teaching assistant for UI's introductory course in transportation engineering.

During the summers of 2004 and 2005, Guillermo participated in U.S. DOT's Summer Transportation Internship Program for Diverse Groups, working in Boston on the Central Artery/Tunnel Project and in New York on the Third Avenue Bridge Project. As president of UI's student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, he organized a field trip to Washington, DC, and in 2006 he organized a two-day conference for Region X students.

Guillermo was chosen for this award because of the merit of his research, his academic performance, and his exceptional professionalism and leadership. The National Institute of Transportation Technology is pleased to select Guillermo Madrigal as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Darren N. Moore
University of Akron

The Ohio Transportation Consortium

Darren N. Moore is a master's degree candidate in civil engineering with a focus on transportation safety at the University of Akron, where he previously received his bachelor's degree in that field. He also works as a contract compliance graduate assistant for the university's chief financial officer.

Darren has a strong background in the management and transportation fields. He has had internships in the Ohio Department of Transportation and in GPD Group's Transportation Design Department. In his first few months as a graduate student, he coauthored two research proposals, one aimed at fostering international engineering relations and the other at increasing the safety and efficiency of law enforcement in the engineering field. He is currently playing an integral role in research for the Environmental Protection Agency, assisting in its efforts to improve air quality in the United States.

He is an active member of many student-leadership organizations and administrative committees that concentrate on campus growth in areas such as roadway and parking design, on preparing students for a role in global commerce, and on progressive development opportunities for the university.

Darren was selected for this award because of his enthusiasm for transportation research, his forward-thinking approach to design, and his continuing efforts to facilitate engineering-focused growth between academia and business. The Ohio Transportation Consortium is pleased to select Darren N. Moore as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kevin D. Moriarty
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of Massachusetts Transportation Center

Kevin D. Moriarty is employed by the transportation firm of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., in its Vienna, Virginia office. His primary responsibility has been the optimization of signal timings for intersection improvements throughout Fairfax County.

Kevin was born and raised in western Massachusetts in the town of Ware. He graduated from Ware High School as valedictorian of the class of 2002. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 2006, graduating cum laude. He then returned to the university to pursue a Master of Science degree in civil engineering with a transportation concentration, receiving his degree in 2007. Kevin will present the findings of his thesis, entitled "Modeling the Impacts of Highway Work Zone Strategies Along Interstates in Massachusetts and Rhode Island," at the 2008 Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting.

The University of Massachusetts Transportation Center is pleased to select Kevin D. Moriarty as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jennifer A. Pazour
University of Arkansas

Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center

Jennifer A. Pazour is a PhD candidate in industrial engineering at the University of Arkansas. She graduated from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial engineering in 2006. Jennifer plans to pursue a career in academia after receiving her doctoral degree.

Jennifer's research interests are in transportation, materials handling, and healthcare logistics. The focus of her work at the Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center is on reducing the amount of freight traffic on the current highway system through the deployment of a national high-speed rail system. She has developed a model that will help in determining where to build high-speed rail arcs in the United States for freight distribution. Initial results indicate that a relatively small investment in a high-speed network will lead to significant reductions in both freight transit times and the amount of freight traffic on the nation's highways. She presented this research at the INFORMS National Conference in November 2007.

Jennifer has demonstrated exceptional research skills, strong academic ability, and active service to her field. She was selected for this award because of her overall contribution to the academic community at the University of Arkansas. The Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center is pleased to select Jennifer A. Pazour as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

LaTonya Peeples
South Carolina State University

James E. Clyburn University Transportation Center

LaTonya Peeples is a candidate for a Master of Science degree in transportation at South Carolina State University's James E. Clyburn University Transportation Center. Her thesis is entitled "A Comparative Study on High Fatality Rates on Rural Two-Lane Highways in the States of South Carolina vs. Georgia." She will receive her degree in May 2008 and will then pursue a career in city transportation systems planning.

LaTonya earned her bachelor's degree in computer science from South Carolina State University in 2004, graduating cum laude. During the course of her studies, she received the Presidential Bronze Medallion Honor Award and a State of South Carolina Life Scholarship, and was on both the dean's list and the honor roll.

She completed an internship as an information technology assistant at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Athens, Georgia. While there, she assisted management and staff in developing website projects, designing the website homepage, and analyzing the database.

LaTonya was selected for this award because of her outstanding academic achievements and her continued research in transportation. The James E. Clyburn University Transportation Center is pleased to select LaTonya Peeples as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kelly Pitera
University of Washington

Transportation Northwest (Region 10)

Kelly Pitera is a graduate student at the University of Washington, where she is completing a Master of Science degree in civil engineering with a certificate in global trade, transportation, and logistics. Her research interests include freight mobility and logistics. Currently, she is exploring relationships between supply-chain structure and transportation resiliency.

Kelly received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Villanova University. Upon graduation, she was employed by Berger/ABAM Engineers, a structural and civil engineering consulting firm in Seattle. There, she was responsible for bridge and roadway design for numerous transportation and public works projects. She obtained her professional engineering license in 2005.

She attended the 2007 Eno Leadership Development Conference. She served as president of the University of Washington student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers student chapter.

Kelly's future goals include teaching and pursuing a PhD degree at the University of Washington. Transportation Northwest is pleased to select Kelly Pitera as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Michael Rakauskas
University of Minnesota

The National Center for ITS Implementation Research

Michael Rakauskas is a PhD candidate in cognitive and biological psychology at the University of Minnesota. His current research focuses on the design, management, and analysis of research initiatives from both test tracks and simulated environments. Recently, he was involved in the design and implementation of a driving simulator study that examined the effects of users' interactions with the 511 public traveler information system. The goal of the research was to explore alternative menu structures that may improve these interactions, potentially reducing search times and increasing driving safety. Michael's adviser has noted that "his hard work has made some of our more difficult challenges appear straightforward."

Michael received his Master of Science degree in applied psychology from Clemson University and his Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Miami University.

Michael was selected for this award on the basis of his academic excellence, his active involvement in numerous professional organizations related to transportation, and his various publications. The National Center for ITS Implementation Research is pleased to select Michael Rakauskas as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Benjamin Reim
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

University Transportation Research Center (Region 2)

Benjamin Reim is employed by Kimley-Horn and Associates as a transportation analyst and is also finishing an extension of his graduate research. Professor José Holguín-Veras' work on discrete choice modeling was the inspiration for Benjamin's own research, involving the modeling of passenger-car behavior in relation to time-of-day pricing.

Benjamin was raised in Palmer, Massachusetts. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in 2005 and continued immediately into a Master of Science degree program in transportation engineering at RPI. While an undergraduate, he participated in two summer internships, with the Massachusetts Highway Department and Whiting-Turner Contracting Company.

Benjamin was chosen for this award because of his commitment to excellence and professionalism while at Rensselaer and the high quality of his transportation research. The University Transportation Research Center is pleased to select Benjamin Reim as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

William Rhodes
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Alaska University Transportation Center

William Rhodes is a master's degree candidate in environmental engineering at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

William participated in a project conducted jointly by the Alaska University Transportation Center, the Alaska Department of Transportation (AKDOT) and Public Facilities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Subarctic Agricultural Research Unit, and the Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District. As part of the project, he collected soil samples over the course of a year from field sites in Delta Junction and Valdez that had been treated with herbicides, in an effort to determine how these chemicals applied to control vegetation attenuate in subarctic environments. The results will aid AKDOT and the Alaska Railroad Corporation in deciding how to use herbicides in Alaska and in identifying best practices for application. William found the most challenging part of the project to be mastering the logistics and organization involved in working with two remote field sites and multiple research partners to develop a strong, reliable experimental methodology.

William was chosen for this award on the basis of his research achievements and his high GPA. The Alaska University Transportation Center is pleased to select William Rhodes as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Craig Schiller
University of Nebraska, Lincoln

The Mid-Atlantic Transportation Center (Region 7)

Craig Schiller is a PhD candidate at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL). His research is focused on transportation data management, particularly as it applies to multimodal freight movements and the analysis of system performance. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. He plans to pursue an academic career after graduation.

His numerous academic awards have included an Othmer Fellowship, which is UNL's most prestigious graduate student award. He is currently vice president of the UNL student chapter of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and has served in student leadership positions in Chi Epsilon and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Craig was selected for this award on the basis of his academic excellence and the leadership qualities that he has exhibited throughout his college career. The Mid-Atlantic Transportation Center is pleased to select Craig Schiller as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jeffrey Sharkey
Montana State University

Western Transportation Institute

Jeffrey Sharkey is a graduate research assistant at the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) at Montana State University in Bozeman, where he is working toward his master's degree in computer science. He earned his bachelor's degree in that field at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, in 2006.

As part of Jeffrey's master's thesis research, he is applying artificial intelligence to various transportation issues, such as network design problems (for Transportation Management Systems [TMS]). His paper entitled "Radio Network Design for Rural Transportation Applications Using Artificial Intelligence" was accepted for presentation at a poster session during the 2008 Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting.

An enthusiastic researcher, Jeffrey has provided valuable assistance to a number of projects within the Systems Engineering, Development, and Integration Program at WTI. He is an active member of the Association for Computing Machinery and Intelligent Transportation Society of America student professional organizations at Montana State University and has represented WTI at a number of conferences, including ITS America and Google Developer Day.

The Western Transportation Institute is pleased to select Jeffrey Sharkey as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Benjamin Layman Shepherd
University of Utah

The Mountain Plains Consortium (Region 8)

Benjamin Layman Shepherd is pursuing a master's degree in civil engineering at the University of Utah under the Army's Advanced Civil Schooling program while also conducting research at the Utah Department of Transportation's Traffic Operations Center in Salt Lake City. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering management from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 2001.

Benjamin served with the 18th Field Artillery Brigade (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, from 2002 to 2007. His military service included deployments to Mosul and Tikrit, Iraq. He has been a Headquarters and Headquarters Battery Commander with responsibility for the morale, welfare, and training of a 75-person artillery battery; a Brigade Fire Control Officer; a Battery Fire Direction Officer; an Executive Officer; and a platoon leader. He has received numerous awards and decorations, including two Bronze Star Medals, an Army Commendation Medal, an Army Achievement Medal, a Global Ward on Terrorism Service Medal, an Iraqi Campaign Medal, an Army Service Ribbon, and a National Defense Service Ribbon.

The Mountain Plains Consortium is pleased to select Benjamin Layman Shepherd as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Amy E. Thompson
University of Rhode Island

University Transportation Center

Amy E. Thompson is currently pursuing a PhD in industrial manufacturing engineering at the University of Rhode Island (URI). Amy received a master's degree in manufacturing engineering from URI in May 2004 and a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering, graduating with cum laude honors, from URI in 2001. Her doctoral dissertation, entitled "Extensions of the Fuzzy Analytic Hierarchy Process (F-AHP) with Applications for Global Supply Chain and Logistics Designs," is based on research that may lead to the development of an inclusive decision-making method incorporating new transportation-flexibility and supply-chain-relationship factors.

Amy has worked as an instructor in URI's College of Engineering. Her areas of expertise include mathematical programming, analytical modeling, statistical analysis, and use of simulation to design and operate complex systems and solve complex problems in decision-making and system/policy selection.

She received an honorary mention at the New England American Society for Engineering Education Conference Poster Competition in 2007 for her presentation on the design of an employee parking system using simulation. She was also given the URI President's Award for Student Excellence in 2001.

Amy has served as president of the Institute of Industrial Engineers, Rhode Island Professional Chapter 110. She is currently a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and the Society of Women Engineers.

The University Transportation Center at the University of Rhode Island is pleased to select Amy E. Thompson as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Nathan Tregger
Northwestern University

Infrastructure Technology Institute

Nathan Tregger is a graduate student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northwestern University. He brings a cross-disciplinary approach to his research, incorporating techniques from civil engineering, chemistry, materials science, and applied mathematics.

Nathan's current research focuses on issues facing the concrete industry from the fundamental science and applications perspectives. Traditional research on concrete has been concerned with its processing during and immediately after mixing and placement, whereas Nathan is concentrating on its hardened-state properties. He is also seeking to develop a basic understanding of mechanisms that dictate the balance between fresh concrete's flowability and its stability in shape. He has presented his findings at conferences on concrete as well as ceramics.

Nathan has served as a teaching assistant for classes on the mechanics of materials and the properties of concrete. He has also supervised the research of undergraduate students. He serves on the Civil Engineering Graduate Student board, which is responsible for organizing extracurricular activities.

The Infrastructure Technology Institute is pleased to select Nathan Tregger as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Elaine Wang
University of Vermont

University of Vermont National Transportation Center

Elaine Wang is a second-year master's degree candidate in the Rubenstein School for Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Vermont (UVM). Her thesis centers on decision-making and public processes related to energy and transportation policy.

In addition to her scholarly work, Elaine has been actively involved in climate-change issues related to transportation for several years, both on and off campus. She served as program director of the Vermont Alliance for Climate Action, where she led anti-idling and transportation demand-management programs. She also worked with her fellow students to organize campus teach-in events and cofounded a graduate student group known as the Carbonators. At UVM UTC, she is a graduate student intern, managing a biweekly e-newsletter on transportation and energy issues with a focus on petroleum reduction strategies.

Elaine was chosen for this award on the basis of her careful, methodological research, which will contribute to an understanding of how policymakers frame and shape outcomes in transportation energy. The University of Vermont National Transportation Center is pleased to select Elaine Wang as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Kyle Warta
Kansas State University
University Transportation Center

Kyle Warta is a Bachelor of Science degree candidate in civil engineering at Kansas State University (KSU). His interest in the field dates back to high school, when he took introductory-level AutoCAD classes.

Over the course of four summer internship programs, Kyle has developed many skills that are essential to engineering, such as time management, team leadership, and communication. At KSU, he helped to establish an Institute of Transportation Engineers student chapter and served as its first president. He is also a member of the Kansas State Steel Bridge Team and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

As a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Kyle has held various positions, including chaplain, vice president of communications, and philanthropy chairman. While serving on the Mid-American Greek Council Association for two years, he was appointed as conference coordinator and registration coordinator for the organization's annual national conference in Chicago.

Kyle plans to pursue a civil engineering career in the Kansas City area after graduation. The University Transportation Center at Kansas State University is pleased to select Kyle Warta as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Stephanie Victoria Watson
University of Alabama, Birmingham

University Transportation Center for Alabama

Stephanie Victoria Watson is a doctoral degree candidate in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her specialization is in transportation and construction management. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Michigan, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, respectively.

Stephanie's current research, under the direction of Dr. Wilbur Hitchcock, focuses on the resilience and disaster preparedness of the transportation infrastructure.

She was nominated for this award because of her outstanding work on the Utility Transportation Contractors Association (UTCA) CIP education project. The University Transportation Center for Alabama is pleased to select Stephanie Victoria Watson as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jonathan Weinert
University of California, Davis

University Transportation Center

Jonathan Weinert is a PhD candidate in the Transportation Planning Program at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). In his dissertation, he explores the dynamics of markets for electric two-wheeled (E2W) vehicles in China. As part of his research, he lived in Shanghai for two years and learned to speak Mandarin.

Jonathan earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan and his Master of Science degree from UC Davis in 2005. For his master's research, he developed engineering and cost models of near-term hydrogen refueling stations. He won the C.V. Wootan Award for Best Master's Thesis in Transportation Policy in 2007.

Prior to entering graduate school, Jonathan worked for two years as a test engineer at Delphi Automotive.

While at UC Davis, Jonathan has worked with the California Fuel Cell Partnership and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. He was selected for an Eno Leadership Fellowship in the university's Business Development Fellowship Program.

Jonathan was chosen for this award because of his strong intellectual abilities, his social commitment, and the unusual enthusiasm that he brings to his work. An exceptional student, excellent researcher, and outstanding leader, it is expected that he will leave an indelible and positive mark. The University Transportation Center at UC Davis is pleased to select Jonathan Weinert as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Sarah Weissman
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT)

Sarah Weissman is pursuing her master's degree at Rutgers University, where she has been a program manager at the Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT) since 2006. She is integral in overseeing technical and outreach activities for the Transportation Safety Resource Center (TSRC), located at CAIT. TSRC is a partnership that joins the efforts of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), the New Jersey Federal Highway Administration, and CAIT with the goal of improving highway safety regionwide.

Sarah received her bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the School of Engineering at Vanderbilt University in 2004. She went on to work at PB Americas in both its traffic engineering and planning departments.

Sarah was chosen for this award on the basis of her expertise in transportation engineering and safety and her involvement in the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. The Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation is pleased to select Sarah Weissman as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Jennifer Mae Wieland
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Southeastern Transportation Center (Region 4)

Jennifer Mae Wieland is a candidate for concurrent master's degrees in city and regional planning and public health at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. Her academic interests center on ways that individuals use transportation—specifically, public transportation and nonmotorized modes—to improve their health through increased access to care and opportunities for physical activity.

At UNC, Jennifer has served as copresident of the student organization in city and regional planning, and she is a member of the student government in public health. She is also an active member of the Carolina Transportation Program.

Jennifer's work experience complements her academic achievements. She has interned for the Chicago Transit Authority, served as a research associate for professors in transportation and health, and worked with the UNC Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center.

Jennifer has a strong commitment to interdisciplinary work, with a concern for safety and well-being that spans her academic interests. This is evidenced in her capstone research project, in which she is exploring the health outcomes of bus operators at a regional transit agency. She will link the findings to service delivery and will offer recommendations for improving transit service through health interventions.

After she graduates, Jennifer hopes to begin a career with a public agency that will allow her to increase accessibility for a population while improving community health.

Jennifer was chosen for this award on the basis of her dedication as a student and a researcher. The Southeastern Transportation Center is pleased to select Jennifer Mae Wieland as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.

Meghan Wieters
Texas A&M University

University Transportation Center for Mobility

Meghan Wieters is pursuing a PhD in urban and regional science at Texas A&M University in College Station. She was awarded a dissertation grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Active Living Research program to study the transportation and physical activity patterns of office workers in Texas.

Meghan earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy, international studies, and Spanish from Trinity University in San Antonio. She received a master's degree in community and regional planning from the University of Texas at Austin.

After graduation, Meghan worked at the transit authority in Austin for nine years, where she was involved in long-range planning. She then worked in the areas of neighborhood, bicycle, and pedestrian planning for the City of Austin.

Meghan currently serves as president of the Urban Regional Science Student Organization.

The University Transportation Center for Mobility is pleased to select Meghan Wieters as its 2007 Outstanding Student of the Year.