As we look back with sincere and warm thanks to Theresa Albanese Pereyo, outgoing WTS CT Valley Chapter President, for a successful two-year tenure, we also look ahead to the coming New Year. New Year provides an opportunity to renew and strengthen existing commitments and set new priorities. WTS hopes you will keep in mind our goal of expanding opportunities for women in the transportation industry through professional development, mentoring, and strategic positioning of women when making your 2009 resolutions.

WTS can help professionals in the transportation industry by keeping its members informed through its programs and educational forums on critical local and national issues. WTS CT Valley Chapter works to deliver programs of high quality and immediate relevance. In addition to providing educational forums, our programs and events are designed with opportunities to network and interact.

Please consider becoming a new member or renewing your WTS membership in 2009 and participating in upcoming programs and events, such as:

- Legislative Breakfast in February
- Special Economic Stimulus Program in March
- Annual Scholarship and Awards Ceremony in April
- WTS International Conference in Seattle, Washington in May 2009
- 2009 Transportation Mini Series in October

WTS members are welcomed and encouraged to participate by submitting a proposal to present at the Transportation Mini Series, by contributing to our scholarship fund, by becoming a corporate sponsor, by volunteering to assist the WTS Board of Directors. Keep an eye out for opportunities to get involved in the coming weeks.

With the economic challenges we are facing, nationally and state-wide, it has never been more important to seize opportunities that present themselves. Resolve in 2009 to engage with WTS to work to progress together.

Laurel Stegina
WTS CT Valley President
Letter from Immediate Past President

As 2009 marches forward, I gathered my thoughts from the very beginning of my Presidency in January 2007 through the end, December 2008. I realized that I have truly benefited from serving as the President of this wonderful organization. I have gained so many experiences and friendships. So I write this letter with a positive attitude because if I can pick one word that characterized our Chapter over the past two years it is “opportunity”.

My sincere appreciation and gratitude are extended to the WTS Board and Committee Chairs. This is a unique group of women who are leaders and optimists. They are creative individuals who gave more than received, without hesitation but with a drive! We learned from each other, we encouraged each other and we motivated each other! This is what we all call in our careers and jobs- Team Work. A car takes us from Point A to Point B only if all of the components are working together… we as a collective group have moved our Chapter from Point A to Point B…and we will continue to strive ahead searching for more opportunities, more benefits for members, young professionals and seasoned professionals.

The WTS CT Valley Chapter has been quite successful in fulfilling the goals and missions of our organization. We had some “Chapter Firsts” over the past two years and I would like to briefly highlight these because these Firsts will continue to evolve and become “signature” events and programs:

2007- Transportation Mini-Series
2007- Development of Chapter Mentorship Program
2008- First Scholarship Award

I wish our new leaders, Laurel Stegina, President, and Kristen Stiff, Vice President, much success for 2009-11. With pleasure, I will continue to serve and support the Board as Immediate Past President.

Terri Albanese-Pereyo
WTS Meets and Greets New DOT Commissioner

WTS CT Valley and ITE Chapters co-hosted a “Meet and Greet” the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s new Commissioner, Joseph Marie, on October 15th. The members-only event was capped at 40 attendees to allow WTS and ITE members an opportunity for exclusive access with the Commissioner Marie.

Connecticut Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie was appointed in June 2008 by Governor Jodi Rell. In his previous leadership positions with METRO in Phoenix, Arizona and METRO TRANSIT in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Commissioner Marie oversaw the successful startup of two major commuter rail systems. Commissioner Marie has over 22 years of transit industry experience in the public and private sectors and has also held executive positions with two Fortune 500 companies.

Commissioner Marie oversees Connecticut’s commuter and freight rail lines, shoreline ports, piers, ferries and Bradley International Airport. And, he is responsible for the construction and maintenance of Connecticut’s roads, highways and bridges, and the state’s public transit system.

During the Meet and Greet program, Commissioner Marie emphasized the challenges faced by Connecticut, particularly given the state of the national and state economy.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 9, 2009</td>
<td>2009 Connecticut Engineers Week</td>
<td>Hawthorne Inn</td>
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<td>February 17, 2009</td>
<td>CT Valley Chapter Meeting</td>
<td>AECOM office</td>
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<td>February 26, 2009</td>
<td>CACT / WTS - Legislative Breakfast</td>
<td>Capitol State Building</td>
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<td>March 5, 2009</td>
<td>Special Program Presentation on Economic Stimulus Package</td>
<td>Hilton Garden Inn Glastonbury, CT</td>
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<td>March 24, 2009</td>
<td>NE Rail Forum &amp; Expo</td>
<td>WTS Boston Chapter Host Rhode Island</td>
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<td>April 2009</td>
<td>Annual Scholarship &amp; Awards</td>
<td>New Haven, CT</td>
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A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2008 TRANSPORTATION MINI SERIES CORPORATE SPONSORS

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Transportation Mini-Series Program- Green Transportation

The CT Valley Chapter held its second Transportation Mini-Series Program on October 15, 2008 with about 90 in attendance. This year ITE-Connecticut Chapter co-hosted this program which focused on Green Transportation themes represented by four informative sessions and a networking hour with a dinner program. The sessions included presentations on Walkable Communities, Commuter Rail in Connecticut, the Green Highways Partnership, and Incorporating Wildlife Corridors into Transportation Projects. We were very fortunate and grateful that our program was supported by eight wonderful corporate sponsors. The Chapter will allocate 100% of the program proceeds to our Chapter’s Scholarship Program.
**Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. Contributes to WTS Scholarship Fund**

In December 2008, Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI) contributed $500 to the WTS CT Valley Chapter's Scholarship Fund. FHI's generous contribution will help the goal of the Chapter's scholarship program - assisting the education of women interested in pursuing careers in the transportation industry. FHI formed a Charitable Donations Committee in 2008 to assist the company establish a focused program of financial giving, donating to non-profit organizations that benefit the communities in which FHI employees live and work. The WTS CT Valley Chapter expresses its sincere appreciation for FHI's pro-active contribution, which will go toward future Scholarship Awards. Corporate support of the WTS Scholarship Fund is more important now than ever before, with the ever increasing cost of education for students and the low number of women within the transportation industry.

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**Consider inviting friends or colleagues to join WTS**

If you know someone who would like to become a WTS member, please have her/him contact our Membership Chair, Terri Albanese-Pereyo at talbanese@gfnet.com for more information and applications process. Applications are also available online at www.wtsinternational.org

**HELP US GROW & BE HEARD**

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**It's coming... Mark your calendars**

“The Road to Success is always under Construction” by Paul Sejourne

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**We Proudly Welcome NEW MEMBER**

Fawzi Faraj, Senior Vice President
HAKS Engineers, P.C.

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**THANK YOU**

To all our WTS Members, who have helped to put this Newsletter together and have volunteered their time to ensure that all our programs and events have been a success. Thank You ~ We couldn’t do it without your support. If you would like to submit a news article for a future Newsletter or have any ideas on future articles that would be helpful or of interest to your fellow members or even something for fun. Please contact Kim Tran at Khanh.Tran@stvinc.com
What Engineers Need to Know About Energy Efficiency

Date:       Monday, February 9, 2009
Location:   Hawthorne Inn (Berlin, CT)

Fred Wajcs, PE, Senior Energy Engineer Conservation and Load Management at NE Utilities Service Company will discuss the interplay between efficiency programs, codes & standards, technologies and professional practices. He will review the various efficiency programs available and how recent and planned legislation, incentives and code changes will impact your practice.

Please RSVP at bdavidson@ctengineers.com or 860-635-5522

Billiards Networking Event

Date:       Thursday, February 12, 2009
Location:   Snookers Pool Lounge (Providence, RI)

Please join the Rhode Island Societies of WTS and ASCE for a billiards networking event during Engineering Week on Thursday, February 12, 2009 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM at the Snookers Pool Lounge in Providence, RI. Pool tables have been reserved and free appetizers will be provided! Please RSVP to Chris Fontaine at 401-273-6000 or cfontaine@garofaloassociates.com by Tuesday, February 10, 2009.

Navigating the New Economic Landscape

Where the NE Rail Industry is Headed

Date:       March 24, 2009
(10:00am-9:00pm)

Location:   DCU Center & the Providence
& Worcester Railroad
enginehouse, Worcester, MA

- Equipment Expo
- Rail Forum
- Exhibitor Pavilion
- Engineering & Transit Night Reception
- Engineering & Transit Night Dinner
- Keynote Presentation

More details please contact:
Jonathan Budzyna at 617-437-7810 or email: jbudzyna@aol.com

The Women’s Transportation Seminar was founded in 1977 and since then has grown to over 4500 members. WTS has helped bridge opportunities and pave the way for women striving to seek career advancement in transportation. The Connecticut Valley Chapter is one of the forty two (42) WTS chapters spread out across the globe. The organization, which consists of both male and female members and has gained recognition through its determined and devoted professional members.

We are on the Web! See us at:
www.wtsinternational.org
Summer Opportunity for Undergraduate Students

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program at Montana State University
Explore Your World – Under the Big Sky
http://www.wti.montana.edu/Education/REU.aspx

Safe Passages REU Site at Montana State University

Design and operation of the nation’s surface transportation system is moving well beyond its original objective of providing citizens with safe and efficient passage. While maintaining this basic focus, there are ever increasing efforts to also consider the safe passage of the wildlife and aquatic organisms whose habitats the system traverses. The Safe Passages REU site will research this complex issue of simultaneously providing for safe passage of humans, wildlife, and aquatic organisms through rural transportation corridors. A 90 mile stretch of U.S. Highway 191 near MSU, which follows pristine mountain waterways and traverses part of Yellowstone National Park, will provide an ideal field site for students to pursue nationally replicable solutions to these issues. The REU site is hosted by the Western Transportation Institute (WTI) at Montana State University (MSU), which has established a national reputation for cutting edge interdisciplinary research on rural transportation safety, operations, and system impacts on the natural environment. Experienced WTI research staff and faculty will mentor a diverse group of eight undergraduate students each summer from all fields of engineering, as well as ecology, biology, environmental sciences, and related fields. In addition to their project involvement, the students’ REU experience will be enriched by research seminars, training workshops, and similar educational activities over the course of the 10 week program.

Program Dates: June 1 – August 7, 2009
Ten-week summer program

Location: Montana State University
Bozeman, Montana

Stipend: $4,500

Travel: Travel reimbursement up to $900 for travel costs to MSU

Housing: Program covers all on-campus housing expenses for participants

Eligibility: Undergraduates from all fields of engineering, ecology, biology, environmental sciences, earth sciences and related fields are invited to apply. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Application Deadline: March 1, 2009

For more information, visit our website: http://www.wti.montana.edu/Education/REU.aspx
Graduate Assistantship Awards

The Western Transportation Institute (WTI) is offering two graduate assistantship awards through Montana State University (MSU). These awards are for students pursuing an advanced degree with a transportation focus. WTI’s vision is to advance rural transportation through research and education. In order to strengthen the nation’s pool of transportation professionals, WTI offers the following awards (currently available): 1. Transportation Award A (for students completing a Plan A (Thesis) Masters degree or PhD) and 2. Transportation Award B (for students completing a Plan B (Professional Paper) Masters degree). For more information about WTI or MSU, please contact Susan Gallagher by phone at (406) 994-6559 or email at sgallagher@coe.montana.edu. Or visit the website at: http://www.wti.montana.edu/

Misc. info about each award that is too lengthy to include:

A. Award amounts:

- $18,000 annual stipend ($1,200/month during academic year; $2,400/month over summer). A tuition waiver for up to 9 credit hours per semester of approved graduate coursework.

Transportation Award A covers up to 2 years of graduate work for Masters students and up to 3 years for PhD students. Research award recipients will work 20 hours per week during fall and spring semesters and 40 hours per week during the summer performing research activities at WTI. Awardees must produce an approved thesis or dissertation on a transportation-related topic. Research work performed may count towards thesis/dissertation with the approval of the academic advisor.

B. Award amounts:

- $12,000 annual stipend ($700/month stipend during academic year; $1,900/month over summers) A $2,000 tuition and fee waiver each semester for up to 3 semesters of academic coursework (fall, spring, and summer).

Transportation Award B is intended for students interested in completing a professional paper for their Masters degree. Award recipients will receive a 12 month appointment and will work 15 hours per week during the fall and spring semesters and 40 hours per week during the summer performing research activities at WTI.

Eligibility and Selection:

All award recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents in the United States, must be formally admitted into a graduate program at Montana State University, and must be enrolled full-time in an academic program leading to an advanced degree.

Visit our website for more information & updates at www.wtsinternational.org