Letter From President

To me a leader has something they believe in; something they are passionate about that can make a difference, a ‘thing’ as I like to call it. For a little personal history, I started out with WTS by bringing the organizations Scholarship Program to life, then focused on developing our Mentor Program, all while working on creating programs for our Transportation Mini-Series. Outside of WTS, I serve on the State Board of Directors for the ACE Mentor Program and Chair the New Haven Chapter.

So what is my ‘thing’? It’s education and oddly enough I had to have this told to me. I believe in continuous education as a professional, it keeps us sharp and it broadens our spectrum of ideas. I believe in mentoring, students and professionals, as it helps create the next generation of our industry and it re-energizes
us as individuals. Personal growth = Professional growth = Strong Leadership

This January, WTS re-organized with a new President, me, Vice-President, Jenna Nichols of URS Corp. and Treasurer, Julie Viera of Beta-Group, Inc. Continuing on for an additional two years is our Secretary, Nancy Rolfe of AECOM.

In laying out our 2011 goals we reviewed the past two years of WTS. What we learned is the WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter has experienced tremendous support from its corporate sponsors, has worked on strengthening its relationship with the ConnDOT, has grown its annual Transportation Mini-Series, and has created and provided programs for professional growth.

You’ll have to excuse me for repeating, the tremendous support of our sponsors, which I must name and will share with you why. They are:

**Mountain Laurel level:**
- AECOM
- Baker
- PB
- STV
- HAKS

**White Oak level:**
- Dewberry
- Gannett Fleming
- Pennoni Associates, Inc.

**Robin level:**
- Beta-Group, Inc.
- Fitzgerald Halliday, Inc.
- Keville Enterprises
- URS
- V&H Engineers
- Wilbur Smith Associates

We’ve learned, which was not completely unknown to us, is that with their support we brought the Transportation Mini-Series to WTS members at a fee that was 35% below our per person cost; we offer participation in our Professional Mentor Program to our members free of charge, a cost to WTS of $200 per participant annually; we provide two $1000 scholarships to college students pursuing careers in the transportation industry; and lastly, we provide soft-skill professional development sessions at 20% below our cost per person.

These programs could not be offered to our members, to the extent that they are, without our corporate sponsors. It is with utmost sincerity and appreciation that I say, "Thank you!"

In 2011 we will go a step further by reaching out to our youngest future members through our newly developed Student Outreach Committee, Chaired by Carla Tillery of FH. This committee will look into partnering with a high school whose focus is on math, science and technology, to make students aware of opportunities in the transportation industry through classroom projects and other hands-on experiences. And at the university level, we will work on building our relationships to encourage student participation and to learn of the latest industry research taking place within our universities.

On-the-boards, we have our Annual Awards dinner in April, we are teaming once again with ITE, for a golf tournament in June, and will be looking to partner with other industry organizations to bring...
additional special programs to our members.

It is an exciting time for WTS! I hope you will join us as a member at future events and consider participating on a committee. I look forward to us learning together, growing WTS, and being the best we possibly can.

Diversity Brings Forth Energy in CT

The Connecticut Valley Chapter of WTS is dedicating exciting new energy as it relates to membership/retention, mentorship, skills, transportation, education, and overall activities. We will be improving the quality of the WTS experience by capturing and enhancing the unique talents of advancing Women in Transportation.

Our chapter has established a Diversity Committee because we know that diversity enriches each and every one of our performance levels and services we provide in the communities in which we live and work. We are committed to encouraging diversity in our Chapter to positively affect business and day to day operations within the transportation industry.

Submitted by: Crystal Engram, Greater Bridgeport Transit, WTS
CVC Diversity Committee Chair

TRB 90th Annual Meeting Summary

As a WTS Greater New York Chapter member and regular TRB participant, I always enjoy the transportation perspectives afforded both groups. Recently, I attended the TRB Committee on Public Involvement in Transportation (ADA60) Annual Committee Meeting, of which I am a member. This year, our meeting took place at the Washington DC Hilton Hotel on January 25, 2011.

As always, I find these annual meetings to be an invaluable part of learning about Transportation Public Involvement best practices, and refining my own work. This year, our agenda was extensive. We discussed possible workshops, papers, and poster sessions for the mid-year summer TRB 2011 meeting and for TRB 2012. Various committee members reported on recent research topics, findings, best practices, and the state of public involvement in transportation - a complex topic that is very much determined by area of the country, the diversity of communities involved, and emerging tools such as social media.

As always at these meetings, it is very nice to see fellow practitioners again face-to-face, and participate in very useful dialogue and information/resource sharing about an element of the Transportation sector that is often forgotten, but is crucially
important. In this way this particular TRB committee is very much like WTS, in that it provides a real support and camaraderie among fellow colleagues in Transportation that sustains throughout the year.

Submitted by:
Stephanie Brooks, Michael Baker Engineering, Inc.

STUDENT CORNER
This Newsletter Features an Article from:
University of Connecticut

This past fall graduate students from the University of Connecticut’s transportation program presented research at the Transportation Systems for Livable Communities Conference (Washington, D.C.), the INFORMS Annual Meeting (Austin, TX), the NEAUPG conference (Saratoga Springs, NY), and TRB’s 2011 Annual Meeting (Washington, D.C.). At the livability conference, Garrett Boella and Abigail Osei-Asamoah presented their research on the use of stated preference surveys to better understand people’s valuation of public transit systems and Jason Zheng presented research on a sustainability index created by several members of UConn’s graduate program. The INFORMS meeting focused on operations research. Sha Al Mamun gave a lecture on optimizing the location of transit stops and Qixing Wang spoke on using a many-to-many game theoretical approach to discover network vulnerabilities.

Three students presented research at the NEAUPG conference which highlighted innovations in pavement research. Jingcheng Li presented research on modeling asphalt mix properties based only on the liquid binder, Iliya Yut discussed the identification of asphalt binders using FT-IR spectroscopy, and Alex Bernier focused on the interaction of modifiers and recycled materials mixed in asphalt pavement. Many of these students were also invited to speak or present posters at the TRB’s 2011 Annual Meeting. In addition, Kelly Bertolaccini was invited to present a poster on national and international case studies on livability.

In the next few months, UConn students will be embarking on several exciting new projects, as well as continuing established projects. Abigail Osei-Asamoah is heading a project that uses slime-mold to model the optimal growth of a transportation network. As a continuation of his stated preference survey research, Garrett Boella will create a survey to investigate public preference for rail or bus in the New Britain - Hartford corridor. The Connecticut Household Travel Survey will be implemented with the help of Nicholas Hart. James Mooradian is part of a multi-disciplinary team investigating the crash frequency and severity of elderly versus non-elderly drivers.

A forensic study of long-term pavement performance at six different test sites will be conducted by Raman Josen, Alex Bernier, and Iliya Yut. Eric Dorsey and UConn’s geography department is conducting a spatial and survey analysis of people’s choices not to live in transit-oriented developments in Denver. Ongoing research
by Chris McCahill and Jorge Simbaqueba looks at the relationship between automobile use, land consumption, and activity level in small cities.

Submitted by:
Garrett Boletia, E.I.T.
Graduate Assistant
Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Connecticut

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Patrycja Padlo serves WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter as our Events Committee Chairperson. She was instrumental to the success of the 2010 Transportation Mini Series, coordinating much of the logistics for the event. Patrycja also fully managed several other chapter events including the Summer Social in August, and the Holiday Social in December. She was a key participant in organizing the chapter's 2010 Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner, our Technical Luncheon Series, and provided support for the Professional Development Seminars.

Current WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter President, Shawna Bartkus, says of Patrycja: "Patrycja is a self-motivated young woman that believes in the goals of WTS; she takes advantage of every opportunity to assist in order to build her network and making lasting relationships."

Theresa Albanese, Director-at-Large adds: "I have had the pleasure of working with Patrycja over the past year as she performed many responsibilities as chair for our Chapter Events Committee. Patrycja is dedicated and has been exceptional with her organizational skills even when timelines were pressing and deadlines were approaching. Patrycja is a leader."

Patrycja is currently working with Wilbur Smith Associates (WSA) colleagues on the New Haven Signals Construction Inspection project. Sharat Kalluri, WSA Senior Transportation Engineer, says of Patrycja: "She brings in tremendous excitement and interest in the work that I have been involved with her. I have also reviewed and worked with her on traffic simulation and modeling projects where she has a lot of experience and knowledge."

Her other responsibilities at WSA include creation of Vissim micro-simulations of complex interstate networks; overseeing travel pattern surveys; collecting and geo-coding data using ArcGIS; developing traffic count profiles for study corridors; contributing to the development of traffic and toll revenue forecasts; and investigating, analyzing, and assisting in the development of tools to efficiently and effectively run thousands of micro-simulations. Patrycja has also designed and conducted educational seminars on GPS field data collection and processing and using Vissim.

Before her tenure at WSA, Patrycja was employed as a Research Assistant for the University of Connecticut (UConn) Transportation Laboratory and interned with the City of New Britain Department of Public Works -- Engineering Division.

She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, earning a
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and Structural Engineering. She also earned a Master of Science from UConn in Civil Engineering and Transportation and Urban Engineering.

Her family immigrated to the United States from Poland, and she remains fluent in the Polish language.

Submitted by: Laurel Stegina, Fitzgerald & Halliday, WTS CVC Immediate Past President

WTS HOLIDAY SOCIAL

WTS CT Valley Chapter Holiday Social

The WTS CT Valley Chapter held its annual holiday social this past December 2010, at Esca's Wine Bar & Restaurant in Middletown. The event was attended by twenty-eight professionals, including members and non-members. In lieu of a registration fee attendees were asked to provide a donation for the Interval House, a women's shelter in Hartford. This year's donation by WTS was its highest ever, at nearly $500.

Along with great networking over hors d'oeuvres and drinks, the CT Valley Chapter said goodbye to one of its dearest members, Brooke Hoberman of Rideworks. Brooke served as the Chapter's Treasurer for many years, under several different President's. She had participated in the Chapters growth and has watched it evolve into what it is today. Brooke continues her professional career with Rideworks, is a true friend of the Chapter and of so many members.

Submitted by: Shawna Bartkus, H.W. Lochner, WTS CVC President

ENGINEER WEEK

On February 17, 2011 the WTS CT Valley Chapter joined forces with six other professional societies for the celebration of CT Engineer's Week for the annual dinner at the Engineer's Hawthorne Inn.

The guest speaker Jeffrey A. Parker, Connecticut Department of Transportation Acting Commissioner, presented his views and goals for Connecticut transportation, since his appointment in June of 2010. Among many points one that resonates with the engineering theme was the overview of statewide transit expansion program. This includes modernizing the New Haven Commuter rail as well as the most anticipated New Haven-Hartford-Springfield high speed rail.

Other projects such as I-95 New Haven Harbor Crossing Improvement Program, Moses Wheeler Bridge Replacement, and
design and construction of the New Britain-Hartford Busway were mentioned briefly. Overall, the evening was a success in promotion of what engineering, science, and technology are contributing to society; how they make our lives easier by building structures we drive on or live in and by making our environment safer.

Submitted by: Patrycja Padlo, Wilbur Smith Associates, WTS CVC Events Chair

PROFESSIONAL MENTOR PROGRAM NOW RECRUITING FOR THE 2011/12 SEASON!

Interested in moving your career forward? Looking to develop your professional career goals? Want to increase your visibility in the transportation industry? Not sure how to go about it? The WTS CT Valley Professional Mentor Program will team you with a senior-level individual within the transportation industry to you answer these questions and more.

The WTS Professional Mentor Program is currently recruiting mentors and apprentices for the 2011/12 season.

Benefits of being an Apprentice:

Develop and enhance skills needed for career development; receive career guidance from a seasoned professional; expand our professional network and increase your professional visibility.

Benefits of being a Mentor:

Transfer your knowledge and wisdom to others within the transportation industry that are eager to learn and advance their careers; enhance your creativity and professional synergy; career and personal rejuvenation.

Applications for mentor and apprentices are available on-line at: The new season will kick-off in April 2011 with applications due by March 15, 2011.

Have questions about mentoring or being an apprentice?? Contact Carla Tillery, Mentor Program Chair, at cttillery@fhiplan.com.

WTS 2010 Chapter Leadership Training Advancing WTS Through Strong Leadership

WTS International held its annual Leadership
Training this past November in Los Angeles, CA. The day and a half event was jam packed with soft skill sessions, networking opportunities, and the sharing of chapter success stories and pitfalls. Attendees consisted of approximately 150 men and women within the transportation industry representing chapters from across the nation, including Hawaii.

The training kicked off with 'Helping Volunteers Achieve Their Potential' presented by Mindy Zasloff of People Skills are an Art. Mindy discussed personality types and team creation for maximum results. First and foremost one should know who they are working with, their strengths, and their goals to achieve success.

The training continued with a Town Hall Meeting for incoming and current chapter presidents held by Marcia Ferranto, WTS President and CEO, and the WTS Executive Board Members; and hour long sessions covering fundraising, mentoring, membership, STEM Education Coalition (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and the WTS Foundation.

The fundraising session, which was particularly interesting in light of the economy, involved presenters representing small, medium and mega sized chapters. Fundraising strategies varied depending upon size of the chapter and focus. Providing a survey asking “what would you like us to spend your money on?” is helpful to gauge industry needs and expectations. For example a small chapter may wish to focus on growth of membership while a medium chapter may focus on sponsorship and a larger on money management/financial growth. The three represented chapters have fundraising committees that set a yearly goal for the chapter.

The WTS Foundation, built on the success of the WTS Scholarship, supports opportunities for research, professional development, connections with industry and to broaden the impact of our scholars. A chapter relations task force was launched and will provide the chapters with a chapter affiliation agreement and handbook in early 2011.

Other soft skill sessions include Non-Verbal Communication, presented by Carmen Clark, President, Carmen Clark Consulting, and StoryBoarding by the WTS Executive Board Members. The non-verbal communication session was light-hearted yet poignant as it touched on cultural and gender differences. StoryBoarding was an opportunity for WTS members to hear the history of the Executive Board Members, where they came from, how they achieved, and the role of WTS, in their success.

WTS Leadership Training is empowering as it provides professional skills, the ability to network and troubleshoot with other chapters, and opportunities to build relationships with key industry leaders.

Submitted by: Shawna Bartkus, H.W. Lochner, WTS CVC President & Nancy Rolfe, AECOM, WTS CVC Secretary
The WTS Foundation, the non-profit philanthropic arm of Women's Transportation Seminar International (WTS), has appointed Marcia Ferranto as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Ms. Ferranto also serves as President and CEO of WTS International. She will now manage the functions of the WTS Foundation in addition to WTS International, which she has led since February 2010.

"Consolidating the leadership of WTS and the WTS Foundation under the CEO of WTS will enable the Foundation to better support WTS's mission of advancing women in the transportation industry," said Pippa Woods, President of the WTS Foundation's Board of Directors.

"With the implementation of this new executive leadership model, we are taking an important step toward our vision of WTS's key role in advancing women in transportation," added Terry Gruver, Chair of the WTS Board of Directors. "Consolidating our executive leadership ensures unity of purpose, streamlines operations, and allows the WTS organization to more effectively serve members, chapters, and the industry. With Marcia Ferranto's leadership, WTS and WTS Foundation are well-positioned to achieve their strategic goals and objectives."

Ms. Ferranto was previously Executive Director of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation of Wilmington, Delaware, an educational organization dedicated to the building, sailing and preservation of Delaware's tall ship ambassador, the Kalmar Nyckel. From 2003 through 2006 she was with the Delaware Art Museum, where she held positions as Director of Finance and Human Resources and Chief Financial Officer. She is a graduate of Widener University with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

The WTS Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization that promotes the advancement of women in transportation through scholarships, education and research. Among programs supported by the foundation are an annual conference; national scholarship awards that to date total $1 million to more than 500 young women; a research project, called MOVE; and a partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation to encourage women to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Founded in 1977, WTS is an international organization of 4,100 women and men in 43 chapters whose mission is to "transform transportation through the advancement of women."

www.wtsinternational.org
Media Contact
Marcia Ferranto
202-955-5085
mferranto@wtsinternational.org
The Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) was created in 1977 as an international organization dedicated to the professional advancement of women in transportation. WTS has grown to over 4,100 members both men and women. WTS is helping women find opportunity and recognition in the transportation industry. Through its professional activities, networking opportunities, and unparalleled access to industry and government leaders, WTS is turning the glass ceiling into a career portal.

The CT Valley Chapter is one of 46 WTS chapters spread out across the globe and has gained recognition through its determined and devoted professional members.

We are excited to continue bringing you what you want to read about and to keep you updated on WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter events and opportunities!

If you have any suggestions to make our newsletter better, please contact Jessica Peruti at jperuti@haks.net and we would love to incorporate them!