It has definitely been a very busy Spring and Summer!

In March, Connecticut DOT got CTfastrak up and running and by all accounts a success! (see article page 10)

Our Awards Banquet in April was well attended and everyone had a great time. (see article on Annual Awards on page 2)

In May, several CT Chapter members attended the WTS Annual Conference in Chicago. (see article on page 8)

In June WTS Transportation You committee members presented at the annual NSTI conference at Central CT State University.

By the end of July, we voted in not one, but two qualified Diversity Co-Chairs – Candy Phillips and Julia Paradis. (see article on page 4)

Now we are all focused on putting the final touches on our Transportation Mini-Series (TMS) event on October 8th at the Four Points Sheraton in Meriden. The theme this year is Technology in Transportation and we have an exciting and diverse program planned.

Although all the current politicians running for any and all offices speak of the importance of fixing our failing infrastructure, Congress only agreed to and signed a three-month stopgap bill preventing federal highway funding from drying up moments before the deadline. This is not the long-term measure that everyone in the Transportation industry was hoping for. In addition to the main goal of fixing our infrastructure, this would also create tens of thousands of jobs across the country. I found one comment from President Obama to be thought provoking: “We should not be leaving the business of the US government until the last minute.” Something I can really relate to on a professional and personal level.

Something else that I’ve been thinking about lately – the word Maintain. Maintaining our bridges, roadways and other transit resources is a good thing – extending the life of these assets aids in ensuring public safety and also enables us to use the difference in the higher costs associated with replacement or rehabilitation on improvements and innovations in other transit related avenues. However, “maintaining” when you are an organization such as WTS and other agencies or associations is not a good thing. We must all strive to improve and increase our value and the value of these entities that we belong to. That is one of the reasons TMS has proved so popular in the past – highlighting advances in transportation related fields. With Technology the focus, this year’s event is definitely keeping up with that tradition. Hope to see everyone there!
WTS Connecticut takes great pride in recognizing those individuals and firms for their outstanding achievements and innovative projects at the Annual Award Dinner. Not only have these individuals and firms differentiated themselves from the rest with their hard work and dedication to the transportation industry, but they have also made incredible contributions to the WTS mission of creating new opportunities and advancing the careers of women in transportation.

The April Scholarship and Awards Dinner was an inspirational event recognizing the following individuals and firms:

- **Woman of the Year**: Donna Shea of UCONN Connecticut Transportation Institute’s (CTI’s) Technology Transfer Center
- **Member of the Year**: Catherine Young of Connecticut Airport Authority
- **Employer of the Year**: HAKS Engineers
- **Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award**: Lynn Warzecha of Diversity Committee, CTDOT
- **Innovative Project Solutions Award**: Accelerated Bridge Construction-I-84 Southington, CTDOT & Steere Engineering
- **Scholarship Recipients**: Elizabeth Furman and Kelly Bertolaccini

WTS Connecticut was privileged to have as guest of honor, Michael Sanders, the administrator of the Office of Transit and Ridesharing for the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Program Administrator for the recently opened CTfastrak. Mike shared fast facts and figures about the CTfastrak and upcoming transit news.

We also recognized the Mentor and Mentee graduating teams. These were:

- Anna Barry (CTDOT) & Shawna Kitzman (FHI)
- Sandra Dumas (HAKS) & Stacy Graham (FHI)
- Kim Dunham (GNHTD) & Jennifer Scolamiero (CME)
- Sandy Fry (CRCOG) & Jessica Peruti (HAKS)
- Amy Jackson Grove (FHWA) & Alicia Leite (CTDOT)

Lastly, WTS Connecticut Chapter was also recognized for achieving WTS International “Silver” Circle of Excellence for the first time. Special thanks to our board members and presenters.
WTS Leader Training Coming to Boston

WTS is pleased to announce that WTS Chapter Leader Training will be held November 13-14, 2015 on the east coast. Every two years, the WTS International Leadership tries to alternate between the East and West Coast. This year BOSTON has been selected to host this wonderful event. The program begins on Friday morning and will end at 12:00 noon on Saturday. The WTS Boston Chapter will host a special event for attendees on Thursday evening before the program.

This year's program includes:
- Informative general sessions
- Collaborative Round table discussions and Panels
- Educational breakout sessions
- Innovative "Ignite" presentations
- Networking opportunities
- Professional Development Workshop, with Shelley Row

WTS Connecticut Chapter is looking forward to the opportunity to network with industry professionals from across the nation at this east coast event.

Save the Date for WTS Connecticut Events:

- September 24 – Leadership Roundtable
- September 25 – Essex Steam Train
- **October 8 - Transportation Mini Series**
- October 22 – Men’s Leadership Roundtable
- November 13-14 – WTS Leadership Conference in Boston
- November 18 – Professional Development Session – Negotiations presented by Julia Paradis

**Have you considered becoming a Corporate Partner?**

A sponsorship of WTS Connecticut offers vital mutual benefits to WTS and your company. WTS Connecticut offers outstanding networking and professional development opportunities for transportation industry employees and leaders at every level. WTS offers informative programs, scholarships for students, mentoring program, and information exchange through our newsletter and website (including job postings). For more information on the Corporate Sponsorship Program please contact our Chapter President, Sandra Dumas at SDumas@haks.net
Diversity Committee

WTS Connecticut with great pleasure would like to welcome our new co-chairs for the diversity committee. The two outstanding ladies are Candy Phillips and Julia Paradis.

Candy Phillips is a seasoned Equal Employment/Affirmative Action/Diversity Specialist with over 25 years’ experience. Her current position is with the Lane Construction Corporation as the Corporate EEO/Diversity Specialist where she manages all aspects of EEO/AA and Diversity. In addition, she’s a Diversity Consultant and previously held the numerous positions as AA History Adjunct Professor for Capitol Community College, Diversity Manager/Minority Student Counselor for Tunxis Community College, Affirmative Action Program Manager for DMHAS and Affirmative Action Officer for DOT Contract Compliance.

Julia Paradis is also a seasoned professional. As a senior associate with Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP, Julia’s practice includes transportation law; she has defended parties in the transportation industry, such as state contractors involved in highway maintenance projects. Julia has assumed leadership roles within her firm including serving as a supervisor and mentor to new, more junior associates. In addition, Julia heads her firm’s Stamford, CT “Lean-In” Program, which meets monthly to discuss hurdles women in the legal profession experience and, more notably, to consider solutions. During these meetings, Julia encourages discussion about how each attorney defines success and how to best attain it. She works closely with younger female associates and provides them with advice on how to handle adversity they encounter and how to create a work-life balance.

The committee’s activities are as diverse as its name, as it strives to showcase the diversity of perspectives, professions, and people that WTS Connecticut supports. Collaboration with other WTS Connecticut committees as well as local professional organizations is a key part of their work.

Diversity is important because it supports WTS’ vision:

“Transforming the Transportation Industry Through the Advancement of Women” and our goals and guiding principles including:

- Expanding opportunities for women in the transportation industry through professional development, mentoring, and strategic positioning of women
- Shaping future generations of transportation leaders
- Demonstrating our commitment to ethical leadership, integrity and respect for all
- Inclusiveness and mutual support, some of our greatest assets.

Please welcome our two new board members!
Connecticut Chapter Welcomes New Members:

- Helga Junold
- Margaret Mixon
- Bonnie Torres
- Jianhong Wang
- Hosaiaih Barczynski
- Pentyala Vineela
- Dwyer, Kathleen

Still not a member of WTS CT? For information of how to join, contact Lisa Slonus at slonusl@wseinc.com

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 an article for a future newsletter or have any ideas for articles, please email them to: sdumas@haks.net
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The WTS Annual Conference in Chicago was a definite success! Several CT Chapter members attended and all agreed it was quite inspiring. Carla Tillery of Fitzgerald & Halliday presented one of the Professional Development sessions “There’s Just You, Everybody Else is Taken” and Susan Van Benschoten, also from Fitzgerald Halliday was one of the panelists.

Along with many motivational panels and discussions some highlights included:

Guest Speaker Erin Brockovich, environmentalist and subject of the Julia Robert’s movie bearing her name and Vernice "Fly Girl" Armour, America's first African American female combat pilot; and a panel discussion by some of the contributors of the soon to be released book “Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom” including co-authors Grace Crunican (General Manager, BART) and Elizabeth Levin (President, Liz Levin & Co.); and lastly, US Secretary of Transportation Anthony Fox who accepted the Rosa Parks Diversity Award.
Student Outreach

The Student Outreach Committee is actively involved in providing opportunities to engage girls from local schools and universities with transportation related events and activities. The goal of the committee is to encourage girls to pursue careers in the transportation industry and to see themselves as unlimited in their potential to change the future.

To date, the Student Outreach Committee successfully participated in many events to help spark student interest in transportation and encourage them to take courses in math, science, and technology; the stepping stones to exciting careers that can change the face of the transportation workforce.

One of the highlighted events was the “Girls and Stem Expo” organized by Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) at Central Connecticut State University in April 2015. Committee members, Nancy Rolfe, Jennifer Mortensen, Lori Long, and Sharon Okoye lead an engineering activity called, “Canstruction – Building with a Purpose”. Teams of high school students were provided with canned and boxed food (tuna cans, cereal boxes, soup cans) to build a bridge using a plan and a budget. Students and committee members were engaged in discussions on careers and work place experiences. In the afternoon the girls enjoyed spinning the “WTS Wheel” and answering a question or hearing a fact about; construction materials, transportation, wayfinding signs, or women firsts.

The food items were later donated to the Rocky Hill Food Bank. Also in May 2015, Groton / New London Airport Tour with students experiencing commercial ship steering simulator.
The WTS 2014-15 Professional Mentor Program officially closed during the Chapters Annual Awards event held on April 16th. Another successful year, the chapter had five teams comprised of vibrant mentees and senior level industry professionals as mentors. The seasons overriding theme was identifying who you are and selling your personal brand. With a kick-off in August of 2014 at the Chapter’s annual summer social with a meet and greet and program overview, our teams’ began their journey. Events included a women’s roundtable discussion to hear lessons learned from seasoned professionals; participation in the Chapter’s Transportation Mini-Series which included a professional development session with Joel Weintraub on healthy leadership; Unlocking Your Brilliance, a session with Karen Purcell (principal of PK Electrical in NV); Communicating for Professional Growth, a session with Giovanna Tiberii Weller (Partner with Carmody & Torrance, LLP); and a group book review of Be Your Own Brand by David McNally and Karl Speak.

Now in its 6th season, the Mentor Program will start-up again this August. This seasons book review is 'Triggers' by Marshall Goldsmith, pick up a copy and join the Mentor Program participants in their review come March 2016.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Shawna Bartkus at sbartkus@hwlochner.com.
CTfastrak is open and off to a great start!

CTfastrak, Connecticut’s First Bus Rapid Transit system is open and off to a great start! A project that was 15 years in the making is now a fully functioning transit system. CTfastrak is an entire system of routes consisting of new services laid over existing bus service. This new transportation system has a great deal to offer the region in the way of travel. Buses circulate in Downtown Hartford connecting riders to popular destinations in the City. Express buses travel to and from Waterbury, Cheshire, Southington & Bristol. In addition, other routes connect riders to the Berlin Turnpike, CCSU, Westfarms Mall, Manchester Community College, West Hartford Center, UConn Medical Center, Hartford Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, the Silas Deane Highway and so much more! Many people have been surprised to learn that the system goes way beyond New Britain, Newington, West Hartford and Hartford. CTfastrak is connecting the region like never before.

Customers’ reactions to the new system have been extremely positive. From current riders who are thrilled about how convenient the new system is, to new riders who have discovered a whole new way to travel; both are reaping the benefits of CTfastrak. The ridership numbers can attest to this. Prior to CTfastrak start up, ridership on existing routes in the corridor was 8,000 trips per weekday. As of June, ridership in the CTfastrak corridor is 14,000 trips per weekday. Many people have commented on how much more pleasant their commute is to work using CTfastrak. Others have been enjoying using the system to go out to dinner or see a show, without the worry of having to find parking. It is great to see people taking advantage of and embracing public transportation!

Stay tuned for the potential future expansion of service with CTfastrak East. It is a very exciting time for transportation in Connecticut! I recommend if you haven’t already, take a ride and see where CTfastrak can get you!

For more information on please visit www.CTfastrak.com.

WTS CT Transportation Mini Series Scholarship

WTS fosters the development of young women in Science-Technology-Engineering and Math (STEM) fields. This year we will be awarding a WTS CT Transportation Mini Series Scholarship to two undergraduate women pursuing studies a STEM field.

For more information please contact Nancy Rolfe at nancy.rolfe@aecom.com

1 Department of Transportation. 2015 CTfastrak Ridership. www.ct.gov/dot/ctfastrak
WTS Connecticut Committee is looking for Newsletter Chair

The WTS Connecticut Board of Directors is looking for an energetic and passionate individual interested in expanding their career by volunteering for the Newsletter Chair Position.

The Newsletter Committee is responsible for producing and distributing the WTS CT Chapter Newsletter 4 times a year in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter Seasons. Responsibilities will include coordination with the WTS CT Chapter Board to gather content for articles. Reaching out to corporate sponsors and new members for bio’s and firm “highlights.” Using an already established newsletter template to organize information and articles in an appealing, presentable manner for distribution to all members. Coordination with Board for review and incorporation of any edits prior to distribution.

Serving on an industry board, such as WTS, offers many benefits for you and your firm including: exposure to new contacts, relationship building, management and leadership skills enhancement, and personal and professional development.

Unsure and want to "test the waters" or just learn a little more about WTS CT before committing? Contact WTS CT President, Sandy Dumas at SDumas@haks.net or via phone at 860-632-5155 x 232 for more information.
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