PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

WELCOME SUMMER!

It is nice to finally welcome summer – and a new Vice President – Krista Kenney of HNTB. Krista has been involved with WTS CT Chapter for many years serving previously as Treasurer and will be an asset to our CT Chapter Board.

The WTS CT Annual Awards Banquet at St. Clements Castle on April 14th was a “huge” success! The venue was excellent – the facility, the food, the view and especially the company. We had a great turnout mainly due to the exceptional award winners and honorary guests (see article on page 8). I would like to personally express my gratitude to our corporate sponsors, without their support successful events like this would not be possible.

In May, several members of the WTS CT Chapter were fortunate to attend the WTS International Annual Conference in Austin, Texas. Carla Tillery of Fitzgerald & Halliday was among the many presenters, leading a panel discussion on Communication Among the Generations. Jacy Good (Hang up and Drive) also talked about her experiences, doing her part to discourage distracted drivers – an example that life can hinge on a couple of seconds that you never see coming.

The highlight of the conference, for me, was listening to Lilly Ledbetter talk about her journey towards pay equality which started in 1998 and ended for her in 2009 when Congress passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. This is an issue that has still not been fully resolved. In March of 2015, Connecticut Representative Rosa DeLauro introduced House Resolution 1619 – Paycheck Fairness Act in Congress. This bill includes authorization of grants for negotiation skills training programs for girls and women. WTS CT Chapter Diversity Committee Co-Chair Julia Paradis will be presenting a Professional Development session on Negotiations within the next few months.

Enjoy the summer – and stay safe!
The WTS Connecticut Mentor Program held its close-out session in late April 2016 with special guest speaker Susan Baillargeon, of CTDOT, sharing insights on Simon Sinek’s book, Leaders Eat Last. Susan discussed Simon’s explanation of the elements of human behavior and how they relate to the success and failure of an organization. She shared Sinek’s circle of safety, how it is rooted in trust and how it unifies a team bettering them to survive the ups and downs of change. The discussion closed with participants selecting quotes and sharing how the quotes resonated with them individually.

The session was the closing of the 8th season of the Chapter’s Mentor Program. This year the chapter sponsored four teams, each unique in its own working towards the goals of the individual mentees. The 9th season will begin in August 2016 with applications for participation which will be due by July 29, 2016.

If you are curious to know more about the WTS Connecticut Mentorship Program, and how it works, as a mentor or mentee contact Shawna Bartkus, WTS Connecticut Chapter Mentor Program Chair, at sbartkus@hwlochner.com. The first individual to reach out will receive a free copy of Simon’s book, so don’t delay. The book and program offer insight into people and discovery within yourself.

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” S. Sinek
WTS CT 25th ANNIVERSARY PHOTO CONTEST

WTS CT is celebrating our 25th Anniversary in 2017. As part of the celebration we are looking to compile a calendar with Connecticut Transportation photos. This calendar will be available for purchase beginning in December 2016 at our Holiday Social. All proceeds will go towards a 25th Anniversary Community College/Technical School Scholarship our Chapter plans to award.

There are 12 photograph categories, Aviation, Bridges, Buses, Construction, Environmental, Green, Highways, Historical, Multi-Modal, People in Action, Ports and Rail.

This contest is open to all friends and supporters of WTS CT. Each person can submit a maximum of 12 pictures, one per category per person. The deadline for submission is November 4, 2016.

Please contact Angelica Quintero at wtsctc@gmail.com for more information.
WTS CT Chapter 2016 Student Outreach Committee continues to be involved with the STEM initiative and have held events throughout the year to support the cause.

On Saturday August 27, 2016, the WTS Student Outreach Committee will join forces with the Connecticut Science Center who are hosting a student STEM event. WTS will have a booth and offer “learning about bridges” as their subject matter. 500+ students are expected to attend this event – WTS Volunteers are needed to work the booth and provide assistance with a non-technical project. Please contact Nancy Rolfe, nancy.rolfe@aecom.com as soon as possible to fill 1 – 2 hour time slots. This is an event you don’t want to miss.

In addition, the WTS Student Outreach Committee has located a girl scout troop that would like to do a CTfastrak tour/transportation program. We will need some help organizing this. It would be a Saturday morning for a couple of hours. The idea is for the girls to earn a TransportationYou badge. If you would like to help with the efforts toward this activity, please contact Nancy Rolfe.

Volunteers needed for student outreach events! Please contact Nancy Rolfe at nancy.rolfe@aecom.com if you are interested.

What is STEM?

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education.

STEM involves a blended or interdisciplinary learning environment that shows students how the scientific method/design process can be applied to everyday life. STEM helps prepare students for learning and working in the real world where they will spend the rest of their lives.

Tip: When working with students emphasize that the process is just as important as the outcome.
TECH SAVVY EXPO

WTS CT participated in the Women’s Education & Legal Fund (CWEALF) STEM Conference, entitled Tech Savvy Expo, on Saturday February 27, 2016. The Chapter participated in the College & Career Corner, consisting of three 45-minute sessions. These sessions, attended by approximately 20-30 young women each time, entailed the stories of professional women in leadership positions.

For activities during the College & Career Corner, CWEALF provided the WTS Volunteers, Nancy Rolfe, Sharon Okoye, Jennifer Mortensen and Lori Long with some questions to strike up a conversation as a segue into discussions about higher education and STEM Careers. Questions were designed by CWEALF to get the young women thinking outside the box and about future career choices. The questions were:

1) Who do you admire and why?
2) What’s the nicest thing you’ve done & what did you learn from it?
3) What have you done to help someone else feel confident?
4) How have you shown your confidence?
5) What have you done that makes others admire you?

The best part about asking these questions were the answers, which were all so very different in so many ways. We talked about Moms, Dads, who they helped and what they learned. Listening to these young women speak, showed how confident they are and was an inspiration to those of us who were in fact older and supposedly wiser.

As a gift, each girl received a colorful homemade book mark (thanks Nancy Rolfe for using your creative edge) indicating “It’s a Very Cool Thing to be a Smart Girl”.

Additionally, the WTS Volunteers brought a game, the WTS Wheel of fortune, which when spun participants could answer a STEM oriented question and receive a prize. All and all it was a great event!

Following the College & Career Corner, Jennifer Mortensen joined the Professional Panel of women in leadership and discussed her career path, her current role in leadership and challenges she faced along the way. During the session, participants were able to ask questions to any of the panelists.

The conference ended with lunch for both volunteers and the student participants.

GENERATING GIRLS OPPORTUNITIES (G2O)

On April 8, 2016, CWEALF invited WTS CT Chapter to be involved with a Generating Girls Opportunities (G2O) event held at Central Connecticut State University. WTS Volunteers, Nancy Rolfe, Sharon Okoye and Jennifer Mortensen lead two student activity sessions for 10 girls.

They set up to perform an activity building a bridge with specific instructions provided by the WTS Team including a drawing, specifications and food (cans and boxes – which were later donated to a food bank). The session began with basic instruction of what the team of 3 or 4 students would need to do and a time clock was started.

At the end, each group had to pick a leader to explain the process and the WTS Team was able to provide feedback on how well each team carried out their plan. As a wrap up, the student participants were able to tap into the WTS Team inquiring about their STEM related careers.
The 2016 WTS Annual Conference was held in Austin, Texas from May 18-20 with the theme “Tune In to the Future of Transportation”. There were many presentations on the Future of Transportation, including a session on Big Data, Data Collection Methods and Autonomous and Connected Vehicle Technology. WTS Connecticut member, Carla Tillery of Fitzgerald and Halliday moderated a session on Communication Among the Generations which discussed generational differences in the workplace and developing strategies for better communication.

Lilly Ledbetter, who is responsible for the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which was passed in 2009 to relax the timeliness requirements for the filing of a discrimination suit, was the first keynote speaker of the conference. Ms. Ledbetter worked for Goodyear tire as a supervisor beginning in 1979 until she retired in 1998. Towards the end of her career she became aware that she wasn’t being compensated as much as her male counterparts.

Jacy Good was the final keynote speaker of the event. Jacy spoke about the dangers of distracted driving. Jacy’s parents were killed and she was severely injured on the way home from her college graduation ceremony as result of a driver distracted by a cell phone conversation. Jacy gave a very powerful presentation with many people moved to tears listening to her story. We encourage you to learn more about her story but most of all to follow her message, “Hang Up and Drive.”
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A CORPORATE SPONSOR?

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

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD — SILVER LEVEL

The WTS International Circle of Excellence program celebrates the success of each chapter for its efforts to achieve benchmarks in chapter performance. The program provides chapter officers and members the structure and guidance to best serve their members. Chapters participating in the program can earn Gold, Silver, or Bronze recognition by earning award points in areas of chapter membership and chapter management.

To participate in the Circle of Excellence program, local chapters earn award points throughout the year by completing membership and chapter management activities and including them in quarterly reports.

WTS Connecticut Chapter is proud to have received Silver Level recognition at the WTS Chapter Circle of Excellence Awards Recognition Ceremony in this program. Congratulations WTS Connecticut for this accomplishment for the second year in a row.

CORPORATE SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

Accepting the Silver Level Excellence Award from left to right: Laurel Stegina, Rebecca Hall, Carla Tillery and Lauren DiGovanni
ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER– PORTLAND, CT

Our WTS Connecticut Chapter hosted its Annual Awards and Scholarship banquet on Thursday, April 14 at the lovely St. Clements Castle located on the Connecticut River in Portland, CT. It was a wonderful evening. Many thanks to the special and honorary guests who helped in the presentation of this year’s outstanding awards. The honorable Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman presented Vice Admiral Sandra Stosz of the United States Coast Guard with Woman of the Year. New Britain’s Mayor Erin Stewart presented CTDOT Commissioner James Redeker with the Innovative Project of the Year Award for CTfastrak. Deputy Commissioner Anna Barry, presented Rebecca Hall with Member of the Year. WTS Connecticut Advisory Board Member, Ralph Phillips presented the Rosa Parks Diversity Award to Sharon Okoye, of CTDOT. Division Administrator for FHWA, Amy Jackson-Grove presented Tighe & Bond with the Employer of the Year Award. Congratulations to all of the award winners for their commitment to the very important mission of WTS “Advancing Women in Transportation” and for all they have done as advocates of women.

Our two scholarship winners were Nicole Prete and Rosana Martinez-Castro, both students from the University of Connecticut. In addition, our mentor program was concluded at the awards dinner. The teams this year included Amy Jackson-Grove and Lori Richards, Cheryl Malerba and Kathy Dwyer, Lori Long and Angelica Quintero and Kim Dunham and Lauren DiGovanni. It was a night full of celebration and recognition.

A special thanks goes to Jessica Bliven, of VN Engineers, for offering her talents in photography and for sharing the photos with the chapter. And finally a big round of applause to our corporate sponsors for your continued support and dedication to this organization!
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT-SUSAN VANBENSCHOTEN

Leading and managing a professional services company are sometimes differing things, and doing well at both requires vision, discipline, and a human touch. Susan VanBenschoten, the President/CEO of Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI), exemplifies how great leadership and executive management can result in the overall growth, health and happiness of an organization.

FHI is a women-owned planning firm, headquartered in Hartford, Connecticut. Susan leads a staff of approximately 45 people working in FHI’s community planning, transportation planning, environmental planning and public involvement service lines. Susan is responsible for setting and communicating the company’s vision and strategic plan for the firm. In 2014, FHI expanded to New York City when Susan orchestrated the acquisition of an established planning and public outreach firm, adding to FHI’s presence and qualifications in the tri-state metropolitan area. In addition to her corporate role, Susan selectively manages high-profile, often complex projects, which require her unique set of skills.

Throughout her 30 years in the transportation industry, Susan has been dedicated to providing superior service and excellence in all aspects of her work — delivering the highest quality products, services and relationships. She has promoted these same work ethics, values, and culture in all FHI staff.

“Throughout my career, the greatest reward for me has been to help others learn and succeed and for them to understand how their efforts not only make a difference for our clients and our communities, but for their personal career and growth. I’ve had some great women role models and mentors. I hope I can do the same for other young women in transportation and engineering.”

Susan has been a member of Women’s Transportation Seminar for much of her career and has generously contributed her time and talents to WTS International, the Connecticut Chapter, as well as several of WTS sister chapters. Of particular note, Susan has participated in and led the Women-Owned Business Roundtable convened by WTS International annually, and has served as a mentor in the Connecticut Chapter’s Mentorship Program. She is a role model for women in FHI, WTS, and beyond.

Anna Barry, Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation said of Susan: “Susan is the model for a WTS CEO. She supports the Chapter in many ways – from sponsorship to events to marketing support. And she continuously promotes meaningful roles for women in transportation.”
THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE PARTNERS:

CONSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS:

MOUNTAIN LAUREL:

WHITE OAK SPONSORS:

ROBIN SPONSORS:
WTS CONNECTICUT 2016 BOARD OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Sandra Dumas
HAKS Engineers, PC.
860-632-5155 x232
sdumas@haks.net

VICE PRESIDENT
Krista Kenney
HNTB Corporation
860-256-0436
kkenney@hntb.com

PAST PRESIDENT
Pat Padlo, P.E.
TranSystems
860-274-7544
ptpadlo@transystems.com

SECRETARY
Amanda Marino
VN Engineers, Inc.
203-234-7862
amarino@vnengineers.com

TREASURER
Rebecca Hall, P.E.
Tighe & Bond
860-704-4759
rhall@tighebond.com

DIRECTOR AT LARGE
Shawna Bartkus
H.W. Lochner, Inc.
860-760-5841
sbartkus@hwlochner.com

WTS CONNECTICUT 2016 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

COMMUNICATIONS
Announcements
Jennifer Scolamiero
CME Associates, Inc.
860-928-7848
jpixley@cmeengineering.com

Newsletter
Alicia Leite
Connecticut DOT
860-594-2826
Alicia.leite@ct.gov

Website & Social Media
Jessica Peruti
860-632-5155 x235
jperuti@haks.net

DIVERSITY
Candy Phillips
The Lane Construction Corp.
203-439-2192
CLPhillips@laneconstruct.com

Julia Paridis
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman
& Dicker LLP
203-388-2441
Julia.Paridis@wilsonelser.com

EVENTS
Bonnie D. Torres
VHB
860-807-4300
btorres@vhb.com

MEMBERSHIP
Lisa Slonus, P.E.
Weston & Sampson
860-513-1473 x3032
slonusl@wseinc.com

SCHOLARSHIP
Lauren DiGovanni, P.E.
HNTB
860-256-0434
ldigovanni@hntb.com

Shivani Mahajan, P.E.
AECOM
860-529-8882
Shivani.mahajan@aecom.com

STUDENT OUTREACH/TRANSPORTATION YOU
Nancy Rolfe, P.E.
AECOM
860-263-5803
nancy.roffe@aecom.com

MENTORSHIP
Shawna Bartkus
H.W. Lochner, Inc.
860-760-5841
sbartkus@hwlochner.com

HISTORIAN
Lori Long
AECOM
860-263-5831
Lori.long@aecom.com

WTS CONNECTICUT 2016 ADVISORY BOARD

Anna Barry
Deputy Commissioner
Connecticut DOT
Shawna Bartkus
Regional Marketing
Representative
H.W. Lochner, Inc.

Amy Jackson-Grove
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
(FHWA) CT Division
Nicholas Lownes, Ph.D., P.E.
Professor - UCONN
Civil Engineering Department
(Transportation and Urban Planning)

Cheryl Malerba
Chief of Staff
Connecticut DOT
Ralph Phillips, P.E.
Senior Project Manager
VB Technologies Corporation

Catherine Young, CM., ACE
General Aviation Airports Business Developer
Groton-New London Airport

Leslie Haines, P.E.
Sr. Operations Manager
Parsons Transportation Group