Despite a snowy start, 2015 promises to be a great year – for women in general and for our CT Chapter of WTS in particular. I’m excited to be involved with WTS at this level and looking forward to continuing the improvements and momentum started by past president Patrycja Padlo and the rest of the board (round of applause!).

We are lucky to start the year with all board positions and committee chairs filled with enthusiastic people. We have a good mix of experienced members and young enthusiastic members – which bodes well for the continued success of WTS. We even have several members volunteering to help when needed.

The past few years has seen an increase in the number of women executives of Fortune 500 companies and they are motivating others by their hard work and success. Before if a woman was “lucky enough to make it to the top”, they tried to understate the fact that they were female. Now they embrace that fact and all the good qualities and hard work that go with it. AND they are reaching out to encourage other woman to follow their example. Sheryl Sandberg’s Lean In started as a book and became a movement (www.leanin.org). This is one example of how one individual inspires women to speak out and be counted.

Although we are in the early days for the 2016 Presidential Election, multiple women lead the list of potential hopefuls for President of the United States. This past fall, the No More public awareness campaign highlighted the increasing problem of domestic violence and sexual assault. There are an increasing number of movements and programs that encourage girls to get interested and stay interested in STEM related pursuits, but also many geared towards increasing their self-confidence – in their intelligence and in their bodies.

There is an old saying “May you live in interesting times”. These are interesting times we live in, but I think that the future especially for women, is about to get even more interesting!

Let’s Go CT!

On Wednesday February 15th Governor Dannel P. Malloy unveiled his “vision” for our transportation future entitled Let’s Go CT! The two parts of the program - a five year ramp-up plan and a 30-year document with specific projects to be designed and built, which are available at www.ct.gov/dot.

As the Governor said, “As we have this conversation, we also need to continue making the case to our constituents for why Connecticut needs a best-in-class transportation system. We need to explain what it can mean for them – for their quality of life, and for the economic health of their state. Let’s get to work.”
Message From the Past President

As my presidency officially comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of our WTS Connecticut Members, Corporate Partners and the Board for the incredible support and encouragement I have received over the last two years. WTS Connecticut will continue to grow and evolve as a direct result of your involvement in our organization.

Looking back over the past two years, there have been many major transportation events and projects that have affected us in some way. Some things making the news were the power failure disrupts on Metro North’s New Haven Line, which forced 40,000 commuters to alter their daily travel for several days, construction of CTfastrak and Northeast Corridor Study, beginning of I-84 Viaduct Study, TransformCT, and many more.

As I reflect on my time as a WTS Connecticut member and then on the Board, I feel a sense of profound gratitude for the opportunities I have been given. I have learned so much from our members and have developed some wonderful friendships along the way. The learning experiences, the friendships and yes even the occasional disagreements have all made for a very rewarding experience. The most important thing I have learned is that WTS Connecticut isn’t a one man show. It’s a team of dedicated individuals that care about making the transportation industry better. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with the 2013-2014 WTS Connecticut Board members. We have spent a lot of time together organizing and hosting various events and sessions including the Annual Awards Dinner and Transportation Mini Series (TMS). I appreciate all of their hard work, their commitment, their innovative ideas and positive attitudes. A heartfelt thank you goes to each Board member.

I still remember my first day joining the WTS CT Chapter board like it was yesterday. I worked my way through the ranks of Event Chair to Vice President and then to President. I am humbled by the people I am following, not only the current board but the officers of the past, Shawna Bartkus, Laurel Stegina and many more. As our new President, Sandy Dumas, takes the helm, I know I leave you in good hands. Sandy is a visionary who has enormous talent and respect in the Transportation Industry.

In closing, I want to thank my current fellow Board members and our past presidents as well. I stand in awe of the energy, intelligence and leadership shown by these individuals. Their time and talents are truly what dreams are made of.

Thank you,

Pat

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2015

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

Run on the new CTfastrak bus-only road – new asphalt – fast & flat – only opened to runners for this event!

Race is capped at 1200 entries. DON’T DELAY! REGISTER TODAY!
Our 2014 Holiday Social was an exceptional hit last year! Close to 40 people gathered to celebrate the holiday season with friends and associates on Dec. 4th at Park Central Tavern in Hamden. We were happy to welcome many new faces as we enjoyed delicious food, beverages and music. Prior to the start of our social we had our open board meeting which was attended by many, interested in learning about the WTS CT Chapter and how it functions. This was also an especially exciting evening, as it was the end of our former Executive’s Board term and time to announce our new Executive Board. We heard a touching farewell speech from Pat Padlo, Past President of the WTS CT Chapter and welcomed in our new Executive Board:

President - Sandra Dumas of HAKS Engineers
Vice President - Jessica Peruti of HAKS Engineers
Secretary - Kim Dunham of Greater New Haven Transit District
Treasurer - Rebecca Hall, PE of Tighe & Bond

All in all, it was a wonderful event that carried on late into the evening!

WTS Connecticut Events

- Annual CACT & WTS Legislative Breakfast - February 25, 2015 - State Capitol Building, Featuring Key Note Speaker Deputy DOT Commissioner Anna Barry
- Annual Awards Dinner - April 16, 2015 - The Gallery, Glastonbury CT

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
What do Abu Dhabi, Zagstar, Caramel Apple Pie, and Smart Phones have in Common?

I was excited and a little nervous as I left my car in the parking garage on a brisk October 2014 morning. This would be my first experience with WTS after returning to engineering work only 3 months earlier in CT. You see I had finally gotten up the nerve to re-enter the world of Transportation after a 5-year break as a CT florist. How did I not know about WTS from 1998 to 2006 as I began my Traffic and Transportation Engineering career in Meriden, before working for a few years in Atlanta, GA. The Connecticut Chapter has been around since 1992!

I was greeted at the registration desk and handed my bag of goodies. I entered the technical session’s room and the first presentations of the day “Student Research” were underway. What an impressive group of grad students. Their research on Weigh-in-Motion Enhancements with algorithms and accelerometers (a what? I only work in kilo-, centi-‘s, and millimeters, and most states have given up on the metric system anyway), Real Time Travel Crowdsourcing with Smartphone Apps, and Work-Zone Merges were presented. Thank you Valeri Kolev, Asif Rehan, and Michael Gerard Kurker.

After a quick break for meeting my neighbors in the room, the next presentation of the morning was from Siva Narla with ITE. Siva is responsible for ITE’s transportation technology activities. Siva reached into his former career in the financial world to relate his experiences with financial institutions challenges to first accept the need to embrace technology, develop customer winning strategies, and then implement the technology and work out the kinks to the “Ongoing Technology Transformation Age within Transportation”. The bottom line is that the Transportation industry must accept the advances in Connected/Autonomous Vehicle technologies. Those of us that will shall succeed, those that do not will become obsolete.

The next session brought things closer to home. Susan VanBenschoten, PE, President and CEO with Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc. (FHI) and Mary Miltimore, an FHI Planner, shared with us how CT can “Find Balance along Route 1 and the Connecticut Shoreline”. Susan shared with us information from a current FHI project underway with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments. Planning transportation all along the coastal corridor in CT is always a challenge to balance community life, pedestrian and bicyclists needs, Interstate 95, historic Route 1, Metro-North railroad, and coastal evacuation routes. FHI’s focus was on the towns of Clinton, Westbrook, and Old Saybrook.

The last technical session of the morning provided an interesting “Strategic Planning Comparison between Abu Dhabi and Connecticut”. Who even knew it was possible to provide transportation services in such a royal location as Abu Dhabi? Dave Sousa ASLA, AICP with CDM Smith did. Dave who is based out of CT spent several months overseas providing planning services for the Emirate. Tag teaming Dave with comparison to CT was David Elder AICP, GISP a Transportation Planner in the Office of Strategic Planning and Projects, Bureau of Policy and Planning, CT DOT.

Lunch break! I sat down at a table with four ladies and an interesting gentlemen named Joel Weintraub. After conversation and laughs as we ate, our table turned to the dessert choices, would we go with the cheesecake or the caramel apple pie? We all went with the caramel apple, it was the right choice! It turned out there was a reason why Joel was so entertaining, he was our lunch time speaker, an inspirational comedian with a message on “Changing the Workplace to Encourage Entrepreneurial Employee Spirit”.

The afternoon was filled with coffee, and two more technical sessions and a panel discussion. Have you figured out where I was yet? Most of you probably have, if not keep reading!

Sandy Fry, Greater Hartford Transit District, Nicole Freedman, City of Boston Director of Bicycle Programs, and Phil Goff, with Alta Planning + Design introduced “Bike Share in CT and around New England”. Specific project planning, funding, and implementation strategies were shared. CT currently has a hand full of bike share programs, including Zagstar at Yale. Nicole and Phil shared project planning, funding, and implementation strategies that were used within the City of Boston and other major cities and how they might be modified to be successful here in CT.
Dr. Joseph Hummer, PE from Wayne State University in Detroit and Jim Dunlop, PE with North Carolina DOT presented the “RCUT Intersection, a New Innovative Intersection”. The Restricted Crossing U-Turn intersection, also known as superstreets or j-turns, increases capacity, reduces conflict points, and uses less right of way than the alternative jug-handle design. The RCUTI has been implemented in 10 U.S states. Several case studies from North Carolina were presented including high-accident locations. Methods to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles with the RCUTI design were also shared.

The last afternoon event was a “Panel Discussion with FHWA, FRA, FAA and CT DOT”. Anna Barry, CTDOT Deputy Commissioner, moderated an interesting and candid discussion with Amy Corbett, FAA Regional Administrator, Amy Jackson-Grove, Division Administrator FHWA Connecticut, and Michelle Muhlanger, Deputy Regional Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration. Questions included specifics about what is happening in Transportation in our Region. And on a more personal note, these accomplished women shared their own struggles they met as they rose to their current positions as well as juggling work and family life.

Time for socializing and a cocktail. As we mingled, winners of the Silent Auction were announced. Auction items were many including baskets of gift cards, sessions with a life coach, and a grouping of several dozen wines, just to name a few. The proceeds of the auction and half of the 50-50 raffle (548 dollars) were donated to the WTS CT Chapter Scholarship Fund.

By now I’m sure you have figured out what Abu Dhabi, Zagstar, Caramel Apple Pie, and Smart Phones have in Common. They were all part of the WTS 8th Annual Transportation Mini Series (TMS)!! What a packed day of events, including 6 technical sessions, 1 lunch time humorist & motivational speaker, 4 powerful panel members, 2 networking hours, 1 silent auction, and fabulous transportation professionals. Hope to see you at our next TMS, October 2015.

Written By Lisa Slonus

Here’s a quiz: If you take the product of the sum of the number of technical sessions and comedians at TMS, and the number of panel members, then subtract the square of networking hours, and then reduce the total by the number of silent auctions, what do you get?

Answer: The number of years WTS CT Chapter has been Advancing Women in Transportation since 1992, twenty-three years.

{ [ ( (6+1) x (4) ) – (2 x 2) ] – 1 }

Connecticut Chapter Welcomes New Members:

- Shanila Aslam
- Mary Baker
- Melanie Cenkus
- Iuliana Murgescu
- Jean Davies
- Stacy Graham-Hunt
- Diane Jackson
- Stephanie Scavelli
- Catherine Young

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: adevaux@mbakerintl.com
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Collins’ capabilities and desire for firsthand knowledge enable our engineers to be on the project from start to finish, from the initial on-site inspection to the design of repairs, from performing the construction administration to following up with construction inspection. Such practical experience provides a unique and customized approach in the development of solutions, and provides continuity for our clients. Collins applies this valuable knowledge into its engineering services and to the advancement of the industry as a whole by regularly authoring manuals and providing expert training services. Collins also participates in the implementation of industry protocol, both nationally and internationally. Collins is continually on the leading edge of standards and methodology, which allows Collins to provide clients with engineering ingenuity and solutions to complex problems, along with realistic, honest answers.

Headquartered in Chicago, IL, Collins’ local office is located in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, with additional regional offices in Rhode Island, New York, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Freeman Companies, LLC is a professional consulting engineering firm specializing in owner’s representation, civil engineering, permitting, land surveying, transportation engineering, geotechnical engineering, environmental sciences and construction engineering and inspection for projects in the governmental, educational, commercial, institutional and infrastructure markets. Founded in Hartford, Connecticut in March 2009, Freeman Companies offers clients nearly 400 years of professional design and technical experience through its current 30-member professional staff. Repeat work accounts for 78% of the firm’s portfolio as evidence of our promise to clients and owners to “Elevate Your Expectations”.

The firm’s current work ranges from construction engineering & inspection at Coltsville Park and Union Place, to geotechnical engineering on the West River Bridge, to full-service program management and design for DoNo (the major urban revitalization program for Hartford’s Downtown North neighborhood) and urban planning, transportation and roadway design for the iQuilt/Intermodal Triangle Initiative.

Freeman Companies is fully licensed and insured in jurisdictions throughout New England. Freeman is African-American owned, certified as a DBE, SBE, MBE, and federal 8(a) professional consulting engineering enterprise.

In 2014 – the occasion of the firm’s fifth anniversary – Freeman Companies rebranded, launched a new website, reclaimed a 1920’s Hartford fire department building as its new office, and expanded core capabilities to include structural engineering and hazardous building material services.
Job Openings

LOCHNER | Highway Engineer | East Hartford, CT | www.hwlochner.com

LOCHNER | Structural Engineer | East Hartford, CT | www.hwlochner.com

VN ENGINEERS | Structural Engineer | Rocky Hill, CT | amarino@vnengineers.com

VN ENGINEERS | Administrative Assistant | Rocky Hill, CT | amarino@vnengineers.com

WESTON & SAMPSON | Civil/Site Engineer | Rocky Hill, CT | www.westonandsampson.com

WESTON & SAMPSON | Construction Inspector | Rocky Hill, CT | www.westonandsampson.com

WESTON & SAMPSON | Highway Engineer | Rocky Hill, CT | www.westonandsampson.com

WESTON & SAMPSON | Proposal/Administrative Coordinator | Rocky Hill, CT | www.westonandsampson.com

WESTON & SAMPSON | Resident Representative | Rocky Hill, CT | www.westonandsampson.com

A.DICESARE ASSOCIATES | Senior Civil Engineer | Bridgeport, CT | www.adicesarepc.com

CDM SMITH | Civil Engineer 4 | New Haven, CT | www.cdmsmith.com/join-us

FREEMAN COMPANIES | Construction Inspectors | Hartford, CT | pkirkwood@freemancos.com

MILONE & MACBROOM | Structural Engineer | Cheshire, CT | pamh@miloneandmacbroom.com

MILONE & MACBROOM | Jr. Highway Engineer | Cheshire, CT | pamh@miloneandmacbroom.com

FITZGERALD AND HALLIDAY | Environmental Specialist | Hartford, CT | environmentalplanner@fhiplan.com

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KLEINFELDER | Civil Engineer | Rocky Hill, CT | kleinfelder.com

KLEINFELDER | Entry Level Civil Engineer | Rocky Hill, CT | kleinfelder.com

KLEINFELDER | CADD Technician | Rocky Hill, CT | kleinfelder.com

TIGHE & BOND | Principal Transportation Engineer | Middletown or Shelton, CT | tighebond.com

TIGHE & BOND | Project Engineer | Shelton, CT | tighebond.com

TIGHE & BOND | Staff Engineer | Shelton, CT | tighebond.com

Around the Area Calendar of Events:

SWE - Connecticut - Scholarship Luncheon, April 13, 2015, 12:00 PM

WTS International - Annual Conference, May 20-22, 2015 - Chicago, IL
As fall began to give way to the cold New England winter, I began my journey across the country to attend the 2014 WTS International Leadership Training in beautiful San Diego, California. The WTS San Diego chapter were extremely gracious hosts, holding a beautiful reception to kick-off the training and welcome WTS members from all around the country.

The next two days were packed full of informative workshops and seminars where I had the opportunity to meet and engage with many WTS leaders from all over the country. The program began the morning of Friday, November 14, 2014 with an overview of the program and of WTS International by members of the International board. This was followed by a roundtable discussion where we had the opportunity to discuss chapter related topics with leaders from various chapters. After a quick break we settled in to get a peak into the future WTS Transformative Leadership Programs, and learn more about the Transportation YOU program with a panel discussion featuring leaders from chapters where the program is flourishing. Friday afternoon we had the opportunity to choose our own learning opportunities with three hour long breakout sessions. Topics varied from Leader Empowerment to Mastering the Art of Digital Communication. Personally I found the Language of Leadership session especially helpful.

The next morning began with the exciting “ignite” presentations, which consisted of ten, five minute presentations, consisting of 20 slides that auto-advance every 15 seconds. The weekend came to a close with a professional development session on Becoming an Infotuitive Leader, presented by Shelley Row. Overall it was an incredibly informative and rewarding experience and I was honored to represent the WTS Connecticut Chapter.

By Allie DeVaux

WTS Winter Reception Breaks Attendance Record

On January 11, 2015, nearly 400 members of the transportation community, including students, individuals from the public and private sectors, and high-level industry leaders enjoyed networking at the 2015 WTS Winter Reception. Held each year on the Sunday evening of the Transportation Research Board’s Annual Meeting, this year’s Winter Reception attendees included many of the industry’s thought leaders, such as Sarah Feinberg, Karen Hedlund, Carolyn Flowers, Polly Trottenberg, and Michael Melaniphy, to name a few.

WTS London Commemorates 100 Years of Women in Transport

This year marks the centennial anniversary of the First World War and a significant moment in the history of transport, when 100,000 women entered our industry to take on the responsibilities held by large numbers of men who enlisted for military service when the UK entered the war. The WTS London chapter was delighted to support the commemoration event, working alongside Transport for London (TfL), the organization that operates and develops the public transportation network and main roads in London, and with its industry partners.

The 100 Years of Women in Transport (100 YOWIT) program will celebrate the significant role that women have played in transport over the past 100 years in the United Kingdom. It will also reflect on the diversity of the current transport workforce and identify opportunities to enhance it through a variety of initiatives and activities.

WTS Chapter Leader Training

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By Allie DeVaux
# WTS CONNECTICUT 2015 BOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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**WTS CONNECTICUT 2015 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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<th>COMMUNICATIONS</th>
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<th>EVENTS</th>
<th>DIVERSITY</th>
<th>WTS CONNECTICUT 2015 ADVISORY BOARD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alicia Leite</td>
<td>Crystal Engram</td>
<td>Catherine Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut DOT</td>
<td>Greater Bridgeport Transit</td>
<td>Airport Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Alicia.leite@ct.gov">Alicia.leite@ct.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:cengram@gogbt.com">cengram@gogbt.com</a></td>
<td>Groton-New London Airport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Connecticut Airport Authority</td>
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