As we enter the middle of the Summer, I wanted to take a moment to talk about the significance of this year for WTS Connecticut. This year we celebrate 25 years of promoting women in the transportation industry! It is truly a big year for us – all of us - both current and past WTS Board Members and WTS Connecticut members.

We have quite an event planned in November to celebrate this significant milestone. There are many surprises planned and there will be many former WTS CT Board Members present to share in this monumental night. I want to thank our 25th Anniversary Gala Committee for planning what is shaping up to be the event of the year! Stay tuned for more teasers on what you can expect on this special night, November 9th.

Now is a great time to get involved in WTS Connecticut! If you would like more information, please reach out to me or one of our board members directly. We would love to have you onboard.

Enjoy the rest of your Summer!
WTS will roll out the red carpet and provide an unforgettable evening for you and a guest. Join us as we walk through 25 years of the WTS Connecticut Chapter’s history and accomplishments, while enjoying food, wine, networking, music and dancing. Come prepared to enjoy a memorable evening with colleagues, friends, and entertainment!

November 9, 2017
Gershon Fox Ballroom
Hartford, CT

Stay tuned for more details in the coming months including how to reserve a table for this special event!

Are you using Deltek Vision? Interested in being part of a User's Forum?

If you have questions, want to learn tips, and/or have gained insight on shortcuts and development this forum is for you! New and seasoned users, let’s come together and see how we can help one another. Interested? Please join the WTS CT & SMPS Joint Discussion Group!

Monday, September 18, 2017
5:30 pm - TBD
GM2 Associates, Inc.
115 Glastonbury Blvd.
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Contact, Shawna Bartkus of GM2 Associates at SBartkus@GM2inc.com
Kristine C. Gorman has joined Jacobs as a principal and the New England regional manager of its Buildings & Infrastructure business line. Kristine’s business development experience over the past decade, including serving as an architectural designer and project manager for STV specializing in both building architecture and infrastructure makes her an ideal candidate to lead the outside sales team. In her new role she will be focused on developing, maintaining and advancing public and private client relationships, growing the talent pool, expanding marketing activities, as well as contributing to the business strategy to increase revenue for Jacobs.

The Jacobs Buildings & Infrastructure line of business has approximately 11,500 employees and serves both the private and public sector. This business line maintains a leading position in the transportation, water, education and government buildings sectors by driving superior value, global connectivity and the delivery of excellent solutions to clients around the world.

Kristine serves on the executive board of directors for the Women’s Transportation Seminars Boston Chapter (WTS-Boston) as secretary and as the vice president of programs for the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) New England region. Kristine attended Boston Architectural College (BAC) and holds a Bachelor’s of Science in interior design from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut.

www.jacobs.com

Welcome to the WTS Connecticut Chapter!

Since December 2016, the WTS Connecticut Chapter has added 17 new members. Please join us in welcoming them!

Theresa Albanese, Mott MacDonald
Joseph Balkus, VHB
Bridget Boucaud, VN Engineers
Kenneth Fargnoli, GM2 Associates
Tiffany Garcia, Connecticut Department of Transportation
Christopher Granatini, Tighe & Bond
Colleen Jost,* WSP
Anna Mariotti, WSP

Tony Margiotta, GM2 Associates
Michael Sanders, Mass Concepts LLC
Donna Shea,** University of Connecticut
Megan Savage, WSP
Laura Udice, WSP
Silvana Vardhami, Greater New Haven Transit District
Catherine Young, ** Connecticut Airport Authority
Michelle Zhe, VHB

*Returning Member **Past Honorary Member, now Regular Member
On Wednesday May 3, 2017, WTS CT hosted Terry Walters, Jr. of H.W. Lochner, Inc. for a Lunch and Learn on Augmented and Virtual Reality at the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s (CTDOT) Newington headquarters. The audience of about 25 attendees included engineers, planners, and public involvement specialists.

With over 25 years of experience, Terry Walters, Jr. is Lochner’s national level expert on 3-D to 6-D building information modeling (BIM) and is the firm’s trainer for 3-D modeling, rendering, animation, composing, and post-production applications. Terry, a self-proclaimed despiser of PowerPoint, used a brief PowerPoint to provide an overview of augmented and virtual realities, and the differences between them. With a baseline of understanding among attendees, the event then moved onto the hands-on learning. Terry brought three devices for the audience to try out. Attendees waited anxiously in line for their turn experience the futuristic equipment.

To demonstrate virtual reality, Terry provided attendees with virtual reality glasses that replace a user’s entire environment; attendees were transported to environments that included cities, rural surroundings, the ocean, and the Halsted Bridge in Chicago, Illinois. Impressively, the environments were created by Terry himself!

To demonstrate augmented reality, which overlays digital information onto the user’s physical range of sight, Terry brought along a pair of Microsoft HoloLens. Microsoft HoloLens are “smart glasses,” developed and manufactured by Microsoft. A relatively new concept, users of the augmented reality glasses can transport design information onto a construction site, allowing users to view engineering data onsite, and on check building progress.

Continued on the next page...
Terry brought an iPad with an Anatomy 4-Dimensional (4D) application. When scanning the iPad over a two-dimensional (2D) image such as a picture of a heart on paper, the application allows the viewer to view the heart in 4D. Tapping the 4D image allows users to remove layers and create a vibration resembling the heartbeat under your fingertips. Attendees used the application on a 2D image of a full body skeleton, switch back and forth from a male skeleton to a female skeleton, once again eliminating and adding layers to examine different body parts.

Terry’s virtual and augmented reality seminar allowed session attendees to experience unusual dimensions and multiple realities without leaving CTDOT’s headquarters, an experience that would not otherwise be possible!

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**Interested in becoming a member?**  
*Contact Lisa Slonus at slonusl@wseinc.com*

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**Upcoming WTS CT Chapter Events**  
*Join Us!*

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**WTS CT Leadership Program: Interaction Skills**  
CME Associates, Inc.  
Thursday, August 17, 2017  
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

**Joint WTS CT and SMPS Deltek Discussion**  
GM2 Associates, Inc.  
Monday, September 18, 2017

**Transportation Mini Series**  
Radisson, Cromwell, CT  
Thursday, October 5, 2017

**Friends & Family Fresh Air Fun Day**  
Linear Trail, Southington, CT  
Saturday, October 14, 2017

**25th Anniversary Gala**  
GFox Ballroom, Hartford, CT  
Thursday, November 9, 2017

**Holiday Social**  
Esca, Middletown, CT  
Thursday, December 7, 2017
More than 700 corporate and governmental industry leaders worldwide participated in the 2017 WTS Annual Conference May 17-19 in New York City.

The WTS Annual Conference focuses on professional development for transportation professionals across modes and disciplines. During the interactive, three-day session, transportation leaders exchanged ideas and learned about the latest developments in transportation. A multitude of thoughtful and engaging topics were covered, including autonomous technologies, transportation funding, shared mobility solutions, innovative data collection methods and professional development.

Arianna Huffington, a prolific author and international media mogul who started the award-winning news platform The Huffington Post, served as lunch keynote speaker on May 18th. She spoke about the importance for individuals to maintain a balance between work, good health and life/enjoyment and has positioned the work/life balance as an important reform for companies to place at the forefront of their culture. A few of our own, Anna Barry, Deputy Commissioner, CTDOT, Lisa Rivers, Transit Manager, CTDOT and Susan VanBenschoten, President/CEO, Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc., served on a panel entitled, “Small State, Big Challenges: Connecting Connecticut with Improved Transit.” This session focused on the communication challenges that exist, success stories, and how multi-entity collaboration is the key component to delivering a better transit system.

Carla Tillery, along with Amy Jackson Grove, led a professional development panel entitled, “Mentoring, Sponsoring, and Coaching Women in Transportation.” All panelists shared their unique journey of challenges and triumphs that yielded their successful career growth in this male-dominated industry.

Our Chapter sponsored a photo booth after the awards ceremony. It was a hit! In addition to the many informative sessions and professional development forums, WTS members networked with one another and exchanged ideas to improve their respective chapters.

It was a great few days and many memories were made!
The Keynote speaker at this year’s WTS International conference was Arianna Huffington, creator of the Huffington Post. Born in Athens Greece and educated in England, Ms. Huffington has written over a dozen books on a range of subjects. She has been on both Times 100 Most Influential People and Forbes World’s 100 Most Powerful Women lists.

In 2005, she started the Huffington Post (website) and was Editor-in-Chief until she stepped down in 2016 to start her new website – Thrive Global, a new platform focusing on finding a way of living life where work and health are balanced. The inspiration for this venture came from her 2014 book Thrive: The Third Metric to Redefining Success and Creating a Life of Well-Being, Wisdom and Wonder – a NY Times best seller.

The focus of the keynote address was about learning to appreciate the moment and making self-care one of our top priorities. By making time for ourselves, getting the rest we need, and reducing the stress in our life, we become better able to take care of business and family. Ms. Huffington used the analogy of how airlines tell you to put your mask on first before tending/helping others – we need to take time to see to our needs so we can operate at our highest potential.

One of the things that keeps us from achieving this is the increasing reliance on electronic devices. Constantly having our smartphones within reach creates distractions so we are never truly “in the moment”. Become aware of how much time you are spending on electronic devices. We need to be economical with our attention, our time, our lives.

For those who are business owners, managers or supervisors, it is in the best interest of the company to reduce stress which can lead to sleep deprivation, health issues and can make staff become less productive. Have fewer meetings, but make the meetings you do have count by ensuring everyone is engaged in the meeting and not distracted. Ms. Huffington pointed out that there is no true Multi-tasking – you are always focused on one task or another.

Remember – we can’t do everything perfectly and mistakes will be made, but there is a direct relationship between the quality of the decisions we make and how rested we are. We need to take time to disconnect from work and reconnect with ourselves. Embrace our relationship with technology, but know that we can set boundaries to technology and not sacrifice our humanity to devices. Some of us have become used to running on empty and we forgot what it means to live life fully charged.

Machines have been invented since the Industrial Revolution; machines that were supposed to ease our lives. Since machines don’t take breaks, people started following suit creating the delusion that to succeed, we need to burn out.

My favorite take-away from the day was Ms. Huffington’s advice to show people around us our gratitude. Every day we have an opportunity to make human contact with those around us. If you take time to make a personal connection with people we normally take for granted – like the check-out clerk at the grocery store or the barista at the coffee shop. By taking the time to make a personal connection with them, it not only affects their day positively, but also can make you feel more alive and reconnected to the moment.
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, Krista Kenney at kkenney@hntb.com

Question the ordinary 
Imagine the extraordinary 
Create the enduring

We engineered some of our nation's tallest buildings and designed transit systems for cities from coast to coast.
Our expertise lies at the intersection of the infrastructure and the skylines we have helped to shape.
We are WSP USA.
Find out what we can do for you.

wsp.com/usa
Kimberly Davis of Onstage Leadership, New York, led a workshop about a leadership strategy called Authentic Influence. Kim emphasized that in today’s workforce, leaders need the ability to inspire in the workplace for high performance, in comparison to leadership styles used in the past, such as autocratic leadership, having command and control of employees, setting performance expectations.

Workshop participants were involved in several group breakout sessions which allowed self-reflection of their own ethical values, and development of personal strategies to conduct themselves in a way to connect to and build trust, promote openness, and take constructive actions (encouraging feedback, sharing information and personal experiences) as leaders to motivate those you lead to be at their best.

On a personal note, I felt there were authentic influences present at the conference. Valuable actionable items were discussed to prepare women for leadership roles; including the need for us, as women, to take better care of our physical and mental well-being (get more sleep, set boundaries with technology) to avoid burnout. Also discussed were ways in which women can assist each other through coaching, mentoring, and sponsoring; embracing and respecting our differences; and most of all sharing information, including professional and personal experiences, to encourage and keep advancing each other in this vast transportation industry.
"The City That Never Sleeps" hosted the WTS annual conference in Brooklyn, NY from May 17-19, 2017. More than 700 attendees arrived from all over the country to share time together in the largest gathering ever held throughout the organization’s 40 year history. From its beginning in 1977 when 40 women in Washington, DC formed the organization, today, WTS boasts 60 chapters and 6,000 members!

The 40th Anniversary celebration followed the Annual Awards Ceremony on the evening of Thursday, May 18th. Baltimore Bike Share won for Innovative Transportation Solutions, Los Angeles World Airports for Employer of the Year, Catalina Alvarado from the Bay Area’s Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award, Phillip Schaffner from MInnDot, the Honorable Ray LaHood Award, and the Member of the Year was awarded to Fay Simer of the City of Saint Paul with the Woman of the Year awarded to Susan Collins, Senator from Maine. Also, Thursday night recognized six scholarship awardees from as diverse locations as California, Florida and Pennsylvania for students from high school through graduate school.

And then, past WTS presidents spoke about WTS during the decade of their term: Christine Vineis as a founding mother, Deborah Wathen Finn and Sunnie House told stories about the challenges and opportunities during the 1980’s and at the turn of the century. As the audience adjourned to the 40th anniversary party, the Connecticut Chapter’s conference gift delighted all as we posed for the photo booth, donated in honor of the Chapter’s 25th Anniversary. As we donned hats and scarves and locked arms for the camera, raffle winners were announced and the largest amount of money ever raised at an annual conference went to the WTS Foundation. It was quite an evening!

Next year’s Annual Conference will be held in San Diego from May 16–18! See you there!

Interested in becoming a member? Contact Lisa Slonus at slonusl@wseinc.com

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Do you have comments or suggestions on how we can improve the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to submit?

Please contact:

Anna Mariotti
Phone: 860-594-2826
E-mail: anna.mariotti@wsp.com

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WTS
Advancing Women in Transportation
Connecticut Chapter
Highlights of the WTS CT 2017 Awards Dinner

Above, left to right: Bridget Boucaud, Amanda Marino, Jessica Bliven, PE, Bob Gomez, PE, Sofia Nirshberg, PE, Sharon Okoye, Patrick Zapatka, and Alicia Leite

Above: Scholarship Committee Co-chairs Katie Hedberg (far left) and Shivani Mahajan (far right) with 2016 Scholarship recipients

Above: CTDOT Deputy Commissioner, Anna Barry (center) with WTS CT Vice-Present Bonnie Torres (left) and President Krista Kenney

Above: Susan VanBenschoten (left) and Carla Tillery (right) of Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.

Above: Keynote speaker, Renee DiNino, Director of Community Affairs & On Air Programming for iHeart Media in Connecticut

Above: Chris Granatini, Tighe & Bond
FROM THE ARCHIVES

As a continued effort to share the WTS Connecticut Chapter’s archives, below please find an article that was included as chapter announcement when the chapter first started a Job Bank. For a short time a Job Bank Update was published which offered information and advice to women seeking careers in the transportation industry. Read below what the mindset was back in December of 1991, republished by the WTS Connecticut Chapter in July of 1994.

How to dress for Success!

When interviewing for a job first impressions are important. A professional in the 90’s needs to dress appropriately. Usually it is best to dress as if you were applying for a job one or two steps higher than the one for which you are interviewing. However, successful business dressing encompasses a lot more than wearing the right suite. It is important to pay attention to other details such as accessories, hair, make-up, shoes and schedule considerations.

Every women applying for a professional job should wear a skirted suit. For example, if you are applying for a professional, managerial, or executive job or any other job for which a college degree is required, the best-color suit in the North for most of the year is charcoal gray. In the Sun Belt an in the North in the summer, the color is medium-range gray. Both outfits should be worn with a white blouse.

If you have a series of interviews for a high-level job, you should alternate suites. For instance, if you know that on a particular day you will have a preliminary screening interview with the Personnel Department, a navy blue suit with a white or pale blouse would be ideal. Then for your next interview try a light gray suit with a dark blue blouse. To add to this look bring your attaché case; especially if it is for an executive level position.

After choosing the right colors, a professional should keep their suits pressed and avoid projecting the eccentric, slept in suit look. When a woman removes her suit jacket, she should hang it up rather than draping it over a chair where it is liable to wrinkle. Similarly she should chose suits, dresses and blouses that do not gap open due to arm movement or sitting position adjustments. This means garments buttoning in the back and blouses made of material that does not slip out at the waist should be considered. Likewise, since hemlines change with the years, you should decide on a level that suits your personal activity level and build.

Following suggestions for Accessories, Hair, Make-up, Shoes, and Schedule Considerations......

The balance of this article can be found on the WTS Connecticut Chapter Website, under Newsletters, 1994 Job Bank Update – July.

WTS CT VISION:

A WTS CT Chapter that provides exceptional benefits to its members in the areas of professional development, career support, mentorship, and student outreach; offers leadership, educational, and networking opportunities; advances women in the transportation industry; and strives to function in an environmentally sustainable manner, with integrity and a commitment to diversity.
Interested in becoming a member? Contact Lisa Slonus at slonusl@wseinc.com

Save the Date

Anniversary Gala
11.09.2017
Gershon Fox Ballroom
Hartford, CT
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