A Successful Start
BY DANIELLA BERNETT

WTS-GNY’s 27th Annual Meeting on February 26th at Club 101 in New York City attracted a capacity crowd of industry leaders and professionals. The highlights of the evening included this year’s award presentations and a keynote address by Tony Shorris, the Port of New York and New Jersey’s (PANY&NJ) newly-appointed executive director.

Jenny Kapelyan received the Member of the Year award and Brenda McIntosh was honored as the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership award recipient. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority was recognized as Employer of the Year.

With great humility and grace, Jenny accepted her award. “WTS,” she said, “is an immense part of my professional and personal life. I’ve taken on various leadership roles and know what this organization has to offer. Therefore, I encourage everyone to get involved.”

Meanwhile, in her stirring speech, Brenda urged everyone “to embrace a diversity that is all-encompassing and to accept the individual uniqueness that empowers us all.”

“For me to express the depth and magnitude of winning this prestigious award is not an easy task.” She went on to explain that “understanding each other and moving beyond simple tolerance is to embrace and celebrate the rich dimensions of the diversity contained within each of us.”

Michael Baker Corporation, 2006’s Employer of the Year, passed on the torch to this year’s winner, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority. Michael Brescia of Baker presented the award, which was accepted by the authority’s executive director, Michael Lapolla.

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“The Turnpike Authority,” Brescia noted, “owns and operates two of the safest and most efficient roadway systems in the nation and one of the most beautiful, the Garden State Parkway. The level of maintenance and service...on these roadways is outstanding under normal conditions, but the service is second to none when it snows or sleets or if you break down.

“Never one to remain stationary, the Turnpike Authority continues to grow with the needs of the region and is embarking on ambitious widening programs on the Turnpike from Interchanges 6 to 8A and on the Parkway from mileposts 30 to 80. To get this done, the authority will have to rely on its entire staff to coordinate and manage this huge and worthwhile undertaking. Tonight, we honor the Turnpike’s women that are at the core of this effort.”

Tying in the Turnpike Authority’s work ethic with WTS’ goal to promote women into leadership positions in the transportation industry, Michael Lapolla said, “Before I took over, the Turnpike was not known as a friendly place to women in this business. There are 24 executive posts at the authority and today 11 are filled by extremely competent women.”

During the evening’s presentations, WTS-GNY also paid tribute with special awards to longtime members Beverly Dolinsky, Executive Director of the MTA’s Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee, and Bobbie Athey, Chief Safety Officer at MTA Bridges & Tunnels. Both women, who have retired, were very active and integral supporters of the chapter’s mentoring program.

“Without their ideas and support,” WTS-GNY Chapter President Felice Farber said, “mentoring couldn’t have gone as far as it has in the last five years.”

“Mentoring will help a lot more women to get to the top in this industry,” Beverly enthusiastically commented.

Bobbie thanked WTS member Cathy Sweeney for encouraging her to get involved in the organization, where she could make a difference to others.

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The evening’s featured speaker Tony Shorris congratulated WTS-GNY on its 30th anniversary and said that he was honored that he could be a part of this event. Shorris served as PANY&NJ executive director from 1991 to 1995 and was a key member of Governor Spitzer’s campaign, and later, on his transition team. On this, the 14th anniversary of the first World Trade Center bombing, he spoke about how staff members are “mourning more than reconciling with the past. An endeavor we all have to undertake at the Port.”

He went on to discuss PANY&NJ’s historic role in facilitating the movement of goods and people across the region. “To keep our competitive edge,” he explained, “we must think regionally. The Port is positioned to play a key role in this frenetic world to guard the best principles of policy and planning.”

Shorris gave an overview of PANY&NJ’s mission over the next decade. He stressed that safety was the agency’s No. 1 priority. “However, although there is a moral and economic imperative to get ahead, we must not lose sight of our obligation to communities. We can’t afford to sacrifice environmental sustainability.”

In terms of coordinating dialogue on regionalism, Shorris said that he was lucky to be dealing with two governors that are “fairly rational and intelligent,” and who understand how important it is that PANY&NJ is viewed as an agency that bridges two state cultures. “There’s an appetite on both sides to create infrastructure that makes this possible.”

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**Corporate Sponsor Profile**

WTS would like to give our corporate sponsors an opportunity to tell everyone about themselves. In this issue, we feature Cambridge Systematics.

**CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS, INC.** is proud to announce that on April 9, 2007 it relocated its full service office in midtown Manhattan. Since opening in April 2005, our New York/New Jersey/Connecticut operations have been overwhelmingly successful and we are expanding to accommodate our growing staff. Our new address is: Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

33 East 33rd Street, Suite 804
New York, NY 10016
Tel (212) 209-6640
Fax (212) 209-6641

This new office enables us to better service clients throughout the New York region. Among the projects that we have been awarded already are on-call transportation planning support contracts with the New York City Economic Development Corporation, NJ Transit, Rockland County, Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council, and the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council, as well as numerous individual studies with these and other agencies.

Cambridge Systematics is a national leader in transportation planning, travel demand forecasting, microsimulation, traffic operations planning and evaluation, and transportation information systems. The firm uses state-of-the-art analytical techniques to inform decision-makers at the U.S. DOT, state DOTs, MPOs, local governments, transit agencies, and port and toll authorities. We look forward to working with you on developing innovative solutions to complex transportation problems using quantitative tools and qualitative analysis.

For more information, contact John Duesing, Director of New York Operations, at (212) 209-6640, or via e-mail at duesing@camsys.com.
Nurturing Tomorrow’s Leaders

By Daniella Berrett

WTSGNY’s Second Annual Diversity and Professional Development Conference held at the MTA in Lower Manhattan on March 9th was a resounding success. Through three targeted workshops, industry leaders sought to help those just climbing the corporate ladder to better understand the intricacies of the transportation field so that they can advance to the next level in their careers.

The event was planned and organized by WTS Board Members Gail Spears and Felicia Jones, and Diversity Committee Co-Chairs Cheryl George and Gregory Bradley. Event day assistance was provided by Catherine Hess, Stacey Hodge, and Marie DeLucia.

The informative workshop topics included “Answering the Call: Are You Ready?”; “Attitude Equals Altitude”; and “Navigating in a Changing Environment: Out With the Old, In With the New.” Featured speakers included: Janet Campbell, a Principal and Transportation Planner and Senior Traffic Engineer for Sam Schwartz PLLC; Joan McDonald, Senior Vice President for Transportation at the NYC Economic Development Corporation; Jeffrey Smalls, President and CEO of Smalls Electrical Construction, Inc.; Donna Walcavage, Principal of Donna Walcavage Landscape Architecture + Urban Design; Flora Castillo, NJ Transit board member; Gail Chandler, MTA Long Island Bus; Pippa Woods, WTS-

From left: Workshop speakers Flora Castillo, NJ Transit board member; Gail Chandler, MTA Long Island Bus; and WTS-GNY Immediate Past President Pippa Woods.

Conference participants from left: WTS-GNY Programs (NY) Co-Chair Catherine Hess; member Marie DeLucia; WTS-GNY Treasurer Stacey Hodge; Diversity Co-Chair Greg Bradley; WTS-GNY President Felice Farber; Diversity Co-Chair Cheryl George and WTS-GNY Director-at-Large Felicia Jones, not pictured, Gail Spears, WTS-GNY Vice President.

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GNY Immediate Past President and Business and Project Development Director for the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers; Joel Ettinger, Executive Director for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council; Laurie Gutshaw, Chief of Staff to the President of DMJM Harris; Lamond Kearse, Chief Compliance Officer for the MTA; and Richard Maitino, Vice President of Parsons Transportation Group.

Laura Toole, President of Michael Baker Corporation, served as the keynote speaker. For the second year in a row, Gregory Bradley facilitated the conference.

Panelist Laurie Gutshaw, who served three members of the U.S. House of Representatives and worked at the NJDOT, before joining DMJM Harris in 2002, related her experiences in transitioning from the public to the private sector. Laurie was also a two-time director-at-large of the WTS-GNY Chapter and a two-time member of the WTS International Advisory Committee. She emphasized the need to be prepared for change and stressed the importance of personal responsibility in achieving career success.

“I tried to convey the value of actively shaping one’s professional life,” she said. “As my mentor says, ‘You are the CEO of you.’”

“The purpose of the conference,” Diversity Committee Co-Chair Cheryl George said, “is to provide members with practical and ideally life-altering information presented by a varied group of professionals in the transportation industry. Cultural diversity goes beyond the basic acceptance of others. It requires a deeper commitment, one of internal change in order to truly appreciate the beauty of and to learn from a complex and multifaceted society. Hopefully, the conference will help bring about that change.”

“The conference seeks to help facilitate change and plant seeds for new growth,” Felicia Jones, WTS-GNY Director-at-Large noted. “That change is a constant in life. By informing our members about new trends in the industry, especially the increase in the entrepreneurship of women, they will be better prepared to succeed in this fast and competitive global marketplace.”

Attendees such as WTS-GNY Treasurer Stacey Hodge and new member Sasha Durcan gained a wealth of knowledge and appreciated the guidance offered by these industry leaders.

“Each speaker had perseverance, a support system, took risks, had a positive attitude and was professionally ready, when the time came for them to take a leadership role. They were not all engineers or planners by background, yet many of them are in leadership positions in the transportation field today. I found that very inspiring.”

In a similar vein, Sasha Durcan expressed enthusiasm about the event. “As a new WTS member, I was very impressed with the seminar. The speakers had a genuine passion for the business and a true desire to help others in the field. I certainly look forward to upcoming events.”

Sasha went on to explain that at the time of the conference, she had interviews at a number of large companies. Several of the speakers addressed issues that directly affected her immediate needs. She was able to implement some of those ideas at her next interviews and was offered quite a few “terrific” job opportunities.

WTS-GNY member Glenessa Gordon of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey asking a question during one of the workshops.
Here’s a Peek into the 2007 Mentoring Program

Apprentices

Stacey Hodge  
DMJM Harris  
Olivia Szabo  
Earth Tech  
Jing Du  
MTA Bridges & Tunnels  
Ella McLeod  
MTA New York City Transit

Cassandra Gibbon  
MTA Bridges & Tunnels
Karen Rosenberger  
New York State DOT
Cordelia Crockett  
MTA New York City Transit
Ivy Tzur  
Parsons Transportation Group

Mentors

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MTA New York City Transit
Robert Kaplan  
Parsons Transportation Group
Darlene Rivera  
MTA New York City Transit
George James  
MTA New York City Transit
Joseph Izzo  
HDR
Janice Li  
Lea & Elliot Associates

Maria Garcia and Dr. Betty Spence  
Maria Miranda, Brenda McIntosh, Denise Grey Stewart  
Ella McLeod and Robert Kaplan  
Joe Izzo and Cordelia Crockett
Thecla Koffa, President of the NJ Institute of Technology (NJIT) WTS Chapter, has been working diligently to get the word out on campus about WTS. And the result? A wonderful WTS student career session held on campus on April 4th. WTS members talked about the need for Ph.D. students (like many pictured) to come and work in the public sector, as well as the private sector. With many leaders in the industry retiring, the workforce needs an infusion of innovation, youth and skills to help solve the problems in transportation!

“We had a pretty good turnout and perhaps picked up one or two new members,” Thecla enthusiastically said. “I’m excited about the possibilities!”

“Thank you so much for your support of our chapter. It was wonderful to have [WTS members] share [their] experiences and wealth of knowledge with our group. Overall, I believe that the meeting had a positive effect on the students who attended. I plan to keep in touch...this is just the beginning!”
Panelists to Small Businesses: We Need You in New Jersey
WTS ROUND TABLE EXPLORES NEW OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES
BY NORA MADONICK

NJDOT Commissioner Kris Kolluri delivered a strong message of support to small business contractors attending the WTS Small Business Contractors Forum at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton on March 28th. Commissioner Kolluri highlighted NJDOT initiatives that are designed to encourage small business participation and assured those in the audience that he would work tirelessly to ensure that D/SBEs have every chance to succeed with his agency.

The well-attended session brought representatives from key New Jersey and neighboring transportation agencies together with small business contractors for a lively and frank discussion about how best to work together, and what issues each faces in the effort to do so. Executive Order 34, Governor Corzine’s landmark diversity initiative, was the focus of inspiring and encouraging remarks from Monique King-Viehland, Senior Director for Small- and Medium-sized Business Development with the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, and Francis Blanco, executive Director of the Division of Minority & Women Business Development. They explained the order’s participation goals and accountability measures, as well as other state-level efforts designed to further small business contractor participation.

Kolluri’s upbeat message of his goal to improve and streamline the process to ultimately encourage more women and small firms to win more business in the state served as the foundation of a roundtable discussion among representatives of several New Jersey agencies. These representatives stepped up to the dais for a lively debate that covered everything from how each agency is reaching out to small businesses to how small businesses can best position themselves with the agencies. Questions from the audience prompted panelists to address issues that included accountability for prime contractors from procurement to contract management; how-to’s on marketing small business to state agencies; and the unraveling of a baffling knot of acronyms from DBE to ESBE and what each means to the 60 or so small business contractors in attendance. The exchange of ideas also extended to how to adjust your business in order to accommodate – and benefit from – the new regulations. What was clear was that both agencies and small businesses have the opportunity to be agents of change on a far more level playing field in New Jersey.

Contractors also took part in individual workshops, where some worked with agency representatives to initiate prequalification with NJDOT or to learn more about New Jersey’s new Unified Certification Program. Each official offered details about his or her agency’s approach to small business contractors, and participants capitalized on the one-to-one opportunity to gain insights on positioning themselves for success in New Jersey.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

2007 Scholarship Deadline

The deadline to submit applications for WTS-GNY’s undergraduate and graduate scholarships is Friday, April 20th. There are three annual awards: the Leonard Braun Memorial Graduate Scholarship; the Susan Miszkowicz Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship, and the Molitoris Undergraduate Leadership Award. Up to $2,500 for the graduate and $2,000 for each undergraduate scholarship. Winners will advance to the national competition.

Eligibility requirements: Female; GPA of 3.00; enrolled in or accepted to a degree program in a transportation-related field; plan for a career in transportation.

For application forms, please go to: www.wtsinternational.org. Click on Professional Development, and then Scholarships to download the application. You can also click on the Greater New York Chapter page, scholarships. Please include all required forms, letters, transcripts, etc. in one package. Mail to: WTS Greater New York, P.O. Box 989, New York, NY 10116-0989.

If you have any questions, contact Betsi Nemeth at (646) 388-9824 or e-mail at: enemeth@akrf.com.
Liz Claiborne Distribution Center Tour
BY KASHFIA BILLAH

WTS joined the Materials Handling Society New Jersey (MHSNJ) and Warehouse Education and Research Council (WERC) to organize a tour of the Liz Claiborne distribution center in North Bergen, NJ, on March 14th. Nine WTS members from New York and New Jersey together with about 60 MHSNJ and WERC members participated in the tour, which was followed by a dinner and presentation.

Groups of 15 took the one-hour walking tour through the four mezzanine floors of the 502,000-square-foot facility. The fully-automated facility handles the various stages of receiving, sorting and shipping of flat and hanging apparel. The groups saw such machines as RF directed turret trucks; garment on hanger sorter, flat unit sorter, print and apply label printers, taping machines, and shipping sorter.

In 2006, 18 million units of apparel were handled by the North Bergen distribution center. Even though the tour was after hours and the machines were not operational, the complexity and enormity of the process was palpable. Endless rows of hanging garments or stacked boxes were on view along with the intricate maze of machines, conduits and hangers necessary for the automation to function between the floors of the facility. It was a fascinating experience.

Later, a buffet dinner and presentation was held at nearby La Reggia restaurant in the Meadowlands Plaza Hotel. MHSNJ President Steve Garvey commenced the evening’s festivities. Kashfia Billah, NJ Programs Co-Chair made introductory remarks on behalf of WTS. The featured speaker was Dan Raucci, Vice President and Partner at TEM Associates, Inc. His topic was motivating your workforce. Dan focused on such issues as practicing personal accountability in business; procrastination, the blame game, and eliminating complaints.

Participants also entered a drawing for a scaled-down model of a red fork lift truck, which was won by WTS’ very own Kashfia.

EXPOSing a Wealth of Talent
BY STACEY HODGE

On Monday April 30th, WTS will host its featured program on contracting opportunities in New York in conjunction with its 10th Annual M/WBE Expo. Come hear from a variety of government leaders and meet the newly appointed members of the State and MTA. The panel will discuss new business opportunities in the metropolitan area. Panelists include Timothy Gilchrist, Deputy Secretary for Infrastructure and Economic Development, Office of the Governor; Michael Jones-Bey, Executive Director of Minority and Women Business Development, Empire State Development Corporation; Joan McDonald, Senior Vice President, NYC Economic Development Corporation; Judith Kunoff, Chief Architect, MTA New York City Transit and Denise Berger, Deputy Director of Operations, Engineering Department, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

SAVE THE DATE

WTS Annual Boat Ride
Thursday, August 2, 2007

This event coincides with the WTS International Board meeting in New York. WTS International Board members will be attending the boat ride.

We hope you can join us!
A Salute to Our Committees and Volunteers

WTS-GNY’s success wouldn’t be possible without the enthusiastic loyalty and support of our committees and volunteers. We would like to take a moment here to recognize and thank some of these wonderful members. There’s plenty of opportunity for you to make a difference too. New volunteers are always welcome. Why not step up today and help make a great organization even better.

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### A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

The list reflects the new members that joined the chapter up until press time.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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[www.wtsinternational.org](http://www.wtsinternational.org)