The Key to a Strong Transportation Industry

By Da Niella BerNett

WTS-GNY hosted an insightful members-only breakfast at Club 101 on June 26th featuring Veronique (Ronnie) Hakim, Vice President and General Counsel for MTA Capital Construction. [Editor’s note: At the time of the event, Ronnie was serving as acting president of the division.] She gave a brief formal presentation on the status of such megaprojects as east Side access, the Second avenue subway, the No. 7 subway line extension, South Ferry station and the Fulton Street transit Center.

Ronnie discussed the construction, engineering and cost challenges posed by each project, as well as the steps the MTA is taking to address the problems and community concerns. The MTA is engaging in a pro-active accounting approach by reviewing all contract packages and breaking them into smaller ones. The agency also is reaching out to consultants and contractors to dispel their worries. “We’ve undertaken a huge expansion program,” she said. “The MTA is relying on its funding partners to provide the resources to finance these projects. The agency is looking to get both the public and private sectors involved in this process.”

She also touched on the MTA’s challenge to change the way it is portrayed in the media. “I don’t think we’re doing enough to tell people all the great things that are going on. There is an opportunity to turn our relationship with the media around.”

From the MTA’s capital program, Ronnie segued into a roundtable dialogue on the lives of women as professionals in the transportation industry “and how we can leverage the assets we bring to the workplace.” Her relaxed and conversational tone, as well as the small conference room setting, was conducive to a lively discussion. Ronnie started by telling the group about how she started in the industry and the maxims that she learned early on from two mentors that she has strived to live by throughout her career. These are:

1. Come to the office with a smile on your face and work as hard as you can;
2. Work hard and in a collaborative fashion; and
3. It is all right if you don’t know everything.

Ronnie then turned to the group to solicit continued on page 2
FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK
continued from page 1

Contractor’s, Association of New York, Michael Baker Corporation, New York Building Congress, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Sam Schwartz, Skanska USA Civil Northeast.

New Corporate Partners:
URS, Weidlinger Associates, Inc.

For more information on the program, please go to our chapter page on the WTS website or contact Megan Carton at (908) 791-4800.

Annual Dinner: Don’t forget, WTS-GNY’s Annual Dinner will take place on October 16th at Bridgewaters at the South Street Seaport. We are proud to honor our Woman of the Year, Susan Hayes, President and CEO, Cauldwell Wingate and NJ Transit Board member, who will be introduced by Deborah Wathen Finn, CH2M Hill. We are alsoprivileged to have Richard Anderson, President, New York Building Congress, as our master of ceremonies at this event. Please see our website for more information on the Dinner.

THE KEY TO A STRONG TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY
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input on the issues of professional development and how to attract more women and young engineers to the transportation industry.

Virginia Borkoski of MTA Capital Construction said, “You have to create a support network and get involved in organizations like WTS. Also, take advantage of leadership and mentoring programs. Become a volunteer on a committee. Attack all angles and be out there.”

“I’ve found that in careers it is important to create formal and informal relationships. You have to develop work relationships outside the chain of command, which requires a new way of thinking,” Ronnie commented. “Huge programs require collaboration. Don’t be embarrassed to ask questions. The only way to learn is if you ask questions.”

“More and more women are becoming involved in the heavy civil side,” Paul Monte, a lawyer with the construction firm of Peckar & Abramson, said. “There are a lot of influential women in my life. The challenge is what do you do to continue getting good young women into the industry.”

Dean Agelakos of Jacobs brought up an important point about attracting women to the industry. “It seems that many agencies have a preference for working with consultants with whom they are familiar and comfortable.”

Ronnie noted that the MTA has started an internship program as a way to create a little window into the agency. “An internship program is something we all need to invest time in to try to connect with schools. It is troubling that we’re not seeing a large group of young people entering into agencies. This is the big hurdle that we all must do something about. It is helpful to have forums such as this to address the problem. The MTA has made success planning a priority.”

Cheryl Black of Amtrak’s Engineering Department said that her agency has reinstituted its internship program and has started a professional development program.

To round out the discussion, Ronnie concluded, “We have to impress on the young the impact of transportation in our lives. Then, we can attract people to the industry. We also have to look within our companies for the visionaries and leaders who can elicit a change in the industry.”

The meeting left all the participants with a lot of food for thought. “Hearing everyone’s stories was very encouraging,” said Tessa Knox-Roberts of Arup.

Now, action is needed to make this vital industry strong so that we can continue to adapt to the nation’s evolving transportation needs.

Event volunteers: Sara Hearn, Catherine Hess, Christie Marcella, Jennifer Modi and Emily Smith. ■

If you would like to volunteer for the committee, please contact Claudia Haskins at (212) 973-3191 or claudia.haskins@aecom.com, or Lisa Pompei.

Programs: We were honored to have had Howard Roberts, MTA-NYCT President, Veronique Hakim and Susan Bass-Levin, Deputy Executive Director, PANYNJ and Marie Kennington-Gardiner, Director, NY Area Program Integration Office, FAA, join us these last months. We appreciate that they committed time to making presentations that kept our members abreast of the most important developments in our industry.

Our professional development program continued with the second session led by Carl Selinger, who focused on writing, speaking and listening. His next session in September will cover management skills.

We also had several opportunities to see our industry “in action” as we toured the Grand Avenue Bus Depot and the Hudson Bergen Light Rail Caven Point Maintenance/Operations Facility.

Golf Outing: Our 5th Annual golf outing raised over $4,500 for our Scholarship program! This was our first year at our new location at Pelham’s Split Rock Golf Course. Another first this year was our golf outing kick-off at the Chelsea Piers driving range to help our members dust off their clubs and practice their swing.

Mentoring: Our 7th annual mentoring program has been a great success. Note that applications (due November 15th!) for the program are now available on our website. For more information on the program, please contact Allison Davis or Brenda McIntosh.

As we close the book on a summer of fun and learning, we invite you to attend an upcoming meeting or professional development program – they are always planned with you, our members, in mind. I look forward to greeting you at an event in the near future.

Jenny Kapelyan
President GNY Chapter
(646) 252-4407
kapelyan@7subway.com ■
Two WTS-GNY members, Allison Davis of Arup and Amy Kaufman of the MTA, were selected to participate in the 8th annual WTS Leadership Training Program. This year’s course was entitled, “Leadership for the 21st Century: People, Policy and Politics.” Fourteen women were selected from across the country for the program, which was held on January 27-30, 2008 at the National Transit Institute at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. This prestigious program is designed for mid-career transportation professionals who have demonstrated strong leadership potential in both their professional and personal lives.

The three-day program had dual goals – to explore leadership in the context of each participant’s style and individual traits, as well as to explore some of the core issues and topics that are facing transportation leaders today. Diagnostic tools were used to assist the participants in reflecting on their abilities and styles and how they could be utilized to better reach their short- and long-term personal and career development goals. Panels of high-level transportation professionals including Anne Canby, Mortimer Downey and Anne Sheridan were on hand to discuss the (re) authorization of federal transportation funding, climate change, and career development.

**VIEWPOINTS ON THE PROGRAM**

**Allison’s comments:** “The entire program from start to finish was stellar. Carmen and Chris, our facilitators, were incredibly adept at focusing the conversation, yet including all participants. The speakers, some of whom I have been hearing about since graduate school, provided a comprehensive view on significant issues in the industry. But most important, the diversity, experience, and emotional intelligence of the other participants was inspiring and created an environment that encouraged and supported personal and professional discussions about issues and challenges that we face. The network created means that I will have that support going forward in my career too. I learned a tremendous amount about myself and how to use my strengths to work better in any environment. I can’t say enough good things about the program – I highly recommend it to any WTS member in the middle of her career!”

**Amy’s comments:** “I just came across a quote in a book I’ve been reading that is so true: ‘The best way to learn about oneself is to understand how one is viewed by others.’ For three days, each of us in the leadership program experienced how the other 13 saw us. I found the insights of the brilliant women around me incredibly constructive, helpful and empowering (although sometimes scary). The group was diverse geographically, in background and work experience, and yet we found lots of common ground. The facilitators, Chris and Carmen, kept us focused and guided us through the diagnostic exercises, which I found challenging and valuable. I enjoyed discussing transportation policy with the panelists, a rare opportunity. I’m honored to have been selected to participate in this program and second Allison’s recommendation to mid-career WTS members.”

Information on the program can be found on the WTS International website: [http://www.wtsinternational.org/SecondaryTemplate](http://www.wtsinternational.org/SecondaryTemplate). Please feel free to contact Allison (allison.davis@arup.com) or Amy (akaufman@mtahq.org) if you are interested in learning more.
**Corporate Partner Profile**

*WTS would like to give our corporate partners an opportunity to tell everyone about themselves. In this issue, we feature Trueform US.*

**Trueform US** is the North American counterpart of Trueform UK—a leading provider and manufacturer of end-to-end transportation and infrastructure solutions. Established in 1978, Trueform UK holds contracts with major cities throughout the world for the manufacture, installation and maintenance of road, rail and air-based passenger infrastructure hardware, including waiting shelters, stops and electronic passenger information display systems. The firm has provided its support infrastructure and systems to some of the largest and most successful public transport systems in the world, including the Transport for the London system.

Since launching its United States and Canadian division in 2005, Trueform has provided hardware and technology solutions to major North American transit agencies, including the City of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Edmonton Transit System, Alberta, Canada; Capital Metro, Austin, TX; and TriMet, Portland, OR. The firm’s work involves the development, manufacture, installation and maintenance of a wide range of intelligent transportation systems; real-time travel information display systems; journey planning solutions; and CCTV-equipped and solar panel-powered transit stops, shelters, interactive customer kiosks and associated infrastructure. Trueform’s products meet all Buy America requirements.

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**WTS/GNY 2008 Awards Dinner**

**Date / Time**
Thursday, October 16, 2008
6:00PM-7:00PM Reception
7:00PM-10:00PM Dinner

**Place**
Bridgeworks
11 Fulton Street
New York, NY 10038

Silent Auction to benefit GNY Scholarship Fund
Business attire
Please direct all inquiries to: wts_ny@yahoo.com

**Woman of the Year**
Susan Hayes
President and CEO, Cauldwell-Wingate and NJ Transit Board Member

**Introduced By**
Deborah Wathen Finn
Senior Vice President
CH2M Hill

**Master of Ceremonies**
Richard T. Anderson
President
New York Building Congress
Mentoring Program Update

BY ALLISON DAVIS

So far this year, in addition to the one-on-one mentoring sessions between the mentor and apprentice pairs, we’ve had the honor of hosting presentations by Connie Crawford, Senior Vice President of Capital Program Management at New York City Transit, Stephanie Pinson, President of Gilbert Tweed Associates, and Greg Bradley, Vice President of Human Resources and Diversity at Metro-North Railroad.

Connie joined us for our kick-off meeting in February and talked about how mentors have had a tremendous influence on her career. In May, Stephanie Pinson discussed career coaching and the skills that can be used for job searching and day-to-day work. Finally, Greg Bradley joined us in June for a talk about navigating our careers and networking. Many thanks to Connie, Stephanie, and Greg for volunteering their time and wisdom with the 2008 Mentors and Apprentices.

The WTS-GNY mentoring program provides a forum for women seeking to attain the skills necessary to achieve greater levels of success in both their professional and personal lives. The program offers expert guidance and professional development through a shared experience with some of the most successful transportation leaders in the metropolitan area.

WTS-GNY is proud to announce that applications for mentors and apprentices for the 2009 Mentoring Program are now available. Applications will be accepted any time up to November 15th. The applications are available on the WTS-GNY website: www.wtsinternational.org.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a mentor or apprentice, please contact any of the Mentoring Committee members:
Allison Davis allison.davis@arup.com
Brenda McIntosh brenmc1@optonline.net
Ella McLeod ella.mcleod@nyct.com
Jing Du jdu@mtabt.org
Linda Travis ltdl012@aol.com
Maria Miranda miranda@wai.com

2008 MENTORING PROGRAM

Apprentices
Angie Hacker, MTA
Hollie Wells, New York City Transit
Jennifer Strasser, Cambridge Systematics
Majella Payne, New York City Transit
Sarah Kaufman, New York City Transit
Sasha Durcan, Ryder Construction
Wilhelmina Brown, New York City Transit
Yixin Wang, Cambridge Systematics

Mentors
Albert DiBernardo, Weidlinger Associates
Carl Selinger, Carl Selinger Services
George James, New York City Transit
Janice Li, Lea & Elliot
Malinda Foy, New York City Transit
Patrick Smith, New York City Transit
Virginia Borkoski, MTA Capital Construction

Stephanie Pinson, President of Gilbert Tweed Associates and WTS-GNY Advisory Board member, (top) and Greg Bradley, Metro-North Railroad Vice President of Human Resources and Diversity (bottom) gave presentations to the Mentoring group this year.
Members in the News

Longtime member and active supporter of WtS throughout her career, Mary K. Murphy was recently appointed Executive Director of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), one of the largest metropolitan planning organizations in the nation. NJTPA is the federally authorized metropolitan planning organization for 6.5 million people in the 13-county northern New Jersey region. Each year, the NJTPA oversees the investment of more than $2.5 billion in transportation improvement projects and provides a forum for interagency cooperation and public input into funding decisions. It also sponsors and conducts studies, assists county planning agencies and monitors compliance with national air quality goals.

Murphy was most recently Deputy Executive Director at the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, where she was responsible for operations and planning of the Turnpike and Garden State Parkway, as well as interagency coordination. Prior to working for the Turnpike Authority, she was Director of Planning and Community Development for Union County. Murphy also previously worked as a transportation planning consultant and was Manager of Policy and Intergovernmental Liaison at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANY&NJ). She is a licensed professional planner who holds a master’s degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas in Austin and a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Planning and Design from Rutgers University.

Christie Marcella, WTS-GNY Programs Co-Chair (New York), a transportation planner and public involvement specialist at Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates, was recently promoted to associate. Christie has coordinated and overseen numerous public involvement efforts for public agencies, particularly in the New York/New Jersey region. She has made presentations about the firm’s projects at several conferences, including New Jersey’s annual TransAction convention.

WTS – The Tie That Binds

BY MARCIA SHAPIRO

I am very excited to announce that I joined CH2M Hill on March 4th as the New York lead for the company’s Enterprise Management Solutions (EMS) business unit. EMS provides consulting services in the following IT-Solution focused areas: Management Consulting, Enterprise Spatial Solutions, Enterprise Collaboration Solutions, Integrated Security, Communications Network Consulting, and Managed IT Services. My current focus is on Enterprise Spatial Solutions (GIS), particularly for office of emergency management (OEMs) and Security Master Planning for critical infrastructure and my mission is to expand our practice in New York and manage our work with the Port Authority of NY & NJ Engineering Division, the Office of Emergency Management, and Technology Services Division. I was recommended for this position by Deborah Wathen Finn, who as all of you know, is one of the founding members of the WTS-GNY chapter. Deb invited me to meet CH2M Hill’s senior management at the opening of CH2M Hill’s NY office which just happened to coincide with the sale of Spear Technologies and my overnight, and unexpected move, into the ranks of the unemployed. I had previously interviewed with the firm, but the timing was not right. However, when an opening came up last fall, Deb again put my name forward and here I am. My good fortune illustrates the value of WTS – an organization whose members are dedicated to supporting one another to attain leadership positions.
Meeting the Challenges – The NYC Metro Aviation Industry

BY SARA OLIVER

If you have traveled anywhere via air recently, more likely than not, you experienced some sort of delay. The July 15th WTS-GNY Dinner Program entitled, “The Future of Air Transportation in the NYC Metro Region,” focused on air travel today, inevitable future challenges, and what can be done.

Susan Bass-Levin, the first speaker of the evening, is responsible for five airports in addition to the largest commuter rail network as the Deputy Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ). Though only at PANYNJ for one year, in her words a “microsecond” in comparison to the lengthy history of the agency, Bass-Levin had a vast knowledge of the current state of the airline industry, the future of the industry, and ideas on how to prepare ourselves for the future.

Marie Kennington-Gardiner, the evening’s other featured speaker, is the Director of the newly formed New York Area Program Integration Office for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). In this position, Kennington-Gardiner coordinates regional airspace issues, projects and initiatives in the New York area – a smooth transition from her previous position as director of the Lower Manhattan Recovery Office where she coordinated federal emergency transit investments following the September 11th terror attacks.

As a result of high fuel prices, there is tension in the aviation industry which has caused a rise in customer service but a loss of many small companies. Currently, the region has seen 10 million fewer air passengers than had been expected this year. But, Bass-Levin stressed that airline travel is cyclical and in 20 years it is projected that 150 million people will be coming into and out of the New York metropolitan area. To accommodate rising demand, innovative methods must be implemented to increase capacity. Without greater capacity, delays will grow from 27 percent in 2007, the second worst year. In the New York region especially, the number of flights arriving on time could decrease from the 60 percent attained in 2007. Kennington-Gardiner also talked at length about this problem and how she plans to focus her attention on airport delays. To this end, she is open to any new ideas.

Although she knows it will be a challenge, Bass-Levin summarized some of the steps needed to improve future air travel. PANYNJ has made a commitment to upgrading its airport facilities. The agency has allocated $150 million for improvement projects at JFK and is investing $500 million at Stewart International Airport, the first carbon negative facility.

Despite the independent funding and PANYNJ’s own efforts, Bass-Levin expressed a strong belief that collaboration with and support from the federal government is critical for the future of air travel. Communication between the FAA and PANYNJ must be improved, so that PANYNJ is consistently made aware of schedule changes and consulted on discussions of flight caps. Kennington-Gardiner echoed these comments and pointed out that the FAA’s success depends on ground partners.

More important than communication, the federal government has the resources to fund “Next Gen,” a high-tech “leap into the future,” that will shift air traffic control from ground towers to satellites, as part of a push to modernize the existing, outdated technology. The system has the potential to alleviate congestion and cut delays. “Next-Gen” is especially vital in such congested areas as New York because, as Kennington-Gardiner pointed out, there is no place to lay down concrete for airport expansions. A commitment to “Next-Gen” must be made immediately to meet projected demand. PANYNJ and the FAA have responded by setting aside $4.6 billion and $8 billion, respectively, over the next two years.

Both Bass-Levin and Kennington-Gardiner concluded their speeches with a call for collaboration throughout the transportation industry, especially in the New York/New Jersey area. Bass-Levin pointed out that 75 percent of delays nationwide are attributed to flights into or out of the region.

“As goes New York’s, so goes the nation’s aviation system. This is a challenge for all of us and we need to work together.” Kennington-Gardiner feels passionately not only about her job, but also as a taxpayer and a traveler. She opens her “hand and ear” for any suggestions on aviation delays and service.

Event volunteers: Heather Cuffel, Sara Hearn, Catherine Hess, Christie Marcella, and Jennifer Modi. ■
In his presentation, “Adapting New York City Transit to the 21st Century,” at Club 101 on May 1st, New York City Transit (NYCT) President Howard Roberts provided an overview of how the subway system has developed over the course of its 100-year history. He also discussed the policy initiatives that he has instituted in his first year as president that are aimed at improving customer service, employer/labor relations, as well as stations, railcars and tracks. In addition, Roberts highlighted budget and operating considerations that impact NYCT’s capital expansion plans.

Among the first tasks that Roberts set for himself was improving customer service. To this end, he increased the budget for station, track and car cleaning and car quality control. He also introduced the rider report card. “This is a management tool. We want to see what drives ridership and it helps us to decide where to put our resources to make the most difference to customer service.”

Safety and security remain the agency’s top priorities. When Roberts was less than two weeks on the job in April 2007, two track workers were killed within five days of one another. To address the situation, Roberts created a joint union/management task force on track safety. The task force developed a track safety bill in coordination with the transit workers union that both parties supported. “You have to have a rule book. A year later, we’ve made tremendous strides, but things happen down there every day that we have to get under control.”

Event volunteers: Heather Cuffel, Marie DeLucia, Sara Hearn, Catherine Hess, Christie Marcella, Jennifer Modi, Joanne Pulver and Emily Smith.
Touring MTA NYCT's Grand Avenue Bus Depot and Central Maintenance Facility

BY VIRGINIA BORKOSKI

MTA New York City Transit’s (NYCT) best-in-the-bus business conducted a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour of one of the agency’s newest and most impressive facilities, the Grand Avenue Bus Depot and Central Maintenance Facility.

The members-only tour, held on a balmy Friday afternoon in June, was led by James Courtney, Assistant General Manager. The WTS group of bus enthusiasts was escorted from the train station, and commentary about the facility began on the ride. As one of the newest, largest, and most flexible facilities in the system, it will be able to support the repair and maintenance of the entire, diversified bus fleet including hybrid-electric, compressed natural gas (CNG) and articulated buses.

James shared extensive depot operations information, including the number of buses (170); average weekday ridership (108,467 miles); yearly mileage (a whopping 5,763,646 miles); and routes (11). The depot also supports 624 employees. He also addressed questions regarding the consolidation of bus companies, and overall bus division statistics.

Anthony Parilla, Assistant General Superintendent, led the tour of the Central Maintenance Facility, noting its size (272,324 square feet), its employees (396), and its ability to repair almost anything! We stood in “environmentally friendly” bus paint booths, saw the bus component rebuilding area and heard about how bus overhauls, upgrades and campaigns are scheduled.

Linda Fernandez, General Superintendent, Depot Operations, reviewed the green design and construction principles that were adopted for the facility including energy-efficient heat recovery units; a water reclamation system that recovers 85 percent of bus wash water and storm water harvesting for the bus washes; natural lighting; and ventilation systems.

To put the facility’s location in context, we visited the roof and some “in-the-know” were caught spying on the newly built MTA NYCT Revenue Facility situated nearby. Others were just happy to gaze at the view of the Manhattan skyline through the haze.

There was something new for everyone. Stay tuned for updates on the next tour. This tour was organized by the Professional Development Committee. Please forward your suggestions for upcoming tours to Virginia Borkoski and Yevgeniya Shpigel.

Event volunteers: Virginia Borkoski and Yevgeniya Shpigel.

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A Vision of The Future

BY FELICE FARBER

Chris Ward, Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), spoke at a New York Building Congress Construction Industry Breakfast Forum on Aug. 15th that was organized in cooperation with WTS-GNY. Rather than giving the standard “Port Authority Capital Plan” presentation, Ward challenged the audience to think about what the region’s future could look like, if major investments were made in infrastructure improvements and expansions.

By looking back at what has been built and weighing the changing demands for those facilities, the region must determine what shape its future urban landscape will take. How will we move one million more people and provide jobs for all of them? Ward commended Mayor Bloomberg for beginning to plan for this anticipated population growth, and for thinking broadly about the problem of managing how we travel by putting forward such proposals as congestion pricing.
Hudson Bergen Light Rail Technical Tour

BY DANIÉLLE PINKUS

NJ Transit’s David Morgan, Assistant General Manager of Light Rail Operations, and Sandra Check, Customer Advocate, hosted a members-only technical tour of the Hudson Bergen Light Rail (HBLR) on July 9th. The HBLR is owned by NJ Transit and operated by Twenty-First Century Rail Corporation. It connects the communities of Bayonne, Jersey City, Hoboken, Weehawken, Union City, and North Bergen, serving almost 11 million riders annually.

The tour began at Hoboken Terminal and WTS members were provided with a private light-rail vehicle. The hosts gave an overview of the HBLR’s history as the group rode to Bergenline Avenue Station. This station is unique because it is located 17 stories underground and uses rail tracks from the 1830s. The tour continued at the Caven Point Maintenance Yard, which includes a light-rail vehicle service and maintenance shop, a storage building, a substation to provide power to the yard catenaries, a control room for operations, and management functions to support a fleet of 52 electrically-powered vehicles. The tour concluded with a question-and-answer session with David and Sandra.

For more information, please visit the following sites: http://www.njtransit.com, http://www.mylightrail.com.

Event volunteers: Kashfia Billah, Sandra Check, Jean Laird, Danielle Pinkus, and Emily Smith.

A view of the maintenance facility.

WTS-GNY members enjoyed their ride on the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail along Bergenline Avenue and their tour of the Caven Point Maintenance Yard.

NJT’s Assistant General Manager David Morgan (left) and Customer Advocate Sandra Check (right) conducted the tour.
“PUTT”ing the Day Away

BY KIMBERLY WAGNER

WTS-GNY held its 5th Annual Golf Outing on June 13th at Split Rock Golf Course in the Bronx. The shotgun start event drew 44 golfers to this beautiful historic setting. The course is a very tight and hilly with a demanding back nine. Split Rock Golf Course is arguably one of the best and most challenging designs in New York City. The outing raises money for the WTS-GNY Scholarship Program. This year more than $4,500 was collected.

Special thanks to all our players and to our event sponsors: AKRF, Ammann & Whitney, Baker Engineering NY, Cambridge Systematics, Clough Harbor & Associates, DMJM Harris, Gannett Fleming, GFI Genfare, HDR, HNTB, Jacobs, Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB), Skanska Koch, Trueform, URS and Wilbur Smith Associates.

Congratulations to our outing winners! Donald Tone from HDR hit the Men’s Longest Drive. Martha Walther from MTA Bridges and Tunnels hit the Women’s Longest Drive. Martha Walther, MTA Bridges and Tunnels, Richard Maitino of PB, Jim Hirani from Hirani Engineering and Land Surveying, and Iris Jungherr from Siemens, won the overall competition with a five under par team score.

Event volunteers: Elizabeth Marcantonio, Kimberly Wagner and Leila Weissling.

A Day at the Range

In preparation for the golf outing, WTS-GNY held its first driving range event on June 4th at Chelsea Piers in Manhattan. The goal of the event was to help both novices and aficionados get some pointers and practice before the outing.

The evening was relaxed as participants shared several adjacent stalls overlooking the Hudson River, golf tips and clubs.

We would like to thank Charlie Manning, DMJM + Harris, and Martha Walther, MTA Bridges & Tunnels, for helping our players with great suggestions on how to improve their stances and swings!

Event volunteers: Elizabeth Marcantonio and Kimberly Wagner.
Watery Magic

On Thursday, August 7th, WTS-GNY held its annual boat ride, which was sponsored by HAKS and Michael Baker Corporation. The two-hour dinner cruise, which departed from the Circle Line’s 42nd Street dock, provided a relaxed atmosphere for members and non-members to connect with old acquaintances and new friends. The weather could not have been more perfect as the guests enjoyed spectacular views of the New York and New Jersey skylines silhouetted against the apricot glow of sunset and the City’s sparkling evening lights. The passengers were fortunate to have a close-up view of the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges and the NYC Waterfalls, which officials enthusiastically assert “provide an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the dramatic revitalization of the City’s waterfront.” This was a truly special way to celebrate the beauty of our region.

Event volunteers: Heather Cuffel, Marie DeLucia, Maria Garcia, Amy Kaufman, Jennifer Modi.

Professional Development Session in New Jersey

By Virginia Borkoski

On a cold and stormy May evening, a determined group of WTS members converged on the National Transit Institute (NTI) located in New Brunswick, NJ, for the second in a series of four professional development seminars entitled, “Skills for Success.” The series’ featured speaker, Carl Selinger (www.carlselinger.com), was introduced by Yevgeniya Shpigel, Professional Development Committee Co-chair.

This session focused on three important skills for any professional to master: Writing, Speaking and Listening.

Practical discussions ranged from how long you need to keep eye contact with someone upon meeting; how we as an industry are losing talent to attrition; and some pointers on e-mail etiquette.

Some of Carl’s sage words of wisdom included the following: “Learn something new every day…be effective…be proactive…it’s what you do and not what you say.” And remember… “Half of life is just showing up.” On this dark and rainy night, those who participated agreed.

Special thanks to NTI for the use of their facility, and to Danielle Pinkus, NTI, for assistance in coordinating the event.

Save a space in your calendars now for the next professional development event to be held in Newark, NJ, in September.

Event volunteers: Virginia Borkoski, Maria Garcia, Jennifer Modi, Danielle Pinkus, and Yevgeniya Shpigel.
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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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Stacey Barron</td>
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<td>Maria Francavilla</td>
<td>MTA New York City Transit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Glinkin</td>
<td>Jacobs Engineering Group</td>
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<td>Amanda Hydro</td>
<td>Reason Foundation</td>
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<td>Iris Jungherr</td>
<td>Siemens Transportation Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Libassi</td>
<td>Schiauone Construction Co.</td>
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<td>Cathleen Mahoney</td>
<td>Port Authority of NY &amp; NJ</td>
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<td>Joseph McGough</td>
<td>HAKS Engineers, P.C.</td>
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<td>Sarah Meagher</td>
<td>Jacobs Edwards and Kelcey</td>
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<td>Maria Molina</td>
<td>NOVA Consulting, Inc.</td>
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<td>Paul Monte</td>
<td>Peckar &amp; Abramson, P.C.</td>
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<td>Larry Murphy</td>
<td>CDM</td>
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<td>Janet Pincus</td>
<td>Microdesk, Inc.</td>
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<td>Olga Polo Gomez</td>
<td>Dragados USA</td>
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<td>Campbell Rightmyer</td>
<td>Hatch Mott MacDonald</td>
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<td>Nina Roedeler</td>
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<td>Chrissa Roessner</td>
<td>The Louis Berger Group, Inc.</td>
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<td>Kelly Schumacher</td>
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<td>Marsha Smith</td>
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<td>Kimler Sowell</td>
<td>MTA Bridges &amp; Tunnels</td>
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<td>Heather Sporn</td>
<td>NYS DOT</td>
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<td>Michelle Tsang</td>
<td>Jacobs Edwards and Kelcey</td>
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<td>Susan Watson</td>
<td>Long Island Rail Road</td>
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WTS Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, September 8</td>
<td>Dinner Program on Regional Transportation Planning with Joel Ettinger (NYMTC) and Mary K. Murphy (NJTPA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 9</td>
<td>NJDOT Brown Bag</td>
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<td>Tuesday, September 16</td>
<td>Professional Development Series – Part III</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 1</td>
<td>Mentoring Program Writing Skills Session (program participants only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 16</td>
<td>Annual Dinner at Bridgewaters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 12</td>
<td>Mentoring Program Panel Discussion (program participants only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 18</td>
<td>Professional Development Series – Part IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 8</td>
<td>Holiday Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 8</td>
<td>Mentoring Program Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 20, 2009</td>
<td>Annual Program and W/M/DBE Expo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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