The Greater New York Chapter of the Women’s Transportation Seminar had another productive and successful year in 2009.

As you read through this Annual Report, you will see how, through our volunteers’ special efforts, the chapter was able to provide a wide array of programs and benefits to our members, including:

- Speakers that present important transportation issues at our morning and evening programs.
- Continued expansion of chapter activities in Northern and Central New Jersey.
- A series of professional development sessions to address more in-depth management topics.
- Programs with continuing education credits for our members.
- Unique member benefits through our prestigious mentor program; a members-only breakfast program; the diversity and professional development conference; the summer member event at the Intrepid and the holiday party.

Also, despite the economic climate, we were very fortunate to sustain a strong commitment from our Corporate Partners. We are grateful to them because they provide essential support for WTS-GNY professional development programs and services.

Please join me in thanking our board, committees and Advisory Board, for none of this could have been accomplished without their hard work and dedication.

It has been an honor to serve the membership as your President and I am excited by the myriad programs and services that are being planned by the new board.

Sincerely,

Jenny Kapelyan, President 2008 - 2010

www.wtsinternational.org/greater_ny

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**GNY Chapter’s 2009 Corporate Partners**

**CHAIRMAN**

- AECOM
- HDR
- Jacobs
- Michael Baker Corporation
- Parsons Brinckerhoff

**PRESIDENT**

- AKRF
- URS

**ASSOCIATE**

- Cambridge Systematics
- New York Building Congress
- Trueform

**EXECUTIVE**

- General Contractors Association of New York

**W/M/DBE PARTNERS**

- B. Thayer Associates
- Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates

The Greater New York Chapter would like to take this opportunity to thank all the companies, agencies and individuals who have generously contributed to WTS-GNY and supported our programs and services. We look forward to your continued support in 2010.

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**Cover photo**

*Provided by:*
The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and AECOM.
Felicia Jones is a Safety and Training Manager in the Department of Buses at MTA New York City Transit (NYCT). She has designed, developed and trained managers and hourly employees in professional development courses. Her areas of specialty are leadership, labor relations and self-development. Felicia also has conducted several e-learning courses, such as driver fatigue and wellness, for NYCT and other transit systems.

Felicia joined WTS-GNY in 2003 and served on the Membership and Diversity committees. On the Diversity Committee, she has worked as the program coordinator and contributed as presenter for several Diversity and WTS National conferences. As a Board member from 2005 to 2007, Felicia was actively involved in implementing new policies and procedures aimed at strengthening the chapter.

One of her well-known programs is “Beyond the Glass Ceiling,” a strategy to help women and minorities rise within their organizations.

Susan Bass Levin was appointed Deputy Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANY&NJ) in 2007. She is the senior New Jersey official on the agency’s day-to-day management team. Susan has devoted her career as a public servant to improving the quality of life for New Yorkers. She was Mayor of Cherry Hill for 14 years and most recently served as a Cabinet member in the administration of three New Jersey governors. Also, she has mentored hundreds of young women, who have attained leadership positions in the public and private sectors.

Levin’s accomplishments include the first revision of the Meadowlands Master Plan in more than 34 years; the acquisition or preservation of nearly 1,000 acres of open space and wetlands; a free online registry of affordable and accessible special needs housing in New Jersey; and implementation of critical programs revolving around lead safety, carbon monoxide awareness, fire service emergency preparedness, and domestic violence prevention.

Susan has served on the Boards of Ceasefire New Jersey; the Women’s Fund of New Jersey; the Alliance for Action; and the South Jersey Development Council. She is especially proud of her work in building a state-of-the-art library in Cherry Hill and establishing an Ovarian Cancer Research Fund at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

Levin has received the Executive Leadership Award from Professional Women in Construction; Regional Leader of the Year from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission; the Governor’s Award for Mayoral Volunteerism; the Philadelphia Business Journal Women of Distinction Award; and Douglass College’s New Jersey Women of Achievement Award.

Susan holds a doctorate in law with Honors from George Washington Law School and bachelor’s degree from the University of Rochester, where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Amy Kaufman is a Capital Programs Manager at the MTA and a certified planner. She has been a WTS-GNY member since 1997. In 2004, she was an apprentice in the Mentoring program. From 2006-2007, she served as Co-Chair and then Chair of the Corporate Relations Committee. During her tenure, she helped to increase corporate partnership contributions and produced two successful Annual Dinners. Amy was elected as a Director-At-Large for the 2008-2010 term. She subsequently assumed the vacated position of Secretary. Amy was accepted to the WTS International Leadership Program in 2008.

Felicia Jones is a Safety and Training Manager in the Department of Buses at MTA New York City Transit (NYCT). She has designed, developed and trained managers and hourly employees in professional development courses. Her areas of specialty are leadership, labor relations and self-development. Felicia also has conducted several e-learning courses, such as driver fatigue and wellness, for NYCT and other transit systems.

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Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award

Amy Kaufman

Member of the Year

Susan Bass Levin

Employer of the Year

The New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) is committed to maintaining and enhancing transportation infrastructure crucial to the economic vitality and quality of life of City residents. To promote a best-in-class workplace, the agency encourages its employees to join professional organizations such as WTS. NYCDOT employees participate in WTS at all different levels.

Guided by PlaNYC 2030, the City’s comprehensive long-term sustainability agenda, NYCDOT issued several groundbreaking reports in 2008, including Sustainable Streets, a plan of new goals, standards and policies for the function and design of City streets. NYCDOT’s sustainable policies and initiatives seek to transform the City’s streetscape into pedestrian-friendly boulevards and world-class public spaces, with targeted improvements for pedestrian safety, bus mobility and bicycling.

NYCDOT has converted 49 acres of roadway, traffic lanes and parking spots into space for new pedestrian areas, public plazas and 190 miles of bike lanes. Other achievements include the implementation of two new select bus service corridors.

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WTS Greater New York Chapter Annual Report 2009
The programs in 2009 focused on the transportation industry’s need to adapt to a changing world and to confront the major problems facing the nation: population growth, traffic congestion and global warming. In addition, the programs looked at future opportunities in the Greater New York region.

JANUARY

29th Annual Awards Program and 12th Annual M/W/DBE Expo

Speaker
Christopher Ward, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Executive Director

MARCH

4th Annual Diversity & Professional Development Conference
“A Strategic Look at the Future”

Speakers
Jane Chmielinski, AECOM, Executive Vice President and Chief Corporate Officer
Joan Dupont, P.E., NYSDOT, Regional Director
Sasha Durcan, Phoenix Constructors, Manager of Sustainability for the WTC Transportation Hub Project
Felice Farber, General Contractors Association, Director, External Affairs, and Immediate WTS-GNY Past President
Lorinda Gray Davis, MTA, Director of Diversity Development
Sherry Harrington, MTA Metro-North Railroad (MNR), Assistant Vice President, Operation Services
Susan Hayes, Cauldwell Wingate, President and CEO
Stacey Hodge, NYCDOT, Director of the Office of Freight Mobility
Linda Kleinbaum, NYSDOT, Deputy Executive Director of Administration
Patricia Lancaster, Lancaster Group, President
Leonardo Vasquez, Perini Construction and Program Director and Professor and Executive Education Director, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University
Deborah Wathen-Finn, WTS International and WTS-GNY Advisory Board Member

“American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) – Stimulating NJ’s Economy”

Speakers
Peter Garino, NJ Transit Chief of Capital Programming and Administration
David Kuhn, NJDOT Executive Director of Capital Investment Strategy
Dennis Merida, FHWA NJ Division Administrator
Mary K. Murphy, NJTPA Executive Director

The chapter also continued its efforts to increase its New Jersey presence by holding several meetings throughout the state. The following is a summary of the variety of topics and fascinating speakers at our 2009 programs.
**APRIL**

*Transit Signal Priority for Express Bus and Bus Rapid Transit in New Jersey*

**Speakers**

Steve Dilts, NJDOT Commissioner  
Chris Hayden, Cambridge Systematics, Principal

*Sustainability in the Greater New York City Region*

**Speakers**

Sasha Durcan, Phoenix Constructors, Manager of Sustainability for the WTC Transportation Hub Project  
Audrey Heffernan, MTA Capital Construction, Chief of Environmental and Sustainability Services  
Julie Stein Kaplan, NYCDEP Bureau of Environmental Planning and Analysis, Director of Office of Stormwater Management Planning  
Paul Krekeler, NYSDOT, GreenLITES Program Manager  
Ryan Russo, NYCDOT, Assistant Commissioner of Traffic Management

**MAY**

*Members-Only Breakfast: “Taking the Next Steps in Your Career”*

**Speakers**

Denise Berger, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Deputy Director-Operations, Engineering Department  
Judith Kunoff, MTA New York City Transit, Chief Architect  
Jennifer Strasser, Cambridge Systematics, Principal and New York Office Director

**JUNE**

*North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority’s Plan 2035*

**Speakers**

Lois Goldman, NJTPA, Director of Regional Planning  
Mary K. Murphy, NJTPA, Executive Director

WTS-GNY members learned about NJDOT’s initiatives and bus rapid transit (BRT) systems at the April program in New Jersey.

The New York Sustainability Program. From left: Paul Krekeler, NYSDOT; Julie Stein Kaplan, NYCDEP; Jenny Kapelyan, WTS-GNY President; moderator Sasha Durcan of Phoenix Constructors; Ryan Russo, NYCDOT; and Audrey Heffernan, MTA Capital Construction.

The Members-Only Breakfast. Front row from left: Jennifer Strasser, Principal and NY Office Director, Cambridge Systematics; Judith Kunoff, Chief Architect, MTA New York City Transit; and Denise Berger, Deputy Director-Operations, Engineering Department, PANY&NJ. Back row from left: WTS-GNY President Jenny Kapelyan; WTS-GNY Director-at-Large Maria Garcia; WTS-GNY Professional Development Committee Co-Chair Virginia Borkoski; Christina Adidjaja of MTA headquarters; and WTS-GNY Professional Development Committee Co-Chair Yevgeniya Shpigel.

WTS-GNY members were eager to learn how to advance their climb up the career ladder at the May breakfast.

From left: WTS-GNY Programs Co-Chair (NJ) Beth DeAngelo; NJTPA Executive Director Mary K. Murphy; NJTPA Director of Regional Planning Lois Goldman; and ITE MET Section President Gordon Meth at the June NJTPA program.
AUGUST
Annual Membership Event at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum

SEPTEMBER
New York City’s Economic Agenda with Focus on Transportation Initiatives

Speaker
Seth Pinsky, New York City Economic Development Corporation, President

Walking Tour of New Jersey’s Rahway Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

Speakers
Vivian E. Baker, NJ Transit, Assistant Director
Rahway Mayor James J. Kennedy
Peter H. Pelisser, Rahway Municipal Business Administrator

OCTOBER
Annual Cocktail Reception

Speaker
Christopher Ward, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Executive Director

DECEMBER
Holiday Party at Trinity Place in Lower Manhattan

WTS-GNY members and non-members enjoyed a unique opportunity to relax and explore the Intrepid in August.

WTS-GNY President Jenny Kapelyan and Seth Pinsky, NYC Economic Development Corp. President at the September program.

TOD town square and NJ Transit train station in Rahway, which WTS-GNY members toured in September.

WTS-GNY Newsletter Committee Chair Daniella Bennett enjoyed the holiday party.

From left: WTS-GNY Young Professionals Committee Co-Chair Sarah Kaufman and Erica Alario of the NYC Dept. of City Planning at the holiday party.

From left: Jessalyn Abril of Parsons Transportation Group (PTG), Jignasa Ray of MTA Bridges & Tunnels and Marcela Rodriguez, also of PTG, had a great time at the holiday party.
Always highly anticipated, WTS-GNY’s annual program at Bridgewaters in South Seaport salutes the Woman of the Year and the chapter’s scholarship winners. The format of this year’s event, held on October 15th, was changed from a formal dinner to a cocktail reception. WTS members and non-members alike agreed that this fostered a more intimate atmosphere in which to network, mingle and honor Susan Bass Levin, Deputy Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANY&NJ), as 2009 Woman of the Year, as well as scholarship winners Daphne Cui, Nayibe Perez and Tra Vu.

WTS would like to thank the Dinner Planning Committee, co-chaired by Claudia Haskins and Lisa Pompei, and volunteers Megan Carton, Heather Cuffel, Felice Farber, Amy Kaufman, Catherine Matera and LeAnn Waletzko. Our thanks also go out to all those who donated items to the Silent Auction, which when combined with corporate partner contributions, raised $23,000 for the scholarship program.

FRoNt PAnel:
From left: WTS-GNY President Jenny Kapelyan, 2009 Woman of the Year Susan Bass Levin and PANY&NJ Executive Director Christopher Ward.

FroM left: NYCDOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan, Donna Walcavage of AECOM and WTS-GNY Advisory Board Member Deborah Wathen-Finn.

FRoM left: WTS-GNY Advisory Board Member Saundra Lautenberg; WTS Foundation President Pippa Woods; WTS International Board Member L. Dedi Gonga; former WTS-GNY President Maxine Finkelstein; WTS-GNY Immediate Past President Felice Farber; and incoming WTS-GNY President Marcia Shapiro.

FRIENDS OF WTS-GNY

Our sincere thanks to the following companies who provided in-kind services for the 2009 cocktail reception:

AECOM Technology Corporation
Michael Baker Engineering
Parsons Brinckerhoff
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Mentoring Program

Congratulations to the Apprentices for their achievement in the 2009 WTS-GNY Mentoring Program. The Graduation Program was held December 9th. The speaker for the evening was Cosema (Connie) E. Crawford, Senior Vice President U.S. Engineering Operations for The Louis Berger Group, Inc. Connie also is the former Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer at MTA NYC Transit. Her topic was “Mentoring and Coaching for Life.”

A panel discussion on “Career Shaping Events and Lessons Learned” was held on November 9th. The panelists were Anita Miller, Assistant Vice President, Department of Administration, MTA NYC Transit; Sharon Barnes, Training Manager, MTA Bridges and Tunnels and former WTS-GNY Apprentice; Stefanie Cassin, HDR-Daniel Frankfurt; and Charles Manning, P.E., Vice President Highways and Bridges, AECOM.

In addition to the one-on-one Mentor/Apprentice Partnership throughout the year, the Apprentices increased their knowledge through advisory meetings and presentations by seasoned transportation executives and officials.

2009 Mentoring Program

Apprentices
Barbara Morton  MTA NYC Transit
Janie Chen  LIRR
Jignasa Ray  MTA Bridges and Tunnels
Jeevanjot Singh  NJDOT
JoAnn Anderson  MTA NYC Transit
Kim Haas  Haas Media LLC
Linda Sylvester  MTA NYC Transit
Marcela Rodriguez  Parsons Transportation Group
Paula Sandiford  URS
Sonia Corredor  URS

Mentors
William Rodwick  MTA NYC Transit
Virginia Borkoski  MTA Capital Construction
Trent Lethco  Arup
Janice Li  Lea and Elliott
Peter Aviles  MTA NYC Transit
Rena Barta  Jacobs
Patrick Smith  MTA NYC Transit
Robert Redding  MTA Bridges and Tunnels
Carl Selinger  Carl Selinger Services
Malinda Foy  MTA NYC Transit

We wish to extend our gratitude to the 2009 Mentors who so graciously gave of their time to foster the personal and career development of the Apprentices.

The 2010 class will begin in February. Inquiries about becoming a Mentor, Apprentice or Committee Volunteer are encouraged.

Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee’s goal is to organize conferences and various initiatives to help encourage a dialogue on cultural diversity, industry trends and career development that impact our multimodal transportation environment. The Rosa Parks Diversity Award was established to honor WTS members who are dedicated to promoting diversity, whether in the workplace or other areas in life.

The pinnacle of the Committee’s efforts is the annual Diversity and Professional Development Conference, which was held in March at the MTA’s office in Lower Manhattan. Featured workshops included “Globalization as the New Diversity – What does this Mean for Our Careers?,” “Creating Opportunities for Women Working on the Railroads,” and “Witnessing the Impacts of Change – A WTS Member’s Journey Through China.”

In 2009, Hollie Wells replaced Felicia Jones, a longstanding committee member. Hollie was instrumental in the recommendation of two initiatives: the “Speakers Bureau” and Adopt-A-School – CUNY Prep. Her wealth of experience and creativity will ensure that these two initiatives are implemented.

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee diligently works to keep its database of past scholarship winners current. In this report, we’d like to take the opportunity to shed the spotlight on this year’s winners. It is rewarding for WTS to see that our scholarship awards are providing the financial support to advance Women in Transportation.
2009 Scholarship Winners

SUSAN MISZKOWICZ MEMORIAL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Daphne Cui is pursuing a bachelor of science in civil engineering at Polytechnic Institute of New York University. After graduation, she plans to continue her studies toward a master’s degree in the same field.

She is a representative of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) student chapter and an active member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers. In addition, Daphne is a public relationship officer of the Chinese undergraduate students association and the executive staff of Polytechnic Institute Honors College.

Daphne’s application was forwarded to the national Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Competition.

LEONARD BRAUN MEMORIAL GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Nayibe Perez was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She immigrated to the United States in 1995 with her family. Nayibe attended New York City College of Technology and earned a bachelor’s degree in Computer Engineering in 2004. She is currently enrolled in the master’s of engineering degree program in Civil Engineering at the City College and is specializing in transportation. She expects to graduate in 2010. Nayibe is an employee of AECOM, an active WTS-GNY member and a member of ASCE.

Nayibe wants to integrate her knowledge of computer and transportation engineering to further develop the field of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

Tra Vu is working to complete her Ph.D. in Transportation Planning and Engineering at Polytechnic Institute of New York University. She will finish her studies in spring 2010.

As an undergraduate, Tra worked as a research assistant on a National Cooperative Highway Research Program project, which assessed weaving behaviors on highway speeds. She has two master’s degrees Tra is currently working on her thesis on the Dynamic Rate Structure of Mileage-based User Charges, more commonly known as the vehicle-miles-traveled or the VMT tax.

Tra’s goal is to contribute to the development of the transportation system in the United States and her native Vietnam. She is a member of WTS-GNY, ASCE, the Society of American Military Engineers and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. She is a previous recipient of the Susan Miszkowicz Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship. Her applications were forwarded for both the Helen M. Overly Memorial Scholarship and Presidential Legacy Scholarship competitions.

Accreditation Committee

After considerable research, comparative analysis and deliberation, the Accreditation Committee determined a course of action to accomplish the long-desired goal to host seminars offering members PDHs (professional development hour credits). Engineers, architects and planners are required to collect PDHs to maintain their professional licenses in good standing.

To achieve this goal, the Committee reached out to chapter corporate partners and members to identify potential accredited speakers. Subsequently, the list was narrowed down to those projects of genuine interest to the Committee. Two topics emerged as feasible, with their authors available, interested and willing to participate.

As a result, on August 12th, WTS-GNY sponsored its first-ever PDH seminar at Parsons Brinckerhoff’s (PB) offices at One Penn Plaza in Manhattan. This was a free members-only lunchtime event. Michael Abrahams of PB delivered a slide presentation, entitled, “South Carolina Cooper River Bridge Project,” which described the planning, excavation and construction process for this major bridge expansion.

In September, Angelo Elmi of MTA NYC Transit conducted another slide presentation on the “Engineering Impacts of Archeological Finds during the Construction of South Ferry Station.” Continuation of the series is planned for the next administration.

Professional Development and Young Professionals Committees

In 2009, the Professional Development and Young Professionals Committees offered a broad calendar of events for professionals at different stages in their careers. The Professional Development Committee hosted the “Taking the Next Steps in Your Career” members-only breakfast, which featured a seasoned panel of experts from the public and private sectors. Panel topics included: Advancing your career in the workplace; How to achieve work life balance; the Role of Mentoring and Leadership; and Challenges Facing the X and Y generation.

The Young Professionals Committee’s programs sought to appeal to a growing community of women who are relatively new to, or transitioning into, careers in transportation. Events included a kick-off happy hour in April, followed by the first-ever, hugely successful Speed Networking Program and a Wii Mario Kart Tournament in Hoboken, NJ, in September, as well as successive happy hours. The
TS-GNY ended 2009 in a strong financial position with costs held steady as we continued to grow and serve our members in the New York and New Jersey region. The accompanying table summarizes the chapter’s 2009 revenues and expenses between January 1, 2009 and November 30, 2009. The Chapter’s annual Golf Outing, a scholarship fundraiser, was cancelled this year because of inclement weather. This resulted in

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** Includes expenses January to November 2009.

Net Revenue After Distributions*** | $25,420.65 | $20,049.87 | $47,545.41 | $-20,878.45 |

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WTS Scholarship Fund Balance (December 2008) | $37,117.35 |
WTS Scholarship Fund Balance (September 2009) | 36,740.76 |

***In association with the chapter’s 30th Anniversary the Board pledged half of the corporate partner dollars to the scholarship fund.
Committee reached out to colleges and graduate schools and potential new members. The programs focused on professional and personal development, connecting experienced committee members to the WTS Mentoring program and preparing young professionals for roles of increasing responsibility within other WTS groups.

expenses being drawn against the scholarship account in excess of revenue, which is normally generated by the event. Despite the cancellation, many of the event’s sponsors still chose to make their pledged donations to the scholarship fund.

The 2009-2010 corporate partners contributed half of their funds to the scholarship program resulting in a $23,000 donation.