2005 Starts Off With A Bang

BY DANIELLA BERNETT

The tremendous success of the 8th Annual W/M/DBE Expo, which was held on January 25, was a feather in WTS’ cap. The Expo exemplified WTS’ ongoing commitment to promoting the different fields in the industry, while at the same time engendering cooperation between the W/M/DBE community and the organization. This year’s 12 featured exhibitors included: Barbara Thayer Associates; Donna Walcavage Landscape Architects; Electrical Construction Consulting; Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates; Envision Consultants; Haks Engineering & Land Surveyors; Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates; Keville Enterprises; Konheim & Ketcham; Leni Schwendinger Light Projects; Robinson Aerial Surveys; and The Williams Group.

Another highlight of the January program was the presentation of the Employer of the Year Award. Last year’s winner, Sam Schwartz of Sam Schwartz LLC, introduced and bestowed the award on Amy Peterson of the Lower Manhattan Development Corp (LMDC). The Employer of the Year award is given to a company that has demonstrated a commitment to excellence and quality, achievement on affirmative action, continuing education, and support of WTS and its professional development of women in the transportation industry.

The LMDC employs 50 full-time staff responsible for billions of dollars worth of rebuilding work in Lower Manhattan. LMDC strives to include women and minorities. In fact, two-thirds of the LMDC’s employees are women. Peterson oversees the design and construction of the World Trade Center memorial and cultural facilities, the deconstruction of the building at 130 Liberty Street and the LMDC’s

continued on page 2
M/WBE efforts.

While at the mayor’s office of construction, she helped to create the Department of Design and Construction. She received a master of arts from New York University and a bachelor of science in civil engineering from Bucknell University. Peterson is a licensed engineer.

The program concluded with the much-anticipated Member of the Year Award. L. Dédi Gonga, the 2004 recipient, presented this year’s award to Felice Farber. Felice started working with WTS five years ago. She helped to launch the chapter’s Mentoring Program. To date, 25 women have completed the mentoring program and eight more have already been accepted for next year’s program.

“It was very exciting and an honor to be nominated as the Member of the Year,” Felice said. “All the work and time I put into the mentoring program was a rewarding experience, and to win the award was just icing on the cake.”

When asked about her thoughts on the mentoring program, Felice commented, “There have been several people who have worked on the program over the last five years. It is wonderful to see the program come to fruition and that it is sustaining and ongoing. I’ve been pleased to work with WTS National to take what we’ve learned and bring that experience to other chapters.”

2005 STARTS OFF WITH A BANG

continued from page 1

M/WBE efforts.

Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates, Inc.

Donna Walcavage Landscape Architects + Urban Design

Barbara Thayer Associates
General Flowers Keynote Speaker, 25th Annual Award Program and Expo


General Flowers' keynote presentation built on the evening’s theme of how diversity in transportation can make a difference, at home and abroad. Accompanied by vivid pictures projected on a screen, Flowers spoke of bridging the gap between “haves” and “have-nots” with better infrastructure and transportation for people in developing countries.

Flowers, whose extensive experience as chief engineer of the Army Corps has taken him around the globe, often to countries where the infrastructure has been destroyed by war or disaster, spoke of raising awareness. “We [as people in the transportation industry] have an opportunity for leadership to change the world,” Flowers said.

Standing in front of an aerial shot of a typical American city, its roads and buildings developed and complex, and then in front of a picture of wood shacks built on stilts above a river of mud, Flowers encouraged the audience to have a larger perspective of the world, one which includes people who live in conditions much different from people in the U.S.

If we are to meet the challenges of the future, Flowers said, we must use the intelligence and talent in everyone, especially women and minorities. As a boy who grew up in a family with three girls, one of whom is now a federal judge, Flowers said he has personally seen “women who, in leadership roles, perform in a superb fashion.”

Flowers closed by taking questions from the audience and encouraged everyone to keep an entrepreneurial spirit alive, especially as funding for transportation becomes less reliable.

Welcome to New Members!

In 2005, to coincide with the change to anniversary membership, we will announce new members who have recently joined the chapter. Please look for our new members at programs, ask about their transportation interests and welcome them to WTS.

Mari Balaguer, DSS Corporation
Natalia Bernini Carri, Michael Baker Corporation
Kathleen Boyle, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Meghan Clark, NJ Transit
Cordelia Crockett, MTA New York City Transit
Karen De Maio, Port Authority of NY&NJ
Marie DeLucia, URS Corporation
Sara Doane, Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc.
Jing Du, MTA Bridges & Tunnels
Beverly Duffy, LIN Industries, Inc.
Cindy Elmore, STV Incorporated
Reene Haider, National Transit Institute, Rutgers University
Nina Haiman, Student, Rutgers University
Haila Hudson, Milestones Engineering
Sue Labouvie, Studio L’Image
Paul Larrousse, National Transit Institute, Rutgers University
Monique Levons, MTA New York City Transit
Rebecca Maccaro, NJ Transit
Kate O’Connor, Edwards and Kelcey
Kristy Ranieri, Public Affairs Management
Sooossan Salmassi, MTA New York City Transit
Marcia Shiffman, Maser Consulting
Stacey Starke, MTA Bridges & Tunnels
Robin Stevens, Robin Stevens Consulting, Ltd.
Clare Sullivan, MATRIX Environmental & Geotechnical Services, Inc.
Sue Thomas, KLD Associates, Inc.
Ellen Thorson, Student, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Linda Tonn, MTA New York City Transit

SAVE THE DATE

Greater New York Chapter’s 2005 Annual Scholarship and Awards Dinner

Honoree and 2005 Woman of the Year
Janette Sadik-Khan
Senior Vice President
Parsons Brinckerhoff

Special Guest, Bill Millar
American Public Transportation Association

Tuesday, October 11, 2005
Bridgewaters
South Street Seaport
New York City
Notes from Corporate Director, L. Dédi Gonga

The following is a summary of the Corporate Board meeting held in Nashville, Tennessee, on February 24, 2005. The Chapter management training was held on February 25 and 26. More than 80 individuals attended the training this year.

WTS Budget

The 2005 budget was approved. Total cumulative revenue through December 2004 was $637,553, 108% of the projected revenue of $589,810. Cumulative membership revenue through December was $276,265, 105% of the $261,925 projected membership revenue. We finished 2004 with a positive income of $21,348.

Within all chapters, WTS currently has 2028 members (569 new members and 1459 renewed members). Recently inducted into the family of WTS is the Inland Empire Chapter of Riverside California which was certified by the Board to become an official WTS chapter. In addition, we have grown internationally!

President’s Message

continued from page 1

pared a mini-training for the Board and committee members to share the information. Every member can review the training materials by going on-line to www.wtsnational.org.

By the way, the web site is evolving into a powerful networking and information tool for all of us. Don’t forget that the membership directory is now on-line and searchable.

A couple of reminders – as of 2005, membership in WTS is now by anniversary, not by calendar – so invite a colleague to join, and their membership is good for a full year, no matter when they join. Also, please consider attending the WTS Annual Conference coming up in May in Scottsdale, Arizona. It is shaping up to be a premiere event, including a golf tournament and a terrific program, www.montse.org/wts_conference/index.html.

Keep your eye on our news and events checking account to the reserve account.

In The News...

Sunnie House, WTS President, met with Secretary Mineta in early February to discuss potential positions in USDOT. Members should let the corporate office know if they are aware of any qualified candidates that can fill positions at USDOT. The Secretary indicated that WTS members should encourage local representatives to expedite the signing of the TEA-21 bill.

WTS members who are seeking federal political appointments and want WTS recommendations are still encouraged to send resumes to Ann Warner at FederalAppointments@wtsnational.org. All resumes will be kept confidential.

WTS Never Stops Growing!

Currently we have an active chapter in the Straits of George (Canada) and we hope to have a London (England) chapter join at the May Board meeting during the 2005 WTS Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona!

Because of this recent interest from countries outside of the United States, it has forced the WTS Board to incorporate a name that would be all inclusive for the chapters. WTS Board will be referred to as “Corporate” as opposed to National.

Stay Connected in Cyberspace

WTS has recently launched a web site, www.wtsnational.org which has provided a means for all chapters to stay connected. It will be easier to post jobs on the web site to be viewed only by our members. Further developments to the web site are in progress, so stay tuned!

Upcoming Conferences

2005 Conference, Scottsdale, Arizona
May 26-28, 2005
See www.wtsnational.org for details

2006 Conference, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas
date TBD

Open Invitation to All Members

Board meetings are open
To attend, for security access, please contact Board Secretary Deborah English at deengli@nyct.com

Location

Parsons Brinckerhoff
One Penn Plaza, 2nd Floor, 5:30 pm

April 4
May 9
June 6
July 11
September 12
October 5

November 7
December 5

Pippa Woods, President GNY Chapter
732-932-6812 x684
pwoods@rci.rutgers.edu
“How Are We Doing?” Surveying the Membership

In an effort to better understand our membership and their interests, the Board has developed a survey that will be emailed this month to our entire membership and to non-members who have attended WTS events. The survey was tested at our January program and the results of the survey were so interesting that we will be polling our entire email list (both members and non-members) using the online service of SurveyMonkey. This web-based service will allow for an automatic analysis and sorting of the data sets at a very cost effective price.

The paper version of the survey was distributed at the January 25 program event with Army Corps of Engineers Retired General Flowers. Of the 145 attendees, 67 responded to the survey. Of the respondents, 69% were WTS Members. The experience level of the respondents was fairly evenly distributed – 46% of the respondents had between 0 and 15 years of experience in the transportation industry, while the remaining 53% had 15 or more years of experience. 63% of the respondents would like more programs focused on professional development.

We are looking to hear from a wider range of our members and non-members who attend WTS events. Please take a few minutes to respond to the survey when you receive it by email. In our next newsletter we will update you on the results.

Scheduled WTS Programs/Events

| April 14 | Network Night at Metro Grill |
| April 21 | Tom Fox, President, NY Water Taxi |
| April 22 | Career Workshop for Students, Bloustein School, New Brunswick, NJ |
| April 26 | Financial Planning Seminar, Chatham, NJ |
| April 29 | Scholarship Applications due |
| May 11 | Lesa France Kennedy, NASCAR board member and president of International Speedway Corp. |
| May 23 | WTS-GNY 2nd Annual Golf Outing |
| June 23 | Joint Program with Met Section ITE – Overview of Transit Projects in NYC, NJ |
| July 20-22 | APTA’s Sustainability Conference – Sustainability in Public Transportation |
| October 11 | 3rd Annual WTS Dinner at Bridgewaters |

SAVE THE DATE!
For WTS’ 2nd Annual Golf Outing

All proceeds benefit the WTS Greater New York Chapter Scholarship Fund

**Date:** Monday, May 23, 2005
**RSVP deadline:** Friday, May 13
**Time:** 7:30 am Registration, 8:30 am Tee Time
**Location:** Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course, Bronx, NY
**Cost:**
- $125.00 WTS members
- $150.00 Non-members
- Foursome $500.00

**Includes:**
- Round of golf with cart
- Continental breakfast
- Lunch, and
- Snacks at clubhouse after event (cash bar)

Join in the fun, and compete in the LONGEST DRIVE, CLOSEST TO THE PIN, and LOWEST SCORE contests for great prizes!

**Beginners are welcome!**

For more information, please contact Lori Biscaglia at (917) 418-6070.

Please call to “Adopt a Hole” or donate a raffle item to benefit a scholarship

- $250.00 adopt a hole, sign-posted with name during event
- $500.00 hole in one insurance, sign-posted with name during event

Please check the web site [www.wtsnational.org/greater_new_york](http://www.wtsnational.org/greater_new_york) for updated golf outing information.

**WTS Greater New York Chapter Newsletter** Spring 2005
Congratulations to our WTS Members Advancing Women in Transportation

It is with great pride that we announce and congratulate our members on their new positions and honors. The Greater New York Chapter recognizes the hard work, dedication and commitment that each of these women exemplify.

Vicki Cross Kelly – Director of PANYNJ Bridges and Tunnels

Vicki was named to her new position this January. Vicki is a long time member of WTS, a past Chapter (Philly) and National Woman of the Year in 2002. Vicki began her career at the Port Authority in 1976 as a management trainee. In 1985, she joined the Port Commerce Department and held various positions, including Manager of Leasing, Manager of New Jersey Marine Terminals – the second largest seaport in the U.S. – and Acting Deputy Director. She was appointed Deputy Director of PATH in 2000 and was closely involved in the PATH recovery efforts after September 11. Vicki joined B&T as Deputy Director in 2003 and was named Director of the Department in 2005. She has a B.A. from Barnard College and a Masters from Harvard.

Deborah Wathen Finn – Named Construction & Industry’s “Good Scout” Honoree

Deborah is a founding member of WTS, past national president, past winner of Greater New York Chapter’s Woman of the Year and is the first female “good scout.” She is extremely active in her community and industry and is most proud of her activities to mentor young persons in the industry. Deborah continues to be active with WTS and serves on the Advisory Board for the GNY Chapter. Deborah serves as the Metro Sales Officer for New York and New Jersey for HNTB. She is responsible for providing strategic direction for the firm’s focus in those markets and expanding the services provided. With more than 25 years of experience in the transportation industry, she has held management positions in public transit operations in the New York metropolitan region and in Buffalo where she led the region’s transit system. Ms. Wathen Finn is a member of the New York Building Congress and serves as co-chair of its Environment Committee. She is active in the American Public Transportation Association in advocating for expanded public transit nationally. She is also active in her church and serves in leadership roles for her undergraduate school Colby College.

Jane Chmielinski – Chief Operating Officer, DMJM Harris

Jane was promoted to the COO position in March, 2005. She started her transportation career in 1981 working for the MBTA in Boston. In her capacity as Manager of Environmental Affairs she was responsible for all aspects of the transit authority’s environmental program in both operations and construction. Twelve years ago she joined DMJM Harris and has worked on mega projects throughout the country and has been credited with being vital to the successful merger of DMJM Harris. Jane serves as the Chair for the Diversity Committee at the School of Engineering at CCNY and is active in numerous mentoring and career development efforts in the engineering and transportation field.

Flora Castillo – Appointed to the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center Advisory Board at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Flora was named WTS Greater New York Chapter’s Woman of the Year in 2004. For six years she served with distinction on the NJ Transit Board of Directors, working diligently to ensure that NJ TRANSIT customers were getting quality service. Ms. Castillo is the associate vice president of public affairs and marketing with Keystone Mercy Health Plan, a managed care company headquartered in Philadelphia. In this position, she leads a team of marketing and outreach programs to increase membership and market. She leads the company’s faith-based signature wellness program, the Health Ministry Program for Women, that seeks to improve health awareness and improve the quality of life for women of color throughout the Delaware Valley region. Flora serves as a Board member of the American Public Transportation Association, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, American Public Transportation Foundation and was recently appointed to the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. In this appointment, Flora continues her commitment to transportation.

New Corporate Partnership Program

See Your Company Name and Logo Here

Enjoy local and national industry recognition – sign up for our new Corporate Partner Program!

Four different levels of benefits to choose, ensuring you and your employees

- Access to national and local transportation industry leaders
- Professional development
- Networking
- Mentoring program
- Job bank
- Scholarships, and much more

All funds raised through Corporate Partnership support GNY’s programs and member services.

Please contact Barbara Thayer to confirm your company has received your invitation letter and to confirm your company is in line for our new Partnership program.

Barbara Thayer, 212-564-2750.

Bthayer@bthayerassociates.com
Mentoring Kick-off with WTS Corporate President

WTS Corporate President
Sunny House and GNY
Chapter President Pippa Woods

WTS-GNY BOARD, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND ADVISORS 2004-2006

PRESIDENT
Pippa Woods
(732) 932-6812 x684

VICE PRESIDENT
Jenny Kapelyan
(212) 465-5338

RECORDING SECRETARY
Deborah English
(718) 694-5268

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Lori Biscaglia
(917) 418-6070

TREASURER
Rajani (Jani) Nair
(646) 252-4745

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE
Felice Farber
(917) 855-3923
Malinda Foy
(718) 521-7283
Sylvia Isabel
(718) 694-3450
Barbara Thayer
(212) 564-2750

MEMBERSHIP
Joanne Boiano
(347) 643-5109
Yevgeniya Shpigel
(646) 252-3349

MENTORING
See Director Felice Farber
Linda Travis
(718) 694-3932

NEWSLETTER
Catherine Sweeney
(646) 252-7421
Catherine Revis
(212) 631-3712
Deena Hamdani
(212) 631-3749
Daniella Bernet
(212) 614-7632
Karen Lockwood
(212) 973-2912

PHOTOGRAPHY
Leila Weissling
(718) 575-8726

PROGRAMS
See Vice President

RECOGNITIONS
Silvia Militello
(212) 631-3873

SCHOLARSHIP
See President

STUDENT AFFAIRS
LeAnn Waletzko
(212) 973-2900
Stefanie Cassin
(914) 993-2049

WEB SITE
Jennifer Jordan
(973) 491-8163

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS
Stephanie Pinson (Chair)
Gilbert Tweed
Associates
Deborah Wathen Finn
HNTB Corporation
Barbara Spencer
MTA NYCT
Laura Toole
Michael Baker Jr. Corp
Martha Walther
MTA Bridges and Tunnels
Janette Sadik-Khan
Parsons Brinckerhoff
Thomas Waldron
DMJM+Harris
Sam Schwartz
The Sam Schwartz Co.
Michael Della Rocca
STV Group, Inc.
Marilyn Jordan Taylor
Siemens Transportation Systems

Web site address: www.wtsnational.org