

# Heart of Texas Chapter Newsletter

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Summer 2009  
Volume 6 Number 2

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## Message From the President



I hope that you all are enjoying the summer! It has been a busy year so far for the Heart of Texas Chapter with a very successful Gala and several other events!

The Fifth Annual Heart of Texas Gala was an astounding success and we thank each of you who played an integral part through your generous donations of time and money. As a result, we were able to raise over \$15,000 again this year for our scholarship fund!! This is a great accomplishment that definitely accelerates our mission of transforming the transportation industry through the advancement of women by providing educational opportunities for up and coming transportation professionals.

We are again taking a summer break from our programs, but will be back in the groove starting in September. In the interim, we have started up a new series, Lattes and Leadership, thanks to our Professional Development Committee and new Committee Chair, Ashley McLain of Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting. Please review the summary of our first session with Cecilia Green of PBS&J on Page 4.

Also look for another Professional Development opportunity in September. Our chapter is progressing to not only offer learning opportunities, but also to credit earning potential through this professional development event. The event will help many of our members who require continuing education credits to maintain their various licensures and accreditations.

As always, if you have any suggestions for the Heart of Texas Chapter, please feel free to contact any members of our board. We would love to hear your feedback and how we can make our chapter more personal to you!

I hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer!

Mitzi Hupp  
President, WTS—Heart of Texas Chapter



## Welcome New HOT WTS Members!

Nikelle Meade - Brown McCarroll,  
LLP

Jenny Diamond – UT Austin

Erika Esparza – TxDOT

Katie Larsen – Austin ISD

Beatriz Rutzen - UT Austin

Melanie Bartlett - AECOM

Erin Foster - Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

Belinda Pate – AECOM

For membership information, contact Tricia LaRue, WTS-HOT Chapter Membership Chair at TLLaRue@pbsj.com or go to our website at [www.wtsinternational.org](http://www.wtsinternational.org)

### WTS MEMBER STATS

89 Current Members of the Heart of  
Texas Chapter

## Members on the Move

Each quarter we will publish information about what's going on with WTS members. If you have changed jobs, been promoted or are working on a new and exciting project, please send us your news! Address your emails to the WTS Media Relations Chair: Rebecca Bray at [Rebecca.bray@klotz.com](mailto:Rebecca.bray@klotz.com).

★ URS' Diane Cowin is the Project Manager of the recently awarded Capital Metro General Planning Consultant (GPC) Contract. This is the first GPC contract to be awarded by Capital Metro. Congratulations, Diane!



★ Jenny Diamond has been hired as an intern at PBS&J while finishing up her Masters of Public Affairs at UT. Welcome to the world of consulting, Jenny!

## Programs

March 10, 2009

### WTS Family Night with the Austin Toros

WTS members, along with friends and family, watched the Austin Toros take on the Detroit Pistons - affiliated Fort Wayne Mad Ants.



The Austin Toros mascot and WTS-HOT Chapter attendees.

March 18, 2009

### Jefferson Grimes, Deputy Director of the Government and Public Affairs Division for TxDOT “Transportation and the 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislature”

Jefferson Grimes discussed several funding and policy issues that were being considered during this Legislative session as well as priorities for TxDOT.



Jefferson Grimes and an audience of almost 50 WTS Program Luncheon attendees

Please feel free to post this newsletter in your lunchrooms or forward to your colleagues in transportation (yes, men too!). We appreciate all of our members - past, present and future!



## Programs

**April 15, 2009**

**Scott Alley, Business Continuity Coordinator, TxDOT Maintenance Division  
“Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike – Transportation Issues and Solutions”**

Scott Alley spoke about the lessons learned in the three most recent hurricane events in Texas. He discussed emergency response activities that have occurred within TxDOT and the systems now in place for hurricane preparedness.



*Mitzi Hupp, Scott Alley, Evie Worsham, Melinda Clary, and Odette Tan*

**May 20, 2009**

**Robert Jackson, AICP, Environmental Operations Manager, Halff Associates  
“Context Sensitive Design / Context Sensitive Solutions”**

Robert Jackson spoke about Context Sensitive Design and Context Sensitive Solutions: a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility.



*Robert Jackson, AICP, Halff Associates*





## May 13, 2009 WTS Golf Etiquette

The WTS—HOT Chapter Professional Development Committee hosted its first Golf Etiquette event on May 13, 2009 at Barton Creek Golf Course. Barbara Puett from the



*Charlotte Whitehead, Sowmya Chandasekhar, Janice Hillenmeyer, Melinda Clary, Mitzi Hupp, Karen Ward, Melanie Bartlett and Barbara Puett.*

Barton Creek Golf Academy instructed 10 WTS members on the importance of golf in the business world and basic golf etiquette. Our members then hit the green to learn how to putt, followed by practicing driving the ball down the fairway. Barbara gave some one-on-one pointers on our swings and a great introduction to golf!

## June 11, 2009 Lattes and Leadership Cecilia Green, Executive Vice President, PBS&J

Cecilia Green of PBS&J kicked off our summer series of Lattes and Leadership. Topics discussed included her personal experiences that have led to her current leadership position, as well as characteristics that individuals



look for in leaders. It was a great informal conversation with a true leader in her company, community and within WTS. Cecilia encouraged our WTS members to be advocates for those things you believe in, look for the good in others, and to be the go-to person in whatever you do. Look for the next session coming up in July!





**NOTE:  
Committee Members  
Needed!**

We are looking for dynamic, action-oriented people to join one of the many committees of the WTS—Heart of Texas Chapter and further support our mission of Advancing Women in Transportation right here in Central Texas. If you would like to be a committee member or are interested in becoming a committee chair, please contact Mitzi Hupp at [mbowman@hntb.com](mailto:mbowman@hntb.com) for more information!

**Luncheon  
Reminder**

*There are no program luncheons until September 2009.*

*Enjoy Your Summer!!!*

**WTS Mission**

*Transforming the transportation industry through the advancement of women.*

To visit our WTS website go to [www.wtsinternational.org](http://www.wtsinternational.org) and from the drop-down menu select Heart of Texas Chapter.

**GALA RECAP**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Women's Transportation Seminar—Heart of Texas Chapter Transportation Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser was held April 29, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel. Mr. Joseph Cantalupo, Executive Director for the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, served as the evening's host. This year's event attracted nearly 140 attendees and raised approximately \$15,000 for the annual scholarship fund. At the event, the Chapter honored four aspiring transportation professionals with \$6,000.00 in scholarships. The two undergraduate award winners included Ms. Charlotte Whitehead and Ms. Allison Mills, both from the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Texas (UT). Our two graduate award winners were Ipek Sener, a Ph.D. candidate in Transportation Engineering at UT, and Sabina Mora, a graduate student at UT's LBJ School of Public Affairs focusing on Community and Regional Planning.

The evening also included award presentations to HNTB as Employer of the Year; Capital Metro as the Innovative Transportation Solution award winner; Ms. Robena Jackson of Group Solutions RJW as the Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership award winner; and Ms. Esperanza "Hope" Andrade as the Woman of the Year. The evening featured a key note address from Dr. C. Michael Walton, PE, the Ernest H. Cockrell Centennial Chair in the Engineering Department of Civil Engineering at UT. He educated our group on the transportation needs and funding challenges of Texas through the year 2030.

The Heart of Texas Chapter would like to thank all of those individuals who donated their time and efforts to make our 2009 Transportation Gala a great success. Additional thanks to those of you who generously donated silent and live auction items.

The WTS—Heart of Texas Chapter is already hard at work planning the 2010 Transportation Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser tentatively scheduled for April 16, 2010 at the Doubletree Hotel. If you have an interest in volunteering for the Gala Committee or making a donation, please contact Lori Cole of PBS&J at 512-340-1149 or [llcole@pbsj.com](mailto:llcole@pbsj.com).





# WTS—HOT Activities—2009 Gala







# WTS—HOT Activities—2009 Gala





## GALA DONORS AND SPONSORS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the generous companies and individuals who helped make our 2009 Transportation Gala a success through silent and live auction donations. Thank you for your continued support!!!

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Mystikal Motions  
Nature's Treasures  
Paramount Theater  
Randy Smith  
Sun Harvest  
Tracy Rambusch  
Ufizzi  
Vintage Villas

Austin Toros  
Bath Junkie  
Cecilia Green  
Christine Polito  
Darcie Schipull  
Doug Booher  
Evie Worsham  
Finn & Porter  
Guero's  
Hills of Lakeway Country Club  
Jim Mills  
Kay McKinley  
Lori Cole  
Merzbau Design Collective  
Nancy Ledbetter  
Northwest Hills Eyecare  
Pink Hair Salon & Gallery  
Summer Kapeles  
Tina & Barry Walker  
Uchi  
URS Corporation  
Water 2 Wine

A special thank you again to Jim Mills and David Singleton for the donation of the Dove Hunt and for all of those companies who participated in that live auction item: HNTB, PBS&J, Prime Strategies, Baker-Aicklen & Associates, Klotz Associates, and Terracon.

Thank you to our Table Sponsors:

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HNTB  
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## ENO SCHOLARSHIP WINNER—our very own Kelsey Ahern!!

Each year, the Eno Transportation Foundation invites 20 top graduate students from across the country to participate in a Leadership Development Conference held in Washington, DC. The conference offers emerging transportation professionals the opportunity to learn from and interact with top policymakers and transportation leaders, receive a unique “insiders look” at the processes and factors that shape the nation’s transportation policy, and hear new perspectives on the emerging transportation issues that influence decision-making across all modes.



Through the generosity of Parsons Brinkerhoff, WTS developed a scholarship program about eight years ago to send one emerging female transportation leader to the conference each year. Kelsey Ahern, our WTS—Heart of Texas Chapter Student Liaison Committee Chair and transportation analyst with Cambridge Systematics, Inc., was this year’s recipient! Below is Kelsey’s summary of her experience at the Leadership Development Conference in May:

“Over four days in Washington, DC, we met with federal officials and leaders of business and non-profit organizations across all modes: AASHTO, American Public Transportation Association, Bipartisan Policy Center, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, FHWA, NTSB, FAA, EPA, FTA, U.S. Maritime Administration, AFL-CIO, American Association of Port Authorities, and many more. Several overarching themes emerged as key topics for debate:

- ◇ Surface Transportation Bill reauthorization and how it should define national transportation interests and goals, provide a linkage between energy, transportation, and the economy, and address transportation funding challenges
- ◇ Insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund and lack of political will to raise the gas tax or shift to a new user fee approach
- ◇ Increased demand for accountability and the need for system performance to drive transportation investment decisions

This is an exciting time to be a transportation professional as the nation is buzzing with talk of economic recovery through infrastructure investment, increased emphasis on transportation sustainability and climate change, and thoughtful debates on innovative transportation funding alternatives. Similarly, the accelerating volume of passengers and freight moving across our nation’s aging infrastructure continues to exacerbate the complexity of transportation planning, policy and decision-making. During this time when the challenges and opportunities facing the nation’s transportation leaders and policy-makers are many, the Eno Transportation Foundation Leadership Development Conference provided a rewarding and meaningful professional development opportunity to learn from many of today’s influential transportation leaders. I was honored to represent WTS among the 2009 class of Eno Fellows and look forward to applying my deeper understanding of transportation policy to tackle the tough transportation challenges I will undoubtedly face throughout my career.”

***Please join us in congratulating Kelsey on this achievement!!***



## Upcoming Events

### June 25, 2009 – Summer Networking Happy Hour

The Summer Networking Happy Hour will be held at Sullivan's located at 300 Colorado Street in downtown Austin on Thursday, June 18, 2009 from 5:00-7:00pm. We will have several raffle items supporting the WTS—Heart of Texas Chapter Scholarship Fund.

### July 2009 – Lattes and Leadership

Watch your e-mails! Announcement of date, location and speaker coming soon.

### August 2009 – Lattes and Leadership

Watch your e-mails! Announcement of date, location and speaker coming soon.

### September 2009 – Professional Development Seminar

Continue to watch your e-mail for news on our upcoming Professional Development Seminar to be held at the Marriott La Frontera.

### September 16, 2009 – Joe Cantalupo, CAMPO Executive Director

Program lunch at Cool River Café from 11:30am-1:00pm.

## PLACE YOUR AD NEXT QUARTER!

The Heart of Texas Chapter offers Ad placement to Corporate Partners through our Corporate Partner Program as well as other companies interested in advertising in our quarterly newsletter. For more information, please contact Media Relations Chair, Rebecca Bray at [Rebecca.Bray@klotz.com](mailto:Rebecca.Bray@klotz.com)



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