

WTS Portland Chapter Announces 2009 Awards Recipients

Jennifer Dill

Woman of the Year

Harper Houf Peterson Righellis Inc.

Employer of the Year

Julia Kuhn

Member of the Year

Terra Lingley

New Voice

David Kim

Diversity Leadership

Mariah Van Zerr

Portland State University
Graduate Scholarship

Heba Alwakiel

Portland State University
Graduate Scholarship

Join the WTS Portland Chapter in honoring the award recipients at the Spring 2009 Awards Dinner on May 14, 2009. The event will be catered by Typhoon in the Monterossa Room of the Hotel Lucia (400 SW Broadway). See pages 2 and 3 for more information on our outstanding 2009 award winners!

2009 Spring Awards Event

Thursday, May 14th, 2009

Catered by Typhoon at the Hotel Lucia

400 SW Broadway, in the Monterossa Room

5:30 pm social hour

6:00 pm dinner

7:00 pm awards



WTS Members Shayna Rehberg and KC Cooper at the 2008 Spring Awards Event.



Matt Hastie of WTS, Gail Achterman of the OTC, and Matt Garrett of ODOT at the 2008 Spring Awards Event.

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2009 Portland Chapter Awards

Woman of the Year is awarded to a woman who has been a leader in transportation and has made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry. This individual has also directly contributed toward the advancement of women and minorities through programs or opportunities in the transportation field and has advanced the reputation and credibility of women in transportation through her career advancements and support of women in the industry. **Jennifer Dill**, Director of the Center for Transportation Studies and associate professor at the Nohad Toulon School of Urban Studies at PSU is our choice. Under Jennifer's direction, the center has expanded its research, educational programs and outreach efforts. She had done considerable research on a number of transportation topics and has led research related to bicycle transportation. She is regarded as being very inspirational, supportive and successful in mentoring and encouraging women students.

Member of the Year is awarded to a WTS Member who has shown extraordinary commitment to the goals and growth of WTS by promoting the reputation of WTS within the transportation industry, working effectively to strengthen communication between local and national levels or between chapters, and has done an outstanding job of revitalizing or expanding a chapter and its functions. We are proud to honor **Julia Kuhn, P.E.**, Principal Engineer at Kittelson & Associates, Inc with this award. A long-time member of WTS Portland, Julia served on the chapter board for a decade, and was 2004-2005 chapter president. WTS Portland's reputation grew tremendously under Julia's leadership. As president, she encouraged the board to think bigger and seek out prominent speak-

ers. She continues to volunteer at the local level, often working behind the scenes on chapter development. Julia is active on the WTS International level with a multi-year tenure on the WTS Scholarship Board, currently serving as secretary.

Employer of the Year is awarded to an organization that has enhanced the transportation industry through commitment to excellence and quality in its services, has an outstanding record of affirmative action in hiring and promoting at all employment



WTS members at the 2008 Spring Awards Event

levels, supports continuing education of its employees, and supports WTS and our goal of encouraging women students to enter the transportation field by providing internship opportunities. This year's award goes to **Harper Houf Peterson Righellis Inc.**, a successful transportation consulting firm and supporter of WTS through their membership, contributions to the board and attendance at events. HHPR encourages and supports employee involvement and participation at events, and through volunteer efforts. One HHPR employee currently serves on the WTS Portland Chapter board; another employee serves as webmaster and provides graphic design support to WTS. HHPR is a WTS Portland Chapter corporate sponsor at the Patron level.

New Voice is awarded to a Portland Chapter member who has been out of school and in a career track for fewer than 5 years, has been an active participant in WTS, and shows promise in making a contribution to the transportation industry. **Terra Lingley**, a transportation planner, is this year's recipient. In her short time at CH2M Hill, she has already taken on leadership roles. She is the main planner on the Miles Crossing project, part of the multi-aspect Astoria-Warrenton refinement plan, Terra is a regular participant at WTS activities- helping with event registration, updating the member database, and coordinating a professional development panel with women leaders in the transportation industry.

The **Diversity Leadership Award** recipient is **David Kim**, area manager in ODOT's Region 1. This award is given to an individual or organization for outstanding and extraordinary efforts or initiative in developing opportunities for women and minorities, and contributing significantly to promoting diversity and cultural awareness within an organization, the transportation industry, or in a project or activity that supports the goals and mission of WTS. David has demonstrated a passion and a sense of justice that drives him help open doors for minorities and women. He has worked diligently to increase the number of ODOT construction contracts that go to small, minority-owned contractors. He has put forth extraordinary effort to share tools, information, and resources to help them get their "foot in the door" to acquire ODOT work. These efforts paid off on two recent projects that David oversees, I-5 – Delta Park and OR 217, where small, minority-owned contractors have won notable portions of the contracting work.

From Our President...

Margaret Middleton



These are unusual and challenging times. As I write this column, I sincerely hope that you continue to find great value in

your WTS membership, and that it continues to be a worthy investment of your hard-earned dollars. In reviewing the WTS sponsored events and programs since the new year, to my amazement I counted six in February alone – that's one every three to four business days. They covered a variety of subjects: training in assessing transportation impacts of global climate change, a State legislative briefing, our Members meeting, and a luncheon program with Congressman Earl Blumenauer to understand what we might expect from Congress and the new presi-

dential administration.

We hope you were able to attend several of our first quarter activities and that you will find our spring offerings equally valuable. As an all-volunteer organization, Portland WTS volunteers continually strive to provide members with timely educational and professional development events, as well as networking opportunities at the highest levels. To this end, we are very excited to announce that we are now a registered continuing education provider for the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). This complements our current Professional Engineering (PE) credit program and adds even more value to your WTS membership. Selected local and national events offer opportunities for continuing education credits for AICP members.

There's more to come as spring unfolds. Mark your calendars for the

May 14 Spring Awards Event featuring your Portland Chapter's annual scholarship and awards winners, and the kick off of our fundraising year. Come honor our 2009 scholarship winners, and bring your checkbooks so we may continue to support these highly talented young professionals. Speaking of award winners, last year's Portland Chapter Woman of the Year, OTC Chair, Gail Achterman was asked to speak at the WTS International Conference in Seattle, May 20-22. We hope that you can attend the conference, as there are many exciting speakers lined up.

As always, we encourage you to share your ideas and feedback about how we can better serve you with any of our Board members. Watch for email announcements of upcoming spring and summer activities. See you soon, and thank you for your support and participation in making the Portland chapter such a success!

2009 Portland Chapter Scholarships

Each spring, the Portland Chapter of WTS bestows scholarships to assist exceptional women in their educational pursuits in the field of transportation. The scholarships are competitive and based on the applicant's specific goals, academic achievements, and transportation-related activities.

This year's Scholarship Committee (Courtney Duke, Julia Kuhn, Lisa Diercksen, and Quinn Fahey, Chair) have selected the following two graduate students as the recipients of the 2009 WTS Portland Chapter Scholarships.

Mariah VanZerr

Mariah is a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning student from Portland State University who will be graduating this June. The committee recommended Mariah based on her commitment to building better communities through transportation planning. Mariah exemplifies this commitment by volunteering for programs such as Portland Bureau of

Transportation's Bicycle Counts, and SOLV's street clean-up days. In addition to her volunteer work, Mariah is a Graduate Research Assistant conducting research for a Climate Planning Innovation study, has worked on Metro's Drive Less Save More Campaign and is currently a transportation planning intern at CH2M Hill.

Mariah excels in her coursework at PSU, with a 3.93 GPA, while staying active in extracurricular activities such as Students in Transportation Engineering and Planning (STEP), Planning Club, and Planning Includes Equity. Furthermore, she is a WTS student member who has volunteered at luncheon events, and comes highly recommended by fellow WTS members.

Heba Alwakiel

Heba Alwakiel is a graduate Civil Engineering student from Portland State University who will be graduating in 2010. The committee was impressed by Heba's drive to eventually pursue a Ph.D, as she believes

that "the best person is one who learns and teaches what she learned to others." Heba excels in her academic work, earning a 3.95 GPA, while also serving as a Graduate Research Assistant, belonging to Students in Transportation Engineering and Planning (STEP) and Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), and volunteering for WTS.

Heba worked in Egypt as a civil engineer from 1999 to 2007, where she worked on a variety of projects. In her personal statement, Heba said she grew up in a country suffering from severe transportation problems. This led her to seek graduate transportation studies in the United States.

In a recommendation letter, one professor wrote that WTS' investment in Heba, "...would be multiplied many times as she matures into a promising young professional."

Congratulations to Mariah and Heba! WTS Portland is pleased to provide both students with \$2,500 scholarships.

From Our Director...

Karen Schilling



As I struggle through budget deliberations for my department in these difficult economic times, I have had to think

about the value of supporting professional organization memberships for my employees. After talking to many professionals and reading the literature about why professional organizations are an especially good investment for employees, I thought I would share with you some of the advantages of remaining or becoming a WTS member.

People who remain associated with a professional organization have more success, higher salaries and succeed in their careers faster than people who are not active in a professional organization. What does that mean for you? If you are a current member of WTS and could possibly lose the benefit of your employer paying your membership dues, you may want to consider investing in yourself. Most employers see a positive difference in employees who make an investment in themselves whether it is being involved in an association or education or training. At WTS, members have many opportunities to get involved and reap the benefits of the organization.

Even if you never participate in the annual conference or activities outside of your local chapter, you are benefiting from WTS being an international organization. Chapters don't have to reinvent the wheel since there are many ways to tap into more than 40 chapters across the nation and in Canada and London. WTS is a powerful and knowledgeable organization both for chapter activities as well as for individual professional development.

One way to show your employer how motivated you are is to volunteer for your local chapter or for one of the international committees. WTS is always looking for energetic people who are willing to give their time and expertise. There are numerous opportunities ranging from short term activities, maybe even planning just one event, to longer term committees that may serve for 1-2 years.

Have you ever looked across the room and thought you would like to talk to other professionals whose path you may not cross in your day-to-day work? Many chapters have formal mentoring programs that give you a chance to learn from others or share your experiences. Even if a formal program doesn't exist in your chapter, never be afraid to call someone, let them know you are a WTS member and that you would like to learn from them. I have found

that WTS members are always willing to share their experiences with others.

Another great benefit of WTS is the Career Center. Whether you are looking for work or looking to hire employees, the Career Center can help. You can post your resume and review over 500 jobs, or if you are hiring you can announce opportunities at your firm or jurisdiction and know that you will reach over 4000 WTS members.

Last, but not least, don't forget about the WTS Annual Conference. This year it is in Seattle May 20-22. With the conference so close to home you have an opportunity to take advantage of it without expensive travel costs. The conference is always packed with great sessions and speakers; you can earn Continuing Education Credits, and you can meet other WTS members from across the nation to expand your horizons.

WTS offers programs, events and other learning opportunities that are relevant, topical and progressive.

WTS Portland would like to welcome our newest members!

- Hannah Kapell, Planner, Alta Planning and Design
- Coral Egnaw, Community Affairs Representative, TriMet
- Michael Wolfe
- Andrea Broaddus, Senior Associate, Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates
- Kim Bria, Aviation Designer, WHPacific, Inc
- Tegan Houghton, CH2MHill
- Alicia Crain, Bicycle Outreach Coordinator, Portland State University
- Seth Gallant
- Kristen Svicarovich
- Lyn Wylder, David Evans and Associates
- John Willis, CH2MHill
- Winsome Bowen, HDR

Spring Events with WTS

In case you missed them, here's a recap of the events we have had this spring:

- **January 28 WES Commuter Rail Preview Ride:** WTS members were treated to a ride on the very first commuter rail in Oregon. Westside Express Service (WES), runs from Wilsonville to Beaverton Transit Center and connects to bus and light rail service to Hillsboro, Portland and Gresham.



WTS members at the January 28 WES Commuter Rail Preview Ride.

- **February 9 Professional Development:** Assessing Global Climate Change Impacts from Highway and Transit Projects class: Margi Lifsey, ODOT Sustainability Program Manager and Jeff Heilman of Parametrix discussed analyzing climate change impacts associated with transit and highway transportation projects.
- **February 17 Legislative Issues Briefing:** The Portland Chapter teamed up with the Oregon Chapter of the American Council of Engineering companies for a early morning legislative briefing about how to make a difference by discussing transportation issues with legislative representatives.
- **February 17 Luncheon Program:** Congressman Earl Blumenauer gave his view on the new administration, the 111th Congress and transportation opportunities and innovations being considered at the federal level.
- **February 20, Planning Commissioner Training:** WTS collaborated with OAPA to provide a Planning Commissioner Training session. WTS members June Carlson (PB) and Sam Seskin (CH2M Hill) presented transportation and smart growth techniques to urban and rural planning commissioners.
- **February 25 Membership Meeting:** 45 members met at the Portland City Grill to honor 2008 volunteers, enjoy the view, cocktails and seafood, meet the new members of the board, and review 2008's accomplishments.
- **March 10 Luncheon Program:** Featuring Angus Duncan, President and CEO of the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Bill Wyatt, Executive Director of the Port of Portland, both on the Transportation and Land Use Committee of the Oregon Global Warming Commission. They discussed the work of the Commission, including least cost planning and a green house gas model being developed by Oregon Department of Transportation.
- **April 7 Annual Luncheon Program cosponsored with ITE and ITS Oregon:** James Whitty, manager of Oregon Department of Transportation's Office of Innovative Partnerships and Alternative Funding, presented the results of Oregon's mileage fee program as a means for replacing the gas tax.
- **April 20 Professional Development:** Participants learned about an emerging tool to evaluate transportation projects called STARS - the Sustainable Transportation and Access Rating System. STARS, which focuses on improving access and climate, is designed to transform transportation projects, programs and plans the way Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) has transformed the building industry with voluntary higher performance standards.
- **April 28 Professional Development:** Gail Achterman, head of the Oregon Transportation Commission, spoke to members about upcoming state transportation issues at a breakfast event.
- **May 6 Evening Reception:** WTS members enjoyed a reception with Margi Lifsey, the Sustainability Program Manager for ODOT and Susan Anderson, director of Sustainable Development, City of Portland.



WTS members enjoy a recent luncheon program.

2009/2010 Fundraising Update

The WTS Portland Fundraising Committee is beginning to organize the 2009/10 corporate sponsor campaign, which will start in June. Last year the chapter raised more than \$23,000 through this program, a more than 50% increase from the previous year. These funds are largely used to fund student scholarships and to help underwrite various WTS members-only and awards events.

The 2009/10 campaign, only the fourth for the WTS Portland Chapter, is tempering its expectations considering the state of the econo-

my and last year's great increase in sponsorships. Our goal this year is to meet last year's total of \$23,400 through retaining existing sponsors, reaching out to new sponsors, and exploring other types of sponsorship (including speaker sponsorships and in-kind donations).

Results of the campaign will be reported in future editions of this newsletter. If you are interested in volunteering with the Fundraising Committee, or would like to become a sponsor of WTS Portland, please contact Theresa Carr at theresa.carr@ch2m.com.

Professional Development Update

WTS Portland is now a registered provider of AICP Certificate Maintenance credits. Initially our goal is to provide attendees of our Professional Development Speaker Series events with credits and the chapter will also be looking at other WTS events that may qualify.

- Our most recent Professional Development Speaker Series Event was on April 20. Participants learned about an emerging tool to evaluate transportation projects called STARS - the Sustainable Transportation and Access Rating System. STARS, which focuses on improving access and climate, is designed to transform transportation projects, programs and plans the way Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

(LEED) has transformed the building industry with voluntary higher performance standards. Tim Burkhardt, CH2M Hill, Peter Hurley, Portland Bureau of Transportation, Susie Serres, DEA, and Chris Forney of Brightworks presented.

- WTS Book Club? The chapter is investigating starting a book club for members to read and discuss transportation relevant literature. We have recently become an AICP CM provider, and may be able to offer credits for book club participation.

If you are interested in any of these professional development activities or have ideas for future events, please contact Professional Development Chair, Shelley Holly at sholypdx@gmail.com.

WTS professional development, mentoring and networking opportunities empower women in the transportation arena.

WTS thanks our generous sponsors!

Benefactor – \$2,000+



Patrons – \$1,250–\$1,999



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Advancing Women in Transportation

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