Greetings and Happy Holidays to all of my friends and colleagues at CAS–ITE! Like all good things my tenure as President has come to an end. However, this does not mean my involvement will stop as I will continue to assist our section in various capacities to continue to deliver on ITE’s core purpose of advancing transportation knowledge and practices, by promoting the professional development of our members, increase public awareness of our profession, and provide opportunities for the exchange of technical and policy information.

I have been honored to be selected by you and proud to have served in various leadership roles alongside passionate friends and colleagues over the past three years. This year, I’m especially proud of the work that Valerie and Tom have done to ensure that we deliver on the goals that we established at the beginning of the year. I also want to thank all of the various committee leaders and volunteers that have sacrificed their time and resources to assist the CAS–ITE Board. It truly takes a team effort to move our section forward, thinking outside the box, and doing whatever it takes to deliver and provide the best service to our members.

I’m happy to report that this year our section held ten (10) local events that included five technical presentations, four (4) social events, and one (1) volunteering event. These events provided a variety of eclectic technical presentations and activities that range from ethics, infrastructure updates, new technologies, systems processes, UT student chapter joint events, roadside clean-ups, and a fundraiser. This is one more event that we have added from years past!

Finally, I want to thank all of our sponsors, we could not have done everything that we setup to do without the funding and support that you provided. This year, we had a record number of (17) seventeen business card ad sponsorships, which is three more than we received last year. And even though we had a short timeframe to put together the scholarship fundraiser event, we received a total of ten (10) corporate sponsors, topping last year by two additional sponsors. Your participation and support truly mean a lot during my tenure and words cannot express my gratitude towards your contributions.

Much like the previous leaders before me, I want to urge each and every one of you to continue to promote our section, and encourage younger members to join and participate in the various events.

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August 26
Systems Engineering and Federal ITS Projects

By Cody Stone, EIT

On August 26th, 2016, the Capital Area Section hosted its fourth meeting at the Asian-American Resource Center. Stephen Ratke, P.E, and Toni Whitfield presented on behalf of the FHWA – Texas Division. Steve coordinates safety initiatives, while Toni works as a Traffic Operations/ITS Engineer as part of the Texas Division. They put on a great presentation that received positive feedback from those who attended.

Steve presented on the history of Systems Engineering and the role FHWA plays in local projects. He also gave a brief synopsis of what Systems Engineering accomplishes. Steve demonstrated the use of Systems Engineering in identifying and correcting project deficiencies early in the process. As a case example, the construction of the interstate highway network shows the use of Systems Engineering by identifying the need, setting the requirements, designing and implementing the product, and testing and validating the end result.

This process was further expanded upon by Toni Whitfield in discussion of Systems Engineering processes. Toni presented on the Systems Engineering documentation and Federal requirements for ITS. She stressed the importance of the "V" diagram and how ITS projects should proceed with FHWA coordination. The various stages of development along the "V" diagram are essential in completing a successful ITS project and receiving Federal funding. Steve and Toni included how each process fits into Regional, Metro, and State planning.

The presentations were engaging and led to constructive discussion between consultants, state agencies, and federal employees. Some of the questions and general discussion related to how the process can prevent project delays, the coordination that needs to occur between agencies, and what should be included in Systems Engineering documents. CAS–ITE thanks Steve and Toni for their presentations!
September 8
CAS–ITE & UT–Student
Chapter Welcome Back Mixer

By Jake Gutenkunst, EIT

CAS–ITE and the UT–Austin ITE Student Chapter gathered together in Austin, TX on September 8th, 2016 at The Flying Saucer to hold a back to school meet and greet for new and returning students from the University of Texas at Austin. The meeting was attended by 4 members of the Capital Area Section and 14 students from the UT–Austin ITE chapter.

President Rob Belarmino, HNTB, and Vice President Valerie Kaiser, RS&H, welcomed attendees and conversed with students about careers in traffic and transportation engineering. The event was the first of many to be held jointly with the UT–Austin ITE Student Chapter this fall, and was an opportunity for students and professionals to connect.

September 21–23
2016 TexITE Fall Meeting

By Valerie Kaiser, PE, PTOE

CAS–ITE was again well represented at the annual TexITE Fall Meeting that was held in Fort Worth, Texas. CAS–ITE members actively participated throughout the meeting through technical presentations, student poster presentations, social and networking events. In fact, eight (8) of the forty-one (41) presenters for this meeting were from the Capital Area (majority of which area Section affiliates), representing nearly 20% of the overall topics discussed throughout the event. Our Capital Area professionals presented on a range of topics including how to tackle the influx of charter schools, managing major events, innovative intersections, and Vision Zero Action Plans.

The local CAS–ITE members/affiliate that provided insight to some of the key projects and advancements from the capital area were Anna Martin and Donna Galati (COA) – Managing the Influx of Charter Schools in the City of Austin, Lee Austin (COA) – The perfect Traffic Storm: SXSW and the President’s Visit to Austin, Sabas Avila (COSM) – Operation of Continuous Flow Interchange along IH-35 Lessons Learned, Victor Vargas (TxDOT–AUS) – US 290 Corridor CFIs and Please see FALL MEETING on page 4

(L–R) Jake Gutenkunst, Rob Belarmino, and Valerie Kaiser participate at the CAS–ITE & UT–Student Chapter Mixer.
FALL MEETING from page 3


In addition, Dr. Mason Gemar from the University of Texas Center for Transportation Research was announced as the recipient of TexITE's 2016 Technical Paper Award. He received a plaque and check for his submittal.

The Capital Area Section was also selected to host the 2017 TexITE Fall Meeting. Sabas Avila will be leading the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC). Please contact Sabas if you would like to participate in the LAC to make next year's event a success!

By Tom Gerrity, PE, PTOE

CAS-ITE Board elected to participate in the Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) Adopt-a-Street Program. This program selection is part of our effort of developing community impact social events that could be extended to professional and student members.

This year, CAS-ITE adopted the segment of 45th Street from Burnet Road to Guadalupe Street. CAS-ITE is responsible for conducting four (4) cleanups per year. KAB also posted a roadside sign indicating CAS-ITE's adoption of the street segment.

The first clean-up was held on October 22, with Rob and Tom leading the effort. They collected nearly ten pounds of trash during a one-hour period. After the clean-up Rob and Tom celebrated their success at Maudies.

We expect this event to continue to grow in participation at future clean-ups. So please join us next time in this opportunity to give back to our City, one street at a time!
October 28 APD Innovative Approaches to Enforcement of Safe Passing Laws

Officer Cunningham provided insight to the safe passing law ordinance that was initially adopted in 2009. The law requires passenger vehicles to provide a minimum of 3–feet of clear space when passing a vulnerable roadway user (such as a cyclist). The clearance space is increased to 6–feet for trucks and buses. Enforcement of the law did not gain traction until 2013, where APD began developing the Vulnerable Road User Operations (VRUO) program.

VRUO promotes safe motorist interaction with cyclists through outreach, education, and enforcement, including undercover operations. She showcased some of the tools (which includes Codaxus C3FT, Go-Pro, concealed radios, and educational leaflets) used by APD, and the typical citations or violations encountered by APD staff. She also showed videos taken during undercover operations, and highlighted some of the data collected and analysis results from the enforcement operations, which will be used to enhance the program. APD’s VRUO program has received positive reviews and is now under consideration by surrounding communities to increase safety within their own roadways.

**President** from page 1

With all of that said, I want to congratulate all of the 2017 incoming officers. I know that they will continue to advance on the legacy and work that we have completed. Thank you again for the wonderful three years and I wish everyone Happy Holidays!

Best Regards,

– Rob
2016 Scholarship Fundraiser

By Valeri Kaiser, PE, PTOE

Thanks to the support of our local firm sponsors the 2016 scholarship fundraiser was another success. This year’s event was held at TopGolf Austin, as selected by section members and affiliates from previous surveys. The event received sponsorships from the following ten (10) organizations:

The fundraiser generated $4,160 of sponsorships revenue, netting CAS–ITE a total of $1,200 of additional scholarship funds. In combination with other revenue sources, CAS–ITE will be awarding $3,000 in scholarship funds for 2016.

CAS–ITE hosted 30 participants from private/public organizations and the UT Student Chapter. Participants shared a brunch and played the signature TopGolf game of hitting golf balls into targets for points. Alex Reyna, Sam Lundquist, and Jake Gutekunst received the top scores and took home the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes, respectively. Prizes range from gift cards, tumblers and a 20 Qt K2 Cooler grand prize. CAS–ITE also raffled additional Starbucks gift cards.

Again, the CAS–ITE Board would like to thank our SPONSORS for making this event another great success!
Year-End Banquet/Election
By Valerie Kaiser, PE, PTOE

We had a great turnout for the 2016 Year-End Banquet/Elections on December 9 at Stiles Switch BBQ. We had 40 members attend, including several members of our UT Student Chapter. 2016 President Rob Belarmino opened the meeting, thanking our annual sponsors, citing a record-breaking year of seventeen business card sponsors. He also took a moment to thank our scholarship sponsors whose support helped us raise 40% of our scholarship awards and meet our goal of issuing $3000 in funds to deserving students.

Rob summarized the variety of events hosted by the Section in 2016, including our partnership with Keep Austin Beautiful. Secretary-Treasurer, Tom Gerrity let the membership know of upcoming events and that we would be reaching out to our membership for ideas for 2017.

Following the announcements, Tom and Valerie presented Rob with a plaque in appreciation for his contributions as a CAS-ITE officer over the past three years. Rob thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve.

Cody Stone, 2016 Scholarship Committee Chair, informed the members of the outcome of the Scholarship Competition. He noted that all participants were very competitive and that it was a record breaking year for scholarship applications. The first place winner was Stefanos Politis, second place recipient was Ehsan Jafari, and third place recipient was Swati Agarwal. The students will be awarded their scholarships at our February 2017 ethics meeting.

Following the announcement of awards, the election votes were tallied and the new 2017 Officers, Valerie Kaiser, Tom Gerrity, James Schwerdtfeger, were announced and sworn into office by James Kratz. They will serve along with Alex Reyna, who is the current CAS-ITE Section-Representative. The members concluded the meeting enjoying a BBQ lunch with friends and colleagues.

Upcoming Events
1. Quarterly Clean-Up – Jan/Feb(TBD)
2. Section Ethics Presentation – Feb/TBD
3. Regular Section Meeting – Mar/TBD
4. TexITE 2017 Spring Meeting – Apr 19–21
5. CAS–ITE/STITE Joint Meeting – June/TBD
2017 CAS–ITE Officers
Please contact any of the following officers, if you have questions about the Capital Area Section, TexITE, or ITE:

- Valerie Kaiser, PE, PTOE – President valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com
- Tom Gerrity, PE, PTOE – Vice President tomgerrity@trafficware.com
- James Schwerdtfeger, PE – Secretary–Treasurer james@bigreddog.com
- Alex Reyna, PE, PTOE – Section Representative alex@reynainc.com
- Rob Belarmino, PE – Past President rbelarmino@hntb.com

ITE Website Addresses
If you are interested in the latest developments at ITE or TexITE, please check out the following websites:

- ITE – www.ite.org
- TexITE – www.texite.org

You can find section meeting information on the CAS–ITE website: http://texitecapitalarea.weebly.com/. Please contact James Schwerdtfeger or Tom Gerrity if you would like to join the website committee.

Communications Committee
Please contact any of the following committee members if you have questions about the Capital Area Section Newsletter:

- Rob Belarmino, PE – Editor rbelarmino@hntb.com
- Valerie Kaiser, PE, PTOE – Member valerie.kaiser@rsandh.com
- Jake Gutekunst, EIT – Member jake.gutekunst@kimley-horn.com
- Cody Stone, EIT – Member CStone@emailatg.com
- Derek Mueller, PE – Member DMueller@pape-dawson.com

The Communications Team is always looking for article contributions, upcoming events, employment opportunities, or legislative updates. Please contact any of the members of the Communications Committee if you would like your submittal or story to be included in the next newsletter issue.

UT Student Chapter
If you would like to speak at one of the Student Chapter meetings, please contact their officers at utexasite@gmail.com.

Membership Information
Interested in becoming a CAS–ITE member? Please send a completed form below to James Schwerdtfeger, 2021 E 5th St #200, Austin, TX 78702 with $15.00 annual dues payment; or bring both to the next section meeting. Section membership can also be paid with your annual TexITE and/or ITE dues.

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<td>Name (full name plus professional designation; i.e. PE, AICP, EIT, M.S., etc.):</td>
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<td>Job Title and Employer:</td>
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<td>Please mark all that apply:</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am a member of ITE</td>
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<td>I am a member of TexITE, the Texas Section of ITE</td>
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<td>I would like information on ITE membership</td>
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Professional Services Directory:

- Planning
- Modeling
- Demographics
- Economics
- Bike & Pedestrian
- Public Involvement
- Traffic Engineering
- Roadway Design

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!

Professional Services Directory (continued):
If your firm/organization is interested in sponsoring CAS-ITE, please contact James Schwerdtfeger at james@bigreddog.com. The cost of sponsorship is $100 annually per firm/agency and your logo will be featured on two newsletters, e-blast and on the CAS-ITE website for a 13-month period.