BYU ITE Student Chapter News

This is the first semi-annual newsletter for the Brigham Young University student chapter of Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). The goal of this newsletter is to keep members of the transportation community in the Utah area informed on our student chapter’s activities, service, and upcoming plans. This past year has been a great year for our student chapter. We were able to hold several activities from touring transportation projects such as the Legacy Parkway and the Provo Canyon reconstruction, to hosting socials in order to help recruit new members to our student chapter.

In May, with the help of the Intermountain Section of ITE and donation from engineering firms, we were able to send six students to the Intermountain Section meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Our chapter members received student paper contest awards and scholarships for the upcoming academic year. Our chapter has also strived to give back to the community. For several years BYU ITE has helped keep Utah highways clean through the Adopt-A-Highway program. Because one of the main purposes of the student chapter is to foster close associations between students and transportation professionals, we rely on you, the transportation professionals, for mentoring and support.

In addition to needing financial support to put on activities and send students to conferences, we seek opportunities to interact with transportation professionals. You can help the student chapter by sponsoring informational activities, hosting field trips, or providing speakers for our meetings. We hope to be able to continue to foster our association with you and keep our chapter strong as new students join our ranks. Feel free to join us at any of our upcoming activities. If you see any of our student members at upcoming ITE Utah Chapter luncheons, please introduce yourselves to them and help our younger students feel welcome.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to working with you in the future.

BYU ITE Quick Facts

- Civil & Environmental Engineering Undergrad Enrollment: 313
- Transportation Grad Students: 16
- ITE members: 27
- Faculty that are ITE members: 2

More Information

For more information about BYU ITE, see our website at www.et.byu.edu/groups/byuite, or e-mail us at byuite@gmail.com. Our officers and their contact information are on page 4 of this newsletter.
Recent BYU ITE Activities

Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up

The BYU ITE Student Chapter has been involved in the Adopt-A-Highway program for many years. This year, the tradition has continued with a new clean-up area located in Springville, Utah. In April, dozens of students from BYU’s student chapter of ITE and ASCE spent the morning cleaning trash off of the side of I-15. Over 20 large bags were filled as approximately 3/4 of a mile of freeway was cleaned. The Adopt-A-Highway program offers BYU students the chance to give back to their community by assisting UDOT in keeping the state highways clean.

Provo Canyon Reconstruction Tour

BYU ITE was able to participate in a tour of the Provo Canyon Reconstruction project along with an undergraduate class at BYU. UDOT has been conducting major construction in Provo Canyon on Route 189, which connects the Provo and Orem area with Heber City. The main objectives of the project are to widen existing sections and to reconstruct a portion of the highway on a new alignment to avoid geotechnical problems, to increase capacity, and to improve safety. The field trip provided BYU ITE members the opportunity to get an up-close look at a major transportation project close to BYU.

Closing Social

The closing social for BYU ITE was a pizza social held in the Wilkinson Center at BYU. We were privileged to have Wayne Hurlacher, Vice President of PBS&J, attend and give a presentation on issues and projects that his company is involved with in the Las Vegas, Nevada area. Not only was the closing social a great opportunity for current student members to get together and interact with other transportation students, but it also served as a recruiting activity. Several undergraduate students attended and became new international student members of ITE.

BYU ITE business was also conducted at the meeting including the election of new officers for the 2006-2007 academic year. Please see page 4 of this newsletter for their biographies.
BYU ITE Involvement with Other ITE Organizations

ITE Utah Chapter Luncheons

BYU ITE student members have been invited by the Utah Chapter of ITE to attend their monthly luncheons held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Students have been able to attend several luncheons as school schedules permit. Students attending the monthly luncheons have been able to participate in ITE Professional Development training sessions as well as other lectures designed to supplement their educational experiences. Students have been able to make valuable contacts with working professionals in both the private and public sector as they prepare to leave school and enter the job market. Two BYU students won 2nd and 3rd place in the Utah Chapter’s annual student paper contest. Luke Seegmiller won second place with his paper “The Transportation Impact Fee Debate,” and Kordel Braley won third place with his paper “Transportation Engineering Considerations for Elderly Drivers and Pedestrians.” Cash prizes and ITE Traffic Engineering Handbooks were awarded to the winners. In addition, Luke had the opportunity to present his paper at the April Luncheon.

ITE Intermountain Section Meeting

One professor and six students from BYU were able to attend the ITE Intermountain Section meeting held in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Student members were able to learn from the technical presentations as well as interact with transportation professionals in the Intermountain Section. Student member Kordel Braley, who won second place in the Annual Student Paper Competition presented his paper, “Transportation Engineering Considerations for Elderly Drivers and Pedestrians.” He and fellow student Aimee Birdsell were also recipients of the 2006 Ellis L. Mathes Scholarship. Dr. Grant Schultz presented a paper and was awarded the “Best Technical Paper Award.” Providing accommodations and conference fees for the students was made possible in part by donations to BYU ITE.

Westernite District 6

Unfortunately, none of the student BYU ITE members were able to attend this year’s district meeting in Hawaii; however, two students were able to attend in 2005 in Kalispell, Montana. Luke Seegmiller and Ryan Peterson were on the first and second place teams in the student competition. Depending on available funds, we hope to send students to next year’s District 6 meeting to be held in Portland, Oregon.
2006-2007 BYU ITE Officers

Kordel Braley-President
E-mail: kordel@byu.edu
Kordel is a graduate student working on research with Dr. Schultz involving Access Management. Previous to being elected president, he served as the Service coordinator for BYU ITE. His professional goals include working as a transportation engineer in the Salt Lake City area.

A. Paul Jensen-Vice President
E-mail: apj7@byu.edu
Paul has been an officer in BYU’s ASCE student chapter and the college student council. He is currently working on his master’s degree and doing research with Dr. Schultz on advance warning signals. He would like to work for a large international transportation company in the area of mass transit.

Carole Turley-Secretary
E-mail: carole@byu.edu
Carole is currently pursuing a master’s degree in civil engineering. She is working on a research project with Dr. Schultz focusing on traffic simulation modeling. She also completed an internship for Utah Transit Authority. Carole has also been an officer in BYU’s ASCE student chapter and has enjoyed being involved in these professional organizations.

Luke Seegmiller-Treasurer
E-mail: luke.seegmiller@gmail.com
Luke is a graduate student who is finishing up a research project with Dr. Schultz evaluating Utah’s commercial motor vehicle data collection. Previous to being elected Treasurer, he served as the Secretary for BYU ITE. He has enjoyed participating in ITE and receiving the great benefits of being involved.