The University of Texas at El Paso – Institute of Transportation Engineers (UTEP-ITE) chapter had the highest participation level among all other graduate schools in the Texas District at the TexITE Fall, 2011 Meeting. We attended with a group of ten transportation engineering graduates (David Manzano, Lorenzo Cornejo, Edgar Saucedo, Nela Blejcharova, Marketa Vavrova, Stefania Semanova, Ivana Simkova, Jana Cervinska, Petr Malina and Jiri Tylich) and two doctoral students (Mouyid Islam and Yubian Wang). Within our group of twelve students, there is a special group of seven graduate students who were exchange students from the Czech Republic and Slovakia as part of a very recent Dual Master’s Degree Program between UTEP and the Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU), in the Czech Republic and the University of Zilina (UNIZA) in the Slovak Republic. TexITE meetings are considered very important for our ITE chapter because they offer us an opportunity to network, attend technical presentations and to continue our tradition of TexITE participation. We intend to continue sending UTEP-ITE delegations to TexITE meetings in the future.

We enjoyed our time in Garland while we participated in the Highway Capacity Manual Workshop and the Technical Tours in the Dallas area, the Texas Hold ‘em Poker Tournament, Karaoke Night at the Firewheel Pavilion and the luncheons. The professional members of ITE were welcoming and friendly to our students. We also appreciated their willingness to share updates on their technical projects. The friendly environment created by the members of ITE

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**President’s Message, Cont.**

(Continued from page 1)

start working to update the presentation to include current statistics from Texas.

I urge you to get involved and see if TexITE can make a presentation in your community. Even if you aren’t comfortable in making the presentation

**South Texas Regional Conference, Cont.**

(Continued from page 2)

manager. The Disaster Recovery Program is designed to help rebuild after the damage from Hurricanes Ike and Dolly. These two hurricanes affected over 45 percent of the Texas population and cost more than an estimated $29 billion in damages. The Disaster Recovery Program is the largest public works program in Texas history and involves more than 5,000 projects.

Next, Gary Schatz, Traffic Engineer for the City of Austin, gave a presentation on new initiatives in Austin. Mr. Schatz talked about Austin’s Great Streets plan, which aims to increase mobility in the downtown area for all users such as bikes and pedestrians. He showed the modifications they had implemented on South Congress including the addition of bike lanes and reverse angle parking. Mr. Schatz also gave an overview of the HAWK pedestrian beacons which are being implemented in Austin at locations with heavy pedestrian traffic. The Hawk stops traffic with a flashing red signal when pedestrians are crossing and is unlit at other times. He also discussed roundabouts and gave examples of when their installation may be appropriate.

A vendor session followed Mr. Schatz’ presentation. Following the vendor session, George P. Hartman of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers gave an ethics presentation. Mr. Hartmann gave updates on new rules and legislation as well as case files of ethics violations.

Following the conference, attendees had dinner at Snoopy’s on the pier. The fishing tournament was held the next day. The STITE board would like to thank all of the vendors for helping to sponsor the event and America Garza and the TxDOT Corpus Christi District for hosting and organizing the conference.
made us comfortable enough to participate in the various meeting activities, which, in turn, allowed us to enhance our overall knowledge of the transportation engineering field.

The Texas Hold’em Poker Tournament was a sheer fun social event where our members interacted friendly with other ITE members. Karaoke Night was the most memorable experience for us as a group because of our song by The Beatles called I want to hold your hand. After this song we were proclaimed the “International BEATLES signing society” by ITE International President, Mr. Robert Wunderlich. A very noticeable and attractive event was the student poster session where the UTEP-ITE chapter presented four posters (more than any other school) on their recently conducted research, Framework Analysis of Cross Border Mass Transit Operation, by David Salgado; Single and Multiple Vehicle Large Truck-involved Collisions on Highways: An Exploratory Analysis, by Mouyid Islam, EIT and Salvador Hernandez, PhD; Village of Vinton Multipurpose Center Parking Lot Design, by Edgar Saucedo, EIT and Lorenzo Cornejo, EIT; and Safety of Dual Right-turn Lanes, by Yubian Wang and Dr. Yi Qi. We had the opportunity to answer many challenging and interesting questions on the practical aspects of research by the experienced, and well-known, transportation engineers at the meeting. UTEP-ITE members were also encouraged and inspired by the UTEP alumni currently working for transportation firms around Texas.

The TexiTE poster presentations motivated our members to increase our public speaking, improve our presentation skills and to socialize in a professional atmosphere. In addition to all of the technical and social events, the business luncheon was a fun memory for our chapter because we won 2nd place for the student paper award and a door prize. We are looking forward to attending and participating in the TexiTE Spring Meeting in San Marcos.

The meeting hosted 43 students representing 5 different schools, nine of which presented posters during the session breaks. There were 37 vendor booths sold, an additional 36 vendor badges, 221 members and speakers, which brought the meeting attendance to a grand total of 337 registrations.

For those who were in attendance, thank you for your participation. Our organization is as great as it is because of everyone’s willingness to be an active member. I look forward to our next district meeting, and can’t wait to see everyone again in San Marcos!