



Spring 2018

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Issue 1

Deep South Transportation News

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Upcoming Events

June 13—15, 2018—Biloxi, MS; DSITE Summer Meeting

June 28, 2018 GRITS Charity Golf Classic; Birmingham, AL

August 20—23, 2018—Minneapolis, MN; ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit

November 8—9, 2018—Natchez, MS; DSITE / GRITS Meeting

Next Section Meeting

For the next section meeting, Deep South ITE will partner with Gulf Region Planning Commission for a technical agenda that will be of interest to all transportation professionals. The meeting will be held June 13—15 in Biloxi, MS. Register online by visiting the [Deep South](http://www.deepsouthite.org) website. Hotel accommodations may be made online or by calling [Hyatt Place Biloxi](http://www.hyatt.com) at (228)206-0950. The group code for this event is **G-GSPI**.



Section News and Updates

Deep South ITE has launched a Facebook page that will be used to quickly post information and share event photos. Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/deepsouthITE/> or search **Deep South ITE** on Facebook to like and follow the page. If you have information you would like to see on this page, feel free to contact Daniel Helms, Bert Moore, or Prasanth Malisetty.

The Deep South ITE website has been redesigned. Visit [Deep South ITE](http://www.deepsouthite.org) to see what's new.

Long time DSITE member Dan Magri has been promoted to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Louisiana DOTD. Congratulations to Dan on this accomplishment.

Congratulations to DSITE Member Daniel Helms on being selected to participate in the 2018 Leadership ITE Class. Daniel currently serves as President of Deep South ITE.

Long time DSITE member [Hibbett Neel](#) was selected to receive Honorary Membership to International ITE. Congratulations to Hibbett on this outstanding professional achievement.

2018 DSITE Winter Meeting

Last Meeting

This year's winter meeting was held March 8th—9th in New Orleans, LA. Sixty-two professionals attended the meeting held at the Louisiana DOT Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC). Student and young member involvement was a focus of this meeting. Over lunch on Wednesday, members participated in a Roundtable discussion sharing ideas supporting student and young member involvement.

Technical Presentation #1: FHWA Everyday Counts Traffic Signal Performance Measures, John Broemmelsiek

Technical Presentation #2: Trans-Set Intro and Major Research Project, Christopher Melson

Technical Presentation #3: Sustained Flow Index for HCM Freeway Capacity, Siavash Shojaat

Technical Presentation #4: Characteristics and Research Prospects of Vehicle Crashes in Mississippi, Haitao Gong

Technical Presentation #5: District Two Winter Weather Response, Scott Boyle

Technical Presentation #6: Connected / Autonomous Vehicle Research, Sogand Karbalaieali

Technical Presentation #7: Low Cost Intersection Improvements—LA 3134 at LA 45, Nicole Rizzo

Technical Presentation #8: New Orleans Bicycle / Pedestrian Safety Update, Ari Deitch

Following the technical sessions members gathered for dinner at Mellow Mushroom and the Section Traffic Bowl. The Louisiana State University and Jackson State University traffic bowl teams advanced to the Southern District Competition.



DSITE Members at 2018 Winter Section Meeting in New Orleans, LA



Dr. Feng Wang with Jackson State University Traffic Bowl Team



DSITE Past President Akhil Chauhan presents the 2017 Hibbett Neel Award to DSITE member Thomas Swanson

2018 Southern District Meeting

The 2018 Southern District ITE meeting was held April 8th through 11th at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel in Mobile, Alabama. The meeting began on Sunday with a golf tournament at Timbercreek Golf Club in Daphne, AL. The executive board meeting was held Sunday evening, followed by a Welcome Reception at Fathom's Lounge. Entertainment was provided by Blow House Band, a local jazz group.

The opening session and roll call of the states was held Monday morning, followed by the technical agenda. Meeting attendees had the opportunity to attend technical tours of the George Wallace Tunnel, the USS ALABAMA Battleship, and the deep-water Port of Mobile.

The Officer's Reception and Annual Banquet were held Wednesday evening. As part of the awards ceremony, Several Deep South members were recognized for their service to Southern District.



L to R: Thomas Montz— Joseph M. Thomas Young Member Award; Jeff Smith— Private Sector Outstanding Service Award; Alison Michel—Marble J. Hensley Outstanding Individual Activity Award; Tony Tramel—ITE Lifetime Member Award

2018 Southern District Meeting



2017 Joseph M. Thomas Outstanding Young Member Award Recipient

Thomas J. Montz, P.E., PTOE, PTP

The **2017 Joseph M. Thomas Young Member Award** is presented to a member of the Southern District who is under the age of 35, and who, by their example and personal efforts, has inspired younger members to greater service.

The recipient held two internships prior to graduating from LSU in 2009. One was with the Traffic Section of LADOTD and the other with local consulting firm ABMB (now Stantec). He continued at LSU as a graduate research assistant studying under Professor Brian Wolshon and modeling hurricane evacuation scenarios. This work led to several published papers and journal articles including with the Transportation Research Board (TRB). He earned a Master's Degree in 2011, and joined Arcadis that same year. He continues to apply a working knowledge of Transportation Engineering on the job with a focus on transportation modeling and planning. He was recently promoted to a Certified Project Manager at Arcadis.

He has been an active member of the Deep South Section of SDITE since joining Arcadis 7 years ago. He has made several technical presentations at both DSITE and SDITE Meetings. He has taken up a leadership role as Student Chapter Liaison for Louisiana schools. His efforts, along with great student chapter presidents, have helped spark a reinvigorated student chapter at LSU, and he hopes to spread this to other schools in Louisiana. As a result of the mentorship by him and other liaisons, the LSU Student Chapter advanced to the final round of the SDITE Traffic Bowl in 2016. He recently took over the responsibility of the DSITE Section Traffic Bowl Committee. For the DSITE Winter Meeting, he took the lead for developing questions for the Traffic Bowl as well as successfully conducting the Traffic Bowl. He is seen as an emerging leader in DSITE, SDITE and beyond.

He is a person one can rely upon professionally and personally. He takes time out to help his colleagues and friends. If he says, "I got your back", he means it. He is a very pleasant, fun and trustworthy person, who is very respected by his colleagues.

He is a member of the TRB Emergency Evacuation committee (ABR30), and has published the following papers:

- Validation Techniques for Region-Level Microscopic Mass Evacuation Traffic Simulations, Transportation Research Record: Journal of the TRB, September, 2011.
- Assessing the Effectiveness of Flexible Response in Evacuations. ASCE Natural Hazards Review, October, 2012.

He has presented at TRB on the following topics:

- Using HSM Methods to compare Access Management Countermeasures at the Corridor Level: A Louisiana Case Study. 2017 TRB Annual Meeting
- Planning for Corridor-wide Access Management Improvements: A Louisiana Case Study. 2017 TRB Annual Meeting.

And, he served as the Young Member Chair for ASCE Baton Rouge Branch, and was recently appointed as the Director of Membership for the Branch.

The 2017 Joseph M. Thomas Outstanding Young Member Award Recipient is **Thomas Montz**.

2017 Private Sector Employee Outstanding Service Award Recipient

Jeff A. Smith, P.E.

The **2017 Private Sector Employee Outstanding Service Award** is presented to a member who has made outstanding contributions to his or her community, to transportation engineering in the public sector, and to the Southern District of ITE.

The recipient began his career as the Assistant and then Interim Traffic Engineer for the City of Jackson, Mississippi early in his career. He became City Engineer for the City of Hattiesburg, and then tried a different career path with Dunn Construction for a couple of years. He returned to his passion of Traffic Engineering when he joined Temple, Inc. as a Technical Sales Rep, where he has been since 2003.

He has been involved and committed to both the Deep South Section and SDITE for over 20 years. Early in his career, he co-authored a paper that was published in ITE Journal. He was on the Deep South Board starting as Secretary/Treasurer in 1998, Vice President in 1999 and President in 2000. He has served as Section Representative on more than one occasion, and has received numerous awards.

At the District level, he has attended thirteen of the past fourteen Southern District Annual Meetings. He served on the Local Arrangements Committee for Annual Meetings in Jackson, Mississippi (2006), Lafayette, Louisiana (2011).

He was Co-Chair of the 2015 Southern District Annual Meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi. At this meeting, attendance exceeded all projections and record-breaking proceeds were raised. He is a consistent voice of reason and positive energy for the Deep South Section and the District. He is very involved in the mission and direction of ITE, particularly as they relate to student chapters and local meetings. And, he is very generous with his time and resources.

He has served as the Associated Business Division (ABD) Representative for the Deep South Section and been a part of the District level group since 2003. As the Deep South ABD Rep, he was responsible for getting the business community involved with the Section. Under his leadership, support for the Deep South Section from the business community increased significantly. More recently, it has grown to the point where the Section is able to include ABD displays at the Deep South Annual Summer Meeting. Also, at the summer meetings, he conducts the Scholarship Auction, where he uses his outgoing personality and dedication to ITE to raise funds and entertain our members as well. He has helped as MC for Traffic Bowl for numerous years.

He enjoys spending time with his boys on his boat fishing or playing chess. He is an ardent Bulldog fan. He can be found most Sundays singing with his church praise band. He has been known to take the stage for a karaoke session ... and has a Prince costume to go with it.

The 2017 Outstanding Private Sector Award Recipient is **Jeff Smith**.

2017 Marble J. Hensley Outstanding Individual Activity Award Recipient**Alison Catarella-Michel, P.E., PTP**

The **2017 Marble J. Hensley Outstanding Individual Activity Award** is presented to a member of the Southern District who, in the past few years, has contributed to the advancement of the transportation profession and Southern District ITE.

This year's award recipient began her professional career in 1998 at ABMB Engineers, Inc. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In 2001, she moved to New Orleans and began working with Urban Systems, Inc. She became a Professional Engineer in 2002, and in 2003 was promoted to an Associate of the firm. In 2005, following Hurricane Katrina, she was the only Professional engineer remaining at Urban Systems. In 2006, she became a partner in Urban Systems, and was charged with rebuilding the technical staff by hiring and training new engineers. Since that time, she has grown the engineering staff from one to a team of six Professional Engineers and two Engineer interns, most of whom she personally trained and continues to mentor. Today, she continues her work at Urban Systems Inc., and has been President of the company since 2012.

She has been a core member of the Deep South Section for many years. She promotes the organization and is dedicated to the mission of ITE and the transportation profession. She is a positive person who brings hard work and solutions to the table. While some people like to bring up problems without having solutions, she joins committees, participates in business meetings and looks for positive outcomes.

She has been very active in the Deep South Section. She routinely attends all Deep South Meetings, the Southern District Annual Meetings, and many international ITE Meetings. She was in the second class of Leadership ITE. She served as Section President in 2003 and Section Representative in 2004. She was awarded the Deep South Outstanding Member/Hibbett Neel Award in 2006 and the President's Award in 2015. She has shown her leadership skills in serving as LAC Co-Chair of the Biloxi Meeting in 2015, as well as her routine involvement in committees and all aspects of the Deep South Section. She has shown interest in being a candidate for Southern District Office, and was recently nominated from Deep South to run for International Director.

Her involvement in the recent Biloxi Annual Meeting was a huge time commitment, and she has stepped back up and offered to be Co-Chair for the New Orleans Meeting in 2020. She is working with International ITE to have the New Orleans Meeting possibly be a joint meeting with International ITE to increase our attendance and exposure.

She is dedicated to Completion Dance, and she is a Travel Baseball mom. She is pretty good at wake boarding and is learning to wake surf. She enjoys growing fresh vegetables in her garden and is an awesome cook.

This year, the 2017 Marble J. Hensley Outstanding Individual Activity Award is presented to **Alison Caterella-Michel**.

Student Chapter Updates

Mississippi State University

MSU students competed in the traffic bowl at the Section level.

Jackson State University

JSU students competed in the Section and District level traffic bowl competitions. DSITE member Jonathan Kiser attended the JSU Engineering Department Advisory Board Meeting. At this meeting, senior engineering students presented their senior projects for critique by the board.

Louisiana State University

LSU competed in the Section and District level traffic bowl competitions.

CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to all of the certified professionals in our two states. Those who have recently obtained certification may contact the newsletter editor to have their name added to the list.

PTOE**Louisiana**

Charles Adams	Carleton Brouhard	Christopher Ewing	Diane Hammonds	David LeBrenton	Chris Morvant	Nicole Stewart
Peter Allain	Akhil Chauhan	Nick Ferlito	Jedidiah Hellmich	Joseph Lefante	David Othling	Steve Strength
Santosh Andem	Guangxiang Cheng	Brin Ferlito	Kester Hollier	Frank Liang	Ingolf Partenheimer	Thomas Swanson
David Backstedt	Shelby Coke	Natalie Forbes	Ellen Howard	Prasanth Malisetty	Cynthia Pennington	Vernon Tekell
Tanya Bankston	Jody Colvin	Jonathan Fox	Ryan Hoyt	Daniel Marsalone	Lauren Picou	Lei Wang
Benjamin Bartlett	Alben Cooper, III	Nicholas Fruge	Robert Jiles	Kimberly McDaniel	April Renard	Tracey Wang
Sridhar Basetty	Ed Courville	Ronald Gallien	Nathan Junius	Stephen Mensah	Karl Rothermel	Brian Wolshon
Johnny Bordelon	Elmer Darwin	Stephen Glascock	Lucy Kimbeng	Alison Ctarella Michel	Malcolm Sayes	Dishili Young
Benjamin Boudreaux	Matthew Davis	Randy Gros	Vijay Kunada	Mohan Garakhalli	Robert Schmidt	Hong Zhang
Christian Boutte	John Eason	Scott Gros	Rebecca Lala	Thomas Montz	Hadi Shirazi	
Scott Boyle	Sarah Edel	P. C. Gutierrez	Laurence Lambert	Bert Moore	Bridget Skinner	

Mississippi

Mark Bailey	Tim Bryan	Karl Hector	Tait Karlson	Brooks Miller	Mark Sorrell
Amandeep Bindal	Brian Fulton	Daniel Helms	Jonathan Kiser	Brian Smith	

PTP**Louisiana**

Ahmed Khalek	Akhil Chauhan	Denis Finigan	Ross Liner	Thomas Montz
Sridhar Basetty	Sean Daly	Vijay Kunada	Prasanth Malisetty	Pradeep Thummala
Nicholas Broussard	Edwin Elam	Laurence Lambert	Mohan Garakhalli	Alison Catarella Michel

Mississippi

Tracy Huffman	Jonathan Kiser
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Deep South ITE—2017 Officers and Board

President:	Daniel Helms
Vice President:	Bert Moore
Sec./Treasurer:	Prasanth Malisetty

Section Representatives:
Tom Swanson (LA)
Jonathan Kiser (MS)

Past President:	Akhil Chauhan
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Affiliate Director:
Scholarship Comm. Chair:
Student Chapter Liaisons:

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Mike Palamone
Jonathan Kiser (MS) Bob Mabry (MS)
Thomas Montz (LA) Robert Canfield (LA)



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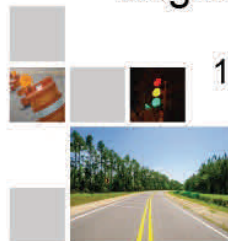
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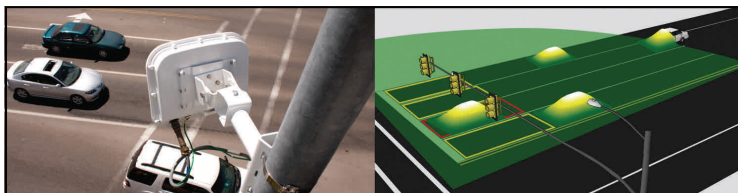


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