



CTS honors leaders, students at awards ceremony

CTS presented the following awards at its Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on April 27 in Minneapolis. **Laurie McGinnis**, CTS director, moderated the presentation of the distinguished service awards.

Richard P. Braun Distinguished Service Award: Former CTS director **Richard Braun** said that when he was preparing his remarks to present this award, he asked CTS staff for information about recipient **David Levinson**—and was sent 52 pages. Levinson, an associate professor in the Department of Civil Engineering (CE) and the Braun/CTS Chair in Transportation Engineering, has provided leadership to several interdisciplinary studies related to transportation and land use. Levinson said he was honored to receive the award from Braun. “He is part of my name,” he joked. “I carry him with me.”

Ray L. Lappegaard Distinguished Service Award: **Ann Johnson** “is the quintessential professional and leader and a friend to all who know her,” said **Connie Kozlak**, the 2008 recipient. Johnson is the faculty director of the University’s Construction Management degree program and the CE department’s outreach coordinator, as well as mentor to hundreds of students. Johnson said she was humbled to look through the list of previous recipients, many of whom served as mentors to her. “Every day I teach, I just can’t believe I get to do this job,” she said.

Distinguished Public Leadership Award: **Peter Bell** “inaugurated probably the most robust period of aggressive transit planning and expansion in the history of the Minneapolis–St. Paul metro region,” said **Curt Johnson**, the 2007 recipient. Bell, who chaired the Metropolitan Council from 2003–2011, said he knows of “no region that is growing, developing, [or] thriving without a world-class transit system.” He also predicted the Central Corridor light-rail transit line will



Laurie McGinnis, David Levinson, Richard Braun



Connie Kozlak, Ann Johnson, McGinnis



Curt Johnson, Peter Bell, McGinnis



Richard Murphy Jr., Kevin McCarthy, McGinnis

serve as a huge spur for economic growth and development.

William K. Smith Distinguished Service Award: **Richard Murphy Jr.**, the 2006 recipient, presented the 2011 award to **Kevin McCarthy**, director of consulting services

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Teams receive Research Partnership Award

“This year was our most competitive yet,” said **Dawn Spanhake**, CTS assistant director for program and financial management, about the CTS Research Partnership Award. She moderated the presentation of the award during the CTS Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon.

The annual award recognizes research projects within the CTS program that have resulted in significant impacts on transportation, and rewards teams of individuals who have drawn on the strengths of their partnerships to achieve those results.

Two teams received an award this year. In the first project, “Bus 2.0 Driver-Assist System,” researchers at the ITS Institute developed a system to help drivers safely navigate bus-only shoulder lanes. With funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Urban

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CTS produces highlights video

For the annual meeting, CTS staff produced a 10-minute video of CTS highlights from the past year. It’s available for viewing at www.cts.umn.edu/About/History.

for C.H. Robinson. McCarthy is a “true leader both in the private sector and in helping...students become true professionals through his mentorship,” Murphy said. McCarthy said he will continue his work in the area of education and mentoring to develop the workers of tomorrow.

Gina Baas, CTS assistant director for education and outreach, moderated the presentation of the education awards.

Matthew J. Huber Award (given to students in engineering, science, and technology fields): Two students received awards:

Hai Quang Dinh completed his master’s degree in electrical and computer engineering (Duluth campus) in February. In his research, Hai worked to develop a tracking-based traffic performance measurement system for roundabouts and intersections. He was advised by Assistant Professor **Hua Tang**. “I am very impressed with his academic achievements,” Hua said.

Andy Erickson is a doctoral candidate in civil engineering. His research contributed to the development of a sand filtration system that protects water quality by treating stormwater runoff. Erickson’s advisor, CE professor **John Gulliver**, said the device is already being implemented in several Minnesota cities. “It’s a whole new aspect of stormwater cleanup,” he said. (The project won the Research Partnership Award.)

John S. Adams Award (given to students in policy and planning fields): Adams presented awards to two students:

David Coyle is a master’s candidate in the Department of Applied Economics. His thesis, “Minnesota Highways: Revenue



Hua Tang, Hai Quang Dinh, Gina Baas



John Gulliver, Andy Erickson, Baas



John Adams, David Coyle, Lee Munnich



Adams, Pavithra Parthasarathi, Levinson

Source or Revenue Sink,” explores the potential of mileage-based user fees. Coyle’s advisor, Associate Professor **Gerard McCullough**, was unable to attend the ceremony. In his place, **Lee Munnich** of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs said a few words. “David is very good at working with many masters,” he said, noting how Coyle worked with him, McCullough, and other researchers in their studies of fuel taxes and mileage fees.

Pavithra Parthasarathi is a doctoral candidate in civil engineering. Her research has focused on developing statistical and econometric models to understand travel behavior and network growth. Her advisor, David Levinson, said Parthasarathi has “done extremely well” and was “an excellent student.”

ITS Institute Student of the Year Award: The recipient of the 2010 award is **Saif Jabari**, a doctoral candidate in civil engineering. **Max Donath**, director



Henry Liu, Saif Jabari, Max Donath

of the Institute, presented the award.

Jabari’s doctoral work concentrates on the development of mathematical models for estimating and predicting traffic conditions along freeways and signalized arterials. Assistant Professor **Henry Liu**, Jabari’s advisor, said Jabari “may be the best student in his cohort” and noted that he contributed greatly to Liu’s research projects.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of the Research Partnership Award (see page 1). **CTS**

CTS adds financial expertise

Kate Bartelt has accepted a position with CTS as the manager of financial strategy and contract coordination. The position will provide Center-wide financial monitoring, budget creation,



Kate Bartelt

and contract coordination support for CTS.

Bartelt holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental science from Iowa State University and a master’s degree in science, technology, and

environmental public policy from the University of Minnesota. She joins CTS from Richardson, Richter, and Associates, Inc., where one of her responsibilities was managing grants for the Counties Transit Improvement Board. **CTS**

Partnership Agreement and match from the State of Minnesota, the ITS Institute's Intelligent Vehicles Laboratory and HumanFIRST Program collaborated with the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and Schmitty and Sons Transit to equip 10 MVTA buses with the navigational system.

Project Partners:

- MVTA: **Michael Abegg, Glenn Boden**
- Schmitty & Sons Transit: **Connie Massengale, Jesse Borchowiec, Mary Blanchard**
- University of Minnesota: **Max Donath, Michael Manser, Craig Shankwitz, Eddie Arpin, Pi-Ming Cheng, Peter Easterlund, Alec Gorjestani, Justin Graving, Erin Kurshoff, Arvind Menon, Bryan Newstrom**

In the other project, "Assessment and Recommendation for Operation of Standard Sumps as Best Management Practices for Stormwater Treatment," the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) developed the "SAFL Baffle." The device is a cost-effective method for preventing harmful sediments in stormwater from reaching Minnesota lakes and streams. The research was funded by Mn/DOT; the University has finalized an agreement



Front row: Barb Loida, Shirlee Sherkow, Dawn Spanhake. Back row: Jack Frost, Omid Mohseni, Adam Howard, John Gulliver, Kurt McIntire



Peter Easterlund, Mary Blanchard, Max Donath, Justin Graving, Jesse Borchowiec, Spanhake

with a Minneapolis startup company to commercialize the device.

Project Partners:

- City of Bloomington: **Scott Anderson**
- City of Prior Lake: **Ross Bintner**
- Metropolitan Council: **Jack Frost**
- Mn/DOT: **Derek Beauduy, Barbara Loida, Beth Neuendorf, Lisa Saylor, Shirlee Sherkow**
- University of Minnesota: **John Gulliver, Omid Mohseni, Adam Howard, Kurt McIntire**

Three additional projects received special recognition this year:

- "eWorkPlace: Telework in Action"
- "Pavement Surface Characteristics (Rehab) MnROAD Studies"
- "The Effects of Implements of Husbandry on Pavement Performance"

Complete details are at www.cts.umn.edu/Awards. **CTS**

University research featured at NACE conference

The 2011 National Association of County Engineers (NACE) annual conference was held in Minneapolis April 17–21. CTS staff coordinated a tour for participants of the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, the world's only fluid mechanics lab that uses a natural waterfall.

Jim Grothaus, director of the Minnesota Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), which is housed at CTS, moderated a conference session titled "Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP)—Tribes, Transportation and You."

Mindy Carlson, program coordinator for Minnesota LTAP, moderated a

session titled "Going Green, Horizontally and Vertically." One of the speakers was Professor **John Gulliver** of the Department of Civil Engineering, who discussed recent research involving stormwater treatment and techniques.

Another session focused on highlights from Minnesota's Toward Zero Deaths program.

In addition, **Greg Isakson**, county engineer in Goodhue County and a member of the Minnesota LTAP Steering Committee, was named national County Engineer of the Year. **CTS**

U of M student receives NSF award

Andrew Gastineau, a doctoral candidate in civil engineering, has been chosen as only 1 of 15 U.S. participants in the 2011 Asia-Pacific Summer School in Smart Structures Technology funded by the National Science Foundation. The NSF program will be held at Tongji University in Shanghai, China, later this summer.

Gastineau's doctoral research, supervised by CE professors **Steve Wojtkiewicz** and **Arturo Schultz**, concerns the development of a framework for the response modification of vulnerable bridges in order to increase their usable lifetime. More information is available on the CE website: www.ce.umn.edu. **CTS**

Oberstar calls for ‘putting America first’ in transportation

Will there be a time when America again invests in infrastructure, the way it did in the 1950s when the interstate highway system was launched?



Doing so, said former U.S. Congressman **James L. Oberstar**, will require political will—and “putting America first.”

He made his remarks May 6 in Minneapolis at the most recent offering of the Martin Olav Sabo Lecture Series. The series, begun in 2002 by the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, is a forum for distinguished individuals to address the challenges of public service for our states and nation. It honors the public service career of former Congressman **Martin O. Sabo**.

Oberstar recently joined the Humphrey School as a visiting scholar and chair of the advisory board of the University’s Center for Excellence in Rural Safety. He chaired the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee from 2007–2011.

Lee Munnich, director of the State and Local Policy Program at the Humphrey School, introduced Sabo, who then introduced Oberstar.

Oberstar said that in his talks with various groups across the country since leaving office, a theme has surfaced: When do we put America first? “There is a hunger across this land for what in Washington is called bipartisanship,” he said. Citizens and companies want to know what’s being done to work together to invest in transportation.

Transportation bills used to receive bipartisan support, Oberstar continued, but since the 2008 presidential election, transportation is seen as a partisan issue. “Can we put America first, ahead of ourselves, ahead of our party line, ahead of our respective congressional districts, ahead of our states? The success of each district, each state, each interest group, truly rests on the quality, the competitiveness, and the intermodal connectivity of our entire transportation system,” he said.

Within the political context is another issue: the question of donor or donee

states. Each state “micromanages” what it sends to and receives from the Highway Trust Fund. “That misses the whole point of a national transportation system,” he said. Other countries, such as Germany, France, China, and Japan, collect revenues from all sources and reallocate them according to national priorities. “There should be no donor or donee states—there should be a United States,” he declared.

For the first time in the history of the Highway Trust Fund, Americans traveled 60 billion fewer miles last year than they did the previous year, which meant a decline in revenues. The most recent evaluation by the Congressional Budget Office indicates the highway fund will be unable to meet obligations during FY2012, he reported, and the transit fund will be unable to meet its demands in FY2013.

There is no silver-bullet fix, he concluded. “We need a sense of a greater America...We can do these things in this country if we have political will.” **CTS**

Upcoming events *To see other events or publicize yours, visit www.cts.umn.edu/Events.*

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| July 24–27 | 10th International Low-Volume Roads Conference, Lake Buena Vista, Fla. See www.trb.org/LowVolumeRoadsConference/LVR10.aspx . | Aug. 21–24 | National Scenic Byways Conference, Minneapolis. See www.BywaysResourceCenter.org . |
| July 28–30 | World Symposium on Transport and Land Use Research, Whistler, British Columbia. See www.wstlur.org . | Oct. 6–7 | AirTAP Fall Forum, Breezy Point, Minn. See www.airtap.umn.edu . |
| Aug. 16–18 | Third Safe Routes to School National Conference, Minneapolis. See www.saferoutesconference.org . | Oct. 12–14 | Minnesota Public Transit Conference, St. Paul. See www.mpta-transit.org/events/conference . |
| | | Nov. 16–17 | Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Annual Conference, Duluth, Minn. See www.minnesotatzd.org . |

TERRA Innovation Series event August 16

The Transportation Engineering and Road Research Alliance (TERRA) is holding another in its Innovation Series on August 16. The one-day research conference in Minneapolis will highlight the results of several pooled-fund and other research studies initiated during the Phase Two Initiative of the MnROAD research facility. For details, please see www.terraroadalliance.org/events. **CTS**

Submit or view transportation-related jobs:

CTS website: www.cts.umn.edu/Education/Careers/JobPostings

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2316997&trk=hb_side_g