President's Message

The Annual Meeting in Gulf Shores was a tremendous success. I really enjoyed myself as I am sure all of you did. Local Arrangements Committee Chairman Tommy Lee and the other people at Vulcan should be congratulated on a job well done. Vice President James Brown also did an outstanding job on the technical program. Edgar N. Leicht, our scholarship recipient for 1996 could not attend the Annual Meeting because of conflicts with his summer job but his wife and little girl attended the banquet and accepted the scholarship for him. It was a pleasure meeting Mrs. Leicht and her daughter. I am glad that this year's scholarship will be beneficial to an entire family.

Although the year is not over, this will be my last message in the newsletter, so I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. I have really enjoyed this year and the previous two years I have spent as an officer. The cooperation I have received from everyone has been gratifying. I especially want to thank Stacey Glass for agreeing to step in as Newsletter Editor this year. Stacey and his committee have done a fine job and deserve everyone's thanks.

Our Fall Meeting is scheduled for October 10 in Tuscaloosa. I grew up just north of Tuscaloosa and graduated from the University of Alabama, so I am looking forward to going home. I hope to see all of you there.

Bruce Thomason

DID YOU KNOW...

Wrecks on the road may be due to driver inattention. In a Prevention Magazine survey, conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates with the help of the National Highway Safety Administration, drivers say the:

✓ Eat while driving (66%).
✓ Change tape/CD (64%).
✓ Read map/directions (33%).
✓ Talk on the phone (18%).
✓ Comb hair (16%).
✓ Repair makeup (14%).
✓ Read papers, books (6%).

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

After threats from militia groups, Indiana officials are speeding up plans to replace reflective dots on the backs of highway signs. The militia groups claim that the multicolored dots are designed to guide United Nations troops when they invade the United States to impose a one-world regime — a popular militia conspiracy theory. The dots actually indicate the age of road signs, that must be replaced as the reflective material the dots are made from ages.
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
June 14, 1996
Gulf Shores, Alabama

I. Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. by President Bruce Thomason.

II. Minutes:
President Thomason called for a motion to accept the minutes of the March 7, 1996 Spring Meeting as published in the Summer 1996 Newsletter. Billy Joe DeRamus made the motion, seconded by Dan Turner.

III. Officers/Director’s Report:
A. Secretary/Treasurer’s Report:
1. The Secretary/Treasurer’s report from March 7 to June 12, 1996, was reported by Secretary/Treasurer James Foster and as of March 7, 1996, the balance was $8,659.41, receipts ending June 12, 1996 were $454.72, expenditures were $1,225.10, leaving a balance of $7,889.03.
2. The board acted on four applications for membership:
   Thomas L. Schellenberg - Member; Coley M. Holloway - Member; George M. Harper, Jr. - Affiliate II upgrade to Member; Jennifer P. White - Affiliate II.
3. The board acted on membership status for nonpayment of dues and accepted the following resignations and expulsions:
   Nonpayment exclusions: Affiliate I - 5; Affiliate II - 12; Member - 4.
   Resignations: Member - 1.
   Total: 22.
4. Current Membership: Affiliate I - 46; Affiliate II - 36; Member - 98; Retired Member - 4, Total Membership - 184.

B. Vice President’s Report:
Vice President James Brown reported that at the board meeting a discussion was made about the addition of an ABD member as an Alabama Section board position with voting rights, and having ABD more involved with Alabama Section activities. During the business meeting Dan Turner thought this was a good suggestion and that the District was doing this, but based on the current bylaws of ITE you would have to be a member of ITE to be a voting member. It is believed that this may be only a non-voting position. This was tabled for further advisement and Jim Meads will receive and review all comments.

C. District 5 Representative Report:
District 5 Representative Jim Meads attended the 44th Annual Southern District ITE Meeting on April 21-24, 1996 in Jackson, Mississippi. Linda Mosch and Darrell Skipper were speakers at the District meeting. Linda presented "Incident Management Plan for Nashville" and Darrell presented "Improving Our Influence" in the Professional Development seminar. The Outstanding Section award went to North Carolina. Vic McSwain won the Herman J. Hoose Distinguished Service Award and Jim Meads won the Joseph M. Thomas Outstanding Young Member award. In Jim’s report (published in the newsletter), he felt that one of the highlights at the meeting was our Section breakfast. Fifteen members attended the breakfast and we had good feedback, (suggestions) that we might bring back to Alabama to improve our section. Some of the suggestions included ABD members being more involved in Section board activities and the ABD Forum (which was part of our Annual Meeting).
Jim also stated that we (as individuals) need to be more involved in District activities and to give support. The 1999 District meeting will be held in Montgomery, Bubba Bowden and Nancy Hudson will co-chair this meeting and they will need a lot of volunteers to help. Please contact them and sign up!
The District is thinking about putting a home page on the INTERNET. International ITE has a home page. The District is continuing to look at their Career Guidance notebook and have available presentation videos, brochures, and information to be used for "Career Day." The District added a new student chapter, University of Memphis (formerly Memphis State).
There is a new change in the International ITE membership application process. The application process will be handled by International ITE in Washington, D.C. instead of transferring the applications to a District committee. This should make processing faster. We have applications available.
The 1997 District meeting will be in Louisville, KY, 1998 in Memphis, TN, 1999 in Montgomery, AL, and 2000 in Greenville, SC. The International ITE meeting in the year 2000 will be in Nashville, TN.

IV. Committee Reports:
A. Scholarship Foundation Report:
Harold Raynor reported that in FY 1995 the Scholarship Fund had income of $6,774.57 with expenses totaling $2,533.68 and at the close of the fiscal year on December 31, 1995 the balance was $47,163.78. The bulk of the funds is invested in five (5) CD’s providing a return of 6.75% APY as compared to the approximate annual return of 2.83% received from the ITE Endowment Fund. The balance of the Funds is placed in a SouthTrust Money Market Account. As of June 1, 1995, this account had a balance of $3,135.30. The total Fund balance as of June 1, 1996 was $48,635.30. The auction increased this balance $2,049.00, with an additional $1,000.00 corporate contribution, bring a balance as of June 14, 1996 to $51,725.30. Additional surcharge funds from the Annual Meeting will also be added to this balance.
The Scholarship committee had three outstanding applications for the scholarship fund. Our recipient Edgar N. Leicht from the University of Alabama was an excellent choice. Harold suggested that a second award could be given in the future. Our award(s) amount however should not exceed the generated annual income of the fund. Harold suggested a directed grant from the Section coming from the balance of the Section account could be used for a second award. The award amount however should be of a quality reflective of the first.
B. Newsletter:
   Newsletter Editor Stacey Glass reported that all information for the next newsletter should be turned in by August 19, 1996.
C. Local Arrangements:
   Tommy Lee reported that we had a membership registration of 83, 130 attended the banquet, 70 attended the breakfast and 10 teams played golf at Country Creek. He also thanked all those who helped put this program together.
D. Meeting/Site Selection:
   James Brown reported that the Fall Meeting would

Continued on page 3

 ALSITE NEWS
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
continued from page 2

be held in Tuscaloosa on October 10, 1996. Joe Robinson stated that he hopes to have a tour of the Mercedes Plan scheduled. The 1997 Spring Meeting will be in Birmingham, and the Annual Meeting in Gulf Shores, June 12-13.

E. JECA/Legislative:

James Brown stated that the pending legislation that would dictate professional license sanctions as a means of enforcing the collection of child support payments died in a committee. The Department of Human Resources stated that they are not able to pull professional licenses, but the Judiciary could. The bill was setting license suspension at six months with not dollar amount in penalties.

Dan Turner gave a report on the status of the upcoming re-authorization of the ISTEA bill. Nationally ITE intends to be a major player in the re-authorization of this bill. ITE has set a platform and has identified ways to testify before congress. The weakest link are those in transportation who sit in their office across the state(s) and do not voice their concerns. They need to contact their local congressional representative and voice their opinion. Please read the articles in ITE Journal on this platform. Then talk to your congressman or senator. The possibility of money being diverted to other programs could easily happen. Your voice could make a difference on how this money will be spent. Others are already working on ways to take away some of this $85 billion highway dollars. It's up to you!

James Brown reported that JECA meeting with the Board of Registrars May 10, 1996 was postponed and will be rescheduled. On the agenda is an issue that would require students to take the E.I.T. prior to graduation (passing not a requirement), so they can get a feel for what the E.I.T. test requires. The other issue would be to select one school of surveying (University) in the state as a core curriculum. There are at least five universities with an engineering curriculum, but none that focuses on surveying as the core.

IV. New Business:

A. Hibbett Neel, ITE International Director, District 5, reported that the District meeting in Jackson, Mississippi was a success with 44 speakers and 280 in attendance. Hibbett encourages all to join International ITE and to get involved in the upcoming re-authorization of ISTEA. The Alabama Section in the past has carried on a great tradition in being involved at the District and International level. The next International ITE meeting will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota in September.

B. Bob Mabry, Secretary/Treasurer, District 5, reported that the next District meeting will be held in Louisville, Kentucky in April, 1997. Bob is looking for committee members for this event. Please contact Bob and give your District your support.

C. John McCarthy reported that the Auburn T² Center will have two programs coming soon, "Quality Customer Service" and "Shallow Foundation Design and Construction." Call for more information. John has lots of good technical information (traffic safety, speeding problems, driving too fast in residential areas, etc.) available at the T² Center, please call if they can help. The student chapter is running the "E-Day" shuttle (a mass transit event) again this year and they are trying to determine when was the first time for this event. 1976? 1977?

The student chapter is going to have a home page on the INTERNET and is wondering what to place on the home page, please let John know your suggestions.

D. Bubba Bowden requested that all Alabama Section Board members should try to attend the upcoming District meetings so we will be better prepared to host the 1999 District meeting in Montgomery. James Brown stated that the Section may be able to pay some of the expenses for those who's company would not permit. Bruce Thomason stated that this will be brought up at the next board meeting.

VII. Adjourn:

The motion to adjourn was made by Dan Turner, seconded by Darryl Skipper. The motion was approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

ALSITE FALL MEETING
Thursday, October 10, 1996
Bryant Conference Center
240 Bryant Drive
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Program Schedule

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Registration

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Welcome
Councilman Gary Phillips

9:15 AM - 9:45 AM Fiber Optic Uses in Transportation
Jon Howell, TDOT Signal Foreman
Chris Golden, TDOT Signal Tech II

9:45 AM - 10:15 AM Look at AMTRAK Now
Bill McFarland, Chairman of the Southern Railway Commission

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM Break

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM Toll Bridges in Alabama
Jim Allen, Emerald Mountain

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM Geographic Information Systems and Transportation
Earl Saunders, Atlantic Technologies

12:00 NOON - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ALSITE Business Meeting

Fall, 1996   Page 3   ALSITE NEWS
Brick Mailboxes...  
A Safety Hazard

As many as 20,000 Pinellas homeowners in Florida could be affected by a change in county policy on brick or masonry mailboxes in the county right of way.

The county previously told the owners of such mailboxes to remove them. The mailboxes are considered dangerous because when struck, they fragment or do not yield. The debris from a mailbox hit by a car could injure a driver or pedestrian. Now county officials have decided to offer residents an alternative: Sign a waiver, and release the county from any liability.

The change came after county officials told 27 Palm Harbor residents that they had 10 days to tear down their mailboxes or the county would do it for them.

Several residents of the Tarpon Woods subdivision complained to county officials, including Commissioner Bruce Tyndall, that the action was unfair.

Tyndall and state Rep. R. Z. Safley at one time owned the land in question and sold the lots to builders. The residents "knew that I was once the owner," Tyndall said. "They came to me and said, 'If (the county) is going to make me take mine down, they should make everybody take them down.'"

Tyndall said he discussed the fairness of the county's proposed action with the County Administrator Fred Marquis. Marquis estimated that as many as 15,000 to 20,000 brick or masonry mailboxes could be in the county right of way.

So the county decided to offer the 27 homeowners a choice: Remove the mailboxes, or sign a waiver releasing the county from all liability in case somebody drives into one of the brick mailboxes. "It is selective enforcement," said Michael P. Connor, a Tarpon Woods resident whose complaint letter caused county officials to re-evaluate their policy. "I'm not changing my mailbox. If they pass a law and everybody has to do it, then that is a different story."

The county has no ordinance addressing brick or masonry mailboxes in the right of way. The county's Traffic Engineering Department relies on state traffic laws that refer to the obstruction of public streets to enforce its policy.

"This whole issue had never come up before," Marquis said. "We never had anybody hit a mailbox."

Marquis said he isn't sure whether the county needs an ordinance to address the problem. The county will not send inspectors to look for the mailboxes he said.

(Prepared by Terrence Tomalin for the St. Petersburg Times, 9/12/89)

Monument Mailboxes Are Hazardous

A mailbox can be a dangerous object, especially if it's snowy and icy out and the mailbox is "monument" ... made of brick and wood and measuring 5 feet tall ... and close to a roadway.

Liberty Township, Ohio, trustees and officials are discussing regulations to do away with monument mailboxes. Jodie Elgin, township zoning inspector, said a new policy is being discussed because of a lawsuit and court decision from April 1994. The township won the lawsuit against the residents on Abbotsford Green Drive, with the court ruling it can regulate mailboxes and other monument structure within the road right-of-ways.

"Before we can enforce that, and say, 'Yes, you have to take it down,' we have to have a policy in place," Elgin said. "And it has to be uniform for everyone (in the township)."

Elgin said the issue of monumental structures already is addressed in the township zoning code. "No structures or improvements above ground are to be built on the right-of-way," she said. "(If) cannot create unreasonable risks to persons using the roadway." Elgin has a sense of humor about monument mailboxes, too. "The only use I can see for them is if you want to bury your husband standing up," she said.

Elgin has been talking with engineers from the Franklin County, Ohio, Engineer's office. Franklin County has such a policy and it could adjust that policy to the township level. "When you say everything in that 8-feet (of right-of-way) has to come out, it means everything," she said. "It has to be fair. Everybody has to be treated the same."

Trustee Kim Cellar said whatever the township adopts would be final. "This would be Liberty Township policy," he said. Elgin said now all new subdivision zoning has "no monumental structures" in it, making all the zoning regulations similar.

A policy must be drawn up yet, and must include how far from the edge of the pavement the township wants to go back. "All items in that prescribed set back must go, including mailboxes, headwalls over drain ditches, trees, entrance posts to drives," Elgin said. "When you clear out the area, nothing will remain but the rebuilt mailboxes."

Ultimate responsibility for the road, should there be an accident involving a monumental structure in the right-of-way, is the county commissioners, Elgin said.

From Olentangy Valley News, 2/15/95, via "Local Transportation Technology Transfer Quarterly," Ohio T2 Center; Ohio State University
ALABAMA SECTION ITE
Professional Activities Questionnaire

Member's Name: ___________________________

A) ___________________________
   Number of Course Notes, Lectures, Slide Presentations Prepared
   Papers Published
   Presentation/Lectures to Other Organizations
   Section Technical Reports/Presentations

Details of Preceding Activities

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B) Legislative Activities:


C) Officer/Committee Memberships in District/International ITE or Others:


D) Other Professional Activities/Awards:


James R. Brown, P.E.
Consoer Townsend
Enviroyne Engineers, Inc.
600 Beacon Pkwy. W.
Birmingham, AL 35209
Telephone: (205) 945-1443

Please Return To:

NOTE: Please make photo copies of this form if you require additional space
COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE NEEDED BY DECEMBER 1, 1996
AUBURN ITE 
STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

Thank you for the contribution of $150 which was presented to our ITE Student Chapter at the Annual Meeting in Gulf Shores. Your financial support will enable our ITE Student Chapter at the Annual Meeting in Gulf Shores. Your financial support will enable our chapter to begin a Student Chapter ITE home page on the Internet, while also providing students the opportunity to attend transportation related conferences in which they could not otherwise afford.

A special thanks is in order for the following ALSITE members, whom over the past year took time out of their schedule to speak to our student chapter: Walter Dorsey, Morris Smith, Jennifer Gray, Stacey Glass, and Bubba Bowden. We really enjoyed the visit to the City of Montgomery Sign and Signal Shops. We also wish to thank Walter Dorsey for his willingness to serve as liaison to our Student Chapter.

It was a pleasure to work with ALSITE in March and host the Spring Meeting. Thank you for your continued support of our Student Chapter.

Brian Little 
President

PARDON MY CITATIONS

The elimination of federal speed limit regulations has given many Americans the first chance to travel over 65 mph—legally—in some time. In France, drivers get an opportunity to open the throttle and drive at high speeds—in excess of posted limits—every seven years. How do they get away with it? While the installation of a new French president is accompanied by fanfare similar to an American presidential inauguration, the French take the proceedings one step further: a traditional presidential pardon of driving infractions. Since a driver's slate is wiped clean at this time, the months preceding an inauguration is an open season for speeding, illegal parking and other minor infractions. There is a price to pay, however: Last March, preceding the election of French President Jacques Chirac, vehicular accidents were 3.5% higher than for the same period in 1994, with fatalities up 16%.

Tired of Junk Mail?

If you want your name removed from mail solicitation lists, send a request with your name and address to the Direct Marketing Assn., Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008. DMA will tell its members that you don't want to receive solicitations. Most big mailers will respect your wishes, but there are some who won't.

Fall, 1996

"Alabama DOT Embraces Fiber Optics"

ALDOT is committed to the utilization of fiber optics within the signal interconnect system. "The benefits of fiber optics such as no electro-mechanical interference (EMI), fiber optics being a dielectric medium; therefore, not affected by lightning or close proximity high voltage power lines, and of course the capacity of fiber optics to carry image and network data long distances without regeneration, make its use a very real option for the Department," says Paul Watson, EE for the State of Alabama. "Today all these operational positives have been coupled with the development of high quality and tech friendly terminations and splice procedures making the use of fiber optics a necessity not a luxury," says Watson.

Watson: "We are fortunate to have been able to enlist the services of a nationally recognized expert in transportation's application of fiber optics, David L. Jones of Atlanta." Jones is currently under contract consulting to Computran/ALDOT for the design of a fiber optic trunk network for the City of Birmingham. This fiber optic network will operate as a data/image path for the new regional traffic management center (TMC) to be located at ALDOT Division 3 and communications links at area traffic control centers (TCC) located at Birmingham City Hall, Birmingham Fire Control and later at Hoover City Hall, with several other municipalities to follow.

Jones: "The first priority was the development of a standard specification and construction standards manual for fiber optics. This document has been formatted in such a manner as to assure consistent installation and installations practices statewide." Jones is in the process of completing this specification, its section number will be 734.

The ALSITE News has asked, and Mr. Jones has agreed to submit a quarterly article discussing fiber optics and its installation within the traffic system. Within the article there shall be a Q & A Section where Mr. Jones will offer suggestions and solutions to your fiber optic problems. Please FAX your questions to Mr. Jones directly at 770-458-3625.

Things To Ponder

• If 7-11 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, why are there locks on the doors?
• Why is a TV set called a set when there's only one?
• If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?
• Why is it when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called cargo?
1996 ALSITE Board of Directors...

Immediate Past President: Robert Adams
Alabama DOT
1409 Coliseum Blvd.
Montgomery, AL 36130
Telephone: (334) 242-6122

President: James B. Thomason, P.E.
Division Maint. Engr.
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Telephone: (334) 470-8230

Vice President: James R. Brown, P.E.
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Mobile County Eng. Dept.
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Affiliate Director:
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Assistant Affiliate Director:
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Southern District Representative:
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Vice Pres. of Traffic /Transportation
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Telephone: (205) 940-6420

1996 ALSITE Standing Committees, Representatives and Liaisons...

Alabama Technology Transfer
Program Liaison:
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Associated Business Division:
Tommy Lee* (334) 943-2645
Jim Stewart (334) 943-1541

Awards:
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Tim Taylor (205) 554-3258
Ibrahim Abousaud (205) 933-5556
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Locke D. Bowden (334) 241-2910

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Bob Vecellio (334) 844-6286
Jill Pitts (205) 254-2450

Historian:
Pat Alford* (334) 242-6478
Lisa Ray (334) 242-6421

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Dan Turner (205) 348-6550
Dale Lenoir (334) 242-6165

ITE Student Chapter Liaison:
Walter Dorsey (334) 705-5450

JECA Representative:
James R. Brown (205) 945-1443

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Bob Vecellio (334) 844-6286
John McCarthy (334) 844-6269
Joe Robinson (205) 349-0240
David Griffin (205) 349-0240

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Kerry NeSmith (205) 582-2254

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Pat Alford (334) 242-6478
Lisa Ray (334) 242-6421
Lamar Strickland (334) 241-8574
Billy Joe DeRamus (334) 242-6756

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Bob Vecellio (334) 844-6286
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Jay Lindley (205) 348-6550

Tellers:
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Don Vawter (205) 739-0524
James Pollock (334) 241-2910

*Committee Chair **Administrator

Fall, 1996

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