President’s Message

As this year comes to a close, I want to thank each of you, the ALSITE Membership, 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 and help by so many of you have been very gratifying. I have learned many things about ALSITE that I would not have known without getting involved. The most important thing is that it really does take the efforts of each of you, the ALSITE Membership, to make our organization the best it can be. The officer’s duties alone can only administrate our policies. It’s your concerns and your involvement that determine our direction.

I do want to thank our ALSITE Board of Directors and our ALSITE Standing Committees, Representatives, and Liaisons, for all their efforts and hard work. I want to thank all those who were involved with our local arrangements. Many of these individuals work with someone in our membership, and I hope this word of thanks will be given to them. Without your help with our arrangements, registration, and activities at our meetings, we wouldn’t have had such high quality meetings.

I want to thank the Auburn Student Chapter for their involvement and activities. Keep up the good work! I hope many of you will join us at our meetings. You are a part of our ALSITE organization, and the future of transportation and ALSITE need you.

I hope each of you will continue to support ALSITE and make every effort to attend our meetings. I would like to encourage our Affiliates to upgrade to Member status as soon as possible, and for our membership to recruit their associates to join ALSITE and ITE. Growth in our membership will strengthen our future as an organization, but our organization’s future cannot grow without your support. Once again, thank you.

James Foster

Southern District ITE Report

I spoke to Gaye Sprague recently, and I’d like to bring everyone up to date on the traffic engineering certification issue. During the Board of Directors meeting in Toronto, Gaye presented the concerns from across the District. She made a motion to delay the January testing until the concerns could be addressed. Her motion did not receive a second. Gaye made another motion asking the Board to respond in writing to the many questions about certification. This motion passed. The concerns will be addressed, and questions will be answered in newsletters, magazines and some personal letters over the next few months. Gaye wanted me to express her appreciation for our input and interest in this issue.

I will start preparing the Section’s Annual Report in early December. Please send your professional activities information (publications, presentations, etc.) to me by mid-November. This information is very important to our report and goes a long way toward the Outstanding Section Award.

The District Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching! Please let Bubba or me know if you would like to help. It will take all of us working together to host a great meeting!

It is hard to believe that 1998 is almost over. We’ve had another great year and I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Section. Please call me if I can be of any assistance to you.

Nancy Hudson

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Student Chapter News

Student Chapter Members Blaine House, Elizabeth Ford, and Nasser Abboud attended the ALSITE Annual Meeting in Gulf Shores. Blaine served as presiding officer at one of the technical sessions. Elizabeth was a Charles E. Alexander Scholarship winner.

Student member Kevin Brown was unable to attend but was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his work in developing the Alabama Section Website. Also, Blaine prepared the ALSITE Membership Directory for distribution at the meeting.

The students reported that they thoroughly enjoyed the technical sessions, the banquet, and especially the scholarship auction. Thanks are extended to ALSITE for waiving the registration fee and for assisting in travel expenses.

Alabama Section ITE Fall Meeting
Thursday October 8, 1998
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Join us at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel for informative technical sessions and fellowship. Make your reservations with Joe Robinson. Following is a summary of the meeting schedule.

8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration
9:00-9:15 a.m. Opening Remarks
9:30-9:45 a.m. TEA 21 in Alabama
9:45-10:15 a.m. University of Alabama Research Center
10:15-10:30 a.m. Break
10:30-11:00 a.m. ITS in America
11:00-11:45 a.m. Certification of Transportation Professionals
Noon-1:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00-2:00 p.m. ALSITE Business Meeting

Elementary Ways of Improving Child Pedestrian Safety

The safety of children is always a sensitive issue, particularly when our kids get old enough to walk to school by themselves. The Office of Highway Safety has developed a colorful new brochure that can help parents and local officials join forces to improve roadside safety hardware and pavement markings. This new brochure contains tips on simple and inexpensive child pedestrian safety measures. The brochure has helpful hints about what can be done to initiate the safety measures, along with a list of publications that can help. This new product will extend outreach to the youngest walkers of all. For more information, contact Brian F. Gilleran at (202)366-0915, or via email at: brian.gilleran@fhwa.dot.gov.

(Reprinted from Traffic Engineering Council Update, Spring/Summer 1998)

News from the Membership

The Alabama Section expresses its deepest sympathy to Joe Thomas and family upon the death of Barbara Thomas. Joe and Barbara have long been active in the Southern District and are friends to many in the ALSITE membership.

Mark Your Calendar

47th Annual Southern District ITE Meeting
April 18th-21st, 1999
Montgomery, Alabama
(ALSITE Spring Meeting will be held during the District Meeting)

ITE International Conference
Enhancing Transportation Safety in the 21st Century
March 28-31, 1999
Kissimmee, Florida

ALSITE Annual Meeting
June 9-11, 1999
Gulf Shores, Alabama

ITE 69th Annual Meeting
August 1-4, 1999
Las Vegas, Nevada
Quick Tips
Preparing and Presenting Visual Aids

The ITE website (www.ite.org) includes a handy reference section entitled ITE Quick Tips. Currently the website includes two articles for help with speech making: "Preparing and Presenting Visual Aids" and "Preparing and Delivering a Technical Presentation". Following is an excerpt from the Visual Aids article. Check out the website for more tips in the full article. Even the most experienced speechmaker is sure to find a new idea.

General Tips for Visual Aids
- Slides and overhead transparencies are intended to enhance your presentation. Use them sparingly.
- Prepare your presentation, and then select the points you wish to emphasize in visuals – don’t build your presentation around file visuals.
- Limit each slide or overhead to one idea and a maximum of 15 words. You want the audience listening, not reading.
- Keep the format of the visual aids the same throughout your presentation. Don’t switch from horizontal to vertical layouts. Be consistent in your format, color, and style.
- Vary typefaces with restraint – use them only to emphasize.
- Choose a readable typeface and stick to it. Some proven winners are Helvetica, Bookman, Palatino, Futura, and Century Schoolbook.
- For optimum readability, have the text of your visual aids set flush left, ragged right (that is, non-justified).
- Use large letters and numbers – the larger the better. Remember that you want your visual aids to be able to be read by all members of the audience – including those with less-than-perfect eyesight and those in the back rows. As a rule-of-thumb, if you can read a 35-mm slide when held at arm’s length in front of you, it will be readable by the audience in a normal-size room. A typesize rule-of-thumb: Make headers 20% bigger than text. Consider using all bold type so it will more easily stand out from the dark background.
- Avoid all UPPER CASE letters, as they are difficult to read; use Upper and Lower Case instead.
- To give the presentation a sense of unity and a finished look, add a border or a simple logo to every visual. Remember, though, to leave plenty of “air” between the words and the border.

Strategies for Dead Horses

If you have ever worked for a large corporation, a government agency, the military, or maybe any large organization, you may appreciate this list. Dakota tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. However, in the government or large organizations, we often try other strategies with dead horses, including the following:
- Buying a stronger whip.
- Changing riders.
- Saying things like “This is the way we always have ridden this horse.”
- Appointing a committee to study the horse.
- Arranging to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses.
- Increasing the standards to ride dead horses.
- Appointing a tiger team to revive the dead horse.
- Creating a training session to increase our riding ability.
- Comparing the state of dead horses in today’s environment.
- Pass legislation declaring that “This horse is not dead.”
- Blaming the horse’s parents.
- Harnessing several dead horses together for increased speed.
- Declaring that “No horse is too dead to beat.”
- Providing additional funding to increase the horse’s performance.
- Do a Cost Analysis Study to see if contractors can ride it cheaper.
- Procure a dead horse from a contractor.
- Declare the horse is “better, faster, and cheaper” dead.
- Form a quality circle to find uses for dead horses.
- Revisit the performance requirements for horses.
- Say this horse was procured with cost as an independent variable.
- BRAC* the horse farm on which it was born.
- Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position.

*BRAC is the military Base Realignment and Closure commission which helps decide what bases are going to be cut, restructured, etc.

The ALSITE website has a new address. You can now find us at: www.alsite.org
Annual Meeting Minutes 
June 12, 1998 
Gulf Shores, Alabama

I. Call to Order: 
The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by President James Foster.

II. Minutes: 
President Foster called for a motion to accept the minutes of the March 12, 1998 Spring Meeting as published in the Summer 1998 Newsletter. David Griffin made the motion, seconded by Richard Caudle, to accept the official minutes. The motion passed by voice vote.

III. Officers/Director’s Reports:
A. Secretary/Treasurer’s Report: 
The Secretary/ Treasurer’s report for March 12, 1998 to June 12, 1998, was reported by Tim Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer; as of March 12, 1998, the balance was $8,794.89. Receipts ending June 12, 1998 were $ 950.87; expenditures ending on the same date were $ 2,385.33. This left a treasury balance of $7,360.43. The Board acted on 7 applications for membership. The membership status as of June 12, 1998 was reported to be 107 Members, 49 Affiliate Class I, 38 Affiliate Class II, and 4 retired members for a total of 198. The Secretary/Treasurer also encouraged everyone to pay their 1998 dues if they had not done so. Certificates were then presented to some members who were present.

A motion was made by Jim Meads and seconded by Ken Cush to accept the Secretary/Treasurer’s Report as presented. The motion was approved by voice vote.

B. Vice-President’s Report: 
Vice-President Robbie Anderson reported on the Board Action of June 10, 1998 as follows: (1) The Board approved seven applications for membership to the Section: one Class I Affiliate, Larry Profit; one Class II Affiliate, Randy Davis; and five Members, Butch Mann, Tommy Goodman, Jerry Northington, Britt Bumpers, and Bobby Kemp. (2) The Board approved 1998 Fall Meeting in Tuscaloosa with David Griffin and Joe Robinson heading up local arrangements. The Spring 1999 Meeting will take place in Montgomery in conjunction with the District Meeting. The Section Business meeting will possibly be held at a breakfast setting during this time. The 1999 Annual Meeting will be a Joint Meeting with the Deep South Section at Gulf Shores June 9-11, 1999. Tommy Lee will be heading up the local arrangements for that Meeting. Tommy Lee offered some total figures for the Annual Meeting: $2,607.00 was raised at the Auction. Total paid registrations were 104; 149 attended the Banquet. Mr. Anderson then addressed the JECA and Legislative issues. A reception for legislators will be held again this year. ITE will lend monetary support to the effort. Participation was encouraged at this event. A date and time will be forthcoming; hopefully it can be early in the Legislative Session. A notice will be sent to the membership when these dates are confirmed.

C. District 5 Representative Report: 
Nancy Hudson reminded the membership to submit information for compiling a history of the District. This information should be submitted to a District officer. A District Safety Committee will also be created. Any interested persons should contact Bob Mabry, District President. Nancy reminded everyone about the District Meeting in Montgomery next year. Nancy reviewed the list of committee chairs for this meeting. She encouraged anyone interested to contact a chair if you desire to serve in this capacity.

IV. Committee Reports:
A. Scholarship Foundation Report: 
Harold Raynor reported income of $ 9,209.09; expenses were $3,186.67. At the close of 1997 the balance in the fund was $ 57,883.93. The tax return has been filed with the State. Two fine young ladies received scholarships at the Annual Banquet. CD’s and money market accounts remain the primary investment vehicles.

B. Newsletter: 
Becky White reported some new advertisements. All members were encouraged to submit pertinent or interesting information for the newsletter.
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:

                                    _____________________________

Please Return To: Nancy Hudson
                  City of Birmingham
                  900 City Hall
                  Birmingham, AL 35203
                  Telephone: (205) 254-7789

NOTE: Please make copies of this form if you require additional space.
COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE NEEDED BY NOVEMBER 15, 1998.
Annual Meeting Minutes continued

C. JECA, Legislative & Site Selection:
Reports given earlier

D. Technical Committee:
Bob Vecellio reported 10 presentations and 12 twelve speakers for the Technical Program portion of the Annual Meeting. Joe Robinson will be heading up the Technical Program for the Fall Meeting. Dr. Vecellio announced the competition for technical papers for the upcoming District meeting. Two awards will be given: one is a paper based on your work for which you are paid; the other is based on outside work for which you are not paid.

E. Safety Coordinating
No Report.

F. Career Guidance
Jim Meads reported updates from the District on compiling information for Career Guidance presentations for elementary schools to high schools. He asked everyone doing presentations in the schools or participating in any programs to share materials of interest with him. He said these efforts will fit in nicely with our Strategic Plans goals, i.e., in trying to compile a notebook of materials that people will have when they go out and do Career Day Presentations.

V. Old Business
President Foster presented an update on the Manuals. Change and clarity about membership statements are needed so that our future Board will know the intent of the manual. He discussed the classes of membership and how they will appear throughout the book.

Concerning the Awards, President Foster suggested a change in the date and location of the award presentations, to be in conformance with the By-laws.

ALSITE Scholarship offered a Resolution to clarify the intent of the 1997 Annual Meeting Resolution. The authority of the directive gift of ALSITE Members to the Scholarship Fund would be granted to the Board for the purpose of the second scholarship. The second scholarship is not mandatory nor is the gift by the Board to the Fund. The motion was offered, seconded and approved by voice vote.

A motion was made to amend Standard Operating Procedure #8. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. The motion was amended to delete the paragraph pertaining to the banquet speaker and to increase to $800.00 the holdover for annual meeting preparations. The amended motion was approved by voice vote.

Harold Raynor offered a new Policy related to the Transportation Engineer of the Year Award. The Policy was read by Vic McSwain. Mr Raynor made the motion it be submitted to the membership for a vote; the motion was seconded by David Griffin and approved by voice vote without discussion. President Foster then highlighted changes he saw with the current Policy. He also discussed the Transportation Safety Award Procedure & Policy. Numerous comments followed about the timing, procedures, confidentiality, etc., of the award process. Further, suggestions included special awards, citations, etc. for various membership classes. The Awards Committee was charged with addressing these concerns in the future.

VI. New Business:
John McCarthy offered a Resolution for aborting the efforts currently underway by ITE to certify traffic engineers or any engineers. The Resolution passed on voice vote. The Resolution would be sent to the District and National levels. Gaye Sprague also discussed the history of this issue with the membership.

Discussion ensued about the ABD activities at the 1999 District Meeting. A sense of the membership vote was taken concerning the planned activity.

VII. Adjourn:
The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. by President Foster.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Taylor
Secretary / Treasurer
ALSITE Strategic Plan Committee

Darrell Skipper, Chair  (205) 838-5566
Robby Anderson  (334) 361-3613
Don Arkle  (334) 242-6164
James Brown  (205) 349-2100
James Foster  (334) 690-8595
Stacey Glass  (334) 242-6130
Vic McSwain  (334) 208-7513
Jim Meads  (205) 940-6420
Bruce Thomason  (334) 342-1070
Dan Turner  (205) 348-6550
Ed Watt  (423) 842-3335

ALSITE Strategic Plan Task Managers

Stacey Glass  (334) 242-6130
Nancy Hudson  (205) 254-2450
John McCarthy  (334) 844-4320
James Brown  (205) 349-2100
Bob Vecellio  (334) 844-6286
Ken Cush  (205) 234-8495
Tommy Lee  (334) 943-2645
Robby Anderson  (334) 361-3613
Darrell Skipper  (205) 838-5566
Vic McSwain  (334) 208-7513
James Foster  (334) 690-8595
1998 ALSITE Board of Directors...

Immediate Past President:  
James R. Brown, P.E.  
Almon Associates  
2008 12th Street  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403  
Telephone: (205) 349-2100

President:  
James Foster  
Mobile County Eng. Dept.  
P.O. Box 1443  
Mobile, AL 36633  
Telephone: (334) 690-8595

Vice President:  
Robby Anderson, P.E.  
City of Prattville  
101 West Main Street  
Prattville, AL 36067  
Telephone: (334) 361-3613

Secretary/Treasurer:  
Tim Taylor, P.E.  
Alabama DOT  
P.O. Box 70070  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35407  
Telephone: (205) 553-7030

Affiliate Director:  
Tommy Lee  
Vulcan Aluminum  
P.O. Box 1850  
Foley, AL 36536-1850  
Telephone: (334) 943-2645

Southern District Representative:  
Nancy Hudson  
City of Birmingham  
900 City Hall  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
Telephone: (205) 254-2450

1998 ALSITE Standing Committees, Representatives and Liaisons...

Alabama Technology Transfer  
Center Liaison:  
Brian Bowman*  
(334) 844-6262

Associated Business Division:  
Tommy Lee*  
(334) 943-2645  
Jim Stewart  
(334) 943-1541

Awards:  
James Brown*  
(205) 349-2100  
Bruce Thomason  
(334) 342-1070  
Jim Meads  
(205) 940-6420  
Nancy Hudson  
(205) 254-2450

Career Guidance Committee:  
Jim Meads*  
(205) 940-6420  
Bob Vecellio  
(334) 844-6286

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

ITE Legislative Committee:  
Robby Anderson*  
(334) 361-3613  
Dan Turner  
(205) 348-6550  
Dale Lenoir  
(334) 242-6163

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

JECA Representative:  
Robby Anderson  
(334) 361-3613

Meeting Arrangements,  
Program, and Site Selection:  
Robby Anderson*  
(334) 361-3613  
Bob Vecellio  
(334) 844-6286  
Tommy Lee  
(334) 943-2645  
David Griffin  
(205) 349-0240

Membership Committee:  
Ken Cush*  
(205) 234-8495  
Kerry NeSmith  
(205) 582-2254  
Becky White  
(205) 940-6420

Officers Nominations:  
James Brown*  
(205) 349-2100  
Bruce Thomason  
(334) 470-8230  
Nancy Hudson  
(205) 254-2450

Parliamentary Procedure:  
Robby Anderson  
(334) 361-3613

Transportation Consultants:  
Ed Watt*  
(615) 842-3335  
Malcolm Beasley  
(334) 342-1070

Past Presidents:  
James Brown*  
(205) 349-2100  
Bruce Thomason  
(334) 470-8230  
Jim Meads  
(205) 940-6420  
Harold Raynor  
(334) 943-7000  
Gerald Anderson  
(334) 242-6275

Scholarship:  
Dave Griffin**  
(205) 349-0240

State Safety Coordinating Committee Liaison:  
Gerald Anderson**  
(334) 242-6275

Technical Committee:  
Bob Vecellio*  
(334) 844-6286  
Robby Anderson  
(334) 361-3613  
James R. Brown  
(205) 349-2100  
Billy Joe DeRamus  
(334) 242-6756  
Joe Robinson  
(205) 349-0240

Tellers:  
Ed Watt*  
(615) 842-3335  
Don Vawter  
(205) 739-0524

*Committee Chair  
**Committee Liaison