President’s Message

1999. The end of one millennium. The beginning of the next. What an exciting time to live. The upcoming year for the Alabama Section ITE should be just as exciting. It is indeed an honor for me to address you as your 1999 President. This honor is made even greater for me by being a second generation President. I think the fact that we are filling our ranks with our children speaks volumes about the character of this organization and the transportation engineering profession. During this year, I am sure each of us will take time to reflect on the past. The media will be filled with lists of the “best” and “most” of the past century. As we look back at the good things of the past we should also be keenly aware of the opportunities and challenges that a new century will hold. The Alabama Section should enjoy the rich tradition of the past while, at the same time, focusing clearly on the future. One way in which we can turn our attention to the future is to concentrate on the goals of our strategic plan. A copy of these goals and objectives are included in this issue along with the names of Task Managers for each. I strongly encourage each of you to select a portion of this plan to work on during this year.

One of the things that we as a Section have talked about for some time is to increase our presence in the Legislature. On April 27, 1999, ALSITE, in cooperation with the Joint Engineering Council of Alabama (JECA), will sponsor a Legislative Reception at the RSA Plaza Terrace. The reception will begin at 5:00 p.m. and has already been placed on the calendars of both the House and Senate. The Section needs to be well represented at this reception. It will be our opportunity to let our elected officials know about ITE and our profession. In addition, I am asking that each one of you who can attend, please call your local Senator and Representative and invite them personally to attend. This can be a very positive step for our Section.

Another event which will take place in April is the Southern District Meeting in Montgomery. The Section will not have a regular Spring Meeting this year so that each of us may place a priority on attending the District meeting. Instead we will hold a Section Breakfast Meeting on Tuesday, April 20th during the District meeting. What better way to begin your day! Nancy Hudson and Bubba Bowden have put forth much effort into organizing the District Annual Meeting. I hope to see each of you in Montgomery.

At our Fall Meeting, the verdict on the damage to the Holiday Inn in Gulf Shores due to Hurricane Georges was still unknown. I am most happy to say that even though heavy damage was sustained, the hotel will be open and ready for us in time for the Annual Meeting in June. (This should help reduce confusion the next time we attempt to count the number of Annual Meetings!) As usual, Tommy Lee and all the folks at Vulcan have things well in hand. We are looking forward to a great joint meeting with the Deep South Section.

An additional area which deals with both looking back, as well as, envisioning the future is our Awards Program. I have appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to study the awards which may be given by the Alabama Section. This committee will look at our awards to be sure they allow us to continue to honor members who are worthy of recognition and, at the same time, allow the opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of others. This committee is being chaired by District Secretary/Treasurer Jim Meads. I have also asked Ed Watt, Darrell Skipper, Tim Taylor, and Gerald Anderson to serve. If you have comments on this subject, these people would welcome your input.

Once again, it is a great honor for me to serve as your President. I am looking forward to a great year.

Robby Anderson
ALSITE Strategic Plan Goals & Objectives

Following is a list of the goals and objectives stated in ALSITE’s new Strategic Plan. Task Managers for each objective are noted. Your input and participation is important to helping the Section achieve each goal.

Goal One: Increase public awareness of transportation engineering

Obj. #1 Public announcements (television, newspaper and radio announcements)
Stacey Glass

Obj. #2 Establish a Public Education Committee (PEC) that gets involved on Statewide Safety Management Programs, visit local schools in each major city each month, and establish a committee to develop materials for the PEC group to use in presentations.
Nancy Hudson

Obj. #3 Produce a web site and link to national ITE. Student Chapter should be involved in maintaining this effort.
John McCarthy

Obj. #4 Establish a public information hotline.
James Brown

Goal Two: Increase support to our membership

Obj. #1 Appoint a Section technical committee that has overall responsibility for technical programs and technical research.
Bob Vecellio

Obj. #2 Develop Alabama Section ITE web site which includes:
- professional yellow pages for membership
- ABD products/services directory
- membership directory
- link to other transportation sites
John McCarthy / Tommy Lee

Obj. #3 Sponsor an annual joint meeting with a related professional organization
Robby Anderson

Obj. #4 Appoint a professional development committee to develop the professional development direction of the section and program content.
Darrell Skipper / Vic McSwain

Obj. #5 Enact operational restructure to support improved membership services
James Foster

Goal Three: Increase career development support

Obj. #1 Establish a job placement service
John McCarthy

Obj. #2 Establish a mentor program through improved communications between students/young professionals and more experienced professionals
Darrell Skipper / Vic McSwain

Obj. #3 Recruit membership from related professional backgrounds
Ken Cush

ALSITE Strategic Plan Committee
Darrell Skipper, Chair (205) 836-3117
Robby Anderson (334) 361-3675
Don Arkle (334) 242-6164
James Brown (334) 349-2100
James Foster (334) 690-8595
Stacey Glass (334) 242-6095
Vic McSwain (334) 808-7513
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) 242-6095
Nancy Hudson (205) 254-2450
John McCarthy (334) 844-4320
James Brown (334) 349-2100
Bob Vecellio (334) 844-6286
Ken Cush (205) 234-8495
Tommy Lee (334) 943-2645
Robby Anderson (334) 361-3675
Darrell Skipper (205) 836-3117
Vic McSwain (334) 208-7513
James Foster (334) 690-8595
The Lighter Side

A Parable about Engineers and Managers
A man is flying in a hot air balloon and realizes he is lost. He reduces altitude and spots a man down below. He lowers the balloon further and shouts: “Excuse me, can you tell me where I am?” The man below says, “Yes. You are in a hot air balloon, hovering 30 feet above this field.”

“You must work in Engineering” says the balloonist. “I do”, replies the man. “How did you know?” “Well”, says the balloonist, “everything you have told me is technically correct, but it’s of no use to me.”

The man below says, “you must work in management.” “I do”, replies the balloonist, “but how did you know?” “Well”, says the man, “you don’t know where you are, or where you’re going, but you expect me to be able to help. You’re in the same position you were before we met, but now it’s my fault.”

Terms for the New Millennium
Blamestorming: Sitting around in a group, discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed, and who was responsible.

Chainsaw Consultant: An outside expert brought in to reduce the employee headcount, leaving the top brass with clean hands.

Idea Hamsters: People who always seem to have their idea generators running.

Cube Farm: An office filled with cubicles.

Prairie Dogging: When someone yells or drops something loudly in a cube farm, and people’s heads pop up over the walls to see what’s going on.

SITCOMs: What yuppies turn into when they have children and one of them stops working to stay home with the kids. It stands for Single Income, Two Children, Oppressive Mortgage.

Tourists: People who take training classes just to get a vacation from their jobs.

Alpha Geek: The most knowledgeable, technically proficient person in an office or work group.

Percussive Maintenance: The fine art of whacking an electronic device to get it to work again.

Southern District ITE Report

I hope everyone is having a great 1999! I also hope everyone is making plans to be in Montgomery for the District Annual Meeting. The hard work and dedication of the Local Arrangements Committee Chairs and Committee Members is paying off. It really looks like we will have a great meeting and we need you to be there. So mark your calendar for April 18-21!

It’s not too late in the year for a New Year’s Resolution. I would like to encourage each of you to resolve to become more active in the Section, especially in the areas of mentoring and working with the Student Chapter.

As a mentor, you could offer priceless support and encouragement to a young person by sharing your working experiences. Also, look for ways to be more involved with our Student Chapter. Projects, field trips and presentations are some examples of things we could do for them. I’m sure Dr. Bob Vecellio could offer some suggestions.

A little food for thought: “No one can be the best at everything. But when all of us combine our talents, we can and will be the best at virtually everything.” (Dan Zadra)

Nancy Hudson

News from the Membership

Rod Long has joined ICC Corporation as Vice President of Engineering Services. His new office is located in Vestavia Hills, one of the southern suburbs of Birmingham. Look for his new business card in the Professional Services Directory.

Congratulations...

to Stacey and Paula Glass on the birth of a son, Justin Davis. Justin was born on December 15, 1998, weighing 8lbs. 5oz. Stacey is adjusting to fatherhood and has even changed his share of diapers!
Fall Meeting Minutes
October 8, 1998
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

I. Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by President James Foster.

II. Minutes:
President Foster called for a motion to accept the minutes of the June 10, 1998 Summer Meeting as published in the Fall 1998 Newsletter. Tim Taylor 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:
   1. The Secretary/Treasurer's report for June 12, 1998 to October 8, 1998, was reported by Tim Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer; as of October 7, 1998, the balance was $5,762.71. Receipts for the period ending October 7, 1998 were $3,017.31; Disbursements for the same period were $4,615.03. The membership status was reported to be 96 Members, 40 Affiliate Class I, 32 Affiliate Class II, and 4 retired members for a total membership of 172.

      A motion was made by David Griffin and seconded by Jim Meads to accept the Secretary/Treasurer's Report for the period, as presented. The motion was approved by voice vote.

   2. President Foster made comments about membership status, international status, etc.

B. Vice-President's Report:
   Vice-President Robby Anderson reported on the Board Action of October 8, 1998 as follows:
   1. The Board approved one application for membership to the Section: one Class I Affiliate, John M. Chambliss.

   2. The next JECA Meeting will be held April 27, 1999. The Legislative Reception will be held at the RSA Plaza Terrace at 5:00 p.m. or when the legislature adjourns. Attendance to this event was encouraged. Legislative issues will be known by March, therefore members will be able to better address issues at the reception. Section representation is critical to this JECA sponsored event.

   3. The Spring 1999 Section Meeting will be held in Montgomery in conjunction with the District Meeting in April.

   4. The 1999 Annual Meeting will be a Joint Meeting with the Deep South Section tentatively scheduled at the Holiday Inn in Gulf Shores on June 9-11, 1999. Tommy Lee will be heading up the local arrangements for that Meeting and is staying in contact with the Holiday Inn (which suffered extensive damage from the hurricane).

   5. The Fall 1999 Meeting will be at the Talladega Super Speedway. Ken Cush, local arrangement chairman, will have details at a later date.

C. District 5 Representative Report:
   Nancy Hudson encouraged members to let ITE know your position about the certification program. She discussed the upcoming District Meeting to be held in Montgomery in April 1999; She highlighted spouse activities, and asked for volunteers to assist with the preparations and programs. She also announced a local arrangements meeting immediately following the section business meeting today. Finally, she solicited input from the section members to be included in the annual report.

IV. Committee Reports:
A. Membership:
   No Report
ALABAMA SECTION ITE
1998 TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AWARD

Nominee's Name: __________________________________________

Position Title: __________________________________________

Employer's Name: _______________________________________

Business Address: _________________________________________

Immediate Supervisor's Name: ______________________________

Briefly state this individual's contributions to transportation safety:
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

The Nomination Committee may want to discuss this nomination with you. Please provide the following information:

Name of Nominator: _________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________

Telephone Number: ________________________________________

Relationship to Nominee: _________________________________

Please complete this form and return to:
James Foster
Mobile County Engineering Department
P.O. Box 1443
Mobile, Alabama 36633
Fall Meeting Minutes continued

B. Scholarship Foundation:
   David Griffin reported an income of $4,206.22; expenses were $3000.00. As of September 30, 1998 the balance
   in the fund was $59,215.24.

C. Newsletter:
   Becky White informed members of incorrect addresses on file and asked for cooperation in obtaining current
   information. She reported on the mid-January contributions and solicitations of advertisement letters. All
   members were encouraged to submit pertinent or interesting information for the newsletter.

D. JECA, Legislative & Site Selection:
   Included in earlier Vice-President report.

E. Technical Committee:
   Bob Vecellio reported on the Summer Meeting attendance and thanked everyone for their assistance in organizing
   the program. Special thanks was give to Joe Robinson for heading up the Technical Program for the Fall Meeting.
   Dr. Vecellio announced that abstracts for presentations for the upcoming District meeting were due December 1,
   1999, and reminded everyone that flyers were available for information.

V. Old Business:
   Robert Wolfe addressed the group concerning a meaningful certification program and testing procedures. He expressed a
   need for certification with emphasis on the legal aspects. President Foster thanked Darrell Skipper for work on the Strategic
   Planning Committee. Tim Taylor concluded by announcing the vote on the standard operating procedure change and the
   Awards Policy change. Both passed by overwhelming majority.

VI. New Business:
   James Foster reported on a new proposal for changing SOP’s or By-laws. Discussion ensued. Darrell Skipper moved that
   the Board submit a change in SOP’s as needed. The motion was seconded by Ken Cush and passed on voice vote. Further
   information will be published in the Spring 1999 Newsletter.

   A plaque was presented to James Foster by Robby Anderson thanking President Foster for his commitment to the
   advancement of the Section; He also thanked the local arrangement personnel and Bob Vecellio for his technical program
   arrangements.

VII. Adjourn:
   The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. by President Foster.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Taylor
Secretary / Treasurer

Southern District
47th Annual Meeting
April 18-21, 1999
Embassy Suites • Montgomery, Alabama

Informative Technical Sessions • Exciting Tours • Warm Hospitality
It will all be there for you in a great southern city.

We'll see you in... Montgomery
ALABAMA
Heart & Soul of the South

Spring 1999
The 7 Traits of Effective Leaders

Effective Leaders...

1. ...Make others feel important. If your goals and decisions are self-centered, followers will lose their enthusiasm quickly. Emphasize their strengths and contributions, not your own.

2. ...Promote a vision. Followers need a clear idea of where you are leading them, they need to understand why that goal is valuable to them. Your job as a leader is to provide that vision.

3. ...Follow the golden rule. Treat your followers the way you enjoy being treated. An abusive leader attracts few loyal followers.

4. ...Admit mistakes. If people suspect you are covering up your own errors, they'll hide their mistakes, too, and you'll lack valuable information for making decisions.

5. ...Critize others only in private. Public praise encourages others to excel, but public criticism only embarrasses and alienates everyone.

6. ...Stay close to the action. You need to be visible to the members of your organization. Talk to people, visit other offices and work sites, ask questions, and observe how business is being handled. Often you will gain new insights into your work and find new opportunities for motivating your followers.

7. ...Make a game of competition. The competitive drive can be a valuable tool if you use it correctly. Set team goals, and reward members when the team meets or exceeds them. Examine your failures, and celebrate your group's successes.

adapted from the Toastmaster
1999 ALSITE Board of Directors...

Immediate Past President: James Foster  
President: Robby Anderson, P.E.  
Vice President: Tim Taylor, P.E.  
Secretary/Treasurer: Stacey Glass, P.E.

Affiliate Director: Tommy Lee  
Southern District Representative: Nancy Hudson

Mobile County Eng. Dept.  
City of Prattville  
102 West Main Street  
Prattville, AL 36067  
P.O. Box 1443  
Mobile, AL 36633  
Telephone: (334) 690-8595  
Telephone: (334) 361-3675  
Telephone: (334) 242-6275  
Telephone: (334) 242-6209

Awards:  
James Foster* (334) 690-8595  
Bruce Thomason (334) 342-1070  
Ken Cush (205) 234-8495  
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) 348-6650  
Dale Lenoir (334) 242-6163

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

JECA Representative:  
Robby Anderson (334) 361-3613

1999 ALSITE Standing Committees, Representatives and Liaisons...

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

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

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

Newsletter:  
Becky White (205) 940-6420

Officers Nominations:  
James Foster* (205) 945-1443  
Bruce Thomason (334) 470-8230  
Robert Adams (334) 242-6122

Parliamentary Procedure:  
Tim Taylor (334) 242-6275

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

Past Presidents:  
James Foster* (334) 690-8595  
Bruce Thomason (334) 470-8230  
James Brown (205) 349-2100  
Jim Meads (205) 940-6420  
Harold Raynor (334) 943-7000

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

State Safety Coordinating Committee Liaison:  
Pat Alford** (334) 242-6284

Technical Committee:  
Bob Vecellio* (334) 844-6286  
Tim Taylor (334) 242-6275  
James Brown (205) 349-2100

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

*Committee Chair  
**Committee Liaison