

Moving Forward

June 2019

Newsletter for the Alumni Association of the San Jose State University (SJSU) Lucas Graduate School of Business Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM), with Support from the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI)



Contacting the MSTM Alumni Association

Visit our web site:

www.MTIconnect.org

E-mail to :

MTIconnect@gmail.com

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Upcoming Events

MTI Awards Banquet & MSTM Convocation: **Saturday, June 22, 2019.**

Come to the 27th Annual MTI Banquet on June 22nd, 2019!

Alumni and current students, please join us for the 27th Annual Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) Awards Banquet on Saturday, June 22, 2019. The keynote speaker will be **Therese McMillan**, former faculty member and instructor for MTM 202 Transportation Funding and Finance. During her six years as an instructor, Therese shared her experience and knowledge from 25 years at San Francisco's Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), including eight years serving as Deputy Executive Director for Policy. In 2009, Therese accepted a presidential appointment to serve as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in the United States Department of Transportation, where she later served as Acting FTA Administrator. Therese then served as Chief Planning Officer for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro). In January 2019, Therese returned to the Bay Area; she is now MTC's Executive Director and the top executive for the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Welcome home, Therese, and welcome back to the MTI Awards Banquet!



Therese McMillan
Keynote Speaker



Robin O'Hara
Alumna of the Year

The MSTM Alumni Association will be presenting the 2019 Alumnus/Alumna of the Year Award to **Robin O'Hara** of LA Metro (MSTM Class of '12). Congratulations, Robin!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

4:30 p.m. — Meet and Greet. MSTM alumni, current students and graduating students, please join us for some inspiration and networking, Room 4A, 2nd Floor, Student Union.

5:30 p.m. — Wine tasting reception and photo ops with transportation dignitaries, Mezzanine, 2nd Floor, Student Union.

6:00 p.m. — Doors open for the 27th Annual MTI Awards Banquet, Main Ballroom, 2nd Floor, Student Union.

9:30 p.m. — Make your way to one of two locations for the after party: the Fairmont Hotel Lobby Lounge for live music, light dining (sushi, tapas) and cocktails; or drinks at Original Joe's.

View more details on the banquet, including menu choices, parking and online payment instructions at the alumni web site. www.mticonnect.org/convocation

Visit our Alumni Web Site: www.MTIconnect.org

The web site of the MSTM Alumni Association is:

www.mticonnect.org. (Yes, the "www" is REQUIRED.)

The web site features photos from past banquets, info on how to pre-pay for you banquet tickets online, details on submitting nominations for the Alumnus/ Alumna of the Year, upcoming MTIAA events, and archived copies of the Alumni Newsletter "Moving Forward."

Who?!?! Is Our New MSTM Program Coordinator? It's *Michelle Waldron*: Recruiting Students with a Track to the Future

By *Donna Maurillo, MSTM '11*

Picture the typical freight railroad conductor. Now imagine that the conductor is a woman. That would be Michelle Waldron, who was trained and certified by CSX (one of the four largest freight companies) so she could work on any railroad in the U.S. After gaining experience in the rail yard, Michelle moved on to a career in higher education.

Today she is the Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM) Program Coordinator, as well as outreach coordinator for all graduate programs in the Lucas Graduate School of Business. Before making her way to San Jose, Michelle was living in Scotland, studying for her PhD at the University of Stirling. Her specialties included social science, criminology, and education.

But why Scotland? Well, she and her husband Aaron, who currently works in SJSU's study abroad program, both love to travel. Michelle has visited 35 countries as of this writing, and she greatly enjoyed their time in Scotland. It was there that she'd interned for her master's degree program.



In her current work at San Jose State University, Michelle is having “a hoot” ... doing outreach, event planning, and working with students.

Michelle says, “the biggest challenge is MSTM recruitment. Primarily it's related to gaining access to organizations so I can connect with potential students. MSTM students haven't been the traditional type because most of them already work in transportation and have full-time jobs.”

MSTM alumni can help Michelle by connecting her with their transportation contacts. Those contacts could be within transit agencies, in state transportation departments, in mobility-related private industry, or other areas. With our introductions to key people, Michelle can pitch the benefits of employees earning their MSTM degrees.

“It's critical for the economy, especially when you think about climate change,” she said. “Future MSTM graduates will lead the way in developing improvements and innovations for our transportation systems.”

If you have industry contacts who could help Michelle with her recruitment, especially within Caltrans and other public agencies, please contact her at Michelle.Waldron@SJSU.edu

Spotlight on Our MSTM Candidates and Their Capstone Projects

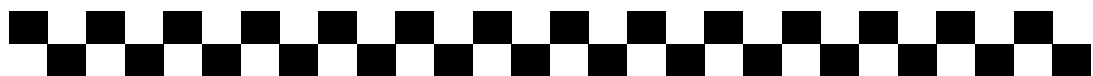


The Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM) at San Jose State University culminates in the Capstone Project (MTM 290), an independent study course in which students research a topic of related to transportation policy or management. See below for a list of this year's MSTM degree candidates (expected to graduate in 2019), led by MTM 290 instructor Dr. Hilary Nixon.

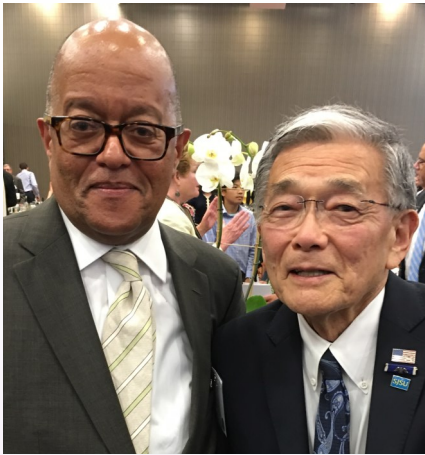
- The American Public Transportation Association Sustainability Commitment: Orange County Transportation Authority's Entry-Level Signatory Status Evaluation and Achieving the Next Level (**Niall Barrett**, Program Manager, Orange County Transportation Authority)
- An Insight on Transit Officials Understanding of Positive Train Control and How It May Affect Future Rail Service in San Bernardino County (**Van Trischelle Baysden**, Director, Rail Operations, Omnitrans)
- MTC's Transit Capital Priorities Framework: Assessing How Effectively It Aligns Investment with Regional Priorities (**Lorena Bernal Vidal**, Transportation Planner III, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA))
- What Factors Contribute to a Successful Downtown Streetcar? (**Andrew Chier**, Rail Fleet Services Manager, LA Metro)
- Might Kaizen Practices Lead LA Metro to Efficiently Operate Their Photovoltaic System to Reduce Electrical Costs? (**Richard Darby**, Director of Facilities Maintenance, LA Metro)
- Evaluating Freeway Service Patrol between I-15 and the Orange County Line (**Eric J. DeHate**, Senior Management Analyst, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC))
- Did the Fifty-four Road Diet Bicycle Projects Implemented by LADOT Improve Safety? (**Miya R. Edmondson**, Senior Transportation Planner, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans))
- Evaluation of the 5/5R Fulton Muni Forward Project (**Tracey Lin**, Senior Transportation Planner, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency)
- Lessons Learned: Federal Transit Administration's Transit Asset Management (TAM) Guidance to Small- and Medium-Sized Agencies (**George Lorente**, Grants Manager, San Joaquin Regional Transit District)
- Evaluating Climate Change Reduction Outcomes from Archetypal Examples of the Texas DOT (Houston District) Green Ribbon Landscape Architecture Program Projects (2008-2019) (**Michael S. Oguro**, Landscape Architect in Responsible Charge, Caltrans)
- Bay Area Rapid Transit Proof of Payment Ordinance and Station Agents Involvement (**Malcolm Penton**, Train Operator, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART))
- Growing the Entrance: Effects of Capacity Expansion on I-5 Gateway Widening Project (**Joshua Kevin R. Sy**, Transportation Engineer (Electrical), Caltrans)



Congratulations, Graduates!



Snapshots from the 2018 MTI Banquet



Class of 2018—MTI Banquet and Convocation Ceremony

By Rachel Donovan, MSTM 2011 and Simon Oh, MSTM 2016.

On June 21, 2018, degree candidates for the Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM), current students, alumni, families and leaders in the transportation industry gathered at San Jose State University Student Union, Grand Ballroom, for the 26th Annual Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) Banquet and Convocation Ceremony.

The alumni held a private reception with the degree candidates prior to the start of the event, sharing professional experiences and welcoming them into the alumni network. During the public reception prior to the banquet, attendees enjoyed wine tasting and jazz music by San Jose State University's School of Music and Dance Student Jazz Trio.

A warm welcome and introduction of elected officials was led by MTI Executive Director Karen Philbrick, with Keynote address by Norman Mineta. Laurie Berman, who had recently been promoted to the top post at Caltrans, was the keynote speaker.

During the convocation ceremony, Dr. Asha Weinstein Agrawal announced the names of the students completing their Master's degrees in 2018, along with the titles of their research papers. This year's valedictorian, Lisa Rae Vickery of Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority shared some thoughtful advice for the group.

Alumni President Rachel Donovan presented the Alumnus of the Year award to Carter Mau of SamTrans. Carter Mau kept everyone laughing with a David Letterman style Top 10 List for the alumni of the MSTM program. The alumni association publicly recognized Vivianne Ferea, outgoing student coordinator, for her years of service, and we bid her a fond adieu. Jill Carter, MTI Executive Admin/Office Manager, gave Vivianne a floral arrangement with a model of a 1950s car as the vase.

After the event, several alumni gathered at local spots near SJSU. We look forward to gathering once again on June 22, 2019. Alumni, join us for the 4:30 p.m. Meet and Greet with the degree candidates in Room 4A, near the Grand Ballroom, at the Student Union, and stay afterward for gatherings at the Fairmont Hotel and Original Joe's.





Interview with the 2018 Valedictorian—Lisa Rae Vickery

By *Simon Oh, MSTM '16*

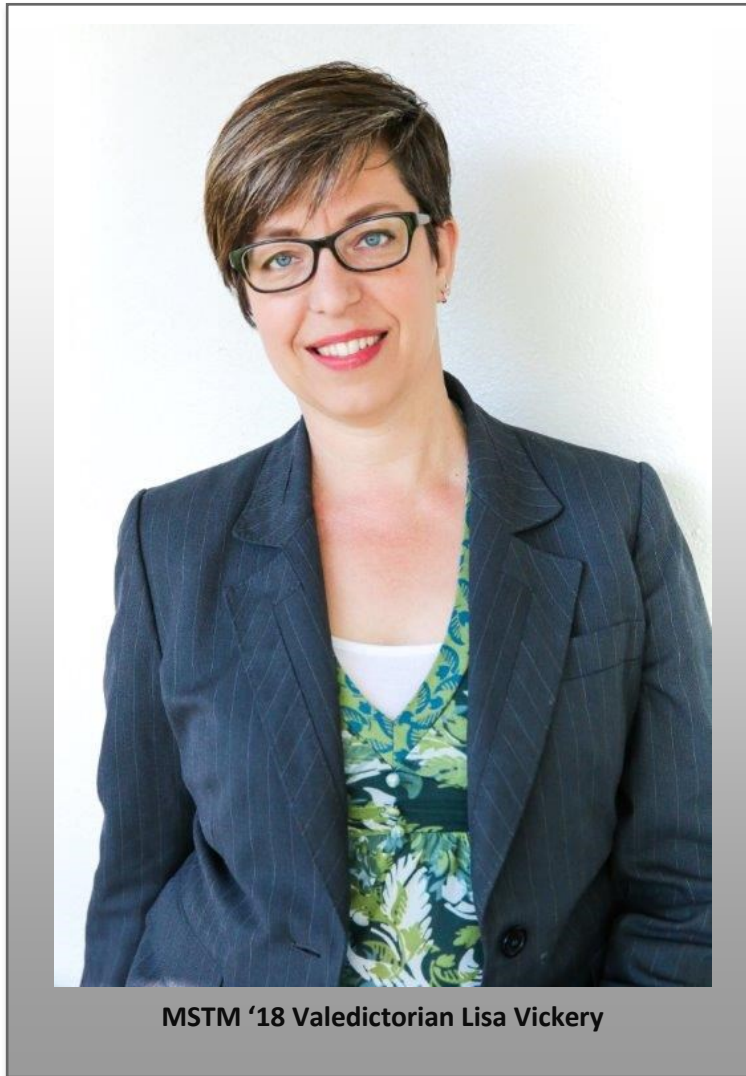
Last year, the Mineta Transportation Institute selected Lisa Rae Vickery as the Valedictorian for the Class of 2018. Lisa currently serves as Transportation Superintendent for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) in San Jose, an agency that has come to define much of her career since she initially joined in an organizational development capacity in October 2000.

As someone who was her classmate in several courses, it was my great privilege to interview Lisa. We sat down together in December 2018 to discuss all things related to her time in the program, her career and what's next, now that she has an MSTM degree in hand.

Simon Oh: Describe what your current role entails at VTA. Also, describe some of your previous roles within the agency.

Lisa Vickery: I'm currently the Transportation Superintendent for the Chaboya bus yard at VTA, a position I've held since 2016. In that role, I am responsible for the administrative operations of the transportation division and the nearly 400 coach operators based in the

facility. Those responsibilities include, but are not limited to, daily pull-outs of buses, responding to customer service issues, monitoring issues affecting operations, and presiding over disciplinary matters involving our coach operators.



MSTM '18 Valedictorian Lisa Vickery

Overall, I've been with VTA for more than 18 years. I initially started out in Human Resources as an Associate Organizational Development and Training Specialist. Over time, I've found myself transitioning to roles that involved the administrative aspects of operations, leading to my current responsibility for an entire subdivision of VTA's transit operations.

SO: What made you decide to enroll in MTI? What were you expecting to learn from the program?

LV: At first, I didn't expect transit would become my career as I earned a bachelor's degree in biology. Turns out, I love transportation. By enrolling in MTI, I felt that going through this program would allow me to establish a well-rounded knowledge of the transportation industry that is necessary to become an effective manager.

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Since I've only worked in one transportation agency, it was great that the program has taught me valuable lessons about all areas of transportation, and I met other professionals across the state who were focused on other parts the industry. Learning everything I did in this program helped me become a legitimate expert on a variety of issues, helping in my day-to-day roles. It also positions me to move up even further as my career progresses within VTA or the transportation industry as a whole, having built up the experience from both the professional and academic realms.

SO: How does your MSTM degree fit in with your overall career goals?

LV: I've been at VTA for almost two decades and I still love working at the agency, so I don't necessarily see myself moving on. I hope to use my MSTM degree and the experience I've gained at VTA to continue working my way up through the agency and having a greater impact on transit in Silicon Valley. Having the breadth of knowledge that came from the MTI program will be useful, as transportation is always changing, requiring someone who can develop the necessary skills as the work evolves and still have the capacity to make logical decisions that will impact lives and the organization as a whole.

SO: What's next for Lisa Vickery?

LV: I still see myself in a hands-on management role within transportation. I love working with operators to find solutions to issues that require greater attention, such as gender and income disparities in

transportation, improving transit usage, reducing assaults on operators, and increasing safety for passengers. I hope that as I continue to move up in this agency, I can use my position to support disadvantaged communities in their efforts to find solutions to the various underlying problems that exist. I see transportation as a fundamental aspect of healthy communities and I am proud to serve my community in this way.



Way to go, Lisa!

And congrats to all of the MSTM graduates and certificate students!
Keep us informed of your achievements by e-mailing us at:
mticonnect@gmail.com.

Please alert us of any change in e-mail address, too! We won't spam you, but we will keep you updated on alumni happenings. Our newsletters and events are posted on our web site,
www.mticonnect.org

Congratulations on a Successful School Year, 2018–2019!

By Rachel Donovan, MSTM 2011

While we are celebrating the achievements of those students who are nearly to the finish line, we want to acknowledge and encourage the students who are continuing to work toward either a certificate program or an MSTM degree. See the chart on the next page for the number of student attaining their MSTM degrees over the years. They are proof positive that YES, YOU CAN DO IT! Stick with it and you'll reach that finish line.

Even if you are not graduating this year, please consider attending the MTI Annual Banquet, including the 4:30 p.m. Meet and Greet in Room 44 (2nd floor of the SJSU Student Union, right around the corner from the Grand Ballroom). Attending the banquet, you'll get inspired from your fellow classmates who have MADE IT and are about to graduate. Meanwhile, you will have the opportunity to meet some of the top transportation officials of our day.

The 2018-2019 academic year was a success! Dr. Asha Weinstein Agrawal, Director of Education, led the academic program, along with a team of instructors, including Dr. James Brent, Dr. Andrea Broaddus, Brandi Childress, Dr. Nick Compin, Dr. Frances Edwards, Eric Eidlin, Dan Goodrich, Will Kempton, Dr. James Kott, John Litzinger, Gurmeet Naroola, Dr. Hilary Nixon, Norma Ortega, and Dr. Beverly Scott.

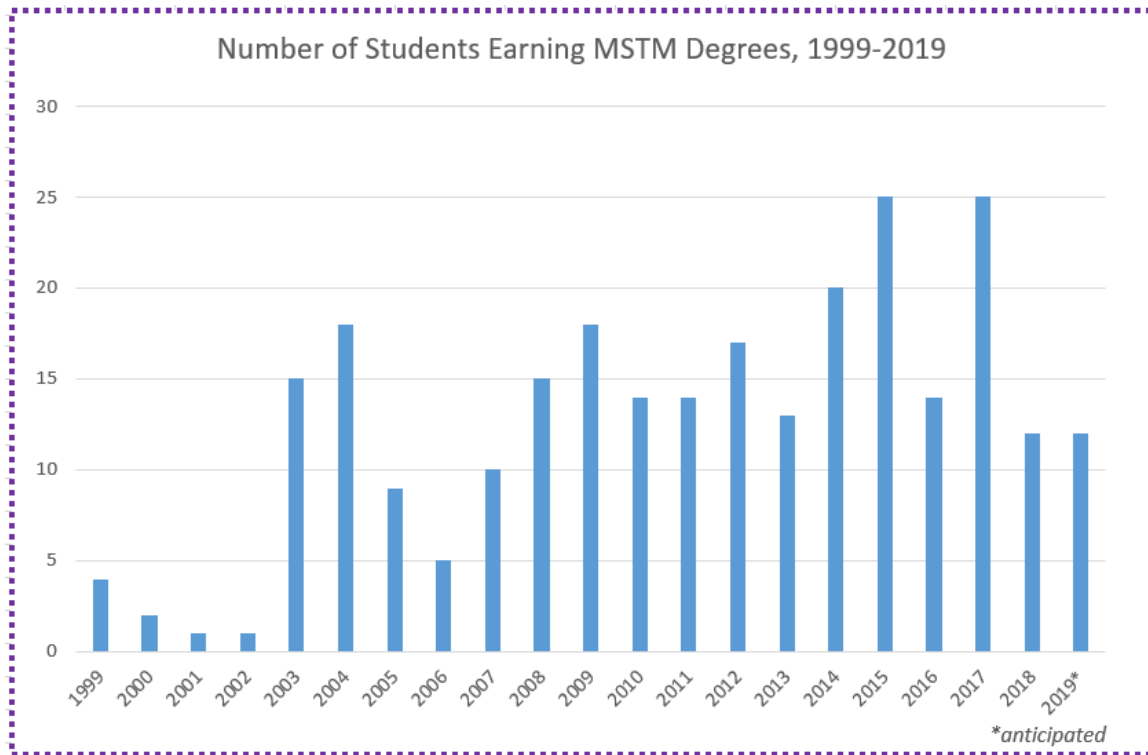


In January 2019, Asha gave a presentation to Caltrans District 4 in Oakland, California. About 40 Caltrans employees attended her presentation. Also in attendance were Michelle Waldron, MSTM Program Coordinator, Dr. Marco Pagani, Associate Dean, Lucas Graduate School of Business, and alumni Catharine Crayne (MSTM '16) and Rachel Donovan (MSTM '11). Everyone had encouraging words for the prospective students. Asha's presentation included an explanation of how to apply, along with an overview of tuition costs, scholarships, and other types of financial assistance that may be available to students.

If you know of anyone who is interested in taking classes for one of the certificates or for the Master's degree (or both; they can be done concurrently), please contact Michelle Waldron, MSTM Program Coordinator, at michelle.waldron@sjsu.edu.



Dr. Pagani, Dr. Weinstein Agrawal, Alumni Catharine Crayne and Rachel Donovan, and Michelle Waldron



Winter/Spring 2020 Registration is OPEN! Please Help Us Spread the Word!

To boost enrollment in the MSTM and certificate programs, we need your help getting the word out. Do you work with colleagues who could benefit from enrolling in the any of the following programs?

- High-Speed Rail Management
- Transportation Security Management
- Transportation Management

Please encourage your colleagues to learn more at our web site:

<http://transweb.sjsu.edu/MTIportal/education/MSTM/index.html>

Another way to help is to ask your Professional Training department to invite Education Director Asha W. Agrawal

(asha.weinstein.agrawal@sjsu.edu) to hold an in-person drop-in session at your company or agency.



Alumnus Spotlight: Roger Bazeley, Riding the High-Speed Japanese Shinkansen and the Italian HSR Systems with Discount Rail Passes for USA Travelers

By Roger Bazeley, MSTM 2007

It is said by the USHSR Association, and the supporters and passengers of high-speed rail and passenger trains that they can outperform, “both flying and driving combined in every measure - capacity, mobility, convenience, speed, safety, efficiency, energy consumption, cost, profitability, national security, carbon footprint, physical footprint, economic development, smart growth, and more. A network of high speed trains can carry more passengers than cars and airplanes combined - using a fraction of the energy, and with no delays.”

From my recent and past travels using High-Speed Rail in Japan and Italy, the actual experience of riding the Japanese “Shinkansen” high-speed rail systems is downright incredible and exciting. It’s the way to travel! My wife and I have been on the original “Bullet” style Shinkansen series 2- in 1987, and more recently, the E4-E7 Shinkansen Series like the NOZIMI white and blue to Hiroshima, the E5 Iris Green HAYABUSA, the Red and White E6 KOMACHI to Sendai and the Violet, Gold, and White E7 HOKURIKU to Kanazawa.

Traveling by the Japanese *Shinkansen* over the past 20 years, on visits to Japan, it has not only been a convenient affordable time saver, but a thrill

in gaining country wide access to the culture and local and regional foods of Japan at every station stop and major rail station. Onboard—there were a variety of local Bento Boxes and food supplied by Japan Railway employees, pushing food carts through the train, while whisking by the countryside at speeds between 160 -220 MPH.

After completing the MSTM degree in 2007, I was a real believer in high speed rail for California and the USA. I returned in 2012 to complete the new certificate program in High-Speed Rail Management. After attending courses with Stan Feinsod and hearing from other high-speed rail experts augmenting the class instruction, I was hooked.

To be honest I was hooked on trains since I was a child in building some quite large model railroad systems in the basement of our Chicago house using Lionel O Gauge and then moving to the smaller HO Gauge developed in Europe. Also my grandfather on my father’s side was a designer and patent holder of over 90 U.S. automatic railway coupler systems. He also was a consultant to the British Rail system and built railways around the world, including in India. So, I guess there was a bit of railway transportation in my DNA from the start.

Every year my wife Noriko and I travel to Japan and ride the various Shinkansen systems around Japan from Tokyo to Hiroshima and Kyushu-Nagasaki. In 2017 and in Spring 2018 we traveled by HSR
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to the Hokkaido area. The year before we took the new E7 Trainsets to Kanazawa Station, riding a new line that took 30 years to build. After taking the Shinkansen to the main station, we took a local or intercity train to the coastal ports. Travel on the Shinkansen and other select JR Railways includes a discount for USA citizens and is very convenient.

During late August-September 2018, we traveled to Italy. After landing in Rome we took the local "JAZZ" train into the Urban Center Rome Railway station. New since our prior visit to Italy were several Italian Red and Green High-Speed Rail train-sets including the ITALO Ferrari design Alstom train in a deep crimson burgundy and gold livery. We rode the HSR and experienced Italy's historic cities, including Venice, Florence, Bologna, and Modena, and we photographed many variations of the Italian Rail system from city to city.

We took a Ferrari Bus to visit the famous Casa Enzo Ferrari 1929 Factory and Museum in Modena, after visiting the Maranello Ferrari Museum, with its displays of racing Formula One cars and a special exhibit. Maranello is also the home of the main Ferrari Factory. We were able to cover more territory in a shorter time riding the rails from city to city.

After our stay in Italy, we headed by plane to a Greek island of James Bond fame: Corfu, for four nights. No trains, but we saved an 18 hour over night ferry ride in rough seas, by flying for an

incredible \$29 per person. After Corfu we headed to the Island of Paros for a Greek wedding, with traditional Greek dinner and a reception at an outdoor fishing village. Then we left the Paros Port of Parikia by Greek's famous superb High-speed Ferry System to the Athens port of Piraeus.

We stayed one night in Athens and took the Athens Metro the next morning to the Athens Airport, for a flight to SFO with a 18 hour layover in Madrid, Spain. Wow, what a nice design for the huge airport in Madrid and what an incredible city. We got a taste of it that evening, celebrating with tapas. My wife and I agreed that Spain and its High-Speed Rail system will be next on my list to research. I am currently planning a trip to photograph the sites and experience the culture of Spain.

My experiences abroad connect back to MTI and its High-Speed Rail conferences and seminars. I met Antonio Arribas Torres of EURIF when he was a guest speaker in one of the High-Speed Rail certificate courses. We will be in Tokyo riding the rails again for the Tokyo Marathon. In September 2019, we will head to Berlin for the Berlin Marathon. So it looks like I will be riding the German ICE Rail System to various European cities in September. High-speed rail has become an integral part of the economy in

several countries around the world.

My belief in the importance of high speed rail has been strengthened through my travels and through my experiences and courses at the Mineta Transportation Institute.





Message from Rachel Donovan, Alumni President, 2015–2019

It has been my pleasure and my honor to serve as your Alumni President for the past four years. At the 2019 MTI Banquet, I will be passing the mantle of leadership on to a brilliant star among our alumni—Olivia Rocha, MSTM '15. Olivia has worked tirelessly on anything and everything having to do with the alumni since completing her Master's degree in 2015. Three cheers to Olivia for stepping up to fill this role!

As some background, the alumni presidents in “the early years” included Jim Helmer and Donna de Martino, followed by Ward Thomas, who set up our web site:

www.mticonnect.org. Under Ward's leadership, we began the tradition of backyard BBQs, happy hours, and alumni trips to sports events. Walt Allen then took over as President, with Donna Maurillo as Vice President. During that time, we launched the Alumnus/Alumna of the Year Award (spear-headed by Brandi Childress) and the newsletter (edited by Ann Calnan) and built upon the existing programs.

Walt passed the mantle of leadership on to me at the 2015 MTI Banquet. In 2016, Ann Calnan (MSTM '12) passed the torch of Newsletter Editor on to me. Now the newsletter includes capstone paper highlights, an annual interview with the class valedictorian, and spotlight articles on alumni. Meanwhile, I became the webmaster, too, adding pages for banquet sign up info, past year banquet photos, the Alumnus/Alumna of the Year, and current issue / archives of the newsletter. In the future, we'd like help with organizing networking events wherever alumni may be, growing the Capstone Coach program, and alumni mentoring for current students. Plus, there will be other initiatives that Olivia and the rest of the leadership team will dream up. Would you like to join the leadership team and lend your creative energies to our merry crew? We do all of our work via e-mail, so you can join the alumni leadership team from anywhere in the world.

The MSTM Alumni Association has grown since the first class in 1999; counting this year's graduates, we will be 250-plus in number! Please contact us at MTIconnect@gmail.com to join the leadership team or to send us a classmate update, an alumni event in your area, or an idea for a newsletter article (do you know of an MSTM grad who deserves a spotlight?). Check our web site www.mticonnect.org for all the latest!



2018–2019 Alumni Leadership Team

Rachel Donovan ('11) - *President,
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor*

Donna Maurillo ('11) - *Vice President*

Members at Large:

Roger Bazeley ('07)

Walt Allen ('07)

Brandi Childress ('08)

Olivia Rocha ('15)

Ward Thomas ('15)

Simon Oh ('16)

Bernadette Lambert ('16)

**ALUMNI
ALERT**

Visit www.mticonnect.org and pay online for your banquet ticket. Get an ALUMNI ribbon for your badge. Ask to sit at the alumni table if you'd like.