

Moving Forward

MTI MSTM Alumni Association Newsletter

Spring 2016



Contacting the MSTM Alumni Association

Visit our web site:

www.mticonnect.org

E-mail to :

mticonnect@gmail.com

Highlights

Spotlight on our Graduating Students & their Capstone Topics p. 2

Announcing the MTI MSTM Alum of the Year.....p. 3

MTI Happy Hour Wrap-Up with Photos p. 4

Our Big Event!

MTI Awards Banquet & MSTM Convocation:
Saturday, June 18, 2016.

MTI Convocation Ceremony & Banquet

Come one, come all! Saturday, June 18, 2016, is the date for the 24th Annual Awards Banquet and Convocation Ceremony of the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI). The event will take place at the Student Union Ballroom (upper level) at San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, California.

Please join us for the Alumni Reception at 4:30 pm. This is a chance to meet all of the new Master's Degree candidates and to learn about the exciting work they are doing. Wine tasting at 5:30 pm. The dinner program begins at 6:30 pm. Keynote speaker is scheduled to be Brian P. Kelly, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). The Honorable Norman Mineta is also expected to be in attendance!

We will be honoring the candidates for the Master's Degree program, along with the recipients of other awards, including the MTI Alumni Association's Alumnus or Alumna of the Year (AOY).

Parking can be found at the 10th Street or 7th street garage as well as Lot 4 at 10th Street and San Antonio. See map below.

To attend, please contact Viviann Ferea [viviann.ferea@sjsu.edu] and let her know the names of everyone attending in your group, along with each person's menu choice. In addition, please specify if you would like to sit at the alumni table. The menu choices are:

Honey Mustard Glazed Chicken

Honey Mustard Glazed Chicken Breast served with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables Medley

Red Wine Braised Short Ribs

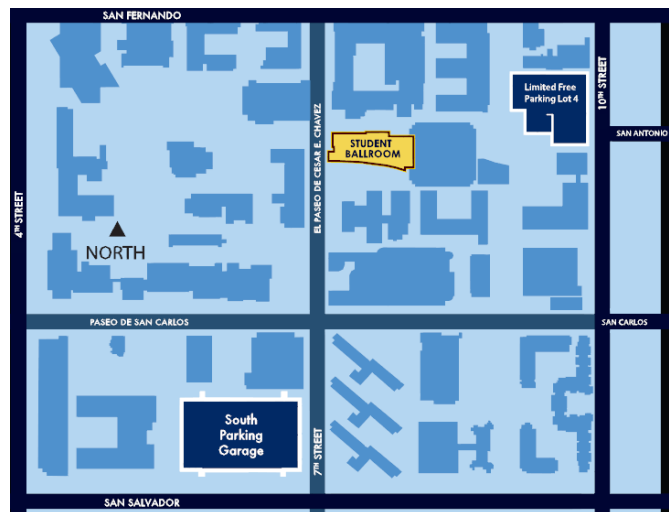
Red Wine Braised Short Ribs served with mashed potatoes, Seasonal Squash Medley

Zucchini Cakes (Vegetarian)

Pan seared Zucchini Pancakes with Creamy Lentil Rissoto and Pomodoro Sauce

Please indicate if you have special meal requests such as vegan, gluten-free, etc. Tickets are \$50.00. To pay in advance, online with credit card, go to www.mticonnect.org/convocation and follow the instructions. Photos of past convocation ceremonies are available here, too!

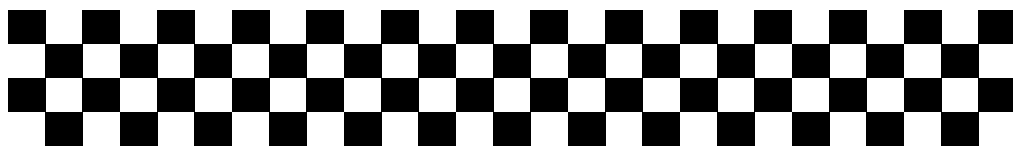
The Annual MTI Banquet is a tradition that many transportation professionals and their families look forward to every year. As MTI alumni, we find it rewarding to reconnect with old classmates and to be inspired by the recent group of graduates. If you have any questions in advance of the event, please contact Viviann Ferea [viviann.ferea@sjsu.edu].



Spotlight on our MSTM Graduates and their Capstone Projects

The Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM) at San Jose State University culminates in the Capstone Project (MTM 290). Students synthesize the research techniques and wealth of information gleaned from the Master's degree program to tackle some of the current questions in transportation policy and research.

- Challenges of implementing a mobile ticketing application (**Connie Raya**, *Manager of Maintenance Resource Management*, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA))
- Correlating average daily boardings, passenger amenities available, and level of coordination with local transit operators, at 55 Metrolink train stations in Southern California (**Alex Kenefick**, *Project Coordinator*, Arellano Associates)
- The effects of race-neutral measures on Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) utilization in BART federally funded professional services agreements (**Alma Basurto**, *Principal Administrative Analyst*, Bay Area Rapid Transit District)
- Alleviating parking issues at KSU by identifying held biases to cars in university master plans, offering better-focused TOD parking management solutions and transportation alternatives. (**Nathan Nairn**, Active Duty Army)
- Time frame and feasibility of mandating low or no emissions (LoNo) transit vehicle procurement and implementation in California (**Catharine Crayne**)
- Developing a tool for cities to use in negotiating entitlements with property developers for the creation or preservation of transit-supportive corridors during development (**Bernadette Lambert**, *Silicon Valley Extension Program Manager*, BART Planning, Development & Construction)
- Technology needs for implementing a low-income transit fare product at BART (**Rachel Russell**, *Senior Analyst*, Office of Civil Rights, Bay Area Rapid Transit District)
- Social media platforms to support a transportation agency's overall public engagement efforts (**Simon Oh**)
- Addressing the problem of 3+ declaration lane violators in the 91 Express Lanes in Riverside County (**Jillian Guizado**, *Management Analyst*, Riverside County Transportation Commission)
- Improving transportation services for the aging population (**Susan Tse**, *Associate Environmental Planner*, Caltrans)
- The benefits and costs of shared infrastructure on the rail corridor from San Jose to Gilroy (**Ben Lichty**)



Congratulations, Graduates!



Snapshots
from Last
Year's MTI
Banquet



Announcing: the 2016 MTI MSTM Alum of the Year!

We are thrilled to announce this year's Alumnus of the Year (AOY): Jim Helmer. Jim is the past Director of the San Jose Department of Transportation and City Traffic Engineer in Santa Cruz. Jim is currently President of LightMoves Consulting, to support public agencies and private enterprise in developing and implementing sustainable transportation, lighting solutions.

Jim has served local governments in the traffic and transportation field for over 32 years. Retiring in 2009 from the City of San Jose as its Transportation Director after a 21-year career with the City, Jim now focuses on teaching, continuous learning and engineering consulting in the connected fields of safe and sustainable transportation, lighting and energy. Jim has co-authored guidelines on the development of policies, ordinances and regulations for the installation and operation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the states of Washington, California and Hawaii.

Jim holds licenses to practice Civil and Traffic Engineering in the State of California, and resides in Santa Cruz County.

Jim Helmer served as President of the San Francisco Bay Area Institute of Transportation Engineers and continued on the Executive Board as President of the Past President's Council, serving as a mentor for new members and officers.

Jim is a Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM) graduate and holds



an undergraduate degree in Transportation Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. One of Jim's MSTM classmates recalls: "He was engaged and informed, always speaking up for the underdog; a great person to have in class."

Jim returned to MTI as an instructor, teaching MTM 217 "Leadership and Management of Transportation Organizations." This was a perfect opportunity for Jim to share his outstanding leadership skills with the next generation and to continue lighting the career path for others. Jim was a favorite instructor and was invited back year after year.

Jim will be honored at the MTI Awards Banquet on June 18, 2016. Please join us in wishing Jim a hearty **congratulations**.

Past MTI Alumna/Alumnus of the Year (AOY) Winners

2015 - Donna DeMartino, *General Manager/CEO*
San Joaquin Regional Transit District

2014 - Mary Frederick
Caltrans' Office of Capital Project
Skill Development

2013 - Ahron Hakimi, *Executive Director*
Kern Council of Governments



Classmate Updates

Olivia Rocha ('15) has been elected SEIU Local 1021 BART Professional Chapter President.

Lisa Vickery Rae was promoted to Transit Division Supervisor for Valley Transportation Authority.

Donna Maurillo ('11) is now a marketing consultant to Stanford University and Cisco.



MTI MSTM Alumni
Association
San Jose, California

www.mticonnect.org
Email us at:
mticonnect@gmail.com

Acronym Mixer "Happy Hour" a Huge Success!

Reuniting and reconnecting were the buzz words at the Transportation Acronym Mixer, held on March 30th, 2016, at the Firehouse Grill in Sunnyvale. MTI joined this fun group of professional development and networking organizations that was established last year to get the many and various "acronyms" to cross-network and engage with other professionals in the transportation, architect, designer, planning and engineering fields.



In addition to the MTI alumni present were members of the American Planning Association (APA), Association of Environmental Planners (AEP), South Bay Transportation Officials Association (SBTOA) and Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS). Organizations represented include: AECOM, Alta Planning, Caltrans, Circlepoint, David J. Powers & Associates,



Fehr & Peers, Google, Hatch Mott MacDonald, HDR, HNTB, ICF, Kimley Horn, Mark Thomas & Company, SpecPro, Stantec, Torrent, the cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale, and VTA. With about 45 transportation professionals in attendance, the conversation was lively, and it was a great get-together.

Many thanks to Ann Calnan for organizing this event. Keep an eye out for future announcements about upcoming mixers and happy hours.

Visit our Alumni Web Site: mticonnect.org

The MTI Alumni web site (mticonnect.org) has been updated! It includes the Capstone Coach Directory, photos from past Convocation Ceremonies, details on upcoming MTIAA events (including the Annual Banquet), current and past copies of the Alumni Newsletter "Moving Forward," and information on the AOY Program, including past AOY's and how to nominate someone for the award.

We would love to hear from you! Tell us what you have been up to since you graduated. Send your update to:

mticonnect@gmail.com.