

Moving Forward

MTI MSTM Alumni Association Newsletter



Contacting the MSTM Alumni Association

Visit our web site:

www.MTIconnect.org

E-mail to :

MTIconnect@gmail.com

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RSVP for the 25th Annual MTI Banquet!

**Saturday, June 17
2017**

[www.mticonnect.org/
convocation](http://www.mticonnect.org/convocation)

25th Anniversary MTI Banquet & Convocation Ceremony

Please join us on **Saturday, June 17, 2017**, for the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) Awards Banquet and Convocation Ceremony. This is a big one as it is the 25th Anniversary. PBS documentary filming will take place honoring Norman Mineta.

Alumni, please join us for the Alumni Reception at 4:30 pm. This is a chance to meet the new Master's Degree candidates and to learn about the exciting work they are doing. Wine tasting (a time for networking and photo ops) is at 5:30 pm. The dinner program begins at 6:30 pm. Visit www.mticonnect.org/convocation for parking map and directions.



The Keynote speaker will be San Jose State University President **Mary A. Papazian**. The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta will be a special guest. Senator Jim Beall will be in attendance, along with other elected officials and dignitaries. We will be honoring the candidates for the Master's Degree, along with the recipients of other awards, including the MTI Alum of the Year (AOY).



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. *Menu choices are as follows:*

- ◆ Red Wine Braised Short Ribs
- ◆ Chicken Piccata
- ◆ Roasted Vegetable Ravioli

Please indicate if you have special meal requests such as vegan, gluten-free, etc.

And, if you're ready to have the most fun ever, be sure to specify that you want to sit at the alumni table. It's the best party of the year ... time to celebrate!

Tickets are \$55.00. To pay in advance, online with credit card, go to www.mticonnect.org/convocation and follow the instructions. Parking map and 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].

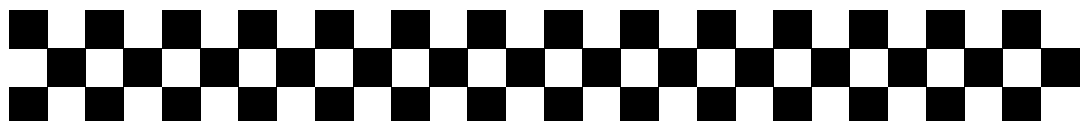


Spotlight on our MSTM Graduates and their Capstone Projects

The Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM) at San Jose State University culminates in the Capstone Project (MTM 290). For the Capstone, students conduct independent research on a topic of their choice that has compelling policy or management implications. See below for a list of some of the Capstone projects that the students are working on this year. What an impressive group!

- Evaluating Golden Gate Transit's measures to reduce unscheduled absences among bus operators (**Troy Webb**, *Transportation Supervisor, Golden Gate Transit*)
- Analyzing fare evasion mitigation processes on bus rapid transit and light rail in California (**Norman K. Tuitavuki**, *Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Monterey-Salinas Transit*)
- Evaluating Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)'s scoring process for selecting projects to be included in the 2016 sales tax measure (**Jane Shinn**, *Senior Management Analyst, VTA*)
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the BART Perks program, along with trip start location and availability of station parking, for shifting trips to off-peak hours (**Shrenik Shah**, *Senior Engineer, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART)*)
- Evaluating the potential implementation of rapid transit on high occupancy toll facilities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties (**Taylor Rutsch**, *Project Analyst, VSCE, Inc.*)
- Exploring the cost of fare evasion at BART (**Kimberly Mahoney**, *Transportation Supervisor, BART*)
- Exploring the need for and benefits of succession planning at RCTC (**Gary Ratliff**, *Facilities Administrator, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)*)
- Evaluating the potential for generating revenue for transportation projects in Brazil through the sale of naming rights on transportation infrastructure (**Carlos Eduardo Pereira Duarte** *Transportation Regulatory Specialist, Agência Nacional de Transportes Terrestres (ANTT)*)
- Evaluating the congestion management plan for truck traffic in the City of Rialto (**Milele Robertson**, *Associate Right of Way Agent, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)*)
- Evaluating transit ridership trends at the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC) and offering suggestions to increase ridership (**Jesse M. Perez, Jr.**, *Associate Right of Way Agent, Caltrans*)
- Analyzing the current usage of California's electric vehicle quick charging infrastructure and forming recommendations for improvement (**Allen King**, *Structural Materials Representative, Caltrans*)
- Investigating the potential of new technology integration with smart card fare payment systems to enhance intermodal transportation connectivity (**Kyle C. Holland**, *Manager, Transportation Planning, Los Angeles Metro*)
- Evaluating the influence of the BARTable web site on public perceptions about BART and possible impacts on ridership (**Rowena Ona**, *Technical Publications Administrator, BART*)

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Spotlight on our MSTM Graduates and their Capstone Projects

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- Evaluating the ignition interlock device pilot program in Los Angeles County (**Arianna Enriquez**, Associate Right of Way Agent, Caltrans)
- Evaluating the effects of BART's bike parking capital program on biking to stations, usage of bike parking, and preventing bike theft at stations (**Marielle A. Cuison**, Engineer, BART)
- Evaluating the "UberPool+Expo" program at LA Metro (**Miguel Cabral**, Executive Officer, Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department, Los Angeles Metro)
- Investigating the loss of business goodwill claims arising from right of way acquisitions as it relates to the SR-91 Corridor Improvement Project (**Hector Casillas**, Senior Management Analyst, RCTC)
- Evaluating VTA's FLEX pilot program & public agency response to private on-demand services such as Uber and Lyft (**Adam Burger**, Senior Transportation Planner, VTA)
- Evaluating the effectiveness of using Twitter to communicate unplanned service delays (**Jon R. Alexander**, Senior Schedule Analyst, AC Transit)

Congratulations, Graduates!



From the first MSTM graduating class in 1999 to the graduating class of 2016, Rod Diridon taught the MTM 290 Capstone, providing guidance and inspiring by example. Upon Rod's retirement, it seemed impossible to imagine the Capstone without him. Who could fill his shoes? Thankfully MTI found someone up for the challenge: Dr. Hilary Nixon, Department Chair of Urban & Regional Planning at San Jose State University. Dr. Nixon carried the torch forward by teaching MTM 290 this year.

Welcome aboard, Hilary!



Announcing: the 2017 MTI MSTM Alum of the Year!

The 2017 Alumnus or Alumna of the Year has been selected. And the winner is: **Ms. Alva Carrasco**. Ms. Carrasco earned her Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM) degree at the Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose State University, in 2008. Alva is highly regarded among her fellow MSTM alumni for her leadership in public transit agencies in California and Texas, and for her unending commitment to mentoring others in their transportation careers.

Alva's career in public transportation began in 1993 working as a customer service representative in the administration department for the Big Blue Bus in Santa Monica, California. Alva was known for her strong problem solving skills and was promoted to Senior Transportation Analyst.

In 2003, Alva took a new position as Assistant Transportation Manager for Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro). During her work at LA Metro, Alva mentored three Assistant Transportation Managers, all of whom went on to executive positions.

In 2009, Alva left LA Metro for a new job as Assistant Director of Transportation at Montebello Bus Lines in southern California. Alva played a key role in the implementation of transportation policy, long term strategic planning, construction of a Compressed Natural Gas fueling sta-



Alva Carrasco ('08)
2017 MTI Alumna of the Year (AOY)

tion, and the revitalization of the Montebello/Commerce Metro Link Station.

In 2013, Alva made a big move ... to Texas! She was hired as Vice President of Transportation for VIA Metropolitan Transit in San Antonio. Alva and her team were responsible for a transit system that provides over 41 million trips annually. At VIA, Alva's responsibilities included managing and setting policy for over 1,200 employees in fixed route and paratransit operations.

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Announcing: the 2017 MTI MSTM Alum of the Year!

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In February 2017, an exciting job offer brought Alva back to California once again. She is now Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Sacramento Regional Transit District (SRTD). In her new role, Alva is part of the executive team overseeing the implementation of SRTD's new strategic plan. The strategic plan includes a route optimization study, safety program restructuring, and a para-transit business model analysis. Meanwhile, Alva is thrilled to be part of an organization conducting research in zero emission, near zero emission, and autonomous vehicles.

On top of her busy work schedule, Alva makes it a priority to mentor up-coming professionals and students. She advocates for environmental protection and sustainability and is looking forward to participating in advocacy in Sacramento, California. Meanwhile, Alva is researching sustainable solutions and studying Urban

& Regional Planning at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA).

Born in Los Angeles and raised in Santa Monica, California, Alva grew up with the strong work ethic modeled by her parents. Alva is a first-generation Mexican American woman and the mother of one son. Alva currently serves as Vice President of Latinos In Transit (LIT), a non-profit organization promoting the advancement and development of Latinos and other minorities in transportation.

Among her many achievements and honors, Alva is a graduate of the American Public Transportation (APTA) Leadership program. She is a graduate of ENO Transportation Foundation Transit Senior Executive Program in 2014 and recipient of two American Public Transportation Foundation (APTF) awards. Let us give Alva a warm welcome at this year's MTI Banquet & Convocation Ceremony!





Visit our web site:
WWW.MTICONNECT.
ORG

The “www” is not optional. Type it in, and you will find: online payment info for the upcoming banquet, past banquet photos, info on the Alum of the Year (AOY) (including how to nominate someone), archived editions of this newsletter, and Capstone mentor sign-ups.

2017 MSTM Alumni Leadership Team

Rachel Donovan ('11) -
President

Donna Maurillo ('11) -
Vice President

Members at Large:

Olivia Rocha ('15)

Ward Thomas ('15)

Ann Calnan ('12)

Brandi Childress ('08)

Walt Allen ('07)

Lee Provost ('03)

Want to join the team?

E-mail us at
mticonnect@gmail.com



MTI MSTM Alumni
Association
San Jose, California
www.MTIconnect.org

MSTM Alumni: Classmate Updates

- ◆ **Ms. Kyle C. Holland ('17)** - Selected to be an Eno Fellow at the 25th Annual Eno Future Leaders Development Conference in Washington D.C.
- ◆ **Mr. Norman Tuitavuk ('17)** - Newly hired as Deputy Chief Operating Officer with Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST).
- ◆ **Ms. Ann Calnan ('12)** - Promoted in 2015 to Manager, Environmental Programs and Resources Management, at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA).
- ◆ **Ms. Rachel Russell ('16)** - Selected for the 2017-2018 American Public Transit Association (APTA) Emerging Leaders Program.
- ◆ **Ms. Alva Carrasco ('08)** - Newly hired as Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Sacramento Regional Transit District (SRTD).
- ◆ **Mr. Carter Mau ('99)** - Currently serving as Executive Manager of Planning and Budgets at Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART).
- ◆ **Mr. Trent R. Bachman ('12)** - Will be awarded an Amtrak President's Service and Safety Award (PSSA) in Washington, DC, in June 2017. As Superintendent Passenger Services, Trent is the highest ranking MSTM Alum at Amtrak.



Breaking News: Dr. Peter Haas is retiring ...

Well, the cat is out of the bag ... after 20 YEARS at MTI and more than 30 years at SJSU, Dr. Peter Haas is retiring! Dr. Haas has been MTI's Education Director since 2001. Most of the alumni remember Dr. Haas vividly (in their nightmares! Just kidding!) as the instructor of the academically rigorous introductory course MTM 201—Fundamentals of Transportation Management, which he taught from 1998 to 2015. The 25th MTI Banquet on 6/17/2017 will be your last chance to see Dr. Haas in an official capacity at MTI. Let's give him a fond farewell!



Alumni, 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.