

# Moving Forward

March 2018

Newsletter of the Mineta Transportation Institute Alumni Association (MTIAA)



## Contacting the MSTM Alumni Association

Visit our web site:  
[www.MTIconnect.org](http://www.MTIconnect.org)  
E-mail to :  
[MTIconnect@gmail.com](mailto:MTIconnect@gmail.com)

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- RETIRING!!!! ..... p. 10
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## Upcoming Events

- Student Happy Hour:*
- Thursday, April 19, 2018.**
- Alumni Pot Luck* at an alum's home in Santa Cruz (see Page 10 for details):
- Sunday, April 29, 2018.**
- MTI Awards Banquet & MSTM Convocation:
- Saturday, June 23, 2018.**

## Letter from the MTIAA Leadership Team

The March 2018 newsletter is packed with updates about alumni and the MSTM program. We have a new Director of Education. Meanwhile, an icon whom we all know and love is retiring (see Page 10 to find out who!). We would like to invite you and your significant other and/or family to the home of one of our alumni for a pot luck and BBQ on April 29, 2018, 12 noon to 4 P.M. Families and children are welcome (see Page 10 for details).

We are now accepting nominations for the Alumnus or Alumna of the Year award. Visit [www.mticonnect.org/aoy](http://www.mticonnect.org/aoy) to submit your nomination.

The current newsletter includes interviews with our new Director of Education, the co-valedictorians of the class of 2017, and an esteemed alumnus. If you would like to write an article for an upcoming newsletter or plan an alumni event in your area, please contact us at [mticonnect@gmail.com](mailto:mticonnect@gmail.com).

*Sincerely,*

*MTIAA Leadership Team*

- Rachel Donovan ('11), Donna Maurillo ('11), Ann Calnan ('12),
- Brandi Childress ('08), Walt Allen ('07),
- Olivia Rocha ('15), Ward Thomas ('15)



Visit our Alumni Web Site: [MTIconnect.org](http://MTIconnect.org)

*The web site of the MTI Alumni Association (MTIAA) is [www.mticonnect.org](http://www.mticonnect.org). It features the Capstone Coach Directory, photos from past Convocation Ceremonies, details on submitting nominations for the Alumnus/Alumna of the Year, upcoming MTIAA events (including the Annual Banquet), and archived copies of the Alumni Newsletter "Moving Forward."*

## Snapshots from the 2017 MTI Banquet



## Class of 2017 (Most Graduates EVER) at the 25th Anniversary MTI Banquet & Convocation Ceremony

*By Olivia Rocha, Mineta Transportation Institute, MSTM 2015, and Rachel Donovan, MSTM 2011.*

A record number of grads took the stage at MTI's annual evening awards banquet and convocation ceremony held at the San Jose State Student Union, on June 17, 2017.

The 2017 class was the largest graduating class in the institution's 25-year history with 27 students being hooded. Previously, the record was 21 students in 2015. Another first for this class was a tie for Valedictorian ... this year's "Co-Valedictorians" were Jane Shinn and Adam Burger.

A warm welcome and introduction of elected officials was led by MTI Executive Director, Karen Philbrick, with Keynote address by Norman Mineta, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation (Retired) and Mary A. Papazian, President, San Jose State University.

This year's Garrett Morgan Sustainable Transportation Award went to students from Urban Promise Academy, Oakland, California. MTI supports the ongoing mission of the United States Department of Transportation's Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program to prepare students to become the next transportation leaders by taking an early interest in classes in math and science leaning towards the development of a curriculum that interests students in transportation. The goal is to provide them with the tools and technology to develop skills for qualification for technical courses in college that can be applied to future careers and leadership in transportation.

Speaking of leadership, a recognition of Leadership of Excellence was presented to Chair, MTI Board of Trustees Nuria Fernandez, a most profound steward of the transportation industry. Alva Carrasco received an award as MSTM MTI Alumna of the Year.

It was a wonderful time to be had by all graduates and their families. This year we were treated to live music by San Jose State University's School of Music and Dance Student Jazz Trio.

The 25th MTI Banquet marked our last time to see Dr. Peter Haas acting as the Education Director for the Mineta Transportation Institute, as Dr. Haas was scheduled to retire in 2017. We took the opportunity to thank him for his service and to wish him well in retirement ... and we hope to reunite with him at the annual banquet in the years to come.

Bidding a Fond Farewell to Dr. Haas and Congratulations, Class of 2017!!!

*Ready, set, go! Our 2017 MSTM Graduates are Prepared to Lead our Transportation Industry into a Brighter Future.*



*Mark your calendars for the 26th Annual Banquet on June 23, 2018!*



## Call for Nominations for 2018 ALUMNUS OR ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Do you know of an outstanding graduate of the MSTM Program who you'd like to nominate for the MTI Alumna/Alumnus of the Year Award? The honoree should excel in his or her professional development which includes career achievements, continued commitment to the MSTM program, mentorship, and/or distinguished leadership in the transportation industry.

Please take a moment to nominate a deserving alumnus or alumna at <http://www.mticonnect.org/aoy/>. There is no limit to the number of nominations you may submit. All nominations are due by **5 p.m. on April 20, 2018**.

The Alumna/Alumnus of the Year Award winner will be honored at the Annual MTI Banquet & Convocation Ceremony at San Jose State University. For questions, please write to the alumni association ([mticonnect@gmail.com](mailto:mticonnect@gmail.com)).



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

- 2017** – Alva Carrasco, *Deputy Chief Operating Officer*, Sacramento Regional Transit District
- 2016** – Jim Helmer, *LightMoves Consulting, Former Director*: San Jose Department of Transportation
- 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 (Kern COG)



## Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) – Advancing Women in Transportation

*By Brandi Childress, Mineta Transportation Institute, MSTM 2008, WTS Executive Board Member and Communications Chair*

You've graduated with a Masters in Transportation Management and it's time to flex those professional development muscles. There are many organizations that can help you build your network and provide access to our industry's top leaders but there is one, in particular, that is focused on the female gender.

WTS, or Women's Transportation Seminar, is an international organization dedicated to building the future of transportation through the global advancement of women. Boasting

more than 5,000 members, WTS is helping women find opportunity and recognition in the transportation industry. Through its professional activities, networking opportunities, and unparalleled access to industry and government leaders, WTS is turning the glass ceiling into a career portal.

A public agency employee's annual membership dues are only \$95 a year. A membership offers discounted events, programs, training, and access to other member-only benefits.

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One such benefit that is unique to the local WTS San Francisco Bay Area Chapter is the Women's Leadership Series. Program participants develop strategic thinking about their career paths; identify and create the essential ingredients for high functioning teams; and establish skills for ongoing success. It's highly interactive and designed to promote a learning environment through hands-on practice, reflection on experiences, and supportive interpersonal interaction. It involves a robust structure of role-playing, coaching techniques, experiential exercises, and lectures that will provide the practice necessary to create new leadership behaviors and step into empowering mindsets. At the end of the program, participants receive certificates of accomplishment, an unforgettable experience, and a bond with other like-minded professionals.

In the continued spirit of demonstrating commitment to career development, WTS offers two programs. *Careers with Peers* is a workshop-based series for young professionals to help hone their career skills through the advice and mentorship of senior professionals. The *Learn from a Leader* series showcases women leaders across different sectors in an intimate group setting, allowing them to share insights into their unique leadership journeys. To date, this series has featured Alix Bockelman, Director of

Programs and Allocations for Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and Grace Crunican, BART's General Manager – additional esteemed guests are planned for the near future.

The WTS Bay Area Chapter hosts a wide variety of programs from San Francisco to Monterey that is sure to peak your interest. These events feature a panel of professionals, from both the public and private sectors, who share their expertise and news about the latest trends, challenges and opportunities. A good example just this past summer was a WTS co-hosted program with the South Bay Transportation Officials Association about the future of Diridon Station in the heart of downtown San Jose. Top officials from the City of San Jose, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and SPUR discussed the various investments and projects that have been long eyed for this critical transportation hub, against the backdrop of recent negotiations between the City of San Jose and a Silicon Valley tech juggernaut adding a new dimension.

WTS is proud of the breadth and depth of programs we provide. We're also interested in hearing any ideas you may have for future programs or events. To share your thoughts, contact [Brandi Childress](#), Chapter Communications Chair and WTS member since 2006. For more information about WTS, visit [www.wtsinternational.org/sanfrancisco](http://www.wtsinternational.org/sanfrancisco).



*Advancing Women in Transportation*

## MTI Welcomes Its New and Returning Students, Director and Chair

Dear Students,

Congratulations and welcome to San Jose State University's Lucas Graduate School of Business. We are pleased you have joined the graduate and professional student community of the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI). We had 27 graduates in 2017. The total enrollment for fall 2017 is 53 students.

The 2017-2018 academic year will be overseen by Dr. Asha Weinstein Agrawal (she has taken over as Director of Education after Dr. Haas' retirement) and a team of exceptional instructors, including Elizabeth Alexis, Dr. James Brent, Dr. Andrea Broaddus, Brandi Childress, Dr. Nick Compin, Dr. Frances Edwards, Dan Goodrich, Dr. Joseph Kott, Dr. Hilary Nixon, Dr. Beverly Scott, and Ben Tripousis. As some inspiration to keep your working toward the fulfillment of your MSTM degree, here is a message from MTI's new Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Grace Crunican:

"Congratulations to all students who graduated in June, and new students. The MTI degree will give you insight into the transport industry and will enable you to develop a strong network of agencies and dedicated leaders."

*By Olivia Rocha, Mineta Transportation Institute, MSTM 2015, and Rachel Donovan, MSTM 2011.*

## Three Cheers for the MSTM Class of 2017 Valedictorians!

### **Exclusive Interview with Jane Shinn and Adam Burger, Co-Valedictorians, Mineta Transportation Institute 2017**

*By Walter Allen, Mineta Transportation Institute, MSTM 2007*

I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Brandi Childress, MTI alumna class of 2008, to get to know our MTI Valedictorians from the Class of 2017 – Jane Shinn and Adam Burger. They both work for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), took classes together, graduated at the same time, and have very bright futures at VTA.

Jane has been with VTA for 16 years, starting as a Human Resource Analyst. She now serves as a Senior Management Analyst with the

awesome responsibility of administering VTA's recent sales tax program.

Adam started his career with VTA in 2003 as a Transportation Planner. He has risen through the ranks over the years, now serving as a Senior Transportation Planner. His biggest accomplishment to date has been leading the latest transit redesign effort for VTA – an 18-month comprehensive planning and public engagement process that revamped the network that will go into effect when the BART Silicon Valley Extension opens in Summer 2018.

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We now launch into the *MTI InterBrew* (Editor's note: get it? Interview + BEER = InterBrew! Oh dear ...). InterBrew is the time when we ask recent grads to answer a smattering of questions, possibly over a brew or two. Here is what we learned...

**WRA: How did you get started in the transportation field?**

JS: My background is in mental health. I wanted a job with different responsibilities (and a higher income!) and there was an

opening at VTA for a Human Resources Analyst.

AB: I have always been interested in how cities work and loved playing games like SimCity. I started riding VTA as a teenager – and still do – so I was familiar with public transit. When I was in college, I was looking for an internship in the public sector and I connected with VTA. They must have liked my work, because I landed a full time position soon after I graduated.

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2017 MSTM Co-Valedictorians Jane Shinn and Adam Berger with MSTM Alumni Walt Allen ('07) and Brandi Childress ('08) (Clockwise from lower left)

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**WRA: What are your current work responsibilities?**

JS: I manage the development and administration of our 2016 Measure B Sales Tax Program. We will distribute over \$6 billion to nine program categories in 15 different cities and Santa Clara County. One of the biggest challenges is to develop program category guidelines that are fair and equitable to all entities.

AB: Right now, I am leading some efforts to improve and expand VTA's transit network including upgrading existing routes to bus rapid transit and studying new light rail corridors. I'm also gearing up to implement a completely redesigned transit network coinciding next year.

**WRA: What has been the impact of MTI on your transportation career?**

JS: MTI definitely helped me improve my presentation skills. Being required to present in most of the classes, I learned a lot about what a good presentation should look like as

well as how it should be presented.

AB: Colleagues have told me that they've seen me hit a new gear in my work. By learning about marketing, high speed rail, transportation policy and by doing my own research for the Capstone project, I've become

an expert on more topics and that has opened more doors for me at the office.

**WRA: Did you have any favorite teachers or classes?**

JS: My favorite class was Dr. James Brent's Transportation Policy and Regulation class. Jim Helmer was also helpful by directing us to write our Personal Strategic Plan.

AB: I especially enjoyed the classes by Will Kempton, Matt Raymond and James Brent and have used material I learned in those classes in my work, but I think I

appreciate the leadership class the most. Jim Helmer helped me realize that a goal without a plan is a wish. I often think about the steps I need to take to improve as an employee and a person to make sure I reach my goals.

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MSTM '17 Co-Valedictorians Jane Shinn & Adam Berger



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**WRA: What role did your employer play in supporting the completion of your Master's Degree?**

JS and AB: VTA employee and friend, Brandi Childress, has had a big impact by encouraging us to join the program and keep us motivated. Both of our VTA managers encouraged us to stick with the program and bring our new ideas into the workplace. They valued this educational experience.

**WRA: Please describe your capstone project.**

JS: My capstone investigates whether a project scoring process, used by VTA to help determine which projects would qualify for inclusion in their 2016 sales tax measure, is an effective method for establishing a list of projects for a sales tax measure.

AB: I evaluated the viability of public agencies operating app-based ride-hailing services to compete Uber and Lyft. I focused on a pilot project that VTA operated that tried to do just that. I was able to use loads of VTA operational data to understand how people used the service and what lessons could be learned. My verdict: leave those services to private companies.

**WRA: Do you have any final comments that you want to pass along to our readers?**

JS: Going through the program has reminded me why transportation is such an important and exciting part of our lives. It has given me an increased passion for my work. It's good to find a buddy in the program who can encourage you and discuss new ideas.

AB: I recommend that everyone write their own Personal Strategic Plan and keep it updated.

**WRA: Here are some resources to help with writing your own Personal Strategic Plan.**

<https://www.associationcareerhq.org/career-management/tips-and-tactics/vernon-strategic-planning>

<https://www.briantracy.com/blog/personal-success/personal-strategic-planning-4-step-action-plan-to-strengthen-your-personal-skills-personal-mission-statement/>

<http://www.writebank.com/personalstratplanwkbk.pdf>

<http://www.apalaweb.org/my-personal-strategic-plan-by-leo-lo/>

Best of luck to Co-Valedictorians Jane Shinn & Adam Berger and to everyone in the 2017 MSTM graduating class!



## SAY IT ISN'T SO! OUR VIVIANN IS RETIRING!

If you haven't heard the news, we hate to break it to you, but ... Viviann Ferea is retiring. After nearly 20 years of being the life line and support line for students in the MSTM and certificate programs, as



well as playing an important role in many aspects of the Mineta Transportation Institute, she will surely be missed. We are putting together comments from students to share with Viviann. Please send your notes of appreciation and farewell, for Viviann, to Brandi Childress at [Brandi.Childress@vta.org](mailto:Brandi.Childress@vta.org).

Current student Lorena Bernal-Vidal is organizing a happy hour (after work get-together) for Viviann on April 19, 2018. Another chance to see Viviann will be at the MSTM Alumni / Current Student gathering at the home of an alum in Santa Cruz on Sunday, April 29, 2018. Contact Brandi Childress at [Brandi.Childress@vta.org](mailto:Brandi.Childress@vta.org) for the address for the location / address of both events.

## JOIN US FOR A POT LUCK AND BBQ IN SANTA CRUZ! APRIL 29, 2018

Alumni, faculty (past and present), current students, and families (significant others and children welcome) are invited to join us for some fun and networking at the scenic home of one of your esteemed alumni ... our MTIAA Vice President, Donna Maurillo. The location is in Santa Cruz, California (a 40-minute drive from the San Jose State University campus). It's

a pot luck, so bring your favorite dish or some items to put on the grill. Please RSVP (include head count) with Brandi Childress ([Brandi.Childress@vta.org](mailto:Brandi.Childress@vta.org)). She will send you the address of the home.

**DATE: Sunday, April 29, 2018**

**TIME: 12:00 Noon to 4:00 P.M.**

Looking forward to seeing everybody!

**INTRODUCING ... MTI's New Director of Education ...**

**Dr. Asha Weinstein Agrawal** has been named MTI's new Director of Education, a role she adds on to her other work as Director of the MTI National Transportation Finance Center and a Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at San José State. She accepted this new challenge in August after the retirement of Dr. Peter Haas, who served as the Education Director for 16 years. No stranger to MTI, Asha has been a Research Associate for many years, authoring and co-authoring 24 reports for the institute.

Her research agenda is guided by a commitment to the principles of sustainability and equity: what planning and policy tools can communities adopt to encourage environmentally-friendly travel and improve accessibility for people struggling with poverty or other disadvantages? She has explored this question most deeply through two substantive areas – transportation finance policy and the travel behavior of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders. (You can see her portfolio of publications at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/urbanplanning/facstaff/AshaWeinsteinAgrawal/index.html> )



Fall 2018 Registration is OPEN! Please help us spread the word!

With Viviann retiring (It's true! See story on opposite page), we will need more help than ever to get the word out about the Master of Science in Transportation Management degree. Do you work with colleagues who could benefit from the management training provided by the MSTM program? Please encourage them 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](mailto:asha.weinstein.agrawal@sjsu.edu) ) to hold an in-person drop-in session at your company or agency.

## Meet Asha. MTI's New Director of Education

*By Brandi Childress, Mineta Transportation Institute, MSTM 2008*

*We asked Asha a few questions to get to know her better, and here's what we learned: she's deeply rooted in transportation research and policy; loves to travel with her husband and young son; and has some exciting ideas for the MSTM Program.*

### **Did you find transportation or did transportation find you?**

I found transportation, but only after a long, circuitous chained trip that included stops for a bachelor's degree in Folklore and Mythology and a year working for NYC's Central Park.

As a child and teenager I discovered that I loved wandering around cities on foot. I had a chance to do this in many places around the world, so I saw how much urban environments vary and realized that many U.S. communities offer a very poor quality walking experience. Thus, I developed an interest in learning how to improve neighborhoods that aren't pedestrian-friendly. Later, during a master's program in urban planning I chose to write papers on congestion pricing and government promotion of electric vehicles. But even at that point I saw myself as a "planning" person, not a "transportation" person.

A year after finishing my master's degree, I decided to apply to UC Berkeley's doctoral program in planning and checked with the student advisor to find out whether there were scholarships available. Upon learning that the only planning students who regularly received any financial aid were those specializing in transportation, I sat right down and wrote an application essay explaining why I was determined to pursue a career in transportation! In the end, I was accepted at Berkeley, received a small

scholarship my first year, and more than two decades later here I am working in transportation.

I see my experience as a testament to the value of the federal and state funded [University Transportation Center program](#) that supports transportation research and education. I easily might have gone into a different field without that first scholarship from the University of California Transportation Center.

### **What are your goals as the new Director of Education, and what is your vision for the MSTM program?**

From my first official day on the job on August 23, I have been excited to take on the challenge to lead such a distinguished program. Dr. Peter Haas and Education Assistant Viviann Ferea have done a terrific job keeping this program strong, even as funding and enrollment fluctuated over the years. I am impressed by the committed alumni and by MTT's distinguished practitioners who contribute so much to the program and transportation industry.

It's been a while since anyone has paused to take stock of what the MSTM program has to offer. Because I bring a fresh pair of eyes to the program, I'm in the ideal position to explore how we can update the curriculum, whether that means tinkering with the content in the core classes or offering a new elective. For example, I'd like to introduce an elective that focuses on a new challenge facing our industry, such as how transportation leaders can effectively prepare for a future that includes autonomous vehicles. Next fall I plan to convene an advisory group of employers of MSTM

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graduates, faculty, current students, and alumni to assess the curriculum and identify options to strengthen it.

Another pipe dream I have is to combine my love of travel and education, because there is much to learn from other countries. I am currently exploring whether the MSTM program can offer a study-abroad course. My initial thought is a ten-day, accelerated class in England where students learn about different ways to balance public vs. private ownership and management of transportation infrastructure. In the spirit of gaining feedback from others to introduce new opportunities, I welcome ideas for the curriculum for such a class. I would also be grateful to those who can connect me to organizations that might sponsor the program to reduce students' tuition costs.

New curriculum and unique educational opportunities could help us attract new students, and recruitment is one of my top priorities. To carry on the program's tradition of excellence, we must continue to recruit a stellar group of students who will use what they learn in their MSTM courses to excel at their work and move up the organizational ladder.

### **What do you like to do during your downtime (if there is such a thing)?**

I usually prioritize time with my husband and son during downtime. Since I like to cook and eat, meals are a big part of my time with them. I also love to travel. My husband is from India, so my son got his passport at two months old, traveled to India at five months, and had frequent flier "status" a couple of months after that. He's now six years old and has already traveled in six countries outside the US. He particularly liked Switzerland because every day was a multi-modal

transportation day on some mix of buses, street cars, heavy rail, boats, mountain gondolas . . . .

### **You are a woman in a top leadership role. What needs to happen to get more women in such roles?**

I see two productive approaches. First, encourage women to earn civil engineering degrees with a transportation specialization, so that more women are qualified for this work. MTI-funded [research](#) that I conducted on this topic suggests that a fruitful approach is to help students see how a transportation career isn't just about pavement, steel, and traffic signal timing – that the job can incorporate more people-focused tasks like working with community members, or leading and persuading others. Second, we need to proactively recruit for the transportation industry in fields where women are already well represented, such as public policy, marketing and finance. Right now, students graduating in those fields aren't likely to even consider a career in transportation.

MTI is helping to expose young people to career opportunities in transportation through our [Garrett Morgan Sustainable Transportation Competition](#) and [Summer Transportation Institute](#). These programs offer middle school and high school students insight into transportation issues and careers through a mix of classroom instruction, field trips to transit and infrastructure sites, and interaction with transportation professionals.



**Welcome, Asha!**

## Our Alumni: Where are they now? Catching up with Trent Bachman

By Ann Calnan, Mineta Transportation Institute, MSTM 2012

Trent Bachman is a 2012 MTI graduate and friend who I met through the MTI program. I affectionately call him “alpha dog,” as he is a true leader (and was first in line at our graduation ceremony, having the last name beginning with “B”). I truly admire Trent for his never-ending enthusiasm and interest in his profession, his tenacious drive to make his organization a better place to work, and his sincere desire to enhance the customer experience on public transit. I’d like to share with you some of Trent’s many accomplishments since we became classmates and eventual friends.

Trent started the MTI MSTM program in 2010 while working full-time as Trainmaster of Terminal Operations at the Caltrain Centralized Equipment Maintenance and Operations Facility in San Jose. As Trainmaster, Trent coordinated all train and equipment movement for inspection and/or repair and responded to accidents on the Caltrain system, including the unfortunate suicide incidents. Occasionally, Trent received emergency calls during class and rushed out to respond. Not a pleasant job at times, but one he performed with dignity and sensitivity.

In December 2011, in Trent’s second year at MTI, he moved to the Boston area to accept a promotion as Assistant Superintendent of Operations of Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor. I was sad to see Trent move away, but happy he was moving on to new and exciting opportunities. In this position, Trent supervised four managers of over 200 employees in onboard service operations. Trent diligently continued to pursue his studies at MTI by attending classes via telephone, which is one of the great features of the MTI program – remote participation!



In September 2013, Trent accepted the position of Superintendent of Passenger Services of the Northeast Corridor. Trent was the only applicant with a Master’s degree, and he attributes the MTI program as a major factor in qualifying for this highly

coveted position, in charge of Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor stations. Before his retirement in 2018, Trent supervised nine managers in areas of operations, repair, renovations, and customer service. Trent particularly liked the station renovation aspect of his work, as he could incorporate six years of previous architectural study.

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In 2017, Trent and fellow co-workers received the Safety Committee of the Year Award at Amtrak's annual President's Safety and Service Awards in Washington, DC.

The award celebrates employees who contribute to the organization in exemplary ways. The Division Road Safety Committee focuses on improving the security of Amtrak employees and customers. Notable projects include managing trash and debris hazards, enhancing communications for train operators, and upgrading snow markers to guide engineers and limit right-of-way obstructions. I am happy he was acknowledged by Amtrak for his outstanding work.

In his spare time, Trent is an aviator in the Coast Guard Auxiliary Aviation Program and flies missions for the U.S. Coast Guard, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and Department of Homeland Security. Trent is also a licensed chiropractor in California, Massachusetts, and Colorado. Trent is a man of many talents! Trent recently retired from Amtrak and we wish him well in his retirement. If you'd like to be in touch, Trent can be reached at [trbachman@cs.com](mailto:trbachman@cs.com)



Trent Bachman (MSTM '11) (Seated, first one on the left) and fellow Amtrak employees receiving the President's Safety and Service award.



**ALUMNI  
ALERT**

Send your alumni stories to  
[mticonnect@gmail.com](mailto:mticonnect@gmail.com)



Visit our web site:  
**WWW.MTICONNECT.ORG**

The “www” is not optional. Type it in, and you will find: MTI banquet photos, info on the Alum of the Year (AOY) (including how to nominate someone), archived editions of this newsletter, and more.

**2018 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)

**Want to join the team?**

E-mail us at  
MTIconnect@gmail.com

**MTI MSTM Alumni Association**  
San Jose, California  
[www.MTIconnect.org](http://www.MTIconnect.org)

## Classmate Updates

- ◆ **Mr. Joseph Rye ('05)** - Retired as Transit Division Manager at City of Petaluma (Petaluma Transit) after 8.5 years. Starting as Contract General Manager at Redwood Coast Transit in Crescent City, CA.
- ◆ **Ms. Jillian Guizado ('16)** – Currently serving as Legislative Affairs Manager for the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC).
- ◆ **Mr. Carter Mau ('99)** – Previously serving as Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)'s Executive Manager, Office of Planning and Budget, Carter has a new job as Deputy CEO/General Manager at San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans).
- ◆ **Ms. Brandi Childress ('08)** has been promoted to Media and Public Affairs Manager for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority; in the 2017/2018 academic year, she joined the faculty of MTI as an instructor.

### Other news at MTI:

- ◆ **Dr. Peter Haas** - MTI's Director of Education for the past 16 years has retired! **Dr. Asha Weinstein Agrawal** is the new Director of Education.
- ◆ **Nuria Fernandez** – Received the Recognition of Leadership Excellence at the June 2017 MTI Banquet & Convocation and passed the torch on to incoming Board President **Grace Crunican**. BART General Manager.
- ◆ **Viviann Ferea** has announced her retirement from MTI as of May 2018.

Send your classmate updates to:  
[MTIconnect@gmail.com](mailto:MTIconnect@gmail.com)

## IN MEMORY

*George Ted Yurek '09 passed away in Baltimore, Maryland, in September 2017. He was a strong advocate for public transportation and will be greatly missed.*