



Contacting the MSTM Alumni Association

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RSVP for the Annual MTI Banquet!

Saturday, June 23, 2018

www.mticonnect.org/convocation

Upcoming MTI Banquet & Convocation Ceremony

The next Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) Awards Banquet and Convocation Ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 23, 2018, at San Jose State University.

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 Caltrans Director **Laurie Berman**, who, in March 2018, filled the post vacated by outgoing Director Malcom Dougherty. Prior to this, Laurie Berman served as Director of Caltrans District 11 (San Diego) for 8 years. We look forward to hearing her remarks. Every year the MTI Banquet is a star-studded event, attended by many of California's transportation luminaries, including distinguished guest **Norman Y. Mineta**. We will be honoring the candidates for the Master's Degree, along with the recipients of other awards, including the MTI Alumnus of the Year (AOY): **Carter Mau**.

To attend, please contact Jill Carter [jill.carter@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:

- ◆ Herb Polenta topped with Wild Mushroom Ragu and Garlic Green Beans
- ◆ Grilled New York Steak with a Red Wine -Balsamic Reduction served with Garlic Roasted Herb Potatoes, Lemon Asparagus, Fried Shallots and Micro Greens
- ◆ Stuffed Chicken with Beurre Blanc Sauce, served with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Roasted Vegetables

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

If you'd like to sit with the other alumni, be sure to specify that you want to be seated at the alumni table. It's the best party of the year ... time to celebrate!

Tickets are \$60.00. 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 Jill Carter [jill.carter@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), 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, led MTM 290 instructor Dr. Hilary Nixon.

- Investigating the barriers to addressing assaults against front line transit employees (**Jonaya Brazil**, Train Operator Employee Development Specialist, San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART))
- Evaluating financial support programs and best practices for supporting small businesses during construction (**Paula Carvajal-Paez**, Business Interruption Fund Manager, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)
- Evaluating transit agencies' response to car sharing (**Adelaida Felix**, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority)
- Evaluating the use of a moving average in determining inventory levels (**Roland K. Fowlks**, Manager—Inventory Management, BART)
- Evaluating the California High-Speed Rail Authority's station area development policies and their effectiveness in selecting station locations that will maximize ridership and revenue (**Ryan Greenway**, Lead Planner / Environmental Manager, WSP / Rail Delivery Partner, California High Speed Rail Authority)
- Exploring ways to improve bus transit ridership on the El Camino Real (ECR) Route operated by SamTrans (**Alex Lam**, Senior Planner, SamTrans)
- Evaluating BART's new program of employing unarmed police employees to confront fare evaders (**Walter G. Padilla**, Communications Foreworker, BART)
- Examining the role of community engagement and public outreach in the VTA's "Next Network" transit ridership improvement program (**Mehakmeet K. Saini**, Human Resources Analyst-Office of Civil Rights, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA))
- Comparing cost effectiveness and maintenance requirements for zero emission and diesel buses (**Foday Tarah**, Bus Operator, SamTrans)
- Studying the attributes of management in the labor-management partnership between the VTA and the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 265 (**Lisa Rae Vickery**, Transportation Superintendent, VTA)
- Investigating methods for public transit agencies to collaborate with privately owned transportation network companies within the current regulatory environment (**Aaron J. Vogel**, Regional Transportation Services Manager, VTA)
- Evaluating BART's policies regarding homeless riders on the BART system, including on trains and in and near train stations (**Destiny LaVonne Wilson**, Community Service Officer, BART)
- Evaluating the administration of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)'s Safe Routes to Transit Program (**Jackie C. Yang**, Senior Associate, Lea+Elliott, Inc.)
- Evaluating the Federal Railroad Administration's pilot program to implement confidential close call reporting (**Rebecca Alisa Zelt**, Metro Transit, Superintendent of Rail Safety, King County Department of Transportation)



Congratulations, Graduates!

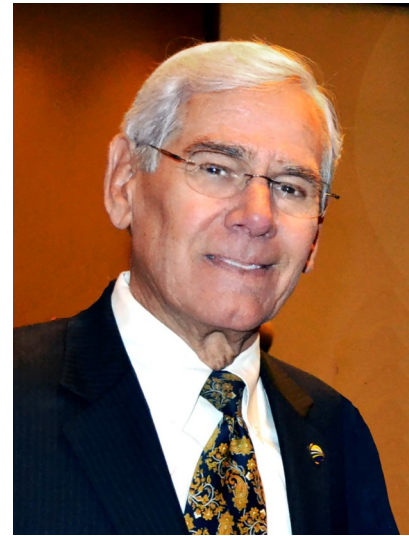


Rod Diridon Keeps up the Pace

By Donna R. Maurillo, MSTM '11

If anyone thinks Rod Diridon has slowed down since retiring from his leadership position at MTI, they would be terribly misinformed. I met him for lunch at the Capitol Club recently, and for two hours, we talked about many of the activities that keep him busy. For a guy who's pushing 80, he could give the Energizer Bunny a run for his money.

First, he continues his involvement with high-speed rail, both nationally and in California. Rod is in his ninth year heading the U.S. High Speed Rail Association. In this role, he travels around the country giving speeches and legislative testimony. He recently published an op-ed in the San Jose Mercury News praising the California project and telling the naysayers to get out of the way.



Along those lines, he's still president and founder of the California Trolley and Railroad Corp., which has been restoring nearly a dozen historic trolley cars, steam engines, and rail cars. The organization is also planning a steam railroad museum.

But not everything is about rail. Rod is now chair of the Lincoln Law School of San Jose, which provides quality legal education for very bright but overlooked new immigrants, veterans, single-parent heads of households, and working poor.

And in his remaining time, he chairs the Santa Clara County National Heritage Area (NHA) Task Force. Receiving an NHA designation—the first on the west coast—would allow the organization to receive federal funds. Rod is also chair emeritus of the Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters.

Some of you may not be aware that Rod underwent surgery for a benign tumor a few years ago. The surgery affected his vocal cords, which limited his vocal volume, but not his passion for influencing voters and legislators. He was recently hospitalized for pneumonia, but he has bounced back like the tough bird he has always been.

Rod says he has too much to do before he reaches the end of the trail. As he puts it, "I am trying to shift the leadership of the community groups to the next generation, but I am too much of a patsy for a good cause. It seems that retirement means you work harder, with less staff support, at more odd hours, and with no pay. Great program! Maybe we could unionize volunteers?"



Three Cheers for the 2018 MTI MSTM Alumnus of the Year!

As MTI Alumni Association President, it is my honor to announce Carter Mau as the 2018 MTI Alumnus of the Year. Carter Mau was a member of the very first class of graduates in 1999 and exemplifies everything that the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) strives to encourage through the Master of Science in Transportation Management (MSTM) program.

Carter Mau was widely admired as a manager at BART for his leadership and grace under pressure. I first met Carter Mau when he came to our class on Leadership, taught by Jim Helmer. A year or two later, while riding BART, I noticed Carter Mau was another passenger in the same car ... I went up to talk to him, and he remembered me. He asked me about my Capstone project. When I told him about an idea for an experiment involving active transportation, he said he would like to help me implement the idea at BART. Wow! I couldn't believe that someone so high up would be willing to help a student like me. This is only one example of how Carter Mau has continually shown his commitment to mentorship, innovation and public service. On behalf of the alumni association, I would like to congratulate Carter Mau. I hope his story will inspire the next generation of students.

Rachel Donovan '11, MTIAA President

Read more about Carter Mau's story in the interview below, conducted by:

MSTM Alumna Olivia Rocha ('15)

-Tell us about your experience, being in the first class to graduate with the MSTM degree.

Being part of the first class of the Mineta Program was a learning experience, for both the students and the program itself. The program had a "framework" in place.. However, teleconferencing technology was not as developed as it is today. Some evenings we had sound and no picture, or picture with no sound; regardless, the instructors and the students made it



Carter Mau ('99)

2018 MTI MSTM Alumnus of the Year (AOY)

work. Being a member of the original class, it's very gratifying to see what the Mineta Institute has become today.

-What sparked your interest in transportation?

I became interested in transportation when I attended San Francisco State University. I hadn't selected a major yet. I took an Urban Geography course and that piqued my interest in planning and urban studies. I enrolled in an Urban Transportation course taught by Denise Pinkston. As part of the coursework,

... Continued on next page. ...

Announcing: the 2017 MTI MSTM Alum of the Year!

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we watched the movie “Planes, Trains, and Automobiles” with Steve Martin and John Candy. Let’s just say I laughed a lot, and I’ve been studying and working in the transportation field ever since.

- What has your career ladder been like?

My first job was with the California Department of Transportation – District 10 in Stockton. As a Transportation Planner, I reviewed environmental impact reports and worked on highway systems planning documents.

After 4 years at Caltrans – District 10, I came back to the Bay Area and worked in a variety of planning roles for SamTrans, Caltrain, and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority. I started off in grants management and programming, working extensively with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Federal Transit Administration. Later in my career, one of my responsibilities was being the SamTrans liaison to BART, during construction of the extension to the San Francisco International Airport through San Mateo County. I worked for SamTrans for 9 years before being hired by BART.

At BART, I had a wide variety of responsibilities, ranging from developing a station naming policy, to parking programs, to managing a \$1.8 billion dollar annual capital and operating budget. Perhaps my most notable and “notorious” achievement during my tenure at BART was developing the paid parking program that exists today. After having free parking at BART for decades, it was a difficult, uphill battle, to implement paid parking. My proudest achievement at BART was navigating the Dis-

trict through the recession as the BART budget manager, without major service cuts or involuntary layoffs. My final position at BART was Assistant General Manager of Administration and Budget.

I worked for BART for nearly 14 years, before I came back to SamTrans in October of 2017. I am currently the Deputy General Manager/CEO for SamTrans, Caltrain, and the San Mateo County TA.

So I’ve truly had a “multimodal” transportation career, ranging from highways and roads, to bus, to urban and commuter railroads.

Favorite Quote – “You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take” – Wayne Gretzky

- Do you have a message for the incoming and current students in the MSTM program?

Being part of the Mineta program gives you an opportunity to “jumpstart” your career. It certainly did for me. When my General Manager found out I had enrolled in the program, it was an indicator to him that I was looking to advance my career in transportation, that I was expanding my skill sets, and that I was doing so proactively. When he realized that, he provided me with opportunities to grow that might otherwise may not have happened. Use the Mineta Program to help you open avenues that might not otherwise be available to you.



Happy Hour and BBQ Wrap-Up: Wishing Viviann Ferea All the Best in her Retirement!



WE HAD A BLAST!
MTI MSTM Alumni & Current Students
Happy Hour: San Jose, 04/19/18.
BBQ at Donna House in Santa Cruz, 04/29/18.
Good luck & stay in touch, Viviann!



MTI Represents! At the Movie Premiere of An American Story: Norm Mineta & His Legacy

By Rachel Donovan, MSTM '11

On May 10, 2018, alumni and faculty of the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) attended the WORLD PREMIERE of a documentary about our very own Norm Mineta! (*See PHOTOS on next page.*)

The Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) chose “An American Story: Norman Mineta & his Legacy” for the opening night of the film festival, now in its 36th year. The 60-minute documentary premiered to a full house at the historic Castro Theater in San Francisco. Norm Mineta, 86 years old, walked the red carpet with his wife, Deni, and filmmakers Dianne Fukami and Debra Nakatomi. Prior to the screening, former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown presented Mineta with the Asian Pacific American Heritage Award for Lifetime Impact, and the two shared a laugh with the ease of old friends.

After the screening of the movie, Norm Mineta took the stage with the filmmakers for a Question & Answer session. Fukami and Nakatomi said they asked Mineta many times, over the years, for permission to make this film, until at last, Norm agreed. Norm said that people were asking him to write a book about his life, and upon considering it, he decided a movie might be better. It took a lot of courage to trust others to make this film, especially as Fukami had promised to tell the whole story, “warts and all.” This was Norm and Deni’s first time seeing the movie in full ... the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that they were quite honored by the experience. I myself was so moved, I wanted to see the film again, as it included many worthwhile lessons. You will find more information on the film at this web site: www.minetalegacyproject.com.

During the movie, I was reminded once again of how deep the roots of racism go in our country, and meanwhile I was amazed to see how resilient Norm Mineta has been, thorough it all. How many people would dedicate themselves to a life of public service in a country that saw fit to take you and your family away from your home, school, job and friends and intern you in a remote place? Always pragmatic, Norm Mineta says that the injustices all

around us only underscore the importance of running for public office, especially if you are a member of a minority group ... we must have a seat at the table for our voices to be heard. Interestingly, while being interned at Heart Mountain in Wyoming, Mineta met and befriended another Boy Scout, Alan Simpson from nearby Cody, Wyoming. Who could have guessed that one day both would be serving the country in the U.S. Capitol? As a member of the House of Representatives, not only did Mineta help with transportation legislation like the Intermodal Surface and Transportation Equity Act (ISTEA), he led the initiative to seek reparations for Japanese Americans interned, as he was, during World War II, with co-sponsorship from his old friend, Alan Simpson, Senator from Wyoming.

Norm Mineta found his calling in public service, being the first non-white member appointed to the San Jose City Council (1967), the first Asian American to become mayor of a major U.S. city (San Jose, 1971), the first Japanese American member of Congress elected from the lower 48 states (1975), and the first Asian American Cabinet Member (under Bill Clinton, 2000, and George W. Bush, 2001). As a member of the House of Representatives in Washington, DC, he flew back to meet with constituents in his home district of San Jose nearly every weekend. One of the stories from the documentary was that Norm Mineta borrowed a wheel chair and wheeled around San Jose to find out what was needed for Americans with disabilities ... and that’s why we now have curb cuts for wheelchair ramps at today’s intersections.

After the Q&A session at the Castro Theater, Norm and Deni made their way to the Asian American Art Museum in San Francisco, for the Opening Night Gala, where they held court at a white sofa on a red carpet and received well wishes from many admirers. It was a grand celebration of a truly exceptional person.

With his tireless work ethic, integrity, humility, and dedication to public service, Norm Mineta embodies everything that we strive to be, as students of the Institute that bears his name. As Mineta said, “If you don’t care who gets the credit, you can achieve many things.”



Visit our web site:

WWW.MTICONNECT.ORG

For past banquet photos, Alum of the Year (AOY) (including how to nominate someone), and archived editions of this newsletter.

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)

Simon Oh ('16)

Want to join the team?

E-mail us at
mticonnect@gmail.com



MSTM Alumni: Classmate Updates

- ◆ **Mr. Michael Lemon ('12)** - Currently serving as Superintendent of Power Mechanical Maintenance at BART.
- ◆ **Ms. Alma Basurto ('16)** - Promoted to Program Manager 1 in the Office of Civil Rights at BART.
- ◆ **Ms. Rachel Lockett ('17)** - Promoted to Operations Supervisor Liaison in Maintenance & Engineering at BART.
- ◆ **Ms. Elizabeth Aigbekaen ('17)** - Promoted to Transportation Operations Foreworker for Transportation at BART.
- ◆ **Ms. Donna Maurillo ('11)** - Completed a 2-year contract as Technical Content Manager for Cisco specializing in cybersecurity; also consulting to Stanford Hospital and several other companies.
- ◆ **Mr. Rashidi Barnes ('12)** - Served as the Senior Manager of Transportation for 4.5 years before becoming Director of Innovation and Shared Mobility at The County Connection (CCCTA). Currently serving as Director of Business Development—Mobility as a Service (Maas) at First Group America.
- ◆ **Ms. Rachel Russell ('16)** - Completed the American Public Transit Association (APTA) Emerging Leaders Program, a 12-month long intensive program, with workshops, collaboration and mentorship with top transportation leaders.
- ◆ **Mr. Taylor Rutsch ('17)** - Started a new job as Transportation Planner for the San Francisco Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA), after working for the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) for 3 years.

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.