



Graduate Student Luncheon  
with  
Peter Appel

February 18, 2011

Student Bios





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# Texas A&M University

## Zachry Department of Civil Engineering

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### ***Shailesh Chandra***

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#### Research

Shailesh Chandra is presently working on the project titled “Evaluating the Effect of Street Network Connectivity on First/Last Mile Transit Performance”. This project will identify current issues related to improving connectivity to transit within planning environments, as well as within project design and implementation. It is being sponsored by The Southwest Region University Transportation Center (SWUTC). The project started on 9/1/10 and the estimated completion date is 8/31/11. The estimated cost is \$40,000.

#### Bio

Shailesh Chandra graduated with a Bachelor of Technology (2006) in Civil Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. Further, he obtained his Master’s degree (2009) in Civil Engineering with a specialization in Transportation Engineering at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Currently, he is a PhD student in the Transportation Engineering division of the Zachary Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University - College Station. Throughout his education at Texas A&M, he has been funded as either a GAR or a GAT. His research interest includes transit systems, stochastic applications in transportation planning, optimization and simulation.



## ***Pei-Fen Kuo***

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### Research

Pei-Fen is currently working with the Traffic Safety Center in Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) to develop the procedure for identifying hotspots that have high crash and crime risk. The objective is to help law enforcement departments to reduce crash and crime rate by allocating limited resources on the hazardous areas more effectively. Her responsibility in this project is to organize the optimal patrol route and evaluate its possible effectiveness.

### Bio

Pei-fen Kuo is a fourth year PH.D student in the Transportation Engineering Program of Civil Engineering Department of Texas A&M University and a graduate research assistant in Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) for last four years.

Prior to becoming a PH.D student of Texas A&M University, Pei-fen was an accomplished traffic engineer in Taiwan. She was an engineer in the Department of Transportation in Taipei city government and Civil Aeronautics Administration in Taiwan. She was chosen to attend the Airport Engineering Course at Singapore Aviation Academy and represented her department to visit the Incheon International Airport in Korea and the Narita International Airport in Japan. Also, she won 2010 Keese-Wootan Transportation Fellowship.

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## ***Wei Lu***

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979-402-9055

### Research

Project Title: "The Multiple Vehicle MAST Service: Design and Scheduling," [DOT](#) (through [UTCM](#)), September 2010 - Present.

Topic: The Multi-MAST system design and optimization. (Advisor: Dr. Luca

Quadrifoglio)

The mobility allowance shuttle transit (MAST) system is a hybrid transit system in which vehicles are allowed to deviate from a fixed route to serve flexible demand (also called as route-deviation). While the simple one-vehicle case has obtained some attention from researchers, the multi-vehicle/multi-depot case has not yet been addressed by the literature. This research will address the gap in terms of formulating the corresponding scheduling problem (a mixed integer programming formulation) and study its best design in terms of fleet size. Sensitivity analysis and case studies will also be addressed after collecting data from transit agencies.

## Bio

### **M.S. in Transportation Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. August 2011 (expected)**

- Research Assistantship/UTCM Fellowship, Summer 2010 - present
- Teaching Assistantship, Spring 2010
- Texas A&M Graduate Fellowship, Fall 2009 - Spring 2010

### **B.E. in Hydraulic Engineering, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. July 2009**

- China Aeronautic Science Corporation Scholarship, 2007



## ***Chung-Wei Shen***

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979-402-9055

### Research

Project Title: Evaluating the Use of “Transfers” for Improving Rural Public Transportation Systems

Project Abstract: Due to widely dispersed population density over large and sparsely suburban/rural areas, conventional fixed route transit services hardly satisfy the travel needs of their residents. As an alternative, demand responsive transit (DRT) systems have flexible route and schedules that can provide curb-to-curb/door-to-door services to better meet the needs of rural areas. However, rural DRT services are still extremely costly to operate. In this project we consider a variation of the regular demand responsive transit system which adopts the transfer practice to reduce operating costs. This practice has been adopted by some agencies with zoning rules for the whole service area or trips that need to cross jurisdictional districts; however, the pros and cons need to be carefully assessed. We will evaluate the effect of different transfer operating policies by developing a simulation model of several plausible scenarios. Available data from Houston METRO and other rural transit agencies across Texas will be used for testing. This study will provide decision makers and DRT agencies with information for innovative operating practices to improve the

performance and cost efficiency of rural public transportation systems.

Start date: 2010/1/1

End date: 2011/5/31

Total Dollars: \$80,000

Source Organization: University Transportation Center for Mobility

### Bio

Mr. Chung-Wei Shen received his Bachelor in Transportation and Communication Management Science (2001) from the National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan. He then received his M.S. in Civil Engineering (2003) from National Taiwan University, Taiwan and worked for Department of Transportation of Taipei City Government. He is now a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University – College Station. His research interests are related to the Transportation Systems Modeling and Optimization, Heuristic Algorithms. His current area of focus is the Operation and Design Strategies for ADA Paratransit Services in Rural Area.



### ***Brian Shollar***

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### Research

I am currently working on a University Transportation Center for Mobility (UTCM) sponsored project for the 2011 year (1/1/11-12/31/11). The project, titled “Refining the Real-Timed Urban Mobility Report” is funded at \$155,000. As part of this project, I am reviewing free-flow speeds for arterial streets. In the earlier versions of the Urban Mobility Report (UMR) prior to 2010, the free-flow operating speeds of the freeways and arterial streets were arbitrarily fixed at 60 mph and 35 mph, respectively, for all roadways across the U.S. Since the 2010 Urban Mobility Report (UMR), estimated constant free-flow speed data has been obtained from a private company (INRIX) for each section of roadway. INRIX uses GPS based devices such as cell phones and commercial vehicle mounted units to collect their data. Unlike freeways, free-flow speeds for arterial streets are affected by many different factors and can vary greatly between streets. For instance, individual streets may have different free-flow speeds throughout the day due to different signal timing plans. I have been tasked with determining if one free-flow speed (as has been used in the past) or multiple free-flow speeds are needed to better represent the operations of arterial streets. To accomplish this, I am currently evaluating Bluetooth and INRIX supplied speed data for a variety of arterial corridors in Houston.



## Bio

I have a BS in Civil Engineering from Missouri S&T (2010), and I am currently a Masters (MS) student in Civil Engineering at Texas A&M. I have a Graduate Fellowship from the Southwest University Transportation Center (SWUTC) Transportation Scholars Program (TSP), and a Zachry Fellowship. I have had internships at the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) in the construction (NCDOT) and traffic operations (MoDOT) divisions. I currently have a Graduate Assistantship in Research (GAR) at the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) in the Mobility Analysis group.

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### ***Ben Sperry***

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### Research

Mr. Sperry's research focuses on understanding how existing passenger rail lines contribute to mobility and economic development in intercity corridors, primarily through the collection and analysis of passenger survey data. Through his research activities, he has established working relationships with state department of transportation passenger rail planning staff in states including Illinois, Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin, as well as Amtrak staff in Chicago and Washington, D.C. A secondary research interest focuses on understanding the link between land development and traveler behavior with a specific application to traffic generation data for unique or emerging land uses, including multi-land use developments. Sponsors of Mr. Sperry's research have included the Texas Department of Transportation, the Southwest University Transportation Center, the University Transportation Center for Mobility, and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program.

## Bio

Mr. Ben Sperry is a Graduate Assistant Researcher in the Multimodal Freight Transportation Division of the Texas Transportation Institute. He is currently a Doctoral degree candidate in the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University, and expects to graduate with a Ph.D. in civil engineering in December 2011. He earned his Master's degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M in 2008. A native of Springfield, Illinois, he received his Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Evansville (Indiana) in 2006. He is active in the Texas A&M University Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Student Chapter and has received numerous awards and recognition for his academic endeavors.



## ***Kristen Wallin***

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### Research

Kristen Wallin Novak is currently working on a University Transportation Center for Mobility (UTCM) project entitled “Use of Performance Measurement to Include Air Quality and Energy into Mileage-Based User Fees” under Dr. Reza Farzaneh. The project began January 10, 2010, and will end May 31, 2011.

Mileage-based user fees are currently being studied as a potential funding scheme that could replace the fuel tax. With the increased use of highly fuel efficient vehicles, some drivers are now able to continue using transportation facilities while paying much less in taxes than average drivers. Thus, a fee applied per mile driven, as opposed to per gallon of gasoline purchased, would be more equitable in that drivers would pay in proportion to wear-and-tear they exert on the road. Pricing of mileage fees can be used to implement various policy goals; however, most studies have focused primarily on generating revenue and controlling congestion. This research, on the other hand, is focused on using mileage-based fees to achieve various air quality and energy efficiency goals. Such goals include decreasing pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions. A framework of different performance measures will be used to evaluate the performance of individual vehicles and the transportation system as a whole. The fee leveraged against a driver will then depend on the performance of his or her vehicle and driving characteristics. This project will also form the basis of Kristen’s master thesis.

Prior to this project, Kristen has worked on a report for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to create a framework of general air quality and energy performance measures that could be used by TxDOT to judge their internal performance as an agency and the performance of the state as a whole. Kristen also contributed to Project 08-74 of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), entitled “Sustainability Performance Measures for State Departments of Transportation and Other Transportation Agencies”.

### Bio

Kristen was born in Seattle, Washington, and grew up in Coppell, Texas, near Dallas. She attended Texas A&M University for her undergraduate degree in civil engineering, and graduated summa cum laude in May of 2009 with a 4.0 grade point average. She was funded by the Wofford Cain ’13 Civil Engineering Distinguished Scholarship and a National Merit Scholarship through the university. Her graduate degree was funded through the Southwest University Transportation Center (SWUTC) Transportation Scholars Program and the Tommy E. Knight ’61 Fellowship. Kristen has received a Gathright Award as the top sophomore in the College of Engineering in 2006-2007. During her undergraduate years, Kristen was active in the L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness, Reformed University Fellowship, and her church. She was inducted into Phi Eta

Sigma honor society, Phi Kappa Phi honor society, and Tau Beta Pi honor society for engineers. She also became a member of Chi Epsilon honor society for civil engineers, and served a semester as Editor of the Transit, two semesters as Vice President, and one semester as President. As Editor of the Transit, she attended the 40<sup>th</sup> Chi Epsilon National Conclave at the Stevens Institute of Technology in 2008. Kristen became more involved in meetings of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers when she began her graduate degree at Texas A&M. The focus of her graduate degree has been transportation engineering, and she has worked at the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) as a Graduate Research Assistant in the Center for Air Quality since the fall of 2009. She has also worked a 2006 summer internship at Lee Engineering in Dallas, a 2008 summer internship with the traffic division of Jacobs Engineering in Dallas, and a 2009 summer internship with the highway design division of Jacobs Engineering in Dallas. Currently, Kristen works at the TTI Austin office, where she moved after her recent marriage. Her husband is also a civil engineer from Texas A&M University.

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## ***Yao Xing***

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### Research

My research focuses on improving the efficiency of operations in shipping container terminals. We know that the most important performance measurement in a terminal is the ships' turnaround time – or how quickly a ship can be unloaded and reloaded in the terminal, allowing it to leave. Shorter turnaround times yield higher productivity for the terminal. Compared with the cost of adding more equipment and expanding the land area of a port, increasing the efficiency of the existing equipment is more appealing. Among all the equipment in a terminal, the efficiency and productivity of quay cranes is critical to the whole terminal, so we want improve the operation starting in the quay. One way is to optimize the sequence of its operation – that is, loading or unloading containers according to their stock sequence in the yard and on the ship. Another issue which is more difficult to solve actually causes the main bottleneck in a terminal's operation – how to cooperate the operation between the trucks and the quay cranes.

### Bio

I'm from China and earned my master's degree in Naval Architecture in Shanghai Jiaotong University. I came to Texas A&M University in 2008 as a PhD student of Transportation Engineering. I'm working as a Graduate

Research Assistant for Dr. Luca Quadrifoglio and I have been supported for two years by an independent graduate assistantship from the University Transportation Center for Mobility™.

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## ***Kai Yin***

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Mr. Kai Yin completed his Master's degree in Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University in 2010. His thesis, *Modeling the Process of Information Propagation via Inter-Vehicle Communication Along Two Parallel Roads* earned him the 2010 Pikarsky Award for Outstanding M.S. Thesis in Science & Technology presented by the Council of University Transportation Centers. Mr. Yin is also the recipient of the 2010 ACRP Graduate Research Award on Public-Sector Aviation Issues sponsored by FAA. Currently, he is pursuing his Ph.D. degree under the supervision of Dr. Bruce Wang in Civil Engineering at Texas A&M University with a specific focus on transportation engineering. During the past two years, he worked with Dr. Wang on two SWUTC research projects examining novel transportation systems. This year, Mr. Yin is principal investigator on a SWUTC study to analyze taxiway aircraft traffic at Houston airports.

His interests include traffic operations, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and stochastic modeling with applications in transportation. Mr. Yin's career goal is to be a researcher and teacher in the field of transportation.

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# Texas A&M University

## Bush School of Government and Public Service

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### ***Paul Fagin***

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Paul Fagin graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2006. He majored in political science and history. He interned under the Governor's Fellowship Program for the Texas Workforce Investment Council. In 2007, Paul served as legislative aide to Representative Dwayne Bohac in the 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature. Recently, Paul worked with the Transportation Services Department in the City of Bryan, updating ordinances to reflect Texas law. During his time at the Bush School, Paul completed coursework in transportation city planning, transportation investment decisions, and sustainable development. Through his studies in transportation planning, Mr. Fagin hopes to recognize and identify policy impediments to regional planning process for local governments.



### ***Nicolas Norboge***

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Nicolas Norboge is currently pursuing a Master's of Public Service & Administration degree with a Concentration in Transportation Planning & Policy at the Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M University. In conjunction with his transportation and policy-related coursework, Nicolas was selected in March 2010 to serve as a graduate assistant for senior research economist, Dr. David Ellis, at the Texas Transportation Institute. In this role, he is responsible for preparing policy recommendations for key state committee leaders and local MPOs concerning transportation financing and funding legislation. During the past few months, Nicolas developed a new methodology for determining the economic benefits from investment in transportation and conducted a policy study on state implications from proposed federal cap-and-trade legislation. As part of an accelerated 5-year joint degree program, Nicolas will graduate with both his master's and undergraduate degrees in May 2011.



## ***Jason Wagner***

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Jason Wagner is a Masters of Public Administration degree candidate at the Bush School of Government and Public Service. He focuses on policy analysis, while areas of interest include transportation policy, energy and environmental issues, and science and technology policy. He works as a graduate assistant researcher at the Texas Transportation Institute – Center for Transportation Safety under the tutelage of Dr. Melissa Walden. Some of his previous research includes: an analysis of sobriety checkpoints and the implications of their implementation in Texas, an investigation into the safety impacts of elderly drivers and a discussion of current and future policies, an analysis of pedestrian and cyclist fatal crashes on Texas college campuses and potential policies, and several other areas. He also serves as a board member and outreach director for the Aggie Green Fund – a grant-making organization that provides funds for sustainability projects on the Texas A&M University campus.

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# Texas A&M University

## Department of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning

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### ***Jonathan Brooks***

Graduate Student Researcher, Transit Mobility Program, Texas Transportation Institute

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### Research

My research efforts related to transportation are all in conjunction with my work as a Graduate Student Researcher, Texas Transportation Institute: Transit Mobility Program (May 2010 - Present). I have acted as principal investigator or co-investigator on the three projects and assisted informally on numerous others. The following list includes a description of each of the three primary projects I have been, or am currently, involved with:

- (1) Acted as principal investigator for “Review of Public Transit Services in Henderson County” – a holistic review of current services and future alternatives (128 pages)
- (2) Cleaned survey databases, created ridership factors, and wrote/compiled report of findings for “Sacramento RT: Onboard Survey 2010” (12,088 surveys, ~80 pages)
- (3) Conducted interviews to construct case studies exploring the impact of rural funding formula changes on six rural transit operators in Texas, funded by the University Transportation Center for Mobility (UTCM)

The title of my professional paper, which satisfies writing requirement for M.S. in Urban Planning, is "How to Review Public Transit Need and Services in Rural Counties - A Handbook of Strategies". As the title denotes, my intent is to explain the process and lessons learned as I worked as the principal investigator reviewing public transit in Henderson County, Texas.

In addition to research experience here at Texas A&M University, I participated in other research while a research assistant at Brigham Young University (BYU). I was co-investigator with Dr. Shaunna Burdidge on a project to investigate the prevalence of local ordinances that encourage physical activity (i.e. healthy living) in all cities with population over 5,000 in Utah. The research was funded by the Utah Department of Health. Our paper, titled "An Analysis of CDC Recommended Municipal Transportation Policies as Correlates of Residential

Healthy Lifestyles", was recently accepted for publishing this in the American Journal of Health Promotion. I am co-author of the paper.

## Bio

I earned my bachelor's degree in Geography: Urban, Rural and Environmental Planning from BYU in April 2009. I will graduate this coming May from Texas A&M University (TAMU) with a Master of Urban Planning (MUP) and the Graduate Certificate in Transportation Planning. At BYU and TAMU I have been fortunate enough to receive competitively awarded, and in some cases need based, scholarships. For example, this academic year (2010-2011) I received the Katie Turnbull Endowed Scholarship. I strive to excel in school, work, and life and have been the recipient of gracious assistance over the years - some day I hope to pay forward equivalent funds. My related work experience includes the following: (1) two years as an AutoCAD draftsman for a registered public land surveyor (RPLS) and consultant engineer, (2) eight months internship with the Bryan/College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization, (3) eight months and continuing employment with TTI: Transit Mobility Program, and (4) various other experiences working as a bus driver, dispatch manager, research assistant, and parliamentary intern in the Scottish Parliament (Office of Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment).

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Resume and List of References available upon request.





## ***Jeremy Cross***

[jeremy.m.cross@gmail.com](mailto:jeremy.m.cross@gmail.com)

I am a Masters of Urban Planning student focusing on transportation. I have a Bachelors of Science from Texas A&M University in Computer Science. Before returning for my Masters, I worked in the computer science field for 4 years at Reynolds and Reynolds. I also interned at RITA over the summer with the STIPDG program.

Currently, I am working on a study of how the Houston light rail system has affected land values since it was created. I hope to use this information to project how the regions where the light rail expansion is planned will be affected. This research is for my Masters project required by the university.



## ***Philip Lasley***

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I grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where from a young age, I passionately pursued anything having to do with city planning or transportation (specifically in aviation or regional rail planning). I attended Oral Roberts University on full academic scholarship (based upon academic, athletic, social, and artistic well-roundedness) to obtain a bachelor's degree in International Business. Upon graduation, I worked in Kabul, Afghanistan for the United Nations Development Programme with a group dedicated to building the technological capacity of the country. While living abroad, I discovered the benefits of career in transportation planning as applied to international development. At that point, I knew I wanted return to the US and obtain a master's degree in transportation planning. I discovered the program at Texas A&M University and quickly found that an exciting world awaited me upon graduation. I was awarded a full ride assistantship as a graduate teaching assistant with the university for the duration of my studies. Now, I am eagerly looking forward to what life may bring upon graduation this spring.

The current research I will be completing this year deals with intermodal integration at our nation's airports. Airports have taken over as the central hub for a city's transportation network—a role in which rail depots in a downtown setting used to hold. As the nation and the state of Texas grow, more and more pressure will be placed on the aviation infrastructure as applied to regional travel. With the push for high-speed and regional rail in the coming years, airports will be forced to look for solutions to handle an increasing number of regional passengers without drastically enlarging the footprint of the airport. I am looking at what role airports in Houston and Dallas will play with a growing rail infrastructure. I propose it would make sense to integrate rail and aviation into one cohesive network.

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## ***Wenhao Li***

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Wenhao Li is a Master's student of Urban Planning Program in the School of Architecture at Texas A & M University. Wenhao has been studying Transportation Planning as his primary interest throughout his master's education.

Wenhao is also a Graduate Assistant Researcher in a transportation research project - *Linking Traffic Safety to Emerging Livability Initiatives* - which is sponsored by the Southwest University Transportation Center. Currently, Wenhao continues his assisting work on a series of research topics with his academic advisor - Dr. Eric Dumbaugh in the project.

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## ***Jian Shen***

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My educational background is in Urban Planning. I have earned my bachelor's degree in Land Resources Management in Zhejiang University, China. And now I am working on the transportation certificate in the Urban Planning Program. I have taken PLAN 612, PLAN 673 and PLAN 674 for the certificate. I have also taken BAEN 652 and PLAN 625, which are about Geographic Information System. I will choose transportation research and consulting as my career path. I enjoy doing research work, and while transportation is becoming an increasing problem in China, traffic operation and control and transit management will be well needed in the future. After I graduate from this program, I am considering working for a research facility such as TTI before I obtain a degree in transportation engineering.

I started working for TTI in June, 2010. I began as student technician in the Houston Office, assisting research work in both traffic operation side and transit side. My position basically consists of data collection and reduction, spreadsheet manipulation, and Map generation in GIS. I have been involved in several projects, and after the summer semester, I started working for the Transit Mobility Program. As for computer experience, I am efficient with word processing and spreadsheet manipulation, including simple macros and pivot tables. I have a great deal of experience using GIS software since college. I mainly use ArcGIS software for work. For design software, I have some experience using AutoCad and am skilled in using Photoshop for editing.

In my casual time, I like playing musical instruments, such as guitar and piano. Also, I enjoy swimming and running for exercise. Fishing and camping are a couple of new outside interests I've begun to try recently, and I like them a lot.

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# Texas A&M Health Science Center

## School of Rural Public Health

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### ***Megan Morales***

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#### Research

Texas Transportation Institute-Research Assistant (Practicum Jan-May 10'), funded thru TTI, studied distracted driving with the College Station Police Department and Project 54, which is an integrated automated system to replace individual aftermarket devices inside the police car. Focus was distracted driving, ergonomics, human factors, and environmental and occupational health and

safety.

#### Bio

BS in Biology 2008 from Texas A&M University-CS

Graduate Student at Texas A&M Health Science Center-School of Rural Public Health

Master Science in Public Health with a concentration in Occupational Health

August 2011 Graduate

Dept Environmental & Occupational Health

Raytheon-Environmental Health & Safety Intern (June-August 10')

NIOSH Trainee Grant Recipient through the Texas A&M Health Science Center Research Foundation (Aug 2010-Aug 2011)-Graduate Assistantship – Program addresses shortage of qualified occupational safety and health professionals by delivering a high quality program. Occupational Safety and Health Training Program at TAMHSC-SRPH delivers focused training in occupational safety and health master's students. Students completing the program will possess knowledge and skills in occupational safety and health, ergonomics, industrial hygiene, occupational disease, human anatomy, user-computer interaction, displays and controls, information processing, industrial process safety, epidemiology, vibration control, and statistics. This grant has allowed me to research and write my thesis topic on childhood obesity and the impact stand biased desks have on combating this chronic disease.

#### Scholarships:

From the Dept. of Health and Human Services-The School of Rural Public Health Student Affairs Scholarship

Subcommittee extended a \$1,500 Health Resources and Services Administration Public Health Traineeship Award for the 2010-2011 academic year. Based on full-time enrollment and good academic standing.

Offices:

Student Government Association- Delegate (This year)

American Society of Safety Engineers- Secretary (This year)

Rural Public Health Student Association-1st year social chair (Last year)



***James Stafford***

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Research

The Texas A&M Health Science Center, the Texas Transportation Institute, and the University Transportation Center for Mobility have teamed up to research the role distracted driving plays in accident and ticket rates for young drivers. The Environmental and Occupational Health Department at the School of Rural Public Health was awarded a grant to research a teen driver cell phone blocker totaling \$105,000. The research funding was enacted January 1, 2010 and will run through May 31, 2011. We are currently evaluating participants for the study between the ages of 15 and 19. We are using a device and software manufactured by Safe Driving Systems, LLC. The device activates when the car is turned on and automatically places the phone in safe driving mode. When the car is off the phone operates normally. While operating the vehicle, the driver will be able to place out-bound calls using a Bluetooth device, and emergency calls will not be blocked. However, the driver will not be able to send out-bound text messages, and in-bound text messages will be blocked; a reply text will automatically be relayed to the sender notifying them that you are driving. In-bound calls will be sent straight to voicemail. Participants use the device and software for one year and fill out a survey at their start of participation, after six months, and after a year.

Bio

James was awarded a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Systems Management from Texas A&M University in May 2006. After graduation James worked as an environmental consultant in the oil and gas industry. He is currently in his first year as a master's student at the Texas A&M Health Science Center's School of Rural Public Health, and was awarded a Health Resources and Services Administration Traineeship Scholarship for the Spring 2011 semester. James is pursuing a Master of Public Health degree in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health.

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# Texas Southern University

## Transportation Planning & Management

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### ***Shain Michael Eversley***

Graduate Student. Transportation Studies

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Shain M. Eversley is a Graduate Research Assistant at Texas Southern University in the Center for Transportation Training and Research. Shain obtained his Bachelor of Science degree from Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, AL where he majored in Business Management. While at Tuskegee University, Shain recognized that he was passionate about the transportation industry. After graduating with honors in 2004, Shain moved to Omaha, NE to work for the Union Pacific Railroad as an Account Representative. Over the next 4 years, Shain's work for Union Pacific Railroad moved him from Omaha, NE to Chicago, IL, and Detroit, MI to fulfill positions in Logistics and Sales. In 2008, Shain moved to Atlanta, GA to accept a position with Prestige Logistics as a Manager. In 2010, Shain was accepted into the Master of Science in Transportation Planning and Management program at Texas Southern University, in Houston, TX and is currently in his second year of pursuing that degree. Shain's current duties at Texas Southern University's Center for Transportation Training and Research are in the area of Homeland Security and involve Bus Operator Awareness Training and Unauthorized Petrochemical Release Reporting. Shain is a proud member of the Prince Hall Masonic Order, as well as, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

#### Professional Affiliations

- National Transportation Defense Organization
  - Conference of Minority Transportation Officials
  - Texas Southern University Chapter of Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
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Sara Land is a second year graduate student at Texas Southern University, where she is majoring in transportation planning and management with a concentration in planning and policy. Sara received her undergraduate degree from TSU in 2001 majoring in airway science management. Sara later attended school in Minnesota to earn an Associate's degree for air traffic control en-route concentration, which allowed employment with the Federal Aviation Administration. She is also a recipient of various awards and scholarships including the TRB Minority Fellows, WTS Helen M. Overly scholarship, and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Fellowship from FHWA. Sara's interest in transportation is further cultivated by the CTR program, researching the many facets of Mega-regions, but aviation is where her passion lies. She is expected to complete her thesis on the Texas Triangle Mega-region and airport capacity this year and graduate in May of 2011. Sara intends to return to government work.



## ***Yasamin Salehi***

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Yasamin Salehi is a Graduate Research Assistant at Texas Southern University under the supervision of Dr. Yi Qi. Yasamin obtained her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Houston in Houston, TX where she majored in Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences. Growing up, Yasamin was very familiar with the

transportation industry as her father is a civil engineer who designs roads and bridges. Her interest in transportation was formed at a young age and developed more after she graduated the University of Houston in 2006. After graduation, Yasamin tutored English as Second Language for oil and gas companies in Houston, TX which developed her technical skills. In 2009, Yasamin was accepted into the Master of Science in Transportation Planning and Management program at Texas Southern University, in Houston, TX and is currently in her final year of pursuing that degree. Yasamin's current project is investigating Non-Intrusive Inspection technologies for port cargo inspections and running simulation models to better the current practices.

### **Professional Affiliations**

- Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA)- Texas Southern University Chapter
  - Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)- Texas Southern University Chapter
  - Women's Transportation Society – Greater Houston Chapter
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Fei Tao is a Graduate Research Assistant at Texas Southern University in the Department of Transportation Studies. Fei obtained his Bachelor's degree from Beijing Jiaotong University, Beijing, China where he majored in Electrical Engineering. While in Beijing Jiaotong University, Fei also gained knowledge on transportation and became interested in this area. After graduating from BJTU in 2009, Fei was admitted into the Master of Science in Transportation Planning and Management program at Texas Southern University, Houston, TX and is currently in his second year of pursuing this degree. Fei pursues his study under Dr. Lei Yu's guidance. Now, he is doing research in the area of vehicle emission analysis with SWUTC support. Fei is the student member of Institute of Transportation Engineer, The Association for Global Logistics and Transportation, and Chinese Overseas Transportation Association.

### **Professional Affiliations**

- The Association for Global Logistics and Transportation
- Chinese Overseas Transportation Association
- Texas Southern University Chapter of Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)