



**Letter from the President**

There are certain images that are inherently associated with each of the four seasons. In the autumn, it's the changing color of the leaves from green to the various shades of red, yellow, and brown. In the wintertime it is the chilly temperatures and the excitement of the holidays. In the spring it's the expectation of newness in the air. In the summertime it's hot days, outdoor activities, and the smell of barbeque. As we enter into this season of ITE, it means some key meetings and events.



*Nick Ching*  
WA Section President

One of these key meetings was our annual joint ITE/IMSA meeting, which was terrific this year. There were 48 vendor booths occupied in the showroom, and some excellent technical presentations. Special

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**This Month: Metro Vancouver BC Projects & Quad Conference Update**

Thomas Kwan is a member of ITE since 2001 and is the current president of the ITE Greater Vancouver Section. He works as a Project Engineer at Transport Canada and is a registered Professional Engineer in BC with 8 years of transportation engineering and planning experience in both the private and public sectors. He is the chair of the 2009 ITE Quad conference.

The presentation will provide a general overview of a number of high profile Transportation infrastructure projects and ITS projects that are currently undergoing in and around the Metro Vancouver region. Some of the projects include the Canada-Line rapid transit, Sea-to-Sky Highway, BC Gateway program, and Golden Ear Bridge. The presentation will also provide an overview and update of the 2009 ITE Quad Conference.

- DATE** Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 11:30 am
- TIME** 11:30 am
- VENUE** Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant  
10455 NE 8th Street, Bellevue, WA 98004  
(425) 519-6476

The restaurant is located inside of a mall called Lincoln Square immediately east of Bellevue Square. You can park in the underground garage, to which the entrance is located off Bellevue Way.

- COST** \$35.00 for lunch (free for students)
- MENU** Family Style Lunch including Calamari Fritte, Parmesan Garlic Bread, Caesar Salad, Spinach Salad, Four Cheese Ravioli, Spaghetti Meatballs, Chicken Francese, Eggplant Parmesan, Homemade Profiteroles, Spumoni and coffee.

**RSVP** By Noon on Friday, March 6th, please e-mail: [iteregistration@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:iteregistration@ci.kirkland.wa.us)  
Please include company name, address, phone number & names of attendees; note that you will receive an invoice from ITE if you RSVP but are unable to attend.

*(Continued from page 1)*

thanks to committee members Tim Newkirk, Lawrence Guan, Josh Johnson, and Torsten Lienau for putting together an outstanding program.

Most of us know that the 2010 Winter Olympics is going to take place in Vancouver B.C. and surrounding areas. I'm sure many of you have heard about the incredible amount of construction underway to prepare for the Olympics. But what else is going on with our neighbors to the north? This month, we have the privilege of the president of the Greater Vancouver B.C. Section, Thomas Kwan, come talk to us about some high profile transportation projects in the Metro Vancouver area.

The Quad Meeting is coming up May 1 - 2 in Vancouver, B.C. Join with ITE members from the Oregon Sections, Greater Vancouver B.C. and Vancouver Island Sections to sit in on some technical presentations by professional Canadians and Oregonians (and of course some Washingtonians). There will also be a trade show at the conference, so it will be another great opportunity to check out the latest in technology.

The Student Night Competition will take place on Wednesday, May 13 at Ivar's on Lake Union. This is a great opportunity to interact with the students from the nearby universities. These are the next generation of transportation leaders, so let's encourage them and support their efforts as they try to find solutions for a real-life project they will be addressing at this meeting. In addition, there will be scholarships awarded to some deserving students at the conclusion of the meeting. I urge you to consider a donation to help with this cause as well as to help some of our students attend the Western District Conference in July.

The site of our Section's Annual Meeting will be the Tulalip Casino, and it will take place on Monday, June 8, followed by the ITE Golf Classic #21 the following day. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear presenters from around the region as they talk about the latest developments in our industry.

So, as you can see, there are many opportunities to participate in during the upcoming months, and I hope you will take full advantage of the high quality programs that are available to you. All of these excellent programs are the result of the hard work and commitment from your Board. Their time and energy is what makes us successful. As always, please feel free to let us know if you have any feedback on how we are doing.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meeting and thank you for the continued participation and support in helping make our Section an outstanding one!

Sincerely,

Nick Ching  
President, ITE Washington Section

### **Newsletter Going Green!!!**

We've decided to go **green** and will no longer be mailing hardcopies of this newsletter starting in April in honor of Earth Day. From that month on, this newsletter will be emailed to you, and will also be available on our website (as it is today) at:

<http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/newsletters/newsletter.html>

[www.incainc.com](http://www.incainc.com)



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**Debbie Wick-Harris, P.E., PTOE**  
 Associate-Civil Division  
 LEED® Accredited Professional

10900 NE 4th Street, Suite 1200  
 Bellevue, WA 98004  
 Main: (425) 827-2238  
 Direct: (425) 818-1737  
[dwick-harris@dc-engineers.com](mailto:dwick-harris@dc-engineers.com)

Civil and Structural



**Kris T. Liljeblad, AICP**  
 Director of Transportation Planning

425.252.7700  
[KrisL@perteet.com](mailto:KrisL@perteet.com)  
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## "The Campus Corner"

By Scott Lee and Meagan Powers

### Upcoming Opportunities & Events:

Washington Section student scholarship applications are now available on the Washington Section Website at [www.westernite.org/Sections/washington](http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington). Two scholarships will be awarded this year, one for undergraduate students in the amount of \$1,500 and one for graduate students in the amount of \$2,000. Scholarships are open to all students pursuing a career in transportation engineering or planning. Applications are due April 3, 2009.

The Student Night Competition will take place on Wednesday, May 13th at Ivar's on Lake Union. Each year the students analyze a real project from the region and prepare a poster board and PowerPoint presentation of their results in order to compete for cash prizes. This is a great opportunity to introduce the students to real life transportation engineering issues, and give them experience in summarizing and presenting their results effectively to a group. This year, **All Traffic Data has generously agreed to match up to \$1000 of donations to support the Student Night competition.** We would love to take advantage of this opportunity, so if you or your company would be interested in helping to sponsor the Student Night activities, please contact the Student Activity Committee.



#### Student Activities Committee Co-Chairs:

Scott Lee, Transpo Group – (425) 821-3665 or [scott.lee@transpogroup.com](mailto:scott.lee@transpogroup.com)

Meagan Powers, DKS Associates – (206) 382-9800 or [mcp@dksassociates.com](mailto:mcp@dksassociates.com)

## DYNAMIC MESSAGE BOARD

### Washington State Section Annual Meeting Sponsorships!

The Washington State Section is looking for sponsors for this year's event. Please consider taking an active part in the largest gathering of the Washington State Section this year. We will have ongoing acknowledgement for all sponsors during the Annual Meeting. If your company is interested in sponsorship, please contact Jerry Liu at [jerry.liu@parsons.com](mailto:jerry.liu@parsons.com).

### Mark Your Calendars!

Plan ahead and mark your calendars now for upcoming Washington Section meetings:

- April 14th, lunch meeting in Redmond
- May 1-2 Quad Conference in Vancouver BC
- May 13th, evening meeting featuring Student Night Competition at Ivar's on Lake Union in Seattle
- June 8th (Monday) Annual Meeting at Tulalip Casino, with golf classic on Tuesday, June 9th

### Advertising (Business Cards & Larger)

To submit your ad, please send a jpg or tif file of the desired ad to Katherine Casseday at [k.casseday@fehrandpeers.com](mailto:k.casseday@fehrandpeers.com)

Place your ad in the following sizes:

Business card ad for \$100

Full page ad for \$1000

1/2 page ad for \$500

1/4 page ad for \$250

Also send a check for the ad size you desire (covers through December 2009) to:

Katherine Casseday  
Fehr & Peers / Mirai  
11410 NE 122nd Way, Suite 320  
Kirkland, WA 98034-6927

Call 425.820.0100 for further questions.

# Scribe Report

*By Bruce Newman, City of Redmond (on assignment this month for Paul Cho)*

Hundreds of ITE and IMSA members joined forces for the ever-popular joint meeting in Sea-Tac last month. This is always a great opportunity for engineers and technicians to talk with their colleagues from across the region, and to see the latest products on the market.

## Four Technical Sessions

The highlight of the day was the four technical sessions:

- Regional Traffic Operations Committee
- VLAN Network Communication
- Accessible Pedestrian Signals
- Traffic Signal Maintenance

Presentation materials are available at:

[http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/events/events.html#Feb\\_2009](http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/events/events.html#Feb_2009)

I attended the session on accessible pedestrian signals (APS). There is much interest in APS to improve the mobility and independence of those with low vision or cognitive disabilities. Dan Dawson (Otak) explained how the APS style integrated into the ped button provide users with superior information compared to the “chirp” and “cuckoo” signals that many of us are still using (plus, they don’t annoy nearby residents). Joe Couples (City of Seattle) explained what types of intersection geometrics and traffic conditions can cause greater challenges to those with low vision. One interesting question stemmed from the fact that Seattle has hundreds of pretimed signals that would normally have no button. Crossings here outfitted with APS will use a spoken message only on a button press, as long as time remains during the walk interval. Another challenge is crafting a speech message for an intersection with a “pedestrian scramble” or all-way walk interval.



At the session on traffic signal maintenance, Rick Butner and Vern Page described Pierce County’s preventive maintenance (PM) program to keep traffic flowing smoothly and safely, reduce liability exposure, and reduce emergency call-outs for burned-out signal displays. Rick pointed out this also reduces “burn-out” of on-call staff. Both stressed that a PM program need not be difficult or overly complicated. Vern also emphasized the importance of documentation. “The job’s not done until the paperwork is complete.” I was surprised at how few emergency callouts they experience—and how many problems they had found during inspection that no one had bothered to complain about. Emergency preparedness includes having the right tools, having emergency supplies like tarps and tents available, and crafting agreements with on-call contractors, other agencies, and utility companies.

## Vendor Displays

Dozens of new and returning vendors displayed a wide variety of traffic products. One new technology automatically extracts traffic counts from a video feed. I tried to convince manufacturers of controllers and central traffic control systems that opening their platforms to competitors’ products would be good for business. Of course I didn’t convince anyone.

## Lunch

ITE Washington President Nick Ching thanked Lawrence Guan and Joshua Johnson for coordinating the conference. IMSA International Vice President Steve Knopp thanked Nick for the great relationship between ITE and IMSA.

# WA Section ITE Board

## President

Nick W. Ching  
HNTB  
600 - 108th Ave NE, Suite 405  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
425.456.8551  
425.453.9179 Fax  
[nching@hntb.com](mailto:nching@hntb.com)

## Vice President/ Treasurer

James Bloodgood  
Snohomish County  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
M/S 607  
Everett, WA 98201  
425.388.6419  
[jim.bloodgood@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:jim.bloodgood@co.snohomish.wa.us)

## Secretary

Katherine Casseday  
Fehr & Peers / Mirai  
11410 NE 122nd Way, Suite 320  
Kirkland, WA 98034-6927  
425.820.0100  
425.821.1750 fax  
[k.casseday@fehrandpeers.com](mailto:k.casseday@fehrandpeers.com)

## Past President

David R. Alm  
INCA Engineers  
400 112th Ave NE, Suite 400  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
425.635.1000  
425.635.1150 Fax  
[d.alm@incainc.com](mailto:d.alm@incainc.com)

## **Newsletter Contact Info**

If you have any changes in your contact information, please let us know so you continue to receive monthly ITE e-mail announcements and newsletters. To update your information, click on the "Membership" link on the Washington State Section ITE website:

<http://www.westernite.org/Sections/washington/index.htm>



c/o Katherine Casseday  
Fehr & Peers / Mirai  
11410 NE 122nd Way, Suite 320  
Kirkland, WA 98034-6927  
425.820.0100  
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[k.casseday@fehrandpeers.com](mailto:k.casseday@fehrandpeers.com)

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