**METRANS EDUCATION**

**Jeremy Bonifacio** 2012 METRANS Student of the Year

*Author: Kate Amissah, USC MSCE 2013*

Jeremy Bonifacio is the 2012 METRANS Student of the Year. Bonifacio, a Ph.D. candidate in the joint Ph.D. program between CSULB College of Engineering and Claremont Graduate University, received his Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering from California Polytechnic University Pomona in 2007 and his Master’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the California State University Long Beach in 2010, where he currently teaches Aerodynamics Laboratory as a part-time lecturer. During his Master’s education, Bonifacio focused on thermal and fluid sciences and wrote his Master’s thesis, “Numerical and Experimental Investigations of a Venturi Flow Discharging into a Cross Flow” (with applications in enhancing diffusion of stack smoke emissions).

Bonifacio’s interest in transportation related research began at a young age – when he assisted his father and grandfather in working on cars. “As I grew up, my interests in automobiles developed to a broader interest in anything which had an engine, and moved people,” he explained. Bonifacio an accomplished researcher, has authored and co-authored several papers at the ASME, AIAA, APS, and was a co-author for a paper titled “The Effects of Distortion on Trajectory of Diesel Particulate Matter (PM) from Mobile Sources,” which was presented at the 4th METRANS National Urban Freight conference. As a student, engineer, and researcher, Bonifacio developed and built on his interest in environmental issues. Professor Hamid Rahai, director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Research and Services (CEERS) and Bonifacio’s advisor says “Jeremy is a passionate researcher and engineer with deep interests in environmental issues and public health. He has advanced knowledge of air pollution, fluid mechanics, aerodynamics, and measurement techniques.”

As part of his award, Bonifacio was sponsored by METRANS to attend the Transportation Research Board conference and the Council of University Transportation Centers annual winter reception in Washington DC., and he received a $1000 scholarship.

**METRANS RESEARCH**

**METRANS Presents** P3 Research at TRB

*Author: Zach Elgart, USC MPL 2012*

METRANS researchers presented a comprehensive study of public private partnerships (P3s) in California at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) annual meeting, held January 13-17, 2013 in Washington DC. This study arose from a two-year $500,000 grant from Caltrans. Co-principal investigators Giuliano and USC Price Associate Professor Lisa Schweitzer were assisted by project manager Kevin Holliday, and USC Price research assistants Zachary Elgart (MPL), Victoria Farr (MPL), Matthew Kridler (MPL), Mary Kuhn (MPA) and Theodore Minch (MPP). The research focused on P3s that involve some

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METRANS Associates Program

The METRANS Associates Program provides the core support for the METRANS Transportation Center and serves as a model of collaboration between the University community, corporations, and government bodies who come together to study emerging trends and forecasts in goods movement and international trade, discuss relevant and timely developments in transportation policy, and share best practices in the field. We are deeply grateful for the support of our Gold Sponsors, the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach, our Silver Sponsor, the Southern California Association of Governments, and our Bronze Sponsors, BNSF Railway and the International Longshore Warehouse Union.

METRANS Associates enjoy unparalleled access to USC and CSULB faculty and other policy experts and thought leaders in transportation. Additionally, METRANS Associates receive access to exclusive educational opportunities and outreach programming that explores timely and relevant topics in transportation, and provides access to an elite network of professionals working in the field. Lastly, METRANS Associates have access to the tremendous intellectual capital provided by graduate students and faculty at USC and CSULB, who are available to assist with a variety of planning and analysis projects within transportation. Associates are invited to the annual Transportation Policy Retreat, to our transportation policy fireside chats, and to VIP receptions at METRANS events, and are recognized as Associates and sponsors at METRANS events, in our publications, and on our website.

For additional information about the METRANS Associates and opportunities for membership, please contact Megan Goulding at (213) 821-8188.

METRANS Outreach

METRANS Hosts Chinese Delegations

METRANS hosted its second annual delegation of Chinese port officials from various regions in China on December 10th and 11th, 2012. The program expanded from a one-day event in 2001 to a two-day, nine presentation event this year. Both were held on the USC main campus. Delegates included representatives from five of the busiest ports in the world as well as from the China Ports Association, the Ministry of Transport of China, and Sinotrans.

Dr. Genevieve Giuliano, METRANS Director, began the event with a welcome and an overview of METRANS. Over the next two days, twenty delegates from ports, water transportation, and shipping companies from across China heard presentations of nine recent and ongoing METRANS research projects in transportation technology, logistics, and environmental impacts. Topics included innovative research on port crane operations, optimal transportation of perishable products, and the impact of truck repositioning on congestion and pollution in the Los Angeles Basin, among others.

Presentations were made either in the delegates’ dialect, Mandarin or translated by two USC transportation engineering graduate students, Jiangbo Yu and Qian Ouyang. Presenters included both students and Professors from USC and CSULB including Professors Henry Yeh (Electrical Engineering, CSULB) and Pannada Marayong (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, CSULB) and their Master of Global Logistics student Vinay Ganji; Ugur Demiryurek (Associate Director of the Integrated Media Systems Center, USC) and his Master’s student, Dingxiong Deng (Electrical Engineering, USC); Professor Burkhard Englert (Coordinator of Graduate Programs College of Engineering, CSULB); Professor Chin Chang (Electrical Engineering, CSULB); Professor Shui Lam (Public Administration, CSULB); Professor Chen Feng Ng (Economics, CSULB); Doctoral student Christine Nguyen (Systems Engineering, USC); Doctoral student Cathy Xu (Industrial Engineering, USC); and Master of Global Logistics student Arad Gharebaghi (CSULB).

This event was facilitated by the collaborative effort of administrators, professors, and students. The team was organized and led by Vicki Valentine, METRANS Administrator, and her assistant Kate Amissah, Master of Transportation Engineering student from USC. Twelve Mandarin-speaking planning and engineering student volunteers from USC also assisted with translation.

The event provided an opportunity for METRANS faculty and students to share research that may potentially provide viable solutions for transportation challenges across the globe. The presentations showcased innovative research centered on goods movement that addresses key issues identified by the delegation as most relevant to China’s goods movement systems.
We’re no longer just the National Urban Freight Conference. This time around, we’ve truly gone global and our new name, the International Urban Freight Conference (I-NUF) describes the international nature of the conference, its themes, and presenters. The purpose of I-NUF is to provide a forum for sharing emerging, multi-disciplinary research on all aspects of freight in metropolitan areas.

I-NUF will be held October 8-10, 2013, at The Westin Long Beach Hotel, Long Beach, California.

Much has changed since the first National Urban Freight Conference was held in 2006. At the time, we described the conference as a “unique opportunity to consider the ‘urban side’ of freight across many disciplines.” Today, urban freight is recognized as an important and legitimate field of study. It is a common topic for special conferences and for tracks within the allied disciplinary conferences.

At the first NUF we noted, “Our understanding of how freight and international trade affect urban areas remains limited. The distribution of economic and environmental impacts across metropolitan areas merits further documentation. The tools for modeling and forecasting freight flows within regions are not well developed. The nature of the goods movement supply chain is still poorly understood, and implications of the supply chain logic for urban areas are only developing.”

Today we have a much better understanding of how freight and international trade affect urban areas, and efforts to make urban freight more efficient and sustainable are taking place across the globe. Indeed, city logistics research (a term unknown in 2006) is aimed at improving freight efficiency while minimizing both economic costs and social externalities. Although our models and forecasting tools remain a work in progress, we are much better positioned now to integrate freight into the regional transportation planning process. And finally, we are beginning to explore the spatial organization of urban freight and supply chains.

We welcome papers and presentations on any aspect of urban freight and from any discipline or mix of disciplines.

Major topic areas include:
- Local/last mile pickup and delivery
- Environmental impacts and responses
- Economics of rail and trucking
- Port operations
- Freight in urban modeling and planning
- ITS applications in urban freight
- Emerging trends in consumption, production, and spatial organization
- Security and vulnerability
- Best practices

Call for Abstracts: Abstracts for papers or presentations must be submitted by May 31, 2013.

Call for Papers: Papers are solicited for a special issue of Research in Transportation Management and Business which will publish the best papers submitted for this conference.

Registration and further event details are available on our website: www.metrans.org
The Spring seminar schedule includes the following presentations.

**Wednesday, January 30**
Speaker: Kevin Holliday, Project Manager, Sol Price School of Public Policy, USC  
Title: P3s (Public Private Partnerships) Potential

**Wednesday, February 13**
Speaker: Gian-Claudia Sciara, Postdoctoral Scholar, Urban Land Use & Transportation Center, University of California, Davis  
Title: Elaboration of a Vision: The Evolution of Metropolitan Transportation Planning since the 1962 Highway Act

**Wednesday, February 20**
Speaker: Chen Ng, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics, Cal. State University Long Beach  
Title: Crossing the US-Mexican Border for Cheaper Gasoline

**Wednesday, March 6**
Speaker: Christine Nguyen (Viterbi ISE) and Andy Hong (Price), USC  
Title: Student Transportation Research Showcase

**Wednesday, March 13**
Speaker: John Cho (Viterbi ISE) and Qian An (Viterbi ISE), USC  
Title: Student Transportation Research Showcase

**Wednesday, March 27**
Speaker: Cathy Xu (Viterbi ISE) and Yuting Hou (Price), USC  
Title: Student Transportation Research Showcase

**Wednesday, April 17**
Speaker: Maged Dessouky  
Professor and Director of the Daniel J. Epstein Institute, Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, USC  
Title: A Transportation Market for Ridesharing

**Wednesday, April 24**
Speaker: Nancy McGuckin  
Travel Behavior Analyst  
Title: Walking and Biking in California

**METRANS EDUCATION**

**METRANS Presents P3 Research at TRB, con’t**

amount of private sector capital and risk; traditional design-build projects using private contractors were not included. The purpose of the study was to provide guidance to the State of California on the potential for P3s, how P3s may be structured, and under what conditions various P3 models are effective. This project was undertaken in response to P3 enabling legislation that was passed in California in 2009, Senate Bill X2 4. This legislation legalized P3 implementation and created the Public Infrastructure Advisory Committee (PIAC) to promote the development and implementation of P3s in California. Research topics included criteria for P3 evaluation, P3 analytical tools, contractual structuring of P3s, California’s institutional capacity, the market for private capital and finally California’s political environment as it relates to P3s. It addressed the factors associated with successful P3 projects using international data.

Two papers based on the research have been presented at TRB. “Factors Associated with Successful Public-Private Partnerships in Transportation Facility Projects,” by Giuliano, Schweitzer, Holliday, and Minch was presented at the 2012 TRB conference. The second paper “The P3 Potential,” by Giuliano, Holliday, and Elgart summarized the project’s research and presented five lessons learned.

First, there is a direct negative correlation between governmental constraints and the number of P3s. This explains the lack of US P3s compared to their prevalence in more politically receptive countries in Europe and other parts of the world, where governments often make use of P3s to provide public infrastructure.

Second, P3s are best suited for high demand facilities with few substitutes, revenue sources, and willingness to pay. The most successful P3 projects are those which provide services that are nearly monopolistic.

Third, broad public together with political support is a critical factor in the success or failure of a P3. P3s do best when supported by not only the public private partners, but by the general population as well.

Fourth, informed public officials form more P3s than their uninformed counterparts. Officials with a good understanding of the various procurement options as well as the ways in which they must protect their jurisdictions and constituents during the P3 negotiation process provide more P3s.

Finally, in order for P3s to be successful and for the concept to be broadly embraced, the risk allocated between the public and private partners must be appropriately assessed and assigned. These risks generally center on responsibility for project clearance on the part of the public partner and ensuring adequate financial “skin in the game” on the part of the private partner.

Zach Elgart, USC MPL 2012
A great attitude will get you far in life — and it will also get you far on the Expo Line, according to research presented at the USC Price School of Public Policy’s METRANS seminar on Oct. 24.

Insights from Data from the Exposition Light Rail Corridor” featured new research by USC Price Professor Marlon Boarnet and two colleagues from the University of California, Irvine — Assistant Professor Doug Houston and Ph.D. candidate Steve Spears.

The trio of researchers took advantage of the opening of the Expo Line to conduct the first quasi-experimental before-after study of a major rail transportation project in California. The results of their ongoing research are directly shaping policy: Boarnet, who directs the USC Price graduate programs in urban planning and development, recently spoke at an informational hearing of the California State Assembly’s Select Committee on Rail Transportation, which was evaluating the future plans for Los Angeles Metro Rail.

Spears, who gave the recent METRANS seminar presentation, focused on the impact of social psychological factors on transit use, as revealed by the Expo Line study.

People rode transit more if they had positive transit attitudes, perceptions of plentiful neighborhood amenities within walking distance, low car attachment and fewer safety concerns.

“Social psychological factors have been largely ignored in the travel behavior-built environment literature, and leaving them out has left us little knowledge of how people interact with each other or how their mental processes affect travel behavior,” Spears said. "And because of that, any interventions or investments we make could not be as effective as they might be otherwise, because we don’t address the fact that people’s attitudes also affect travel behavior.”

To measure these important social psychological effects, he and his colleagues asked 284 households near the Expo Line to keep seven-day travel logs, provide information about the years, makes and models of their cars, and complete surveys. Half of the participants also wore GPS and accelerometers.

The social psychological survey asked 37 questions, which fell into five broad categories: personal safety and security concerns; environmental protection attitudes; transit attitudes; perceptions of neighborhood amenities within walking distance; and car attachment.

The data demonstrated that all of these categories except for one — concerns about protecting the environment — affected transit use. People rode transit more if they had positive transit attitudes, perceptions of plentiful neighborhood amenities within walking distance, low car attachment and fewer safety concerns.

Spears recommended the use of these social psychological factors as “leverage points” to increase transit ridership.

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We are pleased to report recent faculty awards.

**National and International Awards**

**Genevieve Giuliano**, METRANS Director, Professor and Senior Associate Dean, Sol Price School of Public Policy, USC was named the “Researcher of the Year” by the Transportation Research Forum and also presented her research on “Reflections on Transportation Policy and Planning: Looking Back, Looking Forward” to the Transportation Innovation Series, a strategic outreach series hosted by the Research and Innovative Technology Administration.

**Jernej Barbic, Burcin Becerik-Gerber, and Bhaskar Krishnamachari**, USC Viterbi School of Engineering Professors, were named among the world’s top innovators under the age of 35 by Technology Review magazine.

**Ramesh Govindan**, Professor, USC Viterbi School of Engineering, was elected to the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Fellows.

**Sami Masri**, Professor, USC Viterbi School of Engineering, was selected to receive the first ASCE George W. Housner Structural Control and Monitoring Medal.

**Milind Tambe**, Professor, USC Viterbi School of Engineering, received the IBM Faculty Award for his proposed research, “Towards Smarter Government and Smarter Cities: Computational Game Theory for Public Safety and Welfare.”

**Hamid Rahai**, Professor, CSULB received an Academic Affairs Award for Impact Accomplishment of the Year in Research.

**Other Awards**

**Petros Ioannou**, Professor, USC Viterbi School of Engineering was awarded the 2012 IEEE Intelligent Transportation System Society Research Award. He also received the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Society Outstanding Research Award for his research contributions in Advanced Vehicle Control Systems and Integration with Traffic.

**Thomas O’Brien**, Professor, CSULB earned the George Marshall Instructor Award for his teaching, advising, and mentoring in the Global Logistics Specialist professional designation program.

**Promotions & Appointments**

**Hamid Rahai**, Professor, CSULB has been appointed the Interim Associate Dean for Research in the College of Engineering, effective August 2011.

**Peter Gordon**, Professor, USC Price School, delivered the Presidential Address at the February 2012 annual meeting of the Western Regional Science Association in Kauai, Hawaii.

**Berok Khoshnevis**, Professor, USC, was named a NASA Fellow for winning the “NASA Innovative Advanced Concept,” a highly competitive research award of $600,000 for lunar construction.

**Jalal Torabzadeh**, Professor, CSULB has been appointed as the interim chair of the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department, effective August 2012.

**METRANS EDUCATION**

**Newly Minted 2011-2012 Transportation PhDs**

The following students completed transportation related dissertations and where indicated accepted post-graduate positions.

**Sylvia Ying He**, Policy Planning and Development
Dissertation: Children’s Travel Behavior in Journeys to School
Advisor: Genevieve Giuliano
Appointment: Assistant Professor, Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Cheng-Hao Kuo**, Electrical Engineering
Dissertation: Multiple Pedestrians Tracking by Discriminative Models
Advisor: Professor Ram Nevatia
Appointment: Research Scientist at Siemens Corporate Research

**Kalam Cheung**, Engineering
Dissertation: Physico-chemical and Toxicological Characteristics of Coarse Particulate Matter and their Implications on Air Quality Regulation
Advisor: Professor Constantinos Sioutas
Appointment: Postdoctoral Fellow, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

**Laurie Joanne Kaye**, Policy, Planning and Development
Advisor: Dan Mazmanian
Appointment: Erb Institute for Sustainable Global Enterprise, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**Professional Doctorate**

**Cameron Dunford Wilson**, Policy, Planning and Development
Dissertation: Public-Private Partnerships in Freight-Rail Capacity Improvement
METRANS continued its mentor program by matching 25 transportation students with professional mentors. The METRANS Mentor Program is designed to meet the needs of transportation students seeking a professional career in the public or private sectors. METRANS launched a small pilot program in the spring of 2012 with students who actively participate in METRANS seminars and activities. These students were matched with METRANS Advisory Board professionals whose field of expertise best met the students’ career goals. This year, the program was expanded to accept applications from all interested students at both USC and California State University Long Beach enrolled in transportation related programs.

The purpose of the mentor/mentee relationship is to guide students who plan to pursue a professional, nonacademic career in transportation or a transportation related field in making informed career decisions and helping them to develop into well-rounded professionals. Mentors are not expected to find jobs for the students but rather to provide a unique opportunity to broaden the students’ educational experience through one-on-one interface with industry professionals, an opportunity often missing in the students’ formal education. The mentor provides valuable advice and counsel to the student as well as an experienced perspective on the transportation profession.

A follow-up with the first group of mentees shows that the program has indeed been successful in fulfilling its objectives. For international students in particular, this is a welcome opportunity to network with professionals away from home and to learn more about the transportation industry in the United States. “This is my first time talking to someone at an executive level in the government, discussing my future plans and understanding transportation and traffic. This will be extremely beneficial in my interview for jobs in the future,” explained Jiangbo Yu, USC Master of Science in Civil Engineering (MSCE) student from China who was paired with Cindy Quon, the former director of Caltrans District 12. “My mentor’s suggestions and advice about my career encouraged me to learn more and to observe. The program is useful to me, providing opportunities to communicate with professionals and broaden my horizon,” says Qian Ouyang, USC MSCE also from China.

The mentor/mentee relationship is intended to last through one academic year or until the student graduates, although students and mentors may choose to remain in contact following commencement. All five mentees found the program valuable, and wish to continue into the 2012-2013 academic year.

Students and mentors are encouraged to meet at least twice per semester, but most meet more often. Shared activities have included breakfast, lunch or dinner meetings, attendance at conferences, webinars and other events, and introduction to and interaction with other transportation professionals. Paul Cisneros, Master of Arts in Global Logistics (MAGL) student at CSULB, was able to secure an internship position at the Port of Long Beach as a result of the contacts he made through the mentor program. “The internship gave me real world experience and enhanced my personal development,” he said. Dan Beal, a transportation consultant matched with USC MSCE student Kate Amissah, found the program to be a learning experience for the mentor as well. “I am learning almost as much from my mentee as she is learning from me,” he said. “My initial concern was that Kate is an engineering student and I a planner, but this turned out to work very well because I get to talk to her about planning and help her develop interest in transportation planning. Since engineering and technical decisions are not made in a vacuum, there are policies and political issues which affect them.”

USC Master of Planning student, Priscilla Appiah has been paired year with Kathryn Higgins, program supervisor with the Los Angeles South Coast Air Quality Management District. Priscilla is interested in sustainable transport policies and intermodal networks. “I am excited about the program and look forward to drawing from Ms. Higgins’ rich experience in the transportation field,” she says.

METRANS would like to thank our 2012-2013 mentors:

Dan Beal  - Principal (Emeritus Member) Transportation Policy Consulting
Sandipan Bhattacharjee  - Associate/Senior Transportation Planner, LSA Associates
Simon Choi  - Chief of Research and Forecasting Southern California Association of Governments
Michael Christensen  - Deputy Executive Director, Development
Doug Failing  - Executive Director, Highway Programs, LA County MTA
Stephen Finnegan  - Manager, Government Affairs and Public Policy, AAA
Kathryn Higgins  - Program Supervisor, LA County Air Quality Management District
Hsi-Hwa Hu  - Director of Land Use & Environmental Planning, SCAG
Steven H. Lantz  - Director, Metro System Integration and Area Teams, LA County MTA
Domenick Miretti  - ILWU Senior Liaison, Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles
Mark Pisano  - Senior Fellow, University of Southern California

USC MSCE Kate Amissah and mentor Dan Beal.
METRANS Advisory Board Annual Meeting

METRANS held its annual Advisory Board Meeting on December 5th at Lewis Hall, University of Southern California. In attendance were twelve members of the Advisory Board and METRANS Executive Committee. Also present were four student mentees who came to meet their mentors, and to relate to the board their experiences from the Mentor program. Vicki Valentine briefed the board on the progress of the Mentor program and mentors on the Advisory Board shared their experiences as mentors. Also on the agenda were the new Associates Program, plans for the upcoming International Urban Freight Conference and Town Hall events, and METRANS proposal for new federal funding as a University Transportation Center.

2012-2013 METRANS Advisory Board Members are:

**Dan Beal**, Principal, Transportation Policy Consulting (Emeritus Member)
**Coco Briseno**, Acting Chief, Division of Research and Development, California Department of Transportation
**Michael Christensen**, Deputy Executive Director, Development, Port of Los Angeles
**Doug Failing**, Executive Director, Highway Programs, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
**John Fenton**, Chief Executive Officer, Metrolink, Southern California Regional Rail Authority
**Stephen Finnegan**, Manager, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Automobile Club of Southern California and AAA Hawaii
**Hasan Ikhrata**, Executive Director, Southern California Association of Governments

Fran Inman, Senior Vice President, Majestic Realty Co.
Randell Iwasaki, Executive Director, Contra Costa Transportation Authority
Gloria Jeff, Associate Director, Transportation Operations Administration, District Department of Transportation
Arthur Leahy, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Jack Levis, Director of Process Management, United Parcel Service
Domenick Miretti, ILWU Senior Liaison, Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles
Mark Pisano, Senior Fellow, Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California
Richard Powers, Executive Director, Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Barry Wallerstein, Executive Officer, South Coast Air Quality Management District

**METRANS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Genevieve Giuliano, Director
Senior Associate Dean, Research & Technology, School of Policy, Planning and Development, USC

Marianne Venieris, Deputy Director
Executive Director, Center for International Trade and Transportation, College of Continuing and Professional Education, CSULB

Petros Ioannou, Associate Director of Research
Professor, Electrical Engineering Systems, Director, Center for Advanced Transportation Technology, USC

Anastasios Chassiakos, Director
California Pre-Doctoral Program, California State University, Office of the Chancellor

Marlon Boarnet, Director
Graduate Programs in Urban Planning and Development, Sol Price School of Public Policy, USC

Maged Dessouky, Professor
Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, USC

Seiji Steimetz, Associate Chair
Department of Economics, Interim Director, Master of Arts in Global Logistics Program, CSULB

**METRANS Staff**

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**METRANS Website**

More information on transportation research, publications, education, training and technology transfer can be found at www.METRANS.org