

# METRANS NEWS



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
LONG BEACH

Dedicated to solving metropolitan transportation problems through  
**research, education, and outreach.**

Spring 2016 Volume 15 Issue 1

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*METRANS, a partnership of the University of Southern California and California State University, Long Beach, is a US Department of Transportation designated University Transportation Center. Its mission is to solve transportation problems of large metropolitan areas through research, education, and outreach.*

## METRANS EDUCATION

### METRANS Awards Arnold Valdez Student of the Year

*The Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) and the US Department of Transportation (DOT) recognized USC Master of Planning student Arnold Valdez as the METRANS Student of the Year at its annual awards banquet held on January 9, 2016 during the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB).*

The DOT sponsors this award, and fully funds the cost of students attending the banquet. The award honors outstanding students from UTC's around the country who have gone above and beyond expectations at work and in the classroom while also demonstrating exemplary comprehension of the transportation industry. The nominating letter noted that "because of the importance of his research efforts and his exemplary academic record, METRANS is proud to select Arnold Valdez as its 2015 Outstanding Student of the Year."

"Arnold Valdez's commitment to METRANS and initiative in projects and research in transportation along with his outstanding academic record made him the best choice for the 2015 METRANS Student of the Year award," said METRANS Director Genevieve Giuliano. Valdez began working for METRANS as a volunteer in 2014. Seeing a need for student engagement and outreach, he proposed a set of student-oriented



podcasts, which he produces for METRANS. Valdez is currently a research assistant working on freight efficiency analysis for professor Giuliano and on a recently awarded METRANS research project, "The Decline in Inter- and Intra-Urban Mobility and Its Impact on Passenger Travel," for Price Professor Gary Painter and METRANS Postdoctoral Scholar, Research Associate Sandip Chakrabarti. *continued on Page 3*

## METRANS RESEARCH

### METRANS Faculty and Students Present Research at the 2016 TRB Annual Meeting

METRANS faculty and students presented a broad range of research at the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) 95th Annual Meeting, which took place January 10-14, 2016 in Washington D.C. More than 11,000 transportation professionals from around the globe attended the event, which featured more than 5,000 presentations and 800 sessions and workshops. All modes of transportation were covered. Top transportation issues of 2015 were

discussed in these presentations, and new prospects and challenges of 2016 were forecasted.

"I look forward to TRB every year because it gathers the best transportation minds in the world in one location," noted METRANS Associate Director Thomas O'Brien. "I also like the opportunity it provides for students and young professionals to get valuable feedback on their research and other work." *continued on Page 3*

## METRANS OUTREACH

# METRANS Pays Homage to the Memory of Founding Member Domenick Miretti (1932 - 2016)

In the days following the announcement of METRANS founding member Domenick Miretti's passing, there has been an outpouring of support for his family, as well as countless testimonials to how great a person he truly was. Miretti, a consummate contributor to the international trade community, passed away on February 17 after a brief battle with cancer. A South Bay local, born in Palos Verdes and residing for decades in Harbor City, he spent the majority of his adult life working in and educating others about international trade. He started his journey by doing heavy lifting as a longshoreman at Local 13 and then became a shipping clerk for Local 63. Later, he expanded his educational horizon and earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from California State University, Long Beach before obtaining his Ph.D. from UCLA. Miretti then began a new life as an educator – while continuing his longshore duties. He taught at Dodson Jr. High for five years and moved on to become a professor at East Los Angeles College where he helped to establish the college's International Trade Program.

Beginning in the 1970s and continuing until he passed away, Miretti acted as Chief Liaison to the Port of Long Beach and Port of Los Angeles, helping establish the successful network of collaboration that exists between CSULB, USC, POLB, and POLA. This ongoing relationship has been crucial to optimizing transportation capabilities and increasing knowledge production in the shipping and logistics sector. "Domenick embodied a rare balance of hands-on practitioner and educator," said METRANS Executive Director Genevieve Giuliano. "He worked as a longshoreman the entire time he was earning his doctorate. His decades working as both a professor and longshoreman made him uniquely qualified to serve as a liaison between labor, industry, and academia."

Miretti leaves behind his wife of nearly 60 years, Carol; his daughter Sharon; two grandchildren, Devin and Lauren; and a host of friends, family, and colleagues – and countless fond memories. A tribute to Miretti was included in the Town Hall Meeting on March 30. Below is an assortment of condolences and reflections from Miretti's friends and associates:

*"A truly great man whose charm, wit and intelligence will be missing in the harbor in his absence. My prayers to his family and friends."* **Mark Hirzel, District Manager, A.N. Deringer, Inc.**

*"Domenick was a visionary and a true gentleman. CITT and METRANS owe him a huge debt of gratitude. He will be missed."* **Marianne Venieris Gastelum, former CITT Director who worked with Miretti for over 18 years**

*"So sorry to hear about Domenick's passing. Truly a good and interesting man."* **Michael Solt, DBA, Dean, College of Business Administration, California State University, Long Beach**

*"God Bless him!"* **Daniel Miranda, President, Local 94, ILWU**

*"This is truly sad and God bless him and his family. He truly was a nice man and a wonderful spokesperson for the ILWU and the industry. He will be missed."* **Michele Grubbs, Vice President, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association**

*"We will all miss Domenick, his wonderful presence, his intelligence and wisdom."* **Dr. Anastasios Chassiakos, Chair, Department of Electrical Engineering, California State University, Long Beach**

*"I echo the sentiments of others - Domenick was one of a kind. There is no doubt that he certainly made a difference in the lives of all of us in supporting the Town Halls. Our community has benefitted greatly by his contributions."* **Elizabeth Warren, Executive Director, FuturePorts**



METRANS Director Genevieve Giuliano and Domenick Miretti



2011 METRANS Advisory Board



Town Hall 2013: Danny Miranda, President, ILWU Local 94; Domenick Miretti; Marianne Venieris Gastelum, former CITT Executive Director; and Mike Podue, 2013 President, ILWU Local 63



Town Hall 2014: Johnny Rendon, ILWU Member and Domenick Miretti

## METRANS RESEARCH

# METRANS Faculty and Students Present Research at the 2016 TRB Annual Meeting continued

O'Brien played an active role at the meeting, conducting outreach on behalf of the METRANS University Transportation Center (UTC), National Center for Sustainable Transportation (NCST), MetroFreight, and the Southwest Transportation Workforce Center (SWTWC). He presented his research, "Language Diversity Challenges in the Emerging Transportation Maintenance and Operations Workforce," as part of the "Changes in Maintenance and Operations Workforce: New Paradigm" session. O'Brien also presented SWTWC research on a panel in concert with the four other regional transportation workforce center directors who collectively form the National Network for the Transportation Workforce (NNTW). The panel session began with an overview of the three-phase research methodology that each center is using to develop its Job Needs and Priorities Report. That process required generating and analyzing historic, current, and future occupational estimates for all priority transportation occupations identified in each center's report. After that overview, each center director gave an assessment of his or her region's unique characteristics and challenges, top priority occupations, and strategies to address workforce gaps. O'Brien's presentation was titled "Building a National Network for the Transportation Workforce." The panel concluded with a side-by-side analysis of each state's priority occupations, allowing the viewer to compare and contrast each region's needs against one another.

Marlon Boarnet, Professor and Director of Graduate Programs in Urban Planning at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy, also played a major role in representing METRANS at TRB. He contributed two poster sessions to the conference: "Structural Equation Modeling Analysis of the Impact of Urban Form and Gasoline Prices on Vehicle Use: Application to Southern California" and "Local Demographic Projections and Traffic Safety:

Integrating Census, CA Department of Public Health, and Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System Data." He also gave a presentation titled "Daily Travel Variability, Travel Survey Duration: Moving Beyond the Single Day Convention." Since attending his first TRB Annual Meeting in 1995, Boarnet was surprised by how the field has transformed over the years. "The 2016 TRB meeting was, in some ways, a technology conference," Boarnet said. "The biggest sponsors were technology companies; and concepts like big data, autonomous vehicles, and information were ubiquitous in the sessions and in the exhibitions. Our field is changing rapidly, and the TRB conference was a great example of how timeless topics – economic analysis, pricing, mode choice, governance, administration – must be combined with the opportunities created by new technology."

Geraldine Knatz showcased her research, titled "International Trade Driving the Future Economy: Ports/Shipping Perspective" to the Technical Activities Council and Policy and Organization Group on Monday. Shadi Saadeh, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at CSULB, also presided over a session of presentations titled "Experimental & Numerical Modeling of Asphalt Mixtures & Pavements."

In addition to the paper and poster presentations, TRB included other METRANS-related activities. These included a meeting of the MetroFreight team with participants from Los Angeles, New York, Paris, Seoul and Gothenburg, and meetings involving leadership from SWTWC, which is METRANS' newest center. Representatives from a number of transportation related organizations including the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), the US Chamber of Commerce, and the American Society of Civil Engineers also convened during TRB.

## METRANS EDUCATION

# METRANS Awards Arnold Valdez Student of the Year continued

A specialist in GIS and computer programming, Valdez managed large datasets and produced maps of the Southern California groundwater basin as an intern for the University of Southern California's (USC) Center for Sustainable Cities. As an intern for the Southern California Association of Governments, he also generated maps for the Regional Transportation Plan. In addition, he is the co-author of two academic papers: "The Simple, Efficient, Elegant, and Effective Model (SE3M) of Land Use and Transportation" and "Transferability Study of the Large Zone Economic Module (LZEM) of the SE3M Model of Land Use and Transportation." He is currently pursuing his Master's in Planning at USC, and also plans to further his education by pursuing a Ph.D. in Urban Planning at Ohio State University this fall.

Born in Compton, California, and raised in Nashville, Tennessee, Valdez received his Bachelor's in Geography from Brigham Young University, where he also met his wife, Laura. His academic interests are in spatial analysis, modeling, and transportation land use dynamics.

"I'm very grateful and honored to be recognized by METRANS Transportation Center and for being given the opportunity to attend the TRB conference," Valdez said. "This experience has solidified my interest in transportation and helped me delve deeper into the transportation research field." Valdez also shared his thoughts about TRB as a first-time attendee, noting that "there was much excitement and optimism about the FAST Act that funds transportation. Many of the TRB committees were budgeting for projects that they have been putting off." He also commented that many of the presentations on autonomous vehicles were quite popular; they were very well attended by individuals from all sectors.

Recently, Valdez was also selected to represent METRANS at the Eno Future Leaders Development Conference (FLDC) in Washington, D.C. this coming summer. Similar to the METRANS Student of the Year Award, Eno FLDC is geared towards students who are currently working on a graduate or doctoral degree, and who show the potential of becoming competent leaders in the transportation industry.

## METRANS OUTREACH

# 2016 CITT Town Hall Focuses on “Partners in Innovation”

The 2016 Center for International Trade and Transportation (CITT) State of the Trade and Transportation Industry Town Hall titled “Partners in Innovation” focused on collaboration and cooperation along the supply chain. The event explored how ports, terminals, truckers, shippers and labor are finding new ways to work together – thinking outside the box and outside the gate.

METRANS Associate Director Thomas O’Brien and College of Continuing and Professional Education Dean Jeet Joshee each presented opening remarks along with Congressman Alan Lowenthal, 47th Congressional District.

The agenda included a tribute to Domenick Miretti who passed away in February. Miretti was a long-time contributor to the international trade community and ILWU liaison to the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. He was one of the founders of the Town Hall and one of its biggest champions. O’Brien pointed out that the theme of this year’s Town Hall, “Partners in Innovation,” was one that Miretti strongly endorsed.

According to O’Brien, “It is fitting that we honor someone who bridged gaps between all of the industry stakeholders on a night when we are discussing how those same stakeholders are seeking out common ground.”

Bill Mongelluzzo, senior editor of the Journal of Commerce, introduced the evening’s main topic, “What Drives the Need for Innovation and Better Coordination Along the Supply Chain?” Mongelluzzo also moderated a roundtable discussion with the following panelists: Michael Christensen, Senior Executive Lead, Supply Chain Optimization, Port of Long Beach; Tracy Burdine, Director of Client Services, Yusen Terminals; Fred Johring, President, Golden State Express/Logistics; Steve Miller, Chief Procurement Officer, P.F. Chang’s; and Paul Trani, President, ILWU Local 63, Marine Clerks Association.

Audience members were invited to participate in a question and answer session with the panelists, and METRANS Director Genevieve Giuliano provided concluding remarks.

The event’s major sponsors were the U.S. Department of Transportation and Caltrans, as well as METRANS Associate Partners: Port of Long Beach, SCAG, Metro, Aerospace Corporation, APM Terminals, ILWU, Majestic Realty, Long Beach City College/Doing What Matters™, Watson Land Company, BNSF Railway, and Los Angeles Custom Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association.

## METRANS RESEARCH

# Tier One Completed Projects

### METRANS Tier One University Transportation Center Projects List

Area	PI	CO-PI (s)	Project Title
Better Data for Analysis of Passenger-Freight Interactions	Mohammad Mozumdar		Development of Mirco Wireless Sensor Platforms for Collecting Data of Passenger-Freight Interactions
	Burkhard Englert	Mehrdad Aliasgari and Shadnaz Asgari	Smart Truck Driver Assistant: A Cost Effective Solution for Real Time Management of Container Delivery to Trucks
	Shui Lam		Tracking Truck Flows with Programmable Mobile Devices
	Ketan Savla		A Dynamical Framework for Integrated Corridor Management
Integrated Management Across Users and Modes	Andreas Molish Maged Dessouky Petros Ioannou		Vehicle-to-Vehicle Communications in Mixed Passenger-Freight Convoys
Policies for More Efficient Urban Transportation	Cyrus Shahabi	Ugur Demiryurek	Analysis and Prediction of Spatiotemporal Impact of Traffic Incidents for Better Mobility and Safety in Transportation Systems
	Thomas O’Brien		Mitigating Urban Freight Through Effective Management of Truck Chassis
Spatial Patterns and Transportation	Marlon Boarnet		Urban Spatial Structure, Employment, Sub-Centers, and Passenger and Freight Travel
	Genevieve Giuliano		The Freight Landscape: Using Secondary Data Sources to Describe Metropolitan Freight Flows

## METRANS OUTREACH

# METRANS to Host 2016 CUTC Summer Meeting

METRANS is hosting the 2016 Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) Summer Meeting at the University of Southern California from June 6 through June 8. The theme for the meeting is "So You Think You Know Los Angeles?" Presentations and site visits will focus on challenging preconceptions about Los Angeles as well as revealing unknown characteristics of this major transportation hub. Los Angeles is home to North America's largest container port complex, the world's 6th busiest commercial airport, and the second largest public transportation agency in the U.S. with 1,433 square miles of service area and 87 miles of rail service. The city continues to transform itself around optimizing efficiency in all modes of transportation. CUTC, established in 1979, is a membership organization of major transportation research centers and institutes in the U.S. Today, CUTC membership represents over 150 of the nation's leading university-based transportation research and education programs. The CUTC Summer Meeting provides a forum for leading researchers in transportation to collaborate, share best practices in the development, management and promotion of research centers, and to advance the state of the art in transportation education and research.

## METRANS OUTREACH

# USC "Boots on the Ground" Dinner Spotlights Women Leaders in Transportation

The METRANS Spring Practitioner Speaker Series continued on March 23 with "Boots on the Ground, Flats in the Boardroom: Transportation Women Tell Their Stories," a dinner seminar cosponsored by WTS-LA (Women's Transportation Seminar, Los Angeles). WTS is an international organization with over 6,000 members geared towards promoting women within the transportation industry. The seminar featured four prominent female role models in the transportation industry: Grace Crunican, General Manager, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART); LaVerne Francis Reid, former Airports Division Manager, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); Dana Hook, Vice President, CDM Smith; and Mengzhao Hu, Senior Transportation Planner, KOA Corporation. WTS-LA Director-at-Large and Vice Dean, USC Viterbi School of Engineering, James E. Moore II also sat on the panel. The presentation highlighted the success of these four

women in the transportation industry, the hurdles they overcame to achieve that success, and their advice to those seeking to follow in their footsteps. Reid advised students that "you can either be an agent of change or a victim of change," and that you need to play off your own personal strength and agency to succeed.

"Events like this are extremely important for outreach efforts in the transportation sector," said Victoria Valentine Deguzman, METRANS Assistant Director. "As the industry continues to grow and evolve, efforts need to be made to highlight these new opportunities, and make them accessible to young women when it counts. A more diverse workforce benefits everyone involved, and the work that WTS-LA and METRANS is doing demonstrates a commitment to that idea."

## METRANS OUTREACH

# FHWA's Talking Freight Seminars Emphasize Urban Freight

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), through its Office of Freight Management and Operations and the Office of Planning, offers monthly webinars regarding key national freight topics. These presentations, referred to as Talking Freight, focus on providing technical assistance, training, tools, and information to help the freight and planning workforce meet current and future transportation challenges and are made available to anyone interested in these issues. Talking Freight recently featured presentations from the 2015 METRANS International Urban Freight conference (I-NUF), including Sönke Behrends of Chalmers University, Sanggyun Kang and Quan Yuan of the University of Southern California as well as an introduction by Tom O'Brien, METRANS Associate Director. The webinar began with Behrends' presentation, "The Dualism of Urban Freight Distribution: City vs. Suburban Logistics," then moved on to Kang's presentation, "Unraveling Decentralization of Warehouses and Distribution Centers," and concluded with Yuan's "Location of Warehouses and Environmental Justice." All three presentations played off of one of the unifying themes of this year's I-NUF conference, investigating the shift towards new forms of distribution, including e-commerce fulfillment, and how these new models will impact urban freight as well as the global supply chain as a whole. After each speaker presented his work, there was a panel discussion. "Talking Freight is a great way to get urban freight research out to practitioners in an efficient and accessible manner," said O'Brien. "The content is focused in such a way that it directly addresses challenges facing leaders in industry, government and academia."

## METRANS RESEARCH

# NCST Completed Projects

### METRANS National Center for Sustainable Transportation Projects List

Area	PI	Project Title
Sustainable Urban Freight	Genevieve Giuliano	Spatial Dynamics of the Logistics Industry and Implications for Freight Flows
	Marlon Boarnet	Urban Spatial Structure and GHG Emissions (Caltrans, new)

## METRANS OUTREACH

# SWTWC and Mineta Transportation Institute to Co-Host Workforce Summit

The upcoming summit, “Faster, Smarter, Cleaner, Greener: Developing the Transportation Workforce of the Future,” co-hosted by the Southwest Transportation Workforce Center (SWTWC) and Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University, will address new developments in the transportation sector and what they mean for workforce development. The free, all-day seminar will take place in San Francisco on April 29th and will emphasize how greater levels of outreach and training can be extended both to new students and existing workers within the industry. “As new technologies and business models arise, workers need to be prepared to design, develop, and maintain green technologies as well as intelligent transport systems (ITS) that will begin to gain prominence in the years to come,” said SWTWC Associate Director Tyler Reeb. The summit will feature keynote speakers and panelists who will address transportation workforce issues related to high-speed rail, autonomous vehicles, goods movement, and ITS.

## METRANS RESEARCH

# METRANS Researcher Tom O’Brien Publishes Research on Changing Workforce Development Needs and Freight Logistics Management



Thomas O'Brien

In December 2015, Thomas O'Brien, METRANS Associate Director of CSULB Programs, released two reports on ongoing research tied to workforce development and the local goods movement industry. The research was funded by USDOT and Caltrans.

The first study, “Changing Workforce Development Needs for Regional Transit and Transportation Agencies in California,” investigates the effect that California Senate Bill (SB) 375 has had on the workforce needs

and constraints of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the state. Through an intensive series of interviews and surveys engaging Councils of Government, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and transit agency representatives, O'Brien and his three student researchers documented a pressing need for new personnel demonstrating “leadership building, supervisory, and technology skills” in the near future. This study contributes to our understanding of how policy changes place technical strain on regional planning bodies.

SB 375, passed by the California legislature in 2008, requires MPOs to accommodate regional greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reduction targets set by the California Air Resources Board for 2020 and 2035. In addition, each MPO must prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy as a component of its regional transportation plan, detailing the planning strategies to be enforced to achieve the GHG reduction targets.

The results of the surveys indicate that California MPOs need more workers with management and systems modeling skills in order to comply with SB 375, as well as to accommodate an industry-wide trend towards activity-based modeling work. The technologies and skillsets advanced by planning education and training programs must adapt to reflect these changing needs.

Dr. O'Brien was assisted in this research study by CSULB Center for International Trade and Transportation Director of Research Tyler Reeb, and student researchers Matthew Alcalá, Daniel Magno, and Chris Snyder.

The second study, “Mitigating Urban Freight Through Effective Management of Truck Chassis,” explores the performance of a pooled truck chassis supply strategy initiated by industry including the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach in March 2015. Chassis are the body frame components of trucks built to carry shipping containers.

Known by those involved as the “pool of pools,” the chassis pool consists of three independent providers – Direct ChassisLink Inc., Flexi-Van Leasing Inc., and TRAC Intermodal, collectively owning about 82,000 of the 100,000-plus truck chassis servicing the local ports – for daily leasing by trucking companies. The intent was to introduce an alternative to what has historically been the business model here in the US: ocean carriers owning their own chassis supplies, resulting in inefficient movement of trucks between terminals. East Coast port facilities have been early adopters of pooled chassis systems and have witnessed efficiency gains over several decades as a result, but this was the first instance of a similar program being deployed in Southern California.

O'Brien's analysis, comprising of 18 months of stakeholder interviews and surveys, concluded that the pooled chassis strategy improved efficiency of truck movement into and out of the ports but had some shortcomings. The “pool of pools” method did not resolve inefficiencies in the chassis “roadability” (meaning highway use readiness) inspection and repair process. In addition, the program did not fully eliminate movement of empty chassis between port terminals or equipment hand-offs between operators at intermodal facilities. The study found that stakeholders working in and around the two Southern California ports believe the strategy is a “short and mid-term solution,” and O'Brien anticipates future experimentation in long-term pooled equipment lease methods and even in the European model of truck-operator-owned chassis supplies.

O'Brien believes the study's findings provide a valuable lesson in port-contextual private sector stakeholder cooperation. He was assisted in this second study by CITT Director of Research Tyler Reeb and METRANS Research Assistant Annette Kunitsa.

## METRANS OUTREACH

# APM Terminals: A Longstanding Industry Partner

APM Terminals is the world's largest terminal management firm with a network of 20,600 professionals working in more than 200 port and inland locations spanning 69 countries. As a METRANS Associates Partner, members of the APM team have shared expertise and provided access to company facilities, which has enhanced METRANS events, courses, and curriculum development.

"Over the years, APM has provided speakers for METRANS events as well as panelists for CITT Town Halls. We have also hosted CITT-designed Caltrans classes at our Port of Los Angeles facility, which gave students a real-world context to learn maritime and goods movement principles," said John Ochs, Senior Director of Labor Relations for APM Terminals. He added that APM provided expertise and instructors to develop curricula for METRANS professional development programs.

In August 2002, APM officially opened the largest proprietary terminal in the world: APM Terminals Los Angeles Pier 400. This 484 acre facility can handle up to 8,000 wheeled and 17,000 grounded containers while managing approximately 1.6 million twenty foot equivalent units. This terminal utilizes a 40 acre on-dock rail station with five miles of track that helps to eliminate over 1,000 truck moves per day, thus improving air quality and reducing traffic congestion. In 2014, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) awarded APM Terminals Pier 400 Los Angeles the "Best Safety Performance Achieved in 2014 Award" as well as the "Southern California Area Container Terminal Safety Award" for its dedication to safety and incident prevention.



## METRANS EDUCATION

# METRANS Podcast Series Features Leading Voices from I-NUF 2015

At the October 2015 METRANS International Urban Freight (I-NUF) conference, Mat Kaplan, the host of the METRANS TransCast podcast series, interviewed conference participants Benjamin Conwell, Senior Managing Director and Practice Leader for Cushman and Wakefield, Dr. Violeta Roso of Sweden's Chalmers University, and Dr. Melissa Tooley of Texas A&M. In the TransCast with Conwell, Kaplan explored how the shift towards rapid e-commerce fulfillment as well as the transition to omni-channel business models will impact not only urban freight but also real estate acquisitions for the logistics industry. Kaplan's discussion with Dr. Roso centered on slow steaming (the process of deliberately going slower to increase fuel efficiency) in ocean carriage and how faster

shipping actually reduces efficiency and profit. Finally, Kaplan's interview with Dr. Tooley highlighted the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) and the prominent role that TTI plays in worldwide logistics research.

The TransCast series provides a unique forum for discussing transportation-related developments with leading practitioners and researchers. In the process they allow for often technical and dense material to reach a wider audience.

**Full TransCasts are available at:** [www.metrans.org/transcasts](http://www.metrans.org/transcasts)

## METRANS EDUCATION

# Visiting Scholar Paige Zhuang Presents METRANS Spring Seminar



Paige Zhuang

Paige Zhuang, a professor in the Logistics Department at the Ningbo University Maritime Academy in China and a visiting scholar at California State University, Long Beach, presented her most recent work, titled "Regional Governance of a Port in China," at a recent METRANS spring seminar. Zhuang's case study focused on the intense competition among large Chinese ports that have occurred as a result of the development of the Ningbo Port. "The big ports in China are competing for deep-water coastline and for favorable government policies like free trade zones," she said.

Zhuang, who delivered her lecture on March 9 at USC Ralph and Goldy Lewis Hall, specializes in port management, shipping logistics, and supply chain issues. In her report, she looks at those factors and how they interplay on a regional and municipal level. Numerous port complexes have developed relatively adjacent to one another and are vying for regional and municipal support. The study serves as a demonstration of how, though the business that occurs within ports is internationally managed, the running of the facilities themselves and struggles for backing and connections occur at the local level. Zhuang also serves as a consultant to the Ningbo Port Group which gives her a unique insight into port issues from a ground-level perspective.

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