



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
STUDENT CHAPTER

2020–2021 ANNUAL REPORT

This report is submitted for consideration in the **Student Chapter Momentum Award Competition**.
The contents of this report cover the period of **March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021**.

Executive Board Members



Advisor

Dr. Samiul Hasan



President

John McCombs



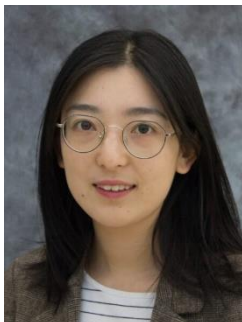
Vice President

Jorge Ugan



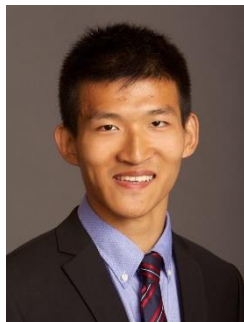
Secretary

Rezaur Rahman



Treasurer

Shile Zhang



Event Coordinator

Jiheng Huang



**Undergraduate
Coordinator**

Angelo Hernandez



Outreach Coordinator

Md Rakibul Alam

Message from the Chapter President

The past year has been challenging for many people and organizations, including our student chapter of ITE at UCF. When brainstorming began on how to make UCF-ITE more prominent on campus, it was without consideration for a global pandemic and a shift to an online-only environment. Nonetheless, **our chapter persevered and has made tremendous progress** in the past year!

One of the chapter's biggest focus areas this past year has been **new member recruitment**. In this past year, we have added **27 new members** to the chapter, bringing our current total to **32 members**. Recruitment was done primarily through word of mouth and giving (virtual) presentations to various engineering classes, some transportation-related and some not. We have ambitious goals to add more members and make our presence more known on campus. Our members represent a **diverse group of students**: undergraduate and graduate, domestic and international, and of several majors offered within the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Our chapter has also added **three new positions**: event coordinator, undergraduate coordinator, and outreach coordinator. These positions were contested, with members presenting to the chapter before holding an election. Each officer contributes greatly to the team, bringing **new ideas and viewpoints** to the table that help our chapter to grow and succeed.

Despite the shift to an online-only environment, our chapter was still to bring **guest speakers and networking events** to our members in **monthly meetings**. In the Fall semester, we had two guest speakers: Ryan Cunningham, P.E. (Kittelson & Associates) to speak about pursuing a career in the transportation field and Chris Russo, P.E., P.T.O.E. (Atkins) to talk about how to get involved with ITE. In the Spring semester, we are focusing on getting more speakers, including those from academia to discuss research and how to get involved in academic research.

Lastly, our chapter **bolstered its digital presence** by creating a Facebook page, website, email list, and member-only page. Through these platforms, we have been able to reach out to members with important information about events and opportunities.

Our chapter could not have had these successes without our advisor, Dr. Samiul Hasan, and the rest of the executive board. I can confidently say on behalf of the executive board that we are excited to see what the future holds for our growing chapter and that **we are ready to face any challenge that arises!**



John McCombs
UCF ITE Student Chapter President

Chapter Administration

A new and improved constitution: One of the guiding changes our chapter made this year was updating and improving the chapter constitution. This constitution contains information about officer positions, election procedures, membership requirements and dues, and more. We discussed the constitution with the officers and members, eventually having a vote to ratify the constitution. The constitution allows us to move forward and continue improving as a chapter.

Holding an election and adding three new positions: Our chapter holds elections at the end of the Fall semester, and officers elected to their positions hold it for one calendar year. This year, we added three new positions in a special election. These three positions are event coordinator, undergraduate coordinator, and outreach coordinator. Their duties are as follows:

- Event Coordinator: Plans all events for the chapter, including finding and scheduling guest speakers. This position also manages other event-related aspects, such as setting up the meeting and reserving any spaces as needed.
- Undergraduate Coordinator: Serves as a liaison between the chapter and undergraduate students. This position was created in response to the high number of graduate students who were members in comparison to undergraduate students. This position actively seeks to find more undergraduate students to join the chapter as well as get a feeling for what undergraduates would want to see us offer.
- Outreach Coordinator: Manages our digital communications, such as our Facebook page and email list. This position was instrumental for helping to boost our online presence and recruit more members during the pandemic, and this position will continue to be important going forward.

Increasing our digital presence: With the shift to an online environment, growing our digital presence was more important than ever before. We had plans to bolster it before the pandemic, but it certainly accelerated our timeline for it. By creating avenues for members (both current and prospective) to learn about ITE events and offerings, we were able to increase our membership and stay connected with students. Once it is safe to have in person events again, we will still rely on our online presence to keep members updated and let the student body know about our events.

Hosting regular meetings for both officers and members: Our chapter has worked hard to offer more opportunities for students to talk to industry professionals and academic researchers. This was accomplished over several meetings, including frequent officer meetings to ensure our goals were aligned and we were working towards them as a chapter.

Events This Year

Due to the global pandemic, all our events were held virtually via Zoom or other online platform.

August 23, 2020 Presentation to incoming freshman students at UCF as part of a club showcase online.

September 2020 (throughout) Several class presentations to various undergraduate engineering courses, including Highway Engineering and Engineering Statics. This helped us recruit many new members to the chapter.

September 30, 2020 A special election for the three newly created positions.

October 23, 2020 Ryan Cunningham, P.E., of Kittelson & Associates gave a presentation titled "A Career in Transportation" about entering the transportation field and held a Q&A afterwards.

December 2, 2020 Chris Russo, P.E., P.T.O.E., of Atkins gave a presentation about how to get engaged with ITE and how to navigate joining the workforce during the pandemic.

January 2021 (throughout) Our officers and members attended the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 100th Annual Meeting, which was held virtually over the course of the month. Several members had presentations at TRB and papers accepted for publication as well.

February 25, 2021 A meeting with the members of the chapter that was focused on getting member input on what they want to see from the chapter going forward.



Application of Technical Knowledge

The most prominent way that our members apply their knowledge is in transportation research. With **over 15 papers published or accepted for publication** this year along with **over 40 presentations given**, our members shared their knowledge to the world.

Journals Members Published in this Year:

- Accident Analysis & Prevention
- Advances in Transportation Studies: An International Journal
- Journal of Transportation Safety & Security
- Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour
- Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board

Networking Events



The largest opportunity for networking this year came from attending the Transportation Research Board 100th Annual Meeting, which was held entirely in a virtual environment. Across all our officers and members, **38 papers were presented**, with some moving on to be published in Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board.

New Member Recruitment

One of the biggest areas our chapter grew this year was with respect to new member recruitment. We gained 27 new members this year, the largest we have had on record. These new members come from various engineering backgrounds, with not every member being in the transportation engineering program. Moreover, we have students from around the world, representing a diverse group of students. These students were recruited from presentations to classes as well as a club showcase at the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester.

The Future of Our Chapter

The global pandemic may have prevented our members from participating in more community-focused events, but we still plan to get more active when it is safe to do so once again. Our **biggest focus in the next year is on hosting events in a safe and fun way**. We have several goals for the next year, and some are listed below:

- Hosting a **monthly technology/software seminar** with the goal of teaching undergraduate students how to use software important for various aspects of transportation engineering, such as ArcGIS, HCS7, R, SAS, and others.
- Hosting a **monthly guest speaker** that talks about research or industry to help students see more aspects of transportation engineering and the places it can take them.
- Hosting events that **build the community among our members**, like movie nights or game nights as desired by our members.
- Introduce a **points system to track member engagement**, with incentives for being among the most engaged members in the chapter for a semester.
- Getting **more members** and having more member engagement.
- Attending more **district ITE meetings** as a chapter to network with other chapters in our district and grow our involvement.



Along with the above goals, we hope to **increase our outreach to and involvement with the community**, such as **working with K-12 students** and providing our members more **field trips and technical tours**.

Chapter Contact Information

UCFITE@gmail.com | <https://www.cece.ucf.edu/ite> | <https://www.facebook.com/UCFITE>

Advisor: Samiul.Hasan@ucf.edu | President: John.McCombs@ucf.edu