

OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Amy Thompson, a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Rhode Island's Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, was named URITC's "Student of the Year" for 2007.

Each year at the annual winter meeting of the Transportation Research Board, the U.S. Department of Transportation honors the most outstanding student from each participating University Transportation Center for her/his achievements and promise for future contributions to the transportation field.

Students of the year are selected based on their accomplishments in such areas as technical merit and research, academic performance, professionalism and leadership.

With the honor comes a trip to the Transportation Research Board (TRB) meeting in Washington for an awards presentation and dinner and a \$1,000 cash award.

Thompson, who is from Guilford, Conn., completed her Bachelor's degree from URI in Industrial Engineering and her Master's degree from URI in Manufacturing Engineering. Her undergraduate GPA was 3.47, earning graduation honors status. Her graduate GPA was 3.68.

During her academic career at URI, Thompson began looking at transportation and supply chain issues. While serving as an instructor for

an undergraduate operations research class, the opportunity arose to address some of their parking lot design issues at the local Electric Boat (EB) facility. Although not trained as a transportation engineer, Thompson conducted a literature review of the major topics associated with this project, and presented them to a team of undergraduates in the class. Those students proceeded to visit the company with Thompson and collect data about employee arrival and departure rates, traffic behavior, and intersection signal control. The student team developed a new parking lot design recommendation and built a simulation model of the proposed traffic flows.

Thompson later revised and improved the undergraduates' model, presented it to the company, and received high accolades from the engineers there. A poster presentation at the regional American Society for Engineering Education conference regarding this project received an honorable mention and small monetary award.

For her dissertation research, Thompson has been working on a new extension of the Analytic Hier-



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archy Process, and applying this methodology to global supply chain and transportation flexibility problems. Thompson worked extensively on the URITC project, "Global Transportation Network and Supply Chain Management." She worked onsite with a major corporation and collected data regarding supply chain factors that she intends to integrate into her dissertation.

"Amy excels at research tasks, is able to transform real world problems into appropriate and accurate mathematical models, and is then able to present solutions and recommendations to a wide variety of audiences," said URI professor Valerie Maier-

Speredelozzi, who nominated Thompson for the award.

The URITC is proud to name Amy Thompson this year's "Student of the Year."