2006 Outstanding Student of the Year

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.

Aaron Clark was awarded URITC’s “Student of the Year” award for 2006. With that honor came a trip to the Transportation Research Board (TRB) meeting in Washington for an awards presentation and dinner and a $1,000 cash award.

Clark is a candidate for the URI Master of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering at the University of Rhode Island and is well known for his academic excellence and love for his work.

Clark conducted his graduate research on a URI Transportation Center sponsored project titled “Assisting Elder Drivers’ Comprehension of Dynamic Message Sign Messages.” As part of this project, he helped test and design traffic message boards that are easier to read for elderly drivers.

“We basically played with fonts, graphics, shadows, colors and message lengths to find out what works,” said Clark.

The goal of the team’s research was simple, create a test environment to monitor effectiveness of various designs and report on the findings.

From their work, the research team made some important conclusions that will help in the design of more effective electronic signage for the increasing elderly population.

It is with great pleasure that the URITC awards this year’s “Student of the Year” award to Aaron Clark.