

Surveying Engineering Technology News

<http://www.umaine.edu/set/svt/>

Fall 2008

ENROLLMENT — Our enrollment has remained approximately the same as last year, around 70 students. Approximately 45 students are Maine residents. The remainder of the SVT students are from New England with one exception. The current breakdown is the following: six from New Hampshire, four from Massachusetts, four from Vermont, three from Connecticut, and one from New York.

ABET ACCREDITATION — In early November the program was reviewed by the ABET/TAC accreditation agency. Many states, including some from New England, require students graduate from an ABET approved program to be given credit for their education toward licensure. The program passed the ABET review with only two concerns and one observation. One concern was the insufficient number of faculty given the student numbers and program scope. The second concern was the lack of assessment surveys from alumni and employers. With the financial shortfalls experienced by the state, there is little chance the first concern will be addressed. The second concern will be cured over time as the number of alumni and employers grow. As the numbers grow, there will be more feedback from alumni and employers.

There was also one observation. The program was complemented on its strong support among the profession. Thank you for this support!

The program expects to be accredited for the full six years. This program owes many thanks to the IAC members that donated their time to improve the program and meet with the ABET evaluators.

EMPLOYMENT OF GRADUATES— All May 2008 SVT graduates were employed before or shortly after graduation. The average starting salary was \$45,000 a year.

EMPLOYMENT — Student resumes are posted on-line at <http://www.umaine.edu/set/svt/Resumes.htm>

Undergraduates will start looking for summer employment in April. If you would like to employ a student for the summer, please review the student resumes posted on-line at <http://www.umaine.edu/set/svt/Resumes.htm>

Student contact information is provided at the end of their resume. Please contact the student directly if you would be interested in hiring the student. You should feel free to contact a faculty member for reference information on the student.

FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING EXAM — The program enjoys a commendable 97% pass rate for seniors taking the fundamentals of surveying exam (a.k.a. S.I.T. exam). While this is lower than the 100% pass rate that the program enjoyed until recently, it is still a noteworthy achievement.

ACSM STUDENT CHAPTER — This year the ACSM Student Chapter has ten active members. Six members are planning on competing in the 2009 National Society of Professional Surveyors

(NSPS) Surveying Student Team Competition to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah on February 20, 2009 (They have finished the initial research and are preparing the first draft of the required paper.). Seven members attended the Fall 2008 meeting of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors in Houlton Maine. The Student Chapter requested and were granted educational versions of ArcView from ESRI for all the members, and are working together to learn more about GIS (Thank you ESRI!). Finally, the Student Chapter will be working with the Orono Land Trust for some hands-on field work to be performed next spring. The ACSM Student Chapter is thankful for all the support they have received from land surveyors and alumni throughout Maine, New England and beyond.

The Chapter wishes to thank all those who have supported them in past ACSM Student Competitions.

SCHOLARSHIPS — Currently, the program has eleven scholarship funds: Col-East, Inc. SVT Scholarship (\$5,126), Carol and George Gay New England Section Scholarship (\$2,630), Virginia & Roger Ferguson New England Section Scholarship (\$34,155), Gunther Engineering Surveying Technology Scholarship (\$19,863), New England Section Ellsworth V. Stanley Surveying Engineering Technology Scholarship (\$68,631), Fritz Petersohn Memorial Scholarship (\$5,855), Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors Scholarship (\$6,348), Plisga & Day SVT Scholarship (\$3,412), Andrew J. Shyka Scholarship (\$6,942), Robert P. Titcomb Memorial Scholarship (\$6,042), and the SVT Alumni Scholarship (\$6,676). There is a total of \$165,680 in scholarship funds. This is a remarkable success for a program that is less than six years old. Those scholarships in excess of \$5,000 can make awards to students. Scholarships under \$5,000 cannot make awards until they reach \$5,000 through additional donations or interest accrual.

TRIBUTE & MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS — For those individuals that would like to pay tribute to a surveyor or firm or honor a departed surveyor, a memorial scholarship can be established for as little as \$500 (awarding the scholarship requires at least \$5,000). Tribute and memorial scholarships insure that great surveyors and firms will be announced forever by those students training to enter the surveying profession.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED — We are pleased to announce the following scholarship recipients: ACSM - New England Section Ellsworth V. Stanley Surveying Engineering Technology Scholarship - Nicholas Acheson, Robert Buzzell, Nicholas Craig, Jason Fitton, Suzanne Graves-Hall, Sean Lahann, Daniel Oakes, Alexander Ogilvie, Tyler Rigazio, and Samuel Stietzel, Virginia & Roger Ferguson New England Section Scholarship – Jacob Bartlett, Gunther Engineering - Matthew Plante, Andrew J. Shyka Scholarship - Ryan Brown, Pulp & Paper Foundation Scholarship – Ben Robie.

EQUIPMENT DONATIONS — The program now has six new Topcon GR-3s purchased on equipment grants using a match from SEFNE and a discount via education equipment system from Topcon Equipment donations. The program would like to thank SEFNE members and Topcon Equipment for making this purchase possible. The program would also like to thank Roger Coolong for the donation of a tribrach with an optical plummet.

PROGRAM CHANGES — Ray Hintz is offering an advanced GPS class. This is not a required course. Nevertheless, many students are taking advantage of the offering.

RECRUITING NEWS — First year surveys indicate that many students learn about the program from alumni, friends, and family. Thank you for passing the word to potential students about the great surveying education that is provided at the University of Maine. Please continue to talk to daughters, sons, nieces, nephews, coworkers, etc. about the program. Just like promoting a business, word of mouth is extremely effective for recruiting students.

DEAN'S LIST — The following SVT students earned the honor of being recognized in the Spring 2008 Dean's list: Nicholas Acheson, Jacob Bartlett, Robert Buzzell, Tyler Durant*, Suzanne Graves-Hall*, Nathan Hart*, Jared Johnson, Christopher Martin*, Robert Miles*, Jared Patenaude*, Tyler Rigazio, James Stevens, Samuel Stietzel*, and Nathan Winings. An asterisk (*) indicates the student graduated in 2008.

3.5 AWARDS — The following students were awarded the 3.5 Presidential Achievement Award:

Full-time students must attain a 3.0 GPA or better over two consecutive semesters (a minimum of 24 credits) of accumulated course work, and must also achieve a 3.5 GPA or better for the most recent semester (a minimum of 12 credits).

FRANCIS CROWE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS – Each year the School of Engineering Technology may nominate an individual who has made major contributions to advancing the art, science or practice of engineering. This year the award was presented to Dominick Auletto (2008). Dominick has been a strong advocate of surveying education and a supporter of the SVT program by providing low cost Topcon equipment to the program.

The following individuals have received the award in the past: Claire Kiedrowski (2008), A. Richard Vannozzi, P.L.S., M.S. (2006); and David Cook, P.L.S., M.S. (2003).

SHIRTS — The Surveying Engineering Technology program has polo and long sleeve dress shirts available for donations made to the SVT program in excess of \$30. The shirts are embroidered with the University of Maine crest above “Surveying Engineering Technology.” Available sizes include medium, large, X-large, 2X large and 3X large. If you are interested in making a donation please call Linda Liscomb at 207-581-2340 or complete the attached form. Donations should be made to the “University of Maine”

CONDENSED SURVEYING CLASSES — The Surveying Engineering Technology program offers surveying classes that meet just once a week for three to four hours each week. This condensed time slot allows students to make the drive to the University of Maine just once a week for fourteen weeks to complete a surveying course. In the Spring 2008 semester the following three-hour courses will be offered once a week for 14 weeks: Adjustment Computations, Boundary Law (Core Curriculum), Photogrammetry, and Practical Field Operations. Students can take CET101, Plane Surveying course (Core Curriculum), one day a week for four hours.

LICENSING & CERTIFICATIONS — If you are an alumni of the program, please check the alumni list at <http://www.umaine.edu/set/svt/SVTAlumni.htm> If you have licenses and certifications that are not included with your name, please send the information to Knud Hermansen at knud.hermansen@umit.maine.edu so the alumni list can reflect your accomplishments.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES — This newsletter is sent to all alumni by e-mail. If you have the e-mail address of other alumni, please send the address to Knud Hermansen at knud.hermansen@umit.maine.edu so they will receive news from the University of Maine.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR — The past year has been challenging for the School of Engineering Technology and the upcoming fiscal year looks to be even more challenging. The good news is that demand for our programs is up. Student enrollment is at an all-time high in our programs. Although economic conditions are creating volatility in the job market, demand for our graduates continues to be strong. Unfortunately, state funding for the University system is down so that we have not been able to bring more resources to bear to meet the increased demand for our programs.

The business challenges facing all of our alumni will be the same challenges we face at the University. I am proud to report that our faculty are being innovative to increase our efficiency at course delivery with minimal support with the goal of minimizing any decrease in program quality. We are optimistic that the economic downturn will hopefully only last 18-24 months and states will need hard working engineering graduates to rebuild infrastructure. We are thankful for all of our alumni support in this environment and will work hard to continue to serve the needs of future graduates.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS – The faculty and students of the Surveying Engineering Technology program wish all of you Happy Holidays!!!

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS - Contact Knud Hermansen at 207-581-2168 or Knud.Hermansen@umit.maine.edu if you have comments or questions regarding this newsletter or program information.