

University of Maine  
**Surveying Engineering Technology (SVT) News**  
<http://www.umaine.edu/set/svt/>  
**Fall 2014**

This newsletter is sent to alumni and friends of the surveying program at the University of Maine. The surveying program not only educates students for the profession of surveying, it is meant to serve the surveying profession by providing educated graduates that can be trained and eventually licensed as surveyors.

**PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTERS (PSM) DEGREE** — There are currently ten students enrolled in the PSM degree with a focus on surveying. There is one student each from Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Texas. Spring PSM graduate classes that are completely on-line are SVT 532 Lidar and SVT 541 Geodesy.

**ENROLLMENT** — There are 38 undergraduate students enrolled for the Spring 2015 semester. The residency of the students are the following: 20 ME, 6 NH, 3 MA, 3 VT, 2 CT, 1 RI, 1 NY, 1 PA, and 1 Saudi Arabia.

**TUITION INCENTIVES** — In addition to reduced tuition for New England residents that attend the SVT program, veterans may now enroll for in-state tuition. This includes the PSM program. The current residency of the veteran is not a factor in the tuition.

**RECRUITING** — The most serious deficiency in the program is the low student enrollment. Please encourage prospective students to consider a career in surveying. There are numerous employment opportunities and good salaries available for SVT graduates. For the last several years, there have been approximately three employment opportunities for each graduate.

Please contact local high schools and volunteer to make a presentation about surveying during high school 'career days.' Take an active role in trig-star competitions. Invite high school students to job shadow for the day. Talk to children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and friends. Participate in the scout merit badge activities that involve surveying or orienteering.

Some of our best students have transferred into the SVT program after obtaining a two-year degree at one of the many excellent two-year colleges in New England. Encourage these students to continue their studies. While licensure as a surveyor with only a two-year degree is possible in New England, many states now require a four-year degree. We have numerous graduates that are licensed in more than one state as a surveyor.

The SVT program has many excellent students that are categorized as non-traditional students. (Non-traditional students have worked for several years before attending college.) Some of these students have degrees in other fields that have low employment opportunities or salaries below what a surveyor can earn. Several are military veterans. If you know of women and men that are not satisfied in the current careers, ask them to consider earning a degree in surveying.

Check out the following video that shows the breadth of surveying services.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTVTFbYJ3Nw>

**NEW LICENSED LAND SURVEYORS** — Faculty were informed that Robert Coolong (2011) and Nick Elliston (2011), have passed the surveyor's exam and are now licensed surveyors. Jacob Bartlett (2009) already licensed as a surveyor in Maine has received word that he is now licensed in New Hampshire.

**FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING EXAM** — The following students have reported passing the fundamentals of surveying exam: Tyler Young, Daniel Begin, and Stephanie Mazerolle.

All students must sit for the exam as a prerequisite for graduation.

Note: Starting in 2014, students can schedule and sit for the surveying exam at any time. Previously, students could only sit for the exam twice a year (April and October).

**ACSM STUDENT CHAPTER** – The Chapter was busy during the Fall 2014 semester. There are currently six members. (Membership in the Student Chapter also includes Student Membership in the Geomatics Society of New England.)

The Chapter met every Tuesday evening. Some of the activities were:

- NGS Height Modernization – The students found several NGS Benchmarks on the ground with a high priority for Height Modernization in the Lamoine Maine region. (Because of two early major snow storms in October and November, they have had to postpone GPS observations until this spring.)
- Talks by Chapter President Tyler Young on setting up a HyperLite GPS receiver and on entering GPS data into OPUS.
- Talks by Chapter Faculty Advisor Carlton Brown on EDM Calibration Baseline use and on a graphical solution to a Least Squares Adjustment Resection example.
- Maine Society of Land Surveyors Fall Meeting - The students helped MSLS Executive Director Bruce Bourgoine with various tasks, attended seminars, and manned a table where T-shirts could be obtained for a donation to the Student Chapter.

The Chapter has several agenda items ready for the first Spring Semester meeting.

**SCHOLARSHIPS** — The following are the current market values for scholarships listed with the University of Maine Foundation:

- Geomatics Society of New England Ellsworth V. Stanley SVT Scholarship - \$62,366 (last year \$57,082)
- Andrew J. Shyka Surveying (SVT) Scholarship - \$22,561 (last year \$19,181)
- Col-East, Inc. SVT Scholarship - \$6,566 (last year \$5,907)
- Fritz Petersohn Memorial Surveying (SVT) Scholarship - \$8,646 (last year \$8,132)
- Carol & George Gay New England Section Scholarship - \$3,447 (last year \$3,346)
- Virginia & Roger Ferguson New England Section Scholarship - \$64,700 (last year \$61,065)
- Gunther Engineering Surveying Engineering Technology (SVT) Scholarship - \$20,332 (last year \$19,166)
- Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors & Civil Engineers Scholarship - \$6,349 (last year \$6,164)

- Plisga & Day SVT Scholarship - \$4551 (last year \$3,500)
- Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors Scholarship - \$7,242 (last year \$6,888)
- Robert P. Titcomb Memorial Scholarship - \$6,111 (last year \$5,830)
- Surveying Associations of New England SVT Photogrammetry Lab Fund - \$56,803 (last year \$55,962)

The Brian Kelly scholarship has been established in December 2014 to honor Brian Kelly, P.L.S. Brian was an endearing friend to many and a good friend to all. To remember Brian is to remember a smiling face, friendly words, and time filled with laughter. The following is taken from the scholarship:

Brian Kelly was an adventurer, a problem-solver, and a friend to all. He rarely took the easy route and was far more excited by the journey than by his destination. Each day was new. He loved challenges. He collected people and gave generously of a hugely optimistic spirit and his friendship.

Brian moved to Maine in 1990 when at age 50 he returned to school at the University of Maine to complete the core Survey Engineering curriculum. While working in the field with a Maine surveyor he earned his Bachelors Degree in Engineering Management through Southwest University, he became a Site Evaluator, licensed to design septic systems, and he received his Professional Land Surveyor's license in 2000. Brian served as President of the Hancock/Penobscot Chapter of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors and as a Director - At Large on the MSLS state board. He loved the woods and fields; he loved his work. Brian passed away in November 2014.

While on the subject of scholarships, it is worth noting that there are numerous other scholarships that surveying students may qualify for. Consider the following example:

**Norman E. Cobb Memorial Scholarship** - Established by Gladys Cobb's estate, this scholarship will be awarded to deserving students from Belfast, Maine or Waldo County who matriculate at the University of Maine.

**TRIBUTE & MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS** — For those individuals who would like to make a 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 \$20,000). Tribute and memorial scholarships insure that great surveyors and surveying firms will be remembered forever by those students training to enter the surveying profession.

**SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED** — Two SVT students received National scholarships. Stephanie Mazerolle received the Lowell H. and Dorothy Loving Undergraduate Scholarship Anne Howell received the Schonstedt Scholarship in Surveying. Myles 'Mo' Sykes and James Santos received MALSCE scholarships. James is the first recipient of a MALSCE scholarship what will provide him with money each semester while he is enrolled in the SVT program.

**ALUMNI/STUDENT NEWS** — The following are recent alumni/students news reported to Knud Hermansen (knud.hermansen@umit.maine.edu). These highlights are provided as a means to keep alumni informed of former classmates and to encouraging networking among alumni. (Also use the link "Hearsay and Rumors" on the SVT website.) Alumni reported the following:

- D. Ryan McDowell, P.L.S. (PSM Student) is enrolled in the PSM (Master's) program in

surveying. He is a licensed surveyor in Missouri and Kentucky. He is a member of NSPS, Missouri Society of Professional Land Surveyors (MSPS) and the Secretary/Treasurer of the St. Louis Chapter of MSPS. He is employed by Civil Design, Inc. in St. Louis MO where he is the Survey Department Manager. His firm has offices in MO, IL and KY.

- Nick Elliston, P.L.S. (2011), recently licensed, is working in Falmouth, Maine for David Titcomb as a Project Manager. David Titcomb, P.L.S. (1984) is a member of the Maine Board of Licensure and a graduate of the surveying program at the University of Maine.
- Ambrose Gmeiner, P.L.S. (PSM Student) is currently enrolled in the PSM program. He has been elected to the Board of Directors for NJSPLS as Director at Large.
- Mike Zmuda, P.L.S. (1990) was appointed to the Virginia State Board of Surveyors.
- Jacob Bartlett, P.L.S. (2009) is currently employed at Corner Post Land Surveying in Springvale, ME. He recently passed and received his New Hampshire surveyor's license.
- Brent Jones, P.L.S., P.E. (1987) is proud to announce that his daughter, Maggie Jones, just passed the Michigan bar and is setting up a practice with a partner specializing in family law.

Please check the alumni website to make sure we have noted your LSIT or PLS or PE licensing correctly.

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

**HEARSAY & RUMORS WEBSITE** – Readers are encouraged to send current employment, work, and family news to Knud Hermansen ([knud.hermansen@umit.maine.edu](mailto:knud.hermansen@umit.maine.edu)) for the Hearsay & Rumors link that is accessed from the SVT program website. This is a way to share news with alumni and others.

**ABET ACCREDITATION** — In the Fall semester 2014, the ABET/ETAC accreditation visit occurred. The evaluators examined outcomes, assessments, courses, faculty, and many other aspects of the program. As a result of this visit, the program was accredited for the maximum six-year term. Thanks to the IAC members who participated in the accreditation visit.

For a program to achieve ABET accreditation, the program must achieve and adhere to mandated criteria and standards with a plan for continuous monitoring and improvement. Many states will not allow graduates to become licensed as professional engineers or surveyors unless the applicant graduated from an ABET accredited program.

Quoting from the ABET website:

Simply put, accreditation is value. Reaching into our public, private, and professional lives, accreditation is proof that a collegiate program has met certain standards necessary to produce graduates who are ready to enter their professions. Students who graduate from accredited programs have access to enhanced opportunities in employment; licensure, registration and certification; graduate education and global mobility. <http://www.abet.org/why-accreditation-matters/>

ABET accreditation ensures the program meets high engineering education standards. Graduates from an ABET accredited program are allowed to sit for the fundamentals of

surveying exam in every state. In many states they are also allowed to sit for the fundamentals of engineering exam and can pursue licensure as a professional engineer.

**THANKS** — The program would like to thank the following individuals for donating their time to speak to the SVT100 (Introduction to Surveying Engineering Technology): Ben Darrah, P.L.S. (2003), Shep Sheppard, P.L.S. (1986), Russ Sossong, P.L.S., Claire Kiedrowski, P.L.S. (1990), Steve Gould, P.L.S. (1993), David Titcomb, P.L.S. (1984) and Scot MacDonald, P.L.S. (1990)

Also, a special thanks to the Maine Society of Land Surveyors for letting students attend the Fall meeting at no cost.

**FACULTY NEWS** — SVT faculty have been busy. In addition to teaching classes, grading papers, and advising, faculty support the profession by providing advice and seminars.

Steve Adam – Steve has been an adjunct faculty in the SVT program since the surveying program was transferred to the School of Engineering Technology. Steve has an MBA and teaches SVT 475, Small Business Management. This course has consistently ranked as one of the most useful courses in the SVT curriculum.

Carlton Brown — Carlton has been a faculty member in the SVT program since 2005. He focuses on teaching students plane surveying, construction surveying, CAD, and land development design.

Knud Hermansen – Knud has been a member of the faculty since 1989. Since the last year, Knud has presented several webinars and seminars to engineers and surveyors. He has given presentations on behalf of the West Virginia Society of Professional Surveyors, Connecticut Association of Surveyors, University of New Hampshire, Maine Society of Land Surveyors, Florida Surveying and Mapping Society, Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors, New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association, Maine Society of Professional Engineers, and the New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors. Seven professional publications have printed his articles. He has published two books. In his legal capacity, he has appeared before the Maine Supreme Court and prevailed. He also served as an arbitrator in a case before the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas, Schuylkill County.

Raymond Hintz – Ray has been a faculty member at the University of Maine since 1987. He transferred from the Spatial Information Engineering program into the new SVT program when it was initiated. He was and remains the coordinator for the SVT program. Ray has provided training/seminars this fall for the Florida Department of Transportation and the Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department.

LOUIS MORIN — Louis is a faculty member in the School of Forest Resources and an adjunct faculty in the Surveying Engineering Technology program. Louis has been teaching surveying and forestry courses at the University of Maine since September 1978. He is the faculty advisor for Forestry students obtaining a dual degree or seeking a surveying minor. Louis has and remains devoted to providing students with a practical education, including use of surveying equipment and software.

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES** — This newsletter is sent to all alumni and friends 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 about the program from the University of Maine.

**NEW YEAR** – The faculty and students of the Surveying Engineering Technology program wish all of you a happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year!!!

**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.