

University of Maine
Surveying Engineering Technology (SVT) News
<http://www.umaine.edu/svt/>
Fall 2015

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 20 students enrolled in the Professional Science Masters (PSM) degree with a focus on surveying. There are two students from CA, NC, NH, and TX. There is one student each from ME, CT, FL, IL, MA, MI, ME, NJ, NY, OH, RI, PA, and WI. Spring PSM graduate classes that are completely on-line are SVT 532 Lidar and SVT 541 Geodesy.

ENROLLMENT — There are 48 undergraduate students enrolled for the Spring 2016 semester. The residency of the students are the following: 22 ME, 8 NH, 3 MA, 4 VT, 2 CT, 1 RI, 2 NY, 2 PA, 2 NJ, 1 FL, and 1 Saudi Arabia. There are eleven dual majors in surveying and either forestry or forestry operations.

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

RECRUITING — WE NEED MORE STUDENTS. The most serious challenge facing the program is low student enrollment. Consistent low enrollment puts the surveying program in jeopardy. Salaries are good, employment prospects excellent, and alumni satisfied with their career. Our profession is 'graying.' We need more young people in the profession. Please help bring new students into the program. Here are some things you can do:

- Contact the local high schools and offer 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.
- Go to community colleges and encourage students in associate degree programs to continue their education and pursue an undergraduate degree in surveying.

Advocate some of the positive benefits to a surveying education and career:

- Independent working environment
- Working outdoors (exercise and suntan)
- Good salaries (Many surveyors believe they do not receive good compensation. Graduate with a liberal arts degree and see what the salary prospects are. Survey program graduates are in the upper one-third of salaries for college graduates at the

University of Maine and often exceed starting salaries of civil engineering graduates.)

- Numerous employment offers across the United States.
- Reduced tuition for New England residents under the NEBHE tuition rate.
<http://www.nebhe.org/programs-overview/rsp-tuition-break/overview/>
- The SVT program is ETAC/ABET accredited.
- The SVT program meets the education requirement for surveyor licensure in all states.
- The SVT program meets the education requirement for engineering licensure in many states.
- Military veterans from ANY state qualify for in-state tuition.
- Transfer between New England community colleges to the SVT program allowing for a 2+2 education and reduced expenses has been documented.

<http://umaine.edu/svt/resources/transfer/>

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 Ryan Brown (2008) is a licensed surveyor in Virginia. Sam Suorsa (2011) earned his Rhode Island surveying license. We were informed that Jimmy Courbron (2009), Sterling Hooke (2012), Matt Plante (2009), Andrew Strout (2012), Mark Provo (2012) and Nathan Hart (2008) are or will be licensed in Maine. Chris Michaud (2002) has passed the Oklahoma PLS Exam. Jared Serpico (2013) is licensed as a surveyor in Vermont. Congratulations to these alumni and licensed surveyors!

FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING EXAM — The following student has reported passing the fundamentals of surveying exam: Tyler Chamberlain.

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

Note: The fundamentals of surveying (FS) exam is a computer based exam. 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 Student Chapter will be competing in the 2016 NSPS Student Competition to be held on Monday, March 14, 2016 during the Surveying and Mapping Conference sponsored by NSPS and MAPPS in Arlington, Virginia (near Washington DC).

The topic for the 2016 competition is Large Scale Boundary/Topographic Survey. The competition consists of a Project, Project Binder (containing the project documentation), map and oral presentation. The Student Chapter members have finished most of the field-work (before any snow storms!) and are hard at work on the office work. The following is a message from the ACSM Student Chapter:

Greetings from the ACSM Student Chapter:

The ASCM Student Chapter has exciting news. This year we will be entering the 2016 NSPS student competition in Arlington, Virginia. It will be held on Monday, March 14 2016 during the Surveying and Mapping Conference.

This year's competition is for students to perform a large-scale boundary/ topographic survey that consists of a project binder, map and oral presentation. The size of the parcel will be between 8 and 10 acres. We have chosen the open field to the left of the "Route 2" entrance. The weather has been very cooperative this fall as I am sure you all know.

If you would like to make a donation to the club for traveling expenses, please send the donation to 119 Boardman Hall, Orono, Maine 04469-5711 in care of Carlton Brown. Checks can be made to the ASCM Student Chapter.

Thank you for your support and we are very excited to represent the University of Maine.

Sincerely,
President of the ASCM Student Chapter
Chris LaMotte

EQUIPMENT ROOM CLEANOUT – In November the program did a clean out of outdated and excess surveying equipment. Equipment was donated to New England state surveying societies for auction. The New Hampshire Society of Land Surveyors got the most since they showed up with an empty truck. Equipment ranged from Kern levels (with the beveled headed tripod) to plumb bobs, dumpy levels to used total stations. The funds obtained from the equipment auction will be used for scholarships. Be sure to attend the annual meeting and buy a piece of University of Maine history.

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

- Brian Kelly Surveying Scholarship – \$7,187 (last year \$0)
- Geomatics Society of New England Ellsworth V. Stanley SVT Scholarship - \$58,828 (last year \$62,366)
- Andrew J. Shyka Surveying (SVT) Scholarship - \$21,951 (last year \$22,561)
- Col-East, Inc. SVT Scholarship - \$5,756 (last year \$6,566)
- Fritz Petersohn Memorial Surveying (SVT) Scholarship - \$7,579 (last year \$8,646)
- Carol & George Gay New England Section Scholarship - \$3,022 (last year \$3,447)
- Virginia & Roger Ferguson New England Section Scholarship - \$56,744 (last year \$64,700)
- Gunther Engineering Surveying Engineering Technology (SVT) Scholarship - \$18,016 (last year \$20,332)
- Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors & Civil Engineers Scholarship - \$5,565 (last year \$6,349)

- Plisga & Day SVT Scholarship - \$4,169 (last year \$4551)
- Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors Scholarship - \$6,417 (last year \$7,242)
- Robert P. Titcomb Memorial Scholarship - \$5,358 (last year \$6,111)
- Surveying Associations of New England SVT Photogrammetry Lab Fund - \$49,566 (last year \$56,803)

The amounts are lower between last year and this year because of the scholarships that were awarded and lower return on investments.

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 — MALSCE awarded scholarships to James Santos and Myles 'Mo' Sykes. Anne Howell was awarded the Col-East Inc. SVT Scholarship. John Fanotto received the CALS scholarship. Finally, Jeff Weeks received the Carol and George Gay New England Section Scholarship.

DECEMBER GRADUATES - Tyler Chamberlain (ME), Ben Hodge (FL), and Tyler Young (NH) will be graduating in December.

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 see the link "Hearsay and Rumors" on the SVT website.) Alumni reported the following:

- Timothy E. 'Spyke' LeSiege (1988) remarried in April 2015. The former Darcy (Gould) Burke of Chesterville, ME is now Mrs. LeSiege. Together they have five children (two daughters and a son from my previous marriage and two sons from her previous marriage) and a daughter in law as well as a one year old granddaughter. Our oldest son (father of our granddaughter) is an Army Ranger living with his wife at Ft Benning, Georgia. My wife and I currently reside in Vassalboro, ME. Tim works for the Maine Department of Transportation. He is both a professional engineer (ME) and licensed surveyor/photogrammetrist (SC).
- Dan Begin (2015) joined SGC, a multi-discipline engineering/surveying firm in the Portland, ME area.
- Jonathan Drew II (2010) continues to work for the USDA Forest Service covering the survey needs of the Western Oregon Lands Zone, spanning 4 National Forests from the coast to the Cascade range. He has received his surveyor's license in the state of Oregon. He has completed certification as a Certified Federal Surveyor.
- Chris Mende (1984) has asked alumni to remember a departed SVE student that passed away before he graduated - Ken Hokenson. These are Chris' words...

Last March I was cycling in Death Valley for eight days with a group of 13 strangers from all over the country. As the week passed we spent time together enjoying the amazing scenery, shedding

winter fat on the long-long climbs up Dante's View and other great climbs. We spent a lot of time in camp in the evenings - cooking, eating and learning about one another. We were all in the 50-60 age group, so there was a lot to learn.

One evening I was talking with a woman from Oregon, previously from Colorado, and before that from the High Peaks area of New York State. We learned that we both had Forestry degrees and also surveying backgrounds. As the conversation continued I learned she had graduated from Paul Smith's College in upstate New York. I mentioned that I had had several friends in the Surveying Engineering program at U Maine in the 1981-1984 years. Coincidentally one of her best friends from childhood and from Paul Smith's attended UMO in the SVE program, but unfortunately he had died and never graduated. This friend of hers, as it turned out had been a great friend of mine as well - Ken Hokenson - who died on Mount Washington in March 1982.

I told her about ski races with Ken, hikes with Ken, canoe races with Ken and a January climb of Katahdin with Ken. I told her about the great times we all had in Boardman Hall working on assignments for Alfred.

We both shared a few tears, individually and together remembering Ken - our friend. He would have loved those eight days in Death Valley - out of the cold and snow - in the hot sun. We miss you Ken, and I hope this note will cause other alumni who knew Ken to think about him for a few moments.

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

<http://www.umaine.edu/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) for the Hearsay & Rumors link that is accessed from the SVT program website. This is a way to share news with alumni and others.

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)

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

Steve Adam – Steve changed high schools and now teaches at John Bapst High School in Bangor, Maine.

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 coordinated the 2015 Biennial Conference of the Surveying and Geomatics Educators Society (SaGES) which was held on campus from June 22 to June 25, 2015. There were over 30 attendees.

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

Knud Hermansen –Knud will be entering phased retirement starting in January 2016. He will only be teaching during the Fall semesters until 2019 when he will be fully retired. His wife’s medical condition requires he spend more time with her.

Knud has given presentations on behalf of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors, Florida Surveying and Mapping Society, Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors, the New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors, National Business Institute, Halfmoon Seminars, and the Rhode Island Society of Land Surveyors. He has written at least four articles and provided legal counsel to several law firms.

Knud has been a member of the faculty since 1989. He teaches boundary law, construction law, plane surveying, construction surveying, civil engineering, and writing legal descriptions.

Raymond Hintz – Ray has provided training/seminars in Florida, New Hampshire, and Arkansas. He provided public service survey work to Baxter State Park (Lidar), Orono Land Trust/Husson University (donated property), and Orono Land Trust (existing donated Cota property).

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.

LOUIS MORIN — Louis has been busy teaching surveying and GIS. He is the faculty advisor to students with a dual major in Forestry and Surveying.

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.