

University of Maine Surveying Engineering Technology Spring 2023 Newsletter

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

<https://online.umaine.edu/surveying/>

The SVT faculty is pleased to share with you this information. We try to get the newsletter to more people/email addresses including more emails of surveying degrees prior to SVT and friends of SVT. If you know of someone who is not getting this (and should) please tell Ray. Any work or family related information you want in the next newsletter please email Ray ray.hintz@maine.edu.

Graduates / Fundamental of Survey exam results

If I missed someone tell me. This is not easy due to our numbers! Note a lot of seniors have 1-2 classes left so December graduation is going to be bigger than usual. Congratulations!

Bachelor of Science in Surveying Engineering Technology

Thais Ahlstrand, PLS (TX)

Greg Assis, LSIT (NY)

Adam DiGiuseppe, LSIT (NJ)

James Dowd, LSIT (MO)

Andrew Hutzler, LSIT (SC)

Phil Salamon, PLS (MA)

Undergraduate Certificate in Surveying Engineering Technology

Conor Burns (MA)

David Clark (MA)

Anthony Djonne (MN)

Dillon Hamilton (GA)

Katelyn Jones, LSIT (MO)

Rob Knott, PLS (AZ)

Andrew Langford (GA)

Ryan Lavelle (NH)

Anthony Laverde, LSIT (MA)

Ezekial Lord (ME)

Benjamin Minnix (MA)

Joseph Noel (VA)

Matthew Peck (WI)

Joshua Plumb (MA)

Seven more could have graduated but want more classes!

Graduate Certificate in Surveying Engineering Technology

Douglas Bailey, LSIT (VT)

Keith Tornifoglio (NH)

Levi Ladd, PLS (ME)

Brian Dollar, PLS (AR)

Master of Science in Engineering Technology, Surveying Engineering Concentration

Jacob Petry, LSIT (WV)
 Jeannie Liimakka, PLS (ID)
 Cassandra Quintal, PLS (ME)
 William Heft (TX)

Professional Science Masters in Engineering and Business Surveying Engineering Concentration

Tara Mullen, PLS (ME)

New Surveying Licenses etc. (and ones I never listed before, in order I found out)

Please email Ray when you receive a new license as trying to figure this out online is not easy. I am worried I am missing a lot of your licenses. Congratulations!

Brandon Key CO, UT
 Travis Gibson CO
 Don Burt MI
 Dan Oakes ME, AR, KY, LA, NJ, OH, SC, TN, TX (we never mentioned Dan before)
 Rafael Bombacini KY
 James Flores NJ (national part)
 Skylar McLain MI
 Michael Totaro NJ
 Jason Tommell FL
 Preston Maguire CFEDS
 Robert Knott AZ
 CJ Ruch NJ (national part)
 Philippe Koller WI
 Aaron Brown (national part)

Passed the Fundamentals of Surveying exam (in order I found out)

Congratulations!

Greg Assis NY
 Adam DiGiuseppe NJ
 Travis Gibson CO
 Douglas Leslie SC
 Brian Gish MO
 Jeff Blachly MD (cert)
 William Romanski RI
 Carl Lagodna MI
 CJ Ruch NJ
 Stephen Zimmerman IL/IA

Scholarships

Unfortunately, the Office of Financial Aid (not the Foundation) is tweaking their process of awarding scholarships and this has delayed the awarding of Foundation scholarships that were normally provided in early April. They will be listed in the fall newsletter.

Jenn Tuomala Adult Learner Online Scholarship
 Jacob Williams Pennsylvania Land Surveyor's Foundation
 Don Burt Brian Kelly Scholarship
 Robert Reedy MALSCF

Ian Henderson AAGS/NSPS
 Douglas Leslie Schonstedt Scholarship for Surveying
 Peter Kelton NSPS
 Jack Ward California Educational Foundation Scholarship
 Justin Bogue UMaine Transfer Merit Scholarship
 Thais Ahlstrand Hovey Scholarship
 William Clifton MSLS scholarship
 Andrew McMullen MSLS scholarship
 Tara Mullen MSLS Scholarship

Undergraduate enrollment (including undergrad certificate)

We have approximately 187 students in BS SVT (start of spring semester). Based on start of spring semester we have 107 students in the undergraduate SVT certificate. We have the largest population of undergraduate students per faculty in the College of Engineering. We receive great support from Division of Lifelong Learning's (DLL) undergraduate retention and enrollment specialist Tiffany Peterson. Tiffany also is now managing undergrad certificates replacing Todd Cooley.

Professional Science Masters (PSM) in Surveying Engineering, Graduate Certificate in Surveying Engineering, and Master of Science in Engineering Technology surveying engineering concentration news

Our enrollment is 40 students in the completely on-line programs. Note that is approximately 20% of the entire graduate school population of the College of Engineering. We now have the largest number of graduate students per faculty in the College of Engineering. Todd Cooley is our online support specialist for the graduate programs.

Doctorate of Engineering in Engineering Technology Surveying Engineering Technology concentration

Your support had a major impact. The proposal has been approved by the Dean of Engineering and the University Provost. A full proposal has been completed and will now begin the long process of approval through several committees. This is the most critical time to voice your support if you have not yet done so. Outside support drives these processes. So please if you have not voiced support please do so with a letter to Associate Dean Mohamad Musavi, musavi@maine.edu and cc: ray.hintz@maine.edu. Surveying is equivalent to all other branches of engineering, and this is the last step in achieving academic equivalence.

NSPS Student Chapter

The NSPS Student Chapter had a busy year. Several of the new first year students, and transfer students from other programs, who are on campus joined the club at the beginning of the fall semester and have stayed active and engaged in the club. Weekly meeting attendance was 10-12 students and also participated in the following activities:

- As a group they attended the MSLS fall meeting at Sunday River, and hosted the MSLS winter meeting in Orono, and will have a representative presenting at the MSLS Annual Meeting coming up in May.
- The student club is also working with the Manager of Engineering Services at UMaine (Andy Brown, SVT '11) to locate and measure all the passive control points on campus for inclusion in a high precision network.
- On April 28th they have arranged for Doucet Surveying, Inc. to visit with their GPR unit to search for the base of the original Thomas Hill Observatory mark in Bangor. The quest to find this important piece of Maine Surveying History was begun by Harry Nelson (MEDOT) almost two

decades ago. Harry will be on hand for the victory lap and photo-ops if the students are successful.

- The club ran its first fundraiser in over a decade and raised approximately \$1500 selling highly popular sweatshirts. Now that they know how to organize such things, look out for more SVT swag in the coming years!
- The students also received a generous donation of \$2000 from MSLS to help defray the costs to attend the NSPS student competition and were very grateful to have received it.
- The highlight of the club's year was their trip in late March to the NSPS national student competition. The students received an honorable mention for their effort and represented the program and University well as they participated in the competition and the other activities put on by NSPS.

Donations

Assistant Professor Joseph McNichols has created a new Foundation fund in honor of his parents. For years Joe has made annual silent donations to our other SVT Foundation accounts and it was time to document this process through a new fund. Thanks Joe for your amazing support and an amazing first year of being an SVT faculty member. Please do not be afraid to consider a Foundation account in support of SVT. The Foundation has performed amazingly in managing our accounts and helping with a long stream of continuous donations.

Online SVT

Obviously, a large influx of students has been due to the online degrees which are combined with an incredible reduction in out of state tuition costs (so-called E tuition which is in-state*1.25). Veterans, no matter where they live, qualify for in-state tuition along with dependents using a veteran's G.I. Bill. The degrees are

- (1) Bachelor of Science in Surveying Engineering Technology <https://online.umaine.edu/svt/>
- (2) Professional Science Masters (PSM) in Engineering and Business Surveying Engineering concentration <https://online.umaine.edu/grad/professional-science-masters-in-engineering-and-business/>
- (3) Master of Science in Engineering Technology Surveying Engineering Technology concentration <https://online.umaine.edu/online-master-of-science-in-engineering-technology/>
- (4) Graduate Certificate in Surveying Engineering <https://online.umaine.edu/surveyingengineeringcert/>
- (5) Undergraduate Certificate in Surveying Engineering Technology <https://online.umaine.edu/online-undergraduate-certificate-surveying-engineering-technology/>

Many of our students have a previous degree and only need surveying classes. Likewise some students simply need a core of surveying classes. (5) will be the option for those students. The 9 cr. of BUA/MBA in the PSM is replaced with 9 more cr. of graduate surveying coursework in the MS.

Please pass the word to all potential students. We want to continue to be the leader in online surveying education in the United States. Your help makes us achieve that goal.

Facilities

The online SVT teaching studio in the basement of Boardman Hall is totally in 100% production. This greatly enhances our abilities to create the best online content possible.

Getting an early start in surveying education

Carlton Brown is teaching a section of SVT 101 Basic Surveying Field and Office Processes to 15 high school students at Bucks County Technical High School in Pennsylvania. Carlton's enthusiasm to bring university education to an expanded population is truly exciting. We hope to find similar high schools that could benefit from this liaison. To learn more about this listen to the "Surveyor Says" podcast at <https://surveyorsays.podbean.com/e/ep162-bonus-episode-the-bucks-county-technical-high-school-program/>.

Francis Crowe Induction



David O'Brien, PLS
Co-Founder and President of SurvTech Solutions, Inc

First no Crowe ceremony (COVID), then another year he had to attend another graduation, finally David O'Brien will be the SVT distinguished nominee! Notice he did not say what year he graduated. David has hired numerous SVT's and I believe all of them became licensed under his guidance. He has donated significant funds to the University of Maine. Congratulations David!

David O'Brien is a co-founder and president of SurvTech Solutions, Inc. and has over twenty-nine (29) years of experience in the surveying and mapping profession. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Surveying Engineering from the University of Maine. Mr. O'Brien is a professional surveyor and mapper licensed in eleven (11) states, a Certified Federal Surveyor (CFedS), and a Certified Floodplain Surveyor (CFS). He is licensed in the states of FL, GA, SC, NC, AL, MS, LA, TX, TN, KY, and AR. As one of the founders of SurvTech Solutions, he has overseen the expansion of SurvTech Solutions from a traditional surveying firm of two (2) people and one office, to a full-service geospatial firm with approximately one hundred (100) people and six (6) offices around the southeast US and Puerto Rico. SurvTech offers traditional land surveying services, subsurface utility mapping, aerial mapping (Airplanes, helicopters, and UAVs), hydrographic surveying, terrestrial, mobile, and SLAM (indoor) LiDAR, GIS, geophysical mapping, and metrology.

Sad News

Perhaps the most important person in surveying education in New England – Gunther Greulich – passed away recently in his own bed at the age of 95. Surveying at the University of Maine maybe would not have happened without Gunther's demonstrative efforts in the late 1970's. He continued that support for decades with an enthusiasm that few people can ever attain. Gunther's donations to fund a scholarship account for SVT have been equally demonstrative. We will never forget his passionate speech and the joy he gave to graduates when he became a Francis Crowe distinguished nominee in 2009.

SVT graduate news

Josh Bragg (PSM) while not giving up his day job, has taught his first surveying class at Florida Gulf Coast University and is invited back to teach again because he did so good.

Joe Fenicle (MS ET) has accepted a tenure track assistant professor of surveying and mapping at the University of Akron.

Sarah Bell Thomas (BS SVT) reports I am married and have three small kids. All girls. (Izzie,7, Abbie,5, and Emily, 2.5). I am married to Michael Thomas a 1997 grad of the construction management program. This year we purchased Mountainside Grocers of Carrabassett Valley. We live full time at the base of sugarloaf mountain (Carrabassett Valley). That is the basic information, lots of chaos but also fun.

Ambrose Gmeiner (PSM) was asked to be the head judge this past weekend for the ASCE UESI Surveying Competition held at Rowan University.

John Bean (grad cert) received the US Army Corp of Engineers Drone Operator Certification. It's like the Part 107 qualification but for federal work.

Daniel Namyst (PSM) while not giving up his day job is teaching surveying at California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo.

Jacob Petry (MS ET) is a survey instructor at Glenville State University in WV. He recently invented the Pathfinder: Directional Conversion Wheel for Land Surveyors, <https://www.glenville.edu/news/glenville-state-university-professor-creates-tool-land-surveyors>

Faculty News

Knud Hermansen retired spends most of his time in the wintry confines of Florida with a couple months of summer in Maine swatting black flies. He will continue to teach 6 classes in an adjunct role plus is also teaching for some other survey programs. In the past couple years, he built his second Florida getaway in the wilds outside of Arcadia. Note the Florida west coast hurricane brought the Peace River overflow to this getaway, but Knud built the floor just high enough to avoid flooding.

Ray Hintz spent the previous academic year managing the ever growing undergraduate and graduate student online populations. He needs your help to get a Doctorate in Surveying approved which returns all degree options like we had 20 years ago.

Carlton Brown teaches half of the "large population" early curriculum courses such as SVT 101 Basic Surveying Field and Office Processes and SVT 122 AutoCad for Surveyors II. Carlton is responsible for making incoming students happy with their SVT experience. He is teaching SVT 101 to high school students from a technical school in PA. His dedication to the students gives them the enthusiasm to finish their degree or certificate.

Rich Vannozi teaches the other half of the "large population" live courses and online courses such as SVT 102 Surveying for Civil Engineers and SVT 121 AutoCad for Surveyors. Due to its popularity SVT 102 will now be offered every semester. Rich continues to lead the faculty efforts in maintaining the SVT equipment room and online teaching studio as well as serving as advisor to the NSPS Student Chapter. Rich has also taken on the responsibility to recruit professional surveyors from NSPS to become Program Evaluators for ABET/NSPS. If anyone is interested in doing this (NSPS NEEDS individuals with Bachelor and Master's degrees in surveying to do this!) please reach out to Rich at anthony.vannozi@maine.edu for more information. Rich is also active on the NSPS Education Committee and at their March 31st meeting made a proposal for an official NSPS policy on graduate education. This was formed into a

motion that was presented at the April 1, 2023 NSPS Board of Directors Meeting and passed unanimously. The policy is as follows:

"NSPS strongly supports and encourages both the creation of new, and the expansion of existing, masters and doctoral degree programs in surveying in the United States."

This policy will allow the NSPS leadership to support specific efforts, such as SVT at UMaine, to improve access to advanced degree programs. The rationale that was presented with the motion was as follows:

1. Undergraduate and Graduate Surveying programs across the country are finding it increasingly difficult to find faculty, full and part-time, that meet institutional graduate educational requirements. In particular those programs focused on preparing students for careers as licensed surveyor, where both licensure and graduate education are minimum requirements for faculty appointments, find the pool of qualifying applicants dwindling.
2. The clustered retirements of large numbers of "baby boomer" surveyors in the current decade is driving an unprecedented need in industry for educated surveyors to replace them. This national problem cannot be addressed without increasing the numbers of qualified surveying educators to prepare them.

There is a well documented explosion in the use of complex and ever-evolving technology in surveying making specialized education, beyond the baccalaureate degree, a professional necessity for many individuals across the country. Many of these individuals are either already licensed surveyors or on their path towards licensure in one or more jurisdictions.

Joseph McNichols joined the faculty in August and is just completing his first academic year in outstanding fashion. His years of public service surveying add depth to our program and his funded Foundation account will forever provide scholarship money to SVT students.

Steve Adam continues to teach SVT 475 Small Business Management which has become one of the most successful CED courses at the University of Maine. Note a wide variety of students not in SVT also take the course.