

## University of Maine Surveying Engineering Technology Fall 2024 Newsletter

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

<https://online.umaine.edu/online-surveying-engineering-technology-programs/>

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](mailto:ray.hintz@maine.edu).

If you are an alumni please review <https://umaine.edu/svt/alumni/>. If you are not on the list tell Ray. If you are missing a license designation (FS, PS, PE, etc.) tell Ray. We want this list to be "correct".

### **Graduates / Fundamental of Survey exam results**

If I missed someone tell me. This is not easy due to our numbers! Congratulations!

### **Bachelor of Science in Surveying Engineering Technology**

Danny Antenucci, LSIT (NJ)

Ethan Conklin (NJ)

Rhett Cropper, PLS (AL)

Richard Hutchinson, LSIT (MI)

Donald Johnston, PLS (VT) (Donald started surveying classes at U Maine in Fall 1981 !!!)

Steve Zimmerman, PLS (IA)

### **Undergraduate Certificate in Surveying Engineering Technology**

Freeman Boynton III (MA)

Joseph DeLucia (MA)

Ethan Dickson, LSIT (MA)

Dustin Drost (PA)

Paul Ercolano (NJ)

Alexander Goetz (NY)

Timothy Kramer (MO)

Timothy McKillen (NY)

Randy Miller (PA)

John Peterson (MA)

Cory Rellstab (NJ)

Christopher Sedgwick (CT)

James Waters, LSIT (MA)

### **Master of Science in Engineering Technology, Surveying Engineering Concentration**

Wesley Loudon (LA) (continuing for doctorate)

John Wolfenden (MA)

### **Professional Science Masters in Engineering and Business Surveying Engineering Concentration**

Joseph Baron, PLS (PA) (continuing for doctorate)

Keith Tornifoglio NH

**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!

Mark Patterson (IN)  
William Ruszkowski (NJ) national part  
Jason Smith (NJ) national part  
Luke Lapierre (ME) state specific part  
Jake Fricke (MA)  
Christopher Bedford (NC)  
Julie Raimondi (RI)  
Daniel Hatley (MO) national part  
Jacob Forster (TN) (cert)  
Jacob Petry (WV, KY)  
Jacob Lawler (SC)  
James Dowd (MO)  
Douglas Leslie (NC)  
Derrick Gonzalez (NJ)  
Brian Yorkiewicz (NJ)  
Ambrose Gmeiner (TX)  
Matthew Mokanyk (MN)  
Andy Whaley (KY)  
Dan Oakes (AL, MO, VT)  
Byron Muniz (FL)

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

Congratulations!

Matt Patterson (IN) (cert)  
Richard Weiland (CA)  
Mohamad Badr (TN)  
Justin Bewley (NJ)  
William Ruszkowski (NJ)  
Jasmine Gregory (ME)  
Anthony Kraiger (IN)  
Danny Antenucci (NJ)  
Justin Bogue (TX)  
Matt Ewing (IN)  
Seth Sullivan (ME)  
Nicholas Hallahan (CA)  
Roman Hancel (RI) (cert)  
James Water (MA) (cert)  
David Morgan (SC) (cert)  
Bryant Tucker (AL)  
Danny Laferriere (CT)  
Alexander Zasso (CA)  
Ethan Dickson (MA) (cert)  
Matthew Bodak (NJ)  
Ricky Hoyt (CA)

## Scholarships

All scholarships are listed in the spring newsletters.

### Undergraduate enrollment (including undergrad certificate)

Based on the start of fall semester, we have approximately 230 students in BS SVT, 113 students in the SVT undergraduate certificate, 41 surveying graduate students in grad certificate or masters, and 18 in the new doctorate. 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 Tessa Smith who has replaced Tiffany Peterson. Tiffany has changed her role at the university and we appreciate her years of support.

### 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 41 students in the completely on-line programs this fall. We now have the largest number of graduate students per faculty in the College of Engineering. Kimberly Lai is our online support specialist for the graduate programs replacing Todd Cooley who now is at a different university and will be missed.

### Doctorate of Engineering in Engineering Technology Surveying Engineering Technology concentration

Your support had a major impact and the doctorate is official with the start date of fall 2024! This is the first new doctorate/PhD at the University of Maine in 10 years. Surveying is equivalent to all other branches of engineering, and this is the last step in achieving academic equivalence. We had 18 students in the program starting this fall and have accepted 5 more who will start in January. Our numbers are similar to the other engineering PhD programs. Obviously the race is on to be the first person to receive this degree. Kimberly also is our online support specialist in this program.

### NSPS Student Chapter

The student chapter has weekly meetings and had a strong presence at the MSLS meeting on campus in October. As part of the meeting the student chapter played a big role in the Topcon Surveying Laboratory grand opening. We are very proud that other schools at the NSPS student competition were very impressed with the professionalism of our student chapter. They are congratulated for what they contribute to our program.

### Foundation Based Donations

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. Note the stock market was very good to us recently and we now have over \$600,000 in the SVT accounts in the Foundation.

Foundation accounts in no particular order Sept. 30, 2024 Principal Market Value

(1) Col-East, Inc. SVT Scholarship	6,200	8,385
(2) Geomatics Society of New England Section Ellsworth V. Stanley Surveying Engineering Technology (SVT) Scholarship	59,314	97,391
(3) Gunther Engineering Surveying Engineering Technology (SVT) Scholarship	29,890	38,164
(4) Petersohn, Fritz Memorial Surveying (SVT) Scholarship	17,035	21,950
(5) Plisga & Day SVT Scholarship	62,977	75,891

(6) Shyka, Andrew J. Surveying (SVT) Scholarship	38,750	64,009
(7) Surveying Associations of New England SVT Photogrammetry Lab Fund	65,477	94,013
(8) Kelly, Brian Surveying Scholarship	12,200	17,199
(9) National Council of Examiners for Engr. & Surveying Excellence Fund	40,000	46,145
(10) Titcomb, Robert P. Memorial Scholarship	16,564	20,895
(11) Ferguson, Virginia & Roger New England Section Scholarship	60,150	80,321
(12) MALSCCE scholarship	43,000	49,388
(13) RI Soc. of Prof. Land Surveyors Scholarship fund	7,000	9,389
(14) McNichols, Robert C and Bernice M. Scholarship	6,000	7,081
(15) Gay, Carol & George New England Section Sch.	79,823	105,538
Total	544,380	735,759
6 months prior was	533,475	696,746

SurvTech Solutions (David O'Brien) is establishing the Henry Simpkins Memorial Scholarship Fund in the Foundation. Hank (as everyone knew him by) went straight from graduation to working for David and did great things but unfortunately left this world too soon. This is a great way to honor Hank's legacy.

### **Now a Foundation Account you can contribute to and help a needy student!**

Motivated by the UMaine Foundation's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Match, we are announcing a new fund, the Surveying Engineering Technology Scholarship. This fund has been started by a gift of \$2,000 from a generous SVT alum who will match the first \$4000 donated to the fund. With \$8,000 we can trigger a 25% match of \$2,000 from the UMaine Foundation getting the fund to the fully endowed level (\$10,000). If you would like to help us take advantage of this match, please go online to make a gift at [our.umaine.edu/surveytech](http://our.umaine.edu/surveytech) or mail a check to the University of Maine Foundation, Two Alumni Place, Orono, Maine 04469 with "SVTSCH" noted in the memo line.

The gift to the new account usually has good tax implications and you are keeping the flow of people into our profession going. If everyone connected to SVT gave even a small donation think how much help we would be providing. Any questions ask Ray.

### **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/online-bachelor-of-science-in-surveying-engineering-technology/>
- (2) Professional Science Masters (PSM) in Engineering and Business Surveying Engineering concentration <https://online.umaine.edu/online-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/online-graduate-certificate-in-surveying-engineering-technology/>

- (5) Undergraduate Certificate in Surveying Engineering Technology  
<https://online.umaine.edu/online-undergraduate-certificate-surveying-engineering-technology/>
- (6) Doctorate of Engineering in Engineering Technology Surveying Engineering Technology concentration <https://online.umaine.edu/online-doctor-in-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.

### **Curriculum Updates**

SVT 699 Graduate Thesis/Research in surveying engineering technology is where the doctoral students accumulate the necessary 12 cr. of thesis to obtain their degree. Note the doctorate has adopted the “new” philosophy of graduate education where you publish in a peer reviewed journal first (3 publications are required in SVT doctorate) then those publications are merged into the thesis.

### **On-line Teaching Studio**

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.

### **A great SVT story from U Maine Communications office**

See <https://umaine.edu/news/blog/2024/09/04/umaine-engineering-program-bolstered-by-nontraditional-online-students/>

### **Topcon Technology and Education Agreement Lab Open House/Ribbon Cutting**

As a part of the MSLS meeting in October and with participation from Jim Hinson of Topcon, Giovanna Guidoboni – Dean of the Maine College of Engineering and Computing, Will Manion – Director the School of Engineering Technology, Cassandra Quintal – President of MSLS, Luc Allain of Topcon Solutions, Coby Asselin of Spillers, and legend Russ Desjardins (retired from Spillers) the ribbon cutting obviously involved survey flagging. Approximately 50 people attended the event which of course would not exist without the Topcon donation. SVT students showcased the equipment to the visitors.



### SVT graduate news

Josh Bragg reports "Next week I'll be wrapping up my fourth semester of teaching Surveying and Geomatics (an intro level course for mostly juniors who are civil or environmental engineering majors) at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), in Fort Myers, FL (where I've called home since 2020). I am really enjoying it as a diversion from and addition to my day job (still with the same company, formerly CES and now known as Haley Ward ... getting close to 30 years), and as a chance to get in front of and make

an impression of surveyors/surveying on the young future engineers in class. Seeing the students each class reminds me of all of my classes with both of you. On the family side, my oldest daughter, Danielle (26), will be getting married in October of next year. Her fiancé works in construction (in the Portland area) and occasionally picks my brain about layout. My son, Jon (22), is also in construction, still back in Downeast Maine. My second oldest daughter, Sydney (19), moved to Charlotte, NC this year and will be attending UNC Charlotte in the Spring. And, my two youngest daughters, Charlotte (11) and Aerin (10), are keeping my wife, Shelley, and I very busy (as you might expect). As you can see, I'm very blessed. "

Ambrose Gmeiner reports "My daughter is taking her MCAT's in April '25. Once she's on her way, I'll get my paperwork in for the doctoral program."

Matthew Mokanyk reports "I recently took the Minnesota PS exam (I already have Minnesota PE license). The Minnesota PS exam was much more involved than I anticipated. In Minnesota they use the Torrens system whereby Judicial Landmarks are established (by a Judge) and the resulting registered surveys are considered "untouchable" once they are completed and registered with the County. Very odd system but it makes sense once you study it. The Torrens system prevents boundary conflicts and assures clear title for landowners. So, it benefits the public versus typical boundary surveys which are frequently challenged. Anyway, I passed the Minnesota PS exam. Now I hold PS licensure in seven states and PE licensure in 35 states. It's a full-time job just to keep all my CEUs in order. Ha, ha. My company does occasional work in Minnesota. So, I am excited to use my new Minnesota PS license. And I am looking forward to running the Torrens gauntlet when the situation arises. "

Megan Cleaves reports "So I thought I'd share, I've officially started my own surveying company, M.A.P. Land Surveying out of Belfast. It's been my dream for so long and I've finally achieved it. Becoming licensed and working for myself has been the most enjoyable and rewarding experience ever! I have you and everyone else in the SVT program to thank for that! It's such a great feeling doing what I love and doing it for myself! So thank you for all the knowledge you and the rest of the professors gave me in my time at UMaine, I'll be forever grateful for that. "

David O'Brien has created the Henry Simpkins Memorial Scholarship. Henry graduated BS SVT and worked for David and unfortunately recently passed away.

Gary Volta and Dan Oakes presented VHBs Geomatics Data Management (GDM) system at Trimble Dimensions in Las Vegas. This year's Trimble Dimensions was a gathering of 7,500 Trimble customers, vendors, surveyors, GIS, and construction professionals. They presented "Enhancing Your Field to Office Workflow and Manager Your Geomatics Organization with GIS" (which may have been the longest presentation title at the conference!). The presentation was followed by a set of great questions and discussion including some potential partnering and business opportunities for our Geomatics group.

### **Faculty News**

Knud Hermansen (retired) has been teaching more than before he retired and is adding/updating course content in several of his courses

Ray Hintz spent the previous academic year managing the ever growing undergraduate and graduate student online populations. He spent a lot of time helping the new doctorate students with the refereed journal publication process.

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 even occasionally teaches 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 - Rich recently reviewed the School of Engineering Technology and the Dean of Engineering and Computing's blessing on his tenure application – congratulations Rich! He organized the October MSLS meeting on campus along the open house for the ribbon cutting for the Topcon Equipment Lab. He implemented the new Topcon equipment in his surveying course for the civil engineering students.

Joseph McNichols is in his third academic year and is contributing to SVT in outstanding fashion. His work in the FS exam review class is showing dividends with excellent record of students passing the exam. His years of public service surveying add depth to our program and his funded Foundation account will forever provide scholarship money to SVT students. Most importantly Joe did 99% of the work in creating a survey laboratory with the new Topcon equipment that the university can be very proud of and use as a showcase for SVT.

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. It has recently been expanded to two sections in the spring and fall semesters. Note a wide variety of students not in SVT also take the course.