

University of Maine

Surveying Engineering Technology (SVT) News

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

Fall 2011

This newsletter is sent to alumni and friends of the surveying program at the University of Maine. We want to stay in touch with you and we hope you will want to stay in touch with us. We are very proud of your accomplishments. Be sure to send us your e-mail. If you are an alumni, check out the alumni link to make sure we have listed all your current licenses. Consider sending us news on your employment and family for our hearsay link. Former classmates will be interested in what you are doing.

ENROLLMENT — Our enrollment has remained steady. There are 59 students. Forty-four students are Maine residents. The remaining SVT students are from the following states/countries: one from Connecticut, four from Massachusetts, three from Vermont, one from New Jersey, and six from Saudi Arabia.

RECRUITING — Lori Ann Stubbs (2006) and SGC were kind enough to donate time and equipment to prepare a recruiting poster for the SVT program. Lori Ann is featured standing behind a total station. Lori Ann is an employee of SGC and works out of the Orono office. This poster has been mailed to Maine high school math teachers. There are four posters remaining if anyone would like a poster for their wall or to bring to a high school.

GRADUATES — There are three confirmed December graduates: Mark Provo, Jeff Broumas, and Ryan Flanagan.

EMPLOYMENT OF GRADUATES— The May 2011 SVT graduates all appeared to be employed. If you have employment openings, please send a notice to Knud Hermansen for posting (Knud.Hermansen@umit.maine.edu).

CROWE AWARD — We are very pleased to announce that David Titcomb, P.L.S. (1984) has been inducted as a distinguished engineer in the Francis Crowe Society.[†]

David Titcomb is a 1983 graduate of the University of Maine surveying program. He is a licensed surveyor in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. He owns and operates Titcomb & Associates, a surveying consulting firm located in Falmouth, Maine. He is a member of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors, New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association, Vermont Society of Land Surveyors, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, and the National Society of Professional Surveyors. David started in the surveying field by working summers for his father and company founder, Robert P. Titcomb, more than 30 years ago as a rodman.

David's service to the profession is commendable. He has served as chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors (MSLS), chairman of the MSLS Education Committee, and is a past president of the local MSLS Chapter. He is currently chairman of the Maine State Board of Licensure for Land Surveyors and is a member of the Visitors Advisory Board of the surveying engineering technology program at the University of Maine.

David has also served as a court appointed commissioner tasked to resolve a boundary dispute, has provided testimony as an expert witness in court proceedings, and has been appointed by the state of Maine to serve on a committee to study continuing education requirements for land surveyors.

Congratulations David! The University of Maine is pleased to have David honored as a distinguished alumni of the surveying program.

Previous surveying graduates and supporters that have earned this honor are: David Cook, P.L.S., M.S. (Dec. 2003), Joseph McNichols, P.L.S. (May 2004), A. Richard Vannozzi, P.L.S., M.S. (May 2006), Claire Kiedrowski, P.L.S. (May 2008), Dominick Auletto (Dec. 2008), Gunther Greulich, P.L.S., P.E. (May 2009), Andy Shyka, P.L.S. (May 2010), and Tim Patch, M.S., P.L.S. (2011).

† The Francis Crowe Society was named after Francis Trenholm “Frank T” Crowe (1882-1946). He was a member of the University of Maine class of 1905, with a degree in civil engineering. Among his greatest accomplishments were his projects as a civil engineer in the construction of nineteen major dams in the western United States (including the Hoover Dam) over a forty-year period from 1904 to 1944. Crowe made farming possible and profitable in the Great Basin, the California Central Valley, Central Arizona and the Imperial Valley through the construction of these “superdams” which redirected the flows of very large rivers such as the Colorado River.

LICENSED LAND SURVEYORS — The program has heard that Sean Lahann (2008) has passed the principles and practice portion of the surveyor’s exam in Colorado and is now licensed as a land surveyor in that state.

OTHER LICENSING — We are pleased to pass on the news that Matthew J. Philbrick (2003) has earned his professional engineer’s license.

ACSM STUDENT CHAPTER – The ACSM Student Chapter has decided not to attend the 2012 NSPS Student Competition to be held during the March 13-16, 2012 Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO) Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon. The students were interested in the subject (Surveying Applications in Geographic Information Systems). However since the competition is being held the week after the University of Maine two-week spring break, the students were unwilling to miss almost a week of classes to attend the competition. Instead of attending the 2012 NSPS Student Competition, the students have been planning a project that may help the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) with its height modernization program. This project would entail planning, reconnaissance and vertical bench mark recovery in the mid-state area of Maine, GPS observations of the found benchmarks using the procedure outlined by NGS for OPUS Database, and data submittal.

SCHOLARSHIPS — Currently, the program has twelve scholarship funds:

- Andrew J. Shyka Scholarship (\$14,191 previously-\$11,202.93)
- Carol and George Gay New England Section Scholarship (\$3,279 previously-\$2,970.51)
- Col-East, Inc. SVT Scholarship (\$6,229 previously-\$5,667.42)
- Fritz Petersohn Memorial Scholarship (\$8,323 previously-\$7,567.96)
- Gunther Engineering Surveying Technology Scholarship (\$18,735 previously-\$17,031.58)
- MALSCS SVT Scholarship (\$3,483 previously-\$3,156.17)

- New England Section Ellsworth V. Stanley SVT Scholarship (\$55,801 previously-\$52,482.28)
- Plisga & Day SVT Scholarship (\$3,429 previously-\$3,107.31)
- Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors Scholarship (\$5,798 previously-\$4,353.17)
- Robert P. Titcomb Memorial Scholarship (\$5,701 previously-\$5,183.74)
- SVT Alumni Scholarship (\$6,676).
- Virginia & Roger Ferguson New England Section Scholarship (\$60,620 previously-\$55,096.14)

Scholarships in excess of \$20,000 can make awards to students. Old scholarships over \$5,000 can also make awards.

SURVEYING EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF NEW ENGLAND PHOTOGRAMMETRY LAB FUND — The Surveying Education Foundation of New England Photogrammetry Lab Fund was established as an endowment to maintain and enhance a lab room for educating surveyors in the topic area of photogrammetry. The interest on the initial fund (\$50,000) is used for this purpose. (\$60,926 previously-\$50,000)

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.

DONATIONS — The designated photogrammetry lab in Boardman Hall is in the process of being equipped. Ray will be working during the upcoming break to have the room ready for classes. He plans to begin using the room in the Spring semester. The lab will contain a computer projector, white board, and projector screen in addition to computers with photogrammetry software. This designated room was made possible by the generous donations from professional societies and its members. These donations have been placed in a fund. Interest from the fund is used to maintain the room. Ray is seeking some additional monetary donations to supplement the earnings from the designated fund.

MBA DEGREE — Students in the SVT program now have a five-year option that will permit students to earn a B.S. degree in SVT (with a minor in business) and a M.B.A.

FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEYING EXAM— Our seniors continue to perform very well on the fundamentals of surveying exam that they are required to take to graduate. (The State of Maine allows juniors or seniors to take the exam prior to graduation.) Upon passing the exam and providing proof of graduation to the Maine Board of Licensure, they are licensed as a surveyor in training. Two additional years of relevant experience is required order to sit for the principles and practice portion of the examination. The pass rate for the fundamentals portion of the examination is an impressive 95%.

ALUMNI NEWS — The following are recent alumni news reported to Knud Hermansen (knud.hermansen@umit.maine.edu). This is provided as a means to keep alumni informed of former classmates and to encouraging networking among alumni. Alumni are licensed in every state and would no doubt be interested in joint ventures. Alumni reported the following:

Alexander Ogilvie (2009) – Alex obtained a construction manager minor. Alex is a construction manager at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

David O'Brien (1993) — David is president of SurvTech Solutions, Inc., a Tampa, Florida firm. In addition to his other surveying licenses, he obtained his Texas surveyor's license this year. He is vice president of the Society of Military Engineers - Tampa Bay Post. He is also a director of the E2 Fund (Education fund that awards grants to Florida school children for water quality projects) and chair on the board of the Florida Association of Water Quality Control. Last but not least, he is the Tampa East Rotary President.

Wayne Wood (1978) – Wayne has his own surveying firm located in Maine. He is one of the first graduates of the surveying program. He is currently the president of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors.

Fred Nehring (2003) — Fred has his own surveying firm located in Maine. Fred can always be counted upon to volunteer for a good cause such as Habitat for Humanity. Fred is currently treasurer for the Maine Society of Land Surveyors.

John Lloyd (1989) – John is running the New England operations for Control Point Associates. He is licensed as a surveyor in ME, MA, RI, KY and TN. He is also serving his second year as NSPS Governor for Maine. Previously, he has served as Maine Society of Land Surveyors director, vice president, president and treasurer. John and his wife Jocelyn have two boys.

R. Richard "Rick" Howard (1989) — Rick is the NSPS governor from Connecticut. He has just been elected chairperson of the NSPS Board of Governors

Langley Willauer (MS, 1993) – Langley is director for Natural Gas Solutions, Ubisense. InMaps was just acquired by Ubisense.

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.

FACULTY NEWS — The program has three full-time faculty: Professor Ray Hintz, Ph.D., P.L.S., (Coordinator); Associate Professor Carlton Brown, P.L.S., P.E., Ph.D., and Professor Knud Hermansen, P.L.S., P.E., Ph.D., Esq. All full time faculty are licensed surveyors with many years of experience. In addition to teaching, the faculty work with professional societies, government agencies, and practitioners to provide surveying and surveying related expertise. During the last six months, faculty did the following:

Raymond Hintz - This summer and fall, Ray Hintz provided seminars for the Arkansas, Florida, and Wisconsin transportation departments. He has contributed to development of a mobile based electronic field book (Florida DOT), Survey Data Management System (Arkansas HTD), and integrated electronic field book desktop and SDMS Processor (Florida DOT and Arkansas HTD). Ray is the coordinator for the surveying program. He teaches courses in GPS, Geodesy, advance surveying, data adjustment, data collection, and photogrammetry.

Carlton Brown — Carlton ends his first semester as an associate professor with tenure. Carlton teaches the plane surveying labs, half the construction surveying labs, both CAD courses, three on-line surveying courses, and the land development & design course. Carlton gave a half-day seminar entitled "Definitive Boundary Corners Using State Plane Coordinates" on November 18, 2011 at the Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors annual meeting and conference.

Knud Hermansen – Knud has provided seminars for the Maryland Society of Surveyors, Wisconsin Society of Surveyors, Maine Society of Land Surveyors, West Virginia Board of Professional Surveyors, and New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors. In addition, he has worked with A Richard Vannozzi, P.L.S., M.S. and Robert Liimakka, P.L.S., M.S. to provide a series of articles on implied easements and boundary location doctrines. Knud continues to work with many law firms and surveyors to mediate and arbitrate boundary and real estate disputes. Knud teaches plane surveying, construction surveying, general civil engineering topics, boundary law, writing descriptions, and construction law.

Adjunct Faculty — The SVT program is fortunate to have two adjunct faculty teach important courses in the program. Louis Morin is an instructor in forest resources. He teaches students GIS. Louis is also instrumental in advising the many forestry students that are also obtaining a surveying minor. Steven Adams, MBA, teaches students small business management. Steve has retired from the hectic life of management and now teaches science courses at a local high school.

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 (SCOTT DUNNING) — It has been a great Fall in the School of Engineering Technology. Enrollments are continuing to remain strong. We began the semester with approximately 48 students in our SVT program. We are pleased to have Dr. Carlton Brown recently promoted and tenured as an Associate Professor. Our university budget is stable so we have been able to focus on continuously improving our programs. The faculty continue to bring new innovations into the classroom and enhancing our undergraduate classes. My thanks go out to all of you that have provided support for our programs and I wish your businesses will continue to grow in the upcoming year as we start to climb out of the recession.

NEW YEAR – The faculty and students of the Surveying Engineering Technology program wish all of you 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.