What is the Future of the Professional Surveyor?

Presented by: Anthony M. Gregory, PS 71st Annual WSLS Institute January 30, 2020 Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin BABONMARCHE



Seminar Outline/Description

- Many developments over the past few decades have caused significant change in the land surveying profession. These developments include major advancements in technology, increased requirements for professional licensure, and a decline in the availability of land surveying programs at colleges and universities. Other professions appear to be encroaching into what has traditionally been perceived to be the territory of the land surveying profession.
- It is time for the land surveying profession to begin defining how the profession will sustain over the next couple of decades. Hopefully, this will be embraced by the profession as opportunities for growth rather than just defending turf.

Seminar Objectives

Topics presented in this seminar will include the following:

- Identification of the apparent views of the role of the Professional Land Surveyor in society over time
- Identification of challenges facing the Professional Land Surveyor of the future
- Discussion of factors affecting the path to licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor
- Review of the definition and legal role of a Professional Land Surveyor
- Review of basic legal principles relative to boundary surveying
- Discussion of how the land surveying profession can sustain in the future



What is the Future of the Professional Surveyor?

"We have tried to honor his memory {Curtis Brown} with what we believe is a new and innovative book suitable for the 21st-century student. More and more students are being denied an adequate background in the legal aspects of surveying, for the technical aspects of the profession are stressed in many courses. In fact, there are certain individuals who espouse that surveyors will no longer need to identify boundaries and corners with markings and monuments. This is wrong.

As the capabilities of technology increase, time becomes critical. Studies and courses in GIS and GPS are replacing some of the legal boundary courses in our colleges."

(by Walter Robillard and Don Wilson, March 1995 - Included in Preface to Boundary Control and Legal Principles, Fourth Edition)

What is the Future of the Professional Surveyor?

"The technical aspects of surveying are becoming more complex, and colleges and universities are having difficulties finding time in already crowded class schedules to add new courses. As our careers have progressed throughout the years, we have, either by necessity or by demand, created a special area of surveying that is seldom included in courses of studies of those colleges that teach surveying programs, that is, the legal area of surveying."

"No longer do young surveyors commence at the bottom of the professional ladder and learn by doing. Today the trend is toward college-trained individuals to fill the ranks of the professional surveyors and, as such, the 'hands-on' experience that has made this book so popular is being denied to the students. The technical aspects of surveying are developing more rapidly than are the legal aspects or the business aspects of the profession."

(by Walter Robillard and Don Wilson, March 1995 - Included in Preface to Boundary Control and Legal Principles, Fourth Edition)

Major Points of Discussion

- Advancements in Technology
- An Aging Profession
- Status of Surveying as a ProfessionIncrease in Requirements for Licensure as a
- Professional Land Surveyor
- Availability of Land Surveying Programs at Colleges and Universities
- Other Professions
- Legal and Political Threats to Professional Licensure























What is a Land Surveyor??

- ✓ Land Surveyor
- ✓ Professional Land Surveyor
- ✓ Registered Land Surveyor
- $\checkmark\,$ Licensed Land Surveyor
- ✓ Professional Surveyor
- √ LS
- √ PLS
- √ RLS
- √ PS



What is a Professional???

A "profession" is defined as "an occupation requiring advanced academic training, as medicine, law, etc." (Webster's New World Dictionary)

Therefore, a "professional" is a member of such a profession.

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 A "professional" is a person, who is a member of a professional body due to
- A "professional" is a person, who is a member of a professional body due to the education qualification and follows the prescribed moral and professional code of conduct. (thelawdictionary.org/professional)

Attributes of a Professional

If a surveyor wants to be in a learned profession, the individual must seek the attributes of the learned professions. Ten of these attributes are as follows:

- 1. having a unique and superior education in a specific field of knowledge,
- providing a service to the public in having the ability to persuade,
 placing oneself in a position of trust.
- placing oneself in a position of trust,
 conducting practice within a code of ethics,
- desiring to gain high eminence with financial return of secondary importance,
- 6. using independent judgment and accepting liability,
- 7. providing services to those unable to pay,
- charging fees to those able to pay, such fees are dependent on the services rendered rather than labor or product,
- 9. becoming a persuasive and effective communicator, and 10. seeking continued education to maintain professional competency.

(From Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location)

Professional Land Surveyor - Wisconsin

"Professional land surveyor" means a person who, by reason of his or her knowledge of law, mathematics, physical sciences, and measurement techniques, acquired by education and practical experience, is granted a license under this chapter to engage in the practice of professional land surveying.

(From Wisconsin Statutes, 443.01 (7m))

The Legal Role of The Surveyor

"The law in most jurisdictions has recognized a qualified surveyor as being a professional person in the status of an architect, lawyer or doctor. When he/she acts in such capacity, the surveyor acquires certain standards of conduct that entitle him/her to recognized privileges and, at the same time, impose upon him/her definite responsibilities."

"The surveyor's client employs him/her because the surveyor has skills upon which the client is entitled to rely. This includes the initial collection of data and its later interpretation. The true test of a surveyor is not his/her ability to manipulate the tools of his/her trade, such as the transit, theodolite, or the chain, but is that of his/her use of the knowledge or information gained."

(From Clark on Surveying and Boundaries)

The Legal Role of The Surveyor

"Because of a surveyor's professional status:

1. The surveyor is elevated to recognition in the courts of law above that of a layman.

2. He/she is held to a higher degree of liability for his/her errors than is an ordinary person because of the degree of trust placed upon him/her for impartiality, capability and responsibility.

3. He/she is presumed to possess those skills and education required of an expert in his/her field."

(From Clark on Surveying and Boundaries)

Professional Conduct

"DEFINITION: Ethics includes that branch of moral science concerned with the duties members of a profession owe to their public, their professional associates, and their clients."

"Without a firm foundation of ethics one cannot be a professional."

(From Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location)

The Role of the Surveyor Over Time

Great Pyramid of Giza

"..... the oldest and largest of the three pyramids in the Giza pyramid complex bordering what is now El Giza, Egypt. Believed to have been built over a 10 to 20 year period around 2560 B.C."

(From <u>wikipedia.com</u>)



The Role of the Surveyor Over Time

Great Pyramid of Giza Each side was 440 cubits (or 755.9 ft)

Professionally surveyed by J.H Cole and published in 1925.

Length of Sides:

 West:
 755.76 feet

 North:
 755.41 feet

 East:
 755.87 feet

 South
 756.08 feet

(From theglobaleducationproject.org)



The Role of the Surveyor Over Time

Great Pyramid of Giza

Angle of Corners:

Northwest: 89°59'58" Northeast: 90°03'02" Southeast: 89°56'02" Southwest: 90°03'02"



(From theglobaleducationproject.org)

Area of the Base: 13 acres

The Role of the Surveyor Over Time

Kudurru was a type of stone document used as boundary stones and as records of land grants to vassals by the Kassites in ancient Babylonia between the 16th and 12th centuries BC.

(From wikipedia.com)

"The boundaries of the land are laid out; the surveyor is named as Amurru-bel-zeri and the transfer completed by two high officials who are also named." (circa 1125-1100 BC)

(From britishmuseum.org)



The Role of the Surveyor Over Time

- It is recorded that for over 1000 years ancient Rome used surveyors to locate boundaries, survey roads, and aqueducts.
- In fact, the Roman Agrimensores, namely the surveyor, was required to pass an examination for competency.
- Because of the nature of surveying and the varied needs, Rome separated the "civil" surveyor from the "military" surveyor.

(From Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location)



(Image from the-romans.co.uk)

The Role of the Surveyor Over Time

- In early times, surveyors possessed special skills and talents that were regarded with almost reverent respect; they filled a necessary need in civilization, and they utilized the most advanced sciences known to the world.
- The same Roman surveyors were required to receive special training in the varied aspects of leveling and boundary law while in school. They were guided by a series of textbooks titled The Corpus.

(From Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location)



The Role of the Surveyor Over Time

Prominent Surveyors in American history

- George Washington
- Thomas Jefferson
- Abraham Lincoln
- Jared Mansfield
- Edward Tiffin
- Charles Mason
- Jeremiah Dixon
 Andrew Ellicott
- Andrew Ellicott
 Benjamin Bannek
- Benjamin Banneker
- Daniel Boone



(Image from various sources)

(image from various sources)

What is a Professional???

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Therefore, a "professional" is a member of such a profession.



Is the Land Surveyor a Professional, or

"Licensed Profession or Licensed Trade – The 4-Year Degree's Impact on Surveying" Dave Gibson, Founding Surveying and Mapping Program Director, University of Florida, July, 2009

"Rules of the Game: The Four-Year Degree Standard for Surveying's Recognition as a Profession"

David W. Gibson, Founding Surveying and Mapping Program Director, University of Florida Professional Surveyor Magazine, January 2010 http://archives.profsurv.com/magazine/article.aspx?i=70522

"Guest Column: Hey, Don't Shoot the Teacher!" Dr. Charles A. "Tony" Nettleman, III, PSM, Esq., Assistant Professor of Geomatics, Texas A&M Corpus Christi POB Magazine, January 2016 https://www.pobonline.com/articles/98012-guest-column-hey-dont-shoot-the-teacher

Is the Land Surveyor a Professional, or

- "A "Learned Profession" must have a college base A learned profession requires college
 education to understand adequately. A true learned professional must understand the
 mathematical, scientific, legal, environmental, and societal framework within which the
 work takes place. It also requires attributes of a college general education the ability to
 speak confidently, write authoritatively, research published information, analyze issues,
 apply math and science when needed, and so forth." (Gibson, 2009)
- "Learned professions don't elevate the working support staff (technicians) to professional rank. Legal aids don't become lawyers unless they go through law school. Nurses and medical assistants are terminal nurses and medical assistants. Engineering technicians (drafters, etc.) are well paid terminal technicians." (*Gibson, 2009*)

Is the Land Surveyor a Professional, or

- "The 1992 [Florida] Supreme Court followed a 1988 Supreme Court definition of the statutory term "professional" in a case involving insurance underwriters/agents, Pierce v. AALL Insurance Co., 531 So.2d 84 (Fla.1988). The 1992 court stated: 'Accordingly, in harmony with the central thrust of Pierce, we hold that a 'profession' is any vocation requiring at a minimum a four-year college degree before licensing is possible in Florida. There can be no equivalency exception." "Accordingly, some future admittees could be licensed without a four-year degree, and land surveyors thus are not professionals for purposes of the statute of limitations." (Gibson, 2010)
- "In 2008-2009, Maine surveyors were surprised to find that the U.S. Department of Labor ruled that they were not members of a 'learned profession', because Maine state statutes do not require surveyors to have a four-year degree to be licensed. Maine surveyors fought the DOL decision and asked ACSM to help. After a diligent challenge to the ruling, the surveyors lost, and the DOL decision stands." (*Gibson, 2010*)

Is the Land Surveyor a Professional, or

- The profession is turning gray and new blood is in high demand. Recruiting young people should not be the sole burden of the geomatics program, but should be shared between the universities, the state societies and the professionals in the field. Instead of suggesting we simply do away with all of the four-year programs, I propose that we reinvigorate the profession by creating a stronger relationship between these organizations. (Nettleman, 2016)
- "The art and science of land surveying as reviewed above become more complex daily, and education to this writer is vital to our future. We need to attract future surveyors and educate them sufficiently in the technical sense and the practical field sense using high standards, not lower the bar. We will always have some degree of frustration with the product of our efforts, but let us not lower the bar only to genuinely regret it later." (Nettleman, 2016)

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Some Factors Affecting Land Surveying

- Changes in Technology
 - Some Technologies Overlap into Other Disciplines
- Requirements for Licensure
 - Significant Differences in Licensure Requirements Among States
 Some States Require BS Degree in Land Surveying With No Such Program Available in Their State
 - $_{\circ}$ $\,$ Results in Fewer Applicants for NCEES FS and PS Exams $\,$
- Decrease in Availability of Land Surveying Degrees Nationally
 - ° Many Key Professors in Established Degree Programs are at Retirement Age
 - ° Major Universities Require Ph.D. for New Tenure-Track Faculty
 - Decreasing Enrollments









State Educational Requirements for FS (Surveying Intern)

Information Sources:

- "Education Requirements for Licensure by State, 2005", POB Magazine
- "Licensed Profession or Licensed Trade The 4-Year Degree's Impact on Surveying" By Dave Gibson, Founding Surveying and Mapping Program Director, University of Florida, July, 2009
- NSPS Board of Directors
- Review of Individual State Board Web Pages



States with 4-Year Degree Requirements January 2020 (17)

Alabama Alaska District of Columbia Florida Idaho Illinois Kentucky Louisiana Michigan

Minnesota Nevada New Jersey New Mexico Ohio Puerto Rico South Carolina Texas

States with 2-Year Degree Requirements January 2020 (8)

Arkansas Indiana Iowa Montana * New York * Utah West Virginia Wyoming

States with "Experience Only" Allowed January 2020 (27)			
(Note: Some states require some level of completion of college-level surveying courses)			
Arizona	Maryland (30 hrs.)	Oklahoma (60 hrs.)	
California	Massachusetts	Oregon	
Colorado	Mississippi	Pennsylvania	
Connecticut	Missouri (12 hrs.)	Rhode Island	
Delaware	Nebraska	South Dakota (18 hrs.)	
Georgia (18 hrs.)	New Hampshire	Tennessee	
Hawaii	North Carolina	Vermont	
Kansas	North Dakota (24 hrs.) *	Virginia	
Maine		Washington	
		Wisconsin	
(xx) Indicates minimum credit hours of college-level courses 44			

Summary of State Requirements (Including Puerto Rico and District of Columbia)

- 4-Year Degree States 33%
- 2-year Degree States 15%
- "Experience Only +" States 52%





ABET Accredited Programs

- ANSAC 4-year Programs (12)
 - University of Alaska Anchorage, Geomatics (1995)
 - East Tennessee State University, Surveying and Mapping Science (1992)
 - University of Florida, Geomatics (1986)
 - Troy University, Surveying & Geomatics Sciences, Alabama (2010)
 - Oregon Institute of Technology, Geomatics Option in Surveying (1985)
 - Kennesaw State University, Surveying and Mapping, Georgia (2004)
 Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, Geographic Information Science (1999)
 - University of Akron, Surveying and Mapping, Ohio (2010)
 - Nicholls State University, Geomatics, Louisiana (2008)
 - North Carolina A&T, Geomatics (2015)
 - Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, Land Surveying and Mapping (2006)

ABET Accredited Programs

• ANSAC 2-year Programs (2)

- University of Akron, Land Surveying, Ohio (2010)
- \circ $\;$ University of Akron, Geog. & Land Info. Sys., Ohio $\;$ (2010)

ABET Accredited Programs

- EAC 4-year Programs (7)
 - California State Polytechnic University Ponoma, Geospatial Engineering Option in Civil Engineering (1992)
 - \circ $\,$ California State University Fresno, Geomatics Engineering (1979) $\,$
 - Ferris State University, Surveying Engineering, Michigan (1989)
 - $\circ~$ Pennsylvania State University Wilkes-Barre, Surveying Engineering (2004)
 - Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Geomatics Engineering (2010)
 - $\circ~$ Michigan Technological University, Surveying Engineering (2011)

ABET Accredited Programs

- ETAC 4-year Programs (4)
 - Alfred State College, Surveying and Geomatics Engineering Technology, New York (1992)
 - \circ $\;$ University of Maine, Surveying Engineering Technology, Maine (2005)
- Idaho State University, Surveying and Geomatics Engineering Technology, Idaho (2004)
- New Jersey Institute of Technology, Surveying Option in Engineering Technology, New Jersey (1992)

ABET Accredited Programs

ETAC 2-year Programs (6)

- \circ $\,$ Alfred State College, Surveying Engineering Technology, New York (1977) $\,$
- Pennsylvania College of Technology, Surveying Technology (1994)
- University of Puerto Rico @ Bayamon, Construction, Surveying and Roads Engineering Technology (2009)
- Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Civil Engineering Technology Surveying Option, Ohio (1981)
- State University of New York Environmental Science and Forestry Land Surveying Technology (2009)
- Paul Smith's College, New York, Surveying Technology (1991)

Programs No Longer ABET Accredited

- \circ $\,$ Metropolitan State University Denver (ANSAC) since 2010 $\,$
- \circ $\;$ The Ohio State University Columbus (EAC) Geomatics Engr. since 2010 $\;$
- Purdue University West Lafayette (EAC) since 2008
- University of Wisconsin Madison (EAC) since 1998
- \circ $\:$ University of Houston Surveying & Mapping Tech. 4-year (ETAC) $\:$ since 2006 $\:$
- $\circ~$ Greenville Technical College South Carolina 2-year (ETAC) ~ since 2014 ~
- Mohawk Valley Community College New York 2-Year (ETAC) since 2016
- St. Cloud State University Minnesota Surveying & Mapping 4-year (ANSAC) since 2018 (*)
 New Mexico State University, Surveying Engineering (EAC) since 2019
- Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre, Surveying Engineering Technology (ETAC)
- since 2019

(From "ABET Accredited Surveying/Geomatics Programs", tabulated by Earl F. Burkholder, and from ABET web site)



Minimum Qualifications for Tenure-Track Faculty

The Department of Construction Science and Organizational Leadership at Purdue University Northwest, invites applications for an Assistant Professor of Construction Engineering and Management Technology position starting on August 13, 2018. Responsibilities include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in construction engineering and management technology. Assistant Professors are also expected to conduct scholarly research leading to refereed journal publications, write grant proposals, and participate in industrial engagement and various committees. Opportunities for interacting with regional businesses are excellent and encouraged. The Department of Construction Science and Organizational Leadership offers full support when presenting peer review papers at conferences. The department and university offer several internal opportunities for professional development and for preparing applications for external grants.

A Ph.D. degree in engineering, engineering technology, construction management, or a related field is required. The undergraduate degree must be in a relevant area. Ph.D. must be awarded prior to August 13, 2018.

(From recent open position posting at Purdue University Northwest)

Average Age of Land Surveyor

- "The average age of a licensed land surveyor in the nation is midfifties." (Per surveyingzone.com – appears to be from 2015)
- In addition to openings from growth, job openings will continue to arise from the need to replace workers who transfer to other occupations or who leave the labor force altogether. Many of the workers in these occupations are approaching retirement age as the average age of today' Land Surveyor is in the mid-fifties. (Per landsurveyor4hire.com – from 2007)
- The average age of a land surveyor in the United States is about the same as in Europe – 57 to 58 years old (Paraphrased from comments from John Hohol, President of FIG Foundation at 2014 meeting of NSPS Board of Governors)





















