

Farewell to LS 400

Geomatics Engineering Summer Design

Traditionally, LS 400 has been the summer design course that students in the Geomatics or Dual program have taken before their last year at Purdue. The course allows students to get out in the field and test their surveying skills in real world applications. The summer class of 2008 was no different, however, it had the distinction of being the last class to participate in this course. The course will no longer be offered due to the re-structuring of Geomatics at Purdue.

Four students were enrolled in the course in its final year: Mike Conley, Jason Gaspar, Jacob Hoffman, and Steve Seiler. Despite the low number of students, the scale and quality of the project did not deviate from the projects of previous years. The site chosen was the John S. Wright Forestry Center in Purdue's Martell Forest. The site had been mapped by previous LS 400 classes, but not since the Center officially opened on October 3, 2003. An updated topographic map was produced by the students that included the footprint of the new building and the other changes made to the site.

Martell Forest had recently acquired parcels to the South of the Wright Center and the employees in the Forestry department had not yet had a chance to explore these at the time of the course. The class volunteered to find the new boundary corners and describe them for the benefit of the department. Along with these descriptions, photographs were taken of the monuments to aid in their re-discovery.

The class learned field techniques such as collecting points using a total station to produce a topographic map, using GPS equipment to tie in distant control, and walking up steep, wet hills without falling down (Professor Johnson is still learning this one). Office skills were also developed. The students became proficient in drafting, least squares adjustment programs and how to conduct research at the County Building. They also learned that in large projects with many parcels described at different times, the probability of boundary discrepancies is greater than what we would like it to be.

The LS 400 class of 2008 would like to extend their sincere appreciation and gratitude to Professor Steven D. Johnson and Teaching Assistant Eric Fuller, for their boundless patience and guidance throughout the course.

JOKES

The following is told of a certain principal of a high school :

One day at school the principal gave a bright boy a summation problem in algebra and although the problem was comparatively easy, the boy couldn't do it. The principal then said, "You ought to be ashamed of yourself. At your age George Washington was a surveyor."

The boy looked him straight in the eyes and replied: "Yes, sir; and at your age he was President of the United States."
The Criterion, Easter, 1913

December 2008 Graduates		
Josh Werner	LSGE	(Batesville, IN)
Seth White	LSGE	(Greenfield, IN)
May 2009 Graduates		
Jason Gaspar	BS CE/LSGE	(Lowell, IN)
Steven Seiler	BS CE/LSGE	(Mansfield, OH)
Jacob Hoffman	BS LSGE	(Martinsville, IN)
Melonie Fuoss	BS CE	(Griffith, IN)
August 2009 Graduates		
Nate Plooster	BS LS, MS GE	
Matt Paloian	BS LS, MS GE	
Nathan Ovans	BS LS, MS GE	



THE BLUNDER

Publication by the Purdue Student Chapter of ACSM/ISPLS

November 2008

The 2008 year has been filled with events and activities for the Purdue Student Chapter of ACSM/ISPLS to get involved in. The Spring 2008 semester offered students the opportunity to attend the ISPLS Convention at the beginning of the year, the First Annual LS Pub Traverse and the Annual Golf Outing and Senior Banquet. This fall semester our chapter has participated in the Purdue Engineering President's Council. (PEPC Fair) where we were able to display previous LS 400 projects at our booth and recruit members to the club. We have also had the Second Annual LS Pub Traverse in the month of October. Our chapter has high hopes for the coming 2009 spring semester and would like to reflect on past events as well as give an update on the semester to come.

The chapter was able to send six undergrads to Indianapolis for the ISPLS Convention in January 2008. The Purdue Chapter of ISPLS attended the three day, two night event at the Adam's Mark Hotel. The convention provided numerous seminars on surveying topics as well as the opportunity to network with professionals in the surveying field. The Purdue Chapter is currently planning the 2009 ISPLS Convention trip which will take place at the Holiday Inn East in Indianapolis. We are hoping to send approximately 10 or more students this year. The Purdue Chapter will be in charge of the Purdue Alumni Room during the convention so be sure to stop by and meet us!

We are proud to announce that this year our chapter has grown and now includes many new members who are in the undergraduate program of Civil Engineering with the Geomatics emphasis and graduates from Ferris State University pursuing master's degrees in Geomatics Engineering. A few benefits our Ferris State Grads will be able to provide our chapter is prior attendance to past national and state conventions, as well as competing in the NSPS student competition. The NSPS student completion is hosted by the National Society of Professional Surveyors. During past competitions, the students have been asked to perform field exercises to test their surveying knowledge and background. The student competition is a well respected event in the surveying community and many professional surveyors come out to watch the students partake in the event. This will benefit this year's Purdue's student chapter for future hopes to compete in this year's NSPS student competition in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Purdue student group will be able to interact with surveyors from all over the country and attend various seminars to broaden the students' views in the surveying profession. By attending conferences, students will gain professionalism and other life long skills.

As the 2008 year is coming to a close, the Purdue Student Chapter of ACSM/ISPLS would like to thank all of the alumni who have contributed to the chapter this year. We would also like to encourage all alumni to stay involved and welcome those of you to attend our upcoming events.

If you would like to be placed on Purdue's Chapter of ACSM/ISPLS email list please send an email to Melonie Fuoss at mfuoss@purdue.edu. Include your name and contact info.

Please send any questions, comments and ideas to Jacob Hoffman at jthoffma@purdue.edu

2008/2009 Events

- November 22, 2008: IU vs. Purdue "Wild Game" Tailgate
- February 7, 2009: Ski Trip (More details to be provided at a later date)
- March 7, 2009: Trip to Survey Museum (IL)
- March 28, 2009: Shotgun Shooting Outing and BBQ @ Purdue's Trap & Skeet Shooting Range
- April 2009: Golf Outing

2008-2009 Chapter Officers

President:	Jacob Hoffman
Vice President:	Steve Seiler
Secretary:	Melonie Fuoss
Treasurer:	Jason Gaspar
Representative:	Mike Conley

Purdue ACSM WEBSITE
<http://bridge.ecn.purdue.edu/~acsm>