

ALABAMA BOARD OF LICENSURE
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
AND LAND SURVEYORS

THIRD QUARTER
2018 EDITION

3

THINGS TO READ

- Educators discuss ways to keep the classroom updated as industry evolves (Pages 4, 5 & 6)
- Investigator of the Year Herbert appears in CLEAR's podcast launch discussing the Roddy Fitzgerald case (Pages 4 & 5)
- ACT 550 changes BELS composition and clarifies QBS language. This article dives deeper and shows additional positive changes for Land Surveyors. (Pages 9 & 10)

REMAINING MEETING DATES

- BELS Meets approximately every two months beginning at 8 a.m. in the boardroom at our Montgomery office located at 100 North Union St., Suite 382.
- **2018 MEETING DATES:**
July 31
September 11 | November 14
- Past agendas and meeting minutes can be found online at www.bels.alabama.gov under the board meeting link at the bottom of the page.

BELS BULLETIN



A Family Affair

History making moment as Mom signs daughter's certificate

By Griffin Pritchard |

BELS Public Information Specialist

Liz Hyde was in a place no one before her has ever been. Being the first female to serve on the Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors and the first to serve as its chair, she found herself being the first mother to have the opportunity to sign her daughter's certificate of licensure.

"I can truthfully say this has never happened before," Hyde said with a smile. "I'm proud of my daughter and what's she's accomplished. I really think I'm going to start tearing up."

Hyde, during the June 21 meeting of BELS, sat alongside her daughter Hannah, signed her license and gave her a great big motherly hug as the remaining

See **FAMILY AFFAIR** PAGES 2 & 3

FAMILY AFFAIR

From Page 1

board members and those in attendance celebrated.

“There are not adequate words to describe how proud I am,” Hyde said after the meeting. “The day we (Hyde and her husband Rusty) found out, I could not stop smiling. About a year ago, I realized that if she passed the exam (in 2018), I would sign the certificate. This is a lasting legacy and it means more to me than you can imagine.”

This moment builds upon a pretty remarkable legacy that Hyde’s in the midst of developing during her appointment.

Hannah Payne graduated from Auburn’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and majored in polymer and fiber (now materials) engineering.

“When I was a child and my mom was starting her business I, of course, spent a lot of time after school and on school breaks at her office,” Payne said. “As both of my parents like to remind me I, on several occasions, pronounced confidently that I would never be an electrical engineer. And of course, here I am.”

While her daughter might have had other aspirations, her mother could see the makings of a great engineer in her offspring.

“I encouraged Hannah to consider engineering as a career from an early age,” said Hyde. “She was a technically oriented person and I felt she would make a great engineer.”

She was right, as mothers often are.



Hannah Payne, pictured with her mom Liz Hyde on Page 1 of the BELS Bulletin, has made her mark on history. She became the first daughter since BELS inception in the 1930s to have her certificate signed by her mother, who currently serves as the current BELS Chair.

“Growing up I always thought I wanted to be a doctor,” said Payne. “But both of my parents thought it would be a good idea to major in engineering in college. This way, I would still have a degree and I could get a good job in case I changed my mind. Well, this turned out to be great

See **A FAMILY AFFAIR** PAGE 3

our OUTREACH



Fidget spinner pens highlight new BELS branded merchandise given out during appearances.

NEED A SPEAKER?

If your university, firm or organization would benefit from a presentation by BELS, we would be happy to join you. We cover a myriad of topics:

- Our identity
- Engineering Ethics
- Land Surveying Ethics
- Continuing education (PDH)
- The investigative process
- ACT 550 / Law Change
- Pathways to Licensure

Please contact Public Information Specialist Griffin Pritchard to make your request. He can be reached via email at: griffin.pritchard@bels.alabama.gov or via phone at 334-242-5568

our CONTACTS

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our MISSION

The Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors was established by legislative action in 1935. Its charter is to protect the public by helping to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare by providing for the licensing and regulation of persons in the practices of engineering and land surveying. This purpose is achieved through the establishment of minimum qualifications for entry into the professions of engineering and land surveying, through the adoption of rules defining and delineating unlawful or unethical conduct, and through swift and effective discipline for those individuals or entities who violate the applicable laws or rules.

FAMILY AFFAIR

From Page 2



Payne (left) is a graduate of Auburn University with a degree in polymer and fiber (now materials) engineering. After joining her mom's firm, Hyde Engineering, she chose to study for and pass the electrical engineering exam.

advice, and during college I decided that I enjoyed engineering and decided to pursue it fully.”

A decision that made her mother remarkably happy. Upon graduation, Payne began working for Hyde Engineering while looking for full-time employment.

“I can honestly say that I love what I do,” said Hyde. “To have Hannah follow in my footsteps is pretty amazing. She started out in my office as a kid and promptly founded (while still a child) the NCOE (National Company of Everything) of which she was the CEO. I think she’s on her way.”

Payne, despite her self-appointment as CEO of the NCOE, made the decision to turn down several jobs related to her polymer and fiber degree to start working full time at Hyde Engineering. Making that decision led to another, even tougher one.

“I knew that I would eventually have to get my PE license in order to become a practicing electrical engineer,” Payne said.

But, having PE parents helped the process. Hyde said she could see herself in what Payne was going through.

“I also had a young child (Hannah) when I took the PE exam in 1989,” said Hyde. “I could certainly relate to some of what she was going through as I was working

and studying with a small child at home. Sacrifices were made, but it is well worth it.”

For Payne, the process wasn’t a cake walk as she basically had to learn a new discipline in order to take the exam.

“The hardest part, by far was studying for the electrical PE exam,” said Payne. “Since my degree was not in electrical engineering, I had to bone up on some electrical course work that I did not have in my degree program. I took some online courses and did a lot of studying. It was a long, hard struggle to learn all of that information, but I finally did it!”

Her accomplishment was quickly celebrated. Hyde, within days of her daughter’s exam success, notified her board brethren of the accomplishment. A signed license is something each new licensee receives after being granted licensure by the board. But this one was different.

“It is different when it’s your child versus an associate going through something like this,” Hyde said. “As a parent, your natural reaction is ‘what can I do to help fix this?’ But this was something only she could do. The most I could do for her was to give her the support and encouragement she needed to get through it. She would need to do the rest. And she did.”



Learning the Tools

Educators talk learning and the ability to adapt

By Griffin Pritchard |

BELS Public Information Specialist

The practice of land surveying, as defined in BELS law, is essentially the use of sciences, maths and geodesy to measure the physical features of the earth. And just like the earth, the profession is ever evolving leading to changes all down the line.

“The field of Surveying has evolved from the traditional land surveying methods to an integration of the same methods with the ever developing computerized information technology era,” said Troy University’s Dr. Steve Ramroop. “This integration is making Surveying a more open field where data sharing is a recognizable benefit across the various professions that are using spatial data sets in a multitude of applications within LANs (local-area networks) as well as the world wide web. The demands on the end of the users are expectedly changing as well, and it is incumbent upon the professors to do the same.”

Ramroop’s response was an answer to the question: “How have you seen the field of surveying evolve?”

But he wasn’t the only professor willing to step in and answer a handful of questions. Ray Hintz (professor at University of Maine) and Matthew Wilson (professor at Kennesaw (Georgia) State) were also willing to contribute their thoughts to this article.

The three educators polled agree that technology on the professional end is what’s driving the advancements on the classroom end. But, this is not a new trend.

“Every new technology requires some additional training,” wrote Penn State professor Dr. Francis W. Derby in a 2008 article on the surveying website: mycoordinates.org. “For example, whereas application of GPS

See **LEARNING THE TOOLS** PAGES 5 & 6

CLEAR discusses Roddy Fitzgerald

By Griffin Pritchard |

BELS Public Information Specialist

CLEAR – the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation – recognized the work of BELS Special Investigator Bob Herbert during their annual meeting in Denver. Herbert had just finished a years’ long investigation into Roddy Fitzgerald / Commodore Steel. CLEAR named Herbert its Investigator of the Year.

As part of his recognition, Herbert is featured as part of the first CLEAR Podcast: Regulation Matters: a CLEAR conversation.

The podcast, which launched June 12 and is available on multiple platforms, “is intended to help (listeners) stay connected on new developments and hear diverse perspectives on a broad range of professional regulation topics, as well as being an easy way for (listeners) to access the content on their own schedule.”

See **CLEAR** PAGE 5



BELS Special Investigator Bob Herbert, named CLEAR’s Investigator of the Year in 2017 appears on their first podcast discussing Roddy Fitzgerald.

- The Podcast, CLEAR's first, is around 20-minutes and launched mid-June. Three episodes were launched with focuses on the show's goals, education and investigation.
- BELS Investigator Herbert is featured in episode three discussing Commodore Steel.

CLEAR

From Page 4

The podcast, is available for download using iTunes or the Stitcher app, it's also available on the CLEAR website (www.clearhq.org) where there is also an option to subscribe or by searching for CLEAR at www.podbean.com. The episode features a deep dive into the multiple violations stemming from Fitzgerald's unlicensed practice, identity theft and ethics violations.

He described the investigation as: "a worst case scenario for the individual."

Fitzgerald – who had his license revoked by the General Contractor's Board – and cited by BELS for unlicensed practice of engineering was initially fined \$3,400 (in total with additional fees added) following a 2013 complaint which featured his usage of PE's seal without prior knowledge. Fitzgerald came back nearly three years later having used multiple out-of-state engineer's seals without prior knowledge or permission and began producing plans, that were defined by a BELS Technical Reviewer, as "cut and paste" jobs."

BELS, in the second complaint, fined Fitzgerald \$30,000. He was also charged criminally.

LEARNING THE TOOLS

From Page 4

technology in surveying requires some knowledge [of at least] squares solution principals, the surveyor who provides data for GPS analysis needs to understand GIS principles and the importance of metadata. The same for digital photogrammetry, remote sensing and other technologies."

Hintz added that "Lidar, UAV, Network GNSS RTK, more automated photogrammetry, data fusion from lots of sources and access to records via internet" are all elements taught now.

"(You change) from spending lots of time teaching specific field techniques that required distinct abilities to an almost assumption today that measurements can be made competently with simple instruction," Hintz added. "This leads to, today, understanding what measurements need to be made to solve a problem and (figure out) what is the best office technique to utilize the measurements to solve the problem efficiently but correctly to (maintain) a high level of confidence."

That's where software advances help. According to Wilson, at Kennesaw State – also known as Southern Polytechnic – utilizes Civil3D, ArcGIS, Erdas and Carlson SurvCE.

"Other technologies are simply too expensive to maintain [or] own with small enrollments," Wilson added. "We use vendor demos or local copies to provide temporary support."

The use of technology in the classroom is also addressed by the Geomatics program at Troy.

According to Ramroop, Geomatics students use the same hardware and software as the professionals.

"Through our Program's Advisory Board we discuss, among other topics, what are the needs of the program," said Ramroop. "Secondly, we are introduced to the new technologies by the numerous companies that visit our program to give presentation, and lastly, we are informed by attending conferences, exhibits and other vendor specific meetings. Having achieved a good understanding of what is being used, we then acquire such technologies through purchase, donations and volunteer loans by visiting professionals."

To circle back to what Francis wrote in 2008: "Every new technology requires additional training."

The same mentality that stands true in Pennsylvania, holds up in lower Alabama.

"Prior to the teaching of the new technologies, lectures are given to students explaining the traditional concepts and how it is integrated into the new technologies," Ramroop said. "All of our students are required to do exercises and practices with the new technologies."

Along with technological advances within the physical classroom, programs are now available online.

Hintz added that Maine has an online component with mentors and a reliance on community colleges for "80-100 percent" of non-surveying courses.

"We will have fewer, but larger, surveying programs in the U.S. as online [instruction] breaks down regional concepts," Hintz said.

"Students do not want to come to class," added Wilson. "Some (of it) is preference. Some is generation and some is the part time student convenience."

Professors and, to an extent employers, are also dealing with a generation in

from NATIONAL COUNCIL

NCEES SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

- Currently seeking surveying professionals to participate in a content review for the Fundamentals of Surveying exam. The results will be used to update the specifications for the exam, which is typically the first step in the process toward professional licensure. The survey is open at ncees.org/fscontentreview until August 20, 2018. For more information, email fscontentreview@ncees.org.
- Currently seeking engineering professionals to participate in a content review for the Fundamentals of Engineering exam. The results will be used to update the specifications for the exam, which is typically the first step in the process toward professional engineering licensure. The survey is open at ncees.org/fe-contentreview until August 20, 2018. For more information, email fecontentreview@ncees.org.
- “These studies help NCEES ensure its licensing exams remain relevant to current professional practice,” said Tim Miller (PE) director of exam services. “The value of this content review depends on the number of people who participate so NCEES is eager to get input from as many [professionals] as possible.”
- NCEES needs a cross section of professionals (both engineers and land surveyors) - including licensed professionals and those teaching (engineering and land surveying) courses - to complete the online survey. According to NCEES, the survey can be completed in 20-30 minutes.

our NEW LICENSEES

Listed on pages 6, 7, 8 and 9 are the names of the most recent Professional Engineer, Professional Land Surveyor licensees and Engineer Interns:

• PE LICENSEES

MARK DALTON HARPER
 RAJENDRA D. VAIDYA
 STEVEN MICHAEL ANASTASIO
 ALEXANDER KAROL BABEL
 JOHN PAUL BINION
 JOSEPH CAINS III
 LELAND RANDELL CHAPMAN
 THOMAS JOSEPH DANIEL
 DARRON WAYNE DERRICK
 GEORGE MCNEILL EWING
 DONNA LISA RENATE FRIIS
 CHRISTOPHER DAVID HARRINGTON
 TONYA ELAINE HOLMES
 CHARLES JOSEPH HONOROWSKI
 WILLIAM JOSEPH HOSMON
 ROCCO KOEKEMOER
 DAVID RICKERT LYKINS
 BYRON LAWRENCE MARTIN
 ALAN SCOTT MCIVER
 LEVI W. MECHAM
 JAMES KEVIN PHIPPS
 CRAIG ROBERT RILEY
 GEORGE W. RODGERS JR
 STUART MICHAEL SAMBERG



LEARNING THE TOOLS

 From Page 5

which learning needs to be both micro and mobile.

Surveys have shown that “most learners won’t watch videos longer than four minutes.” Those same surveys have also shown that most 21st century learners and employees check their mobile devices at least nine times an hour.

“We ‘spoon feed’ our students when they are freshman,” Ramroop said. “As they progress through the program we expect them to develop an intuitive sense by being able to use the tools and the methods taught in the classrooms to address the demands of the profession.”

Ramroop and faculty counterpart Xutong Niu have developed the Troy program to a point where the concepts learned don’t stop being taught when they leave the classroom. The program has integrated them into labs and field work.

“Students fully understand the subjects through hands-on experience and work flows,” Ramroop said. “Co-Op experience is always encouraged.”

But what happens 20 years from now? Where does education go?

“All online,” replied Wilson.

“We are capable of 100 percent online learning which fits the modern student,” added Hintz.

Ramroop closed the conversation with this: “In 20 years, students are going to have options to [choose] the type of education they want. This will be a reflection of the field/classroom that they choose. They can choose online, or in residence, or a hybrid of the two. The choice will depend on the type of students enrolled – namely high school graduates, and/or working professionals. As the technologies rapidly develop, user demands will develop as well, and this will be related to the cost of such technologies and the type of education they choose.”

our NEW LICENSEES

- SCOTT SEVERT STILKEY
- JOSEPH HENRY TUTTLE II
- RYAN SPENCER WRIGHT
- ASHLEY MOCK ARMSTEAD
- BRADLEY NICHOLAS BAILEY
- ROYCE WILLIAM BALLARD
- WILLIAM KEITH BAMBERG JR
- CHRISTOPHER ALLEN BARBER
- CODY ANTHONY BARRETT
- SRDAN KRSTO BOSKOVIC
- CAMERON MICHAEL BRADLEY
- AMANDA BETH CHERRY
- KYLE PAYNE CLARY
- SETH AUSTIN COURINGTON
- LONDON KEITH DALTON
- MICHAEL DAVIS JR
- ZEBULON FRANK DICKEY
- BEVERLY DESIRAE DOUGLAS
- MARCIE WALKER DOUGLAS
- BRYAN KENNETH FAIR
- DANIEL PAUL FORDEMWALT
- JAMES BERNARD GIBSON JR
- JASON AARON GIBSON
- PHILLIP JOHN GRAMMER
- MICHAEL THOMAS HANKINS
- WARREN GARY HARPER
- CRAIG RAMON HARRIS
- HOLLY GUEST HERRING
- JOSHUA WEBB HOBBS
- BENJAMIN ARTHUR HOLT
- SHEENA MARIE HOLT
- JOEL BRANDON HORTON
- JEFFREY KIRK HUNT
- BRITTANY MOSES ISRAEL
- WYATT DEWAYNE JACOBS
- KYLE EDMOND JOHNSON
- NICHOLAS ARMANI JUNQUEIRA HEVIA
- CHRISTOPHER JAMES LAFROSCIA
- TRAVIS HUU LE
- JASON KRISTOPHER LEVANDOSKI
- LEONA ELIZABETH LEWIS
- CHRISTIAN DANIEL MARR
- ANTHONY BRIAN MCALLISTER
- DANIEL REECE MCCOLLUM
- JUSTIN DAVID MCDANIEL
- JOSHUA BENJAMIN MCDOUGALD
- TRACY KAY MILLER
- JEFFREY RAY MORGAN
- JOHN OWEN PARRISH
- HANNAH KRISTINE PAYNE
- HOLLY EURTON PHILLIPS
- MATTHEW RYAN QUIGLEY
- RANDI BAGWELL QUIZON
- TYLER SHANE REEDER
- DAVID JUSTIN REID
- TYLER MICHAEL ROUNTREE
- ASHTEN GABRIELLE SANDERS



Law change to impact community

By Griffin Pritchard |
 BELS Public Information Specialist

The major points of Act 550 have been discussed – two public members added to the Board of Licensure and the Qualification-Based Selection language modified to exclude boundary surveys not used as the basis of engineering work – but what else has changed in the law that went into effect July 1?

Think of this as a deeper dive into the legal language of the act. The new law contains passages that will effect both Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors.

Outside of the big two, one of the major changes to effect Professional Land Surveyors is the new education requirement.

According to 34-11-6 (f) of the new law: “For professional land surveyors, the continuing professional education requirements shall include a minimum of four professional development credit hours on the Standards of Practice of Surveying in the State of Alabama every two years and one professional development credit hour on ethics every year; provided, however, the total number of professional development credit hours required of professional land surveyors by the board shall not increase overall because of this requirement.”

In 2017, BELS amended its Administrative Code to allow newly licensed (first-time) individuals 30 Professional Development Hours, on top of any PDH gained during the licensing year. In 2018, under the new law, first time Professional Land Surveyors have to complete courses in both the Standards of Practice of Surveying and ethics education.

The second part of 34-11-6 (f) reads: “A new professional land surveyor shall complete the Standards of Practice of Surveying in the State of Alabama credits within two years and complete the ethics credit within one year of initial licensure. Credit for these courses shall count toward the succeeding annual or biennial continuing professional education requirements.”

See **LAW CHANGE** PAGES 8 & 9

our NEW LICENSEES

CHELSEY DORMAN SETTLES
 MATTHEW DAVID SIMS
 JENNIFER BEASLEY SMELSER
 JAKE RUSSELL SMITH
 NATHAN GENE SMITH
 JARRED ALLEN STEVISON
 TAMMY COOLEY STOREY
 DAVID WILSON SUTHERLAND
 MATTHEW LINDSEY TABOR
 ANDREW THOMAS TAYLOR
 BRANDON CLAY THORNTON
 NEIL FREDERICK TUCKER
 ISAAC CHAVEZ VARGAS
 MAGGIE PARKER WEEMS
 JAMES DEVANE WELSH
 BENJAMIN NOLAN YON
 JEFFREY SHERMAN BROWN
 GEOFFREY ALLEN CHAMBERS
 CHRISTOPHER FRANCIS DEBLOIS
 MARK HENRY FOSTER
 KAZEM HADJIALIKHANI
 NANCY RENEE LLOYD
 TERRY ALAN MULLENIX JR
 THOMAS WALKER SMITH
 JOSEPH MICHAEL STITT
 TAYLOR TOWLE
 SHERMAN DANIEL VINES III
 STEFAN LUKE WALLOF
 JAMES ERIC ANDERSON
 RICHARD DENNIS BECK JR
 DEREK SCOTT BUTLER
 MICHAEL BENJAMIN LEEPER
 CARLOS ANDRES ORTEGA ORDONEZ
 WILLIAM S. RAGLAND II
 DAVID MASON RUHL
 PETER T. SHOWUNMI

• PLS LICENSEES

DANIEL F. CONROY

our NEW INTERNS

• PE INTERNS

ANTHONY ROBERT PORTELLA II
 MICHAEL THOMAS BERGH
 KEVIN STEVEN BORDEN
 DANIEL JOSEPH CONNER
 JUSTIN ROBERT DUKE
 BENJAMIN ALEXANDER GARROW
 AARON DISHAUN HENRY
 TRENTON KYLE HOLLIS
 JACOB ADAM HOLTUM
 JARED SCOTT HUDSON
 TRAVIS HUBERT HUGHES III
 AUSTIN BIJAN KARIMI

LAW CHANGE

From Page 7

In order to assist our PLS Community with meeting these new education requirements, BELS will offer learning opportunities for both Ethics and Standards of Practice of Surveying courses. Notifications of the events will be made via email blast and posted through social media.

While the discussion is focused on education, additional pathways have been created as a way to increase the PLS community within the State of Alabama.

Language has been added in section 34-11-3, “approved civil engineering curriculum” as part of the qualifications for licensure to become a Professional Land Surveyor. In Section 3 (a) (1) [Graduation and experience plus examination] the new law reads: “A graduate of an approved land surveying curriculum of four years or more, or a graduate of an approved civil engineering curriculum of four years or more, including a minimum of 15 semester hours or 22.5 quarter hours of land surveying courses from a school or college approved by the board who has successfully passed board approved examinations in the fundamentals of surveying and in the principals and practice of surveying and has a specific record of four years or more of progressive combined office and field experience in land surveying work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board shall be admitted to a board approved examination on laws, procedures, and practices pertaining to land surveying in the state.”

In English that means BELS accepts curriculum from Troy University, the University of Maine, Great Basin (online) or any other ABET accredited surveying program. For the Civil Engineers looking to earn their PLS, the law change makes it a little easier. BELS accepts civil engineering degrees from any ABET accredited institution. The change comes in the amount of experience. Previously, a civil engineer needed eight years of experience to earn their land surveying license. The change reduces that amount of time to four years (provided the person meets the minimum surveying course requirements).

In terms of “curriculum related to surveying:”

The July 1 law change reduces the experience requirement from six to five years provided the individual seeking professional licensure meets the education expectations of graduation from “a curriculum related to surveying of four years or more including a minimum of 15 semester hours or 22.5 quarter hours of surveying courses from a school or college approved by the board.”

The individual must also pass a board approved fundamentals of surveying exam and has five or more years of progressive “combined office and field experience” to a degree in which the Board finds satisfactory.

Also, according to 34-11-8 (c): “Enrollment as engineer interns and land surveyor interns shall not expire.”

our OUTREACH EVENTS

- After spending the first part of 2018 focusing on the legislature and the monitoring of SB 316 from inception to signature, outreach opportunities were strategically chosen and limited to a booth at the Greater Montgomery Area Homebuilder’s Expo in February, a trip to speak at the University of South Alabama and a March visit with the Greater Birmingham ASPLS Chapter in Homewood. All three of those events were great ways to interact with the different faces of our community: The general public, students and future license holders and Professional licensees.
- Following the signature and the law’s passage, staff has returned to the road. In April, Griffin Pritchard traveled to meet with the Alabama State / Montgomery chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, one day of the AAPGMI meeting in Auburn and to speak to the Dothan ASCE Chapter.
- Outreach efforts and opportunities grew in May. Pritchard traveled to Huntsville (ASCE meeting), Orange Beach (Code Officials) and back home to Montgomery (League of Municipalities) and then to Tuskegee to discuss developing a relationship with that historic university’s engineering department.

our NEW INTERNS

MATTHEW STEPHEN KEATON
 ANNE RENEE KELLY
 EVAN JAMESON KING
 SARAH ELISABETH LINDSEY
 MADISON HALEY CAMPBELL MABRY
 RYAN DAVID MILLER
 VISHAL VASANT MODI
 BRADFORD MARTELL MURRY
 EMORY DALTON NICHOLS
 ALEXANDER MURRAY PARLIAMENT
 JONAH BRADLEE PHILLIPS
 CALEB MATTHEW ROGERS
 JAMES NICHOLAS ROSE
 ADRIAN MARIE SANCHEZ
 MATTHEW CONNOR SCALES
 JOHN PHILLIP SCHNEIDER
 JACOB CLAY SMITH
 ELIJAH REID STEWART
 CHARLES PRESTON WAID
 MADELINE LAURA WALLEY
 NATHAN QUINN WELDON
 YUSUF ADAM WHITAKER

**** There were no Land Surveyor Interns approved by the board during the quarter.

LAW CHANGE

From Page 8

There is also a change in “lapsed status.”

In the same chapter (34-11-8) (d) reads: “An individual who allows a license to expire due to non-renewal, failure to submit the required continuing education hours, or pay the applicable renewal fees shall be treated as having an expired license and shall be ineligible to practice.”

According to the chapter which has four sections:

- (1) reads: “The license of a licensee who submits a reinstatement petition within two years of the expiration date may be reinstated upon the substantiation by the applicant of all renewal requirement set forth in this chapter and rules of the board, including completion of all continuing education credits required to have been completed during the expired status period, along with a reinstatement fee determined by the board which shall not exceed \$500.”
- (2) reads: “Licensees whose licenses have been in expired status longer than two years are not eligible for reinstatement and must file an application for licensure following the application procedures as set forth in this chapter.
- (3) reads: “The board may impose additional rea-

sonable requirement for reinstatement deemed necessary to protect health, life, safety, welfare and property.”

- (4) reads: “The board may consider extenuating circumstances of petitioners who can demonstrate hardship. The board reserves the right to waive fees and other renewal or reinstatement requirements provided the board does so in a manner that protects health, life, safety, welfare and property.”

In terms of board composition, the Board of Licensure expands to nine (with two public members added).

For the surveyors, two seats continue to be designated for Professional Land Surveyors. One of those seats, however, can be a dual licensee holding both a license as both a Professional Engineer and a Professional Land Surveyor. These changes are to the law and took effect July 1. BELS and its staff are currently working through the Administrative Code to update that document and reflect the changes stemming from the new law language. As those administrative code changes are approved, they will be posted in upcoming editions of the BELS Bulletin as well as on social media (Facebook / Twitter) and online at www.bels.alabama.gov.



Thank You For Your Help

BELS, as a thank you for those that played a role during the 2018 Alabama Legislative Session, welcomed representatives from the legislature, ASCE and ACEC to a May luncheon. Pictured as a group are: (front) Helen Adams-Morales, Ben Albritton, Renee Anne Casillas, Richard Grace, Rep. Randy Wood, Marc Barter, Rick Huett, Bonnie Kelly, (back) Liz Hyde, Sen. Clyde Chambliss, Nathan Johnson, Joe Meads, Randy Whorton, Frazier Christy and Brad Williams. The group gathered in celebration of the passage of ACT 550. (Right) BELS board members Grace and Johnson have a conversation with ASCE representative Williams.



(Above) Rep. Wood and Boardmember Whorton talk prior to the reception. (Below) Sen. Chambliss surrounded by Meads, Woods and Whorton, discuss the goals going forward.



(Left) Sen. Chambliss thanks the group for the invitation. (Right top) BELS Board members Barter and Grace share a laugh. (right bottom) Johnson leads a round of applause.



ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

William M. Varnon, Previously Licensed Professional Land Surveyor

On February 1, 2017, the Board revoked the professional land surveyor license of William M. Varnon for his failure to comply with an agreed upon consent order. After his license was revoked the Board received three complaints that indicated Mr. Varnon was continuing to provide land surveying services. Investigations of the complaints were conducted, and a hearing was held. At its May 22, 2018, meeting the Board reviewed the hearing recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge and issued an Order that found Mr. Varnon guilty of the charges and required him to pay \$850 for the cost of the hearing.

NSPE President Tom Roberts was part of the ASPE / MES swearing in ceremony last month, installing new officers for both the Alabama and Mississippi societies. He also presented the leadership with a “little rubber guy” as a reminder to stay flexible.



our WEBSITE

BELS website (www.bels.alabama.gov) can serve as a resource for anyone looking to garner information about our licensees, laws or community trends

This information provided as a highlight of the License Search feature includes name, types of license and their number, license status and an indication of whether or not they have had any action taken against them. The information is provided for use amongst individuals looking to hire a Professional Engineer or a Professional Land Surveyor. BELS does not release social security numbers, addresses, dates of birth, telephone numbers, or email addresses nor recommend professionals or businesses.

Under Alabama Open Records Law, public record requests may be made of BELS. The records, or information, sought should provide enough detail for our agency to adequately respond. Requests should be addressed to the attention of Griffin Pritchard (griffin.pritchard@bels.alabama.gov).

Troy Geomatics wins NCEES award

By Griffin Pritchard |

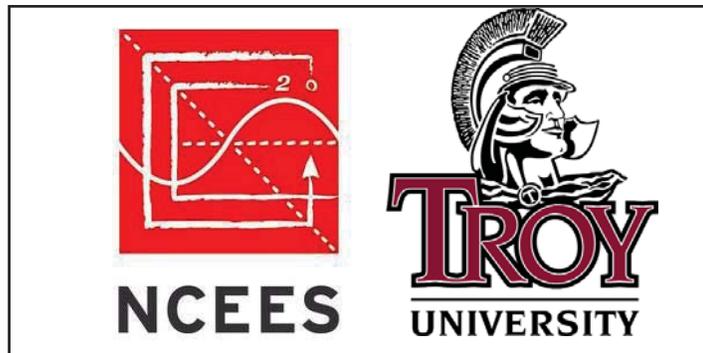
BELS Public Information Specialist

Troy University, again, finds its Surveying and Geomatics Sciences program listed among the nation’s best after earning \$10,000 from the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

Seven schools were awarded funds as part of the 2018 NCEES Surveying Education Award.

According to the release, the award - given annually - recognized surveying program that best reflect the organization’s mission to advance licensure for surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the public.

The University of Akron’s Surveying and Mapping Program was the



overall winner, earning the gradn prize of \$25,000. A trio of schools - Idaho State, Oregon Institute of Technology and the University of Maine - were awarded \$15,000 each. Troy - a \$10,000 winner - joins Central New Mexico Community College and East Tennessee State for their education efforts. The two additional awards - \$15,000 and \$10,000 - were awarded to assist with each program’s continued efforts to promote the importance and value of surveying. The award’s jury weighed student outcomes and involvement, outreach and recruitment and the promotion of licensure.

Troy - who earned their ABET accreditation in 2010 - was awarded \$10,000 by NCEES in 2016 for the success of their program. Professors Steve Ramroop and Xuton Niu are the Troy program’s instructors.



(Above) Richard Grace, Courtney Brett, Marzette Fisher and Liz Hyde (a mix of BELS and BOA Board members) have a conversation prior to lunch being served.
 (Left) BOA director Elizabeth Bern looks on during the discussion. (Right) Mary Goldthwaite (BOA attorney) and Helen Adams-Morales (BELS) talk cell phones and apps over desserts.



(Left) BOA Chair Fisher thanks BELS for hosting the luncheon and says he looks forward to the conversations to follow. (Right) BOA's Dan Bennett (with BELS Nathan Johnson and Frazier Christy listening) discusses college education.



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Breaking Bread Together

BELS and the Board of Architecture gathered in May for a luncheon and a brief conversation to discuss issues facing both professions. The two boards gather on an annual basis.

