Memorandum

To: NSPS Executive Committee
CC: John Hohol, Steve Gould, Rich Vannozzi
From: Timothy W. Burch – Vice President
Date: August 18, 2019
Re: SaGES – 2019 Biennial Conference, Thibodaux, LA

Members of ExCom:

I recently attended the 27th Biennial Surveying and Geomatics Educators Society (SaGES) Conference at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA representing NSPS. This memo serves to summarize the proceedings and presentations as well as feedback I received from their membership.

**Opening Remarks**

Dr. Sue Westbrook, Nicholls State University Provost, welcomed the group to Thibodaux and expressed her and the University’s appreciation for SaGES to choose NSU to host this conference.

Dr. Balaji Ramachandran, Geomatics Program Coordinator at Nicholls State University, also welcomed the group with a review of the agenda and schedule. He also briefly summarized the Geomatics program at NSU.

**Interaction with SaGES Members**

After time to reflect on my experience with this group, it is fair to say that NSPS has a glass half empty / glass half full relationship with SaGES. While several “mature” members of SaGES did not temper their remarks about NSPS, the younger set did approach me away from the group to encourage us to remain in partnership with SaGES. Here are a few of the comments (both good and bad):

- Positive and negative comments for administering Trig-Star program. The Troy State educators felt NSPS does not promote it enough to be
Several stated that the program needs a significant upgrade for a better tie-in to surveying and geomatics.

- NSPS is responsible for the looming demise of AAGS, SaLIS and geospatial representation. At the SaGES Business meeting, it is being considered to merge SaGES and AAGS with SaLIS being their main contribution to the profession.

- Several AAGS members questioned why they were still being “charged” a fee by NSPS for their involvement within ABET. They stated that there is little benefit from being associated with NSPS within the ABET accreditation process.

- NSPS only represents “boundary surveyors” and doesn’t value any other discipline within surveying (hydro, photogrammetry, geodesy, etc.). Licensing of specific surveying disciplines would help increase interest in profession.

- NSPS taking the lead in “Forum on the Future of Surveying” was a bad decision and will lead nowhere.

- NSPS hosting the FIG 2023 Working Week is a big step in the right direction in promoting the US as a central surveying player

- Need to work with the Scouts (Boys & Girls) to reduce the hours for earning the surveying badge. Six to eight hours is too long for their attention span and will move on to an easier badge.

- Organizations like ASCE UESI (Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute) are doing more for SaGES than NSPS and will create better representation for the profession. Eventually, ASCE will become with ASCM used to be.

- NSPS doesn’t do enough to promote higher education (Masters/PhD) to reload the schools with “proper” educators.

- The incoming SaGES President, Michael Olson (Oregon State University) does see the value of maintaining a relationship with NSPS and will contact me directly for the next two years to continue our dialog and growth together.

- Joe Paiva would like to have a follow-up conversation regarding my takeaway thoughts from this conference. I could tell that he sensed my displeasure with how NSPS was being received and that it seemed like an ambush. He kept his distance most of the conference.
At the Business Meeting, I used John Hohol’s slide deck to offer time and space for the 2023 SaGES Conference during the FIG Working Week in Orlando with plenty of space and opportunity to meet with foreign educators in Commission 2. The bid was lost to the BCIT in Vancouver. It should also be noted that the 2021 SaGES Conference went to the University of Calgary over Troy University in Alabama.

While this was not the ideal situation to walk into, I now feel we have a better handle on the challenges we face with organizations like SaGES for partnership and gathering professional support. I intend to stay connected to Michael Olson and SaGES for the next two years and will keep an open mind on how we grow together. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim

Timothy W. Burch, PLS
Presentations

#1 An interactive Web-GIS application for Identifying Flood Vulnerable Areas Based on GNSS meteorology
Hoda Tahami, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

#2 Utilization of the Raw Intensity Return from Laser Scanner Measurements to Assist in Control and Validation Targets
Scott Peterson, California State University, Fresno, Fresno, CA

#3 Rigorous Error Propagation for Topographic Displacements Derived from Image Correlation
Preston Hartzell, University of Houston, Houston, TX

#4 Louisiana Land Grants and the U.S. Public Land Survey System
Terry Dantin, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA

Great presentation on the French Land Grants that predate the GLO work prior to the Louisiana Purchase.

#5 Using a GIS Platform to Develop a Boundary Survey Plat Compliance Training/Checking Tool
Roger Purcell, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA

#6 Profitable Development of Problem Plagued Parcels
Daniel Branham, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

#7 Leveraging Non-Traditional Educational Opportunities in Support of the 2014 NSPS Education Policy Statement
Anthony Vannozzi, University of Maine, Orono, ME

#8 Structural Analysis of Courses as a Precursor to Moving them On-Line
Bill Hazelton, Troy University, Troy, AL

#9 Workforce development as outreach for surveyors
Esra Tekdal Yilmaz, Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre campus, Lehman, PA

Working with local authorities to create apprenticeships – good model

#10 Assessing the Effectiveness of Immersive Visualization Technology for Enhancing Geospatial Data Acquisition Curriculum
Matthew O’Banion, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY
#11 Immersive Media for Introductory Surveying Laboratory Exercises
Brian Naberezny, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

#12 Augmented and Virtual Reality Utilization to Support Geospatial Learning
Bill Hazelton, Troy University, Troy, AL

#13 Evaluating the Efficiency of small Unmanned Aerial System (sUAS) against Conventional Field Surveying Techniques for Monitoring Earthen Levee System in South Louisiana
Brennon Dardar, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Holloman AFB, NM

#14 Accuracy Assessment of small UAS Surveys and the Role of GCPs With and Without GNSS-PPK Positioning
Dimitrios Bolkas, Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre campus, Lehman, PA

#15 Real-time Infrastructure Monitoring Solutions for US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Kent Hebert, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District, New Orleans, LA

#16 New design criteria for low distortion projections
Thomas Meyer, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

#17 Strategies Used for Recruiting and Retention in the Geospatial Informatics Educational Field
Steve Ramroop, Troy University, Troy, AL

#18 Is the lack of surveying in a civil engineering program a problem?
Marlee Walton, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

**Reduction in surveying classes is adding to the lack of surveying exposure as well as surveying knowledge in civil engineers.**

#19 E-Portfolios, Licensure, Continuing Education and Employment: The Perfect Storm of Opportunity for the Surveying Student
Anthony Vannozzi, University of Maine, Orono, ME

#20 The AutoCAD® Detective: Whose Line Is It Anyway?
Sean Galway, British Columbia Institute of Technology, Burnaby, BC, Canada
#21 First Year Freshmen Experience  
Charles Nettleman, Nettleman Land Consultants, Inc.  

**No show.**

#22 Identifying Threshold Concepts in a Geomatics Engineering Course  
Ivan Detchev, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

#23 Learning About Surveying from Peer Groups  
Jinseok Hong, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN

#24 Enhancing Student Learning of the Fundamentals of Surveying with the Help of the ICAP Framework  
Elena Rangelova, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada

#25 National Geodetic Survey’s Educational Offerings  
Erika Little, National Geodetic Survey, NOAA

#26 New Geodetic Datums (2022): Replacing NAVD 88 and NAD 83  
Dru Smith, National Geodetic Survey, NOAA

**Great seminar going a little deeper into the reasoning behind the upcoming datum upgrade**

#27 Using Unmanned Aerial Systems to Create a Spatio-Temporal Characterization of a Restored Barrier Island in Terrebonne Parish  
Gary LaFleur, Jr. Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA

#28 Re-thinking the Data Model: GIS as/is a Relational Database  
Bill Hazelton, Troy University, Troy, AL

#29 A Comparative Analysis of Data Sets Using sUAS, Terrestrial LiDAR, and Conventional Topographic Survey Methodologies  
Cody Parks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District, New Orleans, LA

#30 Camera-based Bridge Vibration Monitoring  
Yushin Ahn, California State University, Fresno, Fresno, CA

#31 Challenges in creating realistic and immersive virtual reality environments and laboratories for engineering education  
Jeffrey Chiampi, Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre campus, Lehman, PA
#32 Enhancing Surveying Engineering Education with Immersive Virtual Reality
Dimitrios Bolkas, Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre campus, Lehman, PA

#33 A Student Centered, Active Learning Approach to the Delivery of a Visiting Professional Lecture Series
Anthony Vannozzi, University of Maine, Orono, ME

#34 The Importance of Spatial Reasoning for Geospatial Education
Bill Hazelton, Troy University, Troy, AL

#35 Curriculum Development for Student Recruitment
Matt Wilson, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

#36 Visual Traverse: An Open Source Python Program to Assess, Post-process, and Visualize Polygon Data
Yanli Zhang, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX