

PSLS 2020 Presenter Bios

(as of August 13, 2019)

Douglas L. Aaberg, PLS

Douglas is a licensed Professional Land Surveyor in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in the State of Colorado. His career in the Land Surveying/Civil Engineering business spans four decades. Having used Carlson Software exclusively since 1998, Doug is a recognized expert in applying the continually expanding capability of Carlson's programming to the everyday "work flow" of land surveyors and engineers.

After owning and operating his own company for fifteen years, Doug now works directly for Carlson Software as their Survey Product manager. Besides being involved in development, he dedicates his time consulting to both large and small land survey and engineering firms through on-site training, remote support and individually tailored documentation.

Douglas M. Allwein, PLS

Doug is the President/CEO of Kaylor, Allwein & Hartman, Inc. He has over 18 years of experience in the fields of land surveying and engineering. He is a registered Professional Land Surveyor in the state of Pennsylvania. Doug holds an Associates in Science Degree in Business Administration from the Pennsylvania State University, and a diploma in Geodetic Survey from the Defense Mapping School.

Doug spent 5 years in the U.S. Army, earning commendation medals for survey work while deployed on missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002, and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. He has been in the private sector since 2005 and has worked on a number of safety-conscious projects, including beach dredging, bridge rehabilitation, FAA airport surveys, and hazardous waste remediation.

Mark Amirault

Mark is responsible for providing insurance coverage and review to all facets of the design community. Mark is a frequent presenter of continuing education sessions on insurance, risk management and business topics for the design community. In 1999, he received his BS from the Carroll School of Management at Boston College. Prior to joining the Klein Agency, Mark was a marketing representative responsible for completing RFPs for a large custodial bank and was then an insurance underwriter with a focus on small to mid-size contractors. He joined the Klein Agency in 2006, and after a year working at Klein's headquarters in Maryland, he opened the Philadelphia office in 2007.

Matthew Bainbridge

Matthew Bainbridge has worked in the Land Surveying and Civil Engineering fields for over 15 years. He began surveying with a transit and field book during the summers while in high school and has embraced new technologies in the industry from the addition to HP48 data collectors to RTK GPS and most recently advances in terrestrial and kinematic LiDAR. Matthew currently manages a group of professionals in the Bridgeport office of Civil & Environmental Consultants dedicated to the development and use of remote sensing technologies including UAV and ground-based kinematic LiDAR.

William E. Beardslee, P.E., P.L.S., P.P.

Bill Beardslee is a licensed Professional Land Surveyor, Engineer and Planner with over 50 years experience in the field of land development. He is known for his excellent presentation and writing capabilities, along with being one of the leading technical experts on land development in the engineering and surveying arena. Bill has made over 2,000 presentations on engineering and surveying projects to local and state agencies. Prior to his retirement, he was the owner and Director of Engineering for Beardslee Engineering Associates in Sparta, NJ.

Bill is a past president of the New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors and that society's 2006 "Surveyor of the Year". He is also a regular contributor to the geomatics resource magazine *xyHt*, as well as being listed in "Who's Who in Technology" and "Who's Who in the East."

Bill has taught numerous seminar programs at the high school, college and professional levels for over 35 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology and a Master of Arts Degree in Corporate & Organizational Communications from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Now retired in North Carolina, he stays active in business development for Davis-Martin-Powell in High Point, N.C., as well as providing continuing education seminars around the country.

Bill offers the students a professional blend of technical expertise, communication knowledge and presentation skills for discussing issues in a clear and simple format.

Brent Birth, PLS

Bruce Blair, PLS

Dimitrios Bolkas, Ph.D., PEng

Dimitrios Bolkas, Ph.D., PEng is an Assistant Professor of Surveying Engineering at the Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre Campus. He has a diverse geodetic and geoscientific experience that includes terrestrial, mobile, and airborne laser scanning, digital elevation models, unmanned aerial systems, GNSS networks, geoid and gravity-field modeling.

His main research interest is on building methods to increase, understand, and assess quality/uncertainty in 3D geospatial datasets. In addition, his research develops new methods and techniques to enhance functionality of 3D geospatial data and models. His work has appeared in several peer-reviewed scientific journals and presented in various international scientific meetings.

Mark Brinkash, PLS

Michael F. Brinkash, P.L.S.

Michael F. Brinkash, P.L.S., President of Brinkash and Associates, Inc. Began surveying part-time in 1969 while a junior in High School and after graduation (1971) worked in surveying full time while taking correspondence courses in Surveying and Engineering. Enlisted in the United States Army Reserve in 1972, followed by 6 months of active duty and was honorably discharged in 1978. In October 1977 licensed to practice land surveying professionally in PA and licensed in NY in 2009. 1978 Sole-proprietor of a land surveying business, 1981-1998 partner in the land surveying business of Gasperetti & Brinkash and 1999 to current, President of Brinkash and Associates, Inc. offering surveying and engineering services. 1987/88 Served as the PLS Representative to the National Society of Professional Land Surveyors (NSPS) Board of Governors. 1989/90 Served as President of the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors (PSLS). 1991 Recipient of the PLS Surveyor of the Year Award. 1997 Authored and Published: "County and Municipal Boundary Descriptions", 472 page professional textbook. Donated copyright to the PLS. 2011 appointed to serve on the Pennsylvania State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists. 2015/16 served as President of the State Registration Board. 2011 to current, Member of the Pennsylvania State Registration Board, Member of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). Presenter for Continuing Education Workshops from 1995 to present on surveying subjects, i.e. Astronomic Observations (sun shots), Easements – written and unwritten rights, Riparian Boundaries, County and Municipal Boundary Retracement Surveys, Case Law studies involving "rules of construction", etc.

Rick Celender, RLA, C.E.T., CPESC, CPSWQ

Rick is a Vice President and Registered Landscape Architect/Civil Engineering Technologist at Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. Pittsburgh office. He has more than 25 years' experience in pipeline, well pad, compressor station, processing/fractionation plant design/permitting, stormwater BMP maintenance/inspection, ESCGP/NPDES permitting, and civil engineering consulting. His experience with site design coupled with specialization in stormwater management and erosion control provides a unique insight into current trends in stormwater and erosion control design and construction. Rick has given presentations related to stormwater maintenance/inspection, erosion control practices, and unmanned aerial vehicle operations to Municipal Governments, the American Public Works Association, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD), PIOGA, the PADEP, Oil/Gas Operators, Lawrence

County Career & Technical Center, the Commercial UAV Expo-Americas, and other organizations. He is an accredited instructor for the CPESC (Certified Professional Erosion/Sedimentation Control) exam review and is the West Virginia CPESC State Representative. Rick is a Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ), has obtained OSHA Confined Space Entry and Rescuer Certification (29CFR1910.146), Wetland Delineator Certification (IWEER), and is certified through the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies. Rick leads CEC's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) program (inspection, topography, 3D modeling, etc.), is a member of the Marcellus Shale Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Committee, and coordinates with state and federal regulatory officials related to the integration of UAV/robotic technologies for permitting and reporting purposes.

John Cooke

John Cooke joined Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. in the fall of 2009 after working as an independent consultant and AutoCAD® instructor for over twenty years. Mr. Cooke presently operates the CivilTraining, LLC division of Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., a Davey Tree Company, and supports Engineering, GIS and Surveying technology efforts within the office and for other clients nationwide.

Mr. Cooke has been continuously affiliated with Autodesk Civil/Survey applications since 1987, functioning initially in development and then in consulting and training roles.

He has an extensive background in the development, implementation and training of Autodesk AEC Civil Engineering, Surveying, GIS and BIM solutions. He has provided training to thousands of individuals nationwide, assisted numerous clients in implementing Civil software, CAD standards and practices, and provided project consulting to many clients in unusual or challenging project applications. His experience level covers a spectrum from wide-area network-based systems for large international clients to individual data collection and mapping stations for survey sole practitioners. Mr. Cooke's training experience ranges from multi-discipline firms at national and regional levels to individualized field survey training in subway tunnels under New York City.

Operating CivilTraining, LLC, Mr. Cooke continues to provide training and consulting services to national clientele. Within Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. he manages development efforts for Engineering and Survey automation, including the creation of custom software for stream restoration based on Autodesk Civil 3D®.

Vince Costello

Frank Derby, PhD

Dr. Derby is currently Associate Professor of Engineering and Chair of the Surveying Engineering and Technology Programs at Penn State University. He has taught traditional courses in surveying as well as introductory and advanced courses in GIS, Photogrammetry, Unmanned Aerial Mapping Systems and Terrestrial Laser Scanning. His previous work experiences include

land surveying activities in Africa, United Kingdom, South America and the Caribbean. He has previously worked for the Commonwealth Secretariat of Great Britain as technical advisor to the government of the Commonwealth of Dominica on infrastructure development. He also consulted for the World Bank on various projects in Peru and Tanzania as Cadastral Advisor and Land Records Specialist.

He is an active member of the American Association of Geodetic Surveying (AAGS), American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors (PSLS), and the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE). He is a manuscript reviewer for the journal of Surveying and Land Information Systems (SaLIS), the Journal of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and the American Society of Engineering Educators (ASEE). He is also a grant reviewer for the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada.

Greg Finkle, PE

Greg Finkle, PE, a principal at Trinity Subsurface Engineering, LLC is in his 10th year working in Subsurface Utility Engineering. His career started as a field technician to develop a thorough understanding of the technology and processes relative to SUE. From there he worked closely with several engineering firms, municipalities, pharmaceuticals, universities, GCs and CMs, etc... managing projects and delivering the crucial utility information needed for design and construction. He's also worked closely with equipment manufacturers to help test and develop equipment used for SUE. One of his favorite aspects of his line of work is that he's been able to work on sites few people know exist such as nuclear power plants, military bases, prisons, city halls, transmission centers and so on. He has a passion for solving problems and building relationships with those he works with.

Kenneth J. Fronheiser, PLS

Kenneth J. Fronheiser, PLS is a professional licensed land surveyor in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with over 17 years of land surveying experience. During that time, Ken has been responsible for a wide variety of surveying projects to include: Topographical, Boundary, Construction Layout, RTK/GPS, GIS mapping, Bathymetric, and Laser Scanning. Ken has worked for a variety of clients that span from private, public, educational institutions and government agencies. Currently Ken is a Sales Consultant for Keystone Precision Instruments.

Dr. Charles Ghilani

Dr. Charles Ghilani is a professor emeritus of engineering in the Pennsylvania State University. He received his Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1989. He has been involved as an instructor in surveying/geomatics education for more than 35 years and has presented workshops on statistics, least squares adjustments, state plane coordinates, and GNSS to surveying practitioners across the country. He has written over one-hundred papers and is the author of Adjustment Computations: Spatial Data Analysis and Elementary Surveying: An Introduction in Geomatics. He is a past president of the Surveying

and Geomatics Educators Society (SaGES) and the American Association for Geodetic Surveying. He is the editor of Surveying and Land Information Science. He is an AAGS Fellow and has received numerous university and professional awards including the Earle J. Fennel Award from ACSM in 2001, Milton S. Eisenhower Award for Distinguished Teaching at Penn State in 2013, and honorary membership in the PSLS in 2015.

Dan Gillins

Amy Hopkins, PLS

Amy Hopkins began her surveying career as a Geodetic Surveyor in the United States Marine Corps at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Some of you may remember it as the Defense Mapping Agency. She served for 11 years, stationed at various bases across the nation and overseas. Her civilian career started in North Carolina, then Indiana, finally settling in Pennsylvania near her family's home in Murrysville, PA, where she obtained her Pennsylvania license then subsequently a license in New York. Amy is the Owner of Urban Terrain LLC, a land surveying company. Urban Terrain LLC is a certified Women Business Enterprise (WBE) and finalizing the Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB) certification.

Michael Hyman

Mr. Hyman is the Regional Director at Carlson Software Inc. for NY and PA. At Carlson SW Mike is focused on the Land Survey, Civil Engineering, and Construction market segments. Mr. Hyman is a 1991 graduate from Alfred State College with an A.A.S. in Land Surveying. Additionally, his responsibilities continually got him involved in working with Land Surveying technology for both the field and the office. Now at Carlson Software Inc. for 12+ yrs and 20+ years in the technology industry, Mr. Hyman is involved at many levels in the Land Surveying, Civil Engineering, and Construction industries where he lectures, supports, and presents innovative solutions to the industry related to Carlson Software products and services.

Donald H. Kamp, PLS, PP, CP

Donald H. Kamp, PLS, PP, CP is a licensed Professional Land Surveyor in PA, NJ & DE, a Licensed Professional Planner in NJ, and Certified Photogrammetrist (ASPRS). His experience includes executive and senior management positions with PA and NJ Engineering, Surveying and Mapping firms, as well as the Bucks County Redevelopment Authority. His roles have included business development, project planning, estimating and day to day supervision and management of surveying operations and personnel. He is a Past President of PSLS, and for many years served on the PSLS Education and Exam Committees.

James (Jim) P. Larkin

James (Jim) P. Larkin, is a Liaison Representative for Pennsylvania One Call System, Inc., a 501(c)(6) not-for profit whose purpose is to prevent damage to underground facilities. In 2017,

Pennsylvania One Call received more than 888,000 notifications of intent to excavate and sent more than 7 million messages to over 3500 underground utility owners. Pennsylvania One Call provides notification services to almost 1,500 municipalities, townships and nonprofits at no cost. Jim is a graduate of Purdue University Global where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Magna Cum Laude. Jim has diverse industry experience as an Account and Client manager for Hewlett Packard and Electronic Data System as well as beginning his business career as a Computer Programmer for the Commonwealth of PA. Jim also worked in the construction industry as a Journeyman Boilermaker prior to his collegiate studies.

Laura Malloy

Matt McCarty

Brian Naberezny

Avish Parashar (Keynote Speaker)

Avish grew up in "exotic" Poughkeepsie, NY and now makes his home in Philadelphia, PA. Though he performed all through high-school, he decided to stop performing when he went to college to "focus on his studies" (his parents were very proud of this decision).

That resolve lasted only a few months, as the first time he saw an improv comedy show he fell in love (his parents were slightly less proud). One week later he auditioned for the campus improv group, got in, and the rest is history. After graduating, he started Polywumpus Improv Comedy, which performed regularly in and around Philadelphia for seven years. Avish closed up Polywumpus to focus on the speaking and training side of the business – using improv comedy as a tool to teach valuable business skills such as creativity, innovation, and adaptability.

Weaving together humorous stories, jokes, audience interaction, and improv comedy games, Avish keeps the audience engaged while imparting a key lesson: Planning is Important, but Improvising is Essential! No matter how well you plan, things will go wrong, surprises will arise, and the Universe will throw you a curveball. Your success and sanity are directly related to how you respond these challenges. By the end of one of Avish's presentations you will have key tools to flow with all that life throws at you. Avish has spoken to the very creative (actors and directors), the very un-creative (accountants), the very casual (college students), and the very business-like (sales professionals). The end result is always the same - smiles, laughs, and a new way of looking at life and business.

Avish is the author of "Improvise to Success!" and the Amazon best-selling, "Say 'Yes, And!'" (And yes, his parents are once again very proud.)

Scott R. Reeser, PLS

Scott R. Reeser, PLS, has over 30 years of experience in surveying and design. Mr. Reeser is a graduate of the Penn State University Surveying Program, where he earned an Associate Degree in Surveying Technology.

He has been a licensed Professional Land Surveyor in Pennsylvania since 2008, and holds surveying licenses in New York (2012), West Virginia (2013) and Colorado (2014).

He is a Past-President of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Land Surveyors, where he serves on the Executive Committee and Education Committee.

Throughout his career he has worked for various engineering, surveying and civil consulting firms; gaining experience in multiple facets of surveying, engineering and land use consulting. His diversified experience has allowed him to work on projects that serve different market sectors including the general public, state and local government, private developers, public utilities and private utilities. Currently Mr. Reeser is the Director of Surveys at Hunt Engineering Company, based in Malvern, PA.

He has been a frequent presenter of varied topics at the annual Pennsylvania Society of Professional Land Surveyors conference and has also been a presenter at the New York Association of Professional Land Surveyors annual conference. His expanding list of presentation topics includes writing legal descriptions, communications in the workplace, survey registration law, survey math, professional ethics and historical subjects.

Heather Dohn Ross

Heather Dohn Ross works in the Donald W. Hamer Center for Maps and Geospatial Information of the Penn State University Libraries where she has worked for over 19 years. She has long fostered an appreciation of maps born from a childhood of sailing and reading nautical charts and maps, and atlases. She holds a BS and MS in Experimental Psychology from Syracuse University.

Thomas A. Seybert, Ph.D., PE

Thomas A. Seybert, PE, Ph.D. is Professor Emeritus of Engineering at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. He was responsible for the delivery of the stormwater management and land development courses. He was also responsible for the plane surveying course taught to both associate and baccalaureate degree students. His research and consulting interests include mitigation of stormwater runoff issues and watershed protection planning. He is the author of the book Stormwater Management for Land Development Design, second edition. He is actively involved in continuing and distance education efforts in stormwater management for both surveyors and engineers.

Rob Sinclair

Rob Sinclair is the Corporate Design Technology Manager for Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) in Pittsburgh, PA. Rob brings more than 20 years of design- and technology-related experience to the civil infrastructure field. In his current role, Rob is responsible for providing support and training to 24 offices with more than 500 software users. He is also responsible for creating and maintaining company standards and workflows. Rob is enthusiastic about technology and enjoys staying on the forefront of emerging industry trends. He is an FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot, and helped implement the UAV program at CEC. Rob is an Autodesk Expert Elite, Civil 3D, and AutoCAD Certified Professional. He regularly teaches his peers how to use products such as Civil 3D, InfraWorks, Pix4D, and ReCap most effectively.

Thomas F. Smith, II, PE, PLS

Tom received a BS in Civil Engineering from Penn State in 1974 and a Master of Civil Engineering from Villanova University in 1986. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor in Pennsylvania. He has over 45 years of experience in civil engineering. He is principal of Bercek and Smith Engineering, Inc. of Royersford, PA. He specializes in Floodplain studies, Stormwater Management and design of Subdivision and Land Development projects. Mr. Smith is a major contributor to the Virginia Tech, Penn State Urban Hydrology computer model, having been a guest instructor for over 30 years.

John R. Smoker, PLS

John started working for Mackin as a Rod & Chain Person and has worked his way up through the ranks, while obtaining his Professional Land Surveyors License. John is a member of PLS (Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors) and a member of NSPS (National Society of Professional Surveyors). As Vice President of Land Surveying, John is responsible for overseeing the Land Surveying Department and all of the surveying projects. His duties include administration, marketing, project review, project scheduling, staffing, quality assurance/quality control, supervision of the survey crews along with his senior survey technician, coordination between departments, and coordination with our clients.

Dr. Esra Tekdal Yilmaz

Dr. Esra Tekdal Yilmaz is currently Assistant Professor of Surveying Engineering. She holds a BSc degree in Geodesy and Photogrammetry Engineering and Civil Engineering (Double Major), MSc and PhD. In Geomatics Engineering from Istanbul Technical University in Turkey. She is specialized in Least Squares Adjustment, Laser Scanning and Building Information Modelling (BIM).

Dr. Tekdal Yilmaz's previous work experiences include research and teaching in Turkey. She worked as Research Assistant in Geomatics Engineering department in Istanbul Technical University for 8 years. After that she worked as lecturer and Assistant Professor of Civil

Engineering in Istanbul Aydin University. She became a member of Penn State University faculty in 2015. She has taught Least Squares Adjustment, Geodetic Models, Construction Survey, Data Analysis and Project Design, Precise Positioning Systems and Coordinate Systems in Map projections. She also started giving continuing education workshops at Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors (PSLS) annual conference in 2017.

David H. Widmer, P.L.S.

David H. Widmer, P.L.S., served on the Pennsylvania State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists for 18 ½ years between 1992 and 2011 having been appointed by Governors Casey, Ridge and Rendell. Mr. Widmer was licensed in Pennsylvania by examination as a professional land surveyor on February 20, 1985.

He served the Southwest Chapter of PSLS for many years as both a Chapter and State Director prior to him joining the State Registration Board.

He joined the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) in 1992 and in 2009 he was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of as Northeast Zone Vice President, in 2011 he was elected to serve as National Treasurer and in 2013 elected to serve as President-Elect and completed his term as President in August of 2015. In the 97 year history of NCEES, he is only the third professional land surveyor to hold the position of President and the first individual from Pennsylvania to ever hold that position. He completed his final year on the Board of Directors in August 2016 after serving one year as Immediate Past President. He continues to work with NCEES and currently is on the advisory Committee for Council Activities.

In 2016 he was selected as a Governor of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute (UESI) for a three year term.

In 2019 he received the Distinguished Service Award from NCEES for his years of support to NCEES and the Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) Exam committee.

He holds a BS degree from Geneva College in Human Resource Management and is the President of WIDMER ENGINEERING INC., a fifty person consulting engineering firm with offices located in Beaver Falls, Connellsville and Washington, PA. He has been employed by WIDMER ENGINEERING INC. since 1976.

Mr. Widmer's specialty is boundary surveying and in particular research through archives and working through old rights-of-way plans and deeds in the early 1900's and back into the 1800's. He has been an expert witness numerous times with respect to municipal boundaries and road rights-of-ways.

Brian Yorkiewicz, PLS