

“MISCLOSURES” NEWSLETTER



Website: www.lsjaj.com

Land Surveyor's Association of Jamaica Newsletter

January 2018

LSAJ Membership Survey



Timothy Thwaites, Chairman, Membership & Professional Practice Committee

In an effort to better understand the views and sentiments of the LSAJ membership, the Membership & Professional Practice Committee developed an online membership survey as a data gathering exercise. The anonymous questionnaire was circulated to the LSAJ mailing list on December 7, 2017.

To date we have received 51 responses, a respectable and above-expected return. We would like to thank those who took the time to assist us in our efforts. This number represents approximately 31% of the 165 addressees (the population) on the mailing list.

Over 80% of respondents were full/life members of the Association, 9 respondents, or 17.6% were associate members and 1 non-member also contributed.

The 36-45 (33.3%) and 45-65 (35.3%) age groups dominated the responses, with only 10, or 19.6% of respondents fall in the 'young' age category (18-35). 6 respondents registered as being over 65 years old. Which points to an aging Association and suggests low levels of participation of young surveyors, and possibly high attrition rates.

As expected, the profession's longstanding gender imbalance came through in the results, with only 2 respondents (3.9%) being female.

A full two-thirds of respondents were holders of Bachelor's degrees of higher; a

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— October 26



06-11 MAY 2018
EMBRACING OUR SMART WORLD
WHERE THE CONTINENTS CONNECT:
ENHANCING THE GEOSPATIAL
MATURITY OF SOCIETIES



From The Editor's Desk



Andre St. Aubyn Gordon M.B.A., CLS

Colleagues, welcome to this quarter's issue of the Misclosures.

Happy New Year to you and yours and may 2018 be prosperous and bountiful for you.

The start of the year is an opportune time for everyone to reflect on the year

past. Personally, 2017 wasn't a bad year for me and my firm and if things were to continue in that same vein, 2018 will be an excellent year. If it were to improve, as I'm working for it to be, 2018 will be "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!"

In regards to the Misclosures, 2017 saw us producing a more professional looking Newsletter. We also had quite a bit of local content. I was especially impressed by the article written by our newest member Ms. Salina Solomon in our April issue and want urge her and other young members to write and contribute articles.

We also had some failures. We were unable to get the website up. This is a source of embarrassment for me and I'd like to apologise to the President and the membership for my inability to get that done. It should be ready within the first quarter of this year. In any event, we have set a LSAJ Facebook Page www.facebook.com/LandSurveyorsAssociationOfJamaica. We encourage to visit, like and share the page.

For 2018, we are committed to establishing a fully functional and committed International Affairs, Newsletter and Public Relations Committee and increase the footprint of the LSAJ on Social Media.

Land Surveyors' Foundation

This year marks our 90th year of existence. This is no mean feat and should be celebrated by every single one of us. In my opinion, an excellent way to commemorate our 90th year would be the establishment of the Land Surveyors' Foundation.

Manned by a Board comprising retired Surveyors and/or Past Presidents, the Foundation would consume the UTech Fund and the Herbert Darby Scholarship and would become the vehicle through which the LSAJ fulfil its charitable obligations.

A Land Surveyors Foundation would also be able to partner with other Foundations namely The Digicel Foundation, Scotia Bank Foundation, Jamaica National Foundation to reach and give back to persons in far flung and remote areas where the Surveyor or actually practices.

A Foundation would also be able to tap into funding available from international funding agencies to work on specific projects. Additionally, it would be an excellent way to market the profession and to get the average person to appreciate and understand the role of the Surveyor through the various projects that the Foundation would undertake and the volunteerism of the Surveyor.

Colleagues, thank you for your support in 2017 and I look forward to your continued support in 2018.

Blessed love.

Andre St. Aubyn Gordon, Newsletter Editor

The President's Notepad



**COLLEAGUES,
members and
friends, HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

We are at the start of a very significant year in the history of our Association. This year marks the 90th anniversary of our existence, a fact that

makes us one of the oldest Professional Associations in Jamaica. We intend to commemorate this milestone by putting on several of events culminating with a week of activities in October. Details of the planned activities will be circulated in short order.

During 2018, let us invest in our education and personal development. Opportunities for work are passing us by, as other professionals are acquiring equipment and using new technology to take on jobs in fields which were previously considered the domain of the professional surveyor. These include topographical mapping and other forms of engineering surveys. The GNSS receivers, which many of us have invested so much money, can perform many more functions apart from geo-referencing. The technology is in many ways, superior to the conventional technology if we apply the basic and fundamental principles of surveying in its usage. Let us not be timid.

The five candidates who passed the Land Surveyors Board Examinations 2016 were handed their Commission Instruments on November 10, 2017 at a ceremony held in the conference room at the Surveys and Mapping Division of the National Land Agency. They are: Salina Solomon, Carla Baxter, Gary Wright, Kane Tomlinson and Nicholas Dell. We wish them well.

Over the past three years, the final CPD seminar conducted in November has been put on by the LSGIS division of UTech Jamaica and endorsed by the LSAJ. In so doing, we have supported the program financially and have provided some form of mentoring to the students. We intend to continue our support to UTech Jamaica and to other educational programs pertaining to the science of land surveying. It is part of our mandate as an

association. The UTech Fund and the Herbert Derby Scholarship fund will be financed and utilized as they were intended and will be part of our 90th anniversary celebrations.

RICS Americas, the conveyancing committee of the Bar Association of Jamaica and other professional bodies have contacted us in recent times with a view to collaborating in various activities. We intend to continue the discussions with these bodies to foster a mutually beneficial professional relationship. We also hope to strengthen our partnership with the National Land Agency and other Government agencies so that we can improve the quality of service given to our clients.

The membership has supported the Association well in all our endeavors over the past year. These include the various seminars, Surveyor's Night, Annual Dinner and Awards, as well as general attendance at meetings. You've kept us afloat for 2016 and I extend thanks to you on behalf of Council. We also wish to thank those of us who served as Board members, examiners and on the Disciplinary Committee of the Land Surveyors' Board.

I would like to encourage the members who continue to take on students on attachment and to implore other to do so. To the students who are in the process of completing the current exams, all the best in the Plan Interview when it comes.

We empathize with those who've lost loved ones over the past year and continue to pray for our members and our loved ones who are not in the best of health.

The current situation as it concerns crimes being committed in the Jamaica is of concern to all of us. Let us be careful as we go about our business.

God Bless

Noel K. Brown, President.

LSAJ Membership Survey

Continued from Pg. 1

further 27.5% were holders of Diplomas or Associates degrees. This indicates an academically ambitious profile of persons taking

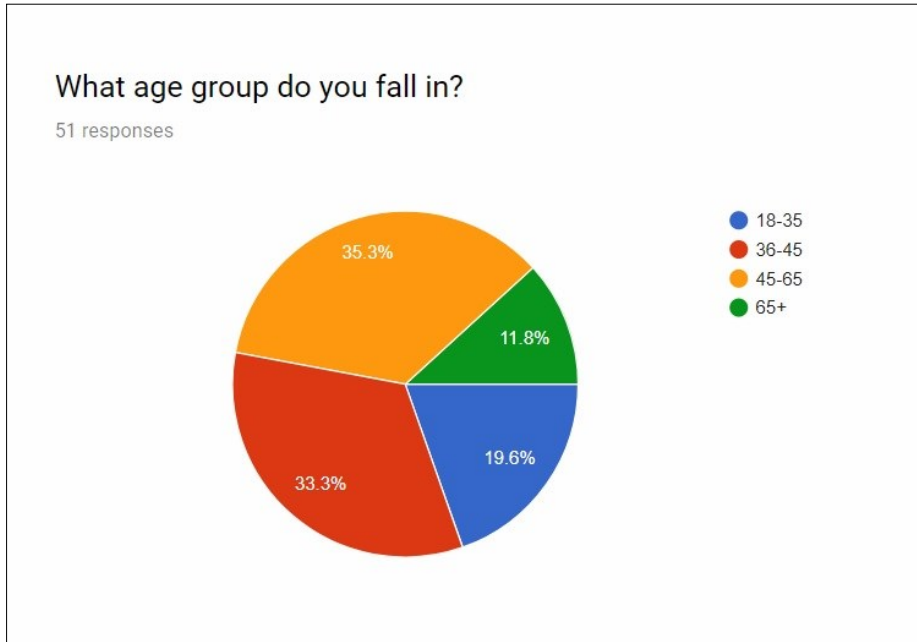


Diagram 1: Chart showing age ranges of respondents to the survey

advantage of the improved academic offerings in recent years.

Kingston & St. Andrew was identified as the base for 58% (29) of respondents, Mandeville polled 14% (7), other rural areas 24% (12); surprisingly, only 2 respondents, or 4%, identified as operating out of Montego Bay, though the 2nd city is the location of such significant economic activity. Even with easier movement island-wide, the concentration of Association practitioners in the corporate area, as well as the apparent underserving of other areas deserves further analysis.

Surveying is apparently a field that holds you and doesn't let go! 53% (27) of respondents indicate that they have been around surveying for upwards of 20 years, though only 27.5, or 14 respondents, indicate holding a Commission as Surveyor for a similar period. This indicates that persons are entering the profession at a higher rate than they are able to transition to professional licensure.

The sentiment towards the LSAJ and its work received an average 3.5 out of 5; and while no respondents said the LSAJ was not a

valuable part of the profession, 3 indicated that they felt it made no difference. The role and contribution of Council received an average 3.7 out of 5, while troublingly 4% indicated that they didn't think Council adequately promoted the views of the membership and another 44% thought it only did so occasionally. These results suggest that while the LSAJ has a definite place, there is a need for it ensure that it is effectively engaging the membership, and effecting meaningful representation not only behind the scenes, but that is tangibly felt and recognized by the membership.

The LSAJ appears to serve two main functions to the membership: 1. Secretariat and 2. Continuing Education Seminars. Other desired services from the Association include improved communication methodology with members – including improve audio-visuals and remote access to seminars; better public relations and lobbying on behalf of the profession; arrange-

ment of financing products with financial institutions, and also group health and liability insurance coverage. Participation in Association activities was most concentrated around Continuing Education offerings and General Meetings; with considerable interest in Surveyor's Night and the Annual Awards Dinner. Respondents requested expansion into the areas of business training, charitable undertakings, increased integration with the LSAJ Wives Association and revival of the President's Annual Cocktail Party.

In describing the sentiments towards the surveying, responses were a mixed bag; 27.5% responded that they were positive and optimistic for the future, the remaining 72.5% expressed various levels disenchantment with the prospects of the profession, with some indicating greater levels of optimism than other. Results showed that most respondents felt that there were multiple issues facing the local profession; the challenges faced from underpricing and rogues/illegal practitioners were noted the highest number of times. The other problems of poor business structures and practices, few succession plans or retirements, lack of innova-

LSAJ Membership Survey

tion within practices, challenges with the NLA, and the general economic situation of the country all were each identified as issues by more than 1/3 of respondents.

One 'write in' response in the question about issues facing the profession pointed to the lack of diversification in services provided and the dominance of cadastral surveying in local practices, this

How would you describe your sentiment toward the surveying profession?

51 responses

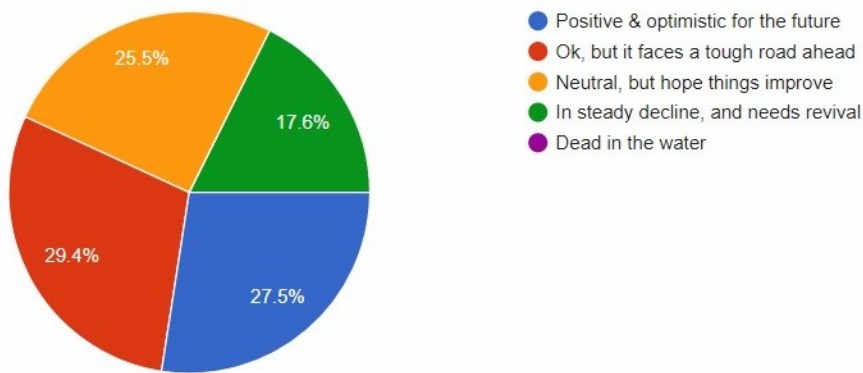


Diagram 2: Chart showing sentiments towards the Surveying profession

The general sense of ambivalence continued when respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with returns on their investments in survey, the mean and modal response on a 1-5 scale was 3; when asked if the thought the profession was attractive to young people there was a 50/50 split.

“Surveying is apparently a field that holds you and doesn’t let go! 53% (27) of respondents indicate that they have been around surveying for upwards of 20 years, though only 27.5, or 14 respondents, indicate holding a Commission as Surveyor for a similar period. This indicates that persons are entering the profession at a higher rate than they are able to transition to professional licensure.”

was evidenced again in the responses of the main areas of operational focus. 96.1% or 49 of 51 respondents identified cadastral surveying as a focus in their practice. While this is considered by many as the primary discipline in Jamaican surveying, overdependence is risky and exposes a large swath of our membership to the effects of external shocks and internal competitive forces.

See Diagram 3.

The sentiments towards the Surveys & Mapping Division of the NLA averaged just below

the median mark at 2.9, with 2 respondents rating their feelings as 1 out of 5, and none responding 5 out of 5. Results regarding the reliability and usefulness of the NLA’s online/electronic resources trended slightly lower at an average of 2.6; challenges with connectivity to the VRS RTK services, longstanding unavailability of credit card payments to eLand, and regular outages of the iMap website are thought to have contributed to this result.

Responses relating to the sentiments to the Land Surveyor’s Board (LSB) indicated that only 19.6% had positive sentiments towards the body, 15.7% somewhat positive, and 59% of respondents had sentiments that were either negative, somewhat negative, or just neutral. 6% of respondents couldn’t put their finger on what the LSB even does.

A significant 80% of respondents felt that the examination process to receive a Commission as a Land Surveyor was necessarily challenging, but could use revamping/update; 14% consider it fine just how it is, while 6% though it was too simple and rudimentary.

LSAJ Membership Survey

What are the main areas of focus in your operation?

51 responses

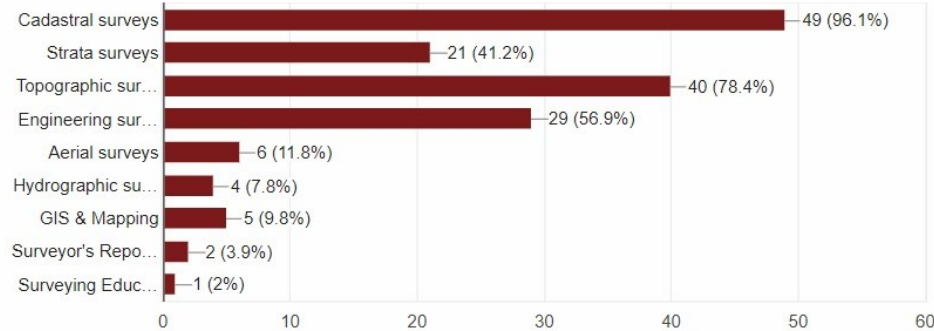


Diagram 3: Chart showing main areas of focus of the Commissioned Land Surveyor

Most respondents claimed to be making the recommended investments in dual-frequency receivers, which allow for the best accuracies to be achieved over the longest baselines with the shortest observation times. Somewhat worryingly though, is that 4 respondents each indicated using Smart Phones and Navigation Grade receivers in their arsenal of GNSS/GPS receivers in a question specifically related to establishing positions for cadastral surveys; as professionals, serious consideration should be given to

As it relates to the requirements of 'tying to grid' and the Land Surveyors (Amendment) Regulations 2013, and overwhelming 98% of respondents agreed with the initiative at least in principle. However, the majority, 64.7% of total, felt like it hadn't been handled correctly. A similar proportion of respondents, 96.1%, consider GNSS/GPS an essential piece of survey instrumentation, which is encouraging as this is technology is the most cost and time effective method of tying to grid in most instances.

Do you regularly read industry periodicals and follow industry news?

51 responses

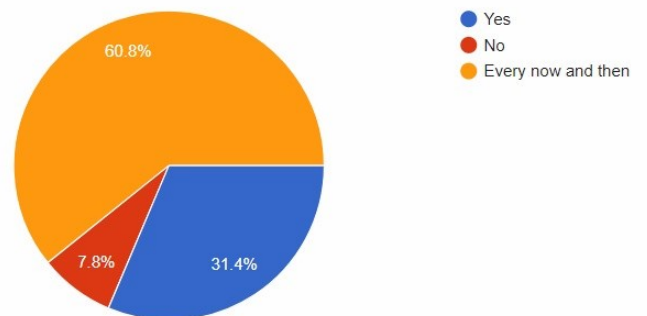


Diagram 4: Chart showing percentage of respondents who regularly read industry related materials

"The LSAJ appears to serve two main functions to the membership: 1. Secretariat and 2. Continuing Education Seminars. Other desired services from the Association include improved communication methodology with members – including improve audio-visuals and remote access to seminars; better public relations and lobbying on behalf of the profession; arrangement of financing products with financial institutions, and also group health and liability insurance coverage."

the consistently achievable accuracies of the solutions we deploy. Undoubtedly related to this concerning revelation is that 94% of respondents indicated that they were very willing to integrate new instrumentation/practices into their day-to-day operations, but subsequently 60.8% indicated that they only read industry periodicals and follow industry news every now and then. With large quantities of easily available, high quality surveying material available online and in print which is not being regularly digested, but an eagerness to integrate new methodologies, the potential for

LSAJ Membership Survey

misuse and misadministration of newer techniques becomes a significant concern.

The results of this first round of responses corroborate many of the regular conversations in and around the profession; they illustrate an Association that is hopeful, but existing in a general state of malaise. The responses pointed to an aging profession that has

and effort we commit to surveying. These types of changes are challenging and will require strong leadership, broad involvement, and a significant paradigm shift to re-instill the values of integrity, quality and self-worth that drive a profession to success.

We encourage more responses to the questionnaire so that the results can be more representative; the anonymous form can be found at <https://goo.gl/forms/vQrwYF4hdXlfAhFm2>



Dr. Glendon Newsome, Commissioned Land Surveyor and Programme Director of The Surveying & GIS Programme at UTech, Jamaica making a presentation at the a recent seminar hosted by that Division.

been slow to evolve and cycle; and where there is a clear yearning for the bodies that administrate over the profession to find new and better ways to discharge their duties, to establish greater 'control' over aspects of the field that we have lost to others, as well as to achieve better recognition and recompense for the time

MAJOR FIG CONFERENCES

FIG Congress 2018



**6-11 May 2018,
Istanbul, Turkey**
www.fig.net/fig2018

FIG Working Week 2019



**22-26 April 2019
Hanoi, Vietnam**

www.fig.net/fig2019

Are we “Dumbing Down” our profession?



A couple of weeks ago, a LinkedIn article, written by Mr. Greg Jeffries, came across my timeline. The title of the article, **“Surveyors – The Last Generation of ‘Button Pushers’”** caught my eye (<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/surveyors-latest-generation-button-pushers-greg-jeffries/>). The very first sentence echoed sentiments that I had long shouted, *“Surveying has gradually*

slipped from being a Professional Service to little more than a commodity and, the industry is to blame.” Mr. Jeffries went on, *“When did survey become a bid form commodity?”* He answered the question himself; and, although I’m in slight disagreement, his answer is not at all incorrect. *“Well, it is hard to pinpoint exactly, but it seems to have started swinging in that direction when the majority of surveying became semi-automated, when robotic total stations and RTK GPS systems became mainstream. We took the surveyor out of the field and replaced him or her with someone who could be taught to push the correct button or series of buttons on this state-of-the-art*

“We invest very little in training our employees and even less in our businesses. Heck, we barely even want to invest in ourselves. The vast majority of us DO NOT BUY NEW EQUIPMENT. We want to operate modern practices and boast about being a “cutting edge and state-of-the-art” profession and many of us are still using instrumentation and software from the 90’s.”

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equipment.” A very well thought out answer if you think about it.

Mr. Jeffries went on to chronicle his journey as a surveyor; from starting to work as a “tail chainman” with his father in the summer of 1979 with a link chain, to a rodman running level loops and doing calculations for closing traverses. Along the way, he highlighted

the upgrade in instrumentation and how with each upgrade/iteration, fieldwork got easier and simpler, eventually leading to “dumbing down the fieldwork” and the dawn of the “Button Pusher.” He emphasized that the profession allowed it happen, when “we quit teaching.” When the process of training chainmen to become rodmen, instrument operators and party chiefs stopped. “Now we just train a guy what buttons to push...” he says.

According to Mr. Jeffries, “Our industry needs to rethink how we train and develop the next generation of surveyors. If we allow the current trajectory to continue, the profession will be overtaken by the technology to the point where licensure will be meaningless, and “button pushing” will become a profession.”

There were 49 responses to the article at the time of writing. The best response, in my opinion, however, came from Mr. Neil Robicheau, a Professional Land Surveyor from Alaska.

“Greg, I appreciate anyone who takes the time to write a well laid out article, but you’re dancing around the problems and not addressing them directly. What you are writing about here is predominantly an American problem, and the solutions to these ailments can be found by learning from other countries. Here are the core problems with surveying in America:

- 1. Geomatics Programs are few and far between. The technical skills and knowledge required to be a professional surveyor in the 21st century are much more demanding than they were in the past - there is no way to learn these skills on the job, or in your free time.*
- 2. Employers don’t invest, or invest little, in their employees. Once I moved to the equipment distribution side of the industry (a story for another day), I was excited that I would have more opportunities to learn, and that I would have the opportunities to share my knowledge with my peers. All I’ll say is this: it takes small miracles for me to fill a training class, and there are people who desperately need training that could fill the class 100’s of times over. I’m not talking just about “button pushers”, I’m talking about PLS’s who cannot operate their equipment properly. I would say that 1/3 of surveyors are technically competent at a professional level when it comes operating their equipment or software.*
- 3. Our licensing requirements are lax, and our examinations are easy. I am licensed in two states; of the five exams I’ve taken, only*

Are we “Dumbing Down” our profession?

one challenged me to some degree - and it was the state where I had never surveyed.

4. We don't charge enough. We have too many surveyors, and too many are not competent because the bar is so low when it comes to getting licensed. We have a lot of quantity, but not enough quality. In other words, there is a lot of cheap plastic crap that can be bought in our market place, which drives down price for the quality.

5. We don't pay enough. Here is my horror story from this past summer: amazing young man (great marks, great character) graduates from our amazing Geomatics program at UAA. He wants to be a PLS. Gets offered a job from a large consulting firm with plenty of money: \$14 per hour to start and would be living in one of the most expensive metro areas to live in the USA (his rent would be about 60-65% of his GROSS income). He ends up taking a job at a mine where he will not get the experience needed to become a PLS.

The truth is, Jamaica is in a similar dilemma as espoused by Mr. Jeffries and the reason is exactly as Mr. Robicheau responded. Our profession is being “dumbed down” by the very same persons who complain that it is being “dumbed down.”

Right off the bat, we cut our fees and then complain bitterly in forums such as LSAJ meetings about the cursed low-baller.

We invest very little in training our employees and even less in our businesses. Heck, we barely even want to invest in ourselves. The vast majority of us DO NOT BUY NEW EQUIPMENT. We want to operate modern practices and boast about being a “cutting edge and state-of-the-art” profession and many of us are still using instrumentation and software from the 90's.

We pay “peanuts” and expect to attract the very brightest to our profession. I have heard youngsters say it is more lucrative to work in a call center than it is to work for a Land Surveyor. Graduates can now be found surveying everywhere, Civil Engineering firms, construction companies, mining companies...where they cannot be found, are at Land Surveying firms.

We don't treat our young surveyors well either. In fact, we treat them merely as the hired help and not as the next generation of Commissioned Land Surveyors.

So yes, we have contributed to the “dumbing down” and the demise of our own profession. We are not far gone however and the situation is redeemable. The very first thing to do, though, is to stop complaining about the low-baller. He has his business to mind and you have yours. Focus on yours. Let him do him.

Invest in yourself and your business. This will include investing time and money in new employees. It is a very scary proposition. However, think about it. Would you prefer training an employee and he leaves or not training him and he stays.



Based on the fees we charge and the wages we pay, you'd think we're "Play Play" Surveyors

Expand your scope. 96% of Surveyor's focus mainly on cadastral work. Yet, this is the least lucrative of all the surveying disciplines. Meanwhile, the more lucrative disciplines, Hydrography, Aerial Surveys, Engineering and Construction Setting Out are being done by persons with either little to no experience or no appreciation for the rudiments of executing these surveys and therefore, predictably, make errors. Invariably, the profession of Surveying gets the blame.

Pay the people that work for you well. Treat them well also. This include field assistants and administrative staff. Do not use the excuse that you can't charge the fees you want, so you can't pay better wages. Truth is, you're always going to get what you pay for. Many of us still want to pay the same wages we were paying 20+ years ago. Mediocre wages attract mediocre employees.

GEOMATICS @ UTECH

The Division of Land Surveying and Geographic Information Sciences wishes for all members of the Land Surveyors Association of Jamaica and staff of the National Land Agency, a happy and prosperous New Year. Notwithstanding the challenges attendant on developing countries such as our own, together in partnership, we can be all successful in achieving our individual and collective goals.

Staffing

The Land Surveyors Association honoured Dr. Glendon G. Newsome for his Distinguished service to Land Surveying Education, the Association and the Profession at its Annual Banquet and Awards Function in October.



Dr. Glendon Newsome receiving his plaque from Mrs. Verene Brown, President of the LSAJ Wife's Association. President Noel Brown looks on.



out for the ceremony at the National Arena in November 2017. Above, graduates Javar McLaren, Sherrone Simpson, Christine Wheatley, Roshelle Channer, Kyle Barrett (front row), Dwayne Lackridge and Montel Hamm (back row), took time out to pose for the camera with their Programmed Director.

Seminar

On the 24th November, 2017, the Division hosted a seminar under the theme "Land Information and Highways, the keys to sustainable growth and development". Two (2) presentations were delivered:

1. Integration of Land Records through the LADM and STDM by Glendon G. Newsome.
2. An Analysis of the North-South Highway Round-a-bout at Mammee Bay, St. Ann by Turan Boyd, Rushane Coubrie and Ricardo Roberts.

We wish to thank the Land Surveyors Association of Jamaica for its continued support for all the efforts being made at UTech, Ja., to enhance the quality of training of our future Surveyors.

New Graduates

Last academic year we graduated a total of twenty-one (21) students. Seventeen (17) qualified for the Bachelors Degree and four (4) gained the Associate Degree. Many of our graduates turned

LICJ GIS Conference



The following presentations were made at the Land Information Council of Jamaica (LICJ) GIS Conference on 10- 11th October, 2017 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, and were both well received by the participants:

1. Geospatial Analysis of Storm Water Run-off on the University of Technology, Jamaica, Papine Campus - Presenters: Javar McLaren, Sherrone Smith and Montel Hamm.
2. An Analysis of 3D Urban Mapping and GIS for Safety and Security in Jamaica's Urban Areas - Presenters: Kyle Barrett, Stefan Fiddler, and Dwayne Lackridge.

GIS Day

The Division made its usual appearance at GIS Day in November. This event which is attended by hundreds of High School students, continues to be a reliable source of new entrants to our programme.

GEOMATICS @ UTECH



Research and Development

Work on the development of a Geoid Model for Jamaica continues, albeit slow. Consultations are now being made with the National Geodetic Survey, USA, with a view to receiving support with our efforts.

Equipment

Commissioned Land Surveyor Earle Spencer made a generous donation of a GIS Mobile Mapper GeoXT to the Division. We are grateful to Mr. Spencer for his support for the delivery of GIS education as part of our programme. Pictured above, receiving the instrument on the behalf of the University are, from right: Mrs. Jenevy Smith; Mr. Keneil Roberts; Ms. Clover Desouza (Lecturers); Mr. Kemar Pryce (LSGIS Club President) and Dr. Glendon G. Newsome.



Mr. David Abrikain, Civil Engineer, son of the late Commissioned Land Surveyor Hagop (Jacob) Paul Abrikain recently donated an old FENNEL theodolite and two steel tapes to the Division. This is a useful addition to our mini-museum where students can view and appreciate the history of Land Surveying Instruments.

Pictured left, receiving the instrument from Mr. Abrikain (on right) on the behalf of the University are, from left: Amani Greaves (student) and Dr. Glendon G. Newsome

Professional Practice Support

In this upcoming final semester for our final year students, we renew the appeal to Surveyors to support the students in their request for Professional Practice attachments which is a one (1) day per week for thirteen (13) weeks work and learn programme. No remuneration is required, as this is a part of their course of study. We appreciate the participation of private practicing surveyors and institutions such as the JDF and the NWA over the years, and wish for more to come onboard to help these future Surveyors and Geographic Information Scientists, to better appreciate the best practices of a professional LSGIS.

NATIONAL LAND AGENCY NEWS

National Land Agency redesigns

Jamaica Property Sales Data (JAMPROP) Application

As the National Land Agency (NLA) continues to utilize technology to enhance its service delivery and the needs its customers, the redesign of its Jamaica Property Sales Data (JAMPROP) Application is critical. Having access to pertinent property information at the click of a button will not only save persons time but also money. The new redesigned JAMPROP will offer that and so much more to Real Estate Dealers, Chartered Valuation Surveyors or anyone who is interested in analysing property sales data in order to make an informed decision.

The first version of the application was launched in March 2015, and offers subscribers access to mortgage, transfer and strata transactions completed on a monthly basis, and also includes historical data from 2003. However over time, the need for more search features and information was recognized, therefore the Agency sought to fulfil this gap by expanding the application.

On August 29 and 31, 2017 the Agency conducted focus group sessions with its stakeholders and showcased a live demonstration of the proposed upgraded application. The sessions generated valuable feedback, which will be used to assist the Agency's Information Communication and Technology (ICT) team which is currently undertaking the redesign of the application.

Once the new JAMPROP application is launched, customers will have access to an interactive map of Jamaica with multiple base maps aimed at enhancing user experience. Additionally, the option of online payment using a credit card, will allow customers access to JAMPROP anywhere in the world at their convenience.

Information extracted from the application can be used to examine trends in the property market areas across Jamaica, as well as compare market values. The new JAMPROP application will be simpler and easier to use with its tool bar, GIS layers and customer service feedback option. Customers will also have the option to view parcels within an enclosure or buffer for a particular area.

Potential users also have access to free sample data without subscribing for the service.

Information which will be available on the redesigned JAMPROP application include:

- Area
- Currency
- Parish
- Lot numbers
- Land use
- Scheme Name
- Street Name
- Street Number
- Valuation numbers
- Date of Transfer
- Unimproved Value
- Postal Location
- Deposited Plan
- Title Reference/Volume & Folio
- Consideration/Purchase price

For further information contact:



National Land Agency
Business Services Division
23 ½ Charles Street
Kingston, Jamaica
Telephone: (876)750-5263
Email: asknla@nla.gov.jm
Website: www.nla.gov.jm