

Surveying Educators Conference

Earl F. Burkholder, PS, PE, F.ASCE

Global COGO, Inc. – Las Cruces, NM 88003

www.globalcogo.com & eburk@globalcogo.com

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The Surveying & Geomatics Educators Society (SaGES) conference was hosted by the faculty at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, July 30 – August 3, 2017. The SaGES conference is held every two years – the 2015 conference was held at Orono, Maine, and the 2019 conference is planned to be held at Nicholas State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. The first SaGES conference (the group has had several different names over the years) was held at Rainy Lake, Minnesota in 1937. New Mexico State University hosted the conference in 1996.

Attending the SaGES conference has many benefits. In addition to being able to travel to various locations and to enjoy family vacation experiences, the conference provides an opportunity for like-minded teachers to compare experiences, challenges, and procedures for what works and what doesn't. With the advent of the digital revolution the challenges for surveying educators have ranged from traditional land surveying issues to modernizing field equipment to accommodating computer methods, to recruiting students, to dealing with attitudes of the up-coming generation of students to accreditation issues to interacting with federal/state/local agencies to learning more about what employers want in a graduate to discussing the role of the surveyor in the burgeoning arena of spatial data applications. Those issues and more provide substance for several days of meetings and activities. The conference also provides opportunity for educators to interact with practicing professionals, publishers, and vendors. But one could argue that the biggest benefit of attending a SaGES Conference comes from the camaraderie and friendships formed during the conference. A vacation day bus trip up the Columbia Gorge and visit to Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood provided a capstone to the conference.

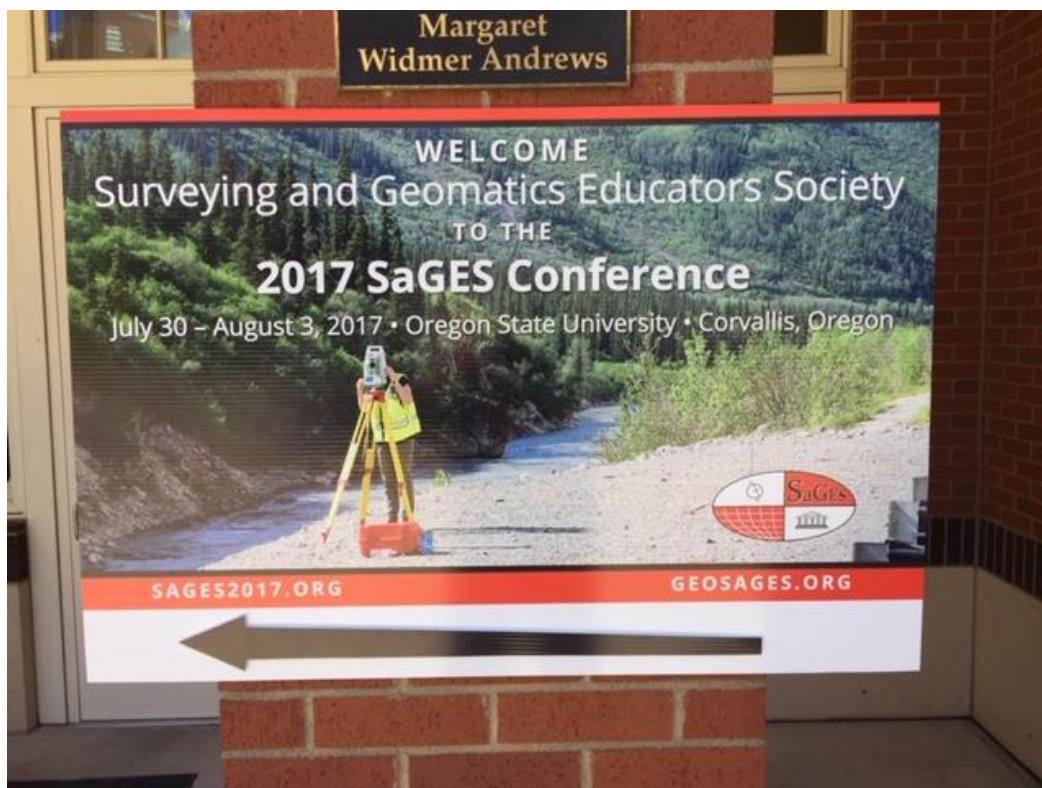
The SaGES website (www.geosages.org) is an excellent source of additional information and should be visited on a regular basis to keep up with our ever-changing profession. Bill Hazelton (past-pres@geosages.org) is the Past President of SaGES (2015 to 2017) and Joe Paiva (president@geosages.org) is the current SaGES President (2017 to 2019). Both stand ready to help with any questions readers many have about surveying education or the SaGES organization.

I had the privilege of attending and presenting two papers (see items VI and VII at www.tru3d.xyz) at the conference. Fortuitously, the 2nd Edition of "The 3-D Global Spatial Data Model: Principles and Applications" was also unveiled at the conference.

Pictures on trip to Corvallis, Oregon to attend the Surveying & Geomatics Educator's Society (SaGES) conference July 2017 – Earl F. Burkholder, PS, PE, F.ASCE – Las Cruces, NM



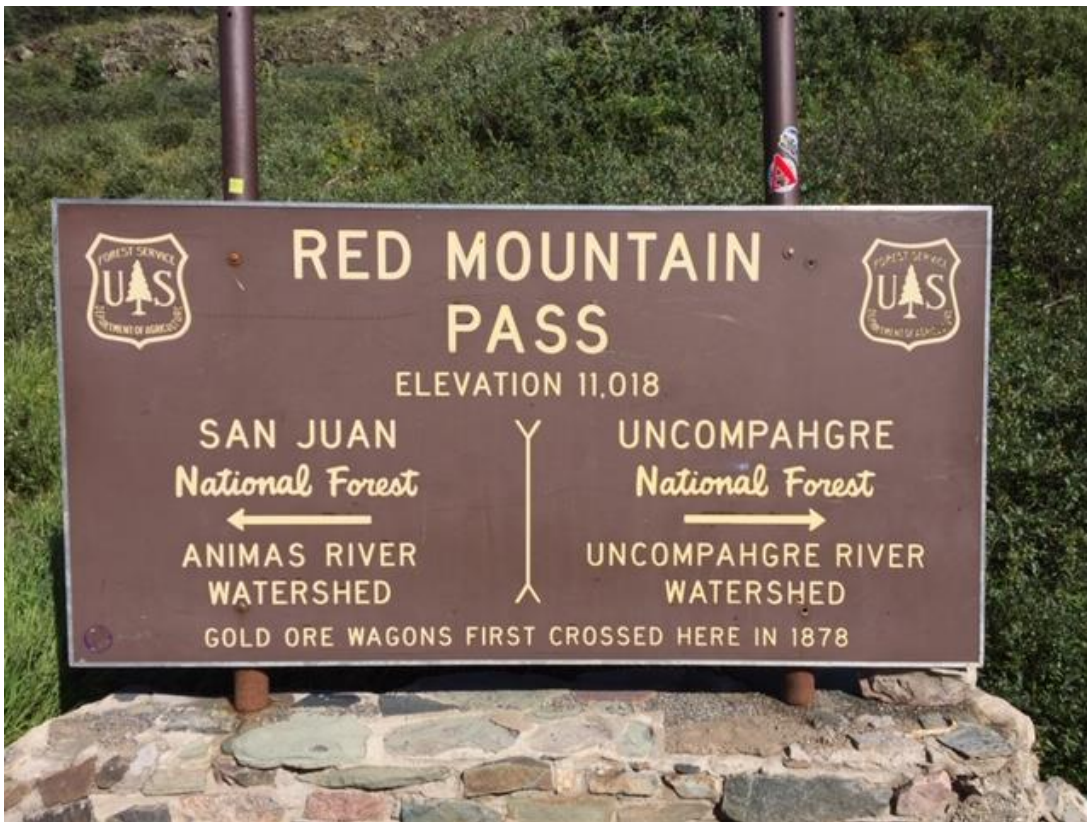
Arches National Park – Moab, Utah



Welcome sign at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon



SaGES 2017-2019 President, Joe Paiva (left)
SaGES 2015-2017 President, Bill Hazelton (right)



Mountain Pass in Colorado – on way home.