

EXPECTATIONS

BY JOHN BARBER, Chairman ELC Committee

IN LATE 1981, the Education Liaison Committee (ELC) was established by resolution of Council. The purpose of the ELC was to act as the liaison committee between our Association and the students and faculty of the various university and technical survey programs within the Province.

One of the tasks assigned to the ELC by Council was:
"The expectations of the Erindale Survey Science graduate and the OLS hiring the graduate seem to be quite different. The ELC must determine what these expectations are and resolve the differences, if possible."

As the first step in fulfilling this assignment, the ELC mailed questionnaires to the following three separate groups:

- Questionnaire 'A' to students presently articulated (21 of 48 replied), hereinafter referred to as 'Students';
- Questionnaire 'B' to all OLSs commissioned within the last five years (37 of 80 replied), hereinafter referred to as 'Recent OLS'; and
- Questionnaire 'C' to all surveyors who have articulated students within the last five years (47 of 100 replied), hereinafter referred to as 'Articling Surveyors'.

With the response level to these questionnaires at about 45%, the ELC is confident that the replies generally reflect the opinion of the groups surveyed.

The following questions and replies provide an insight into the expectations of three groups:

(Note: The figures shown are percentages of the total replies.)

1. QUESTION: Upon graduation, how would you assess your (your student's) capabilities in the following areas?
 REPLIES:

	Strong	Adequate	Weak
i) Boundary Establishment			
A. Students	33	38	29
B. Recent OLS	30	38	32
C. Articling Surveyors	4	49	47
ii) Engineering or Technical Surveys			
A. Students	33	62	5
B. Recent OLS	57	35	8
C. Articling Surveyors	17	64	19
iii) Mathematics			
A. Students	62	38	0
B. Recent OLS	73	27	0
iv) Business			
A. Students	19	33	48
B. Recent OLS	14	24	62
v) Computer Applications			
A. Students	29	57	14
B. Recent OLS	30	49	21

Generally, the Students and Recent OLS assess their capabilities at about the same level and they believe that their major weakness is in Business, with Boundary

Establishment a distant second. The Articling Surveyors, on the other hand, perceive the graduate's capabilities at a lower level, particularly in the area of Boundary Establishment. The Articling Surveyors were not asked to comment on the students' abilities in Mathematics, Business or Computer Applications.

It is interesting to note, however, that the Articling Surveyor's view of their students' abilities improves significantly over the two year articling period.

1(a) QUESTION: How do you assess your student's ability to establish a boundary?
 REPLIES:

	Strong	Adequate	Weak
(a) at graduation	4	49	47
(b) after one year's articles	12	70	18
(c) after two year's articles	36	57	7

2. QUESTION: How would you assess your (your student's) capabilities to assume the responsibilities of a Party Chief at the time of graduation?
 REPLIES:

	Strong	Adequate	Weak
A. Students	29	42	29
B. Recent OLS	38	46	16
C. Articling Surveyors	15	49	36

As in Question 1, the Erindale graduates perceive themselves at a higher level of competency than do the Articling Surveyors, however, this difference in view is not as pronounced.

3. QUESTION: What salary did you expect to receive at graduation?
 REPLIES:

A. Students	\$20,000	Spread \$16,000 to \$33,000
B. Recent OLS	\$22,600	Spread \$16,000 to \$30,000

3(a) QUESTION: What salary did you receive at graduation?
 REPLIES:

A. Students	\$17,800	Spread \$14,600 to \$26,000
B. Recent OLS	\$21,300	Spread \$15,000 to \$28,000

NOTE: For comparison purposes, all the salaries were converted to 1982 dollars.

As can be seen, the actual salary paid to the graduate was less than their expectations but not significantly less - Students 14% less, Recent OLS only 6% less.

Other questions and replies which may be of interest are as follows:

4. QUESTION: Do you feel the surveyor has a professional image?
 REPLIES:

	Yes	No	Most
A. Students	62	33	5
B. Recent OLS	26	54	20

It is unsettling to note that the OLS who have recently received their commission have a poor image of the Association.

5. QUESTION: Have your feelings regarding surveying changed since graduation?
 REPLIES:

	Yes	No
A. Students	57	43
B. Recent OLS	66	34

In answering whether or not their feelings had changed about surveying

after graduation, both Questionnaire A and B indicated that their feelings had changed. Some of their explanations centered on the OLS being unwilling to charge properly for his services and consequently being unable to pay proper wages. Erindale was criticised as being too theoretical on both questionnaires, although only in nominal numbers.

One of the questions directed to the Students and the Recent OLS involved rating the efforts of the Association to reach a student while he was at school. It is interesting that the present articulated students consider the breakdown as follows: excellent - 10 percent; adequate - 38 percent; poor - 52 percent. Whereas the newly commissioned surveyor, perhaps in retrospect, had quite different figures: excellent - 30 percent; adequate - 49 percent; poor - 13 percent.

In order to clarify the concern of the respondents to the question in the above paragraph, they were asked to make recommendations. Most of the recommendations have already been incorporated, with the exception of free membership as a Junior Associate for all Erindale students.

The questions and replies for 6, 7 and 8 were directed to the Articling Surveyor only.

6. QUESTION: Do you believe the minimum 12 month's field experience at the Party Chief level required of students by the Board of Examiners is:
REPLIES:

- (a) Enough (62)
- (b) Excessive (0)
- (c) Too Little (38)

7. QUESTION: Do you believe the minimum six month's office experience required of students by the Board of Examiners is:
REPLIES:

- (a) Enough (66)
- (b) Excessive (2)
- (c) Too Little (32)

8. QUESTION: From your experience would you generally rate the student's attitude toward the learning required for the profession:
REPLIES:

- (a) Excellent (48)
- (b) Good (33)
- (c) Average (13)
- (d) Poor (4)
- (e) Very Poor (2)

Although the twelve month's field experience and six month's office experi-

ence was indicated to be sufficient by 62-66 percent of those answering, it is significant to also realize that 32-38 percent felt that it was too little. One question we were concerned about was the student's attitude during this learning period and this rated 48 percent excellent; 33 percent good; leaving only 19 percent at average or below.

The surveyors were quite strong in recommending that more practical field work be obtained in school, and that a set amount of summer field experience was necessary. There seemed to be an indication that more concentration should be focused on legal survey problems and applications, as well as effective use of lan-

guage and communication. Greater emphasis on business related courses and practical applications was also recommended for the Erindale program.

The questionnaires indicate that there is a difference in the expectations of the Articling Surveyor and the graduate. This difference, however, was not particularly significant. The recommendations and suggestions contained within the questionnaires have provided the basis for further reducing the differences in expectations.

The negative comments about the surveying profession are no doubt a reflection of the depressed economic times. As the economy improves so will our image of the profession improve. ●

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