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**2003-2004**

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# Field Notes

Volume V, Issue I

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## For What It's Worth—Goals

by Jim Fink, C.S.T. III,  
STC President

I've taken some time off of work over the holidays to spend a little quality time with my daughters. The time that we have spent together has made me start thinking about some of the goals that we had set for ourselves in the past.

My oldest, Kristi, is 19 and just completed her first semester in college. She's starting out at the local community college and is quickly coming to the realization that college requires a little more effort than high school did. She has worked at "McDonald's" since she was a junior and I assumed that she would keep working part time in college, so I wasn't completely surprised when she came home in August and announced that she was applying for a manager position that had opened up. Needless to say, she got the job. I wondered at the time how she would handle being trained in a new position

and starting her first semester of college all at the same time. I was more than a little concerned when she said that she was not cutting her hours back when school started. She said that I didn't understand, and that she'd be able to handle it. I told her to go ahead and try it, but not to forget the priority of her goals. Now, I try not to be the type of father to tell my girls "I told you so"...because so far it has never done any good when I've done so. I'm proud of Kristi for trying to do all of the things that she's doing and at the same time realizing the importance of college. School was never one of her favorite things, but I think she understands how she will be limited without a college degree. When her grades came a couple weeks ago I think she finally began to realize that there are only so

many hours in a week. She is in the process of reevaluating her past goals and setting some new ones for the coming semester.

My other daughter, Holly, is in the middle of her freshman year of high school. She has consistently proven that she is better than the rest of us at setting and accomplishing her goals. During a visit to Colorado Springs a couple years ago she decided that she wanted to go to the Air Force Academy. Her grades have never been an issue, so I told her that she would have to maintain straight A's throughout high school. After her first semester she's still on track. I also told her she needed to be involved in other activities including sports, and student government. She ran for and was elected her class's vice-president, plays volleyball, basketball, and softball, and marched on the state champion marching band in her school's class. She's wavering a little on still

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## New Directors Elected

By Patrick Hannon, C.S.T. II  
STC Vice President

The results of the election of officers for the 2004-2005 term were tallied and presented at the regular meeting of the Survey Technician Council on December 8. From the elected Directors, the

Executive Board was elected.

The two vacant Director positions were vacated at the conclusion of their term by Jim Fink and Pat Ostipow. Jim and Pat have served as Directors for two con-

secutive terms. Jim has previously served as and is the current President. Pat has served as Secretary. Both Jim and Pat will continue to attend and be involved with the STC. Their contributions have been and continue to be greatly appreciated.

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## Goals

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wanting to go to the Air Force Academy, but I'm sure with whatever the goals are that she ultimately wants to accomplish, she will be successful.

My wife works as an administrative assistant for a security firm in the Flint area. Each year around the holidays, everyone gives a presentation to the others in the office, on each of their goals for the coming year, both personal and professional. The idea being that if everyone is made aware of each others goals, they are more likely to follow through with them. They encourage each other throughout the year and provide help when possible. It's something that she looks forward to each year and comes home motivated

for the coming year.

Each of us should be setting goals for the new year. Goals give us direction. They give us a means of bettering ourselves in not only our professional life, but our personal life as well. The reason that most people fail to achieve their goals is because their goals, upon further reflection, appear to be unattainable. Successful people are experts at setting and accomplishing goals. The key is setting smaller goals that are easily attainable and are on the path to the ultimate goal. The approach that Holly takes is not about 'what her grade point average will be at the end of the year'. She is only worried about the next test or quiz in each class. Once she gets the A on that one, then

*"Enjoy the journey that you take to attain your goals more than the accomplishment itself..."*

she begins to prepare for the next one. We can use this same philosophy in our day to day activities in accomplishing our goals. Who said you can't learn from your kids? Enjoy the journey that you take to attain your goals more than the accomplishment itself, because it is ultimately the journey that makes setting the goals worthwhile.

I have not been the best at completing the goals that I have set for myself. In the time that I've had to reflect on some of these things I'm hoping to change that in the coming year. There is much truth to the old saying that "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". Good luck in accomplishing your goals in 2004.

## Directors

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Ted Miller and Nate VanRaemdonck were elected to fill the two vacant Director positions. Directors positions hold three-year terms. Beth Braun remains as the STC Representative to the MSPS Board of Directors. This position holds ex-officio status on the MSPS Board and has a term of one year.

Elections for the Executive Board positions were held at the regular meeting on December 8. Patrick Hannon was elected as President, Matt Chrzan was elected as Vice President, Mark Stephens was elected as Secretary, and Nate VanRaemdonck was elected as Treasurer.

The new Board of Directors will take office at the Annual Meeting in February.

## Your Help Is Needed

The STC is planning a CST Level I workshop to be held this spring. This one-day workshop will be a comprehensive course designed to teach the fundamental skills for this level as defined by the National Society of Professional Surveyors and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. The reference material for this course will use the publications from which the exam is prepared. This workshop will also teach study and test-taking skills. The amount of time spent on a particular subject will be based on the amount of questions a Level I exam contains for that subject.

We need your input. Where should this workshop be held? How long should it last? What information would be helpful to you?

We also need help from our Professionals in preparing and presenting this workshop.

Please contact Patrick Hannon  
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