

# **Rocco V. D'Andrea, Inc.**

LAND PLANNERS • ENGINEERS • SURVEYORS

SIX NEIL LANE • P.O. BOX 549  
RIVERSIDE, CONNECTICUT 06878  
TELEPHONE: 203 637-1779  
FAX: 203 637-1770

January 3, 2005

Alfred Leick, PhD  
University of Maine  
Dept. of Spatial Information Science and Engineering  
5711 Boardman Hall  
Orono, ME 04469-5711

Dear Dr. Leick,

Thank you so much for the hard work you've put into the GPS-GAP distance-learning program. As I am unable to attend a full-time degree program in person, your flexible courses provide a unique opportunity for people like me to learn and understand this material in depth and advance beyond the status of "Button-pusher/Appliance-operator."

I find the GPS-GAP course design to be very effective. Having the quiz questions in advance was definitely helpful, not simply for getting A's or B's on the quizzes, but for spotting my weaknesses and learning the material. My routine was to listen to the lectures and MathCAD examples once and then go over the quiz, trying to answer as many questions as I could. I'd then listen to the lectures a second time, and try to fill in the blanks. I would repeat this as necessary. By the time I felt I had exhausted the lectures and examples, and answered all or most of the quiz questions, I'd take the actual quiz. Essentially, I treated the quiz questions like homework problems, and having to pass the quiz was an incentive to actually do the homework.

My only regret is that I am not 30 years younger, fresh out of calculus and statistics, and a full-time student so I could really devote myself to this. Since that is not possible for me, I believe that the GPS-GAP distance-learning program is the next best alternative.

Thanks again, and I'm looking forward to the next course,

Regards,

William Giel, LS