Project 1: Waypoint Hunt

We started up my recently received GPS unit – the Garmin eTrex Legend – and waited about five minutes for the handheld to establish its position, which is typical of the first use. Having located five satellites, we noticed that the system thought we were located somewhere in Japan. Thus we changed the time zone to US Eastern Standard Time and confirmed that the unit was functioning under the WGS 84 datum setting. We navigated to the waypoint page and entered the coordinates of the item to be located (a grey pole at N 40.35281 latitude, W 74.64603 longitude), but altered the format of degrees from one including minutes and seconds to the notation with decimals (i.e. 0.000 latitude, 0.000 longitude would be a spot on the equator at the prime meridian). We saved our waypoint in the unit as "POLE" and, navigating to the list of saved waypoints, selected that name, pressing "Goto" to begin.

We followed the arrow on the compass of the "Navigation Page" from Bloomberg Hall, across to Washington Avenue, over towards the football stadium on Ivy Lane/Western Way, left onto Broadmead St./Princeton Ave, and right onto Aiken Ave. We located the “POLE” at the entrance to the park, though we did walk around the part of the park closest to Aiken Avenue to make sure it was the correct pole. This action was taken because we wanted to ensure the discrepancy between our actual distance from the pole (a few feet) and the distance listed on the eTrex from the coordinate location (from 30 feet at one point, to 49 feet at another point) was solely due to the GPS unit's error (which was listed as 60 ft. on the "satellite page") and not our own error. Because we could locate no other poles after a number of minutes, and because the visualized discrepancies were within the error listed on the handheld, we concluded that we had found our “POLE.”
That’s the POLE, and me (Jeff) with an oddly painful look on my face. Don’t worry – it’s not an expression of how I felt about the scavenger hunt; it was just so cold. We can all thank Felipe for capturing me at such a picturesque moment.