



# THE RESPONDER

## STUDENT REGION NEWS

### Winners of IAEM Second Annual Student Research Poster Presentation Contest Announced

The IAEM Student Region is pleased to announce the winners of the Second IAEM Annual Research Poster Presentation Contest. Presentations in this form afforded students an opportunity to interact with practitioners as they explained their research and received feedback from professionals and educators in the emergency management field. This served as an opportunity to identify and analyze an issue, research it, and articulate conclusions and proposed solutions. These skills are integral to the future success of students in the emergency management field.

There were eight total entries, and six students actually presented their research during the IAEM 55th Annual Conference & EMEX 2007 in Reno, Nevada. The first place poster, entitled "A New Paradigm in Post-Disaster Redevelopment (Recovery) Planning," was presented by Brian Silva, graduate student at Metropolitan College of New York, who was given a certificate and cash award of \$300. Second place and a cash award of \$150 were given to Richard Monroe, a doctoral student at the University of South Dakota, for his

### In This Issue

Poster Contest	1
IAEM Scholarship	2
IAEM President's Message	3
Region President's Message	3
Chapter Information	4
Career Planning Article	6
President's Bio	9
Vice President's Bio	9
Secretary's Bio	10
Listing of Chapters	10
Contact Information	11

poster entitled "Disaster Mental Health in Emergency Management: Principles and Practices." Third place and a cash award of \$50 were presented to Deon Pfenning, an undergraduate student at the University of North Texas, for his poster entitled "Human Capital in the 9/11 Waterborne Evacuations."

**To: IAEM Student Members**

The application for the 2008 IAEM Scholarship Program has been posted on the IAEM Web site at [www.iaem.com/scholarships](http://www.iaem.com/scholarships). IAEM's Scholarship Program is available to full-time students pursuing degrees in emergency management or related programs. The application and all supportive materials must be sent to IAEM's headquarters to arrive prior to the deadline of May 16, 2008.

This year's application includes a new section that provides tips for those applying for a scholarship through the program.

If you are a student, I encourage you to review this opportunity. Please feel free to pass this information along to students that you know.

Please contact me with any questions.

Best Regards,  
Dawn M. Shiley-Danzeisen  
Scholarship Program Director  
International Association of Emergency Managers  
201 Park Washington Court  
Falls Church, VA 22046-4527  
Direct: 703-538-3542  
Home Office/Cell: 571-481-8657  
Email: [shiley@iaem.com](mailto:shiley@iaem.com)

Let me take this opportunity to offer a couple of words to all of you. Having been a student, although a long time ago, I still remember the struggles of trying to earn a minimal living and go to school at the same time. I also know that you worry about whether you will be able to obtain a job in your selected career field. You are fortunate that the Emergency Management career field is ever expanding. Many local governments are taking a more serious view of the need for competent emergency managers. The real growth will occur in the private sector as many companies realize that they also need to pay attention to the principles of emergency management. What I offer you is encouragement to keep on trucking and working hard to complete your education. I can't guarantee you will have a job right away but one will become available eventually.

I also want to point out that IAEM is growing and expanding and will need future leaders to insure it can maintain its prominence in the world of emergency management. Please consider staying with us after graduation and explore the possibilities of participating as a full member. We need you and willingly look forward to the opportunity to continue our relationship. As for now, if there is anything you need or you want to offer suggestions you may feel free to contact me at [GispertL@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:GispertL@hillsboroughcounty.org)

Larry Gispert, President  
International Association of Emergency Managers

On behalf of the entire IAEM-US Student Region, I would like to welcome you all to another exciting year within the organization! Our entire Board is really looking forward to taking the initiatives and progress of previous years and continuing to move it in a positive direction.

Over the last year we have been polling our membership to find out what it is that you, our student members want and need from the Region. It began with an excellent survey from former Vice-President Brad Wilson, continued with a great brainstorming session with our members at the Reno conference, and will culminate with a final online survey to be unveiled in the next few weeks.

Some of the ideas for change are already clear and our Board is moving aggressively to incorporate them into our structure and include: supporting academic excellence in EM and HLS programs; fostering opportunities for employment, internships and professional development; greater advocacy for the issues important to student members; growth and diversity within our region; and insuring effective and efficient communication. We are also discussing ways to reach out to students interested in forming chapters, as well as students who are currently members but not a part of a chapter.

This is already a great year for our Region and I am looking forward to the great opportunities to come. Please never hesitate to contact us with any concerns or ideas that you may have which our entire Board will endeavor to address....after all, this is your IAEM!

Brian Silva  
President, Student Council  
International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)  
[bsilva05@gmail.com](mailto:bsilva05@gmail.com)  
(562) 897.6677  
[www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com)

**IAEM STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS**

Greetings from North Dakota State University,

Our chapter would like to congratulate Daniel Grahn for his achievements in our organization. He is our representative to the Student Congress for Organizations. Daniel has been a member of IEMSA for the past two years and served on the executive council this past semester. This semester he completed his bachelors degree in emergency management. Everyone at North Dakota State University wishes him the best of luck!

Sincerely,  
Breanna Koval  
IEMSA President  
North Dakota State University

Greetings from the University of North Texas

Special Announcements:

Congratulations to Daniel Eubank who won the UNT IEMSA travel scholarship of \$230.00 for the IAEM Conference in Reno. The travel scholarship award is based on academic performance, participation in IEMSA, and service and involvement in the field of emergency management. UNT IEMSA recently conducted officer elections for the positions of president and treasurer for the spring and fall semesters of 2008. Congratulations to Stephanie Knopp for winning the position of president and to Phillip Stachelski for winning the position of treasurer. Stephanie and Phillip are both active students in the Emergency Administration and Planning program at UNT and are both very passionate about their degrees and the IEMSA organization. We are extremely excited to have them serve as officers for the next term!

During the fall of 2007 the UNT IEMSA attended a tour of the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport EOC. Several members attended Ham (amateur) radio training and became technician certified. Several members participated in CERT training. At our fall meetings, we hosted guest speakers from EPA, public health agencies, and local emergency management agencies. We had 9 members travel to the 2007 IAEM Conference in Reno, NV.

For the 2008 Spring Semester the UNT IEMSA members will participate in local and regional response exercises. UNT members will be attending and volunteering at the 2008 Emergency Management Association of Texas (EMAT) Symposium in March. IEMSA will also be hosting a basket raffle and silent auction to help fund our tuition and travel scholarships, as well as fund special projects. UNT Members will be traveling to Norman, Oklahoma for the 2008 National Weather Service Severe

Weather Workshop.

We are currently working toward implementing a hazards and preparedness education campaign for the college students at UNT. Please look for more announcements on the advancement of this project in the very near future! And the UNT IEMSA will be going on a camping trip!

Sincerely,  
Deon Pfenning  
UNT IEMSA President  
UNT EADP Major  
720-934-1564  
depfenn@yahoo.com  
dmp0116@unt.edu

**ATTENTION STUDENTS  
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU  
RESEARCH ARTICLES, SUCCESS STORIES,  
FIRST JOB, LESSONS LEARNED WE WANT TO  
HEAR ABOUT IT. IF YOU HAVE AN  
INTERESTING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
EXPERIENCE AND PHOTOS WE WANT TO  
HEAR ABOUT IT. HAVE IDEAS FOR THE  
REGION, WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT. BEST  
PRACTICES ON STARTING AND OPERATING A  
CHAPTER, LET US KNOW**

## Are You Prepared to Start Your New Career?

### Steps in Career Development

Reprinted with the permission of Marina Diaz

So, you're getting your Master's degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and academically you're preparing yourself accordingly right? Attending classes, completing projects, reports and Homework on time; you are basically covering all of your academic bases. Guess what? You left out something just as important – are you focusing on your career development as well?

Career Development, according to Merriam Webster's dictionary is defined as "How individuals manage their careers within and between organizations" and like most students we don't think about our resumes, and portfolios until the end of our studies and sometimes not until after we have graduated. I mean after all, we, have plenty of time don't we? And isn't it better to start looking for a job after you've graduated? Guess what folks; the time is now not later to start the process.

Let's start with Step 1: Your Resume – needs to be updated and for those of you who don't have one because you've been working at the same company for the past ten plus years, you will still need one. Are you looking for a promotion or salary increase? You will need your resume. It will help you when you speak with your Human Resource Manager or immediate Supervisor. Your resume needs to list your current or past job titles, the name of the company and length of time you have been working at your current position. Strategically list your responsibilities and skills that are transferrable. What are transferable skills? Transferable skills are any skills that you've acquired or developed during school or through personal work experience that will benefit you in pursuing that promotion or new position at OEM, or HRA and of course FEMA. For example, I work as an Associate Director in the Career Development Department at a secondary school. One of my main responsibilities is to assist students with career development by coaching them with mock interviews, conducting seminars and helping them to create a marketable resume. These skills could be transferred over if I were to apply for a position involving training and development in emergency management. The resume would also highlight my knowledge of software's such as (Visio, PowerPoint, Word, Photoshop, Illustrator, etc). List all of your Licenses, your Degrees, and your Awards and Certifications. You have bragging rights; you worked very hard to earn those, and you have them hanging on the wall proudly for all to see. Or do you? Now is your chance to take those documents out of that file drawer or off that wall. So now what do you do with all of them?

Step 2: Creating a Portfolio – If you go to your local office supply store, you should be able to purchase a decent portfolio for under \$10.00 dollars. Creating a portfolio is essential in your pursuit of the ideal E.M. related position. How many IS courses have you taken since you started MCNY and how many more will you take before you've graduated from MCNY? A portfolio will allow you to organize those documents and have them ready to be presented to your interviewer during the interview. Organize the certificates based on the position you are interviewing for. For example, any

courses that I have taken that involved creating training and exercise programs will be placed in the front of the portfolio. I will not show the interviewer all 20 FEMA certificates, just the relevant ones. (P.S. make copies of your documents, if you get hired, you can also bring the original to HR for a copy to be made for your personnel file.)

Step 3: Volunteering – At an emergency management related agency for example, the Office of Emergency Management is always looking for interns and so is the Human Resource Administration Office, the “Presser” will list several agencies searching for interns in every issue, and if you type in the word Internship in the search box at the website of NYC.Gov it will also list all citywide agencies that are seeking interns, take advantage of this information provided to you even if you are not ready to complete an internship, research the agency that is looking for an intern, they might be the agency you decide to work for after you’ve graduated, don’t wait it’s never too early. Completing an internship and listing this experience will not only help you build up your resume, but you will gain some experience in your field and who knows, maybe they like your work performance so much, they offer you a position after you’ve graduated. During my first purpose at MCNY I read in the online “Presser” that OEM was looking for interns, I researched the agency and the positions that were available and found one that I was interested in. I submitted my resume and I was very fortune enough to have been given the opportunity to intern during my second purpose with the Office of Emergency Management’s ReadyNY program. My supervisor at the time was Amber Greene and she is the Senior Coordinator for the program and we still keep in touch through emails.

Step 4: Networking/Association’s – Becoming a member of IAEM-MCNY and related Emergency Management focused organizations such as [www.asisnyc.org](http://www.asisnyc.org); [www.disasters.org](http://www.disasters.org); [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com) to a name a few will help keep you abreast of events such as conferences similar to the one recently held in Reno, Nevada by IAEM, that some students from MCNY attended, symposiums similar to the one being held in April by ASIS and the FBI on Agro-Terrorism, and seminars also conducted by most Organization’s occurring not only in New York but also across the nation and on an international level [www.redr.org](http://www.redr.org), as well. Attending events such as those that I listed above as well as Career Fair’s, and Informational Fairs will also allow you to network with members and it will allow you to get a better understanding of where you would like to work and more importantly in what capacity.

Step 5: Licenses and Certifications – These are self explanatory and for further information go to their appropriate website: Go to [www.IAEM.COM](http://www.IAEM.COM) for information on becoming a:

- Certified Emergency Manager
- Associate Emergency Manager

Go to [www.NYC.GOV/OEM](http://www.NYC.GOV/OEM) for information on becoming a:

- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member.

Go to [www.Redcross.org](http://www.Redcross.org) for information on becoming certified in:

- American Red Cross First Aid,
- CPR
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

I can't stress it enough, DON'T WAIT!, start your research now and don't forget about MCNY's Career Service department, speaking from experience as a Career Advisor, our goal is to help a student catch that shooting star that will help them reach their career goal.



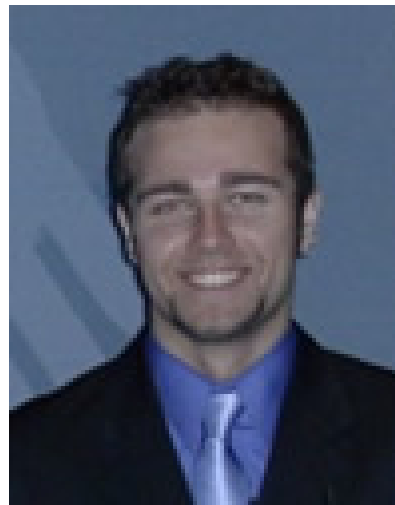
*Marina Diaz is the 2nd Vice President of IAEM-MCNY, a Purpose 3 student in EMHS and an Associate Director for the Career Services Department at ASA Institute. She works with students that have graduated with their Associates degree in Criminal Justice, Accounting and Business Administration and help them find their careers.*

**Chapters Presidents, please contact us as soon as possible to update your information with a list of officers and contact information, please include the name and e-mail of your student advisor. Send them to the Region Secretary at [andrew.jarvi@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.jarvi@gmail.com).**

Brian Silva is a former teacher, trainer and EMT from California who currently lives in New York City where he works for the New York City Office of Emergency Management in Operations as a Watch Commander.

Silva recently graduated with an MPA in Emergency Management and Homeland Security from Metropolitan College of New York (MCNY) where he wrote his thesis on how to improve post-disaster redevelopment planning.

He was the president of the IAEM chapter at MCNY and served on the IAEM Conference and Membership and Marketing Committee. Silva is also a volunteer trainer and responder with the American Red Cross of Greater New York.



IAEM Region XII President  
Brian Silva

I am very pleased to be able to serve you as the student region Vice President. I am working on my Masters in Disaster and Emergency Management with AMU, and will graduate in 2008.

I work for the Santa Rosa County Division of Emergency Management as the Plans Section Chief. I am a Florida and Nationally registered Paramedic, the County Citizen Corps coordinator, a Medical Reserve Corps member, and a CERT instructor. Prior to coming to this job I was a Special Forces soldier in the U.S. Army.



IAEM Region XII Vice  
President Daniel Hahn

My top priority is to see that the voice of the student is heard, and to promote initiatives that create well trained and motivated emergency managers, because you are the future of our field, and the future of IAEM.

**SECRETARY'S BIO**

My fellow students, I am honored to serve you as secretary. I currently work for University Hospitals in Cleveland, OH as a paralegal but my background and degree are in public safety.

I was a Firefighter/EMT/ HAZMAT Tech for 6 years having to go back to college due to a back injury. At University Hospitals I serve on the System Disaster Planning Committee and the Disaster Drill Task Group.

I will complete my Bachelor of Arts in Public Safety Management at Cleveland State this May. I will be continuing on to graduate school. I look forward to helping our region grow and develop new opportunities for students in our field.



IAEM Region XII Secretary  
Andrew Jarvi

**REGION XII CHAPTERS**

American Public University System (APUS)

Arkansas Tech University (ATU)

Brandon University

California University of Pennsylvania

Central Missouri State University (CMSU)

Homeland Security Management Institute at Long Island University

John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)

Lakeland College - Canada

Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Metropolitan College of New York

North Dakota State University

University of Akron (UA)

University of North Texas (UNT)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Western Washington University

Don't see your school on here? Want to start a chapter? We'll help! Please feel free to contact any of your regional officers and we will help guide you and your fellow emergency management students in starting a chapter.

## **Student Region Executive Board Contact Information**

**President:**           **Brian Silva**  
(562) 897.6677  
bsilva05@gmail.com

**Vice President:**   **Daniel Hahn**  
850.983.4606 (direct line)  
Blackberry: 850.393.9841  
danielh@santarosa.fl.gov

**Secretary:**         **Andrew Jarvi**  
(440) 344-1506  
andrew.jarvi@gmail.com

**Treasurer:**        **Patrick Hardy**  
714-928-7630  
hardy104@chapman.edu

## **Student Region Newsletter Staff**

**Editor/Manager: Andrew Jarvi**      andrew.jarvi@gmail.com

**Associate Editor: Pedro Carrero**   pc3000jr@hotmail.com