

University of Akron IAEM Student Chapter raises \$256 for Haiti relief Campaign



Maurice Thomas has learned a lot about people, including some of their more basic desires, as a graduate of the University of Akron's Emergency Management Training program. "Candy moves," Thomas, 35, a North High School graduate and president of UA's student chapter of the International Association of Emergency Managers, said Tuesday. "Any time you want to get everybody's attention, do it with candy."

At noon Tuesday, Thomas, who now is working toward his graduate degree in public administration, and undergraduate student Greg Johnson took over duties for the two-hour shift to secure donations in a three-day drive to raise cash for a Haiti relief fund.

"Chocolate kills," Thomas said. "While the response was very good on our first day Monday, it has been great today."

Thomas and Greg Johnson brought a couple of boxes of Milky Ways, Snickers and other candy bars to a table that the IAEM chapter set up outside the food court at the university-owned Polsky Building. Thomas said the 10 members of the local chapter kicked in \$64 to purchase the good stuff to hand out to people who donated to help

the hundreds of thousands of victims of the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti.

"We know that students really do care," said Johnson, a senior who grew up in Ann Arbor, Mich. "Most students are poor, but they will give what they have to give." Thomas said the donations will be tallied at the end of the drive today. "We just keep all the money in the big jar," he said. "I can tell you that [Tuesday] we've sold a couple of \$20 candy bars. You can't beat that."

The classes for UA's Emergency Managers Training, the only such program in Ohio to offer a bachelor's degree, are held in the Polsky Building. They are a part of the university's Summit College. "It's really a great place to do this because a lot of people from downtown come eat lunch here," Johnson said. "We'll get lawyers, policemen, firefighters as well as business people coming in here to eat."

"Working with people in the public sector is a big part of the actual experience. Getting donations gives the students a real, practical application of what we've been training to do in the classroom," he said. Schwartz said the IAEM chapter chose AmeriCares to receive the funds raised.

"We are going to send cash because it's much more effective than buying goods, like a case of water, and then trying to send that to another country, he said.

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PARTNERS IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE

The 2010 *Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference* will be held April 6 and 7 2010. The largest and most successful regional emergency preparedness conference in the Pacific Northwest, *Partners in Emergency Preparedness* annually hosts over 600 people representing businesses large and small, schools, utilities, government, law enforcement and fire services, public works, the non-profit sector, emergency management professionals and volunteer organizations.

The Conference began in 1995 as part of Washington State Emergency Management Division's statewide "Disaster Preparedness Month" campaign. 200 people from government and the private sector attended that offering. Since then, the Conference has continued to grow, adding a wide variety of speakers and exhibitors, providing cutting-edge information on Disaster Preparedness, Response, Mitigation and Recovery for attendees.

"The *Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference* provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to network with others from throughout the state and to learn from those who have dealt with crises within the state or at the national level," said Siri McLean, Conference Chairperson. "Attendees also have the opportunity to speak with numerous vendors, learning what is new in emergency response equipment and technology."

Registration includes all concurrent and general sessions, all conference materials, two lunches and the networking reception on Tuesday April 6th, 2010. Student registration is \$125. The two day conference will be held at the Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma Washington. For more information visit the website <http://capps.wsu.edu/emergencyprep> or email the Conference Coordinator at dana.colwell@wsu.edu

"Student" Defined

By Nancy Harris
President, USA Student Region (IAEM-USA SR) and Student Council (IAEM-SC)

Defining who is a "Student" has been a source of confusion for many in the IAEM. The Global Board of Directors, at their most recent meeting, approved a change to the by-laws and has clarified the definition of student. The new definition reads as follows:
"Student membership is available for up to six years to anyone enrolled in a post-secondary institution, studying emergency management or a related field. Proof of current enrollment may be required by IAEM staff. Students are members of both the Student Council and the Council in which they reside. Each Geographic Council may define a process for granting exceptions to the six-year limitation due to extenuating circumstances."

What does this mean for students?

Students, no matter where in the world they live, work and learn may join the IAEM as a student member for a total of six years. You must be enrolled in a post-secondary institution and may need to provide proof of your enrollment. Students in Canada are now defined the same way as students in Europa, Oceania or the USA are defined. We all now share one common definition.

You are a member of the leading professional organization for emergency managers in the world. As a student member you belong to the Student Council as well as the Geographic Council in which you reside. I encourage you to get involved with the Student Council as well as your geographic Council and take advantage of all the IAEM has to offer.

YOU are the IAEM – Student Council





True Interoperability

By David S. Blevins

Senior Firefighter / Paramedic
City of Knoxville Fire Department

Police, fire, and EMS, Oh my...FEMA, ATF, and DEA, Oh my...Acronyms come and acronyms go, but the question is how I make them flow. Emergency services have always prided themselves on the ability to be self reliant, only calling on other agencies or services in the event that the circumstances surround the incident far exceed the capabilities, and even then it is a tough call to make.

During my bachelor's level senior project, I took on the topic of interoperability. This interoperability, or interoperable communications has been a keyword and project of agencies of all levels across the nation and the world as the quest to ensure all emergency services agencies have the ability to talk to each other during an emergency. During my research, I shifted my project to an area that I found to be more in need of research and promotion. True interoperability.

Activities that have followed the events that occurred on September 11, 2001 have worked to ensure that the emergency services community could communicate with each other during events emergent in nature. This cross agency communication or interoperable communications, also known as interoperability, has been subject to massive amount of meetings, briefings, and gatherings with agencies from the local, state, and federal levels including members of civilian and military organizations and the private sector firms. This increase in the ability for emergency services agencies to cross communicate between other services will aid in increasing the operational capabilities of each organization by increasing the efficiency of communications; however, how well does this increased communications efficiency help operations when each organization doesn't know how to work with the other?

True interoperability takes more than simply being able to use our portable or mobile installed radios to communicate with each other; it takes coordination,

training, and practice to know exactly what each organization is going to do on an emergency response.

If you are a sports fan, and you regularly watch college or professional sports; you see coordination between the players on the field and when that coordination runs to perfection you see that 109 yard kickoff return for the game winning touchdown in the final seconds of the game, or the alley-oop pass to see that highlight reel dunk in the basketball finals. In contrast, you see that same game and you see the point-guard drop the ball before the pass and all you see is somebody jumping toward the goal with nothing to do. Or you see the Heisman candidate receiver run a slot route instead of a post, and the ball goes skipping across a vacant section of lush green grass. This analogy is used to show how drastic a single mishap can make during a sporting event and how it relates when lives are on the line instead of the "big game."

All hazards response training is required for emergency response proficiency. When a law enforcement officer is hired, they are placed through a large amount of training to ensure they are able to operate as a law enforcement officer. Firefighters are sent through the fire academy to learn techniques that will help them save lives and property while minimizing risk to themselves, and Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics learn the medical modalities necessary to help save lives in a life threatening condition. As we operate in the emergency services community, how many times are emergencies related to a single agency or emergency discipline. As an emergency manager, we must take the time to coordinate interagency training to ensure that we are truly providing the general public the greatest level of response capabilities by being truly interoperable.



Scanlon speaks to AMU/APU Students

By Dorian Kador, IAEM AMU Chapter President



The tragic irony is not lost on any of us. Just a few hours after Professor Emeritus Scanlon addressed AMU On January 12th, 2010 the IAEM Student Chapter of the American Military University (AMU)/American Public University (APU), was greatly honored to host a distinguished guest speaker, namely, Professor Emeritus Joseph /APU, on the topic of the Handling of Mass Death news reports were breaking about of a massive earthquake in Haiti. The catastrophe has unfolded in horrendous, epic proportions.

No sooner had I thanked Professor Scanlon for his talk then he emailed me back to say that he thoroughly enjoyed the event and thought it fortuitous that in preparation thereof he had reviewed the subject matter. For the Canadian media has been searching for his comments and advice on the situation in Haiti- especially with regard to the mass handling of cadavers.

The Scanlon event was well-attended, informative, interesting, thought-provoking and motivating. It has been recorded in its entirety. It is now more poignant for you to hear Professor Scanlon speak than was previously envisaged.

The link to hear this important recording is:
http://www.kador.com/scanlon_mod_speaker.mp3

A link to read a short bio on Professor Scanlon is:
http://www.kador.com/scanlon_mod_speaker_bio.docx

A link to download a copy of the commemorative poster to mark this momentous speaking event is:
http://www.kador.com/scanlon_mod_speaker_poster.pdf

News From University of North Texas

By Lauren Simmers

The Spring Semester is well underway for us here at the University of North Texas. Our IAEM Student Chapter held its first meeting Wednesday January 27th where there were 27 members in attendance. We met a few new faces and are looking forward to increased involvement this semester. The meeting covered upcoming events and opportunities as well as some that were up for discussion.

Tradition of every new semester, a survey of interests was taken concerning the organization and its members' interests in the professional realm. Some confirmed events for Spring 2010 are the Texas Homeland Security Conference, Sky Warn training for basic and advanced, NOAA Severe Weather Workshop, a Ham radio certification class put on by one of our alumni John Stradal, and our annual spring camping trip which takes us to Turner Falls park this year which is located in southern Oklahoma.

Volunteer Opportunity

If you would like to apply to volunteer at the World Conference on Disaster Management in Toronto, Canada, from June 6-9, please visit the following Web site to complete the online application process:

<http://www.wcdm.org/Toronto/volunteering.html>

Volunteers must register by April 14, 2010. Detailed information is available at the Web address listed above.



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