



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS

# THE RESPONDER

## NEWS OF THE IAEM-STUDENT COUNCIL

May 2009

Volume 2 Issue 5

### President's Message

The students are growing!! No, we are not getting taller (or pudgier!), but we are expanding what it means to be a part of the Student Council, and what is provided to our members.

In the USA-SR our former Second Vice President, Brenda Webber, has been deployed to Iraq and our thoughts and well-wishes are with her, her family and her colleagues. Brenda chose to step down from her position and because less than half of her term was left, the USA SR was charged with choosing her replacement. On May 4 Christian Lamphere was chosen to fill the remainder of her term.

Christian works in Emergency Preparedness for the Cambridge Public Health Department in Massachusetts. He is a Paramedic, CEM and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Walden University.

Christian will be managing two of our newest projects. First, we will soon be launching a CEM / AEM mentorship program that will include professional development as well as a discount for student AEM / CEM applicants. The second project, open to all students, will be a series of conference calls with emergency management professionals who will make presentations as well as answer questions from our members.

I would also like to congratulate the newest leaders in the USA-SR and SC. We recently had a large group of students appointed to committees, commissions, and liaison positions. This information will soon be posted on our newly revamped SC and USA-SR websites. Part of this will include web pages for each Region and Student Chapter.

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[www.iaem.com/students](http://www.iaem.com/students)

Within the next month we will formally launch the Oceania and Canada Student Regions. We will continue to work to form Student Regions in Europa, Asia, and other areas of the world to support the goals of emergency management students. We will be presenting the results of our annual survey of emergency management students at the FEMA Higher Education conference, as well as hosting a recruiting event. There is also a plan for an event at the WCDM Conference in Toronto sponsored by the Council and the Canada SR.

These and many other initiatives are thanks to the hard work of an amazing team of elected officers, appointed individuals, and hard-working volunteers. Their sheer force and professionalism continues to carry the good and quality name of the Student Council members far and wide. For that and much more, we give them all our thanks and encourage others to take up the torch! The rewards in your professional career, and those coming behind you, are innumerable.

-Brian Sliva

# NDSU IAEM-SC North Dakota State University

Greetings from North Dakota State University;

For the past month, Fargo, North Dakota, and other surrounding communities have been fighting a flood of record proportions. The Red River of the North, Sheyenne River, and other tributaries reached record levels at nearly every community within the region. Countless evacuations took place, ranging from isolated neighborhoods to entire communities. While much of the immediate threat has passed, citizens in many communities remain vigilant.

## Fighting the Flood

In Fargo, the flood fight began in the middle part of March. However, with each passing day, preparedness measures escalated, requiring the massive mobilization of volunteers and resources. Due to the winter's record snowfall and early snowmelt, many communities were forced to accelerate their flood protection efforts. With the river level in Fargo projected to exceed 41 to 43 feet, which is well beyond the city's flood stage of 18 feet, an urgent call for volunteers was placed to citizens in the region. The city estimated that it essentially needed to produce 2 million sandbags to adequately protect the city. Volunteers responded by filling sandbags and constructing levees around the clock for days. Fargo's mayor, Dennis Walaker, was confident that the community could be protected at 41 to 42 feet, but was unsure what would happen at 43 feet. During a daily press conference, Mayor Walaker made an urgent request of the citizens for "One more day, and one more foot," in reference to the desired height of the levees. Ultimately, with the help of thousands of volunteers and a little luck, the communities of Fargo and Moorhead were able to successfully contain the rising waters of the Red River. Fortunately, the Red River crested lower than projected, but still exceeded the previous record by reaching an unprecedented level of 40.82 feet. A second crest a few weeks later, although initially projected to be quite high, came in at 34 feet.

## Volunteer Effort

Incredibly, it was not the sight of the swelling river that was impressive; instead, it was the convergence of thousands of volunteers from all parts of the region and country, arriving each day at the city's two massive sandbagging sites and three main volunteer dispatch sites, that was most memorable. Volunteers arrived around the clock to fill sandbags or to be transported to neighborhoods that needed assistance building levees. Donations from citizens and local business also arrived unceasingly. Donated items included hot food, coffee, water, gloves, and hand warmers.

Although North Dakota State University (NDSU) was closed for an additional two weeks beyond the scheduled Spring Break due to the flood, emergency management students were hard at work in the community. Many of the students assisted FirstLink, a local volunteer management organization, with managing the numerous sandbag and volunteer dispatch sites around the community. Students were tasked with ensuring that all volunteers were registered upon arrival; the management of donations that arrived at locations; fielding interviews from the press; and numerous other tasks pertinent to the management of each individual site. NDSU also played an integral role in managing the operations of the 24-hour flood information hotline. The hotline received over 50,000 phone calls during the span of its operation. The call center became so busy at times that it became impossible to make an outgoing call.

Overall, this experience allowed students to apply what they have learned in the classroom, and to also give back to the community.

North Dakota State University resumed operations on April 6th, 2009. NDSU's IAEM chapter resumed activities soon after by electing a new executive council. On behalf of the entire chapter, I would like to announce Blake Bennett as President, Patrick Wilson as Vice-President,

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Jeanna Sommers as Secretary, Kevin Helland as Treasurer, and Ignacio Sanchez as the Student Congress Representative. I am both excited and confident that the new council will continue to lead the group into the future. This is a bittersweet farewell for me as I am happy to be finishing my undergraduate degree but sad to leave the council. I have been President of the NDSU chapter for the past two years, and along with the leadership from past councils, have been able to transform what was once a chapter with four members into a thriving group that provides professional development to both students and the community. It has been an honor and a privilege to be part of IAEM's Student Region and I plan to continue my involvement with the organization as a member during my graduate career at North Dakota State University.

Sincerely,

Breanna C. Koval  
NDSU-IAEM Past-President  
<http://www.ndsu.edu/>



In late March 2009, the University of South Dakota student chapter sponsored CPR training to students, professors, and community members. Eleven people took part in this free training opportunity, which was led by the Vermillion, SD EMS department. This was an American Heart Association training.

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Student Survey

The student survey is available online at [www.iaem.com/students](http://www.iaem.com/students). The survey will remain open through May 29. The survey is open to all Emergency Management Students, not just student members of IAEM.

IAEM Scholarship Program deadline approaching

IAEM scholarships are awarded to students pursuing an associate or diploma baccalaureate, or graduate degree in emergency management or a closely related field. The application deadline is **May 15, 2009**. Application materials are available at [www.iaem.com/scholarships](http://www.iaem.com/scholarships)

USA Student Region is on YouTube

The USA Student Region is now on YouTube. The student marketing video can be found at: [www.youtube.com/iaemusar](http://www.youtube.com/iaemusar) If you would like a video uploaded, please email Eric Sawyer, USA-SR Secretary at: [esawyer@cumberlandcounty.org](mailto:esawyer@cumberlandcounty.org)



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Individuals, student chapters, regions and allied organizations are invited to submit articles, events, training opportunities and news.

2008-2009

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