



THE RESPONDER

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS

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Elmira College students learn to plan for disaster

Graduate program focus on preparing for emergencies seen as help to communities

Written by: G. Jeffrey Aaron, www.stargazette.com

Emergency management and disaster preparedness is one of four study concentrations offered in Elmira College's graduate degree program in management.

The college has offered the program since 2007, and most students in the program work for local companies or in the public sector, said Thomas Phelan, a course instructor. Graduate students who have yet to enter the work force also are taking the classes.

"Crisis management, if for no other reason than crises do pop up," Phelan said.

"The emphasis is on management skills, and they need to know how to delegate, budget, communicate, organize inter-agency cooperation and a very important point, to be compliant with federal and state regulations."

In the private sector, having an emergency/disaster plan is voluntary. But in the public sector, disaster plans are mandated by the federal Department of Homeland Security.

Phelan said many companies post their plans on their Web sites because it's good customer service to let the public know the company has made provisions to operate after a disaster.

"On the public side, it's extremely important to

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create disaster-resilient communities," Phelan said. That way, "Businesses would want to locate in that community because they can see the services are well-organized and well-planned to respond to any disaster."

Since the concept is a relatively new one, the text books are current and the authors have spoken to Phelan's students. Phelan also is president of a local business association. His students have discussed issues with people in the community.

"Talking with the students gives them the practical application of what they are learning," Phelan said. Last semester, Roger Lathrop, acute case manager at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, completed the disaster preparedness course at Elmira College.

He has used information from the course on several hospital committees that "focus on the resiliency of our system, in times of emergency, disaster, as well as business crisis."

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Lathrop helped evaluate a disaster exercise at the Elmira Corning Regional Airport and was able to suggest ways to improve readiness for a disaster there.

"I also was encouraged by (Phelan) to submit an article for publishing to Disaster Recovery Journal, which he co-authored, discussing the state of IT preparedness in the health care industry," Lathrop wrote in an e-mail to the Star-Gazette.

Emergency Planning Drill Scheduled for University

St. Bonaventure to Shut down March 25

Shannon Ross - wivb.com

St. Bonaventure, NY - From approximately 9 a.m. until noon, the campus community will go into lockdown as emergency agencies arrive on campus to deal with a "shooter" scenario. The university has been working on more detailed emergency planning and preparedness plans since the tragedy at Virginia Tech two years ago.

"We've invested hundreds and hundreds of man-hours to working on a plan," said Rick Trietley, vice provost for student life and head of SBU's Emergency Management Team, a group of key decisions at the onset of and during an emergency. Two additional committees — Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response, made up of representatives from every department, are working for more than a year on preparing for a wide range of potential emergencies, from dangerous weather to pandemic disease.

"Ultimately, we felt we had to conduct an emergency drill to get a sense of how effective our planning has been," Trietley

said. "We wouldn't have been able to do this without the full cooperation of the campus community, as well as local law enforcement agencies."

Thank You

A very special thank you to Andy Jarvi, who has stepped down from the position of First Vice President of the USA Student Region.

IAEM-SC North Dakota State University

NDSU Greetings from North Dakota State University, As students return from

spring break, rather than heading to the classroom, North Dakota State University has chosen to close the campus as of Monday, March 23, 2009 until further notice



to allow students to aid the management students have been recruited to assist in the management of volunteers at the city's 24 hour sandbag production sites. NDSU's IAEM chapter is working hard to help the community



during their time of need. It is our hope that the university and our chapter can resume normal operations as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Breanna Koval
NDSU-IAEM President

<http://www.ndsu.edu/>

Are Students Lulled Into a False Sense of Security with Messaging Systems?

By Colin Whitmore, GovTech Magazine

April marks the second anniversary of the tragic shootings that took place on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg.

April 16, 2007, is a date that holds tragic significance for a family who feel connected to Virginia Tech. It was the day Seung-Hui Cho took the lives of 32 people in the worst mass shooting in U.S. history. It was a transformational day for the Virginia Tech community, but the shootings also shed light on the need for higher education to participate in emergency management in newer, more organized roles.



Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine appointed a panel of experts to review the incident and Virginia Tech's subsequent response.

The panel made more than 70 recommendations, from mental health legislation to gun control laws to incident response policies.

no matter what institution they worked for, done to prepare universities for an incident on the scale of the Virginia Tech shootings. Following the report's release, universities scrambled to make changes to their emergency response plans.

Most of them did their best to make changes that were visible to their communities. This sharply increased the demand for alert and warning systems, and there was a predictable surge in the number of companies offering them. Whether dealing with sirens, scrolling message boards or text messaging systems, it's safe to say that nearly every U.S. university has installed or is installing a new messaging system for its campus.

Lulling Students

These installations, in many cases, have lulled students, staff and their families into a false sense of security. On a basic level, an inherent problem is that once an organization has the capability to send an emergency message, the organization still needs people who know what to say, when to say it and how to say it. Herein is the real problem with campus emergency management: Most colleges and universities still hesitate to address emergency management across all phases and make a real commitment to preparedness.

Nobody questions that there are daunting challenges when adopting emergency management best practices in an environment -- higher education -- that has never relied on them before. Universities are large and disparate organizations, with many departments seeking to do a better job of a larger organization. Those departments face ever-shrinking budgets due to cuts at the state and federal levels. Concurrently they face growing student populations and increasing demands on their resources.

View the full article at: <http://www.govtech.com/em/articles/625778>

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

IAEM Bulletin Call for Articles: "Research to Practice"

The IAEM Editorial Working Group is looking for articles for the next special focus issue of the IAEM Bulletin on "Research to Practice." This issue will focus on innovation and new ideas that are put into practice. We especially want to hear from practitioners who have put research into practice, how have you taken a lesson learned from some event and applied it to a different situation, circumstance, event or organization? Please keep your articles under 750 words, and e-mail articles to IAEM Bulletin Editor Karen Thompson at thompson@iaem.com no later than Apr. 10, 2009. Please read the author's guidelines on our Web site before submitting your article. Remember, the IAEM Bulletin is published monthly, and we always welcome articles of general interest to our readers.

Students in IAEM-Oceania

With 30 student members the future of emergency management in Oceania looks good. Student members in Oceania are not only expanding their knowledge of emergency and disaster management and hazards but also their experience. Many students volunteer to take part in emergency management activities in their communities and others perform a professional emergency management role in addition to their studies. Some Oceania student members have also played a professional role in managing and Australia.

Although we have a number of student members, we currently only have one student chapter within Oceania at the University of Canterbury based in Christchurch, New Zealand. Here chapter members have become involved in the IAEM through the Student Council and have gained knowledge and experience through working with IAEM members in the University of Canterbury's Emergency Management Team. They have also

taken part by volunteering as casualties in two shows IAEM-Oceania: University of Canterbury students among those being led out of University premises during an exercise based around the scenario of an armed offender on campus!



presentations about the lessons learned from the 1993 Northridge Earthquake in the U.S. and the 59A 7 9A 'ei U] in the student structure of the IAEM we are also looking forward to establishing the Oceania Student Region. This will increase student representation and involvement with the IAEM and will also enable us to recruit more heavily for new student members and more student chapters!

MCNY Emergency Management and Homeland Security symposium

The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Graduate Program of Metropolitan College of New York presents the 2nd annual Emergency management and homeland security symposium: Transforming emergency management leadership with keynote speaker Mr. Bruno Henn, Chief Security and Safety Service United Nations Headquarters

Tuesday, June 16, 2009
 MCNY Manhattan Campus
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FMI or to register: lellison@iqmail.mcnyc.edu

