



THE RESPONDER

STUDENT REGION NEWS

STUDENT NEWS

We have changed the title of this column because we would like to hear from our chapters and independent members, those not belonging to a particular chapter. If you have news of projects you have been involved in at your college or university please e-mail me at andrew.jarvi@gmail.com. Please feel free to submit photos of activities from our members.

Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Commonwealth University chapter is currently working with Faculty at VCU and Henrico County to develop a TTX (table-top exercise) to test their preparedness for a possible event. The TTX we are putting together will lead up to the event but not actually include the incident. During the TTX, scheduled for later in March (date not finalized yet) some of the students involved in the development will have roles as facilitators. In future phases of this partnership, there will be more table-top exercises that are more comprehensive and include incident response.

Thanks,
Brian Laughlin
President, Virginia Commonwealth University
Chapter- IEMSA

University of South Dakota

This month University of South Dakota IEMSA met to discuss disaster research, with a specific focus on disaster mental health research. We discussed possible topics of disaster research, funding for disaster research, and the importance of a quick response (for the purpose of gathering data) following the disaster.

Jordan Pekevski, M.A.
President
University of South Dakota IEMSA

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From Joseph C. Warren
President, Homeland Security Community Initiative, Vincennes University

Joseph is an independent student member in his senior year at Vincennes University in Indiana majoring in Homeland Security and Public Safety. Vincennes University Homeland Security Community Initiative (HSCI) is sponsoring a free Homeland Security Community Academy. The program is

designed to raise awareness in such relevant and timely issues as emergency management, weapons of mass destruction, personal and family preparedness, and domestic and international terrorism will benefit the public, emergency responders, business and government leaders. The four sessions will be led by fourth-year students enrolled in VU's Homeland Security Baccalaureate Program. Persons completing the Academy will be invited to a graduation dinner and ceremony.

American Public University System

APUS IEMSA is happy to announce we will be having elections in March to elect new officers. Our first year has been a rousing success with the creation of what we consider to be the best student newsletter in existence, we happily challenge other IEMSAs to prove us wrong.

Daniel Hahn
APUS IEMSA President

Message from the Region President

The end of February brought the Board of Directors retreat in San Antonio, TX. The focus of the meeting was laying out the details of the newly internationalized IAEM. I am pleased to announce the Board approved the creation of the IAEM Student Council. This Council, along with the USA, Europa, Canada, Oceania, and International, make up the founding global Councils of the new IAEM. Each Council will provide representatives to the new IAEM Board which will help to steer our expanding organization. This will insure that students continue to have a voice in the operation of IAEM both at the local and worldwide level.

Our next big decision will be how to organize our students in this new body. Should new Chapters and Regions fall under the new Student Council to consolidate our common interests? Do we continue to house them in their geographically local Councils to further networking with local professionals? Do we create some sort of hybrid system? I encourage you to share your ideas with me.

Your Executive Committee is hard at work on a variety of projects related to academics, networking, professional development, and other areas you have told us you want action in. I look forward to providing you with a clearer picture on these specific projects and more details on where they stand in our next newsletter.

I hope you have all been having a great semester! For many, the end of the school year is right around the corner. For others, this adventure goes year round. Either way, I hope the best for everyone and until then remember....this is your IAEM!

Sincerely,
Brian Silva
President
IAEM Student Region

University of North Texas

The UNT IEMSA chapter just had a mixer at the Denton Central Fire Department. We had a good turn out. We had people from the EPA and some of our EADP professors come out. We gave away Stars hockey tickets as prizes & Mike Penaluna donated t-shirts, hats, and winter beanies to be given away. Our Vice President Matt Reed got BBQ donated for the mixer & everyone really enjoyed it. The EMAT conference is coming up on March 17th so our chapter is setting its eyes on that. The conference committee is allowing us to have a silent auction to raise money, kind of like the one we had at the IEAM conference this year

Pictures from UNTs Mixer



UNT IEMSA Treasurer Phillip Stachelski



UNT IEMSA member talking before the prize drawing



UNT IEMSA Past President Deon Pfenning and President Stephanie Knopp



UNT IEMSA Members, Professors and Guests

Three fully funded PhDs in Emergency Response, Operational Research, Psychology

Aston University, Aston Business School
Up to £16,000 tax free, plus PhD registration fees
International travel throughout Europe and beyond

Emergency Response by Government Organizations (Ergo) is a £0.5m project funded by the European Commission aimed at building resilience throughout Europe to large scale emergencies and evacuations following major catastrophic events. One half of the project will look at operations analysis and the quantitative modeling tools which assist in planning for large scale evacuations. The other half of the project will investigate how governments have prepared the public to respond to these emergencies. Thus, the project spans emergency responsiveness and Operational Research, Mathematical Modeling, Social Psychology, Social Marketing, Public Engagement.

The project is large scale, taking in countries across Europe (and one non-European) and the successful candidates will be required to travel to collect data from governments in a sample of EU member countries. The project crosses two departments in Aston Business School – ‘Operations and Information Management’ and ‘Work and Organizational Psychology’ – and you will benefit from working very closely with staff in both departments. In addition, you will enjoy full membership of our vibrant, innovative research community and will join a truly outstanding PhD program.

About us:

Aston Business School is a world class business school based right in the centre of Birmingham, scoring ‘5’ in the 2001 RAE. Its international standing is recognized by its triple accreditation by EQUIS, AMBA and AACSB. Aston Business School is committed to the pursuit of internationally excellent research that can be used to inform policy and practice. A massive investment is underway. ‘Further information’ on Aston Business School can be found at www.abs.aston.ac.uk.

About you:

Candidates should have:

A good first degree in a relevant discipline

A mature approach with excellent written and oral communication and presentation skills

High levels of commitment to studying for a PhD and possessing demonstrable formal research skills Fluency in English is essential. Fluency in one other European language would be a great advantage but is not essential as the research will be carried out in English.

Informal approaches to Dr Duncan Shaw (d.a.shaw@aston.ac.uk) are welcome.

Applications in the form of a full CV should include details of any research methods training, previous research projects undertaken and the details of two referees should be sent to Dr Shaw preferably by email, or posted to him at: Operations and Information Management, Aston University, Birmingham, B4 7ET, UK. Closing date for applications is 18th March 2008. Whilst the project is ready to start immediately, the project plan includes some flexibility on start dates for the right candidates.

From UNT to MCNY: How to Make the Most of Your MPA Emergency Management degree.

By Julie Pugal

16 months. This is 70 weeks, 487 days, 11,688 hours, and 701,265 minutes. This is the amount of time you are taking to change the direction of your life with a Master's Degree. And let us not forget that this time is costing you a lot of money. This is a commitment of titanic proportions. It is a short period of time, but it is a period of time where you have the power and the stance to get involved with and make an impression on the emergency management structure in this country. I was a graduate student at MCNY from the Fall of 2005 until December of 2006. I was determined to get the absolute most from my 16 months. I was an active member of IEMSA and served as secretary for a semester. I was, and still am, an active member of IAEM; I attended all of the conferences while a student and was able to forge great friendships with other emergency management students as well as with professionals in the field. During my time at MCNY, I conducted research after Hurricane Katrina and wrote my thesis with encouragement and assistance from Wal-Mart's Director of Emergency Management. I job shadowed a professional in the field and I worked full time for NYC OEM.

Today, I work for The Walt Disney Company, in one of the most advanced and appreciated Crisis Management Departments in the world. In this article, I would like to share with you part of my 16 month journey at MCNY. I am not a native New Yorker but was born and raised in Texas and graduated from the University of North Texas (UNT). I actually found myself in New York not only to earn an MPA, but to learn about emergency management in the city that has one of the most defined emergency management structures in the country. Upon my arrival, MCNY informed me of a week long internship with an emergency management consulting firm that was planning an exercise for The World Bank Group and needed interns. I viewed this as a great way to gain experience before beginning classes. I went for the interview and was offered the opportunity. The exercise alone was an excellent learning experience, but the opportunity to work with people in the field was invaluable. I heard endless stories about emergency responses, both humorous and serious, as well as learned how emergency management evolved in NYC. Priceless information!

The relationships that I made during this one exercise are still strong today and have afforded me many other opportunities including the chance to go to Houston to conduct research of Katrina evacuees. It was also during this internship, that I experienced what I consider a defining moment in my career. I was speaking with one of the facilitators of the exercise and he asked me what I would like to do with my degree. This is the question that we all have a prepared response for. However, while spending time with the group in D.C., I realized that my prepared response no longer fit. I wanted to be an emergency manager – but this no longer felt like a sufficient response. I do not come from a "lights and sirens" background. I explained to him that I see myself as the person writing the responses and coordinating tasks; the "behind the scenes work" is how I believe I phrased it. It was from this conversation that he told me that I would fit perfectly into the planning aspect of emergency management. I quickly realized that emergency management is an extremely diverse field, there are no clear parameters. This makes the career opportunities almost endless.

You can focus on emergency planning, public health issues, emergency coordinating, deploying emergency communication systems, training emergency personnel, business continuity, homeland security, designing and facilitating disaster exercises, writing emergency policy, public outreach, and of course, you can be a responder. At the end of your 16 months, if you do

not narrow the scope and channel your focus into a specific area, you may find that it is difficult to find employment as very few job titles say “emergency manager.” After my conversation with the gentleman in D.C., I started to identify myself with the planner/coordinator role and used it as a baseline for my learning. While, I may not have been paid for this internship, I certainly was rewarded. Beside the excellent friendships made, one of the facilitators personally handed my resume to the Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Preparedness at NYC OEM. The Deputy Commissioner offered me the opportunity to job shadow him for the entire summer. You cannot beat that! I learned an incomparable amount during those short few months; about the City, emergency management, planning (my new found calling in life) and again, made excellent friendships. At the end of the summer, I applied for one of the planning positions available at OEM. Even without my specialized degree, I was qualified for this position because I had become very knowledgeable about the agency, which meant that I was fairly savvy about emergency management. I knew the specific emergency plans that were being coordinated, their planning process, and had built the relationships needed to coordinate plans. I was ready to begin planning on my first day. I continued at OEM, working very diligently on two plans related to the City’s hurricane plan. During my time there, I took advantage of every training opportunity afforded to me as a City employee. I went to as many public outreach events as my schedule allowed. I attended every exercise that the City hosted. And of course, it involved me with the EOC, as it is what I consider the heart of emergency management. If you know the EOC, then you know more than most.

Please do not let these stories discount the value of an emergency management degree. To be sure, working at OEM was an invaluable experience. It taught me how to act and speak as an emergency manager. However, my education has taught me how to analyze the emergency management field. It led me to question the existing systems, and has encouraged me to work towards improving the existing structure.

This is what I now do for Walt Disney. I coordinate and implement innovative emergency management strategies that not only impact the preparedness level of the Company, but of the entire nation. Emergency management needs more people to help improve the field, not just work within it. Here are specific things I suggest doing to make the most of your 16 months at MCNY or any Master’s Level Emergency Management degree:

- Find your passion for emergency management
- Become an intern or job-shadow someone in the field
- Get involved with OEM.
- Attend training sessions and disaster drills
- Become familiar with the CEM (Certified Emergency Manager) requirements, use them to gauge your progress
- Participate with IAEM and IEMSA
- Attend emergency management conferences
- Be informed.
- Enroll [or write for] emergency management newsletters and list-serves
- Subscribe to JEM (the Journal of Emergency Management)
- Use your thesis or research as an opportunity to forge a relationship with an expert in the field
- Find your niche within emergency management
- Realize the field is new, diverse and constantly changing. Use this to your advantage
- So, what would you like to accomplish during your time studying Emergency Management? In Graduate School?



Julie A. Pugal is a Global Crisis Management Administrator for The Walt Disney Company. Her projects involve coordinating crisis management plans among all of the lines of businesses across the world. Prior to joining Disney, Julie served as an Emergency Preparedness Specialist at New York City's Office of Emergency Management (NYC OEM). Raised in Texas and after graduating from University of North Texas (UNT), she earned a Master of Public Administration in Emergency Management from the Metropolitan College of New York in December of 2006.

UNLV PROGRAMS IN CRISIS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (ECEM)

UNLV's program provides students with two programs: a Certificate in Homeland Defense and Security (12 credits) and a full Master's Degree (36 credits). The Certificate Program offers four, three-hour DHS –approved homeland security courses and is designed for those who are interested in graduate education in the field but who may not now wish to pursue a Master's Degree. The Master's Degree is completed in 24 months by participants by taking twelve graduate level courses that are organized into four six month long modules of three courses which meet both online and on-campus. Each module requires that students meet on campus for two three-day weekends so as to maximize the learning experience for them. Students enter the program as a cohort of students with a cross-section of experiences and backgrounds in applicable fields so that they may learn from one another in addition to interacting with experienced faculty and the coursework. Some scholarships are also available for students new to the field who have a commitment to getting into the profession. Because emergency management is both a profession and a field of study, this program addresses the context within which emergencies are managed as well as the five stages of disaster management: prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. Housed within the Department of Public Administration, this degree is designed to give students the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to become leaders in their profession. More specifically, the Mission of the program is to provide a well-rounded graduate learning experience to current and future crisis and emergency management leaders for effectively addressing natural, intentional, and technical disasters. For more information please check out the UNLV's website <http://urbanaffairs.unlv.edu/pubadmin/ecem.htm> or contact Christine G. Springer, Ph.D. at christine.springer@unlv.edu.

FEMA Emergency Management Higher Education Conference Student Volunteers June 2-5, 2008

EM Students and Faculty,

The 11th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Conference is quickly approaching and we need your help in making the conference run smoothly. We are seeking students

currently enrolled in a college/university emergency management program to fulfill the position of student volunteer recorder/reporters

The main function of a recorder/reporter entails taking detailed notes of an assigned session and creating a written summary report (4-5 pages) of the session's salient details. The secondary function of the student volunteer is to help with various aspects of the conference i.e., passing around microphones, signing up conference attendants, etc. Student volunteers are required to attend 100% of the conference with 20% dedicated to volunteering and 80% as a participant/attendee. For the duration of the conference, student volunteers will receive free lodging and meals as provided by EMI. Travel and other forms of compensation are not provided.

If you are interested in the opportunity, please see the Student Region page for the criteria and if you qualify, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at Micheal.Kemp@ndsu.edu with the following information:

Subject line: FEMA HiEd Volunteer (Prospect)

1. Your name and contact information
2. Your level of study (Undergraduate, Graduate)
3. Faculty sponsor name and contact information

Immigration: An Albatross to Homeland Security?

By: Ayodeji K. Aina

Nearly four decades ago, Enoch Powell, a conservative British Politician, predicted a large exodus of migrants to the west, and the heavy dependence of Britain, and other rich countries on such labor. Today, as highlighted in the Economist of January 5th, one in ten people in Britain are migrants, and in America, the proportion is now about 13%. Coincidentally, the prolonged economic growth in the Western World and the countries that make up the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is tied to the tremendously high rates of migration to these countries. Like the proverbial 'throwing the baby out with the bath water', it seems fortuitous that whilst immigration has contributed to the economic buoyancy and boom the west has experienced, has it brought along with it a price too steep; insecurity and a climate of fear?

Migration is a successful strategy for the world's poor to make their lives a little better, and one of the reasons the world has enjoyed a sustained economic boom. With low inflation in the past decade, there has been the expansion of the effective global workforce. Cross-cultural clashes, often times due to hostility and personal integration challenges, can be adduced to be responsible for the cohesive relations between the state and the governed minority. While politicians and voters alike advocate for tougher borders, the cost is extremely high and the benefits are limited. The inability to protect borders and the inability to seek and acquire community cooperation, will lead to free movement of drug-smugglers, criminals or terrorists.

Migration policy setters also face a seemingly impossible task of demography and economics, where job specification is limited in the trough of high and low skilled vacancies. It seems one cannot touch a comma without killing the other. Will new technologies of ID cards, databases with biometric details and E-verify improve security, and ensure a terror-free society? Is there

another alternative of integrating migrants like Sweden, Greece or Ireland? It is only appropriate that the strong moral case for migration, security and the economy needs to be addressed with a fine tooth comb.



Ayodeji K. Aina is a study abroad student attending the Metropolitan College of New York, MCNY. His engineering and technical expertise in Seismology and Safety for Exxon and Shell Oil Projects is welcomed. His graduate thesis project at MCNY will be GIS Engineering mapping for the oil pipeline industry. He can be reached at dejaina@aol.com

Gaining Experience Through Volunteering

By: Andrew Jarvi

One common thing I have heard from college students in general is that all the jobs they see require experience. Well you can gain that experience through volunteering. I know in this age money is a driving force, but what better way to show you are committed to Emergency Management as a career than to volunteer in your community or on your campus? I have heard of very few public safety agencies that will turn away free help, especially as budgets get crunched during this downturn in our economy.

There are many opportunities out there, for example Citizen Corp, the Red Cross, your local fire department. Citizen Corp has several programs that you can get involved in such as Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Fire Corp, Medical Reserve Corp, USAonWatch and VIPS. Taking on projects in these organizations provides you with skills that can be counted as experience. Having worked in the fire service I am very familiar with the term "paying your dues". For those that have not heard of this, it does not refer to a financial payment, but rolling up your sleeves, starting at the bottom and working your way up. It builds character and shows commitment to the profession.

Not only is this a great way to gain experience but it is a valuable networking tool and a way to build references for future jobs. It is also can be rewarding in a non-materialistic way in that you are doing the community a great service by helping to make it safer for all its citizens. The experience gained in this will help you land a paid internship or your first job.



Andrew is an independent member that is a senior at Cleveland State University. He is currently serving as the IAEM Student Region Secretary. He served as both a paid and volunteer Firefighter/EMT for seven years until returning to college due to a back injury. He serves on the Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Drill Task Group at his current employer in Cleveland, Ohio. He has an extensive background in volunteer service.

Student Region Treasurer

In the previous issue we included the bios for each of the Student Region Officers with the exception of our Treasurer Patrick Hardy, due to travel and work obligations he was unable to submit his for that issue.

Patrick Hardy is an LLM student at the University of Hertfordshire (UK) currently performing a legal clerkship at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness in the State of Louisiana. His research centers on the legitimacy of international mutual aid agreements in federalist, democratic nations.



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