



An F4 tornado devastates the small rural community of Northwood, ND. See page 3. Photo courtesy of Eastern North Dakota Weather Forecast Office.

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Quote of the Day:

"We live in the midst of alarms; anxiety beclouds the future; we expect some new disaster with each newspaper we read."

-Abraham Lincoln

November 2007

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vol. 2 Issue 1

New Center for Disasters and Emergency Management Proposed for NDSU



Efforts are currently under way to create a Center for Disaster and Emergency Management at North Dakota State University, which will serve as a catalyst for ongoing and future projects within the field of disaster studies and emergency management. The center's goal will be to provide an interdisciplinary forum for collaboration on current issues, such as disaster research, training, outreach, service, and education.

The new center will be a major enhancement for the degree programs (bachelor's, master's and doctorate) in emergency management at NDSU by creating new educational experiences and opportunities with the specific goal of advancing the field. The center will also look to include the participation of other departments interested in disaster and emergency management, which is critical since the field of emergency management is broad and multi-disciplinary. In addition, it is anticipated that relationships with national, regional, state, and

local emergency management organizations will be expanded as a result of the center. The synergy and organizational structure that will come as a result of the center should provide a better image to funding sources, and will assist the center in obtaining research funding as well as funding for planning grants and related initiatives.

Dr. Daniel J. Klenow and Dr. George A. Youngs will be the co-directors of the proposed center. Staffing for the center will be added as grants and contracts are obtained. Staff specialists, such as a tornado or flood work-group leader, will be named upon approval of the center. It is anticipated that current faculty as well as doctoral and master's students in emergency management will have staff titles and will do developmental work for the center.

More information about the center will be forthcoming in future issues of the *EMGT Student Bulletin*.



Message from the Chair

*by Daniel J. Klenow, Ph.D., Professor and Chair
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Emergency Management*



Daniel J. Klenow, Ph.D.

The last academic year was filled with excitement as the program experienced growth in undergraduate and graduate enrollments, new courses, and new faculty. The 2007-2008 academic year is shaping up to be another year of development and expansion. This past summer, we experienced our highest level of enrollment in summer school. This fall, WebEOC was installed in our Emergency Operations Center, and we also held our first Professional Development Seminar for graduate students. The faculty/student interaction produced a number of new ideas for the program.

One of the most exciting aspects of our graduate program includes the thesis and dissertation research that is currently being conducted. The studies include an analysis of Red River flooding, rural emergency managers perceptions and experience with NIMS, the role of storm spotters in the National Weather Service's SkyWarn program, the relationship between preparedness and risk perception based on disaster experience and knowledge, the role of emergency managers in communities, the structure of Al-Qaeda, etc. Research is a critical aspect of graduate education and the current group of graduate students are focusing on important emergency management related topics.

Finally, departmental faculty continue to review the undergraduate and graduate courses and curriculum to make sure that our offerings address the critical issues in the continually evolving field of emergency management.

Upcoming Events:

- The next departmental colloquium will be Wednesday, November 21, 2007. Dr. Dong Keun Yoon will give a presentation entitled "Emergency Management and Volunteer Firefighters: An Emerging Problem in Rural America?" The colloquium will be in the Lake Agassiz room of the Memorial Union at 3:00 p.m. Students and faculty are encouraged to attend.
- The annual IAEM conference is Nov. 11-15 in Reno, NV. Visit www.iaem.com for more information on the conference.

Take a Break!

A fun interactive disaster simulation game from the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) organization is available at <http://www.stopdisastersgame.org/en/>. The objective of the game is to reduce the number of dead and injured by disasters triggered by natural hazards. So, if you want to take a break from your studies, log on and test your skills.

Disaster Strikes Rural ND Community



Photo by Jerry Reynolds of Fargo, ND

The Northwood F4 Tornado was one of several tornadoes which affected the northern Red River Basin area on Sunday evening, August 26, 2007.

Damage assessments have confirmed that at least 11 tornadoes occurred between central North Dakota and northern Minnesota that evening. At least nine of these tornadoes occurred within 60 miles of Grand Forks, in northeast North Dakota or northwest Minnesota.

The Northwood tornado that ripped through the town of about 900 people measured eight-tenths of a mile wide and had a five mile long track. It is responsible for taking the life of one man and sending 18 more to local hospitals.

This coming summer, students will likely have an opportunity to study the impact of the tornado on Northwood as it relates to the recovery process.



Photo by Jerry Reynolds of Fargo, ND



Featured EMGT Courses for Spring Semester ●●●●●●●●

EMGT 730: Advanced Research Methods

During the Spring Semester, Emergency Management 730, a new course, will be offered for the first time. The course which is entitled, "Advanced Research Methods," will specifically focus on methodological issues relating to emergency management and disasters. In addition, the course will introduce case study methods and focus on qualitative and quantitative methodologies and their integration. Finally, students will get involved in several hands on research projects dealing with emergency management. The course will run Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

EMGT 461/661: Business Continuity & Crisis Management

This course provides an overview of planning and management principles applicable to business or

operational resumption following an emergency. The emphasis will be on minimizing the impact of a disaster on business operations. The course is offered to both undergraduate and graduate students. The course will run Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

EMGT 712: Hazards Risk Assessment Theory and Practice

This course will examine natural and human-made disasters from a risk assessment perspective. Preparedness and control procedures for each of these types of disasters will also be studied. The course will run Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

• See course schedule for a complete list of classes.



NDSU Gains Access to WebEOC

This fall, WebEOC, the original web-enabled crisis information management system, was installed in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located on the campus of NDSU. Emergency management students and faculty will now have the opportunity to study directly the information sharing that takes place during actual crisis events and training exercises in North Dakota. Currently, WebEOC access will be limited to training and observation.

On September 24, 2007, Geneva Anderson, the operations specialist for the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, provided hands-on WebEOC training to faculty and students. Anderson also highlighted the role WebEOC played during the Northwood Tornado event in late August.

The system is currently used by state agencies and local emergency managers to report, track, and respond to incident reports during an emergency, disaster or catastrophe in North Dakota. Data are entered and viewed on various status boards via WebEOC allowing all authorized federal, state, local and private agencies simultaneous access. The real-time information that is generated provides a common operating picture for all authorized persons during a particular event.

The North Dakota Department of Emergency Services has provided a number of resources on their web site to familiarize emergency managers with WebEOC. The WebEOC online training videos, a quick reference guide, and training manual can be found at <http://www.nd.gov/des/info/webeoc.html>.

Research Corner

Students encouraged to fulfill IRB training

NDSU IRB policy requires all investigators conducting human subjects research to complete training on protecting the risks and welfare of research participants. This requirement applies to all those who will interact or intervene with research participants, obtain informed consent, or handle identifiable data.

The training requirement may be satisfied by attendance at an on-campus session, or completion of a series of online modules.

Online sessions (CITI online modules):

Online training can be accessed at:
<https://www.citiprogram.org>

When registering, select "North Dakota State University," and create a username and password. Most modules can be completed in about 20 minutes, and contain several quiz questions. The course may be completed in multiple sessions; an overall passing score of 80 percent will be required for completion of the set of modules. For more information, go to: http://www.ndsu.nodak.edu/research/irb/rcatt_irb_educational_sessions.php

IEMSA Provides Voice for Students

NDSU chapter seeking new members

The number of students seeking degrees in the field of emergency management continues to grow every year. That is why the International Emergency Management Student Association (IEMSA) is an important organization for students hoping to one day pursue careers in this exciting field. North Dakota State University is one of 15 IEMSA chapters, and is inviting all students of all majors interested in emergency management to join. Membership in the association will help students in their education and professional development. For more information about IEMSA, please contact Breanna Koval at Breanna.Koval@ndsu.edu.

2007-2008 Executive Council:

President: Breanna Koval

Vice President: Aaron Hassett

CSO Representative: Dan Grahm

Secretary: Travis Delzer

Treasurer: Meghan Wabner

Student of the Month

Vicki L. Miller



Vicki Miller came to NDSU during the summer of 2007 to pursue a Ph.D. in emergency management. She brings with her over 11 years of professional

experience in homeland security and emergency management. For nine years, Miller served as the Emergency Management Planner for the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. She has also acted as the Program Manager for the Idaho Bureau of Hazardous Materials. Miller is from Boise, Idaho. Her family currently owns and operates a small cattle ranch near McCall, Idaho.

In 2006, she received a master's degree in emergency and disaster management and a certificate in Homeland Security from American Military University. Miller was also awarded the Professional Development Series Certificate of Achievement from the Federal Emergency Management Institute, and has completed 33 FEMA emergency management courses and over 20 additional emergency management related courses.

Why did you choose to come to NDSU?

After completing my master's degree in emergency management and certificate in Homeland Security, I researched universities in the United States that offered a Ph.D. in emergency management. After reviewing the curriculum of several universities and finding that North Dakota State University offered the only Ph.D. program, I contacted Dr. Daniel Klenow, Department Chair for the program. We discussed my desire for a program that emphasized local, state and federal interaction within emergency management and would augment my 11 years of experience at the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and Idaho Bureau of Hazardous Materials. It became clear to me that the emergency management Ph.D. program at North Dakota State University would provide me with the high level of education and program criteria that I was seeking to augment my education and experience.

What do you hope to do in the future?

After completing the emergency management Ph.D. program, I will apply my knowledge in an educational setting to teach others or return to public service.

Jason Swenson



Jason Swenson, a senior at NDSU, is currently majoring in emergency management and is pursuing a minor in sociology. He is from Bismarck, North Dakota. Swenson transferred

from Bismarck State College and originally came to Fargo because of his interest in the paramedic program sponsored by F-M Ambulance. While he was in Fargo, he also looked into the emergency management program at NDSU and determined that pursuing a degree in this emerging field offered more opportunities in terms of a career. Swenson is interested in emergency management planning on both the local and state levels, and would like to work

in an EOC one day. He has successfully completed EMT-B training.

When asked what advice he would give to incoming students, Swenson said students need to be self-motivated and stressed the importance of supplementing what is learned in the classroom with outside resources and opportunities.

"The field is so massive, and it is important for students to pick an area of interest and hone in on it," said Swenson. "Most importantly, have fun."

Swenson said the undergraduate program at NDSU is young, and is growing. He feels the program has a good foundation, and he has been impressed with the camaraderie that exists amongst students.



EMG7 Student Bulletin

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Job Corner

By Daiko Abe, NDSU Graduate Student

November 2007

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vol. 2 Issue 1

Finding employment after graduation can be an intimidating, and sometimes frustrating task. It is even more discouraging when you realize you don't fit many of the job qualifications because you lack experience. Many of us are probably trying to figure out what we can do to set ourselves apart from the rest.

In an industry where experience often times determines whether or not you get the job, having skills in specialized areas such as GIS and WebEOC may be just what you need to give yourself the edge coming out of school. The field of emergency

management continues to implement cutting edge technology, and I believe this is one area where students can make an immediate impact. Students with these skills combined with the knowledge gained in the classroom will be in a better position to make sound strategic decisions during a disaster.

Students interested in GIS can enroll in a class called Spatial Analysis in Emergency Management, which is a course taught by Dr. D.K. Yoon. The course is not offered every semester, so contact your advisor to find out when the course will be available. Training opportunities with WebEOC are also coming soon.

For more information about the Emergency Management Program at NDSU, contact:

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