Dr. Steven H. Murdock, director of the U.S. Census Bureau in Washington, D.C., was recognized as the distinguished alumnus of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, April 25, 2008, as part of the second annual Distinguished Alumni Award Program at North Dakota State University (NDSU). As the honorary guest, Murdock returned to NDSU and shared career-related experiences and encouragement to students, faculty, and members of the community.

Murdock earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from NDSU in 1970. He received his master’s degree and doctorate in sociology from the University of Kentucky, Lexington. He taught at NDSU in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Emergency Management from 1975 to 1977 before joining the faculty of Texas A&M University.


Quote of the Day:

It is in fact a part of the function of education to help us escape, not from our own time - for we are bound by that - but from the intellectual and emotional limitations of our time.

-T.S. Elliot
The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Emergency Management is pleased to announce that Lucien G. Canton, author of *Emergency Management: Concepts and Strategies for Effective Programs*, will be presenting a seminar course May 19-23, 2008, as part of the Distinguished Professor Seminar Series. Canton brings with him over 30 years of professional experience in hazard and risk analysis, loss reduction, and emergency planning.

“We are very excited that Lou Canton is coming to NDSU,” said Dr. Daniel J. Klenow, professor and chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Emergency Management. “This is just one example of our ongoing commitment to bring in distinguished academics and professionals to share their experiences and knowledge with our students.”

Canton received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of San Francisco and a Master of Business Administration in International Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Arizona. Some of his credentials include certifications by the International Association of Emergency Managers as a certified emergency manager, designation as a certified protection professional by the American Society for Industrial Security International, and recognition by the Disaster Recovery Institute as a certified business continuity professional. He is also a certified assessor for the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

As the Director of Emergency Services for the City of San Francisco from 1996 to 2004, Canton was responsible for coordinating the city’s emergency management program, and served as a policy advisor on emergency management and Homeland Security issues to Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. He also served as an Emergency Management Specialist with the Federal Emergency Management Agency from 1990 to 1996.

As a prerequisite to taking this course, students need to read Canton’s book, *Emergency Management: Concepts and Strategies for Effective Programs*, and take an exam by May 15th. Students can pick up the exam from Dr. Klenow starting May 6th. The course is offered to both undergraduate and graduate students. The course will run May 19-23, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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**Upcoming Events**

- **ND Emergency Management Association 2008 Fall Conference**
  Where: Minot, ND
  When: Sept. 10-12, 2008
  For more information, visit: [http://www.ndema.org/](http://www.ndema.org/)

- **48th Annual Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) Fall Conference**
  Where: Breezy Point, MN
  When: Sept. 14-17, 2008
  For more information, visit: [http://www.amemminnesota.org/](http://www.amemminnesota.org/)

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**EMGT Undergrad Curriculum Revamped**

The program requirements for undergraduate students pursuing a degree in emergency management have been improved to better meet the needs of the students. The new curriculum was recently approved by the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Emergency Management, and is currently awaiting approval from the Office of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. When approved, students already in the program will be able to choose either the old or new curriculum. Incoming students will follow the new track.
Natalie Easterday, a graduate student studying emergency management at North Dakota State University (NDSU), was recently named Outstanding Student of the Year by the U.S. Department of Transportation University Transportation Center Program. She accepted the award on Jan. 12, 2008, in Washington, D.C. during the Transportation Research Board’s annual meeting.

Easterday is a graduate research assistant with the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute’s Small Urban and Rural Transit Center. She is very interested in the role of transportation in the event of an emergency.

An internship her senior year with the Minn-Kota Chapter of the American Red Cross helped solidify her decision to pursue an advanced degree and career in emergency management. “I was drawn to the field of emergency management because it offers the opportunity to work in a challenging and dynamic field,” said Easterday.

Before entering the emergency management program, she earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration and minored in child development and family science at NDSU. Upon graduation, Easterday hopes to focus on a career in an emergency management related field, and is excited to start working. However, she does have plans to continue her education down the road.

**Featured EMGT Courses for Summer Semester 2008**

**EMGT 451/651: Floods, Blizzards, and Tornadoes**
This course will examine the role of emergency management in floods, blizzards, and tornadoes; and the response of local, state, and federal governments and agencies to these conditions. The class will also offer multiple field trips to complement class lectures and readings. The course will run daily beginning May 13th, Monday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Please note that this class will not meet the weeks of May 19-23, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**EMGT 491/690: Seminar - Emergency Management Administration**
This unique course is being offered as part of the Distinguished Professor Seminar Series. The guest lecturer will be Lucien G. Canton, who has over 30 years experience in hazard and risk analysis, loss reduction, and emergency planning. Students planning on taking this course need to read Canton’s book, *Emergency Management: Concepts and Strategies for Effective Programs*, and take an exam by May 15th. Students can pick up the exam from Dr. Klenow starting May 6th. The course will run May 19-23, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**EMGT 491/690: Seminar - Current Issues/Disaster Response & Recovery**
This course will examine major current events, disasters, and issues facing emergency management. In addition to course work, readings, and lectures, students may also have the opportunity to participate in the response and/or recovery of a disaster. The hours for the course will be arranged.

• See course schedule for a complete list of classes.
Students and faculty members from NDSU recently participated in multiple disaster-related trainings to become better prepared to assist their local community in the event of a disaster.

The Cass County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educated students about disaster preparedness for specific hazards. Those in attendance received training in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

“CERT is a great way to prepare yourself, your family, and assist your community in the event of a disaster,” said Sara Lepp, CERT coordinator and Director of the Volunteer Center at FirstLink.

Individuals or groups interested in participating in future trainings can contact Sara Lepp at (701) 293-6462 or by e-mail at saral@myfirstlink.org.

Faculty and students also attended a recent SKYWARN training to better understand the effects of severe weather. By participating, they joined hundreds of volunteers nationwide who are committed to keeping their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service (NWS).

The purpose of the program is to enable the NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods. NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN program. Classes are free and typically last about two hours. For more information on how to participate, please go to http://www.crh.noaa.gov/fgf/wxsafety/skywarn.php.

Local IEMSA Chapter Making an Impact

Spring has been a very busy time for NDSU’s IEMSA chapter. The chapter will conclude their professional lecture series on May 1, 2008. Guest speakers included Lowell Wolff, the emergency manager for the Fargo public school system, Mark Sloan of Clay County GIS, and Gregory Gust of the National Weather Service in Grand Forks, ND.

Sara Lepp of FirstLink, a volunteer training agency, was the first presenter in the lecture series, which began March 19th. As part of her presentation, she detailed the activities of her organization and explained how students and other community members could become more involved, such as becoming active in the local Community Emergency Response Team program (CERT).

A food drive to benefit the Great Plains Food Bank was also held April 7th through April 11th. Cash donations were also collected. For each dollar collected, the Great Plains Food Bank had the ability to distribute nearly eight pounds of non-perishable food items to needy families in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

IEMSA is also pleased to announce the launch of their online merchandise shop at http://www.cafepress.com/ndsuemsa. Students, faculty, and community members can now order apparel and merchandise to support NDSU’s IEMSA chapter.

Elections were also held this spring. NDSU’s IEMSA chapter is pleased to present the new Executive Council for 2008-09:

Breanna Koval – President  
Nick Pluim – Vice President  
Renetta Kalis – Treasurer  
Jason Anderson – Secretary  
Jon Romans – CSO Representative
Dave Rogness, the Cass County Emergency Services Coordinator, has been an influential leader and role model for many aspiring emergency management students at NDSU.

Before becoming the emergency services coordinator for Cass County four years ago, Rogness worked in law enforcement for 33 years. He began his career as a military police officer in the U.S. Army, and spent the next 30 years with the Fargo police department. The motivation to pursue the county emergency management position came because it offered a new, but challenging experience that would still allow him to stay connected with the community.

While he has had a positive impact in many areas, one of his greatest contributions is his continuing relationship with the NDSU emergency management program. By providing internships and project opportunities for students at both the undergraduate and graduate level, he has facilitated many learning opportunities outside of the classroom.

“Dave Rogness has evidenced an extraordinary commitment to NDSU’s emergency management program and its students. He creates an environment for his interns where they can learn, meet local partners, and work on worthwhile projects that help them grow professionally,” said Carol Cwiak, NDSU faculty member and internship coordinator. “Dave is the epitome of what the profession should be - dedicated, forward-looking, engaged and committed to partnerships. I am grateful that we have such a wonderful example of what emergency management excellence looks like right in our own backyard.”

“Dave gave me my first internship, and it was a great experience,” added Breanna Koval, an EMTG student and former intern. “My time spent with Dave gave me the ability to turn many of the topics and theoretical concepts that I studied into practical knowledge and application.”

As the county emergency services coordinator, Rogness has many important duties. Among them are his responsibility for developing and maintaining various disaster plans, managing grants, and working concurrently with law enforcement, fire, and EMS agencies. He also works with many medical and other non-profit and volunteer organizations. Because cooperation and communication are important facets of the job, Rogness also works closely with other ND and MN emergency managers and the State Department of Emergency Services.

Rogness hopes that over the past four years, he has strengthened the county emergency management program by increasing local response capabilities of emergency responders by coordinating trainings and exercises, and by helping those agencies obtain the equipment and resources needed to meet the disaster response requirements.

Advice to Students:
Beyond what can be learned in the classroom, Rogness encourages students to gain as much experience as possible. He recognizes that many employers require “prior experience,” which can sometimes be hard to obtain. That is why he believes students should look for other opportunities to gain experience by attending disaster-related community classes; volunteering with community agencies such as the Salvation Army or Red Cross; and by assisting local businesses and organizations in developing their business continuity plans. He also believes a strong ability to communicate, manage projects, and teamwork are important skills to develop.

Rogness has remained active on both the professional and community levels. He is a member of the ND Emergency Management Association, the National Emergency Management Association, and NDSU’s Disaster Resistant University Advisory Committee. In addition to being a member of the Fargo Lions Club and Foundation Board at his local church, he is also on the board of directors of the FM YMCA and the Minn-Kota Chapter of the American Red Cross.
The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) is hosting the 11th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Conference June 2-5, 2008. The conference will be held on the grounds of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The primary goal of the conference is to provide a forum for collegiate faculty, administrators, and students to network with each other and with representatives of emergency management professional organizations. NDSU students and faculty will have the privilege of presenting at this year’s conference on a number of different topics.

Those individuals planning to attend need to complete the FEMA General Admissions Application (FEMA Form 75-5) and return it to the Admissions Office by May 18, 2008. Applications can be faxed to (301) 447-1658.

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

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