

# THE EM HUB

Department of Emergency Management Newsletter

Fall 2015

## Beyond the Classroom

Experience in emergency management is arguably viewed as at least as valuable, if not more so, as education to employers in the field. Training is also seen as important and in some cases is more tangible and understandable to employers than an education.

So while the education you are receiving at NDSU is a valuable step towards a career within the emergency management profession, there are endeavors beyond your coursework in which you can engage during your time in the program to make you as marketable as possible when looking to find that first professional position. You should look for and take advantage of opportunities to gain experience and training to complement your degree.

In this edition—and in future editions—of The EM Hub, there will be valuable information related to opportunities to gain experience and training. Look for the icon to the right as an indicator of possible opportunities to build your resume outside of the classroom.

Only you can  
control your  
future.

—Dr. Seuss



Red River in Fall by Sharon Mallerus

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# ADVISING CORNER

## EMGT Course Offerings-Spring 2016

EMGT 101: Emergencies, Disasters, and Catastrophes  
EMGT 262: Disaster Mitigation  
EMGT 263: Disaster Response  
EMGT 291: Career and Professional Development  
EMGT 420/620: Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment  
EMGT 461/661: Business Continuity and Crisis Management  
EMGT 463/663: Voluntary Agencies in Disaster  
EMGT 730: Advanced Research Methods  
EMGT 761: Preparedness Theory and Practice



### Important Capstone Message

For this spring only, EMGT 430: Emergency Management Capstone will not be offered. The capstone requirement will be fulfilled by taking EMGT 420: Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment.

Students who were planning to use EMGT 420 to fill a major elective requirement will be able to substitute any upper division social science elective to meet the major elective requirement.

This change should only impact seniors graduating in 2016 (May, August, or December). Please see your advisor for more details and to get any questions answered.

## Registration and Advising

Registration for the fall semester is beginning soon. If you have questions about what you should take, the status of your academic progress, or other matters, make an appointment to meet with your advisor prior to your registration date. The department does not mandate that students meet with advisors prior to registration each semester; however, to ensure that you are making sufficient progress and are on-track to meet your goals, you are encouraged to meet with your advisor at least once a year.

*Nothing is a waste of time if you use the experience wisely. -Auguste Rodin*



## The Internship

Every emergency management major must do a three credit internship.

The objective of the internship requirement is to help advance each student's career goals. As such, internships are individually tailored.

Students should have completed at least three phases prior to doing their internship (response must be completed prior).

Internships require a minimum commitment of 150 hours and must have emergency management or business continuity linkage.

Students who are interested in doing an internship this upcoming spring or summer should make an appointment with Dr. Cwiak as soon as possible to discuss placement options.

*To find out what one is fitted to do, and to secure an opportunity to do it, is the key to happiness.*

*–John Dewey*



## Intern Spotlight: Kelsey Solberg

**Where did you do your internship?** Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) in Richland, WA.

**What have been the highlights of your internship?** Throughout my time here (going on 6 months now), I have been involved in a lot of different projects. Just to name a few, I have coordinated and acted as Lead Controller for a campus-wide lockdown drill of 4,500 employees, worked closely with IT to upgrade the Communicator Notification System to add additional emergency notifications for staff, and worked with the DOE Order 151.1C Re-write Team.

**How did the NDSU coursework prepare you for your internship?**

NDSU did a great job at preparing me in a lot of aspects, and I've had the opportunity to really expand upon that knowledge while at PNNL. I think of Jessica Jensen's planning course every day. There is seriously not a day that goes by that I don't think about an example from that class. From the basic phases, I understand how emergency management works, and can identify where any gaps are and come up with suggestions on improvements. Business Continuity is a big up and coming area, especially at the national labs. They are now required to do BC planning, so that class was also a great help for me here as well.

**What advice would you give to those preparing for their internship?**

For those of you who are still going to do an internship, don't be afraid to branch out! If you want to stay in the area, get an internship in the area. If you're looking to move to Florida, move to Florida for the summer! If there is one thing I can leave you all with... know what you want and go get it. If you want to be the best emergency manager, go be the best emergency manager! Your name means everything. What you do now at NDSU and at your internship, will be with you forever.

# FACULTY DOINGS

Dr. Gurt Ge is a co-primary investigator on a multi-campus project funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The project, titled "Hazards SEES: Bridging Information Uncertainty and Decision-Making in Hurricanes Using An Interdisciplinary Perspective" is a 4-year, \$2.5 million dollar collaboration among NDSU, Purdue, and Virginia Tech University.



As part of this grant, Dr. Ge and his team will be collecting original data through post-hurricane mail surveys, personal interviews, web experiments, social media, and process tracing software and developing new integrative scientific approaches to modeling household level behaviors and social network effects across households and other stakeholders. Using these data and methods, the team will model evacuation logistics for hurricanes in order to provide a holistic approach to characterizing, measuring, and analyzing uncertainty in various aspects of hurricane evacuation modeling, social networks, household decision-making, and stochastic traffic modeling.

Competition is intense for NSF funding and this is a prestigious award for NDSU, the Department of Emergency Management, and Dr. Ge. The project starts on 11/1/15.

*Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought.* —Albert Szent Gyorgyi



Dr. Jessica Jensen will be traveling to Manitoba, Canada next month for an accreditation of Brandon University's Applied Disaster and Emergency Studies program.



NDSU Emergency Management Faculty have been actively engaged in research and publication. Here are some examples of articles that have been recently accepted or published by department faculty:

Dr. Jessica Jensen, along John Carr (a graduate of the master's program) published two articles related to Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). "The Pre-Disaster Integration of CERT Team in Local Emergency Management Systems" was published in the January/February 2015 issue of the *Journal of Emergency Management*. "Explaining the Pre-Disaster Integration of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTS)" was published in the July 2015 issue of *Natural Hazards*.

Dr. Sarah Bundy has had an article entitled "Religious Congregations in Disaster Response" accepted for publication in the September/October edition of the *Journal of Emergency Management*. She also has had a second article, entitled "A Course in Disaster Mitigation," accepted by the same journal that is scheduled to be published later this year.

Dr. Gurt Ge, along with Dr. M.K. Lindell, Affiliate Professor from University of Washington, have had an article entitled "County Planners' Perceptions of Land Use Planning Tools for Environmental Hazard Mitigation: A Survey in the U.S. Pacific States" accepted for publication in *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*.

Dr. Jessica Jensen and doctoral student Steve Thompson have had an article entitled "The Incident Command System: A Literature Review" accepted for publication by *Disasters*.



Dr. Carol Cwiak has been accepted, and will participate in, the 2016 Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Emergency Management Executive

Academy. The Executive Academy features "a comprehensive and cutting-edge curriculum that supports the advancement of strategic and policy level executive leadership." The program is designed to hone "strategic leadership and critical thinking for senior executives involved with multi-jurisdictional, national, and international homeland security and emergency management policy development and decision-making responsibilities."

Dr. Carol Cwiak, Dr. Jessica Jensen, and Dr. Sarah Bundy all recently participated in FEMA Higher Education Program sponsored focus groups. Their participation represents the department's continued presence at and leadership in discussions involving the evolution of the emergency management discipline.

Dr. Cwiak was a member of an eight person focus group tasked with identifying next generation core competencies for emergency management professionals.

Dr. Jensen facilitated a ten person focus group, of which Dr. Bundy was a part, consisting of emergency management doctoral degree holders or those nearing completion of the doctoral degree. The purpose of the focus group was to assess the extent to which these individuals agree with the body of work that has been done related to the state of discipline and to reach agreement on what this individuals will do in common to advocate for the ideas they support the further development of the discipline.



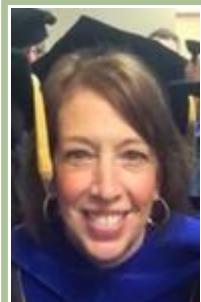
NDSU Emergency Management Faculty have been invited to speak at both practitioner-focused and research-focused conferences on a variety of important emergency management topics. Here are some examples of the presentations that have recently been delivered by department faculty:

Dr. Carol Cwiak delivered a presentation entitled "About North Dakota State University's Department of Emergency Management" at the North Dakota Emergency Management Association (NDEMA) Conference held in Bismarck, ND from September 1-3, 2015.

Dr. Jessica Jensen gave a presentation titled "(Mis)understanding Citizen Preparedness" at the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) Conference held in Breezy Point, MN from September 20-23, 2015.

Dr. Gurt Ge delivered a research presentation entitled "Black Gold or Fire Balls: A Risk Analysis of the Train Derailment and Oil Explosion Emergency in Casselton, ND" at the 17th Annual Emergency Management Higher Education Symposium held in Emmitsburg, MD from June 1-4, 2015.

*The starting point of all achievement is desire. –Napoleon Hill*



Dr. Carol Cwiak achieved tenure and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. Advancement through the promotion and tenure process comes as the result of six years of dedicated service to both the university and the emergency management community, quality teaching across a variety of courses, and demonstrated research abilities. Congratulations to Dr. Cwiak on reaching this milestone in your academic career!

# STUDENT BRIEFINGS

The Advanced Business Continuity (ABC) class students are conducting a semester-long project with the Moorhead Area Public Schools to assist the school district in thinking about and planning for continuity issues. Through this project, students will not only advance and apply their business continuity knowledge, but also have the opportunity to practice skills related to engaging and collaborating with stakeholders, facilitating meetings, managing projects, and communicating internally and externally. ABC students include Brittany Bleich, Dalton Herding, Thomas Houle, Jacob Jones, and Katherine Mortenson.



Five students within the Department of Emergency Management received scholarships to attend the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) Conference held in

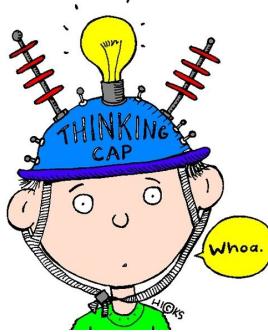


Breezy Point, MN from September 20-23, 2015. Students were able to network with emergency management professionals from around Minnesota and participate in both general and breakout sessions on current topics of interest. Scholarship recipients included: Katherine Mortenson, James Sink, Adam Gibson, James Hyde, and Davin Brown.

Katherine Mortenson, along with Dr. Carol Cwiak, traveled to Toronto, Canada to deliver a presentation entitled "What



is the Emergency Management Takeaway from North Dakota's New Normal" at the World Conference on Disaster Management held June 8-11, 2015. As an interesting side note, Katie and Dr. Cwiak were able to spend a little quality time in the Dallas-Ft. Worth airport as part of their journey because when one wants to get from North Dakota to Canada clearly the best way to go is through Texas!



Doctoral students Steve Thompson and Emmanuel Nojang will be defending their respective dissertation projects before the end of the fall semester. And, master's student Breanna Koval will be defending her thesis as well.

Good luck to these graduate students as they enter into the home stretch of the degree process!



## CONGRATULATIONS

The Department of Emergency Management would like to extend its sincere congratulations to our December graduates! We wish you all the best as you move on to the next phase of life. Please keep in touch and let us know all of the good things you are doing in the world.

## Emergency Management Student Association (EMSA)

The Emergency Management Student Association (EMSA) is both a North Dakota State University student organization and a student chapter of the International Association of Emergency Managers. EMSA is first and foremost engaged in helping students grow in the field of emergency management. EMSA is a great way for students to further collegiality and shared EM interests.

EMSA dues, at \$20 a year (or \$10 a semester), allow for full membership in the organization and the opportunity to participate in sponsored travel activities, such as attendance at IAEM's Annual Conference (in Las Vegas in November 2015). Engaging in EMSA activities that involve outreach and service allows members to give back to the community while building their resumes. EMSA also provides leadership opportunities through officer positions and committee chair assignments.



Brittany Bleich and Katherine Mortenson accept the Bison Service Challenge Award on behalf of EMSA. The Bison Service Challenge is a friendly competition among campus groups to earn the most community service hours. EMSA completed the most service hours of any student organization on campus during the 2014-2015 academic year to earn the award for the student organization category. Great work!



### IAEM CONFERENCE

EMSA is sending five representatives to the International Association of Emergency Managers Conference in Las Vegas, NV from November 13-18, 2015. EMSA representatives include: Dalton Herding, James Sink, Katherine Mortenson, Brittany Bleich, and James Hyde.



#### EMSA Officers

**2015-2016**

- **President: Dalton Herding**
- **Vice President: Eric Moen**
- **Secretary: Sam Poferl**
- **Treasurer: Brittany Bleich**
- **CSO: Macy Nelson**
- **Grad Assistant: James Hyde**

**EMSA Meetings are every Monday at 1 pm in Minard 332.**

**Join if you are able!**

# STUDENT PROFILES



## MATTHEW VAN VOORHIS

*Year of study:* Junior

*Hometown:*

Bismarck, ND

*Interesting fact about me:*

"I am an Eagle Scout."

*What drew me to the EM major:* "What drew me to emergency management was the fact that I love to help people. Being able to take my expertise and put them forth in an effort to help my community, state, or country is something that I have always wanted."

*Favorite experience:* "My favorite experience at NDSU would be playing in the pep band for NDSU's first NCAA basketball tournament win against the University of Oklahoma. Being able to fly to Spokane, Washington, and watch the Bison win against a top tier basketball program was an experience I will never forget. Many people spend thousands of dollars to attend this national tournament, and being able to be a part of that was truly special."

*What I hope to do with my degree:* "I hope to be able to make a difference and to help people. No matter where or how, I hope to travel and be able to be hands on during disasters."

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## MACY NELSON

*Year of study:* Senior

*Hometown:*

Arthur, ND

*Interesting fact about me:*

"I am on the NDSU Marksmanship club and am a national champion. Last year at nationals me and two other students won the women's air pistol match bringing home the gold!"

*What drew me to the EM major:* "When I came to NDSU I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. Someone told me about the EMGT program so I took the introduction class and was hooked."

*Favorite experience:* "I have so many good experiences at NDSU but the one that stands out the most is traveling with the marksmanship club down to nationals."

*What I hope to do with my degree:* "I'm not 100% sure at this point but I want to stay in the area."

Take the attitude of a student, never be too big to ask questions, never know too much to learn something new. –Og Mandino

# STUDENT PROFILES



## BRITTANY BLEICH

*Year of study:* Senior, graduating December 2015

*Hometown:*  
Beaver Dam, WI

*Interesting fact about me:*

"I was born at 4:52am and my hospital room number was 452."

*What drew me to the EM major:* "The preparedness and planning aspects drew me to emergency management. I have always been a list maker and liking to be prepared for everything and emergency management just fit. I also have a passion for helping people which I can do through all phases of emergency management ."

*Favorite experience:* "ESPN Game Day last year. My dad and brother came up from Wisconsin and drove through the night to attend. On their way, they got pulled over in both Wisconsin and Minnesota but were told to drive safe, enjoy the day, and cheer on the Bison for them."

*What I hope to do with my degree:* "I hope to pursue a career in healthcare emergency management. This past summer I was an intern at UW-Madison Hospitals and Clinics which solidified my desire to work at a hospital and help the population within it."

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## TANNER LEE

*Year of study:* Junior

*Hometown:*  
Fargo, ND

*Interesting fact about me:*

"I grew up on 12th Avenue just a few blocks off of campus. My transition to NDSU was seamless."

*What drew me to the EM major:* "I originally wanted to be a fire fighter, but as I wanted something other than a career specific fire science degree. The school that was several blocks from my house turned out to be one of the few schools in the world that offer an emergency management degree. It was a match made in heaven."

*Favorite experience:* "The great thing about the teachers at NDSU, especially in this department, is that they don't require a textbook answer to everything. I have turned in several John Cena themed assignments that I have gotten A's on. Doing John Cena's entrance while giving a speech about how the leadership Cena displays can be an inspiration for both myself and my classmates was a favorite."

*What I hope to do with my degree:* "I haven't really decided yet. Hopefully something cooler than what all the people that attend my high school reunions will be doing though."

# STUDENT PROFILES



Laurence Chauvet (left) and Sam Montano (right) both completed their master's degrees in Emergency Management at NDSU and have returned to complete their doctoral studies.

## Laurence Chauvet, Ph.D. Student

*What made me decide to return to NDSU for my Ph.D.:*  
“I decided to come back to NDSU for my Ph.D. for two reasons: I still had burning questions that I needed to explore after leaving NDSU and becoming an emergency management professional, and I knew that NDSU was the only place that had a comprehensive face-to-face program that met my needs. The faculty and graduate students in the program had become a second family and after two years away; the decision to come back and finish what I had started with my colleagues was a no brainer.”

*What I plan to focus my studies on:*

“My studies are going to continue to focus on the issue of sustainability in emergency management but in an area that I have not yet explored. I’m intrigued by the exportation of the sustainability concept into developing countries recovering from disasters. I’m particularly interested in the impact of mitigation and resilience building activities as designed by extra-community actors on the local community and its recovery.”

*What I hope to do with my degree:*

“I hope my degree gives me a better understanding of emergency management as a practice and opens up opportunities to challenge myself in the domestically in my field but also allows me to make contributions to the field internationally.”

*Interesting fact about me:* “If it’s neon bright and/or reflective, I am 90% likely to buy it.”

## Samantha Montano, Ph.D. Student

*What made me decide to return to NDSU for my Ph.D.:*  
“I first became interested in emergency management when I lived in New Orleans post-Katrina. I was fascinated by the recovery process and wanted to go to graduate school to better understand how the recovery process unfolds. After completing my master’s at NDSU I became very dedicated to the development of emergency management as a discipline. NDSU is at the forefront of that mission so it was logical to return.”

*What I plan to focus my studies on:*

“I am interested in recovery, specifically the involvement of nonprofits, the development and lifespans of emergent recovery groups, and the role volunteers for these groups and organizations.”

*What I hope to do with my degree:*

“I hope to stay in academia, specifically teaching and continuing research in the area of recovery.”

*Interesting fact about me:* “I once won an award for designing the best pair of shoes in the state of Maine.”

*We are the creative force of our life, and through our own decisions rather than our conditions, if we carefully learn to do certain things, we can accomplish those goals. –Stephen Covey*

# FROM OUR ALUMNI



**Brittany Haugo**  
Emergency Management Assistant  
Fargo, ND

*EM positions held since graduation:*  
Emergency Management Assistant with Cass County and the City of Fargo

*One thing learned in the degree program that is being applied in practice:* “It’s a little challenging to choose one, but I would have to say that relationships are key. I fondly remember Dr. Cwiak (persistently) preaching that EMs need to build and maintain a large circle of professional relationships, and it is very true. You don’t need to become a social butterfly, but you will soon find that people are the best asset in the EM field. Creating relationships throughout all sectors will open you up to many resources you may not have otherwise known you had access to. Here in Cass County, we partner very closely with numerous organizations and neighboring governmental entities, and it has made what we do so much easier. It’s a good idea to make an effort to reach outside of your workplace, so you know you’ll have people in your corner when you need them.”

*What every student should do to prepare for a career in emergency management:* “Network, network, network! You can easily get involved in the disaster preparedness community right now while you’re still in school. Consider volunteering with the Red Cross, or give VOAD a call and see how you can help out. Don’t wait for a flood or until your internship credit shows up on your class list to start looking around for places to go and give a hand. The sooner you get yourself involved in the preparedness community, the easier it will be for you to find a fulfilling career post-graduation. Even if you are not sure if you’ll stay in the FM community, the experience gained will follow you anywhere, and you might start collecting excellent references once you start applying for jobs too. Another piece of advice – consider holding on to those EM textbooks rather than selling them back or online at the end of the semester. You never know if you’ll want to page through them again – they are amazing resources.”



**Seth Jones**  
Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coordinator  
Minneapolis, MN

*EM positions held since graduation:*  
Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coordinator at Hennepin County Medical Center  
Mission Continues Fellow/Disaster Program Specialist with the American Red Cross

*One thing learned in the degree program that is being applied in practice:* “Working in groups as a team was always emphasized in the EM Program, and that same type of work has transferred over to my current position. Emergency management cannot be done alone, take advantage of working with your classmates on class projects.”

*What every student should do to prepare for a career in emergency management:* “Make every attempt to enroll in as many EM courses as possible and take every course and assignment as serious as the last. Begin networking, EM is all about who you know. Be innovative, creative thought is necessary and will go a long way. Last but not least, get to know your professors.”

# IN BRIEF

**Professional organizations** are a great way to learn more about the emergency management field, network with those working in the profession, learn about training opportunities, and attend professional conferences.

Some organizations, such as the International Association of Emergency Managers, even afford the chance to serve in a student leadership role. Membership is typically reasonably priced for students. Below is information about the three professional organizations—one national and two state level—that students could join while at NDSU.

International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)

Student Membership: \$45/year

Registration information: <http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=join/online>

North Dakota Emergency Management Association (NDEMA)

Student Membership: \$5/year

Registration information: <http://www.ndema.org/membership/>

Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM)

Student Membership: \$25/year

Registration information: <http://amemminnesota.org/join-amem/>



The NDSU Emergency Management Department would like to take a moment to acknowledge the retirement of Dave Rogness, Cass County Emergency Manager. Dave has been a strong supporter of the program and of our students . Thanks for your support and we wish you the best in your retirement!

The Associate Emergency Manager Certificate (AEM) and the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) are increasingly becoming a requirement on many emergency management job descriptions. Employers are using the AEM and CEM as a means of ensuring that individuals are qualified for the job. As students graduating with a bachelors or graduate degree in emergency management, a AEM and CEM certificate may help set you apart from other applicants. In addition to paying a \$395 fee (for IAEM members; \$595 for non-IAEM members), here are the requirements for the AEM:

1. 100 contact hours in emergency management training and 100 hours in general manage training.
2. A comprehensive emergency management essay where real-life scenarios are provided and responses must demonstrate knowledge, skills and abilities.
3. A 100-question multiple choice examination.
4. Three professional references.



To obtain a CEM, there are additional requirements around emergency management experience (3 years full-time with actual disaster experience or substantive role in managing full scale exercises), education (a four-year degree), and contributions to the profession (such as professional membership, speaking, publishing articles, etc.).

Students can make substantive progress towards the AEM and CEM certifications during their time at NDSU. For more information, go to : <http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=certification/getting-started>.