

THE EM HUB

Department of Emergency Management Newsletter

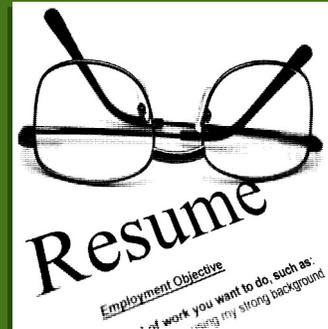
Fall 2016

Professional Development: A Never-ending Story

It can be tempting to think that school is enough. You earn your degree and that, in turn, earns you a job. And once you have that job, you simply show up and do it. Voila, success! Or not. While there may be some for whom the above strategy works, for most of us, getting a job and keeping a job (let alone progressing up the career ladder!) requires additional and recurring professional development.

College and university programs simply cannot provide the extensive range of learning experiences and skills necessary for graduates to become highly effective emergency management professionals. Both as students and as graduates, it is critical that you seek additional professional development opportunities to increase your knowledge and hone your skillsets. These opportunities may be formal processes such as conferences, seminars, workshops, or training. However, professional development opportunities may also be more informal in nature such as discussion among colleagues, independent reading and research, and observations of peers.

You are encouraged to start now! Look for opportunities to engage in some of the professional development opportunities listed above as a student. And continue to regularly seek those opportunities as you enter the workforce. Professional development should continue as long as you remain in the profession!



RESUME

Remember to look for the resume icon throughout this newsletter to help you identify opportunities to gain experience and training that can complement your degree.



In This Issue

- Advising Corner
- Faculty Doings
- Student Briefings
- EMSA Information
- Student Profiles
- From Our Alumni
- In Brief

ADVISING CORNER

EMGT Course Offerings-Spring 2017

EMGT 101: Emergencies, Disasters, and Catastrophes
EMGT 150: Homeland Security (Online)
EMGT 262: Disaster Mitigation
EMGT 263: Disaster Response
EMGT 291 Career and Professional Development
EMGT 410/610: Comprehensive EM Planning (1-day per week)
EMGT 430: Emergency Management Capstone (1-day per week)
EMGT 461/661: Business Continuity and Crisis Management
EMGT 445/645: Vulnerability and Functional Needs in EM (1-day per week)
EMGT 762: Mitigation Theory and Practice

*Meet with your
Academic Advisor
to make sure you
know your
destination and
are on the best
path to reach it!*



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.

Thinking About Minors

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences requires all students to have either a minor or two years of foreign language in order to complete degree requirements.

The foreign language option may be a good choice for a student interested in international emergency management. But typically, emergency management students select the option of completing a minor.

The selection of a minor can be a very effective way to increase your employability by expanding your knowledge base and skill sets in an area that compliments where you want to enter the broad profession of emergency management.

Recommended minors include: Business Administration, Communication, Community Development, Geography, Political Science, Construction Management, Economics, Criminal Justice, Sociology, and Hospitality and Tourism Management among others.

Thinking about where you want to go and what you want to do post-graduation can help you strategically pick a minor that can enhance your resume and set you apart from the stack.

First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do. -Epictetus



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.

Passion is the difference between having a job or having a career.

-Anonymous



Intern Spotlight: Alexis Larson

Where did you do your internship? National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA

What have been the highlights of your internship? “There were many highlights of my internship at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The Emergency & Continuity Group specifically was very welcoming and let me work on many projects such as Business Continuity Plans throughout the Lab, a functional full-scale active shooter drill in which LAPD and LAFD participated, and I also got to sit in on an Executive Table Top Exercise for a radiological chemical spill. Other highlights included getting to go on tours of the lab, seeing the Mars Curiosity Rover, getting to explore the Mars Yard, and walking around Mission Control.”

How did the NDSU coursework prepare you for your internship?

“The reason I was selected for my internship was because of my knowledge and experience with Business Continuity, however my coursework in Preparedness, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation helped me out a lot throughout my internship. There were many times I got to see the things I learned through my Emergency Management coursework applied in real life, and I was able to not only understand, but also participate in the conversation. “

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

“Be confident in yourself and your knowledge of Emergency Management, or whichever field your internship is in! Going into an internship with professionals can be very intimidating, but remember that they don't expect you to know everything right away and that it is a learning experience.”

What is next for you? “Now that my internship has ended. I have been applying for full time positions in the Emergency Management/Business Continuity field.”

FACULTY DOINGS

Dr. Sarah Bundy, assistant professor of emergency management, presented at the 3rd Emergency Management Theory and Research Workshop held on June 6th, 2016. Her presentation entitled "The Reinvigorating of a Conceptual Model of Community Recovery" won the Theory and Research Development Award. This award recognizes the scholar who best demonstrated how their work could/should influence future emergency management theory and/or research.



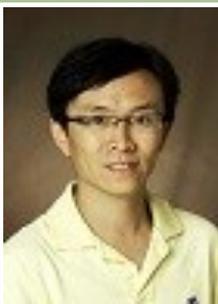
Dr. Carol Cwiak, associate professor of emergency management, graduated from FEMA's National Emergency Management Executive Academy at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD, after she completed the full curriculum that supports the advancement of the emergency management profession at strategic policy and executive leadership levels.

The Executive Academy provides the opportunity to work collaboratively, share smart practices, and participate in exercises with other senior leaders facing similar challenges. FEMA's National Emergency Management Executive Academy is for senior executives at the pinnacle of their careers.



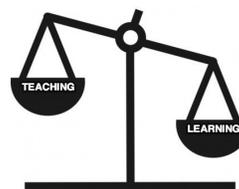
Dr. Jessica Jensen, associate professor of emergency management, developed and administered a survey for the FEMA Higher Education Program

regarding existing and future resource needs of emergency management education programs across the country.



Dr. Y. Gurt Ge, assistant professor of emergency management, and James Hyde, master's student of emergency management gave an oral presentation and a poster at the 2016 International Research Committee on Disasters

Researchers Meeting in Broomfield, Colorado on July 14th. The presentation was titled "Avoiding the 'Windshield-Wiper' Effect: A Meteorologist Survey of Hurricane Track Forecast Uncertainty". The study was funded by the Hazards SEES program of National Science Foundation.



Dr. Sarah Bundy, assistant professor of emergency management, participated in the first cohort of the Gateway-ND program offered at NDSU. Through

this program, she participated in workshops and ongoing faculty learning communities that highlighted strategies and tools for making courses more learner-focused and engaging, as well as improving student learning and outcomes. This program provided Dr. Bundy an opportunity to practice new teaching techniques to improve her courses.

Dr. Jessica Jensen, associate professor of emergency management, facilitated the first annual Theory Roundtable at the 2016 Natural Hazards Workshop. The roundtable was introduced at the workshop due to her suggestion to bring together hazards and disaster researchers with practitioners and emergency management educators to discuss the development of disaster theory. Jensen also facilitated a panel on the issue of information exchange between practitioners and academic. The session was heavily attended; participants came up with ideas on what it takes to create synergy. She is depicted here with the panelists.



Dr. Bundy has moved offices from Minard 428B6 into Minard 428C2. Contrary to rumor, she has **NOT** been fired!



Dr. Carol Cwiak, associate professor of emergency management, recently participated in a FEMA Higher Education

Program sponsored focus group tasked with determining what data should be collected to demonstrate the successes and challenges of higher education programs and develop a list of desired data points. Her participation represents the department's continued presence at, and leadership in, discussions involving the evolution of the emergency management discipline.

Dr. Y. Gurt Ge, assistant professor of emergency management, recently received acceptance of three refereed journal articles.

One manuscript that he coauthored with Jesse Saginor from Florida Atlantic University, entitled "Do Hurricanes Matter? A Case Study of the Residential Real Estate Market in Brunswick County, North Carolina", will be published in the *International Journal of Housing Markets and Analysis*.

Another article accepted by the *Journal of Risk Research* is titled "Public Reactions to the 2013 Chinese H7N9 Influenza Outbreak: Perceptions of Risk, Stakeholders, and Protective Actions". His coauthors include Jiuchang Wei and Fang Wang at University of Science and Technology of China, Michael K. Lindell at University of Washington, Shih-Kai Huang at Jacksonville State University, and Hung-Lung Wei at John Jay College of Criminal Justice CUNY.

In addition, Ge has received the acceptance of a peer-reviewed article (coauthored with Peng Cheng and Jiuchang Wei from University of Science and Technology of China) entitled "Who should be blamed? The attribution of responsibility for a city smog event in China" by *Natural Hazards*.



Dr. Jessica Jensen, associate professor of emergency management, facilitated a

discussion at the International Association of Emergency Managers Conference (IAEM) entitled "EM Identity and Return on Investment: A Dialogue to Address an Urgent Need." In this session, participants discussed the following questions: How can we best describe EM so it is understood by key stakeholders; and, what evidence might we utilize to demonstrate return on investment to key stakeholders? The session was completely full and participants continued this important discussion well into the break between sessions as well as into evening conversations.

STUDENT BRIEFINGS

For National Preparedness Month, Cass Fargo Emergency Management challenged the community to post selfies at #FargoCassSafetySelfie showing the actions they were taking to prepare for hazard events. Prizes were given to the best selfies for both individual and organizational entries. Three NDSU Emergency Management students took home prizes in the individual category. Congratulations to Alec Bruns, McKinley Theobald, and Justin Koch for their victories and thanks for representing the department so well!



Graduate students Amanda Savitt and James Hyde are currently working as research assistants on a major research grant with Dr. Ge .

The grant provides funding for the study of the role of uncertainty in hurricane evacuation decision-making. In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, Savitt is sending out a mail survey to about 5,000 affected households to discover how they made evacuation decisions and what factors were in play. Hyde is similarly working on a survey, but his is focused on meteorologists and how uncertainty factors in to their decisions.

Alec Bruns, McKinley Theobald, Joseph Heinen, and Chelsea Speed received



scholarships to attend the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) Conference held in Breezy Point, MN from September 18-21, 2016. 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.



The Advanced Business Continuity (ABC) class students are conducting a semester-long project with the City of West Fargo to assist the city in thinking about and planning for continuity of operations issues. Through this project, students will not only advance

and apply their 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 MacKenzie McCormick, Davin Henrik, Jacob Moll, Abby Nesbit, Samantha Pofel, Alec Bruns, and Matthew Van Voorhis.



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. 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.



Ten students from EMSA's event management team partnered with NDSU's Homecoming Parade team to provide perimeter support that helped keep everyone in the parade and along the route safe. The team was highly praised by parade organizers for its efforts!

Come and join us!

Come join EMSA during our regularly scheduled meeting times of Thursdays at 2 p.m at the NDSU library.

We have upcoming activities in volunteering, speaker series, networking, and much more! For more information contact EMSA President Alec Bruns at alec.bruns@ndsu.edu or (952) 913-2326.



The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined efforts of each individual. —Vince Lombardi

EMSA Officers for the 2016-2017 Academic Year are Alec Bruns (President), Hannah Olson (Secretary), and Jay Moll (CSO Representative). Elections are pending for Vice President and Treasurer. Interested in a position? Let Alec know. Stay tuned for election info!



IAEM CONFERENCE

Three EMSA members were proud to represent the Association and NDSU at the 64th Annual International Association of Emergency Managers Conference in Savannah, GA. Although Hurricane Matthew threatened the region less than a week prior to the conference, the only difficulty encountered was a mixed up hotel reservation. Davin Henrik, McKinley Theobald, and Alec Bruns were able to join EMGT professionals, consultants, and students from 16 countries around the world in discussing current EM topics, gaining insight on past experiences, and engaging in the all important NETWORKING! Reach out to any of these students to learn more about the conference and their recommendations for attending future ones.



Alec Bruns was one of four students selected internationally to receive a scholarship from IAEM for this academic year.

This prestigious scholarship has been created by IAEM to assist the profession by developing students with the intellect and technical skills to advance emergency management. Congratulations, Alec!

STUDENT PROFILES



MACKENZIE MCCORMICK

Year of study: Senior

Hometown:
Fargo, ND

Interesting fact about me:
“I am an NDSU cheerleader.”

What drew me to the EM major: “Carol talked to our university studies class and I had always liked watching the storm chaser shows on the Weather Channel so I thought I would give it a try!”

Favorite experience: “Traveling to away football games and spending time with my emergency management friends.”

What I hope to do with my degree: “I hope to work in business continuity and reputation management.”

If you want to know your past,
look at your present conditions.
If you want to know your future,
look into your present actions
—Chinese Proverb



AUSTIN RITCH

Year of study: Ph.D. Student

What made you decide to come to NDSU?
“I was referred here by my mentor, Dr. Tom Johnson of Western Carolina University’s emergency management department. In addition, the NDSU program is the very best in the nation for applied and theoretical emergency management. Go Bison!”

What is the focus of your studies?
“I am interested in the social aspects of emergency management and the demographics that are reflected, mechanical/structural engineering and the new materials/methods of mitigation, and international relations and emergency management.”

What do you hope to do with your degree?
“I hope to become a teacher/professor of emergency management. I enjoy teaching and getting new perspectives from other people that broaden my own perception of effective emergency management.”

What is an interesting fact about you?
“I have performed in both the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade and the New Year’s Day Tournament of Roses as a musician.”

STUDENT PROFILES

Amanda Savitt

Year of study: Ph.D. Student

What made you decide to come to NDSU?

“I got my masters degree in emergency management at NDSU, and the quality of the education I received, my relationships with my professors and other students, and the flexibility I was afforded to explore topics that interested me all made the decision to come back for my PhD an easy one. There simply isn't a better PhD program, or a better PhD program for me, at any other school.



What is the focus of your studies?

“I probably have too many research interests, but I'm trying to focus my work on topics relevant to climate change adaptation. I've also done, and plan to continue to do, some research on hazard-related decision making, disaster insurance, and functional needs in disasters.

What do you hope to do with your degree?

“Ultimately, I'd like to run my own research center focused on climate adaptation issues. Learning how to conduct and evaluate research, working with our Center for Emergency Management Education and Research, and having the guidance of professors with a variety of different skills and interests have already helped me develop the skills I'll need to realize my professional ambitions.

What is an interesting fact about you?

“My sister and I run a Tumblr about Food Network personality Ina Garten -- inagarten-official.tumblr.com, check us out!”



FROM OUR ALUMNI

Dustin Jensen, Public Safety Manager at the West Acres Shopping Center in Fargo, ND recently gave an interview for a blog hosted by Omnilert (a safety communications company). Dustin highlighted the contribution of NDSU's Emergency Management program in helping him get to where he is today. In his words, “My interest in public safety stemmed from my experience in law enforcement within the military. I was a proud member of the Air Force Security Forces for a number of years. It truly fits who I am to try to provide safety and security for those around me. When I separated from the military I knew I wanted to go to college, so I looked for a degree that might be related to but outside of law enforcement. I had done that and I wanted to do a little more. Fortunately, I came across the Emergency Management program offered at North Dakota State University. I ran into that program and it floored me. I thought, ‘wow, this is exactly what I want to do and what I want to be.’ I received my B.S. degree in Emergency Management from the NDSU four year program. It is a great program and I can't speak more highly of how well it prepared me for my career path.” Thanks for the shout out, Dustin!

FROM OUR ALUMNI

Kyle Mason

Mitigation Specialist
NMDHSEM, Preparedness Bureau

EM positions held since graduation:

“Since graduating in May 2015 I had worked with Sanford Health’s Security Department implementing response based plans and dispatching security. At the beginning of October I started with the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management as a Mitigation Specialist. “



One thing learned in the degree program that is being applied in practice:

“Not necessarily a specific topic, but the mindset gained from all of the course work has been invaluable. Being able to problem solve quickly and effectively is something I believe is a necessity in our field.”

What every student should do to prepare for a career in emergency management:

“Start applying early and often (governmentjobs.com is my go to site). Make sure your LinkedIn is filled out and looks great. Talk to the Career Center. I went in for 3 or 4 mock interviews and sent them all of my applications and cover letters for their review. The help they gave me is the reason I am in my current position.

During my final semester with NDSU. I had set up meetings with local emergency management staff to network and learn their progression to the position they are currently holding. The majority aren’t going to be applicable to you, but the conversation is invaluable in its own. I didn’t do this to have a leg up when applying for job but rather to get to know how state, county, and state programs differed in order to know where I would fit best.

Know that every department is run differently. From my consulting position I had prior to graduating, the healthcare field, to the state position I have now, every single one has managed employees and projects differently, adaptability is key.”



Throwback Photo: EM students manage the many volunteers checking in at the Moorhead site of ABC’s Extreme Makeover: Home Edition way back in October of 2010. Do you recognize any of these students? (Hint: One should be fairly obvious to any of you who have taken EMGT 101 in recent semesters!). All of these students are now out in the working world. Alumni are a great resource for expanding your professional network! Through LinkedIn, it is easy to locate alumni and begin to make connections. Once on LinkedIn, go to the “My Network” tab and select “Find Alumni.” You can use the search function to narrow it down.

IN BRIEF

Emergency Management Theory and Research Initiative

Dr. Jensen, associate professor of emergency management, has started an Emergency Management Theory and Research Initiative group. The Initiative is a group of people in practice and academic roles who are interested in EM theory and research.

As a member, you will have the opportunity to determine topics for presentation and discussion, connect with people who may have similar interests to work on small group efforts (e.g., articles, conference presentations, grant applications), and receive information about upcoming theory and research events and how to attend them.

There is no financial cost associated with membership. And, anyone will be welcomed to participate in events--member or not. To date, over 100 people have joined the group. Join the group at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EMTheoryandResearch>.

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. —Albert Einstein



Reminder that election day is coming up on Tuesday, November 8th. The political context is certainly an important consideration in emergency management (among many other areas!). Make sure your voice is heard!

Program Learning Objectives

Did you know that Department of Emergency Management has specific learning objectives that students should be able to meet by the time they graduate from NDSU with a major in emergency management? By graduation, our majors should be able to do the following:

1. Describe the evolution of emergency management .
2. Analyze the contexts in which emergency management must occur.
3. Evaluate the opportunities and challenges for emergency management endeavors given the contexts in which emergency management must occur.
4. Demonstrate understanding of threshold concepts of emergency management.
5. Articulate how these threshold concepts might shape and/or be applied in emergency management endeavors.
6. Assess the way emergency management endeavors have been/are undertaken on the basis of empirical evidence.
7. Formulate approaches to emergency management endeavors on the basis of empirical evidence.
8. Evaluate the significance of the skills, training, and experience pursued while seeking an emergency management degree in the context of other program learning objectives.

What opportunities have you had in the program to work towards these objectives? How are you progressing? You are encouraged to regularly reflect on your growth and development in the program!

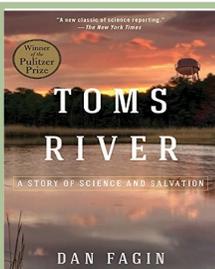
IN BRIEF

FEMA Independent Study Courses

A number of free courses are available online through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute at: <https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx>. These courses cover a range of emergency management topics including both introductory and more in-depth material.

The courses are self-regulated, so you can take them when you have free time, and you can start, stop, and go back as you please. For every course you must take a test, fill in a "bubble sheet" online, and click send. Within minutes to hours, but sometimes days, you will have a link sent to you by email for a completion certificate (assuming of course that you pass!).

These courses are not a substitute for what is taught in the classroom, but they are respected in the field and leave you better prepared to enter the workforce when you graduate. For those of you with less work experience, these course can serve as an extremely easy resume builder. And as you start to figure out where you want to enter the profession, these courses can bolster your overall resume, but give you a boost for a particular path or position. Plus, you may learn something!



Need a good read? Each newsletter will feature a book of interest. Toms River recounts a 60-year saga of rampant pollution and inadequate oversight by large chemical companies that led to significant health and environmental impacts in a sleepy NJ town. Interesting read if you have an interest in environmental events and malfeasance!

GUEST SPEAKERS

Speakers Enhance Our Understanding

Our program has been fortunate to have a variety of guest speakers come and engage in our classrooms. For example, last semester, Kathleen Donahue, Justin Messner, and Gary Simmons from North Dakota Department of Emergency Services came and spoke in the mitigation class about the state role in mitigation projects. And this semester, Greg Santa Maria, Emergency Manager for Sanford Health, spoke with the students in response class while Kevin Reed, Deputy Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is coming to speak with students in our homeland security and disaster recovery courses in November.

We very much appreciate the contribution these, and other professionals, have made to the development of our students by taking the time from their schedules to share their knowledge and insights with our students and help them see the connections between practice and what they are learning in the classroom. As a department, we highly value these relationships with our community partners!

In the past, the department has organized different speaker series events outside of the classroom on topics of interest. If you have ideas for a future speaker series, please contact Dr. Bundy.