

# THE EM HUB

Department of Emergency Management Newsletter

Spring 2016

## Responsibility: A Key to Success

Success expert Jack Canfield notes in his 2010 bestseller *The Success Principles: How to Get from Where You Are to Where You Want to Be* that “one of the most pervasive myths in American culture today is that we are *entitled* to a great life—that somehow, somewhere, someone (certainly not us) is responsible for filling our lives with continual happiness, exciting career options, nurturing family time, and blissful personal relationships simply because we exist. But the real truth is that there is only one person responsible for the life you live. That person is *you*.”

Canfield goes on to encourage readers to change their responses to events, to stop blaming and complaining, and to take complete responsibility for what happens to them in life. He notes that this idea of responsibility is very simple, but one that can be exceptionally hard to implement. Taking time to reflect on the thoughts we think, the actions we take, and the images we visualize can be a first step towards recognizing where we fail to take responsibility. And finding ways to make changes—changing negative thoughts to positive ones or poor habits to good habits, etc.—can move us forward towards being 100% responsible for our lives and creating the future we want for ourselves.



## 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.



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- Advising Corner
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# ADVISING CORNER

## EMGT Course Offerings-Fall 2016

EMGT 101: Emergencies, Disasters, and Catastrophes  
EMGT 261: Disaster Preparedness  
EMGT 264: Disaster Recovery  
EMGT 414/614: Spatial Analysis in Emergency Management  
EMGT 425/625: International Emergency Management  
EMGT 435/635: Issues in Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
EMGT 491: Advanced Business Continuity  
EMGT 720: Emergency Management Theory  
EMGT 763: Response Theory and Practice



## 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.

### Selective Admissions Reminder

The emergency management major has a selective admissions process. To be admitted to the emergency management, you must:

- ⇒ Earn a grade of “B” or better in EMGT 101 or have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in all EMGT courses taken.
- ⇒ Complete a minimum of 12 credit hours at NDSU upon application.
- ⇒ Achieve a minimum GPA of 2.50 in all coursework and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all EMGT courses at the time of application.

To remain in good standing in the major, you must:

- ⇒ Earn a grade of “C” or better in EMGT courses. A “D” will result in the course not counting toward the major. One retake to remediate a “D” is allowed.
- ⇒ Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 in EMGT prefix courses.

This policy is applicable to all students who enter NDSU after May 30, 2014. See your advisor for any questions or concerns!

***Most people don't plan to fail. They fail to plan. -John L. Beckley***



## Conferences

Attending professional conferences is a great way to further your professional development while still in school. Here are three reasons (and there are many more!) you should think about attending a professional conference:

1. To meet people and for people to meet you! Conferences are a great way to begin to establish a professional network.
2. To learn about what is going on in the field and build your knowledge base.
3. To see links between what you are learning in the classroom and what is happening in practice.

Both North Dakota and Minnesota have state conference opportunities. There are also options to attend national conferences, such as the International Association of Emergency Manager's (IAEM) conference.

*If you really want something,  
you'll find a way. If you don't,  
you'll find an excuse.*

*-Jim Rohn*



## In His Own Words: Alec Bruns

The Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) hosted the 51st Annual Governor's HSEM Conference in Brooklyn Center, MN from February 9-11, 2016. From across the state, over 500 emergency managers and their public, non-profit, and private partners gathered to take part in training and attend a variety of panel discussions, keynote speakers, and breakout sessions. HSEM offered six scholarships for students to attend, awarding three of them to NDSU students Alec Bruns, McKinley Theobald, and Davin Henrik. This is what Alec has to say about the experience:

"The opportunity to attend the conference proved valuable to us as students as we were able to meet and speak with many different representatives from around the state, as well as begin building the relationships that are so important in this profession. Speaking with individuals such as HSEM Director Joe Kelly, Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) President Patrick Waletzko, and NDSU Emergency Management alumni provided insights into how best to enter the field as a new graduate.

The breakout sessions during the conference offered topics ranging from fundamentals of exercises, oil transportation issues, disability assistive technology, leadership vs followership, and childcare disaster assistance planning, just to name a few. These breakout sessions were led by practitioners with useful and unique perspectives that supplemented what NDSU teaches in many of its classes.

Should HSEM provide similar scholarship opportunities in the future to attend either their own Governor's Conference or the AMEM Fall Conference, I would encourage everyone to apply. Going to the conference was a new experience for me and I really appreciated the advice and insight everyone had for me. I also enjoyed representing NDSU while we were there because many people recognized the strength of the emergency management program offered here."

# FACULTY DOINGS

Dr. Sarah Bundy, assistant professor of emergency management, received a grant from the Gunlogson Endowment for a project entitled "Once the Water Recedes: Individual and Household Recovery Five Years after the Souris River Flood."



Dr. Bundy will travel to Minot to conduct in-depth interviews with individuals who were impacted by the Souris River flood in 2011 to learn more about the disaster recovery process and how that process had proceeded for the study's participants.

Data collected will be given to the NDSU Archives (with participant permission) in order to preserve the stories of those affected by the flood.

Dr. Y. Gurt Ge, assistant professor of emergency management, presented two collaborative studies on hurricane evacuation behaviors at the 2016 National Evacuation Conference in New Orleans, March 1-3.



The presentations were titled "Hurricane Evacuation Expectations in the Lower Rio Grande Valley" (first author) and "The Inequality of Hurricane Evacuation Logistics between Urban and Rural Residents" (second author). Based on a resident survey of urban areas and unincorporated colonias in the Lower Rio Grande Valley area in Texas, Ge and his colleagues examined residents' decision making on hurricane evacuation, evacuation logistics, information sources, expected evacuation impediments, expected hurricane impacts, perceived structural vulnerability, and demographic characteristics. The studies were funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Daniel J. Klenow, Ph.D., professor and head of the Department of Emergency Management gave presentations in Lincoln, Nebraska in January on the use of focus groups and qualitative interviews for studying community capitals and disaster recovery.

The presentations are a part of a project titled "Successful Disaster Recovery Using the Community Capitals Framework" funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development.



Klenow serves as a participating researcher on the interdisciplinary grant which includes faculty from Kansas State (Geography), South Dakota State (Sociology), University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Climatology, Drought Mitigation, Education), and Oklahoma State University (Sociology).

*Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.*

—Zora Neale Hurson

Dr. Jessica Jensen, assistant professor of emergency management, has been hired as a Co-Director of the newly re-named Center for



Emergency Management Education and Research. She has published a wide variety of articles on foundational topics in emergency management including a large number of publications and working papers on educational issues in the field.

Dr. Sarah Bundy, assistant professor of emergency management, recently attended the Winter Cycling Congress held in Minneapolis, MN from February 2-4, 2016.



Dr. Bundy was part of a panel discussion entitled "The Bike as a Disaster Relief Tool" that examined how bicycles and the cycling community could potentially be leveraged in all phases of disaster management.

She also was a participant in the first winter Disaster Relief Trial (DRT), an activity where cyclists take to the street to demonstrate the usefulness of bicycles in disasters. Participants were given a map, checkpoints, and a series of tasks to complete at various checkpoints such as ferrying supplies, communicating messages, and assessing infrastructure. Dr. Bundy completed the 17-mile circuit on a bike-share bicycle and was able to observe the event firsthand, as well as provide feedback to the organizers of the event.

*If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough. —Albert Einstein*



Dr. Daniel Klenow, professor and head of the Department of Emergency Management was selected by the State University of New York (SUNY) administration to serve as an external evaluator for a new major in Emergency Management,

Homeland Security and Cybersecurity within a new College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity on the SUNY-Albany campus. Evaluation activities included a detailed review of the degree proposal, as well as meeting with faculty and administrators on the Albany campus in early December.



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. Gurt Ge has co-authored an article entitled "A Comprehensive Study of Spreadsheet Applications on Mobile Devices". It was recently published in an SCI-indexed journal *Mobile Information Systems* (Vol 2016, Article 9816152). As a methodologist, Ge contributed to the design, conduct, and validation of the statistical analyses for a mobile device user survey comparing the usability of four popular mobile spreadsheet applications.

Dr. Sarah Bundy and Dr. Jessica Jensen have had an article entitled "The Role of the County-Elected Official in Disaster Recovery" recently published in *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy*.



Dr. Carol Cwiak, associate professor of emergency management, presented a workshop on soft skills to the College of Nursing and Health Professions at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

The workshop, titled "Integrating Soft Skill Development into the Curriculum," occurred Jan. 18, 2016. Approximately 100 faculty attended, teaching in such areas as nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech, nutrition, social work, medical imaging, disaster preparedness and emergency management.

The session covered topics such as ways soft skills add value to the workplace, how to include soft skills in course offerings, and ways soft skills can be taught and evaluated.

# STUDENT BRIEFINGS

Students in EMGT 262: Mitigation, as well as program graduate students and faculty, took a 2.5 hour bus tour of Fargo's mitigation projects on Friday, January 29, 2016. City of Fargo Engineers April Walker and Nathan Boerboom acted as tour guides, explaining the various flood protection projects that had been proposed, are in progress, or have been completed throughout the city. Students had the chance to learn more about different types of flood mitigation, including the costs and benefits of varying types, as well as the challenges of implementing different projects.



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.

Doctoral students Laurence Chauvet and Samantha Montano participated in a FEMA Higher Education Program sponsored focus group that consisted of those nearing completion of the doctoral degree in emergency management.



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. The group was facilitated by Dr. Jessica Jensen.



Three students within the Department of Emergency Management received scholarships from the department to attend the Minnesota Governor's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference held in at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, MN from February 9-11, 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. Scholarship recipients included: Alec Bruns, McKinley Theobald, and Davin Henrik.

The moment you take responsibility for everything in your life is the moment that you can change anything in your life. —Hal Elrod.

Doctoral student Steve Thompson successfully defended his dissertation entitled, "Red River Flooding: Organizational Learning Through Repeated Events." Steve is set to become the twelfth student to earn a Ph.D. through the program. Congratulations Dr. Thompson!



## 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. 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.



# EMSA



Dr. Carol Cwiak was awarded the USA Student Chapter Advisor of the Year Award by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). This award recognizes the IAEM student chapter advisor who has gone above and beyond to promote the work of the student chapter and IAEM students as a whole. The award was presented to Dr. Cwiak at the 2015 IAEM Annual Conference held in Las Vegas from November 13-18, 2015.

### It's not all work and no play...

On Thursday, March 24th, 2016, students from EMSA got together at SkyZone for a little fun and fellowship. If you have any ideas for future club outings, either social or professional, please contact EMSA vice president Eric Moen.



## OFFICER ELECTIONS

EMSA officer nominations and elections will occur in April. Stay tuned for exact dates! Students interested in learning more about the responsibilities each position entails are encouraged to speak with current EMSA president Dalton Herding or vice president Eric Moen.

You can find EMSA on Facebook at NDSU EMSA. If you have not taken the time to check out EMSA yet, come to the next meeting and learn more. Contact Dalton Herding at [dalton.herding@ndsu](mailto:dalton.herding@ndsu) for more details.

# STUDENT PROFILES



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## DAVIN HENRIK

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*Year of study:* Junior

*Hometown:*  
Fargo, ND

*Interesting fact about me:*

"I teach mixology classes at my job on Sundays. Also, my wife and I are expecting a baby girl at the end of May!"

*What drew me to the EM major:* "I enjoy strategy with a goal of ensuring safety and health for others. The EMGT program at NDSU challenges me to increase my knowledge in both areas. I thrive on challenge."

*Favorite experience:* "Realizing I am older than most of my general level course professors."

*What I hope to do with my degree:* "Bridging the gap between the need for running in to stop a fire and increasing awareness so the fire never starts in the first place."

Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing.  
—Pele



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## MCKINLEY THEOBALD

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*Year of study:* Junior

*Hometown:*  
Vancouver, WA

*Interesting fact about me:*

"I have been to exactly half of all states in the US!"

*What drew me to the EM major:* "After my freshman year of college I took a year off in order to serve with AmeriCorps NCCC, a team-based community service organization for young adults. My team ended up spending a month in New York responding to Hurricane Sandy. During that time we worked with all sorts of organizations from the Red Cross to emergent groups, and I was fascinated by everything that went in to disaster recovery. After another two years in Washington I finally decided to transfer to NDSU to pursue it as a career."

*Favorite experience:* "My favorite emergency management related experience so far at NDSU has been attending the HSEM Governor's conference! It was a great learning experience and I enjoyed meeting people who are doing what I want to do."

*What I hope to do with my degree:* "I'm still learning a lot about Emergency Management and what directions I can take it in, but I like the idea of working at the state or federal level. As a Sociology minor I'm also very interested in the ways that Emergency Management interfaces with special populations, so I have thought about returning for graduate school some time in the future!"

# STUDENT PROFILES



## HANNAH OLSON

*Year of study:* Freshman

*Hometown:*

Fort Atkinson, WI

*Interesting fact about me:*

"I grew up in a military family and went to school in Alaska, Georgia, and Wisconsin."

*What drew me to the EM major:* "I was drawn to emergency management because I wanted to help people while working in a high speed environment and emerging career."

*Favorite experience:* "My favorite experience at NDSU so far would be participating in the Army ROTC program."

*What I hope to do with my degree:* "With my degree, I hope to become an intelligence officer in the Army."

From



to



## JUSTIN KOCH

*Year of study:* Junior

*Hometown:*

River Falls, WI

*Interesting fact about me:*

"I've been in the Air Force Reserve out of Minneapolis for 7 years, and I foster dogs with 4 Luv of Dog!"

*What drew me to the EM major:* "The prospect of helping people when times are the worst as well as hoping to make a difference in reducing (or eliminating) how bad it might be."

*Favorite experience:* "The sense of community within EM."

*What I hope to do with my degree:* "My ultimate goal is to either be a Regional Director for FEMA, or become an expert on animals in evacuations and start a non-profit."

# FROM OUR ALUMNI

## Andrew Kirking

Emergency Manager  
Pembina County, ND

### *EM positions held since graduation:*

“Since I graduated in December 2011, I was a private contractor down in Houston, TX for half a year. I moved back home and have been the emergency manager in Pembina County since April 2013 and in 2014 started doing part time contract work in and out of ND. In September 2015, I became regional operations section chief for Team Rubicon USA, and in January 2016 was promoted to North Dakota state administrator.”



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

“I feel my most valuable skill I took from NDSU was learning how to write, and how to write grants. For sure in ND, graduates will have to write a grant of some kind or their job will be affected by a grant in some way. There is an art to determining needs and goals and forming an argument to why you and your department need funding, and I feel that’s something that I learned from every one of my classes”

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

“For those students preparing to enter a career, I would say never say no to an opportunity or to a training. Especially if they’re still students, go get experience and go get trained every chance you can. Getting a gig is 50% your skill set, 50% your experiences, and that means who you know. Once you get the job, never stop learning. Go get more training, even if it doesn’t explicitly pertain to you. This job is always changing, and we never know how it will change. All we can do is be as prepared as possible to change with it.”



Throwback Photo: EMSA members gathered on December 8th, 2011 for an end-of-the-semester social gathering. All of these students are now out in the working world! Do you know any of these alumni? Alumni are a great resource for expanding your professional network.



**Editors note:** For those of you who have not heard of Team Rubicon referenced above, it is a non-profit that partners military veterans with first responders, medical professionals, and others to help provide disaster relief both domestically and internationally. If you are a military veteran, or if you have applicable skills as a first responder, emergency manager, or medical professional, you can volunteer for a Team Rubicon operation. It is a good way to potentially gain some experience while going to school. If interested, please talk to Dr. Bundy and she can put you in touch with Andrew.

# IN BRIEF



## IAEM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The International Association of Emergency Managers Scholarship Program provides funding through a competitive process to full-time students working on degrees in Emergency Management. Awardees are selected based on applications from undergraduate and graduate students. To be considered for a scholarship award, the application and all required materials must be completed and returned to IAEM no later than 11:59 pm EDT on June 1, 2016. Please go to the IAEM website for more details and to download the application materials (<http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=about/scholarships/intro&lvl=1>).



Dr. Cwiak wants all of you to get strong internships and good jobs in the emergency management and/or business continuity field. In order to help you with this task, she has created the below tool to assist you with conducting online job searches.

## Emergency Management and Business Continuity Job and Internship Search Terms

Note: If you are searching for an internship, be sure to add INTERN to your search!

Emergency  
Crisis  
Risk  
Business  
Continuity  
Contingency  
Enterprise  
Disaster  
Safety  
Security  
Hazard



Management  
Planning  
Preparedness  
Operations  
Continuity  
Contingency  
Training  
Exercise

Other Terms to  
Potentially Add:  
  
Mitigation  
Recovery  
Logistics  
Volunteer  
Humanitarian  
Relief  
Policy  
Coordination  
GIS

# IN BRIEF



## ICS TRAINING

The City of Fargo will be hosting ICS 300 & 400 training in May 2016. ICS 300 will be offered May 2nd-4th and ICS 400 will be offered on May 25th and 26th. All training will be held at the Public Safety Building in Fargo.

In order to attend these trainings, you must have completed NIMS 700, ICS 100, and ICS 200 (all online).

To register for these trainings, please contact Amanda Johnson at [JohnsonA@casscountynynd.gov](mailto:JohnsonA@casscountynynd.gov).



The world's larger rubber duck will be in Duluth from August 18th-21st, 2016. This is a great reminder to "get your ducks in a row." For all questions on rubber ducks, please see Dr. Cwiak.



Need a good read? Each newsletter will feature a book of interest. Full Rip 9.0: The Next Big Earthquake in the Pacific Northwest takes a look at the mega-quake that has the potential to impact the Pacific coast, including urban centers Seattle, Portland, and Vancouver.

## Call for Papers:

The Natural Hazards Center has opened its annual Hazards and Disasters Student Paper Competition. Submissions are due May 1st, 2016.

Papers can present current research, literature reviews, theoretical arguments, or case studies. Papers must be double-spaced and less than 25 pages, including notes, references, and tables. Authors can be either undergraduate or graduate students during the 2015-2016 school year.

One undergraduate and one graduate winner will each receive \$100, a mention in the Natural Hazards Observer, publication on the Natural Hazards Center website, and an invitation to the Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Boulder, CO.

For more information and to submit a paper, please go to: <https://hazards.colorado.edu/awards/paper-competition>.



The fox says you should submit a paper!