

Spring 2008

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Emergency Management News

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2008

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Tech EAM students apply training during tornado relief

By: Sam Strasner

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (February 7, 2008)—All the lessons they have learned in the classroom became very real for students Wednesday in Arkansas Tech University's Emergency Administration and Management (EAM) program when they

participated in tornado damage relief efforts in Atkins.

Approximately 30 Tech EAM students reported to the Wilson J. Matthews Civic Center in Atkins at 6 a.m. Wednesday to help local authorities conduct preliminary damage assessments following a tornado that affected more than 40 homes and took the lives of at least 4 residents in the Pope County community Tuesday night.

"This was a real eye-opener," said Zach Harris, a senior Tech EAM student from Alma. "I didn't realize how extensive the damage was until I got to Atkins. If any good at all came from this situation, it was that Tech's EAM students received real-world experience in the field of disaster management. Nothing in the classroom can prepare someone for what we

saw and experienced today."

The students were functioning as part of the Pope County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Students in the field were under the direction of Tech EAM faculty member Beth Wilson Gray, who said several phases of the CERT members' training were utilized Wednesday.

"In our EAM courses, we cover many of the social issues involved with handling disasters, which include coping skills for emergency managers as well as those they serve," Gray said. "In our CERT training, we specifically cover the emotions associated with disaster response and recovery efforts for not only the victims and their families, but also the responders and volunteers."

The CERT received support

(Continued on page 3)

Governor Beebe and others studying the map of the tornado created by the EOC.



Earthquake conference attracts large, diverse audience

By: Sam Strasner

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (January 17, 2008)—Ninety individuals from a variety of organizations and backgrounds came to the Lake Point Conference Center at Arkansas Tech University on January 14 to share information and ideas about the earthquake threat posed by the

New Madrid Seismic Zone.

"The conference was a big success, both in the number of participants and the amount of good information that was shared," said Dr. Mary Ann Rollans, dean of the Arkansas Tech School of Community Education. "This event was a perfect example of how our

Emergency Administration and Management (EAM) Department can provide current technology, research, resources and outreach to help the public and private sectors better prepare for and respond to future disasters such as earthquakes."

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Do You have a Story or Want to Write a Letter to the Editor?

Send it to: eam@atu.edu

Featured Graduate.... Ben Jones, '06

On August 2006, Ben Jones graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Administration and Management. He was hired by FEMA as a Disaster Assistance Employee in October. After one month he was deployed to Alexandria, LA to work in the Planning Section of the Operations Branch.

Some of his duties in Planning include:

1. writing situation reports
2. incident action plans & disaster chronologies
3. constructing briefings
4. facilitating meetings
5. creating graphics and spreadsheets that track all aspects of disaster response and recovery efforts.

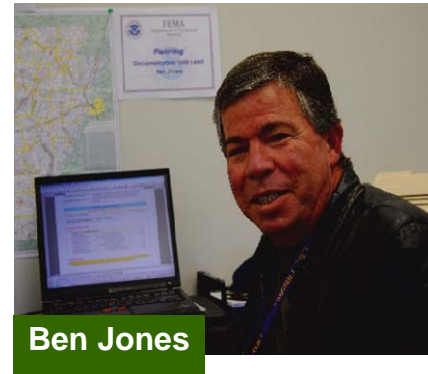
Then in 2007, Ben was working in the

following cities and states:

- Eagle Pass, TX (tornadoes)
- Denton, TX (winter storms)
- Midwest City & Oklahoma City, OK (winter storms & flooding)
- Baton Rouge, LA (evacuation planning)
- New Orleans, LA (tornadoes)
- and Pasadena, CA (wildfires).

Now to 2008, Ben was the first FEMA person to get to Little Rock on February 6, to work as FEMA/State Liaison.

When the tornado started north of Oklahoma and hit Atkins, Ben told his wife "I bet the phone rings in a



Ben Jones

bit" and it did.

It's obvious that Ben has been very busy since graduating from Tech. We want to commend him for all of his hard work and dedication to FEMA and the citizens of Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. When a disaster strikes it's reassuring to know that our students are trained and able to assist wherever the need arises.

Thanks to Ben and all of our graduates working in the field of Emergency Management!



Spring Semester has been a busy time for IEMSA.

In February, IEMSA had a successful fundraiser selling roses for Valentine's Day. They also had a social pool tournament at Beezer's Fine Billiards in Russellville. Everyone there had a ton of fun, Nikki McNown won the pool tournament. The prize was a weather radio.

March kicked off with the monthly meet-

ing and the organization selected their first speaker for the IEMSA Speaker Series. Mr. Robert Holeyfield is the Emergency Manager of Arkansas Nuclear One, a Tech Alumni and a member of the EAM Advisory Council. He spoke to the organization about his personal career in Emergency Management and he also discussed internship opportunities at Arkansas Nuclear One and what to expect. The students truly enjoyed his presentation and gained a lot of beneficial information.

Thanks again to Mr. Holeyfield!!



Nikki McNown winner of the pool tournament.

CERT News

Arkansas Tech Students and community members from the tri-county area participated in the CERT Spring Training which was held March 14-16. Over 40 volunteers received training in disaster preparedness and response. Members from local emergency response agencies instructed trainees in triage, fire suppression, and the Incident Command System. On Sunday, existing CERT members as well as new trainees



had the opportunity to apply skills learned through the training by participating in an exercise held in Dean Hall. During the exercise CERT operated under a Unified Command system in-

volving representatives from emergency agencies representing the city of Russellville and Pope County. **The members and leaders of CERT would like to extend gratitude to the following agencies for their participation in the training and exercise: Russellville Fire Department, Russellville Police Department, Pope County EMS, Arkansas Tech Office of Public Safety, Pope County Office of Emergency Management and FEMA.**

Tornado relief, cont'd.

(Continued from page 1)

from the Arkansas Tech Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located in Dean Hall on the Tech campus. It was manned by Ed Leachman, head of the Tech EAM Department; Jonathan Collins, technology specialist in the Tech EOC; and Dr. Michael Garner, a



Damage at Lucky Landing in Atkins, AR

Earthquake conf., cont'd.

(Continued from page 1)

Among the speakers were Michael Pawlowski and Gary Jones of FEMA, Scott Ausbrooks and Erica Doerr of the Arkansas Geological Survey, Jim Wilkinson of the Central United States Earthquake Consortium, Dr. Amr El-nashai of the Mid-America Earthquake Center, Dr. Theresa Jefferson of George Washington University, Ed Leachman of the Arkansas Tech EAM Department and David Maxwell, who serves as director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.

"This was a different audience than we have spoken to in the past," said Maxwell. "Arkansas Tech took the lead on bringing people in, and it has been a great opportunity to learn more about what resources are available.

"The New Madrid Seismic Zone produced some of the largest earthquakes ever felt on North American continent in 1811 and 1812, and they did a tremendous amount of damage," continued Maxwell. "The difference is there

member of the Tech EAM faculty.

"We have the technology to be able to support the operations by the CERT," Leachman said. "We have provided overview and detailed maps to meet their needs. This is the first time that the CERT has been activated for a true emergency situation, and we are proud of the efforts of our students during this difficult time for our neighbors."

Tech EOC representatives were able to use tools such as Google Maps to show the path the tornado took and then relay that information to CERT members as they surveyed the damage.

"We have discovered several areas that we can improve upon through this process today," said Garner. "It's one thing to do a table-top exercise and simulate an emergency, but it is altogether different and you face challenges you did not

weren't very many people here in 1811 and 1812. Now, due to the number of people in this area and the region's importance to the economy the effects of an earthquake (on the New Madrid Seismic Zone) would be felt all over the country."

The conference was sponsored by the Mid-America Earthquake Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Institute for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management at George Washington University.

The Arkansas Tech EAM Department hosted the conference which was originally limited to the first 50 registrants, but had to be expanded due to the amount of interest.

"First and foremost, we were extremely pleased over the attendance and participation," said Leachman, head of the Arkansas Tech EAM Department. "Our goal was to attract a representative cross section of business, industry, academia and government in Arkansas, and we achieved that.

"In addition, we assembled an outstanding group of subject matter experts on the science related to the

EM News

anticipate when it is real. One other benefit we will be able to take forward from this, is that we can examine the path that this storm took and research any commonality to past storms. This will help us identify any corridors and high-risk areas that might exist for the future."

In addition to Tech students assisting with the disaster recovery, many Tech alumni are involved in the process. Gray cited Justin Drittler (Pope Cnty.OEM), Tonya Roberts (Sebastian Cnty. OEM), Josh Johnston (Johnson Cnty. OEM), Ryan Burriss (American Red Cross) and Doug Deurr (Pope County EMS) as some of the Tech EAM alumni who are helping Atkins residents put their lives back together.

"This was a real eye-opener...I didn't realize how extensive the damage was..."
Zach Harris, current EAM student

New Madrid Seismic Zone and the planning, response and recovery activities necessary to respond to its associated threat," continued Leachman. "That group was very effective in raising the awareness and understanding of the attendees. I believe the conference attendees now have a good understanding of what the New Madrid Seismic Zone earthquake threat means to them, the planning actions they should initiate and the resources available to them at the federal, state and local levels."

Attendees at the Earthquake conference at Lake Point Conference Center



Hello from the Faculty & Staff...

Dr. Mary Ann Rollans,

Dean

"It has been quite gratifying for me to see the fabulous contributions by our students following the February tornado in the Atkins area. The media coverage provided excellent visibility for the demonstrated competencies of the current students in our program as well as the alumni who have responsible positions in emergency management careers. My sincere appreciation to the CERT members for their dedication and the time they devoted to the recovery effort following this tragic event."

Ed Leachman,

Visiting Assistant Professor

Dr. Michael Garner,

Visiting Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator
New Course:

"Severe Weather Forecasting for Emergency Managers EAM 4993 – 02 will be offered in the Fall 2008. This course will introduce EAM undergraduate and EMHS graduate students (EMHS 5993) to the latest forecasting principles, techniques and tools. Students will learn exact fundamentals and mechanics of weather forecasting using basic meteorological and graphical technology.

Current Projects:

"Mapping Storm Spotters" project will use geographic information system and satellite imagery to map viewsheds of Storm Spotters operating in Pope and Franklin Counties and compare these viewsheds with historical storm events such as wind, hail and tornado.

"Development of 'Geospatial Disaster Centers' in Arkansas EAST High Schools" project will design a summer camp for high school students that will enable them to develop disaster resource centers in their respective EAST high schools.



"Firewise Project" assesses rural homeowners risk to wildland fires using Geospatial mapping and analysis in corporation with the Arkansas Forestry Commission and the US Forest Service."

Elizabeth Gray,

Assistant Professor

"Wow! What a semester. As faculty advisor of IEMSA and CERT, I have had to fasten my seatbelt and hold on while the students have moved forward at full-speed. See what IEMSA President, Chris Brantley and CERT leader, Lindsey Holman have to tell you in this edition of the Newsletter. Hope to see you at the IEMSA meeting on 5/6, we will hold elections at this meeting!"

Richard Ihde,

Assistant Professor

"We've had a great year with many new opportunities available to our students. As the field expands I see those opportunities becoming even more numerous and exciting. The field of emergency management has developed a huge demand for educated professionals. It's wonderful to see Tech EAM graduates moving into the real world and literally becoming the backbone of such a rapidly changing profession."

Annette Stuckey,

Visiting Instructor

EAM students to Interview Local Human Resource Managers

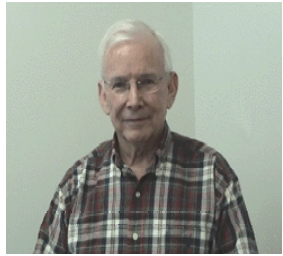
"As one of their assignments in the Applied Principles of Personnel Management course (EAM 3133), EAM students will conduct field-interviews with Human Resource Managers from local businesses and industry. Focus of the interviews will include such topics as recruitment, development, training, compensation and integration into the workforce. I believe this is an excellent opportunity for students to obtain education and training in the labor proficiencies they must be able to demonstrate when they enter the workforce."

Adjunct professors:

John Flynt, George Franks, Kay Goss, Bill Harmon, Jason Jackson and Greg McDaniel

Staff:

Jonathan Collins, Technology Specialist
Stephanie Sikes, Secretary
Lindi Criswell and Jamie Earls, Graduate Assistants



From the Desk of...

Mr. Ed Leachman...

Spring 2008 has been another action-packed term from the very first day. I'm really excited about what is happening in the program and it's due to students' drive to excel and a faculty dedicated making it happen. The fact that we continued to set enrollment records in both the undergraduate and the graduate programs for Spring 2008 is an excellent measure of the program's success and I want to thank everyone involved for their part in making this an excellent program.

The CERT's Atkins tornado relief effort in the first week of February is an indication of the value of this program to students, the community, and the state. Everyone who had a part in that response is to be commended for what they did and their professionalism.

The department co-hosted the New Madrid Seismic Zone Planning conference in January and the Arkansas River Valley Floodplain Manager's workshop in early March. Both of these conferences provided the emergency management community an insight into the value of the EAM program here at Tech and how our students, graduates, and resources can be utilized to address the issues associated with both of these areas of concern.

In March we received a 6-month, \$60,000 grant from the Arkansas Department of Health to assist in developing and conducting exercises to test and evaluate their Strategic National Stockpile Plan for Arkansas. Most of this grant is dedicated to graduate and undergraduate labor to plan the exercises, hold exercise briefings, facilitate set-up,

and serve as controllers and evaluators during the exercises.

Based on feedback from our graduates, the EAM Advisory Council, and professional leaders from industry, FEMA and DHS we continually evaluate our course offering versus new and evolving needs of the profession. In Fall 2008 we will be offering an undergraduate course in Severe Weather Forecasting for Emergency Managers. Based on the events of the last couple of years and specifically the last couple of months, we are convinced that this is an important knowledge area and are taking steps to ensure that the latest information and best practices are included in this course offering.

As we move toward the May graduation we will hold our Student Recognition Day on May 9. On this day we will recognize all of our 2007/2008 graduates and their achievements, other students who have made significant contributions, and finally the "Student of the Year". The prestigious Student of the Year selection is made each year by the EAM faculty from a list of nominations submitted by their peer EAM students. This year we have asked IEMSA to take a lead role in planning Student Recognition Day and from what I am hearing it's going to be an exciting event. Be there!

Ahead-of-the-Curve Careers

Excerpt from: Author, Marty Nemko (December 19, 2007) Ahead-of-the-Curve Careers. *U.S. News & World Report*. Retrieved February 26, 2008, from <http://www.usnews.com/articles/business/best-careers/2007/12/19/ahead-of-the-curve-careers.html>

victim to a major terrorist attack. Jobs in the antiterrorism field have already mushroomed since 9/11, but if another attack were to occur, even more jobs would surely be generated. Demand should particularly grow in such areas as computer security and Islamic-country intelligence, but their required skill sets are difficult to acquire. More accessible yet also likely to be in demand is Emergency Planning."

"**Terrorism.** The expert consensus is that the United States will again fall

Dalton Sawyer, EAM '02 & St. Baldrick's Foundation!

Dalton Sawyer, EAM '02,

recently participated in the St. Baldrick's head shaving on March 17th. Dalton raised over \$1000 for childhood cancer research. St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising event for childhood cancer research. Thousands of volunteers shave their heads in solidarity of children with cancer, while requesting donations of support from friends and family.

For more information and to see before and after photos, please visit: http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/shavee_info.html?ParticipantKey=2008|23440

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT EAM EXTERNSHIP???

Just follow these easy steps:

1. Visit this website: <http://eam.atu.edu/portfolio/>
2. Click on "EAM 3206 Externship Course Guide" and review it.
3. Click on "View Portfolios" and review the "Student, Joe" portfolio.
4. After reviewing the guide and portfolio, if you have any questions or need further information,

- please contact Mrs. Beth Gray at: egrays3@atu.edu
5. Attend an Externship information session (watch your Tech email for dates).

Wal-Mart donates to EAM students

By: Sam Strasner

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (March 19, 2008)—Arkansas Tech's chapter of the International Emergency Management Student Association (IEMSA) has received a \$1,500 donation from Wal-Mart.

The donation was made possible by Jason Jackson, director of emergency management for Wal-Mart in Bentonville. Jackson is a 2002 graduate of Tech's Emergency Administration and Management (EAM) program, a member of the Tech EAM Advisory Council and an adjunct teacher in the program.

"On behalf of my department, I want to let you know how much we appreciate the emergency management program and the dedication of the students of the Arkansas Tech IEMSA chapter," Jackson wrote in a letter accompanying the donation. "These students are the future of emergency

management and will make our country and communities safer and more resilient."

Jackson has been responsible for securing several donations to the Tech EAM program from Wal-Mart. The gifts have enabled Tech students to attend national conferences and other professional development activities.

"Wal-Mart has utilized our EAM students as interns and has seen the benefit of hiring graduates of our program, which is a compliment to the quality of our faculty and our curriculum," Dr. Mary Ann Rollans, dean of the Arkansas Tech School of Community Education and Professional Development, said. "We appreciate dedicated stakeholders like Mr. Jackson and Wal-Mart who see the value in having trained emergency management personnel in their companies."



"These students are the future of emergency management and will make our country and communities safer and more resilient."

*Jason Jackson,
EAM '02*

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Master of Science Graduate Program

CONGRATULATIONS
to those students who have completed
graduation requirements in the
2007/2008 academic year.

December 2007:
Bethany Sanderfur

May 2008:
Holly Bryant
Jamie Earls
Lara Russenberger

spring 2006. In the spring semester 2005, 19 students were admitted to the Graduate Program. By the spring semester 2007, the number of graduate students had increased to 34. To date, the graduate program has grown to 66 students with 23 new students applying this year. During the 2007/2008 academic year, 4 graduate students have fulfilled requirements for the EMHS graduate program with an additional 7 to 9 expected to graduate in December 2008. Oral defenses for Holly Bryant, Jamie Earls and Lara Russenberger will be held on Monday, April 14 at 9:00AM in Dean Hall, Room 205. Defenses are open to the public and we welcome your attendance. Details about the program can be found at <http://commed.atu.edu/EAM/graduate.htm> or contact Dr. Mike Garner at mgarner@atu.edu.

The EAM Department's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Master of Science (EMHS) Program began the approval process in May, 2005 and began offering courses in the



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SPRING 2008

<http://commed.atu.edu/EAM>

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
April 5	IEMSA Yard Sale Textbook Brokers
April 14	EMHS Oral Defenses Dean Hall 205
April 18	Last Day to Drop Courses with a 'W'
May 1	Emergency Management Forum for Higher Education and EAM Advisory Council Meeting
May 5 - 9	Finals Week
May 9	Student Recognition Reception
May 10	Graduation
May 16	IAEM 2008 Scholarship Applications Due
June 2	Summer I Classes Begin
To Be Announced	EAM Lecture Series Sponsored by IEMSA

Please Keep in Touch! Where are you?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

Employer Location: _____

Job Title: _____

Work Phone: _____

Date Employed: _____

Email updated information to: ssikesl@atu.edu

Or mail to: EAM, Dean Hall, Room #110, 402 West "O" Street Russellville, AR 72801-2222

