

NCEMSF NEWS

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Congratulations to BEMCo on their 20th anniversary!

Don't be left out! If your campus EMS group is celebrating an anniversary, please contact NCEMSF at info@ncemsf.org.

Message from the President

George J. Koenig, Jr., NCEMSF President

With the conference fading into a distant memory, we have started shifting our focus towards our other initiatives. We have started our search for the location and host of the 2004 conference, resumed our quest for corporate sponsors, and have started planning for our Collegiate EMS Week. We are also looking at improving the regional coordinator system and at developing ways of streamlining communications among our organizations.

This past month I had the opportunity to attend the Brandeis Emergency Medical Corps (BEMCo) 20th Anniversary Gala. I left this event in awe of the effort and organization put forth by BEMCo. The celebration incorporated a look into their past, their present, and their future. Their keynote address was given by their founder James Meisel, MD, '85. It was amazing to see a room filled with individuals of varying ages, some with their spouses and others their children, all with a common bond. They shared in the creating, promoting, and furthering an organization designed to respond to emergencies on campus.

It is my hope that their example of unity can be exemplified by other organizations. As I drove back to Philadelphia from Boston, I wondered how many organizations are capable of organizing such an event. It would be very difficult if not impossible to coordinate such an event with my collegiate EMS group. Part of the reason is the lack of data on our alumni and the lack of a central system for organization information. Most of the data needed for

such an event would need to be constructed from memory. I believe that there are many organizations in the same situation.

Over the past several years, we have been working to develop a solution to this problem. We have reconstructed our database to enable us to identify and maintain contact information on alumni. We have added a field for your graduation year and a field for your permanent/parents' address. It is our hope that in the future the data that we collect will enable you to contact your alumni should need to contact them.

Often times, our eagerness in seeing our senior members leave so that we may take charge and implement change erodes the development of communication among our alumni. However, the importance of maintaining this communication cannot be over emphasized. Should you ever encounter trouble, your alumni may be your only supporters. I left the Gala knowing that should BEMCo ever need the support of their alumni that they would be there ready to respond.

Best of luck with finals,

George Koenig, Jr.
President NCEMSF

"One Time, at the Conference..."

Anna Johnson, University of Vermont EMS

Eleven hours, eight states, six toll booths, five ambulances, four pit stops, two funeral processions, countless wrong turns, and one nasty traffic circle later, the worn out UVM crew that began their journey almost 600 miles north finally pulled into the Crystal Gateway Hotel around 5 on Friday evening.

As one of two NCEMSF conference veterans in our group of seven, I was both elated and nervous to be back again. "One time, at the conference...." is a phrase that my crew members had been hearing frequently the past couple weeks leading up to the weekend. Any worries I might have had about this year living up to the amazing experiences of New York last spring disappeared the moment I walked in the hotel -- I was greeted by a large NCEMSF sign and a blur of blue shirts with big white lettering on the backs.

After an (almost) smooth check-in I identified my priorities- 1) go swimming and 2) meet people from other squads. After accomplishing

the first, I changed into my uniform and tried to break into the sea of people milling around the first floor. This wasn't as hard as I expected, as many people were curious about my shirt that read "ambulance" backwards and stopped me to ask questions. And no, we don't wear them to mess with the intoxicated students!

To me, the conference is more than some lectures on medical skills and administrative topics (as interesting and helpful as they are). The real worth is just being able to talk with the other students and have someone relate to sleepless nights, lots of vomit, and high stress- and know that they love it as much as you. It was an empowering feeling to know that everyone there was involved in EMS in some way, whether as a First Responder looking to start EMS at their school or an established organization that can give training tips to some of the newer ones. We all shared the same pride, service, and commitment that makes me a proud member of my squad.

One of the moments that sticks with me the most is an image I have from the metro ride back from the club on Saturday night. Standing in the front of the car looking back at the people overflowing from the seats and aisles really made me appreciate the weekend even more- nobody there was just another "college student playing with their toys," but a dedicated and professional member of a team that provides an incredible service to their community.

Although the drive back home was less eventful (and shorter!), I spent much of the trip reflecting on the things I had learned and people I had met. While of course keeping the cardinal rule in mind, "what happens at the conference stays at the conference," I'm looking forward to sharing this year's stories with everyone back at school. "One time, in DC....."



Three Thousand Miles to a Conference

Abid Mogannam, Santa Clara University EMS

It all started Friday January 21 at 5:45 am in front of our Campus Safety Services office. The car was loaded with our suitcases, carry-on bags, and heavy jackets and we were tired. We had finished another hard week of school and, instead of sleeping in we were heading to the NCEMSF 10th annual conference.

Since we had never attended an NCEMSF conference before, we didn't know what to expect. We were excited that everything was coming together after a few years of pitching the conference to our administration. On the airplane, we discussed the important questions that we should ask in the next few

days. At the time, we were concerned with our university's parental notification protocols, the resources that other college EMS groups are provided with, and ways to streamline our operations. The rest of the time, the five of us were sleeping or studying for midterms.

After checking in to the hotel at around 7 pm, we went down to the registration table to find out what was going on. It seemed that the EMeRG crew was on top of things from the moment we arrived. They provided us with a ton of information that we reviewed during dinner. We knew that we had two busy days ahead of us.

Sure enough, there was non-stop activity, and we found it very productive. With five delegates from SCU EMS, we split up the itinerary and decided on who would attend each session. Seeing the seminar topics relevance to the development of SCU EMS made us feel good about traveling across the country for the conference.

SCU EMS had grown to its largest size this year, forty members strong. With our numbers up, we were looking for ways to develop our organization. The conference break out sessions inspired us to take SCU EMS in new directions. The break

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Professor Squirrel

Serious Campus EMS Advice from a Nut

Dear Professor Squirrel,

I am the President of a quick response squad with about 20 members. Almost half of our members are having academic problems and it is starting to look like EMS is the cause. I'm afraid our Academic Dean is starting to take notice and might take negative action against our squad. What can we do?

Signed,
Two-Oh and Go

Dear Two-Oh,

Ah yes, if I only had an acorn for every campus responder who started out in honors pre-med, then after five years of college and six changes of major was still was three credits short of a degree in underwater basket weaving – I would have made it through this winter fat and happy! (Will winter ever end?!)

Anyway, think of how your squad could create an environment that promotes and rewards academic performance along with EMS. That's what makes you different from the EMS company in town. You are based on academics!

Here are some things your squad might want to consider doing right away:

- Establish a study area somewhere – maybe in your squad room or some space that is yours. If you are limited on space, then designate and post study hours when your members can come in and not be distracted by TV or other activities.
- Find out if any of your members are taking the same classes so they can study in groups during your designated study hours. Post the groups so everyone knows when to come in and when to keep distractions away.
- Identify upperclassmen in your group who have already taken classes and can tutor other members.
- Start a file of class study notes for classes that are common among your members. I know of one campus squad that has an organic chemistry lab file that has been passed down among members for at least five years now.
- If you give rewards or incentives for volunteering, why not give bonuses for academic performance? Reward you member who tutor too.

Unfortunately I have seen many campus responders who let EMS take over their lives. Your first priority is to graduate! If academics are really a problems you might need to set some standards for active membership as well as some incentives. Don't try to implement strict

academic requirements all at once, but phase them in so that your members can adjust.

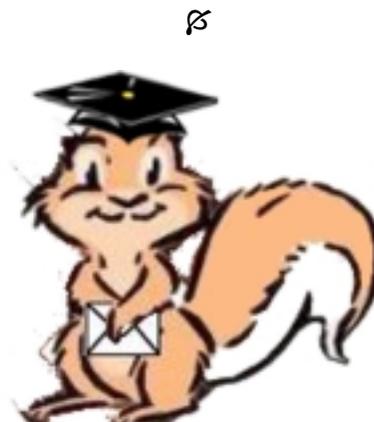
Here are some things you might phase in:

- Find out what grades other organizations, fraternities, and sports at your school require for participation. Then present this to your membership so that they can set academic requirements for your squad.
- Set an achievement level for active membership. For example, members must maintain a 2.0 to stay active.
- If this is already a problem and you need to phase this one in, then have a sign in log for study hours with a minimum requirement for probationary status until the minimum GPA is achieved.
- Set an achievement level for advancement. For example, members must have a 2.3 to be promoted to crew chief or to hold an office.

You may be concerned that you might lose some good members if you try to get tough. As you have already discovered, you might be losing them anyway! Remember you are a team and it takes teamwork! Create an environment where you study together, share study notes, and help each other out. The changes have to come from the members and they have to stick to them for them to be successful. The standards need to be in your bylaws or SOPs, but they also need to be in practice and part of your organizational culture if they are going to make a difference.

Have fun ... and graduate!
Professor Squirrel

Professor Squirrel has been hanging out on campus begging for food from students and keeping an eye on campus EMS for many years. Send your questions to the Professor at professor@ncemsf.org. The Professor will answer the best ones in the NCEMSF newsletter and on the NCEMSF General-L list. Your name and school will be kept confidential.



A Reunion of a Different Kind

David I. Bacall, NCEMSF Alumni Coordinator

'Tis the season for reunions. Obviously, I'm not talking about your typical high school class reunion. As spring fever breaks out on campuses nationwide, many of my old college friends are getting dressed up to reminisce about an undergraduate rite of passage: the Greek system! The ancient traditions of honor, inseparable friendship, and beer bongs once again reunite brothers and sisters of days past so that they may see what became of each other (and who became fat and bald).

While my friends' reunions occurred in fraternity houses or catering halls, my equivalent reunion was in a Marriott in Arlington, Virginia in late February. While no one was really that much fatter or balder, my annual pilgrimage to the NCEMSF conference has proved to extend some amazing friendships that I'm sure would be long forgotten otherwise.

No black tie was needed for my reunion. My attire was simple: blue shirt, blue pants, and a blue tie. While there is plenty to celebrate, this event is not as much about beer as it is about service. At this event nearly 400 current and former collegiate EMS providers gather to share ideas and learn new concepts in emergency care.

Fast forward to early April. Being Saturday, today I have put away my suit and tie from my mundane Monday to Friday job. Today I wear my blue duty pants and blue EMS shirt while working a per diem EMS shift in the City. After checking my equipment, I sit down to watch TV and see how much progress we have made in Iraq. Suddenly, I feel a stinging sensation and realize that I've just been hit in the face with a magazine. My partner has thrown the latest *Emergency Medical Services* issue right at me. "Isn't this your thing?" he asks. He is pointing to an article entitled "EMS U: College Campus EMS" by Raphael M. Barishansky. (Some of you may remember his lecture for us at Stony Brook last year.) My partner is right! It was my thing... and really, it still is!

EMS wasn't around in the 1800s like fraternities. As a matter of fact, EMS as we know it today wasn't around for most of the 20th century. Reading the "EMS U" article today reminded me how much of a contribution volunteers like many of you make every day. It pointed out how many of us go on to make a career out of medicine and/or emergency services. It is organizations like NCEMSF that provide the stepping-stones for tomorrow's leaders... today.

Only now, after being involved in the EMS world since 1993, have I truly realized the importance of keeping campus EMS members united long after they graduate. On the dawn of this new world that we are creating with our brothers and sisters overseas, it is imperative that we remain close, that we train the next generation of leaders, and that we inspire them to become (and remain) involved.

I know that right now most seniors are more concerned with finding gainful employment than making plans to attend the 2004 NCEMSF conference. However, I urge you to never lose touch with us, your EMS family. Make it a point to keep in touch with us and let us know where your travels take you. We want to know who you become tomorrow (and, yes, how fat and bald you get)! We want you to help us train next year's freshman class. We want you... to always remain a big part of NCEMSF. Do your part by dropping a line to alumni@ncemf.org and letting us know what you're up to!

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(3000 Miles, Continued from page 2)

out sessions had ideas sparking faster than we could write them down, and the consensus was that the sessions provided information that we could use to improve SCU EMS.

After our brains were fried, the fun started. We went into DC to see some of the national monuments. And given that Santa Clara's San Francisco-area climate means that we never see snow on campus, we took advantage of the white stuff on the ground until it was time to get ready for Club Daedalus.

That night we got to know the members of LMU EMS, the other California member of NCEMSF. Our programs are very alike, so meeting and talking with them was not only fun, it made our experience at the conference even better. Now, we're planning to get together.

By far, the best aspect of the conference was networking with other collegiate EMS groups. We met many people with different ideas and resources. These encounters had our group teeming with ideas on the way home. Even though most of us had exams the next day that we

should have been studying for, we couldn't help taking some time to share our ideas on the way home.

The conference continues to have a positive impact on our group. Since returning, we've met with our Dean of Student Life to tell her about what we learned and all of our ideas. I think that she was impressed and hopefully will send us back next year.

Until then, we've got tons of work to do.

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"The University population of 25,000 combined with the same rough population of the town of Newark, left UDECU responsible for the care of 50,000..."

About This Publication

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University of Delaware Emergency Care Unit: Serving More than Just Students

Eric MaryEa, NCEMSF Director-at-Large

The University of Delaware Emergency Care Unit has been in operation since 1976 and recently celebrated their 25th anniversary. This anniversary was not just significant in acknowledging the amount of time the organization has been in operation, but also in the degree of change that has transpired in numerous areas since its founding.

For the last 25 years, UDECU had traditionally been dispatched by the University of Delaware Police Department for all calls within their coverage area, which included buildings and residence halls located on campus only. On April 29th, 2001, after years in the making, UDECU would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the local fire company, Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder, which would change the role UDECU would play in the EMS arena forever.

Although the University of Delaware's ambulance, UD-1, was always considered a recognized BLS unit in the state of Delaware, their function in the county was minimal, restricted to attending to sick people inside of the University's borders. Once the Memorandum took effect in the fall of 2001, UDECU would be dispatched by two separate entities; the University Police via tone pagers, and Fireboard, the central county dispatch, via alphanumeric pagers. The Memorandum of Understanding made UD-1 "second due" to all calls within the Newark area, meaning that once six minutes transpired following the initial Aetna dispatch, the crew of UD-1 would be alerted and given the assignment. The University population of 25,000 combined with the same rough population of the town of Newark, left UDECU responsible for the

care of 50,000 citizens within a small radius, and this would be noticeable in the increase of total calls in the upcoming year. Between the fall of 1991 and the spring of 1997, UDECU had responded to 1969 calls on the University campus. From the fall of 1997 to the spring of 2002, however, the amount of calls jumped to 2314, an increase of eighteen percent. Moreover, the types of calls that the organization now handles are substantially more diverse. By the end of 2002, one third of the runs handled by UDECU were classified as off campus.

The Memorandum of Understanding between UDECU and Aetna has been an extremely beneficial tool for both companies. Being that the University only has one ambulance in operation, in the event that UD-1 is already committed to a separate incident, Aetna will act as "second due" to all locations on campus. Additionally, the ability to respond to emergencies in the town of Newark, such as fire scenes and motor vehicle collisions, allows what people are now beginning to identify as the up-and-coming leaders of the EMS and medical profession the opportunity to receive more hands-on experience. This field experience teaches members such things as how to interact with other units on mass casualty incidents and the importance of good teamwork, skills that might otherwise go untaught in the classroom. EMS is a constant learning institution, and to continue to strive to improve the quality of service, one should use all available educational resources to attain that goal. Aside from the obvious increase in call volume, the Memorandum also satisfies the educational aspect as well.



2004 Conference: Do you have what it takes?

NCEMSF is seeking proposals for the hosting of the 2004 conference. The conference will be held in the Winter / Spring of 2004. The annual conference is an opportunity for campus EMS providers to get together and share ideas; and most importantly highlight your school and EMS group to the nation. For more information or to submit a proposal visit the Conference 2004 Web site: <http://www.ncemsf.org/conf2004>

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: This is the last NCEMSF newsletter for the 2002-2003 academic year. Remember: membership in NCEMSF is based on the academic year, not the calendar year. Starting on June 1, renewals for membership for 2003-2004 will be available by visiting:

<http://www.ncemsf.org/membership/>

Is your address changing? Update your NCEMSF membership profile (postal addresses, e-mail, phone numbers) *at any time* by visiting:

<http://www.ncemsf.org/membership/update.ems>

Do you have Conference 2003 pictures you'd like to share? Send your digital pictures to conf2003pics@ncemsf.org. Or mail your prints (note if you'd like them returned) to:

Scott Savett
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Please include the photographer's name and subject of the photo.

