

# NCEMSF NEWS

Newsletter of the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation

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## Long-Lasting Impressions in EMS

Dr. Scott C. Savett, NCEMSF Vice President

Thanksgiving weekend this year was a time for reminiscing for me. I recounted memories of my past as I complied with the parental mandate to finally clean out the closet of my long-vacated childhood room. Papers from as far back as first grade had been stashed away in nondescript cardboard boxes piled one upon the other.

Despite twenty years passing between the time I originally did these assignments and stumbling upon them again, I clearly recalled some of them as if I had done them yesterday. Old composition books, spelling assignments, and elementary school art projects harkened to a simpler time in my life.

Even at the tender age of eight, I had made a career choice. I wanted to be a radiologist. My second choice was paramedic. A distant third choice was a CPA, just like my father. In a homework assignment I had carefully outlined the benefits and pitfalls of each of the three chosen professions. Everything I knew about my second choice (paramedic) came from a Cub Scout field trip to the local ambulance squad. I can clearly recall this visit. The paramedic who hosted us showed us all of the equipment he used to save lives including a defibrillator, endotracheal tubes, and a BVM -- I was enthralled.

Despite my initial fascination with the emergency medical service, its allure slowly faded. By the time I was eleven, the idea of being a career EMT or paramedic was just a distant memory, though my top career choice was still radiologist.

Fast-forward ten years to my freshman year at Ursinus College. On a whim I enrolled in an American Red Cross first aid course taught by two fellow Ursinus students. Once the course started, four of us in the class couldn't get enough. We were hungry for more training and eager to move on to the next big step: EMT.

The next semester we all enrolled in the EMT class taught twenty minutes away at the county community college. Two nights a week for an entire semester we soaked up all of the EMS knowledge that our instructor could provide. In that EMT class, the four of us were affectionately known as "the college bunch," which distinguished us from the high school students, housewives, and other community members enrolled in the class. That same core group of Ursinus EMTs, along with one of our inspirational first aid instructors, became the driving force for the founding of Ursinus' Student Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV), which continues to serve the members of that campus community.

Fast-forward another ten years to the present. While I am not a career paramedic, I am a volunteer EMT, which comes close to my second childhood career choice. My dream of being a radiologist was never realized. This was reiterated at my ten-year high school reunion, which was also during the same Thanksgiving weekend. One of my elementary school classmates attending the reunion remembered my early intentions of being a radiologist. I responded to his query simply: "No, I'm not a radiologist. I am a Ph.D. chemist, but you can still call me Dr. Savett if you'd like."

After nearly a decade of service in emergency medical services, I'm still an EMT, and can't imagine my life without some involvement in EMS. Accordingly, I believe that the EMS "bug" bit me twenty years ago during our Cub Scout visit to our community ambulance. I doubt one could one make a better case for the importance community outreach in emergency medical services. Though, you never know how long it's going to be until the people you touch in your outreach realize what you've done for them.

# President's Corner



As the semester draws to a close and the holidays quickly approach, I wanted to share with you NCEMSF's core initiative for 2001 and report progress on our 2000 initiative. During the past several years, we have experienced tremendous growth as an organization. Our institutional and individual memberships have more than quadrupled. This welcomed growth placed an increase strain on the organization. This required us to assess our

strengths and weaknesses in order to focus on our core mission. Our core initiative for 2000 was to increase the services that we provide to our members. We felt that amidst our increase growth that you, our valued member, may not have received adequate services from us. Our intent this year was to improve member services and ultimately strengthen the NCEMSF community.

I feel fairly confident that we accomplished most of the objectives that we originally identified. For the first time in NCEMSF's history, we are running a fully independent server. In the past, we relied on academic institutions and individuals to provide space for our web site as well as our list serv. While this worked adequately, we were prone to continual web and list serv outages. This year we purchased a server that will accommodate our needs for the next several years. If you have not recently visited our web site, please do. You will find several new services that we are able to offer because of our increased capabilities. We now have an online a comprehensive database that can be updated in real time. This enables you to update your information as it changes. We are also able to offer online membership processing with the ability to make electronic payments. Both of these improvements have proven to be a tremendous asset. One of the problems that we experienced in the past was maintaining current contact information on our members. Many of our members change their address three to four times while they are at college. This results in increased costs to everyone because of wasted postage and reproduction costs. This real time database should help us alleviate this problem.

We also initiated a regional coordinator system this year. While this concept was not a new idea, it was placed on hold because of the tremendous effort and time required to make a regional coordinator system work. The purpose of the regional coordinator system is to improve communication, provide assistance to startup organizations, and increase recruitment. I would like to take a moment to thank the current regional coordinators for their time and effort in making the regional coordinator system function. Without their dedication this system would not be possible. I also want to applaud Josh Marks for serving as the liaison between the regional coordinators and the Board of Directors. He continues to play an integral role in maintain the daily operations of the regional coordinator system. If you do not know the contact information for your regional coordinator, please do not hesitate to email Josh (nc@ncemsf.org) to find out their information.

*please see **President**, page 5*

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8th Annual  
**NCMSF 2001** Conference

**"Today's Issues in Collegiate EMS"**

**Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rochester, New York**

**February 9-11, 2001**



RIT Ambulance invites the National Collegiate EMS community to Rochester, New York, February 9-11, 2001 for the 8th Annual National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation Conference. It is expected that over 400 attendees will join together for this very special weekend at the Holiday Inn Holidome and the RIT campus. Highlights include the skills competition, the annual NCMSF Banquet, and nationally known EMS speakers. We look forward to having you be a part of this exciting, informative, and stimulating event that will help forge bonds in the collegiate EMS community.

**To register or for more information visit**

**[www.ncemsf.org](http://www.ncemsf.org)**

**Questions: [conf2001@ncemsf.org](mailto:conf2001@ncemsf.org)**



**Conference Accommodations**

A dramatic glass-enclosed atrium sets the scene at the beautiful Holiday Inn Holidome. You will enjoy the recreation center with its large indoor heated swimming pool and

whirlpool. Stay in shape with the modern exercise facilities. The spectacular plant-scaped atrium houses it all. Conveniently located off Interstate 390, just north of the New York State Thruway, and minutes to the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Hotel arrangements are being made through the Holiday Inn Holidome at 716-475-1510. Prices are \$69/night, with up to 4 people per room. Inform the Holiday Inn Holidome of your participation in the conference for this great room rate.

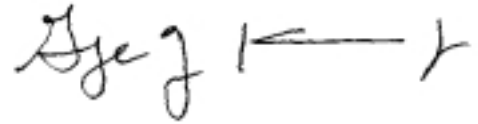


**President, Continued from page 2**

As I stated earlier, I wanted to share with you our core initiative for 2001. This year we plan to focus on leadership development. Leadership skills are critical to the success of your organization. These

skills are often overlooked when selecting people to serve as officers in your organization. Persons are often chosen because of experience as opposed to their leadership ability. This results in not necessarily the best candidate being chosen for the job. One of our goals for this year is to incorporate a mini-workshop at this year's conference on how to be an effective leader. We hope that the 2001 conference will serve to kick off this year's initiative and provide insight and thought that can be continued throughout the year.

I hope to see all of you at the 2001 conference. If you need information about the conference, please go to our web site ([www.ncemsf.org](http://www.ncemsf.org)) for the registration materials.



George Koenig  
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Due to the severe ice storms in Little Rock, Arkansas, this issue was delayed in publishing. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



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