

NCEMSFS NEWS

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**Please join us
at the 2004
NCEMSFS
Conference
Feb 27-29 in
Baltimore!**

**More info and
registration
online at:
www.ncemsf.org**

Message from the President

Dr. George J. Koenig, Jr., NCEMSFS President

A couple months ago, a long time friend and mentor passed away. He was the most positive and energetic person that I knew. He always looked forward to our conversations and to sharing his insight on life with me. I believe that he always saw me as his "second chance." He would sit for hours and ask questions about my day to day activities. Then, he would provide his insight on my life, my career choices, and my social life. He would always provide encouragement, praise, and motivation.

When I went to college, I became involved with the local fire department and ambulance company. He was always very interested in hearing stories about the calls that I responded to and the people I interacted with. He was equally as excited when I decided to go to medical school and absolutely ecstatic when I graduated. If I could have been granted one wish before he passed away, it would have been for him to see me actually put to use all those years of training.

I never understood where his excitement stemmed from until just recently. This week as I drove past the Philadelphia International Airport, I began to understand his excitement. As I watched the planes fly overhead, I thought about the coordinated efforts of the people that worked at the airport. Each person completing an individual task in combination with others allows the system as a whole to function. As I saw the next plane take off, I wondered if everyone down to the person who makes sure that the plane is stocked with emesis

bags knew the importance of their jobs. Then it struck me. At the end of the day, it was just a job. While their jobs are very important to those that fly, they do not approach the impact that you have in EMS or medicine. Think about the last call that you responded to or the last patient that you cared for. Whether it was critical or routine, you made a difference. Perhaps, it was your comforting hand, your calming voice, or your caring demeanor. In that person's mind, you will forever be remembered as the person who showed up during their time of need. The impact that you have far surpasses just doing a "job."

I always looked up to my mentor and friend because of his inspiration and his successful career in business. I was envious of his lifetime accomplishments. What I never realized was that he was equally as envious of mine just as I am of your accomplishments. As our annual conference approaches, I am reminded of your accomplishments as we review our award submissions or as I hear updates from our alumni. I am truly proud of each of our member organizations. Keep up the great work and take a moment to remind yourself of the importance of what we do.

Best wishes,



George J. Koenig Jr. M.S., D.O.
President NCEMSFS

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Message from the National Coordinator

Joshua Marks, NCEMSF National Coordinator

I hope everyone had a relaxing winter break and is energized for the start of the new semester. The NCEMSF officers spent part of the winter holidays finalizing the plans for the 2004 Annual Conference. We are gearing up for what will be a phenomenal educational and social weekend in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

For this issue of the *NCEMSF News*, our Regional Coordinators (RCs) have gathered news, activities, and events from campuses across the country.

Don't see your school's news listed in this newsletter? Contact your RC today and open a dialog. Please visit the NCEMSF Web site to identify your region and RC.

All of the RCs are scheduled to be on hand at this year's conference. Come meet them in person and develop a stronger connection with your local NCEMSF leadership.



News from the Northeast Region

Robert T. Hart, NCEMSF Northeast Regional Coordinator

This quarter has been full of meetings and greetings in order to keep you all informed of what is going on here at NCEMSF and within our regions. I am happy to say that over the past few months I have been able to make contact with a majority of the schools involved with NCEMSF that comprise the Northeast Region, which includes Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

Collegiate EMS services are, by their very nature, learning organizations that are typically viewed with caution compared to more experienced services in their regions. When applying for the position of Northeast Coordinator, my main goal was to bring the talents and experiences of every member of NCEMSF together and get the services communicating. Communication and collaboration between all of members will allow each of our services to grow and truly be leaders in the EMS community thus alleviating that view of caution about many collegiate organizations.

Hearing from the representatives in my region has been a rewarding experience. I have found that all leaders are

enthusiastic and willing to become more involved in NCEMSF and utilize the plethora of resources available. Many leaders are eager to review NCEMSF's expansive SOP library and learn from each other's structure and apply it to their own service. In addition, there is a buzz amongst many services who are eagerly awaiting the networking opportunity the 2004 Annual Conference will bring. Regardless of their reasoning, it seems everyone is ready to truly experience the best NCEMSF has to offer.

Having had the opportunity to correspond with several of the groups in the Northeast region, I am happy to bring a few accomplishments of our groups to you.

The **University of New Haven** (Connecticut) is proud to announce the formation of *First Alert*. *First Alert* is a student organization under the leadership of President Christopher J. Bernier that has formed this year with the goal of promoting EMS education and awareness with long term goals of providing EMS on campus as well as EMT and CPR education. The formation

of any organization is a laborious task that deserves high accolades! Good Luck *First Alert*! NCEMSF is here for you!

Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island has recently reported a stellar year with over 800 runs and a well attended EMT course offered earlier in the year.

The **University of Rhode Island's URIEMS** has received approval from the Rhode Island Board of Governors to build a headquarters with room for two ambulances, office space, bunk rooms, full kitchen and a classroom. Construction, which is budgeted to cost \$750,000, is expected to begin this spring.

Overall it has been a great year for schools in the Northeast Region. With recruitment up and progress towards each services goals moving along steadily.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope to hear about all your accomplishments in the near future.



News from the Midwest Region

Reagan Kelly, NCEMSF Midwest Regional Coordinator

My name is Reagan Kelly, and I'm the newly-appointed Midwest Regional Coordinator. I am a graduate student at the University of Michigan, working towards my Ph.D. in Bioinformatics.

Being new to this post, I do not have much news to report, so I thought I would tell you a little bit about myself. I graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) with a BS in Biology in 2001. I joined RIT Ambulance, and am

currently a Life member of that organization. I have been a New York State EMT-D since 1998, and I was a medic trainer, driver, crew tech trainer and Medical Command Officer at RIT. I was also the Secretary and Webmaster from 1999-2001, and I worked for the Monroe County EMS system lab instructing EMT courses and evaluating EMT practical exams. Currently I am a member of the University of Michigan's Emergency Medical Response

Organization, and I plan to be NREMT certified within the next year.

I have done my best to contact schools in my region, but if you are in OH, MI, or IN and you haven't heard from me yet, you will soon. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email me.



Professor Squirrel

Serious Campus EMS Advice from a Nut

Dear Professor Squirrel,

I want to attend this year's NCEMSF conference, but funding is an issue: our group only has a limited budget. Any thoughts?

*Sincerely,
Funds B. Tight*

Dear Funds,

There are several ideas that campus EMS groups have used to save some acorns when attending conference. Let me look at a few of them.

Transportation: If you are flying, NCEMSF has made arrangements with Southwest Airlines to provide discounted fares into BWI. Check the conference web site for the discount code. If you are driving, several possibilities come to mind. You may be able to convince your campus health center, public safety, residence life, or another department of the valuable service learning opportunities available to you at the conference. They may be willing to cover the cost of a school fleet van for the trip if you ask. Another idea is to carpool with another campus group that is driving. You may be able to meet up with another group on the way and fill up some extra seats in their van.

Lodging: Many groups in the past have posted to the NCEMSF discussion list looking for roommates for the conference. If you have a partial room, you might want to post a note and try to find another group to split the cost with you.

General costs: If your budget is really tight, and you have exhausted all grants that your school has for student groups, you might have to limit the number of delegates. If it comes to that, consider making a delegate slot a benefit of service to your organization. Those who are most committed to your organization will often get the most out of the conference and bring it back to your group.

Fundraising: No one wants to limit the number that can attend the conference, so plan ahead now for next year. One of the best fundraisers I have seen is CPR classes. So many groups on campus need CPR and the talent to teach them is often right in your own group. If you have a few instructors and a corps of assistants to help with the classes this is an easy way to raise funds. On campus you can market classes to nursing and other students in clinical majors, resident assistants, even campus employees such as housing and food services and electricians and other trades.

See you around campus!
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@ncemf.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.

News from the Northern New England Region

Anna Johnson, NCEMSF Northern New England Regional Coordinator

Greetings from the chilly Northern New England region! Despite some recent wintry weather, our campus EMS agencies have been making great strides in advancing their services and their training.

Before I give you some updates I would like to introduce myself and put a plea out there for the schools in my region reading this. I am the recently-appointed regional coordinator (RC) for the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. I am a senior at the University of Vermont and a member of UVM Rescue, an ALS ambulance operated by volunteer students serving campus and the surrounding communities 24/7 365 days/year. I first became involved in EMS my freshman year at school and had no previous medical experience. At the NCEMSF conference on Long Island a year later I was fascinated to meet the hundreds of other students like me around the country that dedicate much of

their lives to the often misunderstood profession, and was grateful to the Foundation who brought us all together. I set out to contact the dozen or so schools in my region, only to discover that this wasn't as easy a task as I had imagined. The updates below are from the schools with which I was able to make contact. I hope that by reading this other schools in the area will be motivated to contact me! I can't solve your personnel problems or fund a new ambulance, but I can put you in touch with people that have, and maybe you can help them with something in return.

In a press release dated November 25, 2003, the **University of New England** in Biddeford, Maine and the city of Biddeford Fire Department announced the creation of the Emergency Medical Service Rapid Response Unit, known as *EMS 1*. *EMS 1* will be operated 24 hours a day (except for school breaks) by University of New England students, who

will first respond in a 4 wheel drive SUV provided by the Fire Department to some of the area coastal towns. This concept, which will greatly reduce the response time of emergency care, has been in the works for almost a year. It has been a cooperative effort between the University of New England and many other agencies including the FD, which operates the responding Rescue Unit. This service is a part of the University of New England EMS (UNE EMS), a unit of volunteer students, faculty, and staff that provide ALS care to the 4000 people on the UNE-Biddeford campus.

St. Anslem College in New Hampshire provided a brief outline of their EMS system. Founded in 1995 as a club under the student government, St. Anslem Rescue Team (SART) provides first response care to the campus 5pm to 7am, seven days a week during the

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News from the New York Region

Michael Hilton, NCEMSF New York Regional Coordinator

Serving a generally young and healthy population limits the exposure of many Collegiate EMS providers to various call types. Collegiate EMS providers' senses may often be dulled as a result when dealing with different patient populations. The way to combat the lack of diversity in call type and patient population is through training, both intra- and inter-agency. Many articles and conference seminars have focused on intra-agency training programs, but rarely have inter-agency efforts been addressed. Several such initiatives are currently in the works in the NY Region.

There are seemingly intrinsic obstacles to inter-agency collaboration, cooperation, and training, including jurisdictional disputes over territory and financial factors. Turf wars are neither in the best interest of the individual agencies nor in those of the patients. Agencies need to look beyond their borders and act in a manner consistent with the ultimate goal of delivering the highest possible quality care to all patients. However, EMS agencies, especially non-municipal services, have become businesses much like any other business. Most collegiate Corps, on the other hand, are volunteer organizations supported by their universities; providers are not paid and patients are not billed. The service provided is "free" (often rolled into student activity or health service fees paid by all students whether or not the service is utilized). Most Collegiate Corps

exist within other, larger systems, which occasionally see Collegiate EMS as business competitors. In addition to serving a young, healthy population, Collegiate EMS also serves a very well-insured population so that any patient treated and transported by Collegiate EMS is "stolen" guaranteed income from other services. The challenge is to overcome these obstacles. For the most part, Collegiate EMS agencies have more to gain from the larger agencies within whose territory they operate than the other agencies do from Collegiate EMS. Therefore, Collegiate EMS agencies need to communicate with each other through email and member-exchange ride-alongs. Collegiate EMS agencies should not be antagonistic with each other or with other local services, but rather should share their resources and work together.

Along the lines of sharing between EMS agencies, Collegiate EMS can add additional modes of training by reaching out to other local EMS corps. Many professional EMS agencies have training systems already set up in house. Their events may range from CME lectures with experienced and well known EMS educators to drills and call audits. Sharing of resources can expand in many ways, as the relationship between the ambulance corps grow. Training at local EMS corps can also allow collegiate providers to learn from career EMTs and Medics and to be exposed to a wider

variety of EMS topics and issues, which Collegiate EMS as a specialized branch of EMS does not regularly see. I know of at least one school in the NY region working on such a relationship with a hospital-based EMS service within the 911 network. Members are able to attend CME lectures at the hospital and ride-along with the hospital's EMS staff.

In order to enhance communication and foster a regional approach to the common problems we share, I organized several ride-alongs between collegiate EMS corps in the NY region this past semester and look forward to setting up more in the coming semester. I believe that these ride-alongs provide a good way to start talking and sharing ideas on how we can improve, expand our service and deal with administrators. Whatever the problem is, whether it is wanting to expand from a QRS to a transporting service or starting up an agency and seeing how it can be run or more importantly dealing with pressures from a larger EMS system, member-exchange ride-alongs help foster conversation, brain storming and collective problem solving.

If interested in riding along with another Collegiate Corps in the region to see how that corps operates or just to open up dialogue please email me and I will be happy to assist. Best of luck for the new semester.



Preventing Organizational Downfall

Brian Solomon, NCEMSF Central Regional Coordinator

Managing and maintaining any EMS organization is a challenging undertaking. This challenge is compounded in the collegiate EMS field. Not only are EMS providers forced to deal with the normal challenges of patient care, documentation, and complying with local regulations, they are also forced to deal with university-wide regulations. Such potential difficulties make starting a collegiate EMS organization a demanding ordeal. Every collegiate EMS organization has encountered, dealt with, and overcome these problems in order to produce a viable first response team. Yet what are often overlooked are the potential problems down the road.

Within the last year, the NCEMSF leadership has been asked to assist in situations where organizations had the idea that simply maintaining their current standard operating procedures would continue to result in a functional organization. All EMT students are trained in medical response, trauma management, and medical-legal issues. Similarly, new EMS supervisors are generally trained in paperwork management and how to run an organization's day-to-day operations. Yet we erroneously avoid training new recruits in the most crucial of all tasks: continual improvement of our organizations.

In my view, there have been several distinct stages of collegiate EMS development. In the first stage, which lasted until about ten years ago, collegiate EMS squads were generally isolated. Since they had no examples from which to work, campus EMS administrators were mostly concerned with developing organizations from the ground up.

We entered a second stage with the formation of NCEMSF in the early 1990s. Collegiate EMS administrators began to understand the value of communication on several levels. Specifically, they focused on communication among EMTs

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News from the Southern Region

Adam Weaver, NCEMSF Southern Regional Coordinator

Greetings from the Southeast region. The schools in my region (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, and TN) have had a good autumn and we're looking forward to a good winter and spring. As the first Southeast coordinator I am very excited to be involved with promoting campus EMS in the south.

First, a brief introduction is in order. I am a senior at Emory University in Atlanta, majoring in history and political science. I have been involved with EMS for four years on the Emory First Responder Unit EMS. It is sadly indicative of the popularity (or lack thereof) of campus EMS in the south that I had never heard of such an organization until I came to Emory.

After working for a year as an EMT-I and after attending an NCEMSF Annual Conference, I became convinced that collegiate EMS was a positive presence on campus that many southern schools were lacking. The level of support collegiate EMS enjoys in the northeast is amazing and I think that the southeast

could benefit from a similar level of involvement. Many southern schools have EMS agencies that service the campus, but few have student-run organizations like those common in the north. Often campus EMS is integrated with the city or county services, and many times students are employed with those municipal organizations either as volunteers or paid members. As regional coordinator, it is important to be an advocate for collegiate EMS while respecting the regional differences the southeast presents.

First, we must improve communication between schools in the southeast. I realize that "improving communication" is somewhat of a non-specific goal, but it is important nonetheless. As I mentioned before, prior to attending Emory I had no idea collegiate EMS existed, and certainly not to the extent that it does elsewhere in the country. Even after joining the Emory First Responder Unit, I had no knowledge of other services in the southeast. It is important for existing EMS agencies in the southeast to be

cognizant of similar organizations and their methods of operations. To further this goal, southeast members should look for a regional bulletin that should be forthcoming in the next month or so. This way we can build a smaller, more personal southeast community that exists under the NCEMSF umbrella. Second, I am committed to working toward a southeast regional conference. In the coming months I will be talking to schools in the region sounding out interest in a regional conference. Such a conference will not happen this year, but I feel that is important to work toward hosting a NCEMSF conference, the first step toward which is a regional gathering. This also requires that all the southeast schools maintain their NCEMSF institutional memberships, so be sure to check your membership status. If you have any questions regarding your status feel free to contact me. I really want to raise the profile of the southeast region nationally, and I need your commitment to make that happen.



News from the Mid Atlantic Region

Kelly Shirmer, NCEMSF New York Regional Coordinator

The Mid Atlantic regional colleges and universities have been hard at work this past year trying to implement new programs and increasing their community involvement. The Mid Atlantic region is again proud to have a school in its region hosting the 2004 Conference. Johns Hopkins Emergency Response Organization (HERO) is diligently coordinating this large event and we are all very excited for the weekend of February 27-29. I would like to encourage all the schools in the Mid-Atlantic region (DC, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia) and all other regions to attend.

Georgetown Emergency Response Medical Service (GERMS) has been involved in many aspects of the community in the District of Columbia. This past fall, GERMS worked with DC Fire and EMS in a mock scenario of usage of the National Vaccine Stockpile. Members gained valuable knowledge about the response of the Department of Health (DOH) regarding triaging patients in need of vaccinations.

The **University of Delaware Emergency Care Unit (UDECU)** has had a great year so far with the addition of their brand new ambulance bay that is accessible to its headquarters. In addition, they began training its members in preparation for a full EMS bike team. On November 12th, the squad also participated in its second MCI vehicular extrication drill organized by the Newark Fire and EMS squad. UDECU works with Newark Fire and EMS and has formed a successful ongoing professional relationship. In addition, UDECU became the first in the state of Delaware to use an electronic medical record in order to be fully HIPAA compliant.

The **George Washington University Emergency Medical Response Group (EMeRG)** has had major improvements in clinical operations as their new infection control policy has been put into effect. In addition, they have added combitubes to their advanced BLS treatment. EMeRG has also become an accredited training center through the American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI), which allows it to provide CPR,

AED, and First Aid training to all GW University departments. EMeRG has also implemented a new dispatch system to improve communication with the University Police Department as well as a new patient information system.

It has been a very productive year for many of the squads. As the Mid Atlantic regional coordinator, I am trying to maintain constant communication with these organizations. As of yet, I have not received contact back from Radford University, University of Virginia or Virginia Tech. Please contact me as soon as possible so that I can update your organizational information and work to create more consistent communication.

Please contact me if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions and I look forward to hearing from each Mid-Atlantic school and hopefully seeing you at the Conference.



Conference 2004 Update

NCEMSF Conference Committee

Planning for the 11th Annual National Collegiate EMS Conference, to be held February 27-29 in Baltimore, Maryland, is almost complete. We are extremely excited about the excellent program that has been planned.

This update highlights six very important items: Registration, Skills Competition, Student Speaker Competition, Annual Awards, Hotel Accommodations, and Travel.

REGISTRATION

<http://www.ncemsf.org/conference/> has more information about registering for the conference.

Individual members of NCEMSF receive a \$15 discount on registration fees: \$60.00 for members; \$75.00 for non-members. Credit cards via PayPal, checks, money orders, and purchase orders are accepted. If paying by mail, please ensure that all payments are received by the Foundation (not just postmarked) by February 25, 2004. Conference fees do not include hotel accommodations.

SKILLS COMPETITION

Our annual skills competition will be held on Friday night, February 27. Test your skills against other collegiate EMS organizations. Registration for the skills competition is \$10 per team, payable upon check-in at the conference facility. Teams should consist of four people. To pre-register a team e-mail skills@ncemsf.org by February 20. Please include the names of your team members, if known. For logistical reasons, we must enforce a pre-registration limit of two teams per organization. If space is available, additional teams will be registered on-site.

STUDENT SPEAKER COMPETITION

Three 45-minute presentations will be selected from the submissions and the authors will present the seminar on Saturday morning, February 28 during the Richard W. Vomacka Student Speaker Competition. Each presentation will be judged and the winner will be recognized at our awards ceremony. The deadline for submissions is February 8. If you are interested in submitting a topic for consideration, please attach a Word Document to an e-mail to vomackaspeaker@ncemsf.org. In the e-mail, please include:

Name, Address, Phone #, E-mail, School, Topic, and Presentation Synopsis (two-paragraph summary followed by Presentation Outline with each of your sub-topics and descriptions). Ideally, topics would be related to collegiate EMS and have general audience appeal.

ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year we recognize organizations and people that go beyond the call of duty. More information about all of our awards can be found at

<http://www.ncemsf.org/about/awards.ems>

Only dues paid members/organizations are eligible for awards. To allow for thorough evaluation, only nominations received by the Foundation through February 20 will be considered. ("Striving for Excellence" awards are presented on a rolling basis and are not subject to the February 20 deadline.)

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

NCEMSF has negotiated discount room rates with the conference hosting facility, the Renaissance Harborplace. This AAA-rated "4 diamond" hotel is in the heart of the Inner Harbor. To take advantage of these low rates (\$115/night single/double; \$125/night triple/quad) please contact Renaissance reservations directly at (800) 468-3571. Mention the National Collegiate EMS Foundation to receive the discount rates.

TRAVEL TO THE CONFERENCE

Southwest Airlines is offering up to 10% off most fares for air travel to and from this event. (Air travelers should fly into BWI.) Information about plane, train, and car travel to the conference can be found at:

<http://www.ncemsf.org/conference/travel.ems>

If have any questions that are not answered by the Conference Web site: <http://www.ncemsf.org/conference/> please e-mail the conference committee at conf2004@ncemsf.org.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the conference!



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“Alumni involvement is crucial for the continuity of campus-based EMS...”

About This Publication

NCEMS NEWS is an official publication of the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation (NCEMS). This newsletter is published as a service to the foundation's members and the national EMS community.

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Alumni Corner: Reconnecting with Your Past

David Bacall, NCEMS Alumni Coordinator

Do you remember what made you join your campus EMS organization? Jennifer was an EMT in her home state and wanted to keep volunteering once she got to college. Debbie felt left out when all her EMS and Fire friends had great bar stories; she later became a paramedic and eventually a nurse practitioner. Dave was on his way to a party when his friend made him stop by an EMS meeting for a few minutes. He never intended on being an EMT but later went on to become a Paramedic. John joined because so many of his fraternity brothers were EMTs. For Evan it was the first step towards becoming a cop. Adam just liked playing with lights and sirens. And Joan got her friends to join with her to spend more time with the cute upperclassmen who were recruiting them. No matter what got you started in collegiate EMS, if you are reading this newsletter today, your experience obviously had a great impact on you.

Over the ten years that I have been affiliated with NCEMS, I have seen some great things come out of the friendships forged here. Relationships that began in EMS have resulted in marriage, job placement, and especially career choices. Who would have thought that Al would have become an EMT instructor some twenty years after being a college EMT? Similar things can be said for those who have gone on to become physicians, congressmen, security directors, nurses and more.

For all of you, EMS has a special section in your heart that pounds back every now and then. Many of our alumni have put away their blue lights with other memories of the past. They sit in a box with photographs of people long forgotten and times long past. They are there next to letters from old friends, souvenirs

from past formals and flags with varsity and/or Greek letters on them.

The men and women we have become today are a direct result of the young adults we were in college. There is a way to live in the reality of paying mortgages or rent and working all day or night while still feeling that bond that you once knew. It is here on this piece of paper. Over the past few years NCEMS has branched out to recognize those who helped others in the past. Alumni involvement has increased exponentially in just a short time. Today we have many alumni attend our annual conference. There are special sessions and events for alumni to network and discuss non collegiate items of importance. Many alumni share their past experience with younger newer EMTs by presenting lectures, writing articles or just sharing a drink during free time.

NCEMS believes that alumni involvement is crucial for the continuity of campus-based EMS. At some schools, such as Emory University, alumni assist by serving on a community advisory board. At Ramapo College, NCEMS worked with alumni relations to help direct a portion of alumni donations from past EMSers back to the squad to help cover an economic gap. The creative ways to involve your alumni are endless.

What did EMS do for you? We want to hear from you! Please send us your stories at alumni@ncemsf.org. And don't forget to put in a request for time off now so you can attend the annual NCEMS Conference February 27-29, 2004 in Baltimore. Relive your past by connecting to the future of campus EMS.



(Downfall, Continued from page 4)
with their organization, between organizations, and with the leadership of NCEMS.

We are currently at the dawn of a new stage in collegiate EMS. With some exceptions, communication has mostly died. Rather than leveraging readily available lines of communications to improve themselves, many organizations simply focus on maintaining the status quo. This, in turn, is leading to management problems, putting at risk both the organization's reputation and the quality of patient care.

I am writing this article in an attempt to spur communication. Your goal should not be to maintain the status quo, but rather to continually improve your organization and your quality of care. It is for this reason that NCEMS has set up listservs, mailing lists, and a regional coordinator system. Please, utilize these resources, talk among yourselves and between organizations, and continue to improve EMS care.



The production of this issue of *NCEMS News* is dedicated in the loving memory of Mrs. Lee Savett, recently departed grandmother of NCEMS's Vice President, Scott C. Savett.

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Delmar, NY 12054-0113

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school year. Last year they responded to 63 calls but are already seeing increases in the call volume this year and expect it to continue rising. The local fire department provides the transporting ambulance, but the students continue to care for the patient until they reach the hospital. The response time by the ambulance can range from 3-10 minutes, depending on whether the full time staff is on duty or not. SART keeps 3 people on duty at all times, 2 EMTs and 1 Covering Officer, who are dispatched by the fire department via Motorola pagers. Approximately 75% of the fourteen or so current members also work for the fire department. SART provides weekly group training to its members and hopes to have an on campus building facility soon.

St. Michaels Rescue Squad in Colchester, Vermont is one of two ALS transporting collegiate services in the state (the other is UVM). Last year they responded to almost 2400 calls, making them the second busiest ambulance in Vermont. This fall SMRS received a \$700,000 donation towards a new building. Currently in the design phase with a local architecture firm, the proposed station will house both the Fire and Rescue services and will have 4 bays for ambulances and fire trucks. Groundbreaking for the new facility is expected sometime in early spring. In March 2004 two new ambulances

will be delivered, one a Road Rescue for normal daily use, and the other an International specifically designed for NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care) transports. SMRS has recently extended their contract to provide NICU transports to the local hospital for another five years. SMRS has also recently expanded their billing policy and is looking at becoming incorporated.

At **University of Vermont (UVM) Rescue** there haven't been many changes recently, but I'm sure there will be soon as they are looking at entering the wonderful world of billing as early as this summer. They are also hoping to see more concrete plans for a new Student Health Services building including a double bay and offices for the organization. They celebrated Collegiate EMS Week with some public service announcements (PSAs) that local radio stations kindly played, and stronger advertising for recruiting and CPR classes.

Thanks to everybody that helped me out with this and I wish everyone good luck starting the new year and new semester. Please email me and tell me what your school is doing!!!!

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