

NCEMSFS NEWS

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“...with knowledge and skills comes great responsibility... the spotlight on our actions continues to shine even when we are off duty”

Message from the President

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

Welcome back! This time of year is always exciting. Recruitment efforts wind down and the focus shifts towards orienting and training new members. For those returning, the excitement of shaping your organization prevails as you explore your new leadership role as a more senior member. Regardless of your organizational role there is always a feeling of anticipation for the accomplishments that will mark this academic year.

We are reminded constantly of the great benefits of campus EMS. Earlier this semester, Duke EMS responded to a professor in cardiac arrest. Their members started CPR within minutes, attached an AED and shocked their professor back to life. The stories of our successes are evidence of our exceptional training and dedication to provide excellent care. No longer can the stories be referred to as anecdotal. Collegiate EMS providers are professionals equipped with the skills and knowledge to handle any situation.

However, with the knowledge and skills comes great responsibility. We are constantly in the spotlight and our actions are subject to scrutiny. Recently, a municipal paramedic in Pennsylvania was charged with assault while in the course of defending himself. While he ultimately was acquitted, this case emphasizes the importance of policies regarding the management of providers' safety. In addition, the case illustrates the necessity of having a plan in place for how we internally handle incidents when they occur. Perhaps, proactively investigating and assigning counsel would have resulted in the case not proceeding to trial. Instead, the paramedic was questioned without counsel. It is unfair to our providers, who acted in good faith, to fend for themselves.

The spotlight on our actions continues to shine even when we are off duty. When we accept the responsibility for the lives of others, our personal lives are also held to a higher standard. In many states, there are regulations for conduct of EMS providers. It is possible to have your license revoked or sanctioned even if you are not found guilty in criminal court.

The most recent news of Tulane EMS' operations being discontinued highlights the importance of realizing that we are always in the spotlight. While the details of the events leading up to their shut down are not known, there are several factors worth noting. TEMS was in operation for nearly 35 years. The group provided service for not only its campus, but Loyola University and the surrounding area. It received many notable awards including student organization of the year just last year and recognition for their service during hurricane Katrina. The organization was a model for others. Unfortunately this is not the first time we have seen a well-established organization disappear overnight.

The instant reaction when a university disbands an EMS group is that it is unfair. Public reaction raises questions how could a group that provides such a valuable service be discontinued. Valuable energy and time is wasted on sentiment rather than addressing the problem and working towards a solution.

Most organizations are unprepared when they receive notice of dissolution. Many have never thought that it could be possible. However, the reality is that we should have a well delineated plan should that day ever come. The plan should outline individuals that support your organization, people that would be willing to serve as your advocate, and a plan for transition of governance. In the end, it is more important to focus on the steps leading up to why organizations are shut down and intervene to prevent it.

As EMS providers, we are always in the spotlight and have to remember the responsibility that comes with it. The discontinuation of operations of TEMS should be a reminder that our responsibility extends beyond patient care and requires vigilance on every level to intervene before a "code" is called.

Regional Roundup (February 2015 to September 2015)

News from Around the NCEMSF Regions

From the National Coordinator

The Regional Coordinator (RC) network facilitates communication between NCEMSF and its constituents. It is through the Regional Coordinators that NCEMSF best accomplishes its mission of advocating and supporting campus based EMS. The Regional Coordinators are equipped to assist each squad with the day-to-day issues it faces and to help publicize squad achievements. There are few issues that the NCEMSF leadership has not seen before and for which it is not equipped to offer advice and guidance.

Get Involved, Network, Stay Involved

One of my favorite parts about being the National Coordinator is meeting enthusiastic student EMTs from around the country, learning something from each of them, and watching them grow beyond their time as undergrads. Over the past year, I had the privilege to travel across the country and meet up with NCEMSF friends. Each time I reconnect with a collegiate EMS alum, I'm reminded that college EMS isn't just about providing care on campus; it's about helping yourself grow, expanding horizons, and building a network of friends that lasts a lifetime.

In early 2015, I checked in with a group of amazing friends from University of Vermont whom I met during my time as Regional Coordinator for Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. UVM was an enormous resource for me as one of the oldest, best established, and highest respected college EMS response teams in New England. Friends who were once new freshmen looking for their place in college EMS are now married to other former collegiate EMSers and heading to medical school, while others are flight paramedics in the military saving the lives of those defending our freedom.

Shortly thereafter I flew down to Miami to see one of NCEMSF's best friends who is not only an amazing ER doc, wilderness medicine professional, and fellow Jersey-boy, but who also spends time as an Associate Medical Director for Miami-Dade Fire/Rescue. After a morning of beach time, this friend who was once a new face in NCEMSF a few years ago was now helping me climb into one of Miami International Airport's newest Fire/Rescue trucks taking me on the tour of a lifetime throughout the entire airport.

Later in the summer I flew out to Phoenix, AZ to spend time with some friends at University of Arizona and Arizona State. While the two schools may be enemies, I'm lucky to be able to call students at both schools friends of mine. I met with a recent University of Arizona graduate who was a member of UAEMS during the team's first few years in service, who proudly reported how successful UAEMS has become. This friend who was once a fledgling EMT in a brand new college EMS team is now a full time EMT with one of Arizona's largest private ambulances services and beginning service as a flight EMT with the Arizona Department of Public Safety, all while studying for the MCAT and preparing to enter medical school.

My friends at ASU EMS were also doing extremely well, continuing to grow their fairly new service from a standby-only team to a 911 response team. They proudly recounted stories of their EMTs saving the lives of two recent cardiac arrest patients on campus. A friend who I met one NCEMSF conference years ago asking how to start a collegiate EMS team was now an ASU grad preparing to deploy overseas with the military as a flight medic to make an impact in an even greater arena, and was passing the torch onto the next generation of ASU EMTs to keep the group running strong.

It has given me great joy to reminisce about my travels this past year and realize the magnitude of the impact that collegiate EMS has had on so many lives. Once brand new freshmen not knowing about EMS and trying to find their place in college, are now doctors, medical students, flight paramedics, members of our armed forces, and so much more. These transformations are what NCEMSF strives to achieve within every student EMT that we encounter. You'll hear it time and time again from us: network. Make those connections, introduce yourself to strangers in your field, and help the new generation of your team grow to become the professionals you are becoming. If done right, collegiate EMS is a rewarding experience. While you're affecting patients' lives daily, you're also enhancing your own. Don't forget to take a moment like I have, to stop and reflect on the journey and the people that have brought you to where you are today.

Did You Know?

NCEMSF has a **grant program** to provide financial support for regional events and special projects that directly further the NCEMSF mission. Sponsored activities must be educational in nature and provide direct benefit to campus EMS. For further information, eligibility requirements, program rules, or a grant application, contact your RC.

Regional training events and single day conferences are great ways to harness the energy of campus EMS at the local level. Contact your RC to coordinate goals and dates with the NCEMSF national agenda.

Regional Coordinator **vacancies** exist in the Canada, Northeast, Southeast, and West regions. If interested in applying please email Stephen Lanieri - nc@ncemsf.org - your application (available online).

NCEMSF Annual Awards Recap

Each year at its annual national conference, NCEMSF recognizes outstanding efforts made by individuals and organizations through its awards program. The 2014-2015 recipients were as follows:

Vomacka: *Noa Yee and Montane Silverman (Tufts University)*

EMS Week: *Cornell University*

Video: *Rice University*

Web site: *Virginia Tech*

Advisor: *Lisa Basgall (Rice University)*

Provider: *Ryan Johnson (Virginia Tech)*

Organization: *Five Quad Volunteer Ambulance Squad (SUNY Albany)*

GJK Award: *David Schwartzman*

Skills Classic:

BLS - *University of Richmond*

ALS - *Virginia Tech*

HEARTSafe Campus (Total Now 14):

Fordham University

Georgetown University

Rowan University

Tufts University

University of Albany

University of Delaware

University of Maine

Virginia Tech

EMS Ready Campus:

Rowan University

Virginia Tech

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**FREE - EDUCATION
OPPORTUNITY - FREE**

FARE is offering the American Red Cross Anaphylaxis and Epinephrine Auto-Injector - Online Course as a free training opportunity for college and university school personnel, staff and student employees. Coupons will be provided to access the free training. Trainings must be completed by 12/31/15. The course, which includes video, activities that reinforce key information and a learning assessment, will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

With 15 million Americans living with food allergies, there are 15 million reasons to get educated about keeping people with food allergies safe and included. Find resources and tools for individuals, families, schools and colleges, restaurants and more at www.foodallergy.org.

For more information contact:
Kristi Grim
College Outreach Manager
Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)
703-563-3058
kgrim@foodallergy.org

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE EMS WEEK - November 9-15

Take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate campus based EMS together with all other collegiate corps nationwide. The annual NCEMSF packet, and the National EMS Week packet featuring campus based EMS, are both filled with ideas for activities and publicity available online.

Kick Off Collegiate EMS Week With...

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CPR DAY ***Monday, November 9***

Join together on this single day in the pursuit of educating as many college students across North America as possible in the basic principles of CPR and how to save a life!

***Support Materials and
Program Particulars
Available Online at
www.NCEMSF.org***

**For More Information:
emsweek@ncemsf.org**

Modeled after National EMS Week, endorsed by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and supported by the American Heart Association (AHA)

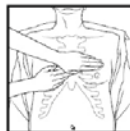
LEARN **2** STEPS SAVE ONE LIFE

CALL



CALL 911

PUSH HARD AND FAST



**POSITION HANDS
IN THE CENTER OF
THE CHEST**



**FIRMLY
PUSH DOWN
TWO INCHES
ON THE CHEST**

CONTINUE UNTIL HELP ARRIVES

Start-Up Update

This has been a busy summer for many startup organizations across the country. Shaylin Daji at the *University of Oklahoma* (Sooner EMS) has been working extremely hard to get an organization started on campus. While they are still in the preliminary phases of starting their organization, they have made tremendous progress recently. Stephen Schiff at *SUNY Purchase College* has spearheaded a startup EMS squad from a prior defunct organization. He is hoping to expand his leadership team this fall and hopefully obtain a medical director for his organization. In the Southeast, efforts are underway to start an EMS squad at *UNC-Chapel Hill*. While they are still early in the process, they already have a strong group of student leaders.

As always, we are happy to help with any issues that are coming up in your startup process. More than likely, your situation is not unique and we are happy to help in any way we can. Contact our startup team at startup@ncemsf.org

Joey Grover, MD
Dan McConnell
NCEMSF Startup Coordinators

(Continued from page 2 - Regional Roundup)

For complete details of the NCEMSF Awards Program, eligibility requirements, submission deadlines and a listing of all previous recipients visit the Awards Program link under the Membership tab on the NCEMSF Web site.

Central

Rice EMS was pleased to receive grant funding from the Texas Department of State Health Services, helping in the purchase of six new AEDs. These AEDs will be put in service for emergency response on campus, as well as for special events. REMS responders staffed more than 2,200 hours of special events on campus last year, and carry an AED to every special event. The new AEDs increase life saving capability for REMS, replacing units that were only usable on adult patients.

Texas A&M University Emergency Care Team participated in the university's Gig'em Week, a week of welcome-back events for all students, by doing a build your own first aid kit event. Students assembled basic supplies (purchased by Care Team) for their personal use. The group purchased supplies for and distributed 500 kits. Care Team also used the event to educate students about first aid and the volunteer and learning opportunities Care Team provides throughout the year. The group hopes to continue this practice in future years.

Using donated funds, *Texas A&M EMS* has purchased a second Zoll AutoPulse, so that each of their two ambulances will have a mechanical CPR device, and

three Zoll AED Pro defibrillators, which will be issued to the group's bike teams. The Zoll AED Pros allow Paramedics to view the patient's cardiac rhythm and perform appropriate ALS interventions.

Tulane EMS was named Outstanding Student Organization of the Year for 2014-2015, but has subsequently fallen on difficult times (see Page 1).

Current and former students from the *University of Arizona* recently started the University Emergency Medical Services Alumni Association (UEMSAA). The group is designed to help collegiate EMS alumni from the University of Arizona network with one another as well as keep up with future developments at University EMS. University of Arizona joins other schools across the country who also have alumni groups specific to collegiate EMS.

University of Arizona EMS also recently purchased a new vehicle for emergency response on campus, and is finalizing agreements to join a county-wide regional radio system, which will facilitate joint operations between University EMS and the Tucson Fire Department.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts will be hosting a "Regional Meet-up" October 24th. The meet-up will be one day for education, networking, and sharing experiences. The event will take place at Pro-EMS's headquarters in Cambridge, MA where they have multiple sim labs, conference rooms, and training apparatus. Experienced EMS professionals will be giving lectures, running simulation labs,

and participating in round tables. Lectures of interest include sports medicine, BLS cardiology, and BLS airway management. Additional guests will include Cambridge Fire and Police, Boston Med-Flight and Boston EMS. Come early for coffee and networking!

Mid-Atlantic

Georgetown: GERMS placed a new ambulance in service this semester and is currently recruiting new members for its fall EMT class.

George Washington: EMeRG members volunteered their medical services at D.C.'s 4th of July parade and fireworks on the National Mall.

Radford University EMS received new equipment from a grant including two Lifepak 1000s and two 2015 Trek Police series bikes. Its members have also just completed a bike training course with Christiansburg Rescue Squad. Additionally, Radford EMS received a donation of a canopy that will enable it to be more visible on campus and will be used for events. Finally, the groups is about to launch its new website that will provide the student body with more information regarding services provided and overall student health tips.

University of Richmond (UREMS) is back in service for the semester. Over the summer, their president had the opportunity to ride along with the London Ambulance Service in the UK and has brought his experiences back to his organization.

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Recently graduated and moved to a new job in a new city? Need advice on applications for post-graduate education?

Check out our alumni mentorship page!

Our alumni have gone on to pursue careers in a diverse array of professional fields, and as such, are well-prepared to offer insight and advice to students to help guide them through the transitory process of graduation and the application process for post-graduate education.

A complete listing of alumni mentors can be found on the NCEMSF website:
www.ncemsf.org/resources/alumni-resources/mentorship-program

You must be logged onto the website for access to the database.
Any listed mentor can then be contacted by e-mail for further questions or advice.

Interested in serving as an Alumni Mentor? Contact alumni@ncemsf.org for more information.

**NCEMSF wants
your squad
photos and news
for our website...**

**Please send us
actions shots,
whole corps'
photos and EMS
Week/Conference
pictures to:**

**localnews@
ncemsf.org**

About This Publication

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

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E-mail articles to be considered for publication to info@ncemsf.org

Communications: Keystone of Emergency Operations

Eric Pohl, NREMT-P, NCEMSF Emergency Management Coordinator

On a recent cool, spring day in New York City, the next call to my cell phone would be the start of a frantic shift for my unit, a Hazardous Materials Response Team for the City of New York, and the parent Agency that houses our operation. We would spend the next 12 hours struggling to get back in front of the ball, provide services to the residents that we serve, and respond to emergencies – all while not entirely sure that a request for assistance did not fall through the cracks.

As an organization of about 8,000 employees some of us perform emergency response, others deliver critical utilities to the largest city in the country, including water and sewer services, and still others support all the comings and goings of a 24/7 operation. The trouble on this day started in a computer server room in Queens, New York. A glitch in the system took out all of our Information Technology services including office phones, email, and any networked systems: including the Department's computerized dispatch and call processing tool. Apparently, it took out the backup too!

For the next 12 hours, we attempted to conduct business and emergency response using stored numbers through our cell phones. We could not even look up other people's numbers if they were not saved because the phone directory was computerized and stored on the same server as well. Operations were conducted on scraps of paper. I personally

was writing down call information on a napkin while responding to an incident involving an asbestos release in midtown Manhattan.

Communications are the lifeblood, the wellspring, the keystone to smooth operations. Radio networks are great until they fail due to a broken trunking system, or a loss of line of sight, or until you need to communicate with a mutual aid agency. Cell phones are great, but what if you do not remember phone numbers and you cannot look them up because of a power outage? What if the cell tower is down?

Even the best of operations can fall victim to unexpected communications glitches, and even backup systems can fail. What then? My agency ground to a halt for an entire day because we lost the ability to communicate.

Do not let it happen to you. Look at where you stand, and then look again. Make a plan, then a backup, then a backup to that backup plan. As they say in emergency management: hope for the best and plan for the worst. Take my word; you do not want to be the person dispatching calls on a napkin.

Communications is one of the core principles in NCEMSF's new EMS Ready Campus program. If you haven't already, take a look and see how prepared is your organization.



(Continued from page 4 - Regional Roundup)

Northern New England

St. Michael's Fire and Rescue celebrated its 45th anniversary this past spring and conducted a mass casualty incident drill. Members of *Saint Anselm EMS* concluded their journey assisting the members of *Road for Hope* on their 130 mile trek for charity. *UVM Rescue & UNE EMS* welcomed in their freshman by staffing their freshman activity fairs. *McGregor Memorial EMS* spent time studying the ins and outs of the new student buildings planning for quick response.

Dartmouth EMS became an AHA training site and was named the 2015 Bound Tree Corporation Unit of the Year by the NH Bureau of EMS.

Colby College and Dartmouth College hosted annual spring regional training days in April. NCEMSF's Emergency Management Coordinator attended the Dartmouth event — He reported: "The day was well attended by

about 60 EMS providers from Dartmouth, Colby, Tufts, and RPI. The morning included dynamic lectures and the afternoon program included MCI and skills training. As usual, EMS continues to be a vehicle to foster the growth of professionalism and leadership."

Pennsylvania

Look for complete coverage of collegiate EMS involvement in the Papal Visit to Philadelphia in the winter issue of NCEMSF News.

Southeast

Off-duty *Duke EMTs* studying in the library successfully resuscitated a prominent professor after cardiac arrest and received great press and notoriety.



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Contact Information:
PO Box 93
West Sand Lake, NY 12196
Phone / Fax: (877) NCEMSF-1
Email: info@ncemsf.org
Web: <http://www.ncemsf.org>



National Collegiate EMS Foundation
PO Box 93
West Sand Lake, NY 12196-0093

Please visit the Membership section of the NCEMSF Website to keep your contact information up-to-date. Renew your NCEMSF Personal and Institutional Memberships early to experience a full year of member benefits. NCEMSF annual membership follows the academic year and expires annually on May 31st. Log on today to subscribe for 2015-2016.

In addition to making a continued commitment to the advancement of existing collegiate emergency medical services and the development of new response groups, your membership provides financial support to promote Collegiate EMS Week and our annual conference, produce publications, honor outstanding collegiate EMS organizations, and advocate for collegiate EMS.

Your membership in NCEMSF also entitles you to a number of member discounts including medical software and reference, EMS equipment and supplies, apparel and *EMS World Magazine*. These offers and discounts are detailed on our Website.

Your NCEMSF membership adds to the collective strength of hundreds of members throughout the nation - those participating in and advocating for collegiate EMS. Renewing your NCEMSF membership for the 2015-2016 academic year shows your continuing commitment to collegiate EMS. Don't let your enthusiasm for collegiate EMS diminish just because your college graduation is imminent. NCEMSF offers life memberships that keep you in touch with the world of collegiate EMS. More information about our membership categories and rates can be found online at www.ncemsf.org/membership.

Thank you for your ongoing support of campus based EMS and NCEMSF!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The NCEMSF Board of Directors is Excited to Confirm:

**The 23rd Annual NCEMSF Conference
will be held February 26-28, 2016
at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel**

**Further Details Available at www.NCEMSF.org/conf2016
Abstract Submissions Now Being Accepted Online**



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