Conference 2006

# NCEMSF NEWS

### Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Defining Your Mission	2
Alumni Reflections	2
Professor Squirrel	3
Discussion Forums	3
Regional Roundup	4-
NCEMSF Conference Changes One, Can it Change You Too?	6
The Collegiate EMS Difference	7
New Conference Programs for 2006	8
Membership	8

Information

"The network of friends and colleagues that you build today will allow you to strengthen your organization in the future."

# Message from the President

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

Welcome to the 13th annual NCEMSF Conference!

Admittance to 40 seminars packed into 13 hours - Cost \$60.

36 hours of meeting new friends, learning new ideas, and becoming energized to make a difference upon returning to campus - Priceless.

As I write this article, there are over 630 registrants representing 77 universities and colleges. This is a 10% increase over last year's representation. Our sustained growth and tremendous success is a testament to your dedication.

We continue to listen to your evaluations and suggestions. This year you will notice several changes to our conference program. We have brought back our roundtables. organizational These moderated sessions offer the opportunity to share your success stories and problems allowing for the creation of new ideas and solutions. On Saturday between 10:00 am and 11:00 am there be roundtable discussions on Financing, Recruitment/Retention, and Training. On Sunday between 10:50 am and 11:50 am there will be roundtable discussions on Startup, QRS, Transport.

We have also increased our focus on career development. On Saturday between 1:15 pm and 2:15 pm there will be a panel discussion on careers after collegiate EMS. We have also included a career development fair on Saturday in conjunction with our usual tradeshow.

Make sure you get some rest on Saturday night because we have packed Sunday morning with seminars starting at 8:30am. We have increased the number of workshops as well as the number of seminars.

Each year we continue to strive to raise the bar for our conference, but we can only do it with your help. During the conference weekend, please take a few moments to reflect on your conference experience by filling out an evaluation form, which can be found in your conference packet. We value your comments, and will attempt to incorporate your suggestions in future conferences.

I look forward to meeting each of you. I hope that we exceed your conference expectations and that you return to your campus energized with new ideas to strengthen your organization. Many thanks to Brandeis University, Boston University, MIT, Tufts University, the Regional Coordinators, the support of our NCEMSF friends, and the Board of Directors for their never-ending support.

The network of friends and colleagues that you build today will allow you to strengthen your organization in the future. If there is anything that I can assist you with, please do not hesitate to ask during the conference or email me at president@ncemsf.org.

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Best Wishes, George J. Koenig Jr., DO, MS President, NCEMSF

# **Defining Your Mission**

Joshua A. Marks, NCEMSF Secretary

If one were to ask what is your squad's mission, how would you reply? Would your response match that offered by other members of your corps? An ambulance company with which I am affiliated polled the 12 volunteer members of its board and asked each director to define the corps' mission. The answers received shared some similarities, but several key differences highlighted the critical problems the corps faces and helped focus the board on solving them. Interestingly, none of the varied perspectives on the corps' mission matched the corps' published statement.

Almost all directors referenced a commitment to fast, quality pre-

hospital emergency care for the citizens and visitors of the territories served. Some directors mentioned being on the cutting edge and setting the standard of care as part of the corps' mission. Others included education of EMS providers and community members. Still others talked about promoting volunteerism while some saw operating a fiscally solvent organization as an essential piece of the overall mission.

The various perspectives point to the different factors that motivate volunteers and emphasize that not everyone within your organization is there for the same reason and does not seek to contribute nor gain the same. The same is true of any

collegiate corps and a corps' mission statement should attempt to identify and address these differences.

A mission statement should comment on the corps' long term goals with respect to the community it serves, but also with respect to the providers that fulfill the community aspect of the mission.

The varied responses in the example given stemmed from leadership showing an overall lack of team work as a result of disagreement on the issues. Members were working to solve problems that some did not even see because their personal goals for the organization differed.

(Continued on page 6)

# **Alumni Reflections**

Michael T. Hilton

I was talking recently to a friend, who, like me, was very involved in collegiate EMS. We are both in medical school now, and were reminiscing and discussing how, in some ways, we miss collegiate EMS. We remarked on how collegiate EMS is a unique entity on a campus because of the responsibility the school gives the student providers and student leadership. Then we started to talk about what collegiate EMS provides to those who pass through its ranks. I thought about this for a moment, and, timely, was also skimming the New York Times when an article entitled "When Trust in Doctors Erodes, Other Treatments Fill the Void" caught my attention. The article described how many patients fleeing traditional are doctors or are supplementing their medical traditional care with naturopaths and alternative providers, remedies and herbs. It ascribes this trend to patients who feel that doctors don't listen to them. Sparked by the article, I interrupted my friend and asked if his medical school, like mine, is making a push toward improving patient-doctor

communication. I mentioned how, in my Medical Interviewing class, which emphasizes "Empathy, Respect, and a Non-Judgmental attitude," my peers noticed that I was able to connect with my standardized patient simulators more easily, from day one. My friend had had a similar experience.

In that moment, it dawned on me: what collegiate EMS provides its alums is the ability to communicate and connect with people. We develop this as we move through the ranks, from probie to crew chief, and assume leadership roles.

In a free clinic, at which medical students volunteer their time to conduct patient intakes and initial patient interviews before they are examined by senior physicians, the practice I had presenting patients to ED staff has allowed me to guickly and easily summarize my pertinent findings patient to attending physicians. The experience I had as a leader within my collegiate EMS organization - speaking at meetings and teaching continuing education

mini-lectures - has enabled me to speak publicly and deliver presentations with ease.

Whether interacting with other members of the health care team, patients, their families, or insurance companies, clear, concise communication will be critically important to my personal and professional future. This ability to communicate will serve all of you, current or future collegiate EMS alums, well in the many wide-ranging endeavors which you will undertake after graduation. Whether you choose for your future to continue on into medicine, EMS, law, business, graduate school, or whatever else, realize that collegiate EMS is more than just an experience that ends in college; it provides you with skills that will help you succeed.

Seniors and Alumni: Stay connected and involved. Please share your reflections on what collegiate EMS has meant to you and how it has affected your life since graduating. Email alumni@ncemsf.org

83

# **Professor Squirrel**

Serious Campus EMS Advice from a Nut

Dear Professor Squirrel,

My Corps is fairly well established and we seem to maintain an organized operation. Moreover, we enjoy a great working relationship with the various university departments with which we interact. NCEMSF has recognized us with its Striving for Excellence certification, but it seems like we could still be doing better and perhaps expanding into other areas. I feel like we are no longer striving for anything but rather have stagnated. Worse yet, the majority of the membership appears content with the status quo and sees no need to continue to grow and improve. What advice do you have to motivate the others and to regenerate some positive momentum within the corps?

Sincerely, Forging Forward

Dear Forging,

Some people might say, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" That may well be good advice, however, there maybe some things that you can consider that will make your organization stronger and better.

One thing you might do is revisit your reason for existence. Do you continue to meet all of the needs of your campus and your customers? By customers, I not only mean patients, but others who may rely on your services such as athletics, events, and residence life. NCEMSF has a couple of surveys for new start-up organizations to take to see exactly what needs a new organization could fill. It wouldn't hurt for your organization to take these surveys to see what might have changed over the years and how you are serving your campus now. Check the NCEMSF start-up resources web site at www.ncemsf.org/resources/links/ showlinks.ems?category=6 and check out the Campus Needs Assessment and Campus Risk Assessment links

about half way down the page. You may find that there are other aspects of campus life that you are not serving but could.

Another area to look into is EMS education. Are you providing basic EMS certification training and continuing education on your campus? Have you developed an instructor program to train your EMS staff to become instructors? This is something that will not only serve your organization, but benefit your members who become instructors by giving them new skills and new opportunities.

How do you get along with your local municipal, county and regional emergency services? Have you ever considered inviting them to an educational function that you host, or even a fun event such as an EMS Olympics. Reaching out in the community can help make your service better known and be a bigger part of the overall emergency response system.

Organize some social events for your crew. Take a ski trip, spring break trip, or go sky diving. Have you gotten involved in any philanthropic efforts on your campus? Many other campus organizations such as Greek organizations put emphasis on this. How about hosting a blood drive or participating in a walk-a-thon or other event to raise money for a good cause such as cancer research or diabetes? Organize a smoking cessation class with the Lung Association for your members and friends who want to quit; or a healthy eating group with your nutrition department's peer counselors. How about gathering nuts for the campus squirrels? That would be a fantastic project!

See you around the conference! 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.

Did you know that NCEMSF has two public electronic discussion forums? GENERAL-L discusses anything related to campus-based EMS including equipment, training, activities, etc. GENERAL-L is open to anybody with an active interest in collegiate EMS. GENERAL-L is available in both real-time and daily digest formats. Discussion on the other forum, ADMIN-L, is devoted to administrative affairs such as recruitment & retention, funding, policies & procedures, etc. Subscriptions to ADMIN-L are limited to two representatives per organization. We value your time, so we work diligently to keep both discussion forums spam free. For more information on the ediscussion forums (and to subscribe) please visit http://www.ncemsf.org/list/

# **Regional Roundup**

News from Around the NCEMSF Regions

The Regional Coordinator Network exists to facilitate communication between NCEMSF and its greater then 200 constituents. It is through the regional coordinators that NCEMSF is best able to accomplish 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. In order to assist you, however, the regional coordinators need to know who you are, what you are up to, and how to contact you.

Squad leaders, please take advantage of the regional roundtables scheduled for Saturday morning to meet formally with your regional coordinator and other local squads. The roundtables will offer you the opportunity to update your squad contact information and database profile as well as to discuss issues of regional importance with others facing the same challenges. Conversations started at the roundtables will hopefully continue throughout the weekend and develop into an on-going open dialogue between your squad, your neighbors, your regional coordinator and, by extension, NCEMSF at large. Seek out your regional coordinator because they will be looking for you too!

If you are interested in applying for a regional coordinator position please speak with an NCEMSF Board Member at the conference - Board Members all have black NCEMSF ribbons on their conference nametags.

### Mid Atlantic

In reflecting on my days as a student with Virginia Tech Rescue Squad and comparing them to my days now as a career EMT/firefighter, it occurs to me that collegiate EMS

providers are in general more enthusiastic about training, professionalism, and striving for continued excellence. They tend not to be satisfied with the status quo. I felt very passionately about what I was doing and worked hard on different projects to make things better at Virginia Tech. I realize that I probably have not been as devoted and committed to any other group or employer since then. The emotional atmosphere where I now work is certainly quite different. While I didn't realize it at the time, I was having the best time of my life while I was at college and volunteering with a collegiate EMS squad.

It is important that each of you in attendance at the conference in Boston extract the most from the experience. Embrace the glory that is collegiate EMS! Share with each other stories of excitement, tips on how to squeeze every dime out of your SGA and school administration, tales of how you train your members and how you are proactive in learning new skills or testing new Show how Collegiate equipment. EMS providers are the best in the nation with your participation in the skills competition. Talk among vourselves about how great it is to do what we do. I, for one, look forward to sharing in your stories.

### New York

The New York State Bureau of EMS awarded its highest honor, "State EMS Agency of the Year," to Harper's Ferry Volunteer Ambulance, the student run EMS organization of Binghamton University. The award was presented at New York's annual Vital Signs convention this past October. The award is presented annually to one of the state's 1,932 agencies. This marks the third year in a row that the State EMS Bureau has selected a collegiate agency for the honor (Syracuse University in 2004, and SUNY Stony Brook in 2003).

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the members of SUNY Geneseo First Response (GFR) responded to a patient (18 y/o male) in cardiac arrest on campus. Upon arrival, bystander CPR was in progress. After confirmation of lack of pulse and breathing, GFR applied an AED, and delivered one shock, CPR was resumed after a subsequent "no shock advised" message was received. Upon arrival of county ALS, care was transferred and the patient was transported. The patient arrived at the ED with pulse and spontaneous respirations. The AED record indicated Ventricular Fibrillation, followed by asystole after the shock, and sinus rhythm one minute later. Congratulations to GFR for an outstanding save! This event is a true testament to the value of campus EMS and quick response.

### North Central

Illini EMS (University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign) continued its coverage of home football games at Memorial Stadium this year with an updated and expanded coverage plan that included the implementation of four emergency response bike teams. Several Illini members traveled to the Gulf coast region and assisted with post-Katrina disaster relief.

At *St. Olaf* EMTs started an oncampus EMT-Basic training program with a goal of certifying another thirty students by year's end. In addition, the leadership has made significant headway in recruiting a medical director.

As my second year of medical school draws to a close, I am looking forward to moving to Phoenix, Arizona for my third and fourth-year clinical rotations. However, this means that I will be leaving the North-Central region. As such, I will be resigning my position upon the appointment of a new coordinator. I encourage anyone interested in

(Continued on page 5)

(Regions—continued from page 4)

pursuing a position within NCEMSF to consider work as a Regional Coordinator. The past two years have been very fulfilling and it has been a great pleasure to work with all of the groups in the region. Keep up the great work and stay safe!

### Northern New England

St. Michael's Fire and Rescue recently completed construction of a new station suitable for its fire engines and rescue vehicles. The new station located on campus has four bays with room for its five vehicles (including 2001 F-350, 2004 F-350, and 2004 International ambulances). On the second level there are six bunk rooms, a day room, kitchen, and plenty of office space. Currently St. Michael's Fire and Rescue has 25 student volunteer members. The squad responds to approximately 2700 calls per year including 250 NICU transports. It is an ALS service that covers its campus, as well as the towns of Winooski, Hinesburg, Williston, and St. George, as well as parts of Interstate 89. For images of the new station, visit the squad's www2.smcvt.edu/ website fire rescue.

### <u>Pennsylvania</u>

Lehigh University EMS (LUEMS) has grown tremendously this year. Its call volume has increased by 25% and its active membership has gone from 26 (of which only 10 were EMTs) to over 50 (25 of whom are certified as EMTs). In addition, 15 of LUEMS' current members are enrolled in EMT Class. All LUEMS members have gone through EPI-Pen training this year and the appropriate certifications have been received from the state to carry the life-saving medication on its QRS vehicle. LUEMS has also partnered with St. Lukes Hospital, a Level I Trauma Center located less than two miles from campus. Emergency medicine residents from the hospital lecture monthly to the corps' membership on various topics that help to increase members' abilities and enhance their confidence to handle any emergency that might present itself. Also all written call reports are now being reviewed by one of the residents, in addition to the Captain, in order to provide maximum feedback to members and ensure the highest possible level of care. LUEMS is looking forward to celebrating its 15th anniversary later this year!

Students at the University of Pennsylvania await final written approval from the Office of the University President on their pilot bicycle QRS program. All other parties have signed off on the proposal including the University provost, Vice President for Public Safety, Health Service Medical Director and the City of Philadelphia Fire Department, Members of the new Penn Medical Emergency Response Team have been reviewing protocols, running through training scenarios and completing the IPMBA EMS Cycling course in preparation for responding to their first calls this April just in time for Spring Fling.

### South East

Duke University EMS is taking a new approach to their squad structure. After working under the Duke University Police Department since 2003, the squad is hoping to become a division of Duke University Medical Center Life Flight, a critical care ground and air transport service. The squad hopes to run BLS transportation for the service in return for an increased budget and access to an ambulance.

Do you have news about your squad you'd like to share? We'd love to hear it! Contact your regional coordinator and look for it in the next issue of NCEMSF News.

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# **Regional Coordinator Network**

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National Coordinator	Kelly Schirmer	nc@ncemsf.org
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Central	Michael Kogan	central-rc@ncemsf.org
Massachusetts	(TBD)	ma-rc@ncemsf.org
Mid Atlantic	David Weand	midatl-rc@ncemsf.org
Midwest	(TBD)	midwest-rc@ncemsf.org
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North Central	Andy Jou	northcentral-rc@ncemsf.org
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Southeast	Noah Prince	southeast-rc@ncemsf.org
West	Mark Malonzo	west-rc@ncemsf.org

# NCEMSF Conference Changes One, Can it Change You Too?

David I. Bacall, NCEMSF Startup Coordinator

It seems like it was only a few moments ago that I was sitting in class with ten minutes left on the clock. Those ten minutes may well have been the longest ten minutes of my life. Instead of listening to the professor and taking notes, I was praying for something, anything, to happen, which would end the lecture: if only my pager would go off, the building would blow up or, more realistically, the professor would have an urgent need to finish up early. I really didn't care what happened, as long as it got me out of class, because I was looking forward to my first NCEMSF Conference. It is no accident that I am who I am today because of that NCEMSF Conference.

It was cold, and we were cramped and hungry. I guess you could say we were driving up from Connecticut on a day not too different from the one on which you drove to this conference. Like many of you, we didn't have school vehicles: we drove our own. Unlike today, there weren't 600 EMSers staying at a Hyatt. There were maybe 150 (I am probably being generous with my estimate) staying at a Motel 8 where a few of us decided to find new uses for shaving cream. I was green behind the ears, a new, young member of the University of Hartford Medical Team, and like many of you whose first conference begins today, I had no idea what to expect.

That weekend initiated a major groundbreaking shift in the way I thought about collegiate EMS. I realized that day that UHMT was not alone - that there were many other colleges that had student groups which did the same thing, some even did it better. I was so inspired by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's EMS group (which hosted that conference) and NCEMSF that I knew I had to host the next conference in Hartford. It was the

only way I could show the rest of our squad, and, in a way, more importantly, our administrators, what a college squad was capable of.

My plans changed. After that year, I left U of H to return to my native New Jersey. I started at a new school, Ramapo College. Then, it was a small state college with a few dorms, a mostly commuter school, and it had no campus EMS. Today, Ramapo is only 20% commuter, is a top liberal arts college and has a 24/7 collegiate EMS group which has even backed up the town during emergencies and supported the country on 9/11.

Why does Ramapo College EMS exist? I started it after my experience at UHMT and after being inspired by the speakers and other collegiate EMSers like myself that I met and talked to at my first NCEMSF conference. I used the advice from contacts that I made at the conference and knowledge I gained from its speakers to help guide me to establish a collegiate EMS group at Ramapo.

While I have since moved on from my college days, I am still involved in NCEMSF. After graduation, and being active in NCEMSF for a few years, I was appointed Alumni Coordinator and charged with building the Foundation's alumni membership and keeping graduating seniors involved. Subsequently I was made Startup Coordinator and assigned to assist and guide those trying to create new groups on their campuses and support other groups still in their infancy. I have lectured at the last six conferences on the lessons I have learned from my years in Collegiate EMS trying to pass on to those who, like me 10 years ago, needed to learn more.

This year I almost didn't make it to the conference - I am getting married in two weeks to a fellow EMSer (I met Joan when she joined RCEMS her freshman year. We became friends immediately and now we are so much more). I never would have met Joan if I wasn't a collegiate EMSer. I never would have started a squad at Ramapo if I hadn't been in a campus EMS group at Hartford. I never would have had the tools to establish such a strong and lasting organization had I not attended the NCESMF conference in Albany 10 years ago and met so many inspiring people.

It seems like it was only moments ago that I was sitting in class with ten minutes left on the clock. Since then, in the blink of an eye, the best ten years of my life have passed. They are gone. Yet they have shaped the naive boy that I was into the knowledgeable (at least in terms of collegiate EMS) man that I am now. I owe it all to my passion for helping others and to my first NCEMSF Conference. I was inspired by my first conference, and maybe it will be you who will be inspired at this conference and in ten years will be sitting in front of your computer, writing about your first conference and how it changed your life and made you who you have become.



(Mission—continued from page 2)

Take a look at your own group's mission statement and ask how you are matching up. Your mission statement should not be a dynamic document but should address who you are and may need revisiting and revising from time to time as you grow. Alternatively, your organization may need to refocus such that you are within your stated mission. Every project you embark upon should be analyzed with respect to your central mission and reason for existing. If a project or policy does not fit, you may want to think twice about pursuing or implementing it.

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# "...care provided by collegiate EMS personnel is frequently superior to that of a non-collegiate responder."

# 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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# The Collegiate EMS Difference

Dr. Scott C. Savett, NCEMSF Vice President

Take a look around the room this weekend when you're in one of the general sessions, when all of conference participants are You'll see collegiate EMS responders from every corner of the country. They represent every type of school - from a private liberal arts college of 1,000 students to a Big-10 public university swelling with more than 50,000 students. Many services are quick response, while fully-equipped others have Some of the 70 services ambulances. represented at the conference have been around for fifty years, while others were founded as recently as this year.

This year's conference has a showing of more new groups than any previous NCEMSF conference. 2005 was a banner year for new campus EMS startups. Nearly 20 of them contacted NCEMSF to request information about how to make the dreams of collegiate EMS a reality. Many of these new organizations are in attendance at the conference, soaking in all of the valuable information that firmly established groups can provide.

One such startup group is Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) EMS Club. A few members of ERAU EMS Club were recently at a campus activities fair recruiting new members when they were notified that someone nearby collapsed. Even though they hadn't yet officially been sanctioned to treat patients. their ERAU EMS Club staff responded and rendered aid for about ten minutes until the local ambulance arrived. their actions, the ERAU EMS Club staff received compliments and a glowing article in the campus newspaper. author of the article wrote: "There is no difference between an on-campus EMT and one who might respond if you called 911. Both have gone through the same training standards as outlined by the state. and both hold the same qualifications."

While the ERAU EMS Club EMTs have the same training and certification as other EMTs in the state, I would posit that care provided by collegiate EMS personnel is frequently superior to that of a non-collegiate responder. I believe there are three reasons for this:

- 1) While campus EMS personnel have a variety of backgrounds and majors, many of them are pre-med and/or biology majors. Advanced knowledge of human anatomy and physiology gives many of them insight into mechanism of injury (MOI) or nature of illness (NOI).
- EMS With resources staged strategically on a campus, response times are frequently much quicker than for an outside service that must come onto campus and navigate their way to the scene. As is the current trend, when a campus core becomes pedestrian-only, it becomes difficult to access buildings in large vehicles such as ambulances. Golf carts, bicycles, and foot become much more agile methods to reach a scene. What about campus EMS groups that have ambulances or other large vehicles? You should be more intimately familiar with a campus than an outside agency could ever be - even with a detailed map.
- 3) Campus EMS responders are part of the campus community. As such, they tend to be more in tune with the needs of their patients than outside EMS personnel would be. For the most part, I believe that campus responders show more compassion, empathy, and sympathy towards their patients. In return, patients feel more comfortable and may reveal something to a campus responder that they wouldn't share with a non-campus EMT or medic.

Whether you are working with your campus administration to obtain more funding or contacting the local media with a press release, it's important to keep the above reasons in mind. Especially for people who aren't familiar with your organization, you should reinforce that you are not just "a bunch of kids running around campus with lights and sirens." As anyone who has run a call on campus knows, there's much more to collegiate EMS than emergency response.

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**NCEMSF Executive Officers** President George J. Koenig, Jr., D.O.

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MEMBER BENEFITS



# **New Conference Programs for 2006**

Eric MaryEa, NCEMSF Director-at-large

This year, the NCEMSF Board instituted a New Group Initiative, a program designed to provide financial aid for conference travel and registration expenses to new collegiate-based EMS startups as well as established groups outside of the Northeast who had not previously attended an NCEMSF Conference. NCEMSF received eleven applications for funding, five of which were from colleges and universities not previously aware of NCEMSF's existence. Almost all who applied received some degree of subsidy. The NCEMSF Board welcomes those who would not have made it but for the New Group Initiative and looks forward to continuing the program in years to come.

At the 2006 Conference, NCEMSF will also inaugurate a Career Development With the purpose of aiding graduating seniors in researching and applying for careers in various medicallyrelated fields, the fair will feature recruiters from several large EMS systems as well as informational representatives from the pharmaceutical, hospital and government fields (see the conference program for a listing of participants - many of whom are NCEMSF/Collegiate EMS alum). If the fair is successful and feedback positive (remember to complete and return your conference evaluations), NCEMSF hopes to build the fair and include more medically and non-medically related employers and graduate programs in future years, making the Career Development Fair yet another reason why the NCEMSF conference is a must attend.

The NCEMSF Board looks forward to hearing from you and to providing the best possible conference experience.



# From the Membership Department

Karolina A. Schabses, NCEMSF Membership Coordinator

Whether you call it "Bean Town," "the Cradle of Modern America," or "the Walking City," Boston is the place to be February 24-26, 2006 for the 13th annual NCEMSF conference. Of the many reasons that Boston is a great city for a NCEMSF conference, two are of particular note. First, Boston has a rich history in EMS, dating back to 1892. Secondly, a plethora of colleges and universities call Boston home (over 35 at last count). While the EMS history of Boston predates the existence of NCEMSF by a little over 100 years, the number of colleges and universities NCEMSF brings to Boston far exceeds 35! At press time over 65 colleges and universities had registered to attend this year's conference.

With such a variety and number of attendees, NCEMSF appreciates the wide support for collegiate EMS that our conference inspires.

We also appreciate the ongoing support we receive from our members. weren't already a personal member of NCEMSF before this conference, your conference fees included membership for the rest of this academic year. Renewing your NCEMSF membership in June for the 2006-2007 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 which keep you in touch with the world of collegiate EMS. More information about our membership categories and rates can be found on our website at: www.ncemsf.org/membership.

I look forward to meeting each of you at the conference. Have a great time in Boston and thank you for your continuing support of NCEMSF.

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Mark your calendar for next year's 14th Annual Conference: February 23-25, 2007. Interested in hosting? Complete the RFP online at: www.ncemsf.org/about/conf2007/