

The Mitigator



Department of Emergency Management and Disaster Science
University of North Texas
<http://emds.hps.unt.edu>

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

DR. GARY WEBB

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Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

Welcome to another edition of *The Mitigator*! Inside this issue you will read all about the many exciting things our faculty, students, and alumni are doing to accomplish our mission of promoting societal resilience to disasters through research, education, and engagement. In all three of these areas, UNT remains at the forefront nationally and internationally as a leader in providing top-notch emergency management educational programs, conducting cutting-edge applied research on hazards and disasters, and advancing the profession through meaningful engagements with the practitioner community. As we close out the current year and look ahead to the next, the theme I would like to highlight in this opening message to the newsletter is *progress*.

Since becoming a stand-alone academic department in 2016, in fact, we have made tremendous progress on every front. As announced in last year's newsletter, for example, we launched a new Master of Science degree program in Emergency Management and Disaster Science, which, in just its second year, has already exceeded initial enrollment projections. EADP, which celebrated its 35th anniversary last year, remains the standard-bearer for university degree programs all across the nation—a point that was reaffirmed just this year by a panel of expert reviewers from top-tier universities who evaluated the program as part of UNT's accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Never content to rest on our laurels, however, we are always looking for ways to improve the EADP program to ensure that it remains not just the first, but also the *best*, emergency management program in the nation. Toward that end, we have recently made changes to the curriculum that align it more closely with the FEMA Higher Education Program's *Next Generation Core Competencies for Emergency Management Professionals*. We believe these changes represent significant progress in our efforts to educate the next generation of emergency management professionals, and we believe they will better equip our students, who are the leaders of tomorrow, to deal with more frequent, severe, and complex disasters of the future.

As further signs of progress, our department is growing both in terms of people and physical space. This semester we are delighted to welcome Dr. Tristan Wu to our faculty. An expert on risk perception and household hazard adjustments, Dr. Wu received a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University and served most recently as a faculty member in the Fire and Emergency Management Program at Oklahoma State University. This semester also saw the opening of our newly renovated and relocated Emergency Operation Center Simulation Lab. Previously housed in a portable structure on the other side of campus, the lab is now housed on the second floor of Chilton Hall, equipped with all new computers and located in much nicer space and in much closer proximity to our departmental offices. And that's not all. (*Continued on page 2.*)



WELCOME DR. TRISTAN WU!

As a disaster science researcher, people often ask me why I study disasters. My answer is always, “I grew up with disasters.” I spent my childhood in Taiwan and Japan. These are two of the most hazard-prone countries in northeast Asia. Growing up in places like these, I hear stories about people losing close family members and property during disasters every once a while. That is why hazards and disasters are part of local religion and culture. There are religious symbols and figures around Taiwan and Japan related to disasters. Local people believe these symbols and figures could shield people from being hit by typhoons, earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis, etc.

While governments, NGOs and religious beliefs play an important role in making people less vulnerable to disasters, I pursue another way to achieve this similar goal. I study disaster science. After serving in the Coast Guard as an information officer, I decided to work as a research associate in a hazard assessment project for an island community. It is a very culturally rich and gorgeous island. The project was not like any other hazard assessment project. To conduct the analyses, our research team had to walk around the island foot by foot to geo-locate the vulnerable areas. We also had to interview local elders to get information on historical disaster records. One year after working on the project, I realized how technology can save and help people, but I also recognized that technology can be a double-edged sword. Without social behavioral science theories and models to guide the technologies, the time and resources spent in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery would not be as effective as people think it should be.

Therefore, I decided to go to the other side of the earth and pursue a Ph.D. degree at Texas A&M Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center (HRRC). Through the course works and projects, I learned more about what people do before, during and after disasters. I worked with some most brilliant and talented social scientists during my time at Texas A&M. I learned so much from the HRRC researchers and colleagues.

I graduated from Texas A&M in 2013. Since then, I have been working as a researcher and a professor in universities. I also serve as a co-editor of the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*, one of the oldest journals in the field of disaster science. My research primary focus on disaster response and preparedness. Specifically, my research interests include mental modeling, risk perception, risk communication, hazard adjustments, and protective action decision making. I have several ongoing National Science Foundation projects, including a project studying earthquake preparedness in Oklahoma, an experimental study examining tornado information use within households, and a Quick Response project studying people’s night-time earthquake response.

The most exciting thing about me moving to the Department of Emergency Management and Disaster Science (EMDS) at the University of North Texas is being able to conduct a household tornado information search experiment by recruiting study participants in Denton, Texas during Spring 2020. This study will invite household participants to perform tornado information search tasks with their family members in our EMDS Disaster Research Lab, which is graciously provided by the College of Public and Health Services. Through this experiment, we will learn how family members make their protective actions together and how they make these crucial decisions by understanding each other’s position and concerns. This study will have a significant impact on our society by proving additional scientific findings on how citizens utilize tornado risk information provided by the National Weather Service and local media.

I strongly believe the research projects that disaster researchers do have important and sacred implications, saving lives and properties. We might not be emergency responders who are always first-in-last-out during disasters and catastrophes, but our research endeavors in the lab and field can certainly make their job easier and safer. Thus, together we will be able to save more lives during disasters.



CHAIR’S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

In January of next year, just before the beginning of the spring semester, we will move our departmental offices from our current location on the first floor of Chilton Hall to a much larger and newly renovated space on the third floor of the building. Thus, with the opening of the EOC Lab on the second floor and our offices moving to the third floor, the footprint of EMDS is growing on campus, which is further testament to the successes we have enjoyed and the significant progress we continue to make.

As you can see, these continue to be great times for emergency management at UNT. While we certainly appreciate the support we are receiving from the university and its administration, we are also thankful to all of you—our students, alumni, and friends—for everything you do to ensure our continued success. And, most importantly, we thank you for all you do to keep our communities safe and promote disaster resilience.

Gary Webb
Professor and Chair, EMDS

EADP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

OWEN REESE, 2001

It was my last day of my Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning (EADP) internship with American Airlines (AA) and I was in a training class to experience how AA trains their Customer Assistance and Relief Effort (CARE) personnel to respond to airline emergencies because I spent the summer writing standard operating procedures (SOP), evaluating airport response plans and participating in disaster drills at airports for the CARE Team. We had just finished introductions and an ice breaker, when suddenly, all the CARE Team's pagers went off in unison while my supervisor was going through the objectives for the training. Normally these distractions were an alert of an injured flight attendant or damage to a plane on the ground. This alert was different - way different. The class was immediately cancelled and we (myself and the rest of the CARE Team) quickly assembled at the AA's Emergency Operation Center to witness and respond to the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Over the next eight hours, which happened to be the last day of my internship, I was literally baptized by fire into the field of Emergency Management by responding to the worst terrorist attack to ever hit U.S. soil.



After graduating from UNT with a Bachelor of Science in in Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning, I really wanted to work for AA or another private sector entity. As fate would have it, the economic recession of 2001 kept me out of the private sector and focused my attention toward getting a job with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a Disaster Assistance Employee (DAE) reviewing Hazard Mitigation Plans and being a Mitigation Counselor that educated the public on mitigation techniques. Over the next 16+ years I have had the opportunity to work in FEMA Region 6, the Florida long-term recovery office, and at Headquarters in a variety of areas such as planning, grant programs, budget formulation and budget execution. I have also had the privilege of deploying to several major disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Harvey and most recently Hurricane Michael. My duty during the disasters was to help survivors navigate Federal rules and regulations so they can start rebuilding their lives quicker and safer. My current role is the Executive Officer of the FEMA Integration Team (FIT) initiative at FEMA HQ. This initiative embeds FEMA staff with state, local, tribal and territorial partners to help them close their capability gaps and build capacity. As the Executive Officer, I have had the unique opportunity to use all my program and budget experience to develop and implement this exciting and new initiative.

My advice to anyone interested in pursuing a career in Emergency Management, or another career field for that matter, would be to find a specific need or niche and learn all you can about it. Doing that will open so many opportunities for you to advance your career and your depth of knowledge and experience. Do not be scared to wonder into the unknown because you never know what you will find.

EMDS GRAD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JULIE ELLIOTT

I graduated with my Bachelor of Science degree in EADP in 2016.. Currently, I am a second year graduate student in the Emergency Management & Disaster Science program and working as the University's Emergency Management Coordinator. I am on the thesis track for the EMDS program and am currently gathering data for a study on the role of faith-based congregations in disaster recovery. I am especially interested in expanding organizations' work following disasters and identifying what assets they bring to disaster response and then into recovery. I absolutely love the EMDS program and would highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in the intricate, theoretical aspects of the profession.

In my position as UNT's Emergency Management Coordinator, I oversee the facilitation of the Emergency Preparedness program at UNT; this includes coordinating Emergency Operations Plan review, writing functional and hazard-specific annex, coordinating the Safety Coordinator Program, and facilitating the office's training, exercise, and outreach programs.



EADP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SARAH (WILLIAMSON) MOORE, 2006

Sarah (Williamson) Moore, CEM, is a proud 2006 EADP graduate, Tom Joslin Scholarship and John Maxwell EADP Student of the Year recipient, and a previous UNT EADP IEMSA President. With 15 years in the field, Sarah has extensive experience in planning, operations, response, and recovery having worked at all levels of government supporting response efforts to numerous natural disasters large and small, including Hurricanes Katrina, Ike, and Sandy, President Obama's 2009 Inauguration, and Super Bowl LIII.

She started her career at the North Central Texas Council of Governments as an Emergency Preparedness Intern. After graduation, she worked for FEMA Region 6 as a Reservist, working her way to Planning Section Chief, Operational Planner, and Assistant Planning Section Cadre Manager. She responded to over 20 Presidentially Declared Disasters and Emergencies across the country and worked on several temporary housing missions. During her time as an Operational Planner she developed the Gap Analysis Program for the Region 6 states and worked on the Regional Hurricane Response Plan and New Madrid Response Plan. She also served as a member of the FEMA National Emergency Response Team as Documentation Unit Leader and was an EMI Instructor for Planning Section courses.



Sarah then went on to work as a Planner for Ohio EMA, working in the State EOC and responding to numerous state-level activations and exercises serving in the Operations and Planning Sections. She also served as the Hazardous Materials Planner, supported 20 counties with planning guidance, and was an EMAC A-Team member, responding to Hurricanes Irene and Sandy in New York State to work in Operations and Logistics.

In 2013, Sarah accepted a unique position with the City of Columbus as Emergency Preparedness Chief for the Department of Public Utilities. In this role, she developed a new emergency management and homeland security program for the Divisions of Water, Power, Sewers and Drainage from scratch. She served on the Franklin County Homeland Security Advisory Committee as the Critical Infrastructure Representative, as well as numerous other regional committees.

Since 2018 Sarah has been working in the private sector, and is currently the Senior Resilience Consultant for Arcadis, responsible for the development and delivery of the emergency management business line. Her expertise includes emergency preparedness, planning, training and exercise projects, risk and resilience assessments, response, generators, communications, and security.

Her experience also includes instructing ICS courses, EOC/ICS Interface, and Evacuation Planning. She enjoys public speaking, with memorable presentations at the National Homeland Security Conference, National Hurricane Conference, FEMA Higher Education Conference, several American Water Works Association Conferences, and best of all – presenting at UNT EADP classes back in the day.

She is a Certified Emergency Manager through the International Association of Emergency Management, previous IAEM Student Region President, and the current IAEM Region 2 Vice President. She is currently residing and working in New York City, and is enjoying working on the Emergency Response Plan for the City's new East Side Coastal Resilience Flood Protection System. She is also Master Exercise Practitioner Candidate and was recently accepted into the Graduate Program for Emergency Management at the University of New Haven.

When asked what advice she would give to EADP students, Sarah states, "...network and work hard to make your resume stand out, don't give up on the job search, and be willing to move for your dream job! I'm a huge advocate for the degree - it gave me the foundation I needed to get my foot in the door and has continued to help me meet minimum qualifications for many positions."

FACULTY UPDATES

Dr. Gary Webb is currently serving on a statewide committee, which was established by the state legislature in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, to recommend baseline credentials for future emergency managers in Texas.

In November, **Dr. Tristan Wu** travelled to South Korea to teach a course on disaster response at the Korean National Fire Academy.

Dr. Ronald Schumann continued his collaborative pursuit examining post-wildfire community recovery through the National Science Foundation's Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center. Research from this pursuit was published in the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*. Dr. Schumann, along with co-PIs at SUNY Albany and the US Forest Service, was recently awarded a Mitigation Matters Grant from the University of Colorado's Natural Hazards Center to investigate post-wildfire changes to mitigation policy in California. Additionally, Dr. Schumann published research in *Environmental Hazards* and the *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*.

Dr. Elyse Zavar continued her research on community recovery following Hurricane Harvey, including the Harris County buyout program. She presented these findings at the North Texas Housing Recovery Summit, the Natural Hazard Workshop, and the inaugural Building Better Buyouts Workshop which brought together practitioners and researchers to discuss the current state and future of buyouts in the U.S.

Dr. Mary Nelan traveled to London in November 2018 to present her research at the Landscape Citizenship Symposium. Her work, titled "The Constructed Identity of Disaster Aid Workers and Their Place in the Affected Community" was well received and she had been invited to include this paper as a chapter in an upcoming book. Additionally, Dr. Nelan has recently published in the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* and *Sociological Forum*.

Dr. Laura Siebeneck and **Dr. Elyse Zavar** presented at the Region 6 NFIP Coordination Meeting in October. Their talk, examining patterns of floodplain management training needs throughout FEMA Region 6, provided an overview of primary findings based on a region-wise survey carried out earlier this year. This project is in collaboration with Charla Marchuk (FEMA Headquarters) and Rebecca Dake (FEMA Region 6).

WELCOME NEW EMDS GRADUATE STUDENTS

This past fall, EMDS welcomed a new cohort of 12 graduate students to the Master's in Emergency Management and Disaster Science Program. These outstanding students bring a wealth of knowledge and experience from various universities, disciplines, and professional settings. Many of them are serving the department this semester as teaching assistants, research assistants, and graduate assistants. We are happy to have them join the EMDS family and the faculty look forward to working with them throughout the graduate experience.

Pictured from left to right: Jamie Royster, Scotie Selman, Graham Huether, Justin Stewart, Stephanie Ray, Rachel Wolfe, Robert Gonzales, Miranda Saltzgeber, Denisse Martinez, Abel Gomez, Lacey Spinuzzi, Hanin Al Wardi, and Kayla Kelly.



City of Denton Disaster Drill 2019

This past May, students from the EADP program participated in the City of Denton Disaster Drill at Apogee Stadium. This year's event, named "Operation Thunderstruck," involved a tornado impacting campus and resulting in a mass casualty incident. Approximately 100 students volunteered as "victims" for this drill. It was a great opportunity for them to learn first-hand about the organizational challenges of executing exercise and what victims experience in the aftermath of an event. Many students were transported to hospitals where they gain insight into the roles hospital play when inundated with a large influx of patients. Special thanks goes out to EADP alum Michael Penaluna for his willingness to allow our students to attend and participate in these exercises.

Operation Thunderstruck: A Student's Experience

Last May, the City of Denton Emergency Management partnered with the UNT EADP program to conduct a full-scale exercise to test the capabilities of response teams and coordination between UNT and City of Denton during a mass casualty incident. The exercise was named "Operation Thunderstruck" and simulated a tornado impacting both Apogee Stadium and Discovery Park. This exercise included help from multiple jurisdictions, aerial equipment (helicopters and drones), about 100 student volunteers, City of Denton public safety departments, multiple health centers, FEMA Region 6, Denton County, and the National Weather Service. As a student and member of the International Association of Emergency Managers Student Council (IAEM-SC), I have always enjoyed volunteering as the "victim" of disaster exercise drills and I was thankful enough to have the opportunity to take the role as a "Observer". As an "Observer", I got to witness how efficient and organized the City of Denton Fire Department truly is. I observed the Fire Battalion Chief while he explained the process of the fire response teams and managed the triage portion of the exercise. He also instructed where newly arrived response teams will go and what their roles would be. As a victim volunteer, you see the chaos that emerges from a disaster, but as an observer, you witness how organized it actually is behind the scenes. I encourage all EADP students to volunteer to as many disaster drills to gain more insight on how disaster drills operate.

Selena Sanchez, EADP Major



EADP Student Observers: at Apogee Stadium: Selena Sanchez, James Crippen, Rebekah Manon, and Benjamin Hargrave.



EADP Students Recognized for Research

Stephanie Ray and Graham Huether Win Awards. This past April, two students presented their UNT Undergraduate Research Fellowship projects at the annual Scholars Day event. Stephanie Ray, who was mentored by Dr. Elyse Zavar, presented her study examining commemoration and recovery after the Joplin, Missouri tornado. Her research poster won third place in the student poster competition.

Graham Huether, who worked closely with Dr. Gary Webb over the course of the past year, presented his study which explored social capital and tornado risk perceptions of international students at UNT. Graham took third place in the student paper presentation competition.

The department is very proud of Stephanie and Graham and we are pleased that they continued their studies at UNT as they are both students in the Master's of Emergency Management and Disaster Science Program. Great work Graham and Stephanie!



EMDS in Boulder—Natural Hazards Workshop

This past July, several faculty, students and alumni travelled to Broomfield, Colorado for the 44th annual Natural Hazards Workshop. The theme for this year's workshop was "Convergence: Coming Together to Improve Hazards and Disasters Research, Practice and Policy."

While at the conference faculty and students presented their research in the poster session. This was a great opportunity to share the research underway in our department with the larger hazards, disaster, and emergency management community. This conference provides a great opportunity for academics and practitioners to network and work together to find ways to address the most pressing issues within our field.

Pictured to the left are : Ronnie Schumann, Graham Huether, Robyn Warren, Elyse Zavar, Mary Nelan, Stephanie Ray, Lauren Dent, and Josh Roberts.



RECENT ALUM SPOTLIGHT: GRAHAM HUETHER, 2019

This year the John Maxwell Award for the top EADP student was awarded to graduating senior, Graham Huether. As part of this recent alumni spotlight, we have asked Graham to update us on what he has been up to since graduating this past spring. Graham writes:

Three years ago, I moved from Seattle to Denton because of the reputation of the EADP program. After graduating in May, I can say confidently that it was the best decision I have ever made. Over the past year I have had the opportunity to participate in undergraduate research through an Honor's College fellowship with Stephanie Ray, another recent graduate of the program. Thanks to the incredible support from the entire department and our fellow EADP students, we were able to present our research this summer at the Natural Hazards Workshop in Broomfield, CO. Frankly, I have had so many wonderful experiences that continuing on into the EMDS graduate program here at UNT was a no-brainer. While pursuing my Master's degree, I will also be working as an editorial assistant under Dr. Tristan Wu for the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*. I am very grateful for the many opportunities this program has provided me and encourage our new class of 2023 to take full advantage of everything EADP has to offer.



EADP STUDENTS ATTEND TDEM CONFERENCE

The annual conference put on by the Texas Division of Emergency Management draws professionals from all over the state of Texas to San Antonio. These professionals come to the conference to exchange ideas and learn about what is next for the field. Also drawn to the event are students from University of North Texas' Emergency Administration and Planning department. These students took the four-plus hour trip from Denton to San Antonio excited for what would be the first real taste of the professional side of their intended career.

With the plethora of workshops available, the students were often faced with the difficult choice of which of two simultaneous workshops they would go to (Radiological response or Urban Search and Rescue Robots?). They listened as experts spoke about UAS, the challenges of rural EOCs, working with volunteers, and cutting-edge software solutions.

On the convention floor, booths from myriad agencies and companies vied for the attentions of the students. Everything from multi-million-dollar mobile command centers and UAS control trailers to new sandbagging solutions and radioactive waste transport casks filled the massive convention hall. Companies that specialized in everything from business continuity to logistical support passed out pens and other Tchotchkes emblazoned with their corporate logos. The students enjoyed slightly more attention from these companies as they hoped to make an impression on this next generation of emergency managers who would one day soon be potential clients.

Networking opportunities were abundant as well. Introduction by internship supervisors to mutual associates led to exchanges of business cards and establishment of contacts that would lay the groundwork for future employment searches. While for the professionals attending the TDEM conference this was all old hat, the students loved it. Their immersion into the practical side of this exciting field helped fuel their existing enthusiasm and anticipation of their eventual employment. - By James Crippen, EADP Student



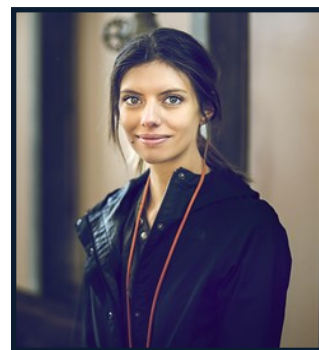
IAEM– SC UPDATE: A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The International Association of Emergency Managers Student Chapter (IAEM-SC) at UNT is a student group for future professionals in the emergency management field interested in broadening their horizons and engaging with their peers. IAEM-SC is committed to providing opportunities for training, volunteerism, and real-world experience in all aspects of the emergency management field. By providing access and information to academic research, conferences, scholarships, training, and activities throughout the region, IAEM-SC represents the nationally recognized Department of Emergency Management and Disaster Science here at UNT.

This year's IAEM-SC has been actively involved in a variety of activities and local involvement. Kicking off the year with the Professor Research Panel was an excellent opportunity we provided that allowed students to get to know their professors and learn more about UNT research possibilities. We then coordinated a TTX exercise at the Denton EOC, where we assigned disaster controller role cards to student chapter members in order to have a facilitated discussion on a local substation fire Scenario. Moving into November, the IAEM-SC officers coordinated the development of an Emergency Response Plan for the City of Denton's Animal Services. This wonderful collaboration between the UNT IAEM-SC, City of Denton's Office of Emergency Management, City of Denton's Risk Management, and the City of Denton's Animal Services is a continual project that provides a platform to bridge the academic-practitioner gap in the emergency management community. Later in November, we are also looking forward to attending the IAEM's 67th Annual Conference in Savannah Georgia, as we seek to broaden our knowledge on the most up-to-date ideas and practices in the realm of emergency management.

Upcoming activities this year feature the Dec. 2nd Black Swan Event, among more. Featuring an asteroid impact TTX scenario we will have a facilitated discussion challenging analytical thoughts, paradigm shifts and how to prepare for the unexpected. Additional activities that are planned for the spring semester include a Private Sector Discussion Panel, pandemic planning and response TTX, City of Lewisville OEM mobile EOC mock deployment training, and attendance at the Texas Emergency Management Conference! These activities and on-campus meetings are intended to foster community among the student body and engage students in local emergency management.

The upcoming events would not be possible without the hard work of the officers, support from our faculty advisor, and community supporters. Thank you all for the support so far and for the continual efforts. We are excited to open opportunities, create lasting memories and make impactful contributions for our fellow students, local communities, and the diverse field of emergency management.



Rebekah Manon, President

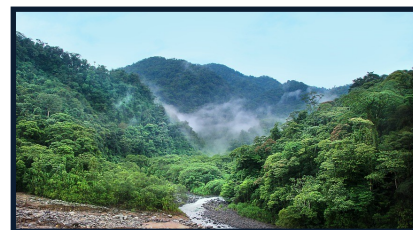


James Crippen, Vice-President

Study Abroad 2020: Costa Rica

This summer, EMDS will be offering an epic study abroad course in Costa Rica. Located in Central America, Costa Rica provides a wonderful opportunity to study the nexus between hazards, disasters, emergency management and crisis communication in a safe and interesting setting. Like many countries in this region, Costa Rica is threatened by a variety of hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, drought, wildfire, landslides, and sea level rise; all of which pose significant threats to life, property, infrastructure, and the country's economy. The purpose of this course is to examine hazards, risks, and disasters at the intersections of communication and culture. Students will see first-hand the natural hazards present in Costa Rica and have the opportunity to interact with public officials and citizens of Costa Rica in order to gain a better understanding and unique perspectives of how emergency management and crisis communication is carried out in an international setting.

This class is co-taught by Dr. Laura Siebeneck (EMDS) and Dr. Brian Richardson (Communication Studies) and EMDS/EADP students may sign up for either the EADP 4040 International Disasters class or the EMDS 5800—Special Topics Course. The course will be offered during the 2020 Maymester. If you are interested in attending, applications are being accepted until February 1st. Contact Laura Siebeneck for more details on how to apply.



SUMMER INTERNS: BLAZING TRAILS NEAR AND FAR

By Dr. Ron Timmons, EADP Internship Coordinator

After years of study and preparation in the classroom, several students continued the exciting progression to internships this summer. Some worked across the street, while others ventured much further.

Marshall Braun spent 35 days in Japan, leaving Denton right after his last Spring final exam. He conducted a series of ambitious research projects in conjunction with the University of Kitakyushu. He is focusing on improvement of hazard mitigation through deployment of GIS in rural Asia.

Paul Brown and Michael Irwin worked on projects at the city of Dallas Office of Emergency Management. In reflecting upon his experiences, Paul said, "Working for the City of Dallas has been a very rewarding experience, from the interview process to the day-to-day operations. Throughout my time at the office of emergency management, I've attended several meetings and was afforded the opportunity to network with others in the field. I've created an emergency operations center procedures guide, assisted in developing a disaster recovery center plan, helped in the development of 'Community Lifelines' and assisted in creating a tabletop exercise. The internship with Dallas OEM coupled with my education has better prepared me in becoming an emergency manager."

Juliana Rosado and Aseel Khader completed their internship hours at the UNT Emergency Operations Center. In commenting on Juli's performance, her supervisor, EADP alumnus Justin Stewart said she was a "great asset to our team at UNT in the Office of Emergency Management & Safety Services. She was on time, productive and produced great work with minimal supervision."

Devon Spencer worked at Lowes. Not the one on Loop-288, the one at the corporate campus in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. She learned enterprise resilience with the Lowes business continuity team while working at their corporate command center. Devon reflected back on her North Carolina experience, "I was really able to take the things I learned in the classroom and apply them to real world experiences. It was a cool experience being on the private sector end and seeing how PPP worked first hand, I was able to partner with government agencies in Louisiana during Barry as well as deal with transactions from Red Cross and NGOs. This experience allowed me to shadow many different people as well as build strong connections with people in the Emergency Management field. I also got a chance to learn about Business Continuity and how it is a close resemblance of government work!"

Meanwhile, Will and Alex operated 6,000 feet above sea level. William Pecena interned at a non-profit organization in Colorado Springs, while Alex Hintze was twelve miles up the road at the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management. Jacob Dumas returned home to serve at Bell County Emergency Management in Belton, Texas, over 165 miles south of Denton. Closer to UNT, Marina Garcia was tutored by EADP alumni at the City of Grand Prairie Office of Emergency Management. EADP supporter Ed Balderas, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator at city of Rowlett Office of Emergency Management, served as host supervisor for Makayla Rangel. Sarah Armstrong learned about the interworking of the city of Southlake Office of Emergency Management. Yaser Alrifaaee was exposed to important functions as he served at the Interfaith Ministries of Denton. Anna Piasecki accomplished environmental projects at the North Central Texas Council of Governments in Arlington. Aaron DelRio and Lauren Harris worked on important projects with our friends at Tarrant County. And Benjamin Hargrave learned business continuity strategies at the Options Clearing Corporation in Coppell.

Meghan Griggs scored a coveted funded internship this summer at Amazon in New York City. In reflecting upon her experiences, Meghan stated, "My internship at Amazon this summer showed me what it truly means to put safety at the forefront of everything. My project focused on safety scores for managers, and working with both leadership and associates to improve the culture of safety within our building. As a safety intern, my day to day included completing standard work, responding to calls, and working on my internship project during free time. My building, JFK8, is the first Amazon fulfillment center in New York City. This meant a fast paced work environment, but also getting to work with some of the best people from all over the world." Meghan impressed her supervisors so much that she has been offered fulltime employment at a variety of Amazon facilities nationwide. She is contemplating her next career move as she finishes her degree.

The EADP internship program is a classic "win-win." Students learn from experts in the field, cultivate skills important to the workplace, and earn reputations which can lead to life-changing job referrals. In return, students serve over 14,000 hours per year, in what is a true "force multiplier" for their host agencies, and a valuable contribution to our great profession.



EADP SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, the Department of Emergency Management and Disaster Science is pleased to offer scholarship opportunities to our students. This year, we are especially excited to have two EADP scholarships that our students can apply for. The Tom Joslin Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Tom Joslin, one of the first EADP faculty members. EADP majors who are 1) enrolled full-time, 2) carry a 3.0 GPA, and 3) are committed to a career in emergency management are eligible to apply. This award is \$1000 for the 2020-2021 year.

The second scholarship is the new Michael A. Penaluna Endowed Scholarship in Emergency Administration and Planning. This scholarship is open to students with 1) a 3.0 GPA, 2) are enrolled full time, 3) demonstrate eligibility for need-based financial assistance as determined by completion of the FASFA, and 4) are active in IAEM-SC. The award is \$1000 for the 2020-2021 year.

Scholarship deadlines are March 1, 2020. Students can apply for scholarship through the UNT Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Office by accessing <https://financialaid.unt.edu/how-apply-scholarships>



GIVING TO THE DEPARTMENT

Are you considering giving a gift to the EADP program? Would you like to contribute to Joslin or Penaluna Scholarship? Giving has never been easier! You can now make a donation online. Just complete the following steps.

1. Go to the EMDS Giving tab on our homepage: <http://emds.hps.unt.edu/giving> and click "Giving".
2. Select which fund you would like to contribute to.
3. Enter the total amount you wish to donate (if donating to more than one account, please indicate the amounts for each account separately. You may enter them as an additional transaction by logging into this website again).
4. Complete the remaining boxes on this page as appropriate, then move cursor to Click to Pay. After submitting your online gift, please notify Gary Webb (Gary.Webb@unt.edu) in EMDS that you made an online gift and the award program(s) that you designated. This will help us insure that your gift is properly credited and recognized. Thank you for your consideration!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Laura Siebeneck (laura.siebeneck@unt.edu).

EADP ALUMNI DIRECTORY



Attention EADP Alumni! The EADP program is currently in the process of updating our online alumni directory. This is a valuable resource for allowing EADP alums to reconnect and network with other EADP graduates. We would love to hear from each and every one of you.

If you have not already done so, please consider adding your name to this directory. The Alumni Directory and information form can be found at: <http://emds.hps.unt.edu/alumni>.

Emergency Management & Disaster Science

📍 Chilton Hall

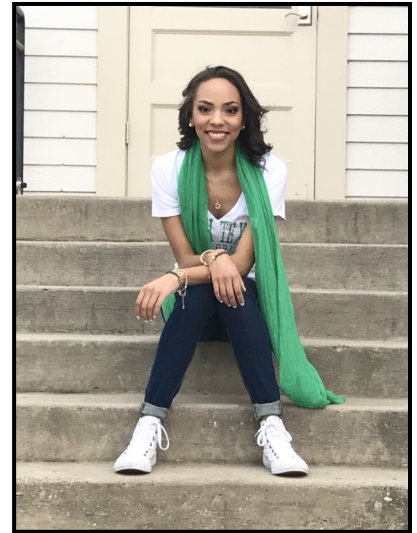
✉ 410 Avenue C, Suite 122
Denton, Texas 76201

🚗 Visitor Information

TOM JOSLIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, the EADP program announces the recipients of the Tom Joslin Award at our annual end of the year picnic. Established in 1994, the Tom Joslin Award is given once a year to EADP students to carry forward Mr. Joslin’s vision for the EADP program and profession. In May, the department awarded two \$1000 scholarships. This years winners were Damara Winfrey and Daniela Jasso. Below, the award winners describe how this scholarship is currently supporting their emergency management education. Congratulations, Damara and Daniela!

“Throughout my three years at UNT, there is one thing I know for sure: The EADP program is where I am meant to be and I have no regrets in choosing this as a major. This program has given me numerous opportunities to learn, network, and be an important part of my community both in school and back home. I have traveled with people who share the same interests as me, I have been guided by the most passionate professors, and I have truly found my place in the EADP community. I am honored to be a Tom Joslin Memorial Scholar and proud to represent what it means to be in the EADP program. This Fall ‘19 Semester, I am currently interning with Dallas County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. After graduation this May 2020, I hope to continue my journey in the program by gaining a master’s degree in Emergency Management and Disaster Science. I am beyond thankful for this scholarship which has allowed me to grow in the emergency management field and achieve my goals.”
– Damara Winfrey



“I would like to start off by giving a special thanks to The University of North Texas - Emergency Management Program. As an incoming freshman, my goal was to graduate and work for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Surely to say I have taken steps to come closer to that goal, I had the opportunity to be an intern with FEMA R6 in Denton, TX. In addition, I also had the opportunity to be an intern with the Judge’s Division Fire Marshal and Emergency Management office located in Brownsville, Texas. The Emergency Management Program has mentored me in communication, adaptability, and my interpersonal skills to feel confident and comfortable to meet new people in different settings. I got to experience three of the four emergency management phrases (preparedness, response, and recovery) that Cameron County was involved in during the June 24/25 severe weather incident. Without this program, I wouldn’t have been able to have hands on experience with first responders with distributing supplies to flood victims as well as preparing a DRC to help victims with disaster recovery assistance. Seeing firsthand what first responders do in the community made me appreciate even more this field of study. Both my internships worked together to show me how proactively and quick you must be to help people and that brightens my passion for being a part of the Emergency Management program at UNT. Thank you.” -Daniela Alejandra Jasso



Thank you Adjunct Faculty!

The faculty would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to our wonderful adjunct faculty who share their knowledge and expertise with many of our students throughout the course of the year. The dedication to educating our EADP students and commitment to providing them valuable insights into the profession of emergency management is greatly appreciated. Thank you all for everything you do!

EMDS Adjunct Faculty 2018-2019

Ms. Karen McCormick Mr. Brian Martin
Mr. Luis Tapia Dr. Mike Gutierrez
Mr. Nick Sloan



Thank you Guest Speakers!

The EMDS Faculty thanks all the alumni and friends of the EADP program that visited campus this past year and served as guest speakers in our classes. Additionally, many of our alums regularly host student visitors to their Emergency Operations Centers throughout the DFW area, and we are grateful for the opportunities they continue to provide our students.

If you would like to offer to be a guest speaker in our courses or would be interested in hosting a field trip experience, please don’t hesitate to reach out to the faculty. We thank everyone again for their continued support!

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF EADP

Last year, the EADP program celebrated its 35th anniversary in style. On April 11th, alumni, students, staff, and faculty gathered in the Gateway Building on campus for an evening of catching up with old friends, meeting new people, and reminiscing about all the good times in the program. In all, we had over 100 people in attendance. It was a great turnout and we are grateful to everyone who celebrated this great milestone with us.



MICHAEL A. PENALUNA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IN EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

At the 35th Celebration, the department and college recognized Michael Penaluna for his generous donation that established the Michael A. Penaluna Endowed Scholarship in Emergency Administration and Planning. Mike graduated from the EADP program in 1988 and since that time, he has served in various roles in the emergency management profession. He currently is the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Denton and over the years, he has hosted dozens of student interns, many of whom were in attendance at the celebration.

In addition to his mentorship of our EADP students, Mike's impact is felt throughout the entire program, as he often guest lectures in our classes, provides support for our IAEM- student chapter, and allows our students to participate in the annual city of Denton Exercise each year. His support of our students and faculty over the years has been tremendous we are very grateful for all of he does.

In his gift agreement, Mike expressed that he hopes his scholarship will serve to inspire a new generation of UNT students to become emergency managers. The generous donation by Mike and his wife Carolyn will benefit EADP students for decades to come. We are excited that the first recipient of this award will be announced this upcoming may, with the scholarship being dispersed during the Fall 2020 semester. For more information about this scholarship and application criterial, please check out the HPS Scholarship page at: <https://hps.unt.edu/scholarships>.



EADP: 35 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE!



Great Things are Happening in EMDS!

