

The Mitigator



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

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Spring 2023

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

DR. GARY WEBB

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Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

Welcome to another edition of *The Mitigator*! As always, we are excited to share with you many of the amazing things our students, faculty, and alumni have been doing since the last issue of our newsletter. Despite the enormous challenges of the past couple of years and the unprecedented disruptions caused by COVID-19, Winter Storm Uri, and so many other recent disasters, we have persevered, and, through it all, we have been reminded that the work that we are all doing--as scholars, practitioners, and students--is needed now more than ever. As I reflect on all of the great stories contained in this issue, a single word comes to mind—*resilience*.

Through all of the ups and downs of the past couple of years, our students, both undergraduate and graduate, have exhibited remarkable resilience. They stayed the course and continued learning even when all of their courses were moved online; they found ways to complete internships even in a remote environment; and many of them received their hard-earned degrees during virtual commencement ceremonies. Fortunately, their persistence is being rewarded by an expanding disaster and emergency management job market, which should make us all proud and give us a strong sense of confidence in knowing that the profession is in good hands and its future is bright.

Our departmental staff—including faculty, administrators, part-time instructors, and student assistants--have also demonstrated extraordinary resilience during these unprecedented times. They quickly pivoted all of our classes and departmental services to a remote format and maintained those operations for a prolonged period of time; they continued to secure federal grants to support their research and publish their findings in high-impact scholarly journals; they received multiple university and national awards for their outstanding achievements; and, most importantly, they ensured that our students were able to continue to pursue and achieve their educational goals and professional aspirations.

We continue to marvel at the many accomplishments of our alumni—now more than 1,700 strong—and remain in awe of their steadfast resilience and unwavering dedication to the profession. They worked tirelessly to the point of exhaustion on the front lines of multiple crises unfolding at the same time; they made enormous personal sacrifices and took extreme measures to ensure that their organizations and communities remained safe and continued to thrive; and they engaged in thoughtful reflection and meaningful after-action analyses to learn valuable lessons from these historic events.

(Continued on page 2.)



EMDS THESES 2020-2022

Master's Theses

Tori Barker. "Building Better Continuity of Health Services: Lessons from Covid-19 Pandemic." Summer 2022.

Cassidy Boyle. "The Decision-Making Process of Transitioning to a Regenerative Agricultural System: How Disaster Resilience Fits In." Spring 2022.

Julie Elliott. "The Role of Faith-Based Congregations during Disaster Response and Recovery: A Case Study of Katy, Texas." Fall 2020.

Graham Huether. "Protective Action Decision-Making During the 2019 Dallas Tornado." Spring 2021.

Chad Keys. "Understanding the Floodplain Administrator: Measuring and Analyzing Perceived Competence with Implications for Training." Spring 2022.

Jeremy Smith. "Understanding Hazard Adjustments and Risk Perceptions of Stakeholders in El Reno, Oklahoma." Fall 2021.

Lacey Spinuzzi. "Social Media Usage Among First Responders to Hurricane Harvey." Spring 2021.

Salvesila Tamima. "Adjustments in Business Operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Analysis of Natural and Cultural Resource Sites in Texas." Fall 2022.

Robyn Warren. "Divided-Tenure, Divided Recovery: How Policy and Land Tenure Shape Disaster Recovery for Mobile Home Owners." Spring 2021.

Rachel Wolfe. "It seems like it's never going to end" – The experiences of those living in damaged dwellings following Hurricane Sandy." Spring 2021.

Undergraduate Honor's Thesis

Josh Tincopa. "Harris County, Texas Home Buyout Program: What Did Homeowners Do After Hurricane Harvey?" Fall 2020.

Shawn McDermott. "The use of eminent domain to complete structural mitigation projects." Spring 2022.

Anna Baker. "Understanding Social Vulnerability of Women Across Sri Lanka." (May 2020).

Crystal Goodwin. "Disability Data Usage Among Emergency Managers in Texas." (December 2022).

CHAIR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Although we would like to believe that the events of the past couple of years have been an anomaly, we also know that the landscape of hazards and risk is changing dramatically and that disasters of the future will continue to multiply and intensify. We remain committed to doing our part to educate the next generation of disaster professionals with a curriculum that is timely and rigorous, expand fundamental knowledge of hazards and disasters through applied research, and advance the profession of emergency management through collaborations with the practitioner community.

Together, we can achieve a safer and more resilient future.

Gary Webb, Professor and Chair, EMDS

EADP ALUMS IN ACTION

At the October 7, 2022 Regional Emergency Managers (REM) meeting, EADP alumni were prominent at the podium and in delivering the program.

Samantha Pickett ('16, '20), Ellis County, is the new chairperson, with first chair now Luke Parten ('17), from the city of Farmers Branch. The new secretary and incoming 2023 Second Chair is Maricarmen Palomares-Garcia ('22), from the city of Carrollton.

During one of the feature presentations, Carrollton's emergency management specialist Maricarmen Palomares-Garcia highlighted her efforts to streamline the damage assessment process for their office using GIS skills developed at UNT. By encouraging citizen damage report entries into an online system, they are ready to gather real-time damage assessments, leading to faster loss estimates, recovery assistance, and geographic plotting of damage paths. In a recent case, wind damage from a March severe weather outbreak led to the identification by the National Weather Service of an EF-0 tornado path, across the top of the city, while damage from a separate circulation in the south end was obviously scattered, and determined to be from straight-line winds. Data from the geographic citizen damage reports were compared with radar maps to concur the presence of a tornado. Elliott Reep (MPA-'11), Carrollton emergency management coordinator, praised Maricarmen's work on the initiative and said having a staff member skilled in GIS was an absolute necessary to the successful operation of their office.

In other reports from around the region, Laura Rojas Sifuentes ('21), Program Assistant II at the North Central Texas Council of Governments provided a regional update on behalf of their organization. Group discussions on the south Dallas county August flood included a report by Joshua Tincopa ('21), emergency management specialist at the city of Dallas.

Other alumni present at the meeting included Chance Huxtable ('19) Emergency Preparedness Specialist at DART, Michaela Sandefer ('19), Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator at the City of Grand Prairie Fire Department, Denisse Martinez ('17), Dallas County, Emergency Planner and Volunteer Coordinator, James Pogue ('17, '19) Operations Section Chief for Dallas County HSEM, Shawna Lemley ('15), Emergency Management Coordinator for City of Arlington, Justin Cox, ('06) Emergency Management Coordinator at The University of Texas at Arlington, Jason Carriere, ('03) Emergency Management Coordinator at City of Irving, and Irish Hancock ('03), Emergency Management Administrator at City of Arlington.



EMDS GRADS ON THE MOVE

Two new graduates of the MS in Emergency Management and Disaster Science program recently began their doctoral studies at the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware. Salvesila Tamima is currently working as a member of a research team on an NSF-funded project examining floodplain management and policies in the United States, and Julie Elliott is working as a graduate teaching assistant. Additionally, recent graduates Deea Scully and Kimber Qualls accepted positions as Emergency Management Officers at the City of Fort Worth. We are very excited for all of our graduates and we know that they will do outstanding work in these new roles.



Fall 2022 EMDS Graduates Kimber Qualls, Deea Scully, and Salvesila Tamima.



Recent EMDS Graduate Julie Elliott.

EADP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DEVON SPENCER, 2020

During my time in the EADP undergraduate program I would constantly say “I hope something happens so I can get a job.” When I was saying this, I meant more along the lines of a hurricane or tornado not an entire pandemic. During my last semester, COVID-19 became a major disaster causing the entire country to shut down and it was the first time all EOCs across the country were simultaneously activated. I had quit my job as an EMS dispatcher right before the beginning of the semester with hopes of having a “normal college experience” that semester. Well, I was very wrong. After Spring Break, we never returned to class, and I was in the middle of trying to secure my third internship in the field but that was cancelled due to the pandemic. One day I had applied to an agency that said I could work remote while working as “EOC Support” for various cities. I knew nothing about the world of consulting, but I was going to learn soon.

The day I got hired on to Hagerty Consulting, they asked how long of a notice I would need to mobilize, and I was instantly thrown through a loop. I had been told this position would be remote but 16 hours later I was on my first flight across the country to New York City to work with New York City Emergency Management. When I was picked up by my uber driver to head to my hotel, it was almost like a scene from a post-apocalyptic movie. The trip from LaGuardia to Downtown Brooklyn took only 15 minutes and when I was talking to my driver, he said this trip usually took over an hour due to traffic, but the streets were completely empty. The only thing you could hear constantly were the sound of ambulance trucks running lights and sirens throughout the city. We sat in silence and listened to the radio and the next thing that we heard was Mayor De Blasio’s voice talking about how to that day, there had been 10,000 lives lost to COVID-19 in New York City and how he wanted to take a 10-minute moment of silence for them. I felt like I had a lump in my throat the entire 10 minutes, I grew nervous and had no idea what I had gotten myself into.

When I walked into the EOC for the first time to meet the only other person working in my unit, there wasn’t a greeting or introduction but instead she looked at me and said “Okay, are you ready to start answering emails and sourcing stuff?” I had no experience in this field outside of my two internships that did not address logistics or vendor management. I felt absolutely defeated the first few days and almost purchased a ticket back to Texas because I did not feel like I was prepared for the role I was taking on. I cried every time I got back to my hotel room because I really thought I was in over my head and kept making mistakes. I had to give myself a pep talk and realize I would not have gotten this position if they did not think I was qualified for it. I was there to make a difference and prove to not only my coworkers but to myself that I was more than capable of taking on this project.

I spent the next three months working for NYCEM under the Logistics Section in the Human Services Unit. I was over the COVID-19 Hotel Isolation Program that housed 100,000 people across the five boroughs. I worked with many different agencies such as the DOJ (Department of Justice) to find hotels for Riker Island inmates. Day in and day out I focused on vendor management for food, shelter, and different wrap around services to help those who were either healthcare workers or sick with COVID-19. While doing all of this, I was also finishing up my last semester of school taking 15 hours while working almost 16+ hours a day.

I spent a lot of time learning the about New York City, NYCEM and all their large stakeholders that needed assistance. The NYCEM office building is located in the old American Red Cross building in Downtown Brooklyn, it was a 3-story building with the largest EOC I have ever been in. The room was about 2 stories and had a walkway bridge for the executive team to use to oversee operations. The room itself could fit almost 200+ individuals during any activation and had several breakout rooms for different groups. There was a kitchen, a library, offices, and a lot of things I was familiar with thanks to Dr. Timmons EOC class.

This experience felt like I gained 5 years of emergency management knowledge in 3 months. A lot of the time I felt defeated because I was brand new to the field and did not have much experience. I was basically thrown into the ring with no equipment or leadership to follow and had to build the program out from scratch with my boss. Almost everything I learned about Emergency Management came from this deployment. It helped me realize that I was a fast learner, and it gave me an understanding that this field is not a field that can be taught without any hands-on experience. We learn so much in the EADP program about standard operating procedures and activations but learning to write those verses implementing them and constantly having to change them is a different story. I would write an SOP regarding how to run our intake process and every time it would get approved, we would find something else to change about it.



EADP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT (cont.)

(Continued from page 4) Emergency Management is almost like a science experiment, and you are constantly trying to find an effective solution to your issues whether it be something as simple as a script to read to people or a writing a process for hospitals to follow to get people into our program. In most situations there's also previous lessons learned or best practices you can follow for activations but in this situation, there was never a previous pandemic so everything we were doing, was completely brand new.

When I finally decided to demobilize from my team, I wanted to feel like I left the program better than it was when I first started. We went from a team of two people to almost a team of ten and the program had become more stable and efficient. I went from working 16-hour days every day to a normal work schedule of 8 hours and had a great team that could answer questions without hesitation. The day I left was the first day the city had without a single COVID-19 related death and that to me, felt like we were starting to grasp the pandemic and really make a difference. While it is still considered a Public Health emergency, we have learned so much about the virus verses when it first started. My experience in New York City allowed for me to become a competitive candidate for jobs in the DFW area. I have also gained a newfound appreciation for the EADP program because without a lot of the book knowledge, I would not have been as successful in my position.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ERIC HUTMACHER (2010)

My name is Eric Hutmacher and I am the Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) for Denton County. In my 12 years of experience, the mass vaccination operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was the largest challenge to date. The State of Texas issued a Disaster Declaration in March of 2020, which has been continuously renewed and is currently in place. By late December 2020, small amounts of vaccine were available per week, and by January 2021, a few thousand were available per week. Public demand clearly outpaced vaccine supply, and as a result, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a tiered approach to ensure those at highest risk received the vaccine first.

As an emergency manager, realizing that a situation has the ingredients to destabilize and overwhelm local resources is part of our job. Denton County OEM started meeting with Denton County Public Health to develop plans and strategies to support delivering as many vaccines to the public as possible. This would be my first piece of advice: *Start your conversations early*. Knowing what other agencies' thoughts and needs are is paramount to how OEM will support and respond. OEM brought in other county departments to assist which resulted in success at the smaller 3,000 per day vaccination sites. When we were suddenly tasked with administering 34,000 doses in one week, just after a week of 6,000 doses, we were officially in an expanding, complex incident.

Now, for my second piece of advice: *Ask for help when you know you might need it*. Our local fire and police departments, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), FEMA and our volunteers were invaluable in making the Texas Motor Speedway vaccination site a success. OEM planned and coordinated these resources, however, it was the "boots on the ground" that created the availability and administered vaccine to the public. Additionally, Denton County Leadership was instrumental in their guidance and support and were available around the clock for the entirety of the event. Now, my last piece of advice: *Tell those who assist you or serve alongside you, "thank you"*. Kind words go a long way in a disaster. Emergency management is a great way to serve your community and make the world a better, safer place.



Go Mean Green.

-Eric Hutmacher, MPA, CEM®

EMDS FACULTY UPDATES

Dr. Gary Webb received the 2021 *Dr. B. Wayne Blanchard Award for Academic Excellence in Emergency Management Higher Education* from the FEMA Higher Education Program, and in 2022 the third edition of his co-authored book, *Introduction to Emergency Management and Disaster Science*, was published by Routledge.

Dr. Ronald Schumann was awarded a Mitigation Matters Grant from the Natural Hazards Center to study conflicts between wildfire recovery and mitigation among policymakers in northern California. This research paved the way for a recently awarded National Science Foundation grant where Dr. Schumann and collaborators examine the role of place attachment in housing recovery decisions after wildfire using the photovoice method. Additionally, Dr. Schumann spoke at the University of Delhi's 2022 conference on Challenges to Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilient Habitat. His recent research appears in the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, *Environmental Hazards*, *Southeastern Geographer*, and the *Manchester Briefing on COVID-19*.

Dr. Elyse Zavar continued her research as a Gulf Research Fellow examining mandatory buyouts with several related articles and conference presentations stemming from this work. EADP majors, Krystian Murry and Georgia Green, in addition to EMDS major Prabin Sharma and anthropology major Ellen Christensen joined Dr. Zavar in field work to understand residents' experiences with voluntary versus mandatory relocation programs.

Dr. Laura Siebeneck was awarded the 2021 UNT Teacher Scholar Award and the 2021 FEMA Higher Education Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award. She also received a RAPID grant from the NSF to examine evacuation and re-entry decision making during Hurricane Ida and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Mary Nelan continued her research into disaster volunteers and therapeutic communities that emerge after disasters, including how art and culture emerged as therapeutic during COVID 19 lockdown. Additionally, she participated on a Department of Homeland Security focus group in March of 2020 and she was accepted to present in Brazil in July of 2020 at the International Sociological Association Sociological Forum. Her research appeared in the *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* and the *Natural Hazards Review*.

Dr. Tristan Wu was awarded the President's Service Award from the International Sociological Association's International Research Committee on Disasters (IRCD/RC 39) in recognition of his exceptional and sustained leadership to the profession and the IRCD. He also received an NSF RAPID grant to examine how COVID-19 affected households' evacuation decisions during Hurricane Laura. Additionally, Dr. Wu, EMDS major Barend Stander, and Hao Zhang (PA Ph.D. student) conducted an NSF-funded social experimental study in the State of Washington during the summer of 2022. The project examines how people search for risk information when facing an unfamiliar hazard event.



Dr. Zavar and the UNT research team on a buyout lot in Houston that is now a play lot. November 2022.

Recent Promotions

Dr. Ronald Timmons was promoted to principal lecturer, effective September 1, 2021.

Dr. Ronald Schumann was promoted to associate professor with tenure, effective September 1, 2021.

Dr. Tristan Wu was awarded tenure, effective September 1, 2021.

Dr. Elyse Zavar was promoted to associate professor with tenure, effective September 1, 2022.

Dr. Laura Siebeneck was promoted to professor, effective September 1, 2022.

EMDS Hosts PRIMR 2022

This past March, over 180 researchers, practitioners, students, and professionals from community-based and private-sector organizations gathered to share their diverse range of knowledge and experience at the PRIMR 2022 conference hosted at the UNT Campus in Denton. This three day event was a unique venue to exchange insights related to a diverse range of best practices, lessons learned, and current hazards and risks to communities throughout Texas and the Gulf Coast region. The major goal of this conference was to foster collaboration and relationships between members in order to facilitate innovative and effective ways that we manage disaster risks and strengthen our collective capacity.

One highlight of the conference included an outstanding and inspirational keynote address from Kay Goss, who, among her many accomplishments as an educator, author, historian, public servant, and emergency management professional, was the first woman to serve as associate director of FEMA. There were also plenary sessions pertaining to coping with chronic hazards and crises, risk communication messaging to diverse audiences, and managing complex and compounding disasters as well as various expert panels and workshops addressing some of the most pressing challenges affecting the emergency management community. We are grateful to all who participated in this conference and made this event possible.



PRIMR Keynote Speaker Kay Goss.



Plenary Panel: Managing Spontaneous Volunteers and Donations in Disasters: Jay Semple (Tarrant County VOAD/Catholic Charities FW), Alan Bentrup (St. Martins-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, Meghan Delaney (Volunteer Now), Dr. Mary Nelan (UNT EMDS), Clay Steelman (Samaritan's Purse), Kathy Clark (Texas VOAD/ The Salvation Army).



Plenary Panel Members: Managing Complex and Compounding Disasters: Heather Lagrone (TGLO), Kevin Starbuck, Assistant Chief (TDEM), Juan Ortiz (Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, City of Austin), Tony Robinson (FEMA Regional Administrator, FEMA Region 6).

Pictures from PRIMR 2022



INTERNS SUCCEED DURING DIFFICULT PANDEMIC TIMES

By Dr. Ron Timmons, EADP Internship Coordinator

As interns are busy earning hundreds of hours this semester at sites such as UNT Emergency Management, Denton County, Ponder ISD, city of Dallas, city of Southlake, American Red Cross, and Tarrant County, the experiences of the past two years are still fresh in our minds. EADP interns adapted to the changing 2020-21 pandemic landscape very well. The semester began as routine as usual, but then the onset of pandemic caused a major shift in field operations. Our program had an obligation to assure the health and safety of our students as the university administration reacted initially to eliminate in-person instruction, and eventually allowing some limited presence, with proper precautions.

The situation presented a classic conundrum for both students and host supervisors. COVID-19 was a rare state of local emergency, representing a learning opportunity for students, and the greatest need for staff support for jurisdictions reliant on intern help. Some sites had restrictions and did not permit student presence, while other host supervisors appealed for workarounds to get them the staffing they needed. Similarly, some students were ready to assume some level of risk to be at the center of the action, while others understandably deferred, especially those with preexisting risk factors in their households.

Our department set a priority on maximum flexibility to allow students to achieve their required hours, consistent with meaningful and productive field work. One of the hallmarks of internships is learning from a strong mentor. Would the host supervisors have the time and patience, amid all of their heavy burdens due to the prevailing situation, to also accommodate students remotely? In a word, yes! Several of our established internship partners stepped-up to help the students accomplish their hours remotely.

Scott Collins, chief of police, and emergency management coordinator then at the Aubrey Independent School District was one of the first internship partners to advocate on behalf of the students. Interns were assigned to update maps and incident command forms and conduct other planning activities. Chief Collins endeavored to keep the students engaged remotely with mentoring via video conferencing. Chief Collins took a central role in coordinating the unique, distanced high school graduations ceremonies at Texas Motor Speedway. Intern Alexa Cabral was assigned to assist in making the event action plans for the 22 Denton county schools graduating over three weeks at the huge venue. In reflecting on that period, Chief Collins stated, “The interns were key to keeping school operations and emergency management running, especially during COVID-19.” He was pleased the students exhibited their skills of self-focus and determination to achieve several mutually valuable projects.

Meanwhile, intern Jessie Roth stayed busy with the American Red Cross, working with the Texoma region to update host shelter plans. COVID-19 required a shift in approach from the mega-shelters used in the past, to a decentralized, small-community approach. Intern Abigail Marquez learned the complexity of supporting hurricane evacuees at decentralized, hotel-based shelter sites.

In summarizing her American Red Cross internship, Jessie Roth offered these observations, “It was interesting because not only did I have to learn the regular basics of sheltering management for the Red Cross, I had to learn about those basics in relation to COVID-19, too. It was amazing to see how the world and emergency management agencies reacted ... and how quickly everyone was forced to adapt. It taught me that not everything is set in stone and that everything can change in the blink of an eye, so flexibility is vital.”

Paige Saucer secured an internship near her hometown in Cooke County, focusing on COVID-19 management. Her supervisor, Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Fletcher, complimented her accomplishments, “Paige did a great job in our COVID-19 case management and contact tracing efforts. She was also a part of our drive-up testing process. She deftly developed forms, documents, and visual displays that aided in managing data/information and communicating to senior leaders. She worked well with other team members and staff and was instrumental in training her replacements.” Paige was glad to have an opportunity to serve during the state of emergency. She also delivered a successful briefing to county commissioners during the course of her assignment. The sense of accomplishment she felt was mixed with melancholy, due to the personal tragedies she became involved with during the contact tracing phone calls. Paige graduated, and is now an emergency management officer at Denton County.



EADP Student Paige Saucer at Cooke County Emergency Management Office.

EADP Interns During the Pandemic (cont.)

UNT's Emergency Management Department provided even more internships than usual during the pandemic period, providing valuable experience for many students. In one instance, Morrison Neal accepted a UNT internship in campus biosafety lab inspections. It was not her first choice, but she was eager to accomplish her degree and establish her career. It introduced her to a specific aspect of emergency management and helped her to compete for a position as a projects manager at Baptist Health Medical Center in Little Rock. Morrison was selected over another highly qualified candidate with more experience, in part because she was able to articulate the valuable classroom and field experience she gained as a student.

2021 EADP graduates Ken Nguyen and Abigayle Williams followed their passions for public service in starting their careers as police officers at UNT Campus Police and Carrollton Police, respectively. Meanwhile, Brayden Funderburk, advanced his career as a business continuity specialist at Toyota Financial Services Corporation.

EADP interns showed tremendous courage, and dedication in fulfilling their internship obligations during a time of unusual strife and complications. As one student put it, "now, my family finally knows what emergency management does." Amid all of the tragedy and disruption, the classes of 2020 and 2021 can forever know they have faced tough times, and they will have a strong base of experience from which to draw new and creative approaches to future emergency management challenges.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Alumni, faculty, and friends of the EMDS program have formed a fundraising committee to increase scholarship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. The goal is to add two new endowed scholarships to be announced at the upcoming 40th anniversary of the EADP program. The group is off to a great start, with several contributions having been made thus far on the new donations site at <https://one.unt.edu/emds>. This opportunity is a way to leave a legacy to future emergency managers and provide financial assistance to students in need.

As recent EADP graduate Gabriella Mantecon stated, "I was delighted to receive notification that I'm one of the recipients for the Tom Joslin Memorial Scholarship. My pride in our program runs deep, so to be given an award in Mr. Joslin's name is such an honor."

The committee is currently planning fundraising activities for the year, so be on the lookout for more information. Corporate sponsorships for scholarships are also available.

Committee members include Michael Penaluna, Molly McFadden, David McCurdy, Kent Baxter, Mollie and Raymond Rivas, Karen McCormick, Scotie Selman, Cody Carter, Julia Vu, Tracy Whitten, Christina Cabral, Laura Siebeneck, Shelly Lane, and Sarah Garza.

For more information, contact Shelly Lane, Executive Director of Development, at shelly.lane@unt.edu or 940-891-6860.



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 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 year.

Scholarship deadlines are March 1, 2023. Students can apply for both scholarship through the UNT Student Financial Aid and Scholarships Office by accessing <https://financialaid.unt.edu/how-apply-scholarships>



THERE IS A BIG BIRTHDAY COMING....



FORTY IS COMING...

The Emergency Administration and Planning degree is turning 40! As the first emergency management bachelor's degree program in the country, we are excited to celebrate this important milestone. Over the course of the next year, be on the lookout for various activities and events that will bring together alumni, students, and faculty together.

Information about these events will be sent via our alumni listserv and on Facebook. If you need to update your contact information with us, please email Kim Roy at Kimberly.Roy@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

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Denton, Texas 76201

🚗 Visitor Information

EADP Scholarship Recipients



Gabriella Mantecon
Tom Joslin Scholarship



Michael Hernandez
Tom Joslin Scholarship



Israel Walton
Michael A. Penaluna
Scholarship



Serpil Anthony
Michael A. Penaluna
Scholarship



Michael Hernandez
Tom Joslin Scholarship



Shawn McDermott
Tom Joslin Scholarship



Caulier Tisdell
Tom Joslin Scholarship

The department is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Tom Joslin Award and the Michael A. Penaluna Scholarship. This year, EADP students Gabriella Mantecon and Michael Hernandez were awarded Tom Joslin Scholarships and Israel Walton was awarded the Penaluna Scholarship. During the 2021-2022 year, Serpil Anthony was the recipient of the Michael A. Penaluna Scholarship and Michael Hernandez, Shawn McDermott, and Caulier Tisdell were selected to receive the Tom Joslin Award. Each of these students received \$1000 to support their pursuit of their EADP degrees. We are very proud these students, as they have achieved a high level of success in the classroom and have demonstrated leadership and passion for emergency management. Congratulations to all of our winners! And many thanks to all our alumni, faculty, and friends who have contributed to our scholarship funds. These awards make such a positive difference in the lives of our students and we are grateful for your continued support.

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 past few years. Our adjunct professors went above and beyond during the pandemic to provide our students quality courses and we are forever grateful for all they did.

EMDS Adjunct Faculty 2020-2022

Ms. Karen McCormick Mr. Brian Martin
Mr. Luis Tapia Ms. Jamie Royster
Ms. Julie Elliott



Student Teaching Fellows

Mr. Cody Carter Mr. Chad Keys
Mr. Mac Osazuwa-Peters

Thank you Guest Speakers!

The EMDS Faculty are grateful for all the alumni and friends of the EADP program that visited campus this past year and served as guest speakers in our classes. The experiences and perspectives you share with our students inspire and motivate our students as they pursue their degrees. Additionally, many emergency managers throughout the region 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!

Good Times Zooming in EMDS!

The EMDS students and faculty got very good at using Zoom during the pandemic. Here is a collage of the Master's theses defenses that were carried out virtually over the past couple of years.

Congrats to Salvesila Tamima, Rachel Wolfe, Chad Keys, Cassidy Boyle, Robyn Warren, and Tori Barker!



The Department wishes all our EADP and EMDS Students, Alumni, and Friends a great 2023!!