

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS

Newsletter Fall 2015

# International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) @ JSU

## ***NEWS FROM & ABOUT THE JSU IAEM STUDENT CHAPTER, THE JSU EM DEPARTMENT & THE EM PROFESSION***

### **Student Chapter Board 2015-2016**

**Chapter Advisor:** Dr. Tanveer Islam

**President:** Simran K. Singh (Chanpreet)

**Vice-President:** Quinterrel Battle

**Secretary:** Judith Weshinskey-Price

**Treasurer:** Tim Sevison

**Undergrad Representative:** Evan Farlow

**Graduate Representatives:** Manpreet Jaiswal, Joshua Simmons & Clary Mole

**Past President:** Judith Weshinskey-Price



## About JSU IAEM

We represent students who are studying in the Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degree and certificate programs in emergency management at Jacksonville State University. JSU-IAEM welcomes students from all disciplines to join JSU-IAEM. As a group, we strive to bridge what we learn in class and what we do when working in the field.

We bring emergency management practitioners from private industries, non-governmental organizations, and governmental agencies as guest presenters for webinars and teleconferences to learn how to apply what we learn and to expand our own horizons.

Many of our students study and work in emergency management in various venues, striving to improve ourselves, our industry, and help our communities during times of distress.

## Websites

<http://www.jsu.edu/emergency-management/student-resources/IAEM.html>

<http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=about/membership/StudentChapters/JSU.htm>

**JSU IAEM Official Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/jsuiaem>

**JSU IAEM Facebook Public Group:** Search for JSU IAEM     **LinkedIn:** IAEM-SC at JSU

**Program website:** [www.jsu.edu/em/index.html](http://www.jsu.edu/em/index.html)

**Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management:** [www.jsu.edu/em/academics/bs-emergency-management.html](http://www.jsu.edu/em/academics/bs-emergency-management.html)

**Master of Science in Emergency Management:** [www.jsu.edu/em/academics/masters-em.html](http://www.jsu.edu/em/academics/masters-em.html)

**Doctor of Science in Emergency Management:** [www.jsu.edu/em/academics/doctor-em.html](http://www.jsu.edu/em/academics/doctor-em.html)



## About IAEM

**The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)**, which has more than 9,000 members worldwide, is a professional organization dedicated to promoting the "Principles of Emergency Management" and representing those professionals whose goals are saving lives and protecting property and the environment during emergencies and disasters.

**Mission:** The mission of IAEM is to serve its members by providing information, networking and professional opportunities, and to advance the emergency management profession.

Jacksonville State University (JSU) has a student chapter of IAEM known as the **JSU-IAEM**, which welcomes students from all disciplines. As a group, we strive to bridge what we learn in class and what we do when working in the field.

### Benefits:

- Access to the largest network of top Emergency Management experts
- Certification
- Representation on government working groups addressing vital issues
- A unified voice
- Weekly and monthly newsletters that serve as a source for current EM issues
- Networking and educational opportunities via conferences and workshops
- Members-only webinars
- The IAEM Jobs Board
- Build your professional network. Professional development through in-person meetings, networking, continuing education and training opportunities.
- Scholarship opportunities for students

## How to join the JSU-IAEM Student Chapter?

In order to join the Student Chapter, you have to become a member of IAEM proper: [www.iaem.com](http://www.iaem.com). Once you are a registered member, it is FREE to join our chapter at JSU. All we need is your IAEM membership number and contact information such as address, phone, and email. That way we can send you emails regarding member meetings and the monthly speakers we have, as well as ensuring that you receive the occasional newsletter we send out. Please email us at [jsuiaem@jsu.edu](mailto:jsuiaem@jsu.edu)



## Student in the Spotlight



### Judith Weshinskey-Price

Judith Weshinskey-Price is currently a doctoral student working on her dissertation in the emergency management program. Her research interests include first responders, social vulnerability and resiliency, as well as mitigation and preparation for disaster in the workplace. Judith is a 2014 ASPA Founder's Fellow and has had a book chapter published regarding livelihood concerns for women in disaster. Judith has worked in the public safety communications field since 1998 in just about every position that exists from dispatcher to manager. She previously worked as Manager of the Amarillo Emergency Communications Center after managing a consolidation process of four communications centers into a separate city department. She has recently started a new job in the Denver area. She will be managing the consolidation of eight communications center for police and fire departments in Jefferson County, CO to create an independent governmental entity that will handle the 911 calls and dispatch first responders for approximately 20 agencies. Judith was just elected as the **Vice President of the IAEM Global Student Council Board** after being treasurer for two years. She will go on to be president and past president according to the design of the office. Judith is currently serving as Secretary and past president of the JSU chapter of IAEM, after being president and vice president in past years.





## Student in the Spotlight



### Timothy Sevison

Timothy W. Sevison has an extensive background in emergency and disaster preparedness and response. Tim is currently a military planner with the Pennsylvania National Guard focusing on homeland response and domestic operations. Mr. Sevison served as the Deputy Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency until 2011. Prior to his appointment with PEMA in 2007, he was the Senior Deputy Fire Chief and Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Harrisburg Pennsylvania. Mr. Sevison is also a consultant in emergency services and emergency management planning, preparedness and response, domestically and internationally.

Mr. Sevison has been involved with emergency and disaster activities at the local, state and federal level for over 30 years, including response to numerous state and federally declared disasters. He was active with the DHS/FEMA National Urban Search and Rescue Response System since its inception, serving as a Task Force Leader for Pennsylvania, as well as a member of the DHS/FEMA US&R Command and General Staff working group. Tim was actively involved in the development of the regional response model for Pennsylvania and continues to serve as a regional IMT Leader. Mr. Sevison has been in the U.S. military for over 35 years, serving in active, reserve and National Guard components of the United States Air Force, with primary responsibilities in Fire and Emergency Services management and domestic operations planning.

Mr. Sevison holds a master of business administration (MBA) from Eastern University in St. Davids, PA and a master in professional studies (MPS) in homeland security/public health preparedness from Pennsylvania State University. Tim is currently a doctoral student in disaster and emergency management at Jacksonville State University.

Tim resides in Harrisburg Pennsylvania with his wife Joey.





## What if the Pope stopped in for a visit?

By Timothy  
Severson

On 26 and 27 September 2015 Pope Francis visited the City of Philadelphia, culminating a three city trip and what has been deemed the largest National Special Security Event (NSSE) in U.S. history. Many of us in emergency management are very familiar with many aspects of federally declared disasters under provisions of the Stafford Act., but the designation of an NSSE creates unique requirements, processes, and procedures that are not consistent with those of disasters. It is important that emergency managers become familiar with these in order to ensure unified and cooperative relationship with the key players involved. This article will briefly discuss these unique aspects applicable to NSSEs.

A National Special Security Event (NSSE) include events of national significance which by virtue of their political, economic, social, or religious significance may be targets of terrorism or other criminal activity. These events have included summits of world leaders such as the G8 summit in Pittsburgh in 2009, presidential nominating conventions such as the Democratic National Convention (DNC) to be held in Philadelphia in July 2016, and presidential inaugurations the next of which will be January 2017.

NSSE procedures were established by President William Clinton as part of Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) 62 in May 1998, which set out the security roles for federal agencies at major events. The Presidential Threat Protection Act of 2000 (Pub.L. 106-544, signed into law on 2000-12-19) added special events explicitly to the powers of the United States Secret Service in 18 U.S.C. § 3056.

Typically the request for designation of an NSSE begins with the hosting city submitting a request to their Governor who in turn submits a request to Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Under the authority of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7), the Secretary makes the determination to designate an event as an NSSE.

As Directed by NSPD-46/HSPD15, there are three Primary Agencies:

U.S. Secret Service (USSS) is the lead agency for security design, planning and implementation, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the lead agency for intelligence, counterterrorism and federal criminal violations, and,

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the lead agency for Emergency Management, (consequence management).

The planning process for an NSSE is very different from the processes many emergency managers are used to for collaboration in disaster planning. For NSSEs, the USSS compartmentalizes this process and establishes 22 specific sub-committees to work the event planning process. The Executive Steering Committee (ESC) is the only group that has purview over the activities of all of the sub-committees. While large organizations may have the ability to sit on many of the sub-committees, most organizations will only have adequate staffing to participate in sub-committees directly related to their area of responsibility such as transportation or fire and life safety.





## What if the Pope stopped in for a visit?

By Timothy Sevison  
(contd. from pg.6)

The Pennsylvania National Guard was involved in all aspects of planning to support federal entities such as the USSS for ground security missions, as well as state and local civil authorities for such things as traffic control, crowd direction and management, site security, and a variety of other services. Because of the size, scope and historic nature of this event, there were large numbers of both National Guard and Active Component military personnel involved. When this occurs, a process for designating a Dual-Status Commander (DSC) is initiated in order to provide unity of command among all operating military personnel. Similar to the NSSE designation, the Adjutant General (TAG) of the event state submits a recommendation to their Governor for the establishment of a (DSC). The Governor then submits a letter of consent to the Secretary of Defense, identifying a specific qualified general officer to be the DSC. The Secretary of Defense issues an authorizing memo and the officer is then put on active duty orders with the ability to simultaneously command forces under the control of their governor (national Guard) as well as forces under the control of the president (active duty).

A large NSSE such as the Papal visit has many nodes for coordination, communication, and command as well as numerous echelons of government and numerous agencies within each of these echelons. While concepts of NIMS are applied throughout, it is a very complex network that requires a significant number of liaison officers to ensure some semblance of a common operating picture among the various nodes. As an example, within the event area of operation there is the USSS Multi-Agency Communications Center (MACC), not to be confused with the Multi-Agency Coordination Center identified in NIMS doctrine. There was also a Joint Information Center (JIC) established as part of the USSS MACC. The city, each contiguous county, the state, and several state agencies such as transportation each have their own EOCs. In addition, adjoining states such as New Jersey and Delaware established their systems and structures for command and coordination within their jurisdictional areas. There are also numerous tactical level command posts for everything from fire/rescue, emergency medical, traffic control, etc. Within the military organization supporting the event, there were the Joint Emergency Operations Center (JEOC) at state headquarters, the Joint Task Force Command Center, as well as a wide variety of Tactical Operations Centers (TOC) coordinating everything from tactical operations to logistical support. Vertically, the Regional Resource Coordination Center (RRCC) for FEMA R-III is established, the National Resource Coordination Center (NRCC) in Washington, and the National Guard Coordination Center (NGCC) are also established. Higher up the chain for the military organization is the Army North (ARNORTH) and U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM).

As mentioned previously, conceptually, the USSS develops the plan to ensure nothing bad happens to their protectorate and collaborates with the FBI and local law enforcement for threat intelligence. If there is a need to intervene to thwart a threat or respond to a crisis, the FBI, in concert with local law enforcement, will take the lead while the USSS focuses on securing their charge. If there are consequences from the crisis event, e.g., casualties, fires, chemical releases, etc., local and state responders and emergency management entities would coordinate the consequence response effort in concert with FEMA. Because of the peculiar directives and authorities of an NSSE, a highly complex organization and network becomes established for everything from planning to crisis and consequence management. Although it has never been needed, the ability to smoothly transition and engage this concept is paramount to successful operations and it is imperative that emergency managers are well versed in these processes and authorities for this to come to fruition.

<http://www.popefrancisvisit.com/schedule-category/pope-francis-visit-philadelphia-schedule/>



## Student in the Spotlight



### Kate Blackmon

Kate is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Emergency Management at Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL. Kate's achievements in 2015 include a 4.0 GPA, appointment to a Federal Internship at The Center for Domestic Preparedness, receipt of the Derek Thomas Jensen Scholarship, receipt of the Graduate Tiered Scholarship, development and execution of a Federal SimCell Plan and AAR as part of a full-scale exercise, and formal adoption of the

Emergency Preparedness Plan she developed for Redi Enterprise Development Inc., a software development company, in conjunction with course curriculum. Kate is pursuing a career in emergency management with local, state or Federal government and the academic arena at the university level where she plans to use her administrative, management and critical thinking skills to contribute to the interests of national security, FEMA's mission and the field of emergency management through meaningful research. Kate resides in Cullman, Alabama where she, her husband, William Blackmon and 4 dogs enjoy an active farm life. When they are not working, they are busy growing a variety of fruits and vegetables, cultivating their grapevines, and building furniture constructed from timber sourced from the woods on their property.

This semester Kate had the exciting opportunity to apply the KSA's she obtained in JSU's Masters in Emergency Management Program as the Administrative and Office Support Student Trainee for the Directorate of Mission Readiness Integration at The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) through the Federal Pathways Program. The CDP is responsible for developing comprehensive preparedness training programs for emergency responders including the specialized requirements for hazardous, biological, radiological, and chemical agent training; disaster preparedness; and response training for hospital and healthcare professionals. The Pathways Programs provides Federal internships to students from high school through post-graduate school, careers for recent graduates, and meaningful training and career development opportunities for individuals who are at the beginning of their Federal service. Kate applied for this internship through USAJobs.gov, competing nationally for the position with many other applicants. She was one of two students appointed to the CDP after interviewing with a panel of selecting officials and undergoing a rigorous background investigation through the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Kate received mentoring, training and education from high level Federal employees who volunteered their time and experience to contribute to her professional development. Kate played a major role in the execution of the July 24, 2015 COBRATF Full Scale Exercise. She took the lead to coordinate, develop and conduct training, develop a SimCell Plan, and write an After Action Report/Improvement Plan for the exercise SimCell.

Kate is also the 2015 recipient of the Derek Thomas Jensen Memorial Scholarship presented by The Center for Domestic Preparedness Employee Association (CDPEA). The CDPEA established the scholarship in memory of its name sake, Derek Jensen, who served as the CDP external affairs director from 2010-2012. Jensen was killed in a traffic accident on his way to work, June 14, 2012. To be eligible for the scholarship, which is fully funded by the CDPEA, the applicant must be a full-time student majoring in emergency management at JSU with a 3.0 or better grade point average. In addition, the applicant must be the child of a state, local or tribal responder who provides immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations or the child of a current or retired Federal CDP employee.





## IAEM 2015 Conference

The Department of Emergency Management at Jacksonville State University had a strong presence this year at the 63rd Annual IAEM Conference & EMEX held at Clark County, Nevada on November 13-18, 2015. A number of JSU students, alumni and faculty attended the conference. The JSU-IAEM Chapter Faculty Advisor, Dr. Tanveer Islam and Dr. Stacey Mann represented the department at the EMEX. Former JSU Distinguished Professor, Dr. Elaine Enarson delivered a keynote speech titled "Women Confronting Natural Disaster: From Vulnerability to Resilience". EM Adjunct faculty Ms. Sarah Miller also actively participated on the IAEM committees. Many visitors stopped by at the JSU EM exhibit booth (see picture) during the conference and received information about the bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in emergency management offered by JSU.





## Upcoming IAEM Events

### ❖ **Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 12-1pm EST: IAEM Think Tank: “Integrated Public Alert and Warning System”**

- The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is the nation’s solution for effectively communicating emergency alerts and warnings, and is available for use by Local, State, Territorial, Tribal, and Federal public alerting authorities to send emergency messages to the public in the geographic area of their jurisdiction.
- For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=events/IAEM-think-tanks>

### ❖ **April 1-3, 2016, USA: IAEM Whole Community Collaboration Hackathon**

- Scheduled for the first weekend in April 2016, the Hackathon will bring together emergency management and technology experts to build creative solutions focused on empowering survivors and enabling emergency managers with technology.
- A hackathon is a great way to deliver innovative solutions to difficult problems for emergency managers and survivors in a creative way. Scheduled over one weekend, teams, comprised of developers, project managers, graphic designers and others, join together to focus on building an application that provides a solution to a problem that is focused on the hackathon’s theme. Additionally, this hackathon will be unique in that we will pair teams with emergency managers as they work to provide additional perspective. At the end of the event, teams are judged by a panel that includes experts in both technology and emergency management.
- For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=events/IAEM-Hackathon>

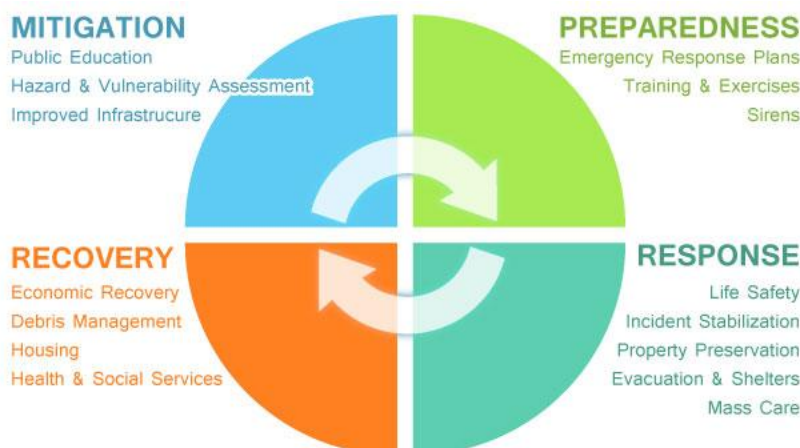
### ❖ **October 7-8, 2016 in Dubai: IAEM Emergency Management & Business Contingency Summit**

- This conference will bring together all the main stakeholders which include civil defence authorities in the GCC, oil and gas companies, power and utility companies, banks, telecom providers, airlines and airports, EMS and more, actively involved in emergency response, crisis management, enterprise risk management as well as business contingency planning.

### ❖ **October 14-20, 2016 in Savannah, Georgia: IAEM 2016 Annual Conference & EMEX: Today’s**



# Resources



## EM Resources & Sites

Ready.gov: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency [www.fema.org](http://www.fema.org)

Disaster Assistance.gov: [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov)

Domestic Preparedness: [www.domesticpreparedness.com](http://www.domesticpreparedness.com)

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction: [www.unisdr.org](http://www.unisdr.org)

### **OTHERS:**

Association on Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA):  
<http://www.arnova.org/>

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster: <http://www.nvoad.org/>

National Response Framework: <http://www.fema.gov/national-response-framework>

National Disaster Recovery Framework: <http://www.fema.gov/national-disaster-recovery-framework>



## Resources For Our JSU Students

### Subscriptions

Subscribe to the **Emergency Management Magazine** to learn about current issues!

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/>

#### *Others:*

**Digital Communities for City & County Leaders:**

<http://www.govtech.com/dc/magazine/>

**Domestic Preparedness:**

[http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/About\\_Us/](http://www.domesticpreparedness.com/About_Us/)

### Jobs & Internships

- ❖ IAEM.com
- ❖ <http://www.jsu.edu/careerservices/>
- ❖ <https://careers.fema.gov/>
- ❖ <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/jobs>
- ❖ <https://www.governmentjobs.com/jobs?keyword=Emergency%20Management>
- ❖ <http://www.indeed.com/q-Emergency-Management-jobs.html>
  
- ❖ LinkedIn; fastweb.com ; NEMAWEB; careerbuilder.com; internships.com







## Emergency Management Honor Society

### About

For Emergency Management students at all levels, there is the opportunity to join the EM Honor Society: <http://www.epsilonpiphi.org/home>

Epsilon Pi Phi (EPP) was established by The Foundation for Higher Education Accreditation in 2006 in order for students within emergency management programs would have an avenue for recognition of academic success and contributions to the profession.

This specialized honor society is for emergency management, homeland security, disaster research and science, criminal justice, and continuity management disciplines.

The mission of Epsilon Pi Phi is to strive for the reward, advancement and recognition of disaster/emergency management, disaster research and science, homeland security, and business continuity as a discipline and profession and to encourage a high standard of excellence and partnerships in these related fields of practice and study.

### Benefits

- ❖ Recognition of your academic success in emergency management
- ❖ Membership can be used for CEM/AEM requirements
- ❖ Student can add membership as a resume enhancer
- ❖ Facebook page to reach out to other members and professionals
- ❖ Student receives electronic certificate and pin to proudly display and wear
- ❖ Emergency Management professionals recognize the individual's membership as a mark of excellence

Epsilon Pi Phi accepts applications from current students and alumni from emergency management, homeland security and business continuity related programs. Minimum requirements must be met before acceptance into the honor society.



**EPSILON PI PHI**  
Emergency Management  
Honor Society