

JSU-IAEM

THE JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS

Issue 2 / OCTOBER EDITION



66th Annual Conference
October 19-24, 2018
Grand Rapids, Michigan

The [International Association of Emergency Managers](#) (IAEM) will host the [66th Annual Conference and EMEX](#) from October 19-24, 2018 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

This year's theme, *"Opportunities and Innovations in Emergency Management,"* aims to give you innovative ideas, networking opportunities, experts and peers, and important information on professional practice and issues while providing strategies and tools that you can implement in your organization.

As students, professional conferences are educational, beneficial, and provide opportunities for academic and professional advancement. Making the most of your conference experience can be the difference between the internship, fellowship, job, or connection within the industry that is needed. Despite the tremendous experience that can be acquired at conferences, making the most of that experience can be daunting.

Conferences can be huge, extensive, and complicated to navigate, and manage, leaving opportunities on the table that could have been manifested. In the spirit of emergency management, "preparedness" is an essential component to mastering your time at the annual conference. The October edition of the JSU-IAEM newsletter focuses on tips, strategies, and plans to mitigate a disastrous conference experience, create preparedness plans to succeed, provide some relief from any anxiety you may have heading into the conference, and effectively recover from conference for maximum benefit. Additional information on events, opportunities and recent EM news is also covered for your reading pleasure.

There are a host of opportunities for students at all levels to take advantage of while at the conference. In particular, two activities are of vital importance to the student chapter.

Embark – IAEM Student Career & Professional Day – Sunday, October 21, 2018 – 12pm – 4pm led by Simran K. Singh (See Page 3).

JSU-IAEM Basket Bonanza Preparation – The JSU-IAEM chapter will be providing a basket with the theme *"Things That Represent Our Area"* to be used for student scholarship fundraising in the Basket Bonanza. For those interested in donating to the basket, I encourage you to access the [JSU Bookstore](#) online and purchase an item that can be added to the basket. These items can be shipped to our chapter president who will ensure that they make it to Grand Rapids and are assembled in time for the Basket Bonanza. Please email jsuiaem@jsu.edu for any questions, concerns, or address information if you choose to participate.

Conference registration is still available, but hotels are booking quickly. If you have not yet registered, please register as soon as possible. For more information on the IAEM Annual Conference, please visit the conference [website](#). For registration and lodging information, click [here](#).



Preparedness



Here are a few tips to make sure you are prepared to make the best of this year's conference:

1. **Study the [program](#)** – There will be dozens of sessions/panels to choose from. Choose panels based on presenters you'd like to meet, topics that align with your research interest, or topics that fill the gaps in your own knowledge. **Google presenters beforehand to make the most informed panel decisions.**

2. **Pre-network** – Connect with people that you want to make sure to meet before the conference. Formal emails are effective, and sometimes informal means are also effective such as social media.

Example: A tweet stating “I am excited to hear @InsertName present at the @IAEM 66th Annual Conference and look forward to meeting him/her).

3. **Pack your business cards** – Although we are in a digital age, business cards are arguably still one of the best networking tools. Keep your business cards handy!

4. **Choose your outfits** – Thoughtfully select your conference attire. You'll feel more confident networking if you know your clothes fit, are clean, and you look great.

5. **Plan Ahead** – Because large conferences have multiple tracks of programming that are often spread out, plan ahead what sessions you want to attend and where they are located to help navigate the conference. Strategically plan your route, and even where you will spend your down time between sessions to maximize networking.

Response

Now that you are prepared, let's generate actionable steps during the conference to ensure your success.

1. **Engage with content** – Don't just sit and listen. Take handwritten notes, **ask questions**, and even live tweeting are beneficial with use of the relevant hashtag for the conference.

2. **Connect with presenters** – Again, asking questions during Q&A is a great icebreaker for connecting with presenters or briefly speaking to presenters after sessions. For the shy students, be sure to jot down the presenters contact information and send a formal email.

3. **Shop for opportunity** – as you meet with other scholars, or students, ask about their current work. Most attendees love to talk about what they are doing. There could be an opportunity to align interests, collaborate, or contribute in the future.

4. **Read Nametags** – Pay attention to your surroundings: audience, lunch, or standing in the hall. It also helps to sit with people that you do not know during lunch and break away sessions.

5. **Network old-school style** – Networking mixers, student meet-&-greet, etc. can be cheesy in thought, but people that attend those events come in with the mindset to connect with you. Take advantage of those opportunities.

6. **Make new friends** – Conferences are a great way to meet well-established scholars in the field, but they're also the perfect place to make new friends from students around the country. In doing so, you establish a national network of future leaders, directors, researchers etc.

7. **Pace Yourself & Rest** – Conferences can be mentally and physically exhausting. Pace yourself throughout the process and be sure to rest to be at your best while working the conference.

Recovery

Much like any vacation, or time away from home, it takes time to recover. Here's some tips for effectively following up your conference experience.

1. **Post-Network** – For any business card you secured, or meeting/chat you have had, send a follow-up communication via email to keep growing the relationship.

2. **Don't be a missed connection** – If there's someone you wish you had met or spoken with at conference, but did not engage with, it's not too late! In the days immediately following the conference, reach out to those entities. Be sure to express how you enjoyed their presentation, are thankful for copies of their book that were given out, or even that you regretted that you weren't able to meet them at the conference. Most attendees are typically more responsive immediately after conferences. Don't be afraid to inquire into future opportunities to meet if you will be in their area, or attending another mutual conference.

3. **Plan for next year** – It is never too early to start planning for the next year. Brainstorm potential topics, evaluate where you will be in your studies next year, and be open to the idea of preparing your academic works for presentation at the next conference to provide an added incentive to your conference presence.

Be sure to check out the IAEM's “Expanding Your Conference Experience” [video](#).

REMEMBER!

**SUCCESS IS WHERE
PREPARATION AND
OPPORTUNITY MEET.**

2nd Annual Embark Student Career & Professional Day



The Global Student Council's (GSC) second annual "[EMbark Student Career and Professional Day](#)" will be on **Sunday, October 21st**, from **12 to 4pm** at the IAEM conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

EMbark offers sessions designed for IAEM's diverse student and new professional members. Whether you're a student, scholar, new practitioner – or all three – you'll find something of value at EMbark. Speakers, presentations and sessions are geared specifically at students and new professionals.

EMbark aims to bring you interesting and beneficial topics, as well as the opportunity to learn and use needed skills. These skills include learning how to navigate the terrain of both academics and practice and successfully transitioning after your graduate, how to network, how to engage with colleagues and peers, identify mentors, etc. In addition, EMbark will help you learn about the various career opportunities available in the EM field.

EMbark will have three distinguished speaker presentation this year. GSC is honored to announce our guest speakers for 2018: Mr. Leslie Luke, Deputy Director for the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, and the chair of the IAEM Diversity Caucus; Sarah Miller, CEM, owner of S.K. Miller Consulting, chair of the IAEM Emerging Technology Caucus, and co-lead of the IAEM Student Task Force; and Charles Palocy, President of the IAEM-US Student Region. Come hear them speak, learn from them, and take advantage of the opportunity to ask them your burning questions!

This year, EMbark is introducing EMbark Rapid Fire Talks! This interactive opportunity is a platform for you to talk about a specific topic of interest. This is a chance for you to participate, practice your public speaking skills, and get positive feedback in an encouraging space. We will have distinguished judges providing you valuable and encouraging feedback on how to improve your talks.

The EMbark Rapid Fire Talks are designed to be 5-minutes long. You choose the topic you feel most comfortable with. Some ideas can be: current research projects/dissertation; a special research interest; 5-minute job/internship pitch (your elevator pitch); an introduction pitch on your educational and work background.

You can sign up in advance for a spot via email at iaemgsc@gmail.com. You can also sign-up at EMbark for any open spots available that day and After EMbark is over, the IAEM conference really kicks-off. As part of GSC's commitment to supporting and encouraging students, we'll all be going as a group to the IAEM Pre-Welcome Party Meet and Greet, which starts at 4:30 pm. Then it's off to the Welcome & Networking Party.

The IAEM Global Student Council represents the interests IAEM student members worldwide. If you are interested in expanding your emergency management vision globally please visit the Global Student Council [website](#) for more information on how you can get involved.

Disaster Recovery & Reform Act



The **Disaster Recovery Reform Act** was signed into law on October 5, 2018 as part of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018.

What does this mean for Emergency Management?

The new reforms acknowledge the shared responsibility of disaster response and recovery, aim to reduce the complexity of FEMA, and build the nation's capacity for the next catastrophic event. Highlights from the DRRA include:

Greater investment in mitigation before disasters – Authorizing national public infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant which will be funding through a 6% contribution from the Disaster Relief Fund with a focus on funding public infrastructure projects that increase community resilience.

Reducing risk from future disasters after fire – Providing hazard mitigation grant funding in areas that receive Fire Management Assistance Grants.

Increasing State Capacity to Manage Disaster Recovery – allowing for higher reimbursement rates for state, local, and tribal partners for administrative partners when implementing public assistance and hazard mitigation programs.

Providing Greater Flexibility to Survivors with Disabilities – increasing the amount of assistance available including allowing accessibility repairs for those with disabilities without counting those repairs against their maximum disaster assistance grant award.

Retaining Skilled Response and Recovery Personnel - Authorizing FEMA to appoint certain types of temporary employees who have been with the agency for three continuous years to full time positions in the same manner as federal employees with competitive status. This allows the agency to retain and promote talented, experienced emergency managers.

For more information on the DRRA, click [here](#).

Student Perspectives & Academic Learning Special Interest Group

[The Student Perspectives and Academic Learning \(SPAL\) Special Interest Group \(SIG\)](#), under FEMA's Higher Education Program, is seeking students to join their Special Interest Group.

The SIG offers an open forum for students to network and interact on academically-related needs of students in emergency management (EM) programs. As academicians seek more innovate and interactive methods of teaching and student-learning initiatives, student perspectives provide valuable insight into methods that students enjoy and find successful in their academic matriculation. Through collaborative insight of students and academicians, a network of professionals and students can be fostered that can provide opportunities for mentorship, research, and progression of students into academia. Student perspectives and academic learning encourages a multi-directional approach to improving teaching and student learning through direct interaction with student populations.

For more information on [benefits](#) of participating, or If you are interested in joining, please email StudentPerspectivesSIG@gmail.com.

Upcoming Dates



October 13, 2018 – Fall Preview Day; JSU-IAEM Recruitment – 9am CST.

October 19 – 24, 2018 – IAEM 66th Annual Conference and EMEX – Grand Rapids, Michigan.

October 21, 2018 – EMBark IAEM Student Career & Professional Day – IAEM Annual Conference – 12:00pm – 4:00pm CST.

October 23, 2018 – Webinar: US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Overview and Disaster Engagement. Key topics include HUD's disaster response role, long-term recovery, and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program – 2pm – 3pm EST. <https://bit.ly/2yacsVL>

October 30, 2018 (Tentative) – Monthly Speaker Session: **Charles Palocy** – IAEM-USA Student Council President.

November 7, 2018 – Monthly Conference Call – 8pm – 9pm CST.

November 14, 2018 – November Newsletter Release.

November 15, 2018 – IAEM Thursday Learning Webinar Series – “Increased Preparedness Working with Non-Traditional Partners” – 1:00-2:00 pm EST.

December 5, 2018 – Monthly Conference Call – 8pm – 9pm CST.

December 12, 2018 – December Newsletter Release.

Please check calendar as monthly speaker sessions, and other important dates will be added.

Advisor's Corner

A continued thanks for the hard-work of our executive board members and active participation of our student members. The year is off to a great start that has seen the welcome of new members at the undergraduate and graduate level. The IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX is quickly approaching. Let's continue to uphold the standards that we have set as a chapter and work towards continued growth and success.

JSU-IAEM Executive Board

President – Antoine B. Richards

Vice-President – Paula Buchanan

Secretary – Ronald “Jason” Smith

Treasurer – Thomas Reimann

Doctoral Representatives – Antoine Richards, Paula Buchanan, Thomas Reimann, & Simran K. Singh

Masters Representative – Ronald “Jason” Smith

Undergraduate Representative – Zachary Battle

Past President – Simran K. Singh

