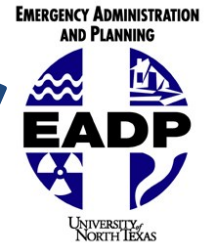


# The Mitigator



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

1155 Union Circle, #310617, Denton, TX 76203-5017

Fall 2017

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

DR. GARY WEBB

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Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

As we near the mid-point of another successful academic year, we are happy to bring you this most recent edition of the *Mitigator*. We've been extraordinarily busy this past year, and there are several things we'd like to share with you. In particular, I'd like to say a few words about people, programs, and prominence.

In last year's newsletter we proudly announced the establishment of the new Department of Emergency Management and Disaster Science at UNT. We were a small group at the time, but we were highly productive, motivated, and poised for future growth and success. I'm happy to report that in just one year's time we have added three additional faculty members to the department: Dr. Nicole Dash, who has been serving as the associate dean of the College of Health and Public Service for the past several years and who is an expert on social vulnerability; Dr. Elyse Zavar, formerly of Southern Connecticut State University and an expert on land-use planning and post-disaster buyout programs; and Dr. Jennifer Cowley, UNT Provost, whose expertise is on planning for post-disaster housing recovery and who has a courtesy appointment in the department.

We are also happy to announce that in addition to adding new people we are also launching new academic programs. At the undergraduate level, we have entered into a collaboration with the Department of Criminal Justice to offer a specialization in homeland security for interested students at UNT. And, after much planning and preparation, we will soon be launching a Master of Science degree in Emergency Management and Disaster Science, pending final approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This is a major step forward for our program that allows us to better compete for resources within the university, enhance our reputation nationally, and importantly, continue doing our part in educating the next generation of emergency management professionals.

Being the nation's first degree program in emergency management will always be a source of great pride for those of us affiliated with EADP and deservedly so. UNT has been at the epicenter of emergency management education and research for decades, and we intend to stay there. The landscape of higher education is changing, however, and there are now many more programs at other major universities competing for students, research dollars, and national prominence. Despite those changes, UNT remains at the forefront. Our faculty are bringing in substantial research grants from the National Science Foundation, publishing books with major presses and articles in top scholarly journals, teaching and delivering presentations in other countries, including Peru, Canada, South Korea, and Taiwan, and sharing their expertise in national media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Politico*, and *National Public Radio*.

Continued on page 4.



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## WELCOME DR. ELYSE ZAVAR

As is the experience of many people who work in the hazards and disaster field, this was not the career path I originally started. After graduating with a BA in Geology, I studied paleoclimatology for my MA in Geography at UCLA. As part of the degree requirements, I took human geography courses for the first time. I realized I was much more interested in the dynamics of how people interact with their environment than counting pollen. Uncertain I wanted the job I was training for, I explored local internship opportunities. Although under-qualified, I landed a summer internship with the City of Beverly Hills Emergency Management Office. I leveraged my experience speaking in front of large audiences as a teaching assistant and ability to research and write as reasons why the EM director should hire me. As it turned out, that's exactly what I did for her; I researched, wrote, and presented preparedness plans. My summer internship turned into a part-time job as I finished my MA the following year.

Upon completing my degree, I relocated to central Texas where I worked as a flood map analyst for a large insurance company. Discouraged with the regulations related to the National Flood Insurance Program and questioning the effectiveness of the mitigation strategy, I decided to return to graduate school to pursue my PhD at Texas State University. There, I learned more about non-structural mitigation techniques, especially floodplain property acquisition. After questioning what land uses occur on acquired properties post-buyout and realizing no one really knew, I found my dissertation research topic. During the summer of 2011, I started visiting buyout properties throughout the central U.S. To date, I've visited thousands of acquired properties across the country. Through these site visits, I researched land uses on acquired properties, how local communities make land use decisions for buyouts, and how residents perceive the buyout program and resulting landscape. Building from my work on floodplain buyouts, my research primarily focuses on how

disasters, or the mitigation and reconstruction activities related to them, change the landscape. I am excited to bring my ideas and experiences to UNT where I can explore new avenues of research. It is an honor to join the esteemed faculty in the Department of Emergency Management and Disaster Science and I look forward to working with the dynamic and engaged students of the EADP program and the UNT community at large.

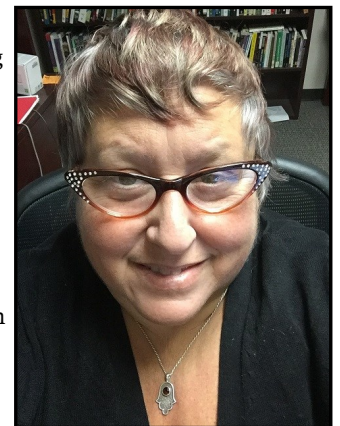


## WELCOME DR. NICOLE DASH

Dr. Nicole Dash is currently in her seventh year as the Associate Dean of the College of Health and Public Service. While working in this capacity, her limited research time focuses on partnering with Dr. Gary Webb on the NSF funded project examining Native American community disaster preparedness. She is also currently working on Mitigation Saves 2, a project of the National Institute of Building Sciences Multihazard Mitigation Council, which updates their earlier project that found, on average, that for every dollar of federal investment in mitigation spent, four dollars are saved. In the update of the project, Dr. Dash helps to integrate social costs and benefits into the study parameters and BCR calculations. The major addition to MSv2 related to her work on the project is the inclusion of reduced PTSD costs as a benefit of mitigation.

Dr. Dash received her Ph.D. in Sociology in 2001 Florida International University where she worked with disaster research experts such as Walter G. Peacock and Betty H. Morrow. She has worked in disaster research since 1992's Hurricane Andrew in Miami. Besides her time at the University of North Texas, she has worked with the International Hurricane Research Center and the Laboratory for Social and Behavioral Research within the IHRC at Florida International University as both a project manager and senior researcher. In addition, she has worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency on multiple disasters, and spent two years at the Disaster Research Center at the University of Delaware. Dr. Dash has received grants from the National Science Foundation, State of Florida and the International Hurricane Research Center to study evacuation and vulnerable populations.

Next semester, Dr. Dash will be teaching a graduate seminar course examining social vulnerability and disasters in which students will explore the roots of vulnerability and the history of social vulnerability in disaster studies.



# EADP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## ZACH DAVIS, 2006

When I entered EADP I was looking for a career that would keep me out of the office and always on the move. Well... I got my wish. I began the EADP program in 2004 and graduated in 2006, during that time I was IAEM-SC treasurer and one of the key organizers of a bi-annual camping trip. After graduation, I found my first position in Stuart Florida as a Regional Planner for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. I was responsible for coordination between counties and the development of mitigation, preparedness and response plans.

In 2007, I moved back to Texas and took a position in Houston at a small oil and gas consultancy The Response Group (TRG). TRG specialized in emergency response and preparedness for the oil and gas industry. At TRG, I was able to gain the experience that I would rely on for most of my career. I wrote and maintained emergency response plans for every major oil company in Houston, provided training on ICS, HAZWOPER, and the company's Incident Action Plan software. During my four years with TRG, I participated in or responded to over 90 exercises or real incidents. The exercises ranged in size and complexity from 10-person table tops to 500-person functional exercises with scenarios ranging from the release of crude oil to the capture of a drill ship or oil refinery.

In April 2010, I received a call that the Deep Water Horizon drilling rig at Mississippi Canyon 252 had exploded and was on fire. I drove to Houma, Louisiana where I stayed for 9 months working with the finest and smartest people in the oil and gas industry. During the Deep Water Horizon incident, I worked as the Resource Unit Leader, Situation Unit leader on both day and nights, the Deputy Planning Section Chief and managed a crew of 400 TRG employees in the state of Louisiana. We also processed about ~2 petabytes of data consisting of 40,000 overflight pictures, 6 months' worth of satellite imagery, 50 terabytes of radar data, and data from over 2000 sensors across the Gulf of Mexico.

At the end of 2011, I started down an environmental and regulatory path working on permitting oil and gas waste sites for R360 Environmental services. I worked with the Texas Railroad Commission to obtain permits to construct landfills for treated drill cuttings. Three years later (2015), I joined the International Health Safety and Environmental team at Anadarko Petroleum Corporation where I am currently responsible for contractor management and safety, development of environmental impact analyses, permitting for drilling and seismic activities and for emergency preparedness for our international assets.

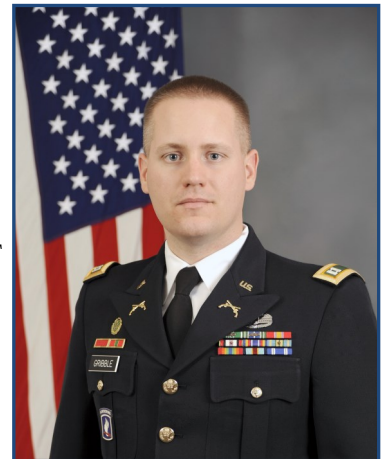
My advice to EADP students is don't limit yourself in your job search. The EADP degree is an extremely versatile degree that can open many doors, so be flexible. When you find that job, listen to the "gray hairs" but don't be afraid to ask questions, especially if they say, "we have always done it that way." Be prepared to be on the bottom for a while and work your way up. Nothing comes easy and if it does... it's not worth it.



## WILLIAM GRIBBLE, 2009

I feel like I didn't choose Emergency Management, Emergency Management chose me. When I was in high school I got involved with the Civil Air Patrol. Oddly enough, the day after I got my membership card in the mail was September 11, 2001. During Katrina in 2005, I found myself in a Salvation Army Shelter, advising the Command team on best practices to organize and manage the large influx of donations, volunteers, and unique medical needs of evacuees. In all of that, I found a passion and excitement of trying to create order of chaos. By 2007, I was enrolled in the UNT EADP program.

I probably had a more unique experience while earning my EADP degree. I was the very last UNT student that had to travel to UT Arlington to earn a Commission in the U.S. Army through the ROTC program. When I graduated, I commissioned onto Active Duty with the U.S. Army as an MP Officer thinking that would get me in the middle of the action for using my Emergency Management skills. I was right and wrong. I was in the middle of the action at Fort Hood alright, but Emergency Management was somewhat of a foreign concept to MP's at the time. Using my network of classmates and what I learned at UNT, I was able to help develop the understanding and of Emergency Management within the Military Police Brigade at Fort Hood.



(Continued on page 4)



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

In addition to the efforts of our faculty, we are also incredibly proud of the accomplishments of our students and deeply appreciative of the vital work of our alumni. EADP students are successfully competing for scholarships, serving as officers in various campus organizations, and taking advantage of valuable internship opportunities that will facilitate their entry into the profession. And, as you read this newsletter, many of our alumni are in the field doing the hard work of steering their communities in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and other parts of the country through what will surely be a long and difficult recovery process following an unprecedented bout of devastating disasters.

These are challenging times that underscore the importance and relevance of emergency management. The need for basic and applied research on hazards and disasters, high-quality and rigorous academic programs, and evidenced-based best practices for emergency management has never been greater. Fortunately, the members of our community, including faculty, students, and alumni, are up to the challenges and ready to do their parts in creating safer communities, a stronger profession, and a more resilient future.

With appreciation,

Gary Webb,  
Professor and Chair, EMDS

## EADP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

I left active duty in 2014 to earn my Juris Doctor (Law Degree) at Texas A&M School of Law in Fort Worth. To my surprise, I became one of the handful of people in the United States to take even a slight interest in Emergency and Disaster Management Law. I had no clue how I was going to make a job out of it though, since virtually no firms really practiced in the area. Looking back, I think my wife was more worried than I was. So, I started writing. I not only started a blog "Emergency Management Law.com" but I also wrote three articles on very unique topics of the law related Emergency Management. Two of these articles will be published in Spring 2018. One by the *South Texas Law Review* and the other by the *Cooley Journal of Clinical and Practical Law*. The third was a grant funded project that analyzed how to effectively enforce evacuation orders and avoid over criminalizing the act of staying behind. I've also spoken on Emergency Management and the Law at three separate conferences and have earned my "Certified Law Enforcement Planner" credential.

I say all of this not to stroke my ego (though many may still accuse me of it). I offer this as an example with a small piece of advice that few may heed: Don't be scared to avoid the path well-traveled. Sure, the beaten path offers many opportunities before you and we often need people on that path, but blazing a new trail is sometimes what the profession needs. See a need and work your hardest to fill that need. I did it, and not only am I supporting the profession with meaningful discussion on the law, but I'm enjoying every minute of what I do.

## Department Accolades

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Congratulations to **Dr. Ronald Timmons** on his promotion to Senior Lecturer. Dr. Timmons was recognized at the Salute to Faculty Excellence Dinner this past September at the UNT Union Ballroom. Well done, Ron!

This past January, **Dr. Laura Siebeneck** was awarded funding from the National Science Foundation to research return entry, recovery, and resilience following Hurricane Sandy. This \$2.4 million dollar award is a collaboration with engineers and social scientists at Purdue University. Additionally, Dr. Siebeneck was awarded a supplemental grant to examine household displacement resulting from Hurricane Harvey. This project will fund two EADP undergraduate students, **Graham Huether** and **Benjamin Kellogg**, to go into the field and gain experience collecting data and conducting disaster science research.

Congratulations to **Dr. Mary Nelan** and **Dr. Ronald Schumann** for their Quick Response Research Grant from the Natural Hazards Center to conduct data collection along the Texas Gulf Coast following Hurricane Harvey.

Congratulations to EADP Student **Corey Olszewski** who was awarded a UNT Undergraduate Research Fellowship. This competitive award allows students to gain experience conducting research under the guidance of a faculty member. Corey is working with Dr. Laura Siebeneck on his study examining collaboration effectiveness throughout the four phases of emergency management.

Following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, **Dr. Gary Webb** was quoted in several media outlets, including *The New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, *Politico*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *National Public Radio*.

# City of Denton Disaster Drill 2017

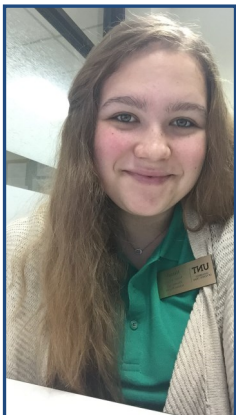
Last May, students from the EADP program participated in the City of Denton Disaster Drill at Apogee Stadium. This year's event, named "Operation Deimos," involved a suspicious explosive device and mass casualty event. Approximately 100 students from UNT and TWU volunteered to play the role of "victims" in this event and several lucky students enjoyed flights on the medical helicopters. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to see first-hand disaster response in action. We are grateful to EADP alum Mike Penaluna from the City of Denton Emergency Management for providing this great opportunity for our students!

## City of Denton Disaster Drill: The Student's Perspective

I played a victim who had been disemboweled by shrapnel. My chance of survival was around thirty percent if I was not treated at a medical facility within two hours. Coming from a military background with several deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, I was especially interested in seeing how our law enforcement officers would secure the scene and how our firefighters and paramedics would respond to a mass casualty event involving several victims with blast trauma injuries. They responded with speed and precision. They quickly evaluated and triaged patients to determine their priority of treatment and evacuation and by what means they would be evacuated. They did not wait for the patients to be evacuated to start treating them. Treatment began immediately on scene. I saw several combat application tourniquets (CAT) being used to control bleeding from extremities. They continued treating patients during the evacuation process. Some were evacuated by ground, others by air, and some were treated on scene and released. What was especially great was that the city of Denton must have used a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with other cities because there were first responders from other cities who quickly arrived on scene to assist. As a matter of fact, I was transported to Denton Medical City by an ambulance from Sanger, Texas. It was a great learning experience. It allowed me to see all the coordination and efforts that go into planning such an event. Michael Penaluna, the city of Denton emergency manager, was able to pull it off. I would encourage any EADP student who is serious about emergency management to participate in this event or similar events. If there is nothing else that you get out of the event, it is fun to be made up with all the injuries. Go out, enjoy yourself, and learn at the same time. I know I will participate again if given the opportunity.



Venson L. Herron, EADP Major



I played a victim in an explosion event at Apogee Stadium, where I pretended to be unconscious and blue. While participating, I was given the opportunity to watch responders in action along with all of the challenges that come with responding to a mass casualty event. The first responders used their training to begin sorting out levels of triage, and I was quickly labeled with a red tag. After being assessed by a paramedic, I was soon taken to Medical City Denton. At Medical City Denton, I was registered into the system by a nurse and assessed by several others. Following my discharge from the ER, I returned to the waiting room with all the fellow "victims." The Denton County Disaster Drill was well put together and performed, treating the disaster as if it was real and the victims as if they were actually in need. It was a great experience to participate in and I not only learned more about the operations during disaster response in emergencies, but witnessed them first hand! I highly encourage all EADP students to participate in the next drill, I know I am looking forward to it!

Hannah Taylor, EADP Major



# Faculty Research: In the Field

**Hurricane Harvey: Texas Gulf Coast.** Drs. Mary Nelan and Ronald Schumann recently traveled to the Texas coast to begin researching the recovery effort in areas impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Their project focuses on the places that individuals are gathering to find resources, information, and emotional support. This initial research trip was funded by a Quick Response Grant from the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado. This past October, they interviewed residents and first responders in Aransas, Nueces, and Refugio counties to learn about their experiences following Hurricane Harvey. They hope to secure further funding to continue their research as the recovery effort evolves and make multiple visits to these communities to learn more about community and household recovery.



Dr. Mary Nelan and Dr. Ronnie Schumann in the field.

**Hurricane Sandy: New Jersey.** This past May, Dr. Laura Siebeneck, Dr. Ronnie Schumann, and Public Administration PhD Student Britt-Janet Kuenanz traveled to New Jersey to begin research looking at return-entry and long-term recovery following Hurricane Sandy. Laura Siebeneck (co-PI), along with Satish Ukkusuri (PI), Seungyoon Lee (co-PI) and Shreyas Sundaram (co-PI) of Purdue University received a \$2.4 million dollar, four-year grant from the National Science Foundation to examine why some communities have been more successful in their rebuilding and recovery process while others are still struggling to return to pre-event conditions.

This first research trip included a series of focus group interviews with residents of New Jersey. During these interviews, the research team learned about resident's experiences following Hurricane Sandy as well as the factors that they perceived either accelerated their recovery process, or hindered their ability to recover following the storm. Using the information gathered during these interviews, a larger survey will be created and disseminated to households along the Jersey shore in early 2018.



Dr. Lee, Dr. Schumann, Dr. Siebeneck, Ms. Kuenanz and Dr. Ukkusuri at the boardwalk in Seaside Heights, NJ.

# EADP Faculty Converge on Colorado

Last July, several faculty members from EMDS travelled to Broomfield, Colorado for the annual Natural Hazards Workshop. The theme for this year's workshop was "Knowledge to Action: Reducing Hazards Losses and Promoting Disaster Resilience."

The Natural Hazards Workshop provides opportunities for faculty to not only share their research with others in the hazards and disasters community, but it allows for valuable networking opportunities between academics and practitioners in the field. We hope to bring some of our students to future conference and expose them to this wonderful networking experience.

Pictured to the left are faculty members Ronnie Schumann, Laura Siebeneck, Gary Webb, and Mary Nelan.

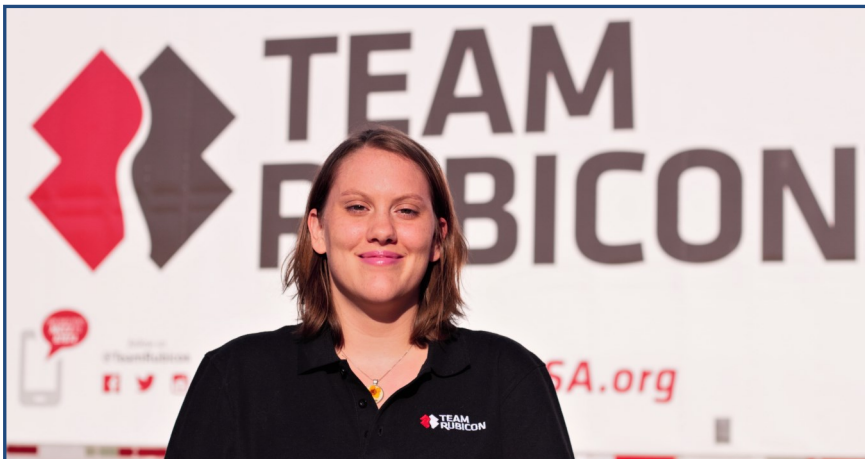




## RECENT ALUM: SEANA EPLEY, CLASS OF 2017

This year, we asked 2017 John Maxwell Award Winner Seana Epley to update us on what she is up to following her graduation from the EADP program last year. Seana writes:

When I left the military I knew I wanted to continue being of service to my community but struggled to figure out exactly how I could. While finishing up my Associate's degree I tried several things, but nothing felt right. Then one day, the random thought of "I wonder what degree you need to work at FEMA" crossed my mind. A couple of searches later and I ended up at the University of North Texas' EADP webpage, the FIRST Emergency Management degree in the US. I can't remember now exactly what the site said, but I know I was inspired. I scrambled to apply, finish classes, find somewhere to live, and ultimately move before the next semester started. In the end I made it in time and started at UNT in Spring 2016. Throughout my –surprisingly short- time in the EADP program the inspiration I felt from the beginning was continually renewed and deepened. From Introduction with Dr. Schumann, to EOC Design with Dr. Timmons, and finally Capstone with Dr. Webb (and every class in between) I could not have asked for a better or more well-rounded faculty and curriculum. I was also impressed by our IAEM Student Chapter and the efforts of the student leaders and faculty to involve and connect students to the world of EM. All of my experiences at UNT gave me the confidence to accept an amazing opportunity at Team Rubicon in their Planning Section. Now I get to use skills I learned in my EADP classes and connections I made through my membership with IAEM-SC to help disaster affected populations every day at TR.



## COURSE SPOTLIGHT: EADP 4040 INTERNATIONAL DISASTERS

Every country, government, and society reduces vulnerability to hazards and copes with disasters differently. Led by the United Nations, international disaster risk reduction efforts have made moderate progress. However, in the absence of preparedness and mitigation activities, many countries focus primarily on a reactive approach to managing disasters. This method is not sustainable.

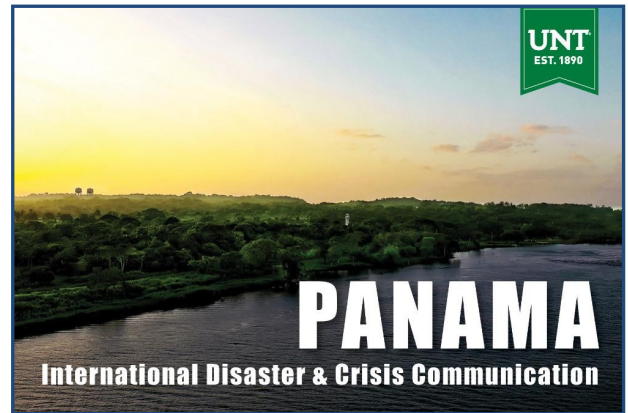
EADP 4040 International Disasters was recently offered in an asynchronous online format with Adjunct Faculty member Luis Tapia. Prof. Tapia covered topics including disaster trends, risk perception, social vulnerability, and sustainable development in an international context. Video lectures, film reviews, and an online accessible text book helped facilitate our discovery on how international stakeholders handle natural disasters and acts of terrorism. Special attention was given to the role of disaster relief and identifying why developing countries continue to be susceptible to disasters.

Are you interested in exploring long-term sustainable solutions for international disaster risk reduction? Check out the course schedule and join us online!



# Study Abroad 2018: Panama

In Summer 2018, EMDS will be offering a study abroad course in Panama. This class will be co-taught by Dr. Laura Siebeneck (EMDS) and Dr. Brian Richardson (Communication Studies) and will focus on the examination of hazards, risks, and disasters at the intersections of communication and culture in Panama. Emergency management students may sign up for either the EADP 4040 International Disasters class or the EMDS 5800—Special Topics Course. While abroad, students will have an opportunity to interact with emergency management officials in Panama and visit sites such as the Panama Canal, Las Ruinas (Old Ruins), La Fortaleza de Santa Barbara, a local fire station, and the U.S. Embassy. The department is excited to continue to offer international experiences for our students and we look forward to sharing our experiences with the EADP community upon returning home. If you are interested in attending, applications are being accepted until February 1st. Contact Laura Siebeneck for more details on how to apply.



## Internship Spotlight: City of Denton

Throughout the years, many of our EADP Alumni have provided quality internship experiences to our EADP majors. These internships provide wonderful opportunities for our students to apply what they have learned in the classroom in a real world setting. One such internship is that offered by Mike Penaluna at the City of Denton. Each year, he and his office provide internships for EADP majors that provide them experiences such as helping develop the annual large-scale exercise, updating EOPs, and writing other planning documents.

Three past and present EADP interns were in attendance for the March meeting of the Denton Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (DEPAC) held at the UNT Emergency Operations Center on March 22, 2017. EMC Michael Penaluna recognized the students for their many contributions to the City of Denton Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Projects included developing and/or updating a Chemical Risk Analysis, Special Populations Guidebook, Resource Manual, EOC Guidebook, and assisting with meetings, training, drills, exercises, and public education programs. Penaluna stated, "I have had the great opportunity to work with many students through the EADP program. They have been bright, professional, and knowledgeable. I simply could not do all of my required activities without their help. Keep up the great work!"

Pictured are interns past and present for the City of Denton Office of Emergency Management. Pictured (L to R) are Luc Tran, (Class of 2017) Julie Hagen (Class of 2016), Michael Penaluna (City of Denton EMC, Class of 1988), and Samantha Pickett. (Class of 2016).





# EADP STUDENT INTERNS IN NEW ZEALAND

During this past summer, EADP Student Hannah Morton had the opportunity to complete her emergency management internship in New Zealand. This is a unique program in which students gain experience interning at the Joint Center for Disaster Research through Massey University in Wellington and the National Headquarters for Fire and Emergency, New Zealand offices. Hannah was one of 11 students from across the United States selected to participate in this program.

When asked about her experience overseas for a semester, Hannah writes: “I got to study in person the infrastructural damage from the massive 2011 Canterbury earthquakes in Christchurch, climb a volcano in Auckland, and study tsunami hazards all along the coasts. It was extremely eye opening! For the Joint Center for Disaster Research (JCDR) I studied small community vulnerability, the unique risk perception and disaster culture among the extremely diverse population, and completed several hazard identification and risk assessments (which I did very well thanks to Dr. Siebeneck’s mitigation and preparedness class!).”

During the rest of the program I interned in Wellington with the national headquarters for Fire and Emergency New Zealand, their fire service. I conducted research for the special operations team, assisted with resource allocation for a project meant to improve the safety of firefighters during water related emergencies, and compiled data on the results of safety trials for firefighting gear. It was completely different than any work I have ever done before, especially since it was within the national level of government. However, they made it extremely educational; they took me to the country’s National Crisis Management Center (equivalent is a national EOC), their parliament, and arranged a ride along with one of their busiest departments. The whole experience was a great way to study alternative methods to common emergency management practices in the US, gain exposure to a new culture, and see how differently disasters are treated in different parts of the world.”

Now that Hannah is back on campus, she is continuing her coursework in the EADP program and remains an active member of the IAEM Student Chapter, she volunteers for the American Red Cross, and is a member of the Gregg County Community Emergency Response Team. This past year, Hannah was a winner of the Tom Joslin Award and she states, “I was extremely excited to receive this scholarship because it allowed me financially to pursue a certificate degree in volunteer coordination and management and also complete it by graduation in May.” The EADP program is very proud of Hannah’s academic and professional achievements and we are delighted she represented the EADP program in New Zealand.



# Summer Internship Adventures, Near and Far



From Washington State, to Washington D.C., and half a world away to New Zealand, EADP students returned from several exciting internships this summer, as highlighted in recent course presentations. At the September 29, 2017 internship class, seven students recounted their fieldwork experiences. Several of the presenters acknowledged the value and pertinence of the classroom experiences they gained at UNT, when they had to “do it for real.”

**Chelsea Hearron** reported on her time with the Seattle, Washington Office of Emergency Management. She was engaged in a wide variety of planning and public outreach initiatives. Chelsea will return to the Northwest to start her emergency management career.

**Daniel Ringhauser** injected humor with insights about his time at the Irving Police Department’s Office of Emergency Management. With all the superlatives about Irving’s business and community features, Daniel observed with amazement, “The next time something bad happens, the mayor might be using a plan written by a twenty year old!”

**Felicia Chavez** accomplished important preparedness work at Baylor Scott & White Hospitals in Frisco, perfectly matching her military medical experience with course curricula. Felicia was involved when the hospital experienced an extensive patient evacuation due to power outage.

**Deea Scully** gave an enthusiastic presentation on her various accomplishments at the City of Fort Worth Emergency Management Office. Deea was there to see an activation of the EOC and experience all of the reactions to recent incidents.

**Carlos Salinas** reported on his special projects and experiences with the city of Coppell, at their new EOC. Carlos has been invited to continue in his paid internship role at Coppell, beyond the required 240 hours.

And for something completely different, but very much on-target with the niche some of our students are preparing for, **Kevin Johnson** briefed the group on his service in business continuity at PlainsCapital Bank. Like his peers in the public sector, Kevin highlighted the importance of cultivating awareness and persisting past mainstream denial of what can go wrong.

**Roni Fraser** concluded the set of presentations with a few of the highlights from her summer in Washington DC, serving in a coveted emergency management internship at the Executive Office of the President of the United States. Roni gained first-hand knowledge of protection of critical national infrastructure and dignitary protection, along with seizing every imaginable opportunity in the region.

The October round of presentations included: **Dirk Bitner** (Dallas County), **Rebekah Johnson** (Baylor Scott & White), **Dillon Verzinski** (Salvation Army), **Sean O’Donnell** (Grace Bridge Disaster Relief), **Joey Tomeny** (City Year-AmeriCorps) and **Robyn Warren** (UNT Emergency Management and Safety Services).

# EADP ALUMNI OF THE YEAR 2017

At the annual Student/Alumni picnic last May, the EADP faculty presented Irish Hancock with the EADP Alumni of the Year Award. This award recognizes an outstanding alum who has made significant contributions to both the profession of emergency management and to EADP. Irish graduated from the EADP program in 2003 and is currently working as the emergency coordinator for the City of Arlington, Texas. In this position, he has led numerous disaster response activities and has coordinated planning efforts for special events such as Super bowl XLV, the NCAA Final Four Tournament, and two World Series Games. Irish is very active in the profession and has served in a variety of capacities such as a representative on the North Central Texas Council of Governmental Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council, as co-chair of the North Central Texas Regional Shelter Working Group, and as a member of the FEMA Region VI Regional Advisory Council. He is also a frequent guest speaker for courses in the EADP program. The EADP program recognizes Irish for all of his outstanding leadership and achievements in the profession and he serves as a fantastic role model for our students. Congratulations, Irish!



## GIVING TO THE EADP PROGRAM

Are you considering giving a gift to the EADP program? 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](mailto: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 either Laura Siebeneck ([laura.siebeneck@unt.edu](mailto:laura.siebeneck@unt.edu)). Thank you for considering the EADP program.

## 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>

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS  
College of Public Affairs & Community Service  
Emergency Management & Disaster Science

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Alumni Directory:

**2015**  
**Oscar de la Garza**  
Business Continuity Analyst  
Frisco Industries  
Dallas, TX

**2013**  
**Josh Bragdon**  
Emergency Management Coordinator  
San Jacinto College, Emergency Management  
Coldspring, TX

**Directory Registration**  
Add your name to the EMDS Alumni Directory or update your contact information.

**Mark A. Amador** received the 2015 Emergency Management Association of Texas President's Award at the 4th Annual EMAC Symposium. The award was presented by Job B. Lacey, Vice Mayor of Dallas, TX.

## Emergency Management & Disaster Science

Chilton Hall

410 Avenue C, Suite 122

Denton, Texas 76201

Visitor Information



# TOM JOSLIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This past May, the EADP program announced the winners of the 2017 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. The award is up to \$1,000. In order to be eligible, students must be (1) at least a sophomore at the time the award is made; (2) have an overall 3.0 GPA in all coursework; (3) provide evidence of a commitment to a career in emergency management such as participation in appropriate professional development opportunities (seminars, workshops, professional meetings) and membership in relevant professional associations such as IAEM-SC, and (4) have the ability to demonstrate leadership qualities and involvement in community service activities. This year, Hannah Morton and Corey Olszewski were awarded the Tom Joslin Scholarship. Below, the award winners describe how this scholarship has supported their emergency management education. Congratulations, Hannah and Corey!

"I have been actively pursuing a career in emergency management for the last five years, and UNT's EADP program was the only program I considered to get me there. While pursuing my education, I have been serving disaster-stricken communities around the United States as a volunteer member of Team Rubicon Disaster Response for the last four years.

In September, I deployed on Operation Hard Hustle, joining the ranks of over 1,000 "Greyshirts" on the ground along the Gulf Coast. This is Team Rubicon's largest operation, and encompasses seven mission areas coordinated through an Area Command system, which is the first time they have deployed this capability. I served as our division's Operations Section Chief for my first time, combining skills I've learned from past Team Rubicon deployments with skills and experience learned in my EADP degree. It was an honor to serve the community of Wharton, Texas, and I hope to continue serving with Team Rubicon long after I graduate. I represented UNT and this program with pride on deployment, and I am thankful for the faculty here, as well as the Tom Joslin Scholarship, for putting their faith in me. I hope to carry this legacy forward wherever I go."  
- Corey Olszewski



"This is the first semester of my senior year, and I just completed my internship in New Zealand this summer for disaster risk and emergency management. At UNT, I am involved in the IAEM student chapter and volunteering in emergency management related fields. These include the American Red Cross and Gregg County Community Emergency Response Team. I was extremely excited to receive this scholarship because it allowed me financially to pursue a certificate degree in volunteer coordination and management and also complete it by graduation in May." - Hannah Morton



## 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 practical experience they bring to the classroom provides students valuable insights into the profession of emergency management. Thank you all for everything you do!

### EMDS Adjunct Faculty 2016-2017

Ms. Karen McCormick      Mr. Brian Martin  
Mr. Luis Tapia              Ms. Charla Marchuk  
Mr. Ed Hall

## Thank you Guest Speakers!

The EMDS Faculty would like to extend thanks to all the alumni and friends of the EADP program that visited campus this past year to serve as guest speakers in classes and panelists for various career events. Additionally, many of our alums regularly host student visitors to their Emergency Operations Centers throughout the DFW area.

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 various faculty members. We thank everyone again for their support!

*Thank You*



# Students, Faculty, and Alumni in the Field!

