

JSU-IAEM

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

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Finals, Finals, Finals!!!

December is the final month of the year, finals week just finished, and this is the final newsletter of 2018. It is with sincere hope that everyone has aced this semester, and continues positive progress professionally and academically. For those members that are graduating, Congratulations on the tremendous milestone. For those that will be returning next semester, you are one step closer. Take time this holiday season to relax, and enjoy your much deserved break!

It is the vision of our chapter *“to be the leading IAEM student chapter through fervent advancement of members and inclusion of JSU-IAEM members in IAEM activities.”* In efforts to make that vision a reality, a set of goals and objectives were set for the 2018-2019 academic year. This month’s edition of the newsletter will focus on providing updates on the chapter’s progress towards achieving those goals and objectives. In particular, we will highlight areas of recruitment, participation, engagement, and fundraising.

As you read I encourage you to consider five questions:

What went well this year?

What could have been better this year?

What would you like to see more of from the chapter?

How can the chapter help support your personal goals and objectives?

How can I be more involved in the chapter?

Being named “Student Chapter of the Year” in 2016 is a tremendous accomplishment, and we intend to do the same in the upcoming year. We have a unique advantage of having a diverse membership roster of highly-skilled professionals and students that set us apart. With our multiple accomplishments and international reach, we set a high standard. Let’s continue to set the bar high into the next year beginning with one of our most recent accomplishments!

JSU-IAEM Members Elected to Global Student Council



JSU-IAEM Members Elected President and Secretary of IAEM-Global Student Council

Past-president, Simran K. Singh, and current chapter president, Antoine B. Richards, were elected as President and Secretary of IAEM's Global Student Council.

Continuing a long, successful tradition of JSU-IAEM members serving in the GSC, Singh recently held the Vice-President position within the council, and served as Secretary in 2017. New to the GSC, Richards was elected to the executive board this December 2019. JSU-IAEM has been no stranger to the GSC as former chapter president, Judith Weshinsky-Price, has served as President of the GSC and chapter treasurer, Thomas Reimann, has served as treasurer of the GSC. The IAEM Global Student Council represents student members of the IAEM worldwide including its three active student regions: IAEM-Canada, IAEM-USA, and IAEM-Oceania. Both Singh and Richards will assume their new positions on January 1, 2019.

Congratulations!

Recruitment



Vital to the sustainability of our student chapter, recruitment and visibility of the chapter was a primary focus entering the 2018-2019 academic year. The chapter has significant doctoral-level membership, so increased efforts were made to recruit undergraduate and masters-level students as well as incoming students to the university. Mechanisms included JSU radio-segment PSAs to be utilized during orientation dates, a chapter presentation at the Intensive Seminar for doctoral students, distribution of chapter materials at JSU Preview Days, faculty/staff integration of chapter information into course shells, and dissemination of JSU-IAEM newsletters to students, faculty, and staff.

Future efforts will continue to utilize those same methods, with an emphasis on integrating more with the Department of Emergency Management at school-related events to improve visibility and recruitment efforts. Interdisciplinary collaboration is also a potential mechanism of outreach for students in other areas of study that are interested in emergency management to represent the interdisciplinary nature of the field.

We have received multiple inquiries from interested students in joining the student chapter throughout the Fall semester and have added six new members to the student chapter since August; many of which are on the Masters-level. If you have not interacted with our new members, please join in welcoming the following new members to our student chapter:

Katherine Kummerer
Daniel Oswaldo Meza
Mia Nardini
Darell Ignelzi
Allison Mallory
Heather McKeekan Barbieri

In addition to visibility, word-of-mouth is one of the most powerful tools in recruitment. Please continue to encourage your classmates, peers, and colleagues within your courses to join the student chapter. We are extremely proud of our new members, and will continue to work towards growing the chapter as a solid representation of the emergency management field that we serve.

Participation

Participation from chapter members is important. We each hold value in our professional experience, academic experience, and wealth of knowledge and information that we can share to continuously uplift our chapter. Additionally, because our membership consists of working professionals, there exists opportunities for opportunity; opportunities for students, opportunities for employment, opportunities for collaborative projects, and opportunities for shared thinking.

Two of our student members were recently facing similar struggles in their positions as healthcare systems-based emergency managers. The ability to connect both entities was a highlight of the semester. The ability to make that connection is a powerful thing. However, those opportunities remain nonexistent without participation and engagement from our members. Moreover, in our first newsletter, we highlighted the tremendous efforts of our Undergraduate Representatives in tornado response efforts that was facilitated by another member of our chapter.

It is moments like these that make *“increasing active participation in JSU-IAEM initiatives and activities”* an important goal. Participation and engagement creates a network that can expand and advance emergency management locally, statewide, and nationally. Because distance-learning is the primary avenue for our department at JSU, we have an international network of EM students and professionals which is not indicative of many of the other student chapters nationally.

This is highlighted with the understanding that we are all busy, but involvement with any organization should be rewarding, fulfilling, and you receive as much from the organization as its members are willing to put into the organization. It is the responsibility of the chapter to ensure that your needs and wants are being met and we are facilitating a space that supports and helps our members achieve their goals. We are currently working towards innovative, and engaging ways to increase participation and improve CEM/AEM prep within the next year, but also value your feedback. There are two posts within the Facebook group that are geared towards your feedback. I encourage you to:

a) Please provide feedback on your thoughts from your involvement this year. What went well? What did not go well? What could have been better? I have created a Facebook post for open discussion that can be accessed [here](#).

b) “What would you like to gain from your JSU-IAEM membership” – A poll was created in our Facebook group that can be accessed [here](#).

I look forward to reading your feedback, and to your active participation with both as we continue to make progress in the upcoming year.

Engagement

Participation and engagement work collectively. Our goal for engagement is to *“foster an engaged and collaborative atmosphere for members while encouraging member success.”*

In doing so, a few mechanisms were set in place to encourage engagement and participation. A JSU-IAEM networking [roster](#) was created that allows members to see who is involved with the student chapter and open up lines of communication if needed. This roster is great for students at all levels to gain insight into higher level learning, or to gain insight into possible career choices as we matriculate through the field. Furthermore, it provides opportunity to engage with other members as we travel or may share professional space (IAEM Annual Conference, etc.) Please access the roster above and add your information.

We have had three monthly conference calls since the start of the academic year. Conference calls are held the first Wednesday of each month from 8pm-9pm CST on Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. Please plan accordingly to be in attendance. This is a great way to stay up-to-date with chapter information while engaging with chapter members.

A shared-[calendar](#) was created that each member has access to. I encourage you to place any events that you think would be of great benefit to members on the calendar and stay up-to-date with chapter occurrences including monthly conference calls, monthly speaker sessions, and conferences.

Lastly, in efforts to continuously engage with the chapter, our newsletter has switched to a monthly format that is disseminated amongst student members and EM students. It has been a great recruitment mechanism and a valuable engagement tool. Please continue to read, comment, and share newsletter content. I also encourage you to submit stories, events, dates, training opportunities (ICS 300 & 400, etc.) to be featured in the newsletter. Let's continue to engage and improve upon chapter success.



Fundraising

To better support our chapter and student members, a fundraiser has been developed for Spring 2019.

The fundraiser will require the participation of **ALL** members, but it does not ask for much from any member (if that makes sense). The **“Dollar Campaign”** is a simple concept that requires everyone to donate a dollar and encourage their friends, family, and peers to also donate a dollar. **Keep in mind that people can donate any amount that they wish (and encourage more), but a dollar contribution is sufficient.** In essence, if we have 60 members who get 50 friends to donate a dollar then we have raised \$3,000.00. This increases if people donate more. Money raised will be invested back into chapter members in the form of:

- **Book scholarships,**
- **Conference registration for students**
- **Assistance with travel expenses if needed**
- **Providing stoles for graduates, and**
- **Chapter merchandise**

To make this more fun, and engaging, I will provide a prize for the individual that raises the most money. Additionally, individuals that donate will be entered into a drawing for a prize as well. It is a sincere goal to see our chapter members succeed and progress within the New Year. Please stay tuned for an official start date to the fundraiser.



What's In Store for 2019?

This year was both successful, and foundational. The necessary tools have been set-in place. The chapter has actively recruited, created platforms for participation, and created tools for engagement. The goal for 2019 is to utilize those tools and uplift our most important asset; our members. The focus is to continue to achieve our goals and objectives set forth for the academic year while striving towards meeting the needs of our members. We have added an additional social media platform that will utilize to focus on our student members, share opportunities, and increase chapter visibility. We will continue to encourage involvement on the national level. Most recently, at the last IAEM Annual Conference there was a need expressed for IAEM members (including students) to join the various [caucuses](#). I encourage you to get involved and continue to share your voice. It is with sincere hope that we continue to improve upon engagement and participation to get the most out of our chapter involvement. We will continue our monthly conference calls, speaker sessions, and begin to incorporate the feedback that we receive into improving in 2019. We are branding our successes, highlighting our achievements, and working towards strengthening areas of improvement as we continue to work towards our vision.

Interested in Joining?

We are looking for proactive students, like yourself, and we hope you will be inspired to get involved in both our chapter and on the national level.

Joining the JSU-IAEM student chapter is easy, and it's **free!**

It Takes Two Simple Steps!

1. Become a member of the International Association of Emergency Managers at www.iaem.com.
2. Once registered, send your IAEM membership number and contact information (address, phone number, and email) to jsuiaem@jsu.edu.

It is through the hard work and dedication of our student members, and chapter advisor, that our successes have stretched beyond our university to national levels. We are excited to have you be an integral part of our organization. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the information below and we will be sure to be in touch.

Contact Us

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Visit us on the Web:
<http://www.jsu.edu/emergency-management/student-resources/IAEM.html>