



# EMC Advisor

## Emergency Medical Care Program

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### Program Reaccredited by CAAHEP

The EMC program continues to be unique because it is still the only Paramedic program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) in Kentucky. CAAHEP is an umbrella organization that accredits over 2000 educational programs (including approximately 260 Paramedic programs) in twenty-two health science related professions. To achieve accreditation, programs must meet a rigorous set of standards and guidelines created to protect both students and the public; assuring that a program's faculty expertise and facilities provide a quality education. The period for an accreditation cycle is 5 years. After submitting its application for reaccreditation, the EMC program was visited by a team of expert site-visitors from CoAEMSP (our professional arm of CAAHEP). During the two day on-site inspection, the team interviewed students, graduates, faculty as well as College and University administration. Hospital, clinical and other resources were verified. After a lengthy review, the program was found to have met or exceeded all accreditation standards and received a glowing report. This means that the program has been reaccredited for another five years.

### Largest Bachelor's Degree Class

The Program began its Bachelor of Science degree 10 years ago. Initially, there were two "tracks" of study: Science (designed for medical school and physician's assistant school applicants) and Clinical. Since then, a third option (Administration) has been added. This newest option is designed to provide graduates with the hands-on knowledge needed to understand basic research, finance, training and ethical issues related to EMS. This past year's graduating class is the largest so far with 9 graduates. We also had 4 graduates to receive our Associate of Science degree. Most of the graduates will remain in the U. S.; however, we have seen a large increase of international students entering the program during the past 2 years.

### Zombie Night and More

Epsilon Sigma Pi, the Program's student organization, has been very active this year. Many students have stepped up to complete a range of exciting projects. The first was a large health fair (see photo)



and the second was a "movie night" during the period prior to exams known as "dead week". (see *Student's in Action* on page 2)

#### **Contents**

Accreditation.....	pg 1
Zombie Night.....	pg 1
Largest Bachelor's Degree Class .....	pg 1
Students in Action.....	pg 2
Certification Results	
Student Honors .....	pg 2
Tactical Team .....	pg 3
International Feast.....	pg 4
Epsilon Sigma Pi.....	pg 4
Program to Relocate.....	pg 4
Basic EMT News .....	pg 4
Students in Action.....	pg 5
Advance Airway Course .....	pg 6

## Students in Action continued

During the health fair, students provided safety information to participants and performed various health assessments (e.g., blood pressure and EKG monitoring). They also demonstrated emergency care equipment and techniques.

During *dead week*, the students sponsored a showing of the popular movie “Zombie Night”. If you are unfamiliar with its plot, basically, it’s about the end of civilization as we know it, during which, a rugged band of heroes must fight hordes of the undead in order to survive. To add an extra flavor of macabre,

Professor Danny Miller volunteered to moulage several students with realistic injuries (see photo). To say the least, the students who portrayed



“the dead” were a hit. The poster made to advertise the event, showing the students dressed (and made-up) to look like zombies were taken from all over campus as souvenirs! Thanks need to go out to both the students for their hard work and to their faculty advisors, Professors Danny Miller and Nancye Davis. Based upon the overwhelming success of this first-time trial, it is likely that Epsilon Sig will be asked to deliver a repeat performance next year.

## New Paramedics

The Program has had another successful year of graduates taking their National Registry Paramedic exams. As of this writing, the results are as follows:

- ✚ 11 students passed practicals (100%)
- ✚ 10 students passed written (91%)

Congratulations to everyone who successfully completed the process. Some of these students remain at EKU as they continue to work on various degrees.

## 2010 Academic Excellence Award

Senior James Boyer (seen on the right below) was presented the award for “Academic Excellence for 2010” by department chair, Dr. Larry Collins. Mr. Boyer was a double major (B. S. in EMC - FSE: Track and B. S. in FSE: Administration Track) and is originally from Prospect Heights, IL.



James’ advice to students: “Take full advantage of all the resources made available by the EMC program as well as the status of being an EKU paramedic student. The numerous toys in the advanced and basic labs, the decades of experience of the faculty and preceptors and the field experiences made available by local EMS employment and ride-time, all provide invaluable outlets for development as an EMS professional. Finally, when you are in the field as a professional, work to meet and exceed the expectations that others will have for you simply because you are an EKU paramedic graduate. Know that you are representing the program and all its alumni, and do so proudly.”

Our congratulations go out to James as he takes the next steps in his career.

## Graduate Brings Tactical Team

We try to maintain close ties with all of our alumni. This has been a benefit to our current students and to the faculty. Hearing from graduates helps us to be sure that we are meeting the needs of the EMS community, not only in Kentucky, but across the nation as well. A specific and tangible benefit of this on-going connection is that many of our graduates have volunteered to come back to campus



to share their experiences, expertise and enthusiasm with current students. This was recently seen when Mr. Anthony Higgins (see photo below), a graduate of the program, arranged a first-time demonstration of tactical EMS procedures on-campus for the Program.

Mr. Higgins is the medical officer at the Federal prison in Lexington and is a member of that facility's Tactical Response Team (TRT). As a way to educate our students about the special concerns of treating patients in a tactical situation, he arranged for the TRC to come to campus and to provide a demonstration of procedures used in riot control and hostage rescue. Working as a *tactical medic* presents many special concerns, from how to protect oneself in a hostile environment to how you go about providing advanced care when there is a risk of injury to you and the patient. Because the



team used "live fire" concussion grenades and smoke bombs, the demonstration was conducted at the College of Justice and Safety's "Leach" driving range\*. Tactics that were demonstrated included forcible entry and hostage rescue, use of weapons in close quarters and various non-lethal munitions used to incapacitate violent suspects. Students watching the event really enjoyed the action. We were all close enough to feel the concussion from the flash-bangs and to smell the smoke grenades (see photo below). (\*The program wishes to express thanks to the Dr. Terry Kline and the Traffic Safety Institute for the use of the range.)



All alumni should consider this as an invitation for them to consider bringing their own special talents and resources back to campus for a visit. Students love to see how successful you are and how they too can grow into new and exciting roles within EMS. If you are interested in putting on a demonstration, please contact the Program Director, Nancye Davis at 859-622-1028 or [nancye.davis@eku.edu](mailto:nancye.davis@eku.edu).

## International Students Share Feast

Two of this year's advance sequence students shared their annual celebration, known as *Eid al-Fitr*, with the Advanced Sequence. This meal is a traditional feast that is held at the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting for Muslims. The class was presented with a wide variety of sweets, fruits and Arabic coffee (see photo insert).



## Epsilon Sigma Pi

The Program's professional student organization, Epsilon Sigma Pi, is running full steam ahead. For this semester, it is planning several major events. The first will be during Homecoming weekend. This get-together will be held on the evening of October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Mule Barn (at Arlington). Current students and alumni are invited to join in the celebration. Specific details will be available by viewing the EMC webpage ([www.emc.eku.edu](http://www.emc.eku.edu)) or by contacting our administrative secretary (Ms. Mary Gross at 859-622-1028, or by e-mail: [mary.gross@eku.edu](mailto:mary.gross@eku.edu)). A second effort will involve members of Epsilon Sig initiating a program called "ALERT" (Adults Learning Emergency Response Techniques.) to teach basic emergency response techniques to members of the campus community. Finally, under the direction of organization president Eric Begley, Epsilon Sig will organize an ambulance driving course for current members. The class will be taught by a local EMS training officer and will allow students to become certified in the operation of an ambulance.

## Program to Leave Dizney Building

Originally housed in the Begley building (Roy Kidd Stadium), the program has been in Dizney building since it opened in 1994. The program was administratively moved from the College of Allied Health to the College of Justice and Safety several years ago; however, it has maintained the same classrooms and office spaces

in Dizney. That is expected to change soon. The University will acquire the building that currently houses a Madison County EMS' station (formerly their headquarters on the Bypass). Once MCEMS builds a new facility nearby, the program will take possession of their old station. This move will allow Advanced Sequence students to learn and practice in a real world environment with high fidelity simulation labs that will be wired with computer and audiovisual capabilities. Due to space limitations, it is likely that our basic EMT and emergency medical responder courses will be held in a part of the new Stratton building complex.

## Back to Basics

Classes remain full for the EMT courses as we implement the new curriculum as fast as possible. Our students continue to work hard to obtain their foundation for paramedic courses as well as using their EMT certification for entry into the profession. We see a steady number of Fire Science students seeking their EMT credential to help them stand out in the competitive Fire Services profession. Looking back between Jimmy Cornelison and Mike Blakeney, we estimate the program has taught over two thousand five hundred EMT students over the years while maintaining well over 90% pass rate. Our EMC Program remains the premier teaching intuition in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

## Students In Action

For several years, students from the Advanced Sequence have visited local elementary schools to teach kids about EMS and safety in general. The 2009-2010 class was no different. They helped to design a program that was delivered during the “Career Day” at Model Laboratory School here in Richmond. During this event, various professions were represented and people from these careers engaged the kids to teach them about how each type of job works and how the students can enter into that field.



For the EMS session, our students set up stations for the children to hear about the skills being demonstrated and to try their hands at doing them. The stations included vital signs (as seen above with student Kendra Bates), splinting, backboards (see students Zach Charest [on left] and Daniel Essex below), bandaging and intubation. Students from

the elementary school rotated into the session and everyone had the opportunity to try each station. For vital signs, each student was able to use a stethoscope and listen to breath sounds and heart tones. At the splinting station, each was able to try a hand at immobilizing an arm (including placement of a sling and swathe) or leg. Bandaging included the very popular “skull cap” wrap (see below) for scalp lacerations. Participants were given the



chance to see some of the newest technology available in our lab. Here (below), student Kathy Spurlock is demonstrating pulse oxymetry. Overall, the evaluations from the students and



faculty at Model were glowing and we were told that we should expect to be invited back this year.

## Students In Action cont.

One change the program has made over the past few years is the push to include more hands-on scenario practice earlier in the year for the Advanced Sequence. To that end, students are given the opportunity to work through scenarios both in the lab and outside (see below left to right: Michael Dashkiewicz, Jonathon McNamara and Andrew Holcomb).



In the lab, scenarios typically cover topics seen in fall and spring classes and require students to develop team member and leadership qualities. Students must actually apply non-invasive monitors (like the cardiac monitor and pulse oxymetry), manage the airway (including intubating a manikin that is placed beside of the patient), splint fractures and immobilize the spine and more. Even though they don't actually usually start the IV, students are required to set up the line and calculate drip rates (left to right: Erik Seaman, James Boyer and Jonathon McNamara).



## Advanced Airway Class

The program strives to offer the chance to participate in innovative training from a wide variety of clinical areas. This past summer, thanks to the effort of faculty member Danny Miller; ECU was the site of an advanced airway management class known as "The Difficul Airway Course". The two day class was attended by approximately 16 students; some of whom were ECU alumni (see graduate Elizabeth Fehrenbach below).



The visiting faculty were from North Carolina. Hands-on lab sessions involved the use of advanced technologies and surgical airway techniques using pig trachea to simulate human anatomy. Scenarios required students (like ECU graduate Ben Dowdy below) to act as the team leader while managing complicated airway problems such as laryngeal edema and trauma.

Lecture content from the course included rapid sequence intubation, medication assisted intubation, blind insertion of adjuncts, bag-valve mask ventilation and cricothyrotomy.

