



## *From the Director's Desk*

In September of 2014 I passed the two-year mark as your Director. It has been a busy two years. We have accomplished a great deal and we have more to do. I remain extremely proud of the work we do in support of the fire service in Illinois, nationally, and internationally. Since I last wrote in the spring newsletter, IFSI has continued to grow, evolve and improve the quality of the training, education, information and research delivered. I am always amazed at the quality of our work and the dedication with which it is delivered. 2014 looks to be another excellent year with initial calculation indicating we delivered training to over 62,000 first responders. Your efforts continue to be recognized as the finest training and education in Illinois and the nation. Below are just the highlights of what we have accomplished and clear indication that the future is bright.

**1. Curriculum and Testing.** During 2014 we have worked diligently to develop relevant and high quality "step-1 learning" for all our 30+ hour courses. This project is on track to be completed by this January and will enhance student learning, as well as the quality and efficiency of our higher-end courses. We are going through ProBoard re-accreditation this fall and we are exploring adding IFSAC accreditation during 2015.

We continue to play a key role in the SCAC process with the OSFM and the associated aligning of Illinois state certifications with NFPA updates to include Brian Brauer's recent chairing of the nearly-complete NFPA 1033 SCAC.

Additionally, we remain committed to ensuring our evaluation and testing materials are valid and reliable. This is achieved through a significant time investment from our program staff and the curriculum and testing staff that spend hours reviewing questions and course material. The institute has increased its budgetary resources for these efforts and last year we added an additional full time Test Support Specialist to work alongside our instructors to update our exams.

**2. HR, Organization and Structure.** Since last spring we have made progress in our effort to get the "right people on the bus and in the right seats". With the retirement of Brad Bone, I have appointed Tad Schroeder as the director of on-campus Firefighting Programs. Tad, with the essential support of key subject matter experts, is conducting an internal review of all IFSI firefighting courses – engine ops, truck ops, academy, light and fights, smoke divers, and FAST – in order to ensure consistency in curriculum and instruction. This effort is important and will yield a more consistent content and delivery across these foundational firefighting programs.

**3. Training and Education.** Training and education (T&E) continues to be at the heart of what we do.

- We have made significant improvements to our on-campus training props to include adding two additional live-burn firefighting props. These new props include wall and ceiling drywall which allow truck companies to work side-by-side with engine company fire attack in a live-burn training environment. These new props also include realistic horizontal and vertical ventilation using drywall simulating window panes.

- Our relationship with OSFM continues to be excellent to facilitate quality training through the funding associated with the Fire Prevention Fund, Cornerstone Program, and Explorer/Cadet Programs.

- Our regional reps continue to expand delivery of Cornerstone-funded courses around the state.

- Our relationship with the Chicago Fire Department in all aspects of T&E continues to grow in all areas to include officer training, Engine Company training, Truck Company training and EMS continuing education

- We continue to have solid relationships with key national and state-wide fire service organizations that include, NAFTD, NFA, IFCA, IFA, IFSA, IAAI.

- The 2014 Fire College went great. We had the first increase in attendance from the previous year since 2001. This was a direct result of the innovative and significant changes we made in our offerings – made possible through the contributions of our instructors and staff.

- We have made great progress in our Leadership Development and Decision-Making in the Fire Service curriculum development. We will conduct an internal dress rehearsal of the chief, company officer, and firefighter courses early in 2015. We will host the 2nd Leadership Development Work Shop and Conference in early April 2015 and follow up with pilot deliveries around the state beginning in June 2015. This concept for a "cradle-to-grave" fire service leadership development/decision-making training and education continuum has consistent themes, priorities, and lines of education. It will institutionalize the highest quality leadership in the fire service for Illinois and is fully supported by Illinois fire service leadership and has a nationwide level of interest.

- In order to meet the needs of Illinois' first responders relative to the significant increase in crude oil rail movement, we have begun expanding and updating our hazmat and oil program curricula in order to reflect the challenges of Bakken Crude and rail disasters.



Royal P. Mortenson  
Director

*continued on page 4*

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The Illinois Fire Service Institute Newsletter is the official publication of the Illinois Fire Service Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The newsletter is published twice a year and is solely an educational and advisory aid to the fire service and individuals working to establish and maintain a fire safe environment in Illinois.

Opinions expressed in the Illinois Fire Service Institute Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official opinions of the Illinois Fire Service Institute unless otherwise noted in the article.

The Illinois Fire Service Institute will consider for publication articles or items of interest to the fire service of Illinois and encourages materials from all fire-related professions for consideration.

Persons interested in furnishing articles should forward materials to: IFSI Newsletter, 11 Gerty Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 or email information to Terri Hopper at [hopper@illinois.edu](mailto:hopper@illinois.edu). Please include appropriate graphics or digital photos.

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The most up-to-date schedule of classes can be found online at

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***Ask to be added to the mailing list by email to Terri Hopper ([hopper@illinois.edu](mailto:hopper@illinois.edu))***

***OR***

***A copy is available on our web site under ABOUT IFSI/Documents.***

I had planned to write about Illinois Fire Service Institute's (IFSI) "Seven Strategic Priorities" (watch for a later discussion) and how we are making great strides to address the priorities set by the Director. But as I sit waiting for my flight to Beijing to speak at the Chinese People's Armed Police (Fire) Academy I think I have a better thought. The questions I have been asked recently is why is IFSI traveling to China? What does IFSI get out of this relationship?

These are valid questions and the answer is complex. IFSI is an international leader in fire service training and education. We deliver education and training to more than 60,000 students each year. Students from across the country and world travel to IFSI classes every day. Why? Because we have the best instructors, delivering the most current and relevant information to firefighters. The courses we teach are often on the leading edge of the fire service. We usually get there first with the latest science and with most progressive techniques.

IFSI is one of the leaders in firefighter health and safety research. IFSI is one of the only research institutions with the facilities outside its door, 365 days a year, to conduct live-fire research with active firefighters participating in research projects.

As the leaders in the industry, IFSI has the responsibility to "Profess the Faith", to help others "drink our Kool Aid" to share the knowledge and information we have and assist others in improving firefighter safety and knowledge. We excel at this responsibility; we deliver programs to 80 percent of Illinois' fire departments and numerous other departments, agencies and industries from around the U.S.

IFSI also has a challenge as leaders. How do we maintain this momentum and leadership? One way is to have the best people on staff. We provide the best the service has – individuals who have special knowledge or teaching abilities. Another way is to invest and cultivate the current generation, as well as the next. We do that every day. On any given day, IFSI classes will have new instructors learning from seasoned instructors, being mentored by staff who have been teaching for years.

As leaders, IFSI must also seriously look at what the rest of the world is doing and identify best practices that may not be in our own back yard. We do this by bringing international experts to IFSI and by having

## "The Institute" news around & about

IFSI staff travel to locations around the globe. IFSI staff has traveled in recent years not only to China, but Europe and India. We are not only teaching and sharing our knowledge and experience but also learning from what others are doing. How are other firefighters doing it every day outside the United States? IFSI is always evaluating and contrasting what we are currently doing with what we should be doing and what we should do next. Part of the value of the international exchange is to try to identify what's next and how we can do it better. The tallest buildings in the world are outside the United States; how do others fight high-rise fires? Hazardous materials are across the world; how do others mitigate events? The list can go on and on.

IFSI has a responsibility to maintain the highest quality programs and delivery. We must share our knowledge and experiences as leaders and develop the next generation of fire service leaders. We can do that through a continued commitment and investment in not just refining what we know but also learning what we don't know. What is the practice and science across the world, not just in our own back yard?

Why is IFSI traveling to China? What does IFSI get out of the relationship? IFSI travels internationally to share what we know and what we do, and to "Profess the Faith" of how firefighters can be safe though knowledge and understanding of the environment they work in. We also travel to learn and develop our understanding of what others are doing to address the challenges of their environment. IFSI, as part of the University of Illinois, is committed to a global impact of the university and its commitment to face challenges locally, nationally and globally. IFSI has to work at being a fire service leader. We have the knowledge, skills and expertise and are committed to *Helping Firefighters do their work through Training, Education, Information and Research* – no matter where they may be.

Stay alert for what is next.



Jim Keiken  
Deputy  
Director

# Table Talk



Mac  
McCastland  
Associate  
Director

A couple of times throughout the year, I sit and try to figure out what this article is going to say that has interest to the fire service community throughout Illinois. I can't spend all the time talking about the grant activity, I have already hit on how the Special Operations Training Program (SOTP) has developed, so, what to write and does anyone read what is printed? Well I guess they do, because in the last issue I wrote about "taking Emil to lunch," and I actually heard from more folks than I would have thought. They read the article and it hit home with more than one reader. If you recall Emil, was the fireman who adopted me as a young kid and mixed the Kool Aid that molded my career and fire service vision. Emil was not the first officer I was exposed to – he was *the* firefighter who took the time to teach a young recruit the trade – not the tricks – but the trade. I ended my last article by stating that if you are reading this, you have an Emil in your life.

## **What I offer is the following: "are we all not Emil?"**

What impact do you have on the young men or women who join your organization or are assigned to your group? They may go through a formal academy or just start to show up on drill nights. How do you respond to them? Your actions, or lack thereof, will send a message that will start

them down their fire service path. It will serve you best to show them what they need to know to be a part of the team, not to try to scare the crap out of them with the "jaws of death" stories, which for the most part are fabrications. I'm quite sure if they are reasonably intelligent human beings they come to realize that the "God of Fire" has not received the memo about being warm and fuzzy! In most cases, you have no control over who you wind up working alongside, so it is in your best interest to do the best you can, to be honest, admit you are not "all-knowing." Help them become the best they can. I can tell you that as long as I have been at this "job" – and it has been a while – every new hire, including me, was the ruin of the fire service; and yet it still keeps rolling along. I still find it humorous when the "salt" will comment about the kid that has been on the company for five years and still does not know squat! Really? Let's think about that! The real problem would be?

Well time to strike out, and leave you with this thought. Many fire departments are experiencing difficult times. We are not the favorite group any more. Don't get caught up in what you can't control. But do take care of what you can control. Make sure your group is ready when the bell rings. Do what is right! No one can take from you what you are not willing to give.

*continued from page 1*

**4. Online learning.** Rich Valenta and other key members of our curriculum and testing; program management; and instructor staff continues to expand our online classes, as well as the Professional Development Program for our instructors, working the Step-1 learning review effort and updating our existing online deliveries. During 2015 we will offer and deliver:

- The first iteration of a blended online Rope Operations course,
- Online Basic and Advanced Firefighter,
- Blended on-line Hazmat Operations,
- On-line 4-hour hazmat refresher training.

**5. Research.** We continue to expand our research in support of firefighters. Whether it is life safety, equipment, or fire engineering, our research team led by Dr. Gavin Horn continues to partner with University of Illinois departments, Motorola, NIST, UL, and others to increase the safety and survivability of firefighters on the fireground. During the coming year we will have nearly \$2 million in life safety research grants focused on:

- Study of the Impact of Fire Attack Utilizing Interior and Exterior Streams on Firefighter Safety and Occupant Survival,
- Effects of repeated moderate-intensity radiant exposures on SCBA face-piece properties,
- Fire Prevention & Safety
- Cardiovascular and Carcinogenic Risks in Modern Firefighting.

I want to thank all of you for your hard and dedicated work. Our mission is an important one and it is only made successful through the efforts of the best instructors and staff in the fire service. It is our mission and job to "show 'em what right looks like". I remain humble and proud to be a part of IFSI. Together we will continue to lead the fire service in the state of Illinois and the nation in providing the best training, education, information, and research in the nation.

Thank you and Semper Fidelis.

Royal P. Mortenson  
Director

[www.fsi.illinois.edu](http://www.fsi.illinois.edu)



# *Understanding the culture of the fire service*

For the past year, I've been representing IFSI through the North American Fire Training Directors on a national project called the National Safety Culture Change Initiative (NSCCI). The project is a joint initiative funded by the United States Fire Administration through the International Association of Fire Chiefs. The goal of the project is to create tools and resources for fire and emergency services agencies to access and understand culture and develop strategies to change the aspects of their culture that put them at increased risk for illness, injury, or death.

I joined the project when it was one year into a literature review and a draft document was being created. I was part of a sub-group that worked on refining the paper to assess the culture and identify aspects where change could occur to increase firefighter safety. Another group developed online resources and checklists, and a third group developed presentation materials with a strategy for making change happen within fire and emergency services organizations.

A new concept that evolved in the course of the project was called ASARA - as safe

as realistically achievable. It acknowledges that there is a limit to how safe we can make our work while still performing it effectively, but that there is the ability to make improvements without sacrificing our mission. The components of ASARA are decision making, situational awareness, fitness for duty, continuous improvement, experiential training, and risk-based response. A full program on ASARA, which is focused on the individual and how it fits into an organization's overall risk management plan, will be part of the project deliverables.

The grant performance period for this initial work ended in August, and phase two of the project is starting this fall. The work products are being finalized, and will be posted to [www.ffsafetyculture.org](http://www.ffsafetyculture.org) as they are completed.



*Brian R. Brauer*  
Associate  
Director

# ASARA

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## *Fire Service Women of Illinois - 10th Anniversary of Hands-on Training*



***FSWI is sponsoring a training weekend at IFSI to honor our beginnings. We started training at IFSI and now, on our 10-year anniversary, we will have a two-day/12-hour hands-on training event at IFSI on November 8 - 9, 2014.***

**Coordinated Fire Attack** reinforces the basics of engine and truck operations and coordinating the two activities.

**Officer Development** focuses on tactical decision making at simulated incidents.

**Vehicle Extrication and Stabilization** provides a comprehensive review of cribbing, struts, and safety, followed by hydraulic, hand and electric tools.

**Go here to register <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/events/fswi.cfm>**

# Important enrollment notification changes

Terri Hopper  
Director of  
Class Support

IFSI has made some major changes to the student class status letter in both method and timeframe. The first change carries the largest impact. We noticed a trend that many of our classes were not receiving registrations until much closer to the beginning date of a class. At six weeks, we were making decisions to cancel a class if enrollment had not met the minimum number of students. After this cancellation decision many students came forward indicating they wanted to sign up but missed the deadline.

In order to ensure that all who want to enroll have the opportunity, we have moved the final class determination to four weeks prior to the class. **There no longer will be a cancellation grace period.** Once a student receives his/her acceptance letter, they are enrolled and all cancellations after four weeks will be subject to paying the class fees.

The other change that became effective October 1, 2014, is that the student class status letters will be generated automatically. They will reside in the Resource Center, Student Central, Course History on the web site. To ensure that everyone is aware of the change, we will continue to mail them until January 1, 2015.

We have also heard from fire departments that they would like to have access to student letters and certificates. We are in the final stages of creating a Department tab in the Resource Center that will allow the departments access to their respective students. Department leadership will be able to see their student's upcoming classes, the student letter and certificate. The letters and certificates will stay with the record forever. As part of the set-up for this capability, departments will need to assign an individual(s) to have access to this tab. Only individuals assigned/identified by the departments will have access to this student information. The department chiefs will be receiving a letter explaining the assignment process in the very near future.

**Why do we need to know four weeks in advance?** It is important to IFSI to have an appropriate ratio of instructors to students – particularly for hands-on classes – where safety is a consideration. Also, because many of IFSI instructors are full-time firefighters, we like to afford them the courtesy of advance planning for time off to teach the classes. We hope you agree that the best instructors are those that understand the job best.

## From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

### Northwest Region



Ray Palczynski  
Cornerstone  
Northwest  
Region

The Cornerstone is off to a great start in the Northwest Region. The request for classes has been steady. Several departments I haven't heard from in a while have requested classes! The new Large Animal Rescue Awareness class (LARA) is slowly gaining traction. This is a great class for a drill night.

We are in the process of developing a four-hour awareness class for crude oil transportation emergencies. This, too, will be a great drill night classroom class.

If your department changes training officers or changes the person responsible for arranging the training for your department please drop me a note so I

can update my contact information for your agency. Please remember when planning to host a Cornerstone class that you need to have a minimum of 15 students, preferably from at least two different departments.

If you would like me to attend your association, county, regional or MABAS meeting to share information on IFSI and the Cornerstone program please let me know. I will make every effort to participate. If you don't already receive my monthly training updates and would like to, drop me an email with your contact information and I will add you to my mail list. It is the most direct way to learn about upcoming classes.



# *From your Region: Cornerstone Reports*

On September 6 and 7, MABAS Division 41 teamed up with Heartland Community College and IFSI to offer the McLean Fire School in Normal, Illinois. The following four classes were hosted at the school this year: Ag Rescue Techniques, Grain Bin Awareness, Essentials 1, and NFA Decision Making for Initial Company Operations. All classes were free of charge to all firefighters in attendance. This is hosted in the Bloomington/Normal area every year. This year, there were a total of 67 students. Mark your calendars for next year as well, as the dates for the school will be September 8 and 9, 2015.

Other Cornerstone classes offered throughout the East Central Region

## **East Central Region**

include the following: Basic Wildland – Thomasboro (October 15), Building Construction – Champaign FD (October 15, 16, 17), FSVO – Bloomington FD (November 8), RIT Basics – Clinton FD (November 8 & 9), TRA – Towanda FPD (November 12 & 25), Grain Bin Awareness – Saunemin FD (November 22), and Anhydrous Ammonia Emergencies – Bloomington TWN (December 15).

***More classes and dates to be listed on the IFSI website***



*Tim Meister  
Cornerstone  
East Central  
Region*



*McLean Fire School in Normal*

***Check out the online version of the newsletter for color photos.***





# From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

## Southwest Region



John Nichols  
Southwest  
Regional  
Representative



Greetings from the Southwest region of the state.

I would like to recognize all of the departments in our region for another very good year for training of our firefighters. This was the third year in a row we have had more classes and more students in this part of the state.

As the fiscal year ended on June 30, the Southwest region had 115 classes, with 2,454 students for a total of 13,076 hours of student training. There were also 10 new departments to host a class this year.



The photos here are from a Large Vehicle and Bus Extrication class held in Mitchell, Ill. Thanks to Chief Lee for hosting the class that 24 students from nine different departments attended.

It is never too late to start requesting classes for this winter and spring. If you need assistance in setting up a class do not hesitate to call me. All my contact information is available on the web site at [www.fsi.illinois.edu](http://www.fsi.illinois.edu).



## Northeast Region



Randy  
Schlichter  
Cornerstone  
Northeast



### **Just a couple reminders this issue:**

The Northeast Region's Regional Training Center (RTC) is at the Cherry Valley Fire Station #3, 4919 Blackhawk Road in Rockford.

Cherry Valley RTC hosts four "Light & Fights" per year, which are weekend, live-fire classes and an excellent opportunity for students to get live-fire experience.

The 2015 "Light & Fight" dates are:

March 28  
May 2  
September 12  
November 7

To register, call Sue at the Cherry Valley FPD (815-332-5382).

### **Special presentation:**

On December 6 the Cherry Valley RTC will be hosting a one-day, no cost Fire Behavior, Smoke and New Construction class. The class will be presented by Assistant Chief Peter Van Dorpe of the Algonquin FPD.

In the class, you learn *How to Identify, Survive, and Master Modern Fire Dynamics & Lightweight Construction while Mounting an Interior Fire Attack.*

Bringing cutting edge research and the best practices together from around the country will help firefighters develop strategies and tactics for mounting interior fire attacks in modern residential construction.

Find out the distinct trends that have emerged as reoccurring themes in firefighter fatality investigations within residential occupancies.

Learn how to develop a complete understanding of these hazards and where they may potentially exist to conduct an accurate risk assessment of buildings within your respective community.

You can register online or paper.





# From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

As always, the South Cornerstone Region's mission is to fulfill IFSI's commitment to bring all possible training to fire departments in the region under the umbrella of all the programs and classes that the Illinois Fire Service Institute offers.

At the time of this writing, the South Region has the following 32 Cornerstone classes scheduled between now and the end of the year.

Forcible Entry – Coello & Tamms  
Down & Dirty Hydraulics – Carterville & Effingham  
New Car Technology – Salem & Olmsted  
Basic Auto Extrication – Salem, Olmsted, Rural Pope Co.  
Advanced Auto Extrication – Salem  
Haz Mat Awareness – Tamms & McLeansboro  
Rural Engine & Tender Ops – Rosiclare & North Clay  
Tech Rescue Awareness – Sesser  
Ethanol Awareness – Salem  
Fire Fighting Foam – Salem  
Hand Line Ops & Application – Massac County & Benton  
Hydrant Supply Ops – Coello  
Basic Truck Company Ops – Carterville  
Basic Aerial Ops – Carterville  
Wildland Training for Structural FF G-130 – Orchardville & Coello  
Ventilation – Coello

## South Region

Anhydrous Ammonia – Rosiclare  
Master Stream Ops – Benton  
RIT Basics – Tamms  
FG Management Career & Vol – Salem  
Fireground Communications – Benton  
Essentials IV – Salem

**Two Additional Notes** The South Cornerstone Region has a Basic Auto Extrication Class scheduled at the U of I Dixon Springs Ag Center near Simpson, IL. on October 25. This class is being held during the "Sustainable Living Expo". This is a large marquee event in southern Illinois with more than 2,000 people attending. The U of I County Extension Office, U of I Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, Rural Pope County FPD, and IFSI have combined and coordinated efforts to provide this training to firefighters.

The IFSI Wildland Firefighting Program is planning a NWCG S-212 Wildland Fire Chain Saw class in the Southern Region. The location and dates of this class is still to be determined.

Please contact me at 217-962-1597 with your questions.

Stay Low - Stay Safe



Tim Bragg  
Cornerstone  
South  
Region



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## Cornerstone Regions

# From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

## Central Region



*Jim Vaughn  
Central  
Regional  
Representative*

It's never too late to think about department training plans for the cooler months. The IFSI Cornerstone program offers a large list of classes that can be of benefit to your department. To access the list of classes that we offer, go to the Cornerstone section under the Programs tab on the IFSI website.

The Central Region has some exciting training opportunities coming up in the future. May 2 - 3, 2015, will be the Tazewell County Fire School. This county school offers outstanding training opportunities for firefighters and fire officers of all experience levels. You don't have to be from Tazewell County to take advantage of this training.

On January 10 - 11, 2015 the Petersburg Fire Department will be hosting a Fireground Management for Small Career

and Volunteer Departments class. This is an outstanding 12- to 16-hour program that will be delivered by retired IFSI Deputy Director Roger Lunt. If you have not had the opportunity to attend one of Roger's classes, you are truly missing out on something special. Roger has a unique way of delivering the classes that really keeps everyone's attention.

We still have plenty of funds available in the Central Region for this fiscal year. If your county or MABAS Organization has been pondering the idea of a county fire school or even just a series of classes over the course of a weekend, please feel free to contact me.



*Rich Stack  
Chicago Metro  
Regional  
Representative*

## Chicago Metro Region

Hello from the Chicago Metro Area, summer is over and it is the perfect time for your department to schedule a Cornerstone Class. Recently we held a basic engine class in Cicero that was an eight-hour class, repeated over three consecutive days. The Cicero Fire Department has a training tower that we were able to use for these classes. More than 20 students from various departments attended each day. The students had three great days of training.

On November 22 the Glenview Fire Department will host a Large Animal Rescue Awareness class (LARA). This is a four-hour class and the first time it is being delivered in the Chicago Metro Area. If you or your department has the possibility of responding to incidents involving with large animals, this is a great class to attend.

On November 22, the Frankfort Fire Protection District will be hosting a Large Vehicle Extrication Class. It is a one-day class with eight hours of all hands-on training. If you are interested in attending

this Cornerstone offering, go to IFSI web site and register. All students will need for this class is their fire gear. IFSI will be providing all tools, equipment, and vehicles. There are still openings for this class but, it is filling up fast so don't delay.

Please reach out to your Regional Representative today and take advantage of these and the many Cornerstone programs available. I am available to serve you and your department's needs. Hope to see you soon!

Train like your life depends on it because it does!



*From the recent Cicero Basic Engine class.*

# From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

There are two major pieces of information to share from the Special Operations Training Programs.

First, the tuition for all TRT and HMT classes currently is being waived. What that means is that any Illinois firefighter can attend any hazardous material class (operations, technician, or IMS) or any technical rescue class (rope, confined space, trench, or collapse) and there will be no tuition cost to the student. Students still have to meet prerequisite requirements to attend any class. The intent is to fill the classes we have scheduled. What this is **not** saying is that we are taking requests for additional classes. If there can be additional HMT or TRT classes added, we will. We will also try to add classes on a weekend format to accommodate more responders. Location of any additional classes will depend greatly on the particular region's ability to fill the class.

Second, under the direction of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, IFSI has developed eight-hour continuing education modules in each

of the special operations disciplines. Each of the technical rescue disciplines, as well as the HazMat programs, have developed five individual eight-hour training blocks. These eight-hour training sessions are designed to be delivered to HMT- and TRT-trained personnel at your home location using your own tools and equipment. Any consumable materials will be provided by the requesting agency. If you would like more information about these training opportunities for your collapse, confined space, hazardous materials, rope or trench rescue team members please contact me at [rpalczyn@illinois.edu](mailto:rpalczyn@illinois.edu).

For more specifics on the exact content of these training blocks go to: <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/refresher/>.

We have a new instructor managing the trench programs. Brock Herion has taken over for Heather Moore as the trench program manager.



Ray Palczynski  
SOTP Program  
Director



## Confined Space Rescue

IFSI Confined Space classes continue to evolve and remain current with the NFPA 1006, 2013 edition standard. As a result, there have been a few updates to the Confined Space curricula.

The Confined Space Technician curriculum recently has been updated to Version 2. This newer version contains some updates: managing multiple, simultaneous entries; engulfment and entrapment scenarios; and various hazardous material elements all of which are inside of confined spaces.

As of June 2014, our Confined Space Operations end-of-course exam is now

Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) approved. This means that students will no longer have to sit for a separate state exam upon completion of our course to gain state certification. In addition to OSFM certification, our FEMA-approved Confined Space Operations class also provides students with: IFSI certification, National Fire Academy (NFA) certification, 40 hours of EMS CEUs, Pro-Board certification, and two hours of vocational credit through Parkland College.



Ryan Reynolds  
Confined Space  
Program  
Manager



# From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

## Rope Rescue Program



Mike Woodard  
Rope Rescue  
Program  
Manager

With the year-end coming up fast, school has started, holiday plans being made, and finding time to train at a premium, sometimes we look for convenient ways to get training. One day refresher classes: systems, self-rescue, litter handling techniques, high-line operations, and online training with weekend practices can work into anyone's schedule.

Starting soon the Rope Rescue Operations (Level 1) blended learning program (online class) will go live. We are planning

on offering two blended learning classes in 2015 with the potential for more. This class carries the same certification as our week-long Rope Rescue Operations class. Watch the IFSI web page for dates and times for this new roll out. This gives departments that have members who cannot commit to a week-long class the opportunity to get this training. The one-day refresher classes that we offer also give departments the option to schedule classes at their convenience. We have added a new one-day refresher class that deals with anchoring systems that create an elevated leading edge in a door frame, window opening and elevator doorway. This new class deals with rigging and considerations one may encounter with confined spaces which answers the question, "Is an elevator shaft a permit-required confined space?"

For this class and any others that deal with rope training, e-mail me at IFSI. And as always, keep your rigging safe.



*"Rope Rescue Technician Field Rope Operation Guide" can be ordered from IFSI for \$75. The proceeds from the book go into IFSI's Fire Fighting Fund. It can be ordered from the IFSI web site under Course Information and then Course Materials.*



Mike McCastland  
Structural  
Collapse  
Program  
Manager

## Structural Collapse

Well, the summer's over and we all know what that means: it's collapse season again. Some new and exciting things are underway at IFSI.

First, we have been hearing for years, "I went to class years ago and I want to refresh my skills, how can I come to class again?" We have come up with a way – the new Technician Level Con-Ed classes are available upon request through the SOTP Program Director, Ray Palczynski. This training can be customized to suit your team's needs, with updated information, tool repair and maintenance stations, as well as a variety of skill set stations. The first eight-hour class was scheduled and delivered to MABAS Division 21 in August, so don't wait to schedule this great training opportunity. Unfortunately,

this Con-Ed does not meet the requirements of the class practicals if yours have lapsed for OSFM, but it is great training at the right price.

Second, we are excited to announce the approval by OSFM of our Structural Collapse Technician exam. What does this mean? When you attend Collapse Technician at IFSI, your class final will also satisfy the requirements for the state exam.

Next year we will be scheduling two Collapse Rescue Operations classes and two Technician classes. The calendar will be out next month so be on the lookout – the classes will fill up fast.

Enjoy the cooler temperatures that are coming our way and we look forward to seeing you in class!

See photos on next page

[www.fsi.illinois.edu](http://www.fsi.illinois.edu)

# *From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports*

## **Crude Oil by Rail Awareness in Illinois**

Whenever I mention Bakken Crude Oil amongst a group of first responders, the hair on many of their necks begins to stand up. I, myself, felt the same way until recently when I had the opportunity to attend the “Crude Oil by Rail” course at the Security and Emergency Response Training Center in Pueblo, CO. Ray Palczynski, Mark Clapp, and I were invited by the railroad to attend this three-day training session in an effort to determine what level of this type of training we should be offering in Illinois. If you get an opportunity to take this training, don’t pass it up! Although the hot topics in the news on this subject are the Bakken shale formation

and notable derailment incidents (such as Lac Megantic), surveying your jurisdiction and planning ahead for these events are the two key priorities to ensure a safe and effective response.

Based on the training in Colorado, as well as research done here at IFSI, the Institute is currently developing a four-hour Crude Oil by Rail Awareness course. We plan to deliver the course at no cost to local fire departments and first responder agencies, using grant funding. Look for this course to be out on the streets mid- to late October. Until next time, stay safe!

## **Hazardous Materials**



*Chris Downey  
HazMat  
Program  
Manager*



*The online version of the newsletter includes these photos in color.*

IFSI held a Collapse Rescue class in September on its Champaign campus.





# From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports



*Joe Gasparich  
National  
Incident  
Management  
System (NIMS)  
Program  
Director*

## NIMS Training

The National Incident Management System/Incident Command Program will be offering some of the position-specific classes in the coming year. These classes are designed to help students develop skills in the development of incident action plans for specific emergencies or events. The classes feature exercises that are designed to help students master their particular section of the incident action plan (IAP).

Most students who have completed the IS 300/400 classes or the Command and General Staff for Local Incident Management Teams realize that the class does not make them a specialist in building the incident action plans. Students also realize that there may be a position in the Command and General Staff that they are more drawn to or that their personal attributes and goals make them better suited. The position-specific classes help the students to really see what the position entails and how someone who fulfills the position gathers and analyzes their specific bit of

information in the incident action planning process.

Students also get an idea of how someone who is in the various positions is evaluated and how the "task book" for that specific position is used to develop individual skills in that position.

Perhaps the one thing that the position specific classes demonstrate is how building individual skills helps in effective incident action planning for the overall group.

One of the things that is stressed in the Command and General Staff Class is the idea that everyone who works at an incident has "essential elements" of information. This is also true of members of the Command and General Staff as they gather information to be put in the IAP. By sharing this information with other members of the Command and General Staff, the plan gains validity and value to the responders and results in more effective and efficient use of resources, including personnel.

Students wishing to see what courses are coming are welcome to visit the IFSI website and look under the *Homeland Security* tab.

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# From the Campus: Firefighting Programs



*Tom Rushing  
Light & Fight/  
Tower Burn  
Program  
Manager*

## Light & Fight

Count on IFSI to take every step to assure that students are getting the best from their training. Light and Fight training on campus is a perfect example. We realize that Light and Fight students have a wide range of experience and firefighting skills. To respond to those differences, we are working to refine the Light and Fight experience to be closer to a coordinated fire attack scenario. Under this setup, we can place students in roles that address their skillsets and let each student learn what it's like to be part of a bigger coordinated effort to fight a fire. We will also be able to identify strengths and weaknesses of each student and address those individually.

We invite you take part in these upcoming Light and Fights.

Champaign: November 1  
Rock Island: November 1  
Carbondale: October 18





# *From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports*

## **Brock Herion to lead Trench Rescue Training Program**

Heather Moore has turned the reins for the Trench Rescue Program over to Brock Herion. Herion will be responsible for scheduling classes, cultivating new instructors, and assuring the program continues to meet all state and national training standards.

Herion serves as a Battalion Chief with the Addison Fire District and has been on that department 17 years. He was promoted to Battalion Chief in October of 2013. Herion has been in the fire service for 23 years and with IFSI for three years

as an instructor in the Trench Program. He holds certificates at technician level in all of the Special Operation disciplines. Brock received his bachelor's degree in Fire Science Management from Southern Illinois University and a bachelor's degree in Athletic Training from Benedictine University. He holds a master's degree in Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University.

Moore stepped aside to concentrate on other career responsibilities.

## **Trench Rescue**



*Brock Herion  
Trench Rescue  
Program  
Manager*



*What are the first-in assignments for this trench? How deep was it and how deep is it now? How many victims and where was there last known location? Don't forget the 4-gas monitor and some ladders. How close is the spoil pile?*



*Completed hybrid system (timber and pneumatic). Build the box, then complete the system. 4x4 rescue grid - both vertical and horizontal. The maximum distance from bottom strut to floor of trench (2").*



*Utilities in the trench. How is this utility supported? At least a 6X6 that spans the width of the trench by 2' (both sides) Secured with webbing, rope, ratchet straps, or prussik (remember the weight capacities)*

***Photos from September Trench Rescue class. Color photos can be found in the online version of the newsletter.***

# *From the Campus: Firefighting Programs*



*Sean Burke  
Assistant  
Director for  
Firefighting  
Programs*

I came on board as the Assistant Director of Firefighting programs on April 1. The Director gave me a simple, yet monumental, task to improve our firefighting programs and make them as realistic as possible.

Our first effort was undertaken during the 2014 Fire College weekend by offering live-fire training at an apartment complex in Rantoul. For these classes, we saw an increase in student enrollment, and those participants received great hands on live-fire training. This class combined the Company Officer program with our Engine and Truck classes and gave these young firefighters a real-world experience that they could take back to their respective fire departments and use every day they are on duty. The response to this class was overwhelmingly positive and IFSI was encouraged by all students to provide more training like this.

The Explorer-Cadet Hands-On Fire School weekend also offered live-fire training on IFSI's training grounds in mid-June. Again, we witnessed a remarkable increase in our student enrollment and these young men and women were able to improve and develop their skills. At this event, the young Explorers used the newly remodeled Green and Red mine props that Facilities Program Manager Tad Schroeder and his hard working crew retrofitted to live-fire status. In addition, our other three masonry buildings were used for Engine Operations, Truck Operations, and practicing search and rescue techniques. The student feedback was extremely positive; we were encouraged to provide more training like this in the future.

In the spring, we offered FAST (Fire Attack and Suppression Techniques) live-fire training at an abandoned apartment complex across town in Urbana. Tad Schroeder, Mike McCastland and Rich Stack paved the way for more than 30 stu-

dents from all over the state to participate in advanced fire training aimed specifically at improving advanced firefighting skills. This class was well received with requests from participants for more.

IFSI's fall Academy Class is also experiencing an increased enrollment. The new generation of students will reap the benefits of not only our three existing facilities, but by the academy start date, the new can props will be completely remodeled and new advanced courses created for them.

Many more equipment and program improvements are in the works for IFSI this year. We are in the process of attaining a refurbished Engine and Truck to enhance our fleet of vehicles. The new calendar year of 2015 will bring a host of new and improved classes to Illinois firefighters. Across the board, starting with our RIT Class (Rapid Intervention Team), Company Officer Program, Fire Attack and Suppression Techniques (FAST), and through "Light and Fights" classes, all programs have enhanced curricula. The programs will be offered more often with special attention being given to hosting these classes on weekends to allow our Paid on Call (POC) and volunteer members the opportunity to participate and increase their skills.

Finally, I close with a challenge for all of us. As I write this article, there are 48 Badges on the wall at the Quinn Fire Academy with a 49th still to be placed – Captain Herbie Johnson's. The challenge is no more badges on any wall. An impossible challenge? Maybe so. However this will be the goal that will drive the training for our firefighting programs. We will bring real firefighting experience, techniques, and skill sets to our programs to teach our participants to be smart and stay safe.

Sean W. Burke

# *From the Campus: Firefighting Programs*

## **Driver's Training and AFG grants**

### **Did you know?**

According to the FY2013 AFG Funding Opportunity Announcement: "Applicants requesting fire vehicles that do not have drivers/operators trained to NFPA 1002 or equivalent, and are not planning to have a training program in place by the time the vehicle is delivered, will not receive a vehicle award".

### **How can IFSI help?**

IFSI offers the Fire Service Vehicle Operator (FSVO) course free of charge through our Cornerstone program.

FSVO provides the initial training for new drivers by fulfilling the classroom requirements of the NFPA 1002, Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver Operator Professional Qualifications, and provides for OSFM Certification. FSVO also educates administrative officers and drivers on the administrative requirements of NFPA 1451, Standard for Fire and Emergency Services Vehicle Operations Training Program. FSVO discusses several topics

## **F AE/FSVO**

that are required by a NFPA 1451 compliant drivers training program, including the need for SOGs, record keeping, crash review, training frequency, components of a training program, personnel selection, emergency response, and applicable laws.

Upcoming classroom classes:  
October 18, 2014 Brighton Betsey Ann FPD

November 8, 2014 Bloomington FD

January 24, 2015 Carlock FPD

January 31, 2015 Richmond TWP FPD

FSVO is also offered regularly as an online course.

Please contact your Regional Representative to request FSVO at your department.

Tal Prendergast  
FAE/FSVO Program Manager  
tprender@illinois.edu



*Tal Prendergast  
FAE/FSVO  
Program  
Manager*

This fall classes kick off across Illinois with high anticipation of some new methods of instruction. Classes are hosted on campus as well as in Carol Stream in the Chicago Metro region. Check out the IFSI calendar to start your path towards NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I and II certification.

Fireground Company Officer and Com-

## **Fire Officer Program**

mand School in early November. These classes fill up quickly so be sure to enroll early to ensure your spot.

This past year our staff has been working diligently to improve our class experience in ways to challenge students to think critically while making decisions. The use of small group discussions and ethical decision games gives the student a real world perspective on today's leadership challenges.



*Lew Lake  
Fire Officer  
Program  
Director*



*Left to right: Sean Burke, Jeff MacKay, and John Leonard take a break from instructing.*



# From the Campus: Program Reports



Joe Drennan  
Vehicle/  
Machinery  
Rescue  
Program

## Vehicle/Machinery

### A Farewell to Joe Drennan

The picture at the bottom right is of a final practical for a Vehicle Machinery Technician class at IFSI. It was one of Joe's last classes as program manager. The event had to be stopped half-way through because of high temperatures so the students could take a break and hydrate themselves. But, by the end the students won the battle.

This was one of the many accomplishments for Joe since he first started as field staff in 1988. In Joe's career of more than 25 years, he has participated in more 324 classes and coordinated for another 141 classes while still working full time in the Chicago Fire Department. He also has 29 skill sets to his name at IFSI.

In April of 2010 when long-time friend Duane Bales retired from IFSI, Joe was named program manager for the Vehicle Machinery program. Joe de-

cided to retire from the manager's position July 1, 2014.

He is going to spend his time at his condo on the east coast – a very well deserved retirement.

He has decided to stay on as field staff instructor and return home for Fire College, as well as some VMO classes. This will be a very big asset to have his knowledge and experience for the classes.

In closing I have just two words to say, THANKS JOE!!!

John Nichols,  
Interim Program Manager



**IFSI at the State Fair.** It is an annual tradition that IFSI complete two auto extrication demonstrations during the Illinois State Fair. This year, the demos were done by John Nichols (right photo) and together with Duane Bales (top photo right).

Visit the IFSI web site to see full color photos in the online newsletter.



# *From the Campus: Firefighting Programs*

The fall Academy had more than 15 departments from around Illinois represented, with a great mixture of full time, paid-on-call, and volunteer candidates. We made some changes in the Academy schedule and curriculum to streamline some aspects of the Academy delivery.

One new innovation with Academy is tracking the OSFM practical exercises and classroom objectives. In coordination with IFSI's IT, curriculum office and administrative support, we began tracking assessments of practical skills and classroom objectives using a mini iPad. The software-based model allows us to track every student's progress and assess them more frequently.

Students trained in smoke or heat almost every day and each candidate participated in one – and often two – full-scale coordinated fire attacks since the end of week two. As usual, the instructors carry the course and a big thank you to all of them for their knowledge, expertise and discipline – both as firefighters and as fire instructors.

On campus, we added four new areas to burn, giving us seven separate spaces to simulate structure fires and interior structure for fire coordinated attacks. The green cans or RTC buildings, the Mine Cans, industrial cans and the first floor of the streetscape now have burn areas in them for live burns and smoke machines.

In the larger picture of on-campus Firefighting Programs the Instructors in Charge of each program met and discussed the current curricula and looked at overhauling and reviewed the course work and practical skills. We developed a plan to minimize overflow, tie the courses together, and deliver a progressive series of courses that build on the foundation of the basics. We started with the fall Academy and are ultimately working through Smoke Divers, FAST, Engine, Truck, RIT and Fireground Company Officer. One valuable by-product of this meeting was an understanding of the need to gather and write down as much information as we can from current firefighting expertise – all with the intent of capturing all of the knowledge gained from years of experience in the

real world. Over the next year we hope to slowly, but steadily, continue to improve each and every course. We have a great base to work from and a dedicated staff to make these really good classes even better.

From an Operations perspective, Eric Barnes, Greg Evans and Kevin Kessler continue to refine the Resource Management System which helps us prepare for classes and events on campus in a much more efficient manner. Scott Gadbury has been hired to assist with Building Services, he is a great addition to IFSI and is an incredibly hard worker.

Lastly – practicing what we preach – IFSI everyday activities are driven by operating as an incident under the National Incident Management System (NIMS). IFSI's Incident Management Team (IMT) meets every Monday to review the plan for the current week and to look forward two to three weeks out for classes, events and other activities at IFSI. We are getting busier and busier each month. Ann Jack-Haluzak, who serves as our point person for facility rental, is adding non-fire related activities to the calendar that must also be included in our planning.

Thanks to all IMT members who come together each week to deliver a professional service to all of the folks we work with.



*Tad Schroeder  
On Campus  
Firefighting  
Program  
Director and  
Operations  
Officer*



*From fall Academy. Look at IFSI's Facebook page for a photo album of Academy.*



# From the Campus: Program Reports



**Eddie Bain**  
*Fire Investigation  
Fire Prevention  
Program Director*

## Investigation/Prevention

### **Chinese Officials Visit IFSI**

Two Chinese delegations visited IFSI this summer to discuss Fire Prevention and Investigation training programs. The first group met at IFSI on July 31st to examine and develop plans to bring up to 150 Chinese students to IFSI during the summer of 2015. The “Youth Fire Safety Training Program” is hosted by the China Peace International Tourism Co., Ltd. Last year the program took students to Canada to study a variety of safety and cultural events. The 2015 program would include visiting and training several days at IFSI, on the University of Illinois campus and in multiple locations in Chicago.

On August 11 a second delegation met with IFSI staff to discuss the IFSI Fire and Arson Investigation training program. This delegation was led by research leadership staff from the “Research Center of Urban Public Safety”, the “Chinese Institute of Technology”, the “Chinese

Academy of Sciences” and the “Research Center of Safety Engineering”. The project they were pursuing involves sending IFSI staff to China to train fire investigation instructors for the government managed fire service.

Both delegations were pleased and impressed with the IFSI programs, staff and facilities examined. The Investigation delegation actually seemed interested in scheduling the training as soon as possible.



### **“Life After Retirement”**

A day that I’ve long planned for has finally arrived: Retirement! On September 30, 2014, I retired from IFSI as the Program Director for the Investigation and Fire Prevention programs. Pension system issues initiated my consideration into this decision and a desire to chase nine grandchildren around has also helped me to decide to retire. There is life after retirement and the time is right for me.

It has truly been a privilege to be able to work in fire prevention at IFSI even after retirement from the Champaign Fire Department. Both of these careers represent almost 40 years in the fire service and have been an amazing ride for me. I’ve been a Field Staff Instructor with IFSI since 1981. To have worked alongside some of the most dedicated and fascinating people in this professional arena has truly been a privilege. When thinking about

the many friendships established over the years I easily become overwhelmed by the realization that I won’t see most of you on a regular basis any more. While the work of the fire service is critical to our communities I’ve learned that much of the work is actually less important than the friendships we develop along the way. Those friendships are what helps guide us through life and encourages us to continue on when the fire service mission gets tough. I wish all of you the very best and hope to see you soon.

John High Sr. will be serving as Interim Program Director for the Investigation and Prevention programs. Contact him at [jhigh@illinois.edu](mailto:jhigh@illinois.edu) regarding these programs.

Eddie Bain



# *From the Campus: Program Reports*

## **Propane Notes**

It is time to get ready for winter. The shortages from last year have made companies think and push to be set for this coming winter. With this they are finding that pipelines are more congested with year-round products. Product needs to be moved so rail is gaining more popularity for transport.

As for firefighting, NFPA calculations suggest 500 GPM for surface area and the same amount based on torch flame or pull fire on a vessel. One thing to watch for – is the vessel wet? Water boils at 212 degrees F. If water turns to steam, you are losing the cooling needed and may not be getting enough water on the container. You may need to rethink strategy – offensive to nonintervention.

Go to the IFSI website and look for upcoming classes to help with the questions.

## **LP Gas / Oil Well**



*Mark Clapp  
Propane/Oil  
Well  
Program  
Manager*

## **Expanding the Traditional Classroom**

Distance learning has seen many positive changes since 1999. As budgets get tighter, time becomes more valuable and technology allows us to extend the reach of the traditional classroom. IFSI continues to incorporate innovative tools to deliver training to your region or directly to your computer. One such example is a new “blended” delivery format using Adobe Connect. This software is essentially a traditional classroom with real-time connectivity and interaction between regional nodes or to individual personal computers. The classroom has many features of the traditional classroom: live face-to-face, via webcam, interaction, shared resources such as a whiteboard, breakout rooms for collaborative work, multi-media and document sharing, and a multitude of other teaching and learning tools.

Getting started right away with Adobe Connect, we are working with IFSI staff, Lew Lake and Jason Loeb, to reformat the Fire Instructor courses to use this delivery platform. Our goal is a January beta test of the Fire Instructor I course with open regis-

## **Online Classes**

tration to follow shortly upon conclusion of the course. This format will allow students to take the course online, then travel to a regional site for two, eight-hour days, where students will deliver presentations and complete their final written and practical examinations.

Also coming in 2015 – also as blended learning programs – Rope Operations, Hazmat Operations and Crude Oil by Rail.

“Flipping the classroom” is the new buzz phrase in the Distance Learning world. Actually, the buzz phrase should be “Extending the Classroom” – an approach that has been with IFSI since our inception. We make every effort to bring training to where it is needed. That is directly to you, the firefighters of Illinois.



*Rich Valenta  
E-Learning  
Program  
Director*

***IFSI welcomes Chris Bradford,  
who has joined the team as  
Lead eLearning Developer.***



# From the Campus: Program Reports



Gavin Horn, PhD  
Research  
Department  
Director

## Research

Over that past several years, the Research Program at the Illinois Fire Service Institute has been fortunate to work with an impressive group of researchers at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to investigate firefighters' exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons during controlled structure burns. Thanks to support and participation of the Chicago Fire Department, the study has generated important new information regarding the protection that turnout gear provides against skin exposure to contaminants during firefighting. A report on the "Evaluation of Dermal Exposure to Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Fire Fighters" from the NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program has been published and can be viewed at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2010-0156-3196.pdf>. For those interested in reviewing the highlights of this study, a condensed summary report can be downloaded from: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/reports/pdfs/2010-0156-3196S.pdf>. Additionally, a peer-reviewed article focusing on the skin exposure aspects of this study is

available in *The Annals of Occupational Hygiene* (<http://annhyg.oxfordjournals.org/content/58/7/830>). The cover photo for this publication featured a snapshot from one of the data collection sessions at the IFSI grounds (<http://annhyg.oxfordjournals.org/content/58/7/local/front-matter.pdf>).

Importantly, the report provides some very useful recommendations for firefighters to reduce their exposure to aromatic hydrocarbons. In most cases, these are simple steps that can be taken to help protect you and your fellow firefighters from breathing contaminants, minimizing skin absorption of these contaminants and reduce inhalation of gasses coming off of contaminated PPE after the response is finished. If you have any questions about this study as well as on-going research in this area, please do not hesitate to contact the IFSI Research Office at 217/265-6563.



## IFSI receives DHS grant

IFSI has learned that it will receive a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Fire Prevention & Safety Research and Development grant. The grant for \$1.5 million will fund research to focus on characterizing cardiovascular and carcinogenic risks in modern firefighting.

During the studies, firefighters will perform realistic firefighting operations in a modern fire environment using a specially-

designed prop that allows safe deployment and analysis of firefighter physiology during live-fire attack. The research is designed to build on recent work at NIOSH (see above) and on UL's studies on modern fire dynamics. Twelve firefighters will perform firefighting and overhaul operations on different size fires using specified tactics. The results will be shared broadly with the Fire Service so they can use rigorous scientific data to develop and adjust policies.

# *From the Campus: Program Reports*

The Illinois Fire Service Institute's goal is to deliver the highest quality learning experience possible for our students. This is accomplished by high quality instructors, delivering high quality curriculum, utilizing high quality tools and equipment and realistic training props. The Curriculum and Testing Office's mission is to come alongside Program Directors and Managers, supporting their efforts of curriculum management, ensuring IFSI is a leader in producing quality training and evaluation materials. One example of how IFSI ensures our course material is up-to-date is through the utilization of a revision cycle.

IFSI's Course Revision Cycle assists the leadership staff, program staff, and curriculum and testing staff in managing curriculum update projects, organization wide. IFSI's program staff are constantly collecting feedback from their instructors and reviewing student feedback (CEQs) pertaining to improvements that could be made to strengthen their courses. Program staff also monitors industry best practices and their instructional staff is frequently assessing new tactics, techniques, tools, and equipment. Keeping current with any updates to the course reference materials such as the NFPA standard or textbook edition is paramount. Program staff works with our Curriculum Support Specialist ensuring that consistency and standardization is achieved; program staff also works with our Test Support Specialist correlating changes to their evaluation material.

This ongoing improvement process is managed by our revision cycle with the

## **Curriculum and Testing**

goal of ensuring that any of these significant changes are made in a timely manner providing the student with the most current information.

Note: 2014 marks the fifth year the Illinois Fire Service Institute has been accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board). That means this year we are working through the reaccreditation process, which is great news for our customers. The reaccreditation process requires a detailed review and audit of our policies and procedures ensuring that IFSI programs are evaluating students to the highest standards, determining competency against national professional qualifications. Competent and national certified responders is good news for Illinois communities. For more information about Pro Board, visit the "Course Information" tab on our website, then view the Pro Board video and link to their webpage.

**Why should you care that IFSI is ProBoard accredited?** With The Pro Board accreditation, students are assured that the development and administration of IFSI's written and skills-based tests are to the highest quality and are consistent with national standards. The Pro Board accreditation also affords greater portability of certificates – certificates received from IFSI may be accepted by other accredited agencies across the country.



*Kurt Glosser  
Curriculum and  
Testing  
Department  
Director*



**Learn more about Pro Board at  
[www.theproboard.org](http://www.theproboard.org)**



# From the Campus: Program Reports



Robert Simmons  
Curriculum  
Specialist

## Curriculum and Testing

My name is Robert Simmons and I began working full-time in the Curriculum and Testing Office here at IFSI in March. For the last few months, I have learned a lot. The major project of standardizing first versions of curriculum for all of IFSI's courses began before I got here, but it is now almost complete. With that being said, this does not mean that all work will be finished.

I'm sure at times it seemed like a daunting task to put together all the pieces that make a complete curriculum package. I was intimidated when I started helping in this office part-time. Some may even still

***As an agency that participates in the training and education business, it is extremely important that the product we deliver ... is documented properly, standardized and assists in meeting the requirements.***

wonder what the purpose is of a standard curriculum package. As an agency that participates in the training and education business, it is extremely important that the product we deliver to students is documented properly, standardized and assists in meeting the requirements of the different entities that provide certification to our students. We have to be able to show where and when a standard is being met during the delivery of our classes.

More importantly, we must ensure that the material being delivered across the state is relevant, accurate and up-to-date. This is where the next ongoing phase of curriculum management is important.

The fire service is a fluid industry. New standards and ideas are developed; and old procedures are made safer and more efficient on a regular basis. It is important that what is being taught in the classroom and out on the drill ground reflects this. The framework for each of the classes will be in place. However, there will be the ongoing task of updating the content on a standard cycle which is developed with Program Directors and Managers. As with the process of getting first versions of all of the courses put together, whenever it is time for a new version, the staff in the Curriculum Office will be available to work right alongside program staff to ensure that new versions are accomplishing the same goals.

We understand completely that our customers – the students and public safety specialists across Illinois – are not only concerned with certification, but with the quality of class content. The bigger picture goal, as it should be, is to be the most highly-skilled public servants you can be for whichever agency and type of customer base you serve. In every curriculum project we undertake, we go above and beyond in ensuring that our part is covered in helping to meet your expectations at training time. If you have questions or need assistance please let us know.



*A special presentation took place at the Illinois Chapter IAAI annual training conference at the Hilton Hotel in Champaign on Tuesday September 9, 2014.*

*From left to right: Tom Wegner, Matthew "Chip" Wilmot, Eddie Bain, Greg Gurney, Roger Krupp*

*These four men with Eddie Bain are or have been executive officers with the Illinois Chapter of the IAAI and are also Special Investigators for State Farm Insurance. They have supported the IFSI Fire Investigation Program through State Farm for many years. They teach in the program, write and print material used for the students.*

# Explorer Field Training

I am excited to relay to everyone that the Explorer Field Training sessions for the 2015 budget year have been funded by a renewed grant from the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). Last year we conducted the training at five locations throughout Illinois and were able to train 223 explorers. The locations for this year have been finalized and there will be an opportunity for six one-day local training sessions. These events will be held in Frankfort, Godfrey, Springfield, Cherry Valley, Rock Island Arsenal, and NIPSTA. The first training session for this year will be held on October 18th in Frankfort.

We will provide more learning opportunities in the spring as well. These 2015 locations and dates are: Springfield

on March 28, Cherry Valley on April 11, and Godfrey on April 18. The Rock Island Arsenal and NIPSTA dates will be announced soon. These one-day trainings are vital in exposing aspiring young firefighters (ages 15 to 20) to hands-on firefighting skills. They will be educated on fire hose and appliances, self-contained breathing apparatus, search and rescue, ladders, live fire behavior, and hand tools. If you are interested in finding out more in regards to any of our scheduled trainings, please feel free to contact me with your questions.

Tim Meister  
tameiste@illinois.edu



Tim Meister



**Mark your calendar for June 18-21, 2015, for the next Explorer-Cadet hands-on fire training.**

# Library Updates & Highlights



Dr. Lian Ruan  
Head Librarian

**Collection Development:** The Illinois Fire Service Institute Library received *Another Opportunity for Back to Books* grant from the Illinois State Library. The \$5,000 grant is being used to purchase fire safety public education DVDs for use by Illinois fire departments and emergency responders. Purchased titles are:

- *Fire's Fury*: brings viewers face-to-face with the reality of a residential fire
- *Get Cookin' With Fire Safety*: features Sparky the Fire Dog and kitchen fire safety lessons for children
- *The Residence Hall Fire*: shows an electrical fire in a fully furnished dorm room reaching flashover in 7 minutes
- *Disney's Wild About Safety*: two Disney characters show students steps to take in a fire emergency
- *Sparky the Fire Dog: Be Rabbit Ready*: Sparky educates children on escaping a fire safely
- *Flammable Contents: Home Fire Safety*: exhibits the quick spread of fire in a home, emphasizing the importance of safety choices when purchasing furniture
- *Fire Prevention Library*: six programs about fire safety and prevention, including interviews with child arsonists

These DVDs are available for loan at the IFSI Library or through interlibrary loan to patrons at public libraries throughout

Illinois. Contact the IFSI Library at (217) 333-8925 or [fsi-library@illinois.edu](mailto:fsi-library@illinois.edu) for more information.

**Annual Statistics:** The IFSI Library had a record-breaking year, answering 4,886 reference requests, training 467 patrons in 99 training workshops, and circulating 2,236 items. The library added 390 titles to the collection this year.

**Archives:** The IFSI Archives debuted the online 90th Illinois Fire College history booklet. It contains historical facts, important events, and photos for all 90 Fire Colleges held since the first one in 1925. It can be accessed and downloaded on the front page of the IFSI website.

## IFSI Library Fire Prevention Recognition

During the month of July the IFSI Library Archivist David Ehrenhart developed and presented a fire prevention presentation on the University of Illinois campus. The display was located at the east entrance to the main University Library in Urbana – just outside the Marshall Gallery. The display presented historical information, fire prevention tips and showcased artifacts from local fire scenes. The IFSI library is one of only a few organizations chosen to present in this location. Countless students pass this way and have their attention focused on this most important topic.



**A special presentation at the UofI Main Library to acquaint and inform students on fire prevention.**

**Color photos can be seen on newsletter online version.**





# From the Campus: Program Reports

As I look back it was a busy and productive summer. In June we completed two days of grain bin rescue demonstrations at the Fire Protection District Conference in Springfield. This led to class requests and questions about equipment along with what levels of training are needed to perform a rescue. Also at the conference I received two new rescue tubes from KC Supply Company. After seeing our demonstrations the owner stated he wanted to support our program and is now a new partner to IFSI. Thank you KC Supply!

In August we conducted a grain bin rescue demo at the Georgetown Fair and were able to show about 40 farmers and some young children how little it takes to become trapped in grain. In southern Illinois we were able to be a part of a safety day that was sponsored by a local Farm Bureau, about 70 farmers attended our presentation on general farm emergencies and hazards.

## Agricultural Rescue

Partners like the Farm Bureau are reaching out to us and asking for help in educating the public. The Ag Rescue program has been blessed over the years with many partners and the list is growing. I want to personally thank all of them for their support. As we prepare for the fall harvest I want to remind everyone that large farm machinery will once again be on our roads, be aware of the size and possible limited visibility around the machines, especially in traffic.

As always be safe and I look forward to seeing you as we travel the state.



*Dave Newcomb  
Ag Rescue  
Program  
Manager*

*Did you know that 21 people died in Illinois from July 2013 through June 2014 from farm accidents – compared to only 12 in the year before? Nine of the 21 accidents were due to tractor rollovers. (Country Financial)*

This summer, wildland firefighters across the country celebrated the birthday of a legend. Who, you might ask? Why it's no other than the larger than life, campaign hat wearing, symbol of fire safety, Smokey Bear. For the past seven decades people across this country have seen public service announcements featuring the character inspired by a bear cub badly burned during the Capitan Gap fire in 1950.

While the mission of Smokey Bear has changed a little over time, Smokey has always focused on preventing fires started by individuals.

The National Park Service estimates that nearly 90 percent of all wildfires originate with a human. As we move from the hot months of summer into fall, the number of wildfires we will see in Illinois will increase. As the number of fires increases, statistics and your experience should tell you that humans are often to blame. This is a great time of year to take Smokey's message to heart and promote the safe use of recreational fire within our own fire districts. While fire prevention activities can reduce the number of fires we respond to, it will certainly not eliminate them. This is also a great time of

## Wildland

year to review how your department would respond to a fire in a field or wooded lot.

Wildland fire classes began in late September this year and will continue through late November. Classes are also scheduled for the spring of 2015. If you or your department would like to learn more about basic or advanced techniques that can make fighting fires in wooded lots, fields or the urban interface easier and safer, check out the IFSI web site. If the dates on the calendar don't work for you, contact me and we can work to schedule something that will fit your department's needs.

Be smart and always remember to fight fire aggressively having provided for safety first: Attack from the Black!

Here is where you will find the wildland classes:  
<http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/courses/programs/wildland/>



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# *The IFSI Family*

## **Recent retirements**

**Eddie Bain**, Fire Investigation and Prevention Program Director

**Kristy Berbaum**, Support Secretary

**Brad Bone**, On Campus Program Director

**Char Carlier**, Financial Coordinator

**Joe Drennan**, Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager

## **New to IFSI**

**Chris Bradford**, Lead eLearning Developer

**Kim White**, Grants Manager

## *IFSI Instructors of the Month*

In October 2013, IFSI began recognizing those instructors who exemplify quality instruction, student engagement, professional demeanor and knowledge base. Here are the instructors who were nominated and chosen for this honor and the month they were recognized. The program will continue each month. To nominate an instructor contact Mary Auth, marketing director at maryauth@illinois.edu.



Deke Carls Bill Fulton Chuck Sheahen

These three men were honored in **April** as part of the Large Animal Rescue Awareness Team.



Left to right: Sean Burke, Steve Gambrell, Tony Vespa, Tom Shubert, Jim Vaughn, Jim Moore, Heather Moore, Brian Scott, Lew Lake, Tim Meister, Jason Loeb. Not pictured: Richard Stack, Peter Van Dorpe, Zack Riddle.

**May** honorees as part of the Leadership Team.



Mark Clapp  
**June**



Joe Jay  
**August**



## ***Building Corporate Relations and Developing New Partnerships***



*Dennis Spice  
Director of  
Corporate  
Relations and  
Development*

To support IFSI, go to [www.fsi.illinois.edu](http://www.fsi.illinois.edu) and select Giving.

IFSI is proud to guarantee that 100 percent of every donation will be used to directly support firefighter training, education and research programs. *Gifts may be fully tax deductible. IFSI is a 501(c)3*

*non-profit organization and will provide full support documentation for all donations.*

To learn more contact Dennis D. Spice, Director of Corporate Relations & Development at 217-898-6507 or by email at: [dspice@illinois.edu](mailto:dspice@illinois.edu).



On April 11, 2014, Hurst received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their continued support of training programs at the Institute.

Shown (L to R) Larry Anderson, Training and Product Application Specialist, Hurst; Chris Jaques, General Manager, Hurst; Brian Brauer, Associate Director, IFSI; and Bruce Johnston, Director of Marketing and Product Management, Hurst.



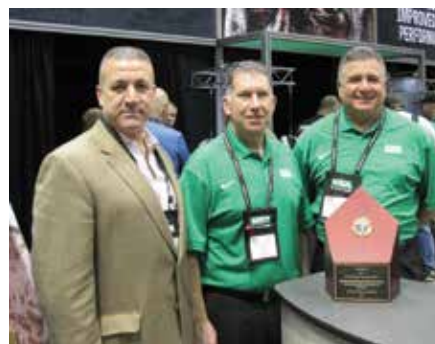
On April 8, 2014, Streamlight received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute's training programs.

The entire Streamlight Fire Division Sales Team spent a day of training on the IFSI fire field in Champaign, Illinois. They are shown receiving the appreciation award, during a break in training, from Royal Mortenson, Director, IFSI.



On April 10, 2014, Globe Manufacturing Company, LLC received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their continued support of research and training at the institute.

Shown(L to R) Chris Moelker, Globe Regional Sales Manager; Rob Freese, Globe Senior Vice President Marketing; and Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director.



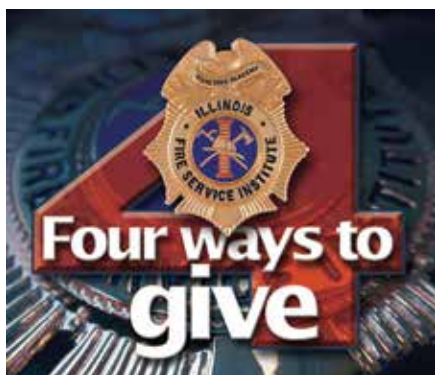
On April 11, 2014, MSA received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the research and training programs at the Institute.

Shown (L to R) Royal Mortenson, Director, IFSI; Tom Vetras, Director, North America First Responder Sales, MSA; and John Ricciardi, Strategic Account Manager, MSA.



April 10, 2014, Stanfield's Ltd. received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of firefighter training at the Institute.

Shown (L to R) Stephen Asthalter, Independent Sales Agent, Stanfield's and Royal Mortenson, Director, IFSI.



***Four funds have been established to help the public support the training that firefighters and other first responders need.***

***You can view a video from IFSI Director Mortenson here:***

***<http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/giving/>***

# *IFSI International Programs*

Director Mortenson and International Program Director Dr. Lian Ruan attended the 2014 inFIRE (international network for Fire Information and Reference Exchange) Annual Conference hosted and co-organized by Professor and Dean Dong Liang at Sun Yat-Sen University. The Director made a presentation – “Meeting the Fire Service Challenge of the 21st Century through Training, Education, Research and Information” – followed by many questions from the audience. Dr. Ruan delivered her presentation, “Supporting Dynamic Information Needs of Firefighter Instructors in the Digital Age.” Both presentations were well received. In addition, they met Professor SM Lo and fire officers from the Hong Kong Fire Services Department who participated in the IFSI Hazmat training program in Hong Kong. They also visited the Shanghai Fire Research Institute. Director Mortenson gave presentations on IFSI training and research.



*Director Mortenson and Dr. Ruan with inFIRE Conference Participants in Guangzhou, China.*

Twenty-one librarians along with visiting scholars joined the 2014 Chinese Librarians Summer Program for four weeks and to recognize the program’s 10th anniversary. For the last ten years, 241 librarians from 91 Chinese universities and organizations were trained. This year, the participants

conducted scholarly exchange and communication with librarians in Illinois and Missouri. They also learned from prestigious libraries on the East and West Coasts. The program continues to make positive influence on participants’ careers and lives.

In early August, Professor and Dean Dong Liang led a four-person delegation and visited IFSI. The delegation is interested in learning more about IFSI’s fire investigation and emergency management training program and exploring collaboration in this area.



*Dr. Lian Ruan  
International  
Programs  
Director*



*Sun Yat-Sen University Delegation at IFSI.*



*2014 Chinese Librarians Summer Program Participants at IFSI.*



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**Online registration opens November 3**

**New choices of classes, including a hands-on class.**  
**Low \$50 registration fee (before January 5)**

**Dynamic instructors who know their trade**

**Safety Officer Class** presented by Matt Bryan

**Hands-on Fireground Engine Operations** – Tom Shubert

**Avoiding Fire Department Induced Chaos** presented by Roger Lunt

**5 Combat Positions** by Lew Lake

**Truck Forcible Entry** – Rich Stack and Larry McCormick

**RR101** – Canadian Pacific presented by Ed Dankbar of CP