



From the Director's Desk

Since last fall, we have continued to grow, evolve and improve the quality of the training, education, information and research delivered. I am continually amazed at the hard work and dedication of all of you. We continue to move forward in all areas never losing sight of our primary mission. IFSI delivered training to 65,696 students during 2013 - an 8% increase over 2012. With the help of Illinois fire service leadership and the dedicated staff of IFSI we have moved forward in positive ways in multiple areas.

1. *Curriculum Review.* Begun in November of 2012, we completed 95% of our curriculum by December 2013 and are wrapping the last few courses. This project was a hard, long effort but it will benefit our staff and students for years to come. We have begun another yearlong effort to review the Step-1 learning for all our 30+ hour courses. Once complete in December 2014, this review will ensure we are effectively using the learning opportunity (on-line) our students have prior to attending a course.

2. *Organization and Structure.* Since my last newsletter we have moved closer to getting the "right people on the bus and having them in the right seats." We have expanded the capability of our Testing and Curriculum Directorate by adding Janis Hooper, Katrina Mann, and Robert Simmons—all three experienced curriculum professionals that will assist our firefighting SMEs in course/class maintenance and development. We also hired a HR professional, Lori Kelso, and she is already streamlining HR processes and providing the kind of support our people deserve. We hired a new Assistant Director of Firefighting Programs, Chief Sean Burke (coming out of Chicago Fire Department), to replace Chief Jim Keiken who took over as Interim Deputy Director when Chief Roger Lunt retired in November. Respected around the state, Sean will be a tremendous asset and contributor to our mission.

3. *Training and Education.* Training and education (T&E) partnerships continue to grow for the Institute.

- Our relationship with OSFM is excellent and continues to facilitate quality training through the funding associated with the Fire Prevention Fund, Cornerstone Program, and Explorer/Cadet Programs. We continue to be part of and support the OFSM SCAC process for ensuring Illinois certification courses are in line with the most current NFPA standard.

- Our regional reps had another great year expanding the delivery of Cornerstone Program classes across the state.

- Our relationship with CFD in all aspects of T&E has grown and greatly benefits both organizations. And we have expanded and maintained our relationships with key national and state-wide fire service organizations to include NFA, IFCA, IFA, IFSA, and IAAI.

- As a result of an internal review of Fire College 2013, we have redesigned the June 2014 Fire College, which will have expanded course/class choices and 4-, 6-, and 8-hour deliveries.

- We continued our work with Pro Board to maintain our national certification credentials.

- We have made great progress in our Leadership Development and Decision-Making in the Fire Service curriculum development effort. IFSI hosted a Leadership Development in the Fire Service Conference 28-30 March 2014 with 120+ attendees. The conference reviewed and validated the curriculum design and concept for a "cradle-to-grave" fire service leadership development/decision-making training & education continuum that has consistent themes, priorities, and lines of education in order to institutionalize the highest quality leadership in the fire service for Illinois. The conference was attended by other state training directors and the President of the National Association of North American Training Directors. Once again Illinois and IFSI are garnering national attention for what we are doing to better the fire service. This effort is important to the fire service and will ensure our firefighters have the finest leadership development and decision-making training in the nation.

4. *On-line learning.* Rich Valenta and other key members of our C&T and instructor staff continue to expand our on-line learning programs as well as the Professional Development Program for our instructors, working the Step-1 learning review effort and updating our existing on-line deliveries.

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.

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. I look forward to the months and years ahead as your Director. Continue to do what you do—"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



Royal P. Mortenson
Director

Director
Royal P. Mortenson

Interim Deputy Director
Jim Keiken

Associate Director
John McCastland

Associate Director
Brian R. Brauer

Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs
Sean Burke

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. Please include appropriate graphics or digital photos.

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

www.fsi.illinois.edu

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OR

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

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Illinois Fire Service Institute
11 Gerty Drive
Champaign IL 61820
Phone: 217/333-3800
Toll-Free: 800/437-5819
Fax: 217/244-6790
Email: fsi@illinois.edu

What an amazing past nine months for me. I began working at IFSI at the beginning of June 2013 and have been honored and privileged to be part of this terrific organization since. This is my first newsletter as Interim Deputy Director and I would be remiss if I didn't say how awesome it was to work for Roger Lunt. I look forward to continuing to pester him as I learn, develop and begin my tenure as Interim Deputy Director. Good luck and best wishes in your long and happy retirement, Roger, and thank you for all your guidance and support. You are already missed.

So what's "new and noteworthy" as we begin 2014? I am excited to say we have completed 136 of our current 166 program curricula. This is the foundation for so much as we move into the future. We always want to utilize the current programs for delivery.

We have begun the next phase of curriculum work as we develop Step One Learning for our higher level programs. Step One Learning is any activity that a student would (and should) do in preparation for an IFSI class. The idea is to best prepare a student prior to a class to enhance, accelerate or improve their learning in the program. This could be as simple as reviewing an NFPA standard or viewing a *Down and Dirty* video. It could be a package of materials that first details new content or a review of previously learned content. I might include a video or narrated PowerPoint program or some type of knowledge/understanding assessment to identify what a student knows prior to the start of a program. The Step One developer and Program Manager/Directors will decide which direction this leads. The options are flexible and endless.

Another new and noteworthy program is the addition of live content to the staff Professional Development Program (PDP). We will be identifying subject matter experts in the fire field and the latest science or tactics for the fire service. Subject matter experts in instruction and specifically items which will help staff to become the best instructors possible. These programs will occur quarterly beginning later this year at IFSI's Learning

News Notes

Resource and Research Center and staff will be encouraged to attend to help them develop and expand their knowledge and understanding of subjects and techniques to help them be the best firefighters and instructors they can be. I am very excited about the concept and the development of the program. If anyone has ideas or suggestions for the program let me know. Look for this program to begin soon.

As I conclude, I wish to thank all the staff that have assisted me as I learn and work to be IFSI's Deputy Director. I also want to congratulate Josh Zimmerman from Curriculum and Testing as he leaves his full-time position with IFSI and begins the next chapter of his fire service career as a Champaign Firefighter. Good luck Josh.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with ideas, thoughts or information you think I should have or know I look forward to an exciting and bright future here at IFSI.

Be smart and train like your life depends on it, because it does.

Jim



Jim Keiken
Interim Deputy
Director



Table Talk

The other day I did something that I had been intending to do, but never seemed to have time. What? Having lunch with Emil! Why would having lunch be so important? No he did not buy. Because I owe so much to him and I wanted him to hear it from me, while we could look eye to eye, and not when I stood in front of his casket, wishing I had made the time.



Mac
McCastland
Associate
Director

Who is this Emil person? Let me try to explain. On the 15th day of April 1964, I started my fire service career with the Oak Lawn Fire Department, and as you all know, this business is instant love it or not so much. I fell in love and wanted more so I headed to the great west side of the city of Chicago to 1224 South Komensky – the quarters of Engine Company 77. Engine 77 was doing roughly 5,000 runs a year with about 45 percent of those working fires – ahh the west side in the 60s.

Lenny “North Eye” Doyle was the Lieutenant. “Gentleman” Jim was the Engineer. Firemen assigned were Bob Muth, Ray Nice and Emil Grochell. I was a 21-

year-old kid and these guys were “old” in their mid-30s. They were all very friendly, informative and forgiving, but Emil was the one who adopted me and gave me the direction a young firefighter requires – “slow down kid,” “pump kid,” “wait until the truck opens up then we go,” “if you don’t own the building or didn’t start the fire, relax.” For close to two years I was a regular “fan” with Engine 77, and that time spent set my mold for what a fire company should be, and what a fire department is about – values that are with me to this day and served me well through my career.

So I’m going out on a limb and guess that if you are reading this, then you too have an “Emil” – someone who took the time to show you the ropes, mix the “Kool Aid,” mentor and guide you, show you when you go and when you don’t. To be aggressive, but more importantly to be smart.

Do yourself a favor, and take Emil to lunch. You can’t square the deal, but you’ll feel a lot better.

Put the coffee on.
MAC

Chief Sean Burke Joins IFSI as Assistant Director for Firefighting



The Illinois Fire Service Institute has hired Sean Burke to serve as its Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs. In his role at IFSI, Burke will be responsible for overseeing the planning and execution of all firefighting programs statewide. Burke replaces Jim Keiken, who was promoted to Interim Deputy Director in December.

Burke began on April 16 after a long and distinguished career in the fire service. He began as a volunteer in St. Meinrad, Ind., then moved to the Chicago Fire Department in 1980, where he will retire as a Battalion Chief

assigned to the 18th Battalion at 71st Street and Parnell in the Englewood area. Sean is a second-generation firefighter, following in the footsteps of his father who served as Assistant Chief on the Lombard Fire Department until 1968. Additionally, Chief Burke has been an IFSI instructor for four years.

“With Sean’s extensive experience, we believe he will make an immediate positive impact,” Royal Mortenson, Director for IFSI said. “We are extremely happy to get a firefighter and leader of Sean’s quality on the IFSI team full-time.”

Scouting and the Fire Service

In recent years there has been a growing connection between the fire service nationwide, and specifically within Illinois, between Exploring/Scouting programs and our fire departments. Locally in Illinois, the creation of a training fund for Explorer and Cadet training by the Office of the State Fire Marshal is used to underwrite training days around the state and to fund a portion of the annual IFSI Explorer-Cadet Hands-On-Training. Local fire departments are offering tours and helping with training for Scout groups.

Activity in Illinois reflects a growing trend nationwide. In the October 15, 2013 issue of the *International Association of Fire Chiefs* (IAFC) magazine "IAFC On-Scene," parallels are drawn between the Boy and Girl Scout Oaths and the values that fire service leaders need to model (<http://www.iafc.org/onScene/article.cfm?ItemNumber=7150>).

In November 2009 the IAFC Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) developed a Silver Ribbon Report - Guidelines and Best Practices for a Successful Youth Fire Service Program. This report highlights how to create and implement a program, but also shows the strong connection between involving youth in the fire service as a form of recruitment for the department. It can be downloaded from the IAFC website at: http://www.iafc.org/files/1VCOS/VCOS_SilverRibbonReport.pdf

A year before this, a letter was issued from the IAFC leadership suggesting that departments support recruiting efforts within Scouting, specifically Firehouse

Scouting Nights that allow youth to visit the fire station while the adults learn about the Scouting program.

Most recently, in 2012, The National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) established the first "affinity group," or professional association, within NESA. A report identified that ten percent of fire fighters are Eagle Scouts. Lou Paulson, President of the California Professional Firefighter's Association, has been leading the charge to both identify Eagle Scout Firefighters, and to build a network.

Are you both an Eagle Scout and a firefighter? If so, please send an email to me, IFSI Associate Director Brian Brauer, at brbrauer@illinois.edu. I will build a list and work with Lou to keep you up to date as this fledgling group grows and becomes more active. Also, keep an eye on Facebook for a page dedicated to the affinity group.



Brian R. Brauer
Associate
Director



Explorer Conference - June 19 - 22

Planning is also underway for the 12th Annual Explorer Conference. The course menu and format will be similar, if not identical, to last year. While we are still working on the details, I feel confident the conference fee will remain the same. Please remember that for those post members who may have difficulty coming up with the registration fee, IFSI has twelve scholarships available. Applications will be available on the website. They will be reviewed and the recipients notified as soon as possible. First priority is given to residents of Illinois, but out-of-state applicants did receive scholarships last year. Keep an eye on the website for more details as the planning progresses.

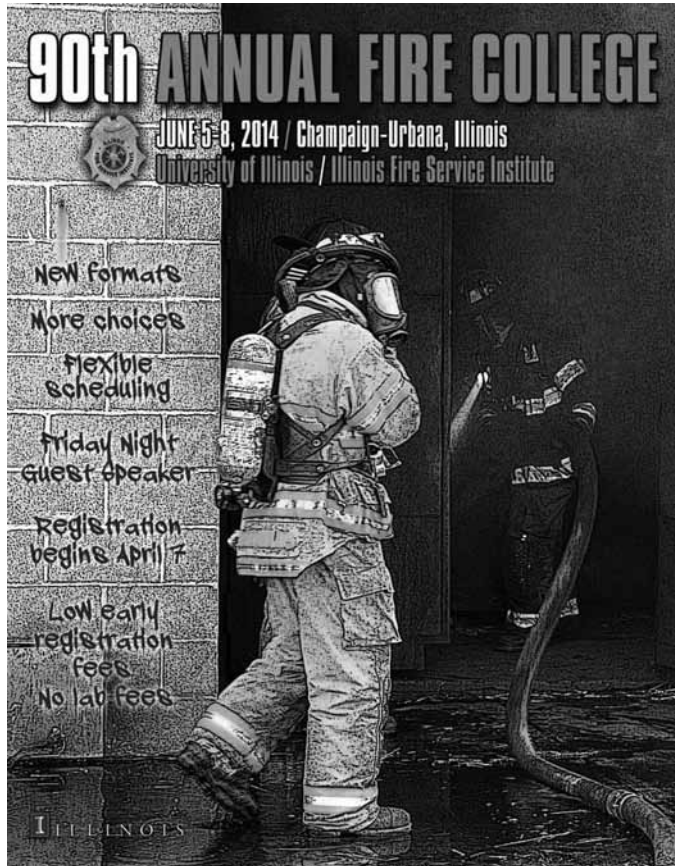


90th Annual Fire College

Planning for the 90th Annual Fire College is well underway. The past three years had a focus on maintaining the event at its previous level. This year Director Mortenson asked us to create a new and improved Fire College and we have done exactly that. This year's event will provide something for everyone: career, volunteer, fire, EMS, rookie or Chief. The menu includes courses offered in a one-day format for those who cannot attend two or more days and also includes some top-notch EMS speakers and topics. However, for the average firefighter the most exciting new courses will be Basic Engine Company Operations, Basic Truck Company Operations, and First-in Officer. All three of these hands-on live-fire classes will be combined and held off site at an acquired structure. Students in these classes will learn the basics of each role and come together for coordinated evolutions in live fire at an abandoned apartment building in Rantoul. For a complete list of classes and the schedule, check the IFSI website at <https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/ifsi%20events/fire%20college.cfm>.

In addition to those changes, you will note some changes to the fee structure. There are no longer lab fees for hands-on classes. The single registration fee you see for each class combines the registration fee and lab fee. You will also notice that there are two prices for each class, the early registration fee and the standard registration fee. There is no longer a late fee for registration. We hope that these changes simplify budgeting and payment issues on your end. As you look through the registration fees, you will notice that some classes have increased in cost. While we have made every attempt over the last five years to avoid cost increases, inflation cost for materials and other resources have made price increases unavoidable. *The fact remains that Fire College is still one of the most economic training opportunities available to most departments.*

The list of classes is available on the IFSI web site. We encourage you to take advantage of the many new opportunities. If you have taken hands-on courses for several years, maybe it is time to think about some of the one-day officer classes. The time comes in all of our careers when we should be doing what is best for the organization and not just what is the most fun. Be sure to register early and pay less! Remember – hands-on classes will fill fast. We hope to see you again this summer.



New formats

More choices

Flexible scheduling

Friday night guest speaker

Low early bird registration fees

June 5 - 8

Champaign-Urbana, IL

***Special off-site acquired
structure burns***

Leadership track

EMS with dynamic speakers

Special Ops training

www.fsi.illinois.edu

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

East Central Region

The East Central Illinois Cornerstone Training calendar is full for this budget year. We had a number of fire departments take advantage of the no-cost training opportunities. There have been over 90 classes hosted this year in the East Central Region, plus nine live-burn houses, 13 Fire Service Vehicle Operator and Technical Rescue Awareness classes, and numerous Essentials classes.

The new budget year starts July 1, 2014, so training requests will be accepted for classes delivered after July 1. If you are interested in scheduling a Cornerstone class please contact me or the Regional Representative for your area or go to the IFSI website and fill out a Cornerstone Request for Training form. Please keep in mind, however, when hosting a Cornerstone class there are a few requirements that must be met by the hosting department. First of all, please allow 30 to 45 days between your

initial request and the start date of the class. A minimum of 15 firefighters must be in attendance in order for the training event to be free-of-charge. Lastly, the training event must be open to area departments. Again, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Regional Representative in your area.

Upcoming classes:

- Allin Township Fire Department - Basic Auto Extrication, April 26
- Clinton Fire Department – Fireground Ropes & Knots, May 14
- Georgetown Fire Department – Ag Rescue, May 17
- Arthur Fire Department - Firefighter Rescue & Survival, May 24

All request forms are located on the IFSI website.



*Tim Meister
Cornerstone
East Central
Region*



We are half way through the 2014 fiscal year and I am a little over half way through the funds allotted to the Northwest Cornerstone region. What that means is that there are still training dollars available for the Northwest region between now and June 30.

There is a new four-hour class available through the Cornerstone program from which many of you might benefit. It is called Large Animal Rescue Awareness or *LARA*. This class is designed to bring awareness level information to Illinois emergency first responders in the area of large animal rescue. This class appeals to a wide range of first responders – not just firefighters. Members of police, EMS, sheriff departments, Department of Natural Resources, and Forest Preserve

Officers can many times be exposed to incidents that involve large animals. While “large animals” include horses, cows, pigs, sheep, llamas, alpacas and more, the LARA class uses horses and cows in the teaching model.

The course covers: the purpose of large animal rescue, incident prevention and evacuation planning, understanding animal behavior (in normal settings and under stress), humane handling of large animals, and understanding large animal restraint. The class also covers large animal scene management, water and unstable ground rescues (i.e. mud and ice), containment and capture of large animals, trailer and transport incidents, and barn and field fires.

I have the lead on this class, so contact me for more information at rpalczyn@illinois.edu.

Northwest Region



*Ray Palczynski
Cornerstone
Northwest
Region*

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Chicago Metro Region



Rich Stack
Chicago Metro
Regional
Representative

Hello from the Chicago Metro Area

Classes have been going very good and have slowed down a little over the winter months. Now that the snow is starting to melt the requests for Cornerstones classes have picked up. If you have been thinking about requesting a Cornerstone class, now is the time. Please get in touch with me or your regional representative for further assistance.

The two most requested classes for the Chicago Metro Area this year has been R.I.T. Training and Forcible Entry. If that is not the training you are looking for, Cornerstone offers over 60 different classes to choose from. The Cornerstone fiscal years ends June 30, but we typically

do not schedule any classes in June due to the lack of time and for budgeting reasons. But I still have some funding left for this year that I would like to see your department use. So don't wait any longer to set up a class. If you don't see a class in the Cornerstone brochure (available online at www.fsi.illinois.edu) that fits a need for your department, we could even set up a contract class as another option.

Great training opportunities are out there so please take advantage of them. Train like your life depends on it, because it does!



Northeast Region



Randy
Schlichter
Cornerstone
Northeast
Region

Greetings from the land up north.

Watch for my monthly regional training activities flyer. If you are not receiving the flyer and would like to be placed on the e-mail list, drop me a line at rschlich@illinois.edu.

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. The "Light & Fights" are weekend live-fire classes and an excellent opportunity for students to get live-fire experience.

The "Light & Fight" dates are:

May 3

September 13

November 1

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

Something New:

This spring the Cherry Valley Regional Training Center hosted its first Explorer/Cadet Field Training.

The one-day "Down and Dirty" Fire Service Youth training activity introduced youth to hands-on firefighting skills. This "Down and Dirty" training provides departments a safe training environment,

under state fire academy instructor supervision, that focuses on the same basic firefighting skills that are provided in the IFSI Cornerstone Training program for firefighters statewide. While not addressing all skills, training uses the Illinois OSFM Basic Firefighter objectives as the training guide. Throughout the day long training session, Explorer-Cadets were exposed to the value of team work, leadership and followership.

Stay Safe ~ Randy



Explorer programs involve many youth aspiring to enter the fire service.



From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Keep Goin' South

Hello all - as of this writing, the South Region has 51 classes on the books. What does that mean? It means since January 1 the South Region has been extremely busy scheduling classes for 2014. We have just about every class scheduled the Cornerstone Program offers ranging from the new "Large Animal Rescue Awareness" to the old standby "Ropes & Knots." The classes are scheduled in almost all of the 25 counties in the Southern Region. Further, Cornerstone class requests are coming in almost every day. If you are not receiving the IFSI Southern Region Training Opportunities flier and wish to do so, please let me know.

The South Region has received requests for classes that go beyond the available portion of the Cornerstone grant. With that being said, the South Region will continue to fulfill the institute's commitment to bring all possible training to fire departments in the South Region under Cornerstone funding.

Just for your information, there are approximately 130 organized fire departments in the South Region. The 25 counties of the South Region are: Alexander, Clay, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White and Williamson. There are 37 IFSI Field

South Region

Staff Instructors used regularly in the South Region Cornerstone Program and a few more are used on occasion.

In mid-January, the Southwest and South Regions had a joint IFSI Instructors meeting. The meeting was attended by 24 IFSI Field Staff Instructors with Deputy Director Jim Keiken the guest speaker. Everyone left the meeting well informed and looking forward to another great year.

Please make sure you take the time to look at all the 2014 Fire Officer Classes that are scheduled at the St. Louis Downtown Airport. Please take a look on either the IFSI web site or the South Region Training Opportunities flier. You will be surprised.

As always, the IFSI South Region is looking for locations and structures in which to have an Acquired Structure House Burn. Please get in touch with me if you feel you have a structure that will qualify.

If you would like me to attend your fire department, regional, county or association meetings to share in more detail the training opportunities the Illinois Fire Service Institute has to offer, please let me know. You can contact me at wtbragg@fsi.illinois.edu.

As one of my good friends always says when parting ways: **Stay Low - Stay Safe**.



Tim Bragg
Cornerstone
South
Region



Northwest

Ray Palczynski
217/300-1805
rpalczyn@illinois.edu

Northeast Randy Schlichter
217/300-1813
schlicht@illinois.edu

Chicago Metro
Richard Stack
217/300-1814
rstack@illinois.edu

Central

Jim Vaughn
217/300-1809
jrvaugh1@illinois.edu

East Central
Tim Meister
217/202-4760
tameiste@illinois.edu

Cornerstone Regions

Southwest

John Nichols
217/300-1812
jocfd201@illinois.edu

South

Tim Bragg
217/300-1817
wtbragg@illinois.edu



From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Southwest Region



John Nichols
Southwest
Regional
Representative

Hello from the Southwest Region. It's been a very long winter but with this newsletter spring is almost here.

Classes from the Southwest Region have really picked up since the first of the year. Again this year there will be over 100 classes offered to our firefighters. In all 11 counties of the region, one of the newest areas to hold classes is Chester Fire Department in Randolph County. The attendance at these classes has been over 50 students at all of the classes. Many thanks to Chief Marty Bert for hosting these classes at the Chester Fire Department.

There are many classes left to attend this spring with the Bond County Fire School



being one of the highlights. Watch for photos posted on our Facebook page of this school. The picture (below left) is a Light and Fight event held last winter at the QEM burn tower. There were over 50 students there for the first night time drill.

As this is the spring newsletter that means it is time to start thinking about next year's training. You are well aware that July 1, 2014 starts our new year as far as Cornerstone funding. I already have several requests for classes next year. It is not too early to apply for next fall classes. If you need any help or have any questions please do not hesitate to call me.

Everyone have a safe and great spring and summer.



Southwest Region Light & Fight

Central Region



Jim Vaughn
Cornerstone
Central
Region

As we come to the close of a long, cold winter and spring is here, it's time to start thinking about training. Now is a great time to get outside, get some fresh air, get our hands on equipment and brush up on those core firefighting skills that we rely on throughout the year. The basics are essential and this is where the Cornerstone Program can help.

The Cornerstone Program offers no cost firefighter training that can be delivered to your home department. Now is the perfect time to train on Ground Ladders, Hose Movement, Pump Operations and Auto Ex-trication. The Cornerstone Program has an extensive menu of classes, so there should be something that is of benefit to any fire department.

Another beneficial aspect to the Cornerstone Program is that any member of any Illinois Fire Department can attend a Corner-

stone class in another town. If members of your department are seeking training in any fire service subject, please have them check our website for a class in your area.

Here are some exciting Cornerstone classes coming up in the Central Region

- Tazewell County Fire School: Washington – May 3 & 4
- Fireground Communications: Minonk – May 19
- Fire Service Ladders: Petersburg – August 21

If you have questions regarding Cornerstone or other IFSI training, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stay Safe and Smart



From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

HMT and TMT team leaders and team members please take note! The Illinois Fire Service Institute has developed eight-hour continuing education modules (refresher training) in each of the special operations disciplines. Each of the technical rescue disciplines, as well as the hazardous materials programs, have developed five individual eight-hour training blocks. These eight-hour technician-level training sessions are designed to be delivered to team members, and non-team members who meet the pre-requisites, at your home location using your own tools and equipment. Ideally a minimum of two teams (where geographically possible) should come together for this training. 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 rpalczynski@illinois.edu.

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



*Ray Palczynski
SOTP Program
Director*



Confined Space Rescue

Are you prepared?

Within the past year, there have been numerous confined space-related incidents in the United States. Many of these incidents occur right here in Illinois. Grain bin incidents are all too frequent, many resulting in injuries or worse. Grain bin incidents in Sidney and, more recently, in Red Bud resulted in fatalities. Two other fatal incidents occurred recently. There was an incident in Wheeling involving a worker down inside a tank containing residual hazardous materials and another incident in Chicago involving a sewer worker that was swept away.

If one of these incidents occurred in your response area, would your department or district know how to respond or know who to call for additional help? All of the above incidents are complex confined space rescue scenarios, which are high-risk and low-frequency. Some departments are able to muster the equipment and properly-trained personnel. However,

many departments cannot handle these responses alone. Mutual-aid, MABAS, or CART Technical Rescue Teams are a great way to pool resources and handle these specialized emergencies. Take the time to reach out to these teams or neighboring departments that would be responding to your community. Now is the time to get acquainted. Learn from them. Understand their capabilities, and most importantly learn how to dispatch them.

It is the responsibility of all AHJs, regardless of team affiliation, to pre-plan and anticipate all possible confined space hazards in their district. Once these hazards are identified, rescue teams can help develop your pre-plans and ultimately provide the equipment and properly-trained personnel to help your district perform a rescue.

Don't let these unique incidents catch you by surprise – be prepared, have a plan, and know who to call!



*Ryan Reynolds
Confined Space
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

Rope Rescue Program



Mike Woodard
Rope Rescue
Program
Manager

Well this has been a long cold winter in my neck of the woods. As I look towards training for 2014, which started early for the rope program, it looks like another busy year. There are some small changes and additions to the rope rescue curriculum that will be implemented this year. We presently are working on blended, online, and Step 1 learning that students can review prior to doing their practicals or taking the classes.

We have finished testing on a new technique for attaching a line to a becket on a pulley, haul-safe or other 4:1 system that may be used with a tripod or elevated

leading edge. In the past, multiple cycles of a 4:1 block and tackle system have led to twisting of the system. Using a double over hand knot through the becket of the double pulley or haul-safe system has shown to reduce this problem.

In the past and even the present, the use of safety knots, secondary victim harness with a rescue litter and combination class-3 harness and/or victim immobilization device are and continue to be a must during initial training, practicing or learning of new skills. Now today, due to the fact that the modern litters and immobilization devices are much better built, the forms of redundancy are falling by the wayside. After conversations with members of other teams from different parts of the U.S. and reviewing new student reference materials and text books, even the back-up knot is falling out of grace. As with any of these decisions, it is up to the authority having jurisdiction to make the final determination.

The Standard Operating Procedure for IFSI's rope program will always have these redundancies in place for training.

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.

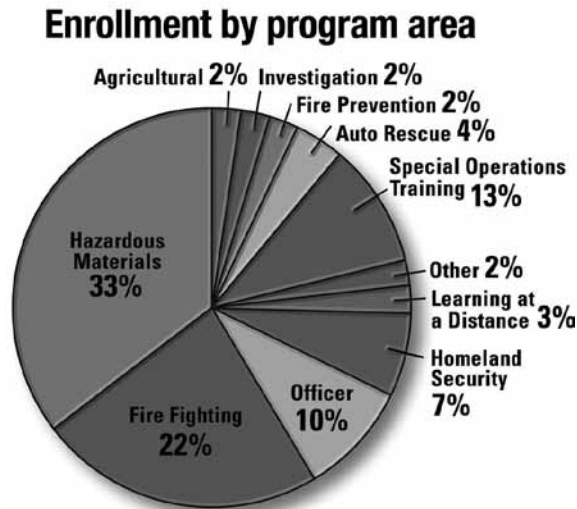
From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

It's that time of year again! After a winter slow down period, the Hazmat Program is back in full force starting this spring. As you can see from the pie chart below, the Hazmat Program had a busy 2013 and there is still a lot more work to do. Hazmat Operations is the hottest ticket in town, so if you need that class I urge you to look at our website for one of many we have on the schedule. Technician classes are set for the year as well.

With that said, I wanted to quickly introduce you to two new Hazmat courses that IFSI is offering. These are HAZWOPER 24-hour Operations and HAZWOPER 40-hour Technician. These courses are not designed for the public sector, but instead are designed to meet the OSHA requirements for industrial Hazmat brigades/teams. The intent is to help bridge the gap and prepare industrial teams to respond, from the time the incident occurs to the time the public service team responds. We cover the requirements of the OSHA standard, practical hands-on skills, and realistic industrial scenarios. Please contact us for more information on these courses.

HazMat Awareness is required before taking HazMat Operations. The Awareness class is available online from IFSI. www.fsi.illinois.edu.

Hazardous Materials



Chris Downey
HazMat
Program
Manager

Vehicle/Machinery

With winter hopefully on the downslide many fire departments experienced major motor vehicle accidents with many semi-trucks and buses involved. IFSI can assist you in training your members with the basics via Cornerstone classes. Basic, advanced, stabilization and large vehicle classes can be given in 8-, 12- and 16-hour segments. By contacting your respective Regional Representative, classes can be set up to meet your needs. One thing to remember though is that the respective department is responsible for supplying the vehicles needed for the class.

The upcoming 2014 calendar for Vehicle Machinery Operations and Technician classes at the Champaign campus are:

Operations - April 28 - May 2,

November 3 to 7, and a weekend class on the successive weekends of November 1 and 2 and November 8 and 9. The weekend class does not offer the OSFM certification at the end. Students will have to sign up on their own for taking it. The weekend classes are 10-hour days.

Technician - May 12 to May 16, November 17 to November 21 and a weekend class held on the successive weekends November 15 and 16 and November 22 and 23. The weekend classes are 10-hour days. The OSFM certification exam is not offered for this class.

If you have any questions regarding any of these courses please contact me at jdrennan@illinois.edu or get in touch with your respective Regional Representative.

As always please be careful and safe.



Joe Drennan
Vehicle/
Machinery
Rescue
Program

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports



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

NIMS Training

The All Hazards Incident management Team (AHIMT) class will be offered through the Illinois Fire Service Institute beginning in 2014. The AHIMT class is a five-day class that emphasizes the incident action planning process and allows participants to build an IAP as they manage a large scale incident. Two type-I instructors worked with IFSI staff to emphasize key teaching points and effective methods for delivering the curriculum to perspective students. The class will become part of the standard IFSI NIMS/ICS catalog of course offerings this year. Look for another AHIMT class in October.

The NIMS/ICS program continues to offer the position specific training classes. These classes help students hone skills in the eight command and general staff positions and in unit leader positions in the planning and logistics section. These position specific classes are offered throughout the state of Illinois and, as with the other NIMS/ICS classes, are tuition free as the ITTF grants continue to fund these classes.

The NIMS/ICS program continues to

offer the “standard” Command and General Staff Class, IS 300/400 classes and the position specific classes. Since the retirement of Bill Farnum, **Bob Doty** is instrumental in scheduling the IS 300/400 classes. **Matt Bryan** and **Leon Duncan** are instrumental in planning for and conducting the Command and General Staff Classes and the position specific classes. The position specific classes and the C&GS classes are scheduled through the program director, **Joe Gasparich**.

The NIMS/ICS staff participated in the design of the Leadership Exercise that was conducted at IFSI on February 26-27. Team members developed the message injects that were used for the exercise. This was one of the first exercises that were “warm started” with an operations briefing at the beginning of the six-hour operations period and an operations briefing was conducted at the start of each six-hour operational period. The NIMS/ICS team worked closely with Rockford Fire Department in the development of the exercise. The IFSI SOTP staff was also instrumental in exercise design and conduct by serving as subject matter experts for the exercise.



*Mike McCastland
Structural
Collapse
Program
Manager*

Structural Collapse

Believe it or not, spring really is right around the corner so we thought this was a great time to get you “fired” up about the upcoming schedule.

We are offering a few continuing education opportunities to “go back to school” for those who have gone to Tech Class and want to work on further improving or refreshing their skills. First, there are two, one-day repeated refresher classes during Fire College, one for Collapse and one for Rope. Take advantage of these sessions while you are in town for Fire College. Second, there will be a one-week class in the fall – October 13-17. It is a five-day refresher class on all SOTP

disciplines, including Collapse, Confined Space, Trench, Rope and Hazmat. Don’t miss this one!

Finally, if your MABAS or CART team is interested in a one-day (8-10 hour) refresher drill on any of the SOTP disciplines, contact SOTP Program Director Ray Palczynski for the details. We can be flexible and customize the course to best suit your needs.

Not only have we prepared a great schedule of opportunities at the most realistic hands-on training site in the nation, we have the best trained instructional staff in the country. We have instructors from all over Illinois as well as Oklahoma, Milwaukee, and New York. Each of our instructors are local rescue team technicians, 24 of whom are USAR ILTF-1 members, and two are USAR/FEMA structural engineers.

Our knowledge and experience along with the props, is second to none. Come over and experience it for yourselves.

Upcoming classes:

Ops class in Champaign September 8-12

Tech Class in Champaign September 22-26

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

I hope the holiday season went well for all of you. Rapid Intervention Team Rescue Technician, formally known as “RIT Under Fire”, is busy as always. In 2014 there are two classes on the calendar: April 28-May 1 and November 17-21. By the time the spring newsletter comes out, both classes will be full. These classes fill up fast, but please continue to sign up because there is a waiting list in case of cancellations.

The November Rapid Intervention Team Rescue Technician again drew

R.I.T. Rescue Technician

students from all around the continent. The fall class had students from Southern California, Wisconsin, even as far away as Vaughan, Ontario Canada. Just when you thought this class could not get any better, I am happy to inform you that it is grant-funded to all Illinois firefighters.



*Gary Coney
RIT Under Fire
Program
Manager*

Local 150: Operating Engineers Support the training and education of Illinois Firefighters.

How often can you find two organizations whose missions parallel, support, and complement one another in a purpose driven and transformational manner?

During the winter of 2012, I sent an email to the training coordinator of Local 150 to inquire about their indoor training facility. Yes, I read all the CEQs and investigated the suggestions given by students to improve our trench program. Not long after I sent the email, I received a phone call from Marty Turek and Mark Kara. The conversation was friendly and inquisitive from both parties.



Illinois Fire Service Institute Spring 2014

Trench Rescue

In early 2013, Local 150 supported our program’s annual instructor meeting by offering a classroom to host the meeting. In July of 2013, I contacted Dan Reda to check the availability of the indoor training arena and to ask if Local 150 was interested in hosting a two-day Paratech Trench Training University. Again, Local 150 welcomed IFSI and Paratech. More than 120 firefighters from across the U.S. completed trench rescue shoring techniques with Paratech equipment.

In November of 2013, in coordination with Local 150 training their members and hosting an OSHA compliance class, IFSI conducted two, week-long trench technician classes. We all trained in the indoor training arena. We accomplished our objectives, overcame hurdles, and as a result, IFSI’s students and instructors are more informed and better prepared due to Local 150’s interaction and experience.

As IFSI’s trench program manager, it has been my responsibility to develop our curriculum, instructors, and class format. In that time, nothing has had such an immediate impact on the quality of the execution of our training, than the relationship we have with Local 150. Not only do they have an excellent facility, they have exemplary people who have the passion and desire to train, educate, and develop skill sets to execute. I invite you to complete your trench rescue training with IFSI at Local 150 this August. See you in the trenches.



*Heather Moore
Trench Rescue
Program
Manager*

*Brock Herion
with the
Addison Fire
District will
take over for
Heather in
May.*

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs



Mike McCastland
FAST
Program
Manager

FAST

Here's a bit of the history that helped shape Fire Attack Suppression Techniques (FAST) into the program it is today.

The program was developed in the 1980s by Jack (JR) Rutledge and Dave Clark. It was JR's idea to develop drills similar to those used in Smoke Divers, which he also developed, but to do it with hoses and ladders. Like the title states, do it as FAST and as proficient as possible – that is still the main emphasis. The focus is on hoses and ladders and how to do things more efficiently by using some “tricks of the trade.” Work smarter, not harder. This is critical when time and manpower are both limited.

For nearly 30 years this class has been taught by some of the best firefighters, with a simple goal: to pass on their knowledge and skills to others so everyone would go home at the end of their shift while performing at the highest level.

FAST instructors have been leaders and mentors in the fire services. JR and Dave Clark, Mac McCastland, Bob Hoff, Ray Hoff, Tom Freeman, Rick Kolomay, Bob McKee, Steve Wilcox, Ed Enright, Greg Fisher, Tom Shervino, John Hojek, Brad Bone and Hugh Stott, to name just a few, have all contributed their knowledge to shape the program into what it is today. Many of these original instructors are still involved and continue to teach this class.

As we continue to deliver this level of excellence, today's instructors have not only been teaching it for several years, and have a wide variety of experience, but have also helped influence another generation of firefighters.

So come and be a part of this firefighting tradition, improve your skills using not only the IFSI burn buildings but acquired structures to allow more realistic and hands-on training scenarios and learn how to do the job to the best of your ability.

**Class is scheduled for May 19-23
Sign up FAST!**

Fire Service Women of Illinois

The Fire Service Women of Illinois (FSWI), NFP, was established and organized in 2004 to help provide leadership, training, mentoring, education, and networking to all fire and rescue service women throughout Illinois. In 2014, FSWI is celebrating our ten-year anniversary so we are sponsoring a training weekend at the Illinois Fire Service Institute (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 training event at IFSI, November 8 - 9, 2014.

In the past, our training events have brought together women firefighters from across Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Michigan and Georgia, reaching worldwide to Canada and Germany. We are anticipating another great event at IFSI, remembering our past achievements and

looking toward our future. Our training has classes for every level, from firefighter to officer, so we hope you will save the date and join us.

We have worked hard to provide resources for firefighters through our website, which can be found at www.fswi.org, where you can get the answers to all of your questions. In addition, staying in touch is easier now with our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Our Twitter account is FIREWOMENIL and our Facebook account is under Businesses, Fire Service Women of Illinois. Of course, the easiest way to contact us is either through our website (www.fswi.org) or email (admin@fswi.org).

I hope to see you all in November to train together and celebrate our Decade of Achievement. Until then, be safe and watch out for each other, always strive to be professional and excel in all that you do.

Alicia McCoy
President
Fire Service Women of Illinois

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 training event at IFSI on November 8 and 9, 2014.

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs

Year after year staff gets asked questions from potential students about Advanced Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Course (Smoke Divers). "What is Smoke Divers?" "How long of a class is it?" "Is it challenging?" Here are the answers.

Let's start with what Smoke Divers is not. It is not a firefighting class. You will not be doing hoseline lead outs into structures. It is not a tactical class. You will not be forcing entry, searching for victims or ventilating roofs.

Smoke Divers is a course of limitations. This class is designed to challenge the firefighter on many levels. The emphasis of the course will be the safe and efficient use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). This course emphasizes core skills such as: donning, doffing, shifting, dumping, emergency procedures, and buddy breathing. To reach a mastery level of these core skills, the student will work in real and simulated fire conditions while performing activities where SCBAs are essential: air conservation, self rescue, and firefighter rescue techniques.

This five-day course is not an easy one by any measure; if it was, everybody would have completed it. The curriculum is designed to push your personal limitations while operating in a hostile environment and then once you have reached that limit, the cadre will push a little farther. Along with those personal limitations the environmental limitations will be identified and challenged

Smoke Divers

by the firefighter during class, having a complete understanding of your environment and how to operate your breathing apparatus in those conditions is truly working towards that mastery skill level. The final piece of the smoke divers puzzle is a confidence that is built with the use and understanding of the equipment after pushing the air pack to its limits.

As firefighters we work in hostile environments. In that environment decisions are made hopefully with a positive outcome. Strategies will be developed, tactics will be implemented to support that strategy, and those tactics will need tasks to get accomplished to support the tactical plan. The point that will be reinforced in this course, it all starts with the *breathing apparatus*. With a pure understanding of air pack you should be able to accomplish your task to the best of your ability with out having a concern for what you can and cannot do in your Breathing Apparatus.

Spots are still available for the 2014 class that runs May 12 - 16. Hope to see you in May!

Any questions, please contact
Jason Demas
630-546-3721
jdemas@illinois.edu



Jason Demas
Smoke Divers
Program
Manager

**Next
Smoke
Divers
class is
May 12 in
Champaign.**

**Seats still
available at
press time.**

Three new classes at IFSI

NWCG (S-359) Medical Unit Leader is a 20-hour course designed to meet the training needs of an incident Medical Unit Leader, (MEDL), as outlined in the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1, and the Position Task Book (PTB) that was developed for this position.

NWCG S-248 - Status/Check-In Recorder is the other new Wildland class being offered by IFSI. This two-day course is designed to introduce students to the tools and techniques used to perform the job of Status/Check-In Recorder. It also offers a glimpse into a day in the life of the SCKN.

All Hazards Incident Management Team class is part of the U.S. Fire Administration's Incident Management Team (IMT) program to develop skills sets within state, regional and tribal IMTs. This course is designed for those who are assigned to function in a Type 3 IMT during a large/complex incident, typically extending into multiple operational periods. The Type 3 IMT can either support an existing Incident Command System (ICS) structure or can assume command of an incident, if requested.

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs



*Tal Prendergast
FAE/FSVO
Program
Manager*

FAE/FSVO

Like all of the other programs here at IFSI, the Fire Apparatus Engineer/Fire Service Vehicle Operator Program has completed the year-long process of updating the curriculum for the eight classes in the program. While many of the changes and updates are “behind the scenes,” students will benefit from this important project.

This project gave the FAE/FSVO program an opportunity to review and update the course content to ensure that it meets the current OSFM objectives and NFPA standards. We were also able to evaluate and clearly define the focus of each class, ensure that the objectives support the focus of the class, and eliminate redundant objectives in different classes. The project also gave us an opportunity to “put the class on paper.” The teaching

points that IFSI Instructors make to help the students understand the material have been recorded on the lesson plans for all IFSI instructors to use. This allows the students to get the knowledge of the entire instructional staff and lends to more consistency in the delivery of the classes.

The following classes are designed for the driver/operator and are available at no cost through Cornerstone:

- Basic Aerial Apparatus Operations
- Fire Service Vehicle Operator
- Basic Pumps
- Hydrant Supply Operations
- Down ‘N Dirty Hydraulics
- Rural Engine and Tender Ops
- Fire Fighting Foam Application

Please contact your Regional Representative to request one of these classes.



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

Light & Fight

This year’s on-campus Light and Fights are scheduled on the IFSI calendar and available on the IFSI website. The dates this year are May 3, September 27, October 11 and November 1. The October 18 Light and Fight has been changed to a new date which is October 11. To sign up for this year’s Light and Fights you can go to our website at www.fsi.illinois.edu and sign up online. This way you can be preregistered for the eight-hour class that is scheduled on those Saturdays. The objectives for the drills that we do on-site are coordinated fire attack drills and are taken from the Basic Firefighter curriculum.

The Light and Fight program is funded by the Cornerstone Program which is a partnership with the Illinois Office

of the State Fire Marshal. Because of this relationship, the training you receive on these Saturdays is available at no cost to you. Please pass this information onto your fellow firefighters and neighboring fire departments. The maximum class enrollment is 80 students per Saturday and pre-registration is required to assure a spot in the class. If you have any further questions on Light and Fights please feel free to contact me at trushing@illinois.edu.



From the Campus: Firefighting Programs

The following is an update of activities for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) Programs.

Since October 2012, the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) has worked diligently to establish a sustainable delivery system for the Courage to be Safe (CTBS) course. Prior to this, the Illinois Firefighter Life Safety Task Force (IFLSTF) handled most course activities including registration, identification of instructors, training instructors and course support. Because the IFLSTF was a collection of volunteers doing this program, the enormous work became too much and problems began to occur with sustaining course delivery. I am pleased to report that due to the hard work of many IFSI personnel, the effort has resulted in the following accomplishments:

- 59 CTBS classes were delivered
- Average is five classes per month
- Average number of students per class is 24

To help facilitate the delivery of CTBS and other NFFF programs, IFSI recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NFFF. In the short-term, the MOU will allow the expansion of NFFF programs to include the delivery of Leadership, Accountability, Culture and Knowledge (LACK). In the long term, the MOU will allow for additional NFF programs and activities to be brought into Illinois through IFSI.

The LACK course is aimed at making fire officers aware of ways to reduce line-of-duty injuries/deaths. It encourages fire officers to take a **leadership** role with regards to firefighter safety; make themselves and firefighters under their command more **accountable**; guide the **culture** change needed to reduce firefighter injuries and deaths and increases the fire officer's **knowledge** in terms of firefighters and getting injured or killed in the line-of-duty. Even if he/she doesn't agree with the 16 firefighter life safety initiatives, after attending LACK they will possess tools to help them reduce line-of-duty injuries/deaths. A "first-generation" *LACK Train-the-Trainer* was previously held in Illinois, providing for a handful of IFSI Trainers that can hold additional TTT classes. The first generation TTT class was required by the NFFF, and basically involved

Courage to be Safe

a specific NFFF trainer that had experience in LACK development and delivery. The next round (second-generation) of TTT classes will be done by IFSI instructors with specific intention of getting additional IFSI instructors that have LACK in their skill sets. In Illinois, the LACK program will only be delivered through the institute, which is different than CTBS, as there are still a number of CTBS classes that are held outside of IFSI.

On that point, the question has been raised as to how non-IFSI instructors stay connected to the NFFF for issues related to delivering CTBS. I have advised the NFFF Education Director (Richard Mason) that the Institute will be the point-of-contact for all things related to the delivery of NFFF programs. This decision was made because, as the State Fire Academy, it is important that we support other training activities that occur throughout the state. It also helps to keep CTBS classes done within Illinois consistent as they are delivered in other areas. If you know of an instructor that needs updated CTBS information, please direct them to contact me via email at rwebstr@illinois.edu.

When the idea to bring the NFF programs into the institute was first introduced by Director Mortenson, it was his vision that it would be included in the courses offered through Cornerstone. However, shortly after the initiation of CTBS delivery, a grant was secured that allowed for funding for all NFFF programs. Based on current activity levels, the funding stream should continue through calendar year 2014.

Upcoming Courage to be Safe classes

Rock Falls, May 17

Marion, May 29

Sesser, June 24

www.fsi.illinois.edu for details



*Ralph Webster
Courage to be Safe / National
Fallen Firefighters
Foundation
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: Program Reports



Eddie Bain
Fire Investigation
Fire Prevention
Program Director

Investigation/Prevention

“A New Arrival”

Here’s a test for you. What is 402 pages long, is not a text book, has dozens of changes from the last edition and is something fire investigators love to hate? Give up? Well it’s the new 2014 edition of the National Fire Protection Association’s 921 “Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations.”

In comparison to the 2014 edition, the first full edition of the document in 1992 was only 122 pages. The committee for the original publication indicated that “the first edition is not complete and the committee is continuing work on expanding this guide.” They certainly have fulfilled their mission. When I first read the 1992 edition I must have overlooked the ‘expanding’ part and felt I had a publication that would help support my work for my entire career. I don’t suppose that since the document was originally published with 122 pages and has only grown by an average of about 13 pages per year I should complain, but I’ve grown lazy and find it more and more difficult just to keep up with the published material for fire and

arson investigations. This is certainly a problem for investigators; but it’s even more so for educators that have to learn, utilize and teach the content in all those “expanding” pages.

I doubt that there’s a sinister motive within the growth of the document but it is cause for reflection. While I agree that more information, details and research into the issues of fire investigation can be good, I also wonder about the results. It seems that we’re becoming dependent on a complete scientific explanation for every fire, every scene, every situation, every pattern and, well, for everything. I think we’re drifting dangerously far from the steps of application and interpretation. The investigator has to know the material and then apply the material and yes, even interpret the data. It’s the serious and sometimes overwhelming nature of the business but nonetheless very foundational to a complete fire or explosion investigation. The problem does, indeed, become even more significant with the consideration of incendiary incidents and those who might be involved. If we as investigators recommend that an individual or individuals be criminally charged, we must be certain that we are serving in the capacity of a public servant in the most honorable way possible.

So here’s some advice for investigators and educators: “Don’t lose heart.” Stay focused, keep studying, keep applying the tools of the trade and keep on interpreting the material. No one ever told me that it would be easy; in fact, they usually said it was really difficult to conduct a skillful, quality investigation. I usually forget that part but when I see the size of the new 921 it all comes back to me.



Arson Investigation Scholarship created

The William (Bill) R. Glover Arson Investigation Scholarship – a \$200 annual scholarship – will be awarded to a downstate Illinois volunteer firefighter who wishes to take classes in arson investigation. Contact Eddie Bain at 217/333-9014 or by email at edbain@illinois.edu for more information about this scholarship.

From the Campus: Program Reports

IFSI is completing our spring 2014 Fire Officer series with great success. As we end our budget year, we look forward to fall classes statewide. As always, Fireground Officer and Command School is filling up so make sure to enroll early to ensure your spot.

IFSI held our first Leadership and Decision Making conference at the end of March. We brought together 110 attendees from all over the state representing all ranks of the Illinois fire service, from firefighter to chief officer. Our team addressed six lines of instruction

Fire Officer Program

creating a “cradle to grave” leadership continuum that we believe will enhance our ability to lead our fire service into the future. Our conference was a success due to the input received from attendees in several areas to include specific leadership topics, methods of instruction, and content. Thank you to all members who participated in this first time, very successful event.



Lew Lake
Fire Officer
Program
Director

We are headed into the propane training season and it may be nerve racking to get started. What I have learned from John Tibbs of the Illinois Propane Gas Association (IPGA) is that Illinois’ farmers have used 300 million gallons of LP to dry their grain crop. In the past we averaged 60 million gallons. We also experienced record-breaking temperatures this winter. With this, it has resulted in a 30-70 percent increase in usage of liquefied propane.

What is the problem? The demand has exceeded the capacity of the pipeline. The greatest factors affecting the propane supply are:

1. A particularly wet spring and fall in the Midwest coupled with the closure of a major pipeline for propane movement. This means that propane used for crop drying depleted supplies of propane; 300 million gallons used in 2013 compared to 65 million gallons used in 2012, according to Jeff Petrash, Vice President of NPGA.

2. Record cold in Illinois and other areas of the Midwest, which further depleted supplies of propane, requiring transporters to drive further to obtain propane supplies.

3. High exports of propane abroad because of the higher price commanded in other areas of the world.

LP Gas / Oil Well

As the ILPGA works to help alleviate the shortage we must do the same and may have to push back early spring classes. As it is important for firefighters to learn how to handle the product, we must think of communities that need it for heating and do our part. They will get the training, but we may just have to hold off a bit. Thanks to marketers and dealers in Illinois, IFSI consumes approximately 36,000 gallons of propane each year in teaching the hands-on portion of the class. I will keep everyone informed of status of classes as we get closer to them.



Mark Clapp
Propane/Oil
Well
Program
Manager



From the Campus: Program Reports



Dave Newcomb
Ag Rescue
Program
Manager

Agricultural Rescue

Complacency, a silent killer, has struck again. As I write this article I am saddened to report that Illinois has had two grain bin entrapments in the month of February, one a successful rescue and the other a fatality. In the same time frame, a 39-year-old Nebraska farmer is killed in a bin and in Minnesota another farmer is rescued from a feed bin. Two deaths and two rescues in less than 20 days. It is a sad reminder of the dangers that are out there waiting for us on a daily basis in the agriculture community.

On a more positive note, the new Large Animal Rescue Awareness (LARA)

class has been piloted around the state and has received positive feedback. I want to thank Ray Palczynski and the staff for an outstanding job of putting this class together. It is a four-hour class available through Cornerstone.

Another positive for the Ag Rescue program is the growth of the Ag Rescue training fund. This endowment will make a big difference in supplying props and equipment for the agricultural training program in the future. Once again I want to personally thank all the contributors who support the program both monetarily and with equipment. It has been a successful year and I look forward to the year to come. As always stay safe.

On March 13, 2014, Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager and Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations, were guests on RFD Radio to discuss IFSI's large animal rescue awareness training and other farm safety issues. The photo shows Dave and Dennis speaking with Alan Jarand, Director of RFD Radio in the Bloomington, Ill. studio.



Upcoming Grain Bin Rescue Awareness class:
Genoa, May 3

Upcoming Large Animal Rescue Awareness classes:
Fairview Heights, May 19
Sesser, May 27



Tom Richter
Wildland
Program
Manager

Wildland

When the tone goes off for a fire in a local park or farm field, what's your first thought? Do you consider the impact that the fuels, weather and topography will have on your fire? Or, is your first thought that it's just another grass fire?

In 2013 the National Interagency Fire Center reported a total of 34 wildland fire fatalities. As bad as the loss of those 34 men and women is, the report goes on to identify an ominous trend. If we look at fire fatalities in the wildland from 1990 through 2013, we find an upward trend in the number of fatalities year after year! This upward trend has to stop! We must stop thinking that a fire in a park or field is somehow safer to be around than any other type of fire. We must remember that

even a small grass fire can generate temperatures between 500°F and 1500°F, and with some help from wind and topography even a little fire can move across the landscape faster than you or I can run. While we can't stop all fires from happening, we can learn to be safer when we respond.

Basic and advanced Wildland training began in February and continues throughout the year. To find specific dates and classes near you, check out the IFSI website. If you have questions, or would like to host a class, please get in touch and we'll work together to schedule something. We appreciate the opportunity to work with departments from across the state to help them make the response to their grass and ground cover fires safer. Always remember, fight fire aggressively, having provided for SAFETY first.

Explorer Field Training

The Explorer Field Training sessions for the 2014 budget year have been finalized, with funding coming once again from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. We experienced great reviews with the training last year. This year we are surpassing that amount of success. Last year we conducted the training at four locations throughout the state, and this year we will exceed that by hosting at five various locations. The Frankfort Fire Department hosted the first Explorer Field Training Session of the year. There were 44 explorers that attended the training. The training sites this spring were

in Alton on March 22, Cherry Valley on April 5, and Galesburg on April 12. The fifth one is scheduled for Frankfort on May 17. These one-day trainings are key in introducing aspiring young firefighters to hands-on firefighting skills. They are learning to work with fire hoses and appliances, self-contained breathing apparatus, search and rescue, ladders, live fire behavior, and hand tools. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Tim Meister
Explorer/Cadet Program Manager



Besides the Explorer Field, Explorers and Cadets can participate in the 12th Explorer-Cadet Fire School from June 19-22, 2014 at IFSI's Champaign campus.

Details at www.fsi.illinois.edu

From the Campus: Program Reports



Gavin Horn, PhD
Research
Department
Director

Research

Applied research is a systematic inquiry engaging the **practical** application of science to address a specific problem. Firefighters appreciate the word “**practical**.” We hear about how scientists and engineers are awarded hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars to conduct “research,” but how have these efforts improved the Fire Service? How has the first responder, on the street, answering calls, been impacted?

We would like to take a moment to walk you through an example of how IFSI has taken the data gathered by our research partners and have incorporated it into our teaching material, reaching the first responder. Many of you will recognize the names Dan Madrzykowski, a Fire Protection Engineer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Steve Kerber, Fire Research Engineer at Underwriters Laboratories (UL). These men have led the charge to research Fire Dynamics and Firefighting Tactics in the last decade and have faithfully shared what their teams of practitioners and scientist have learned about how fires grow,

spread, and develop. The Fire Service now has a better understanding of concepts like flow paths, heat release rates, ventilation controlled fires, “pushing fire,” and the time temperature curve for modern-day compartment fires.

In 2011, this material was incorporated into a new IFSI course entitled “Fire Dynamics and Stream Application” and delivered at Fire College. Students thirsty for this knowledge enrolled, making this class the first to fill. Not only was new information introduced, but students were exposed to two new props (see pictures below) that were specifically designed to meet new training objectives. Students walked away saying, “I can’t believe that I had not had the subject matter and hands-on experience that this class offered me.” “Use of recent research in the class was excellent.” “This class was the best fire behavior class I have ever taken by far and I’ve taken quite a few.”



Developing effective attack lines: Prop used to demonstrate flow and reaction force.



Stream Application Drill conducted in a rollover simulator. (Taken by Rich Batka)

Through the advocating of senior educators like Mike Deckelmann and Steve Chasteen, two of the original course designers of the Fire Dynamics class, this content was also incorporated into IFSI’s Basic Firefighter Academy curriculum. Not only did the Academy curriculum get updated, but it was expanded from one hour to four hours of fire behavior material. The addition of this information even preceded this content being included into publisher’s products. Thanks to Madrzykowski for his involvement with IFSTA’s validation committee; it has just

continued on next page

From the Campus: Program Reports

been incorporated into the most recent edition of *Essentials*.

In 2012, IFSI's director told staff to develop another course for the upcoming Fire College focusing on what research exists that would help firefighters face today's modern challenges. Through the research office, our team reached out to Kerber, Madrzykowski and Lt. John Ceriello from FDNY, who has been side-by-side these researchers translating science to tactics that can be incorporated into fire departments — large and small. When June came around these researchers were teaching alongside IFSI instructors, resulting in one of the largest single session class enrollments in Fire College. At only \$150, IFSI students took advantage of the small group break-out sessions that were conducted. This learning environment is unmatched, and was quite different from what 3,000 students experienced at FDIC only a few months earlier, where many had to jockey for a spot to hear from these presenters.

As Fire College 2014 approaches, we will again be offering two courses that will focus on translating the most recent Fire Dynamics research for our broad Fire Service audience. In the Thursday-Friday session, the Fire Dynamics in Modern Construction class returns, providing firefighters to learn from and interact with national experts in Fire Dynamics, including laboratory and

live-fire demonstrations and small group tactical discussions. On Saturday, a new one-day, eight-hour course "Structural Fire Fighting: Fire Dynamics, Tactics, and Training" will be presented. This course will include new information on research that has been conducted to answer questions raised by firefighters on topics such as flow path, "pushing fire," and the concerns over applying hose streams from the outside. The data collected from experiments conducted in acquired structures in Illinois, New York, South Carolina, and full-scale "lab" experiments conducted by NIST and UL provide evidence that tactics founded on understanding fire dynamics can improve the safety of firefighters and victims alike. Participants in the class will review fire behavior basics with data and videos from fire experiments in real structures. The results from the studies are compared with some case studies of LoDDs and injuries. An interactive "train-the-trainer" format will allow students to learn from those doing the research and implementing the research in a way that will allow them to bring this knowledge back to the fire house.

Now you know what is meant by "Helping Firefighters do their work through..... Research."

Experience first-hand look this research during two dynamic sessions at this year's Fire College - June 5 - 9.

Fire Dynamics in Modern Construction

Thursday 1 pm – 5 pm and Friday 8 am – 5 pm

This class provides firefighters and fire officers critical insights on how modern building construction techniques and modern contents impact the development of fires in these structures. This class shares the results of research to help the student understand the fire dynamics, as well as the influence of firefighting tactics in this environment. Students interact with and ask questions of leading researchers in the industry.

Structural Firefighting: Fire Dynamics, Tactics, and Training

Saturday 8 am – 5 pm

Step into the science of fire with this eight-hour class led by John Ceriello (FDNY) and Dan Madrzykowski, (NIST). John and Dan will share the results of cutting-edge research on structural fires – research that has studied flow path, "pushing fire," and the concerns over applying hose streams from the outside.

The data collected from experiments conducted in acquired structures in Illinois, New York and South Carolina as well as real-scale "lab" experiments provide evidence that long-held beliefs of firefighting such as: "Always attack from the unburned to the burned side," "Never apply a hose stream through the window, it will push fire," and "The best way to attack a basement fire is down the stairs" are just NOT true.

From the Campus: Program Reports



Janis Hooper
Testing Support
Specialist

Curriculum and Testing

Exam Bank Validation at IFSI

Have you ever noticed one of those “as seen on TV” products on the shelf? You pick it up, you look closely at the packaging and you are amazed at the possibilities for improving your daily life! But you can’t help but wonder: “Does it really do what it says it will do? How do I know their claims are valid?”

While I can’t tell you what to do with the product at the store, I can tell you that the exams at IFSI test what we say they test (the course objectives). That, in a nutshell, is validation. My name is Janis Hooper, I was hired this fall in the curriculum and testing office in part to maintain and advance the high standards of exam validity we have here at IFSI.

So how do we make sure our exams are valid? We use a team of our instructor/Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). Each member of the team is asked to review a subset of questions (usually from a purchased bank). They study each question in their subset

very carefully. They look for any modifications, updates or improvements to the way it is written, and are asked to confirm that each question can be tied back to a specific IFSI course objective, referenced to the instructor lesson plan, and if applicable, to the state (OSFM objectives) and the national standards (NFPA JPRs).

Once the SMEs have looked carefully at their subset of questions, the entire group of SMEs is brought together with Testing Office staff to meet and talk through each of the questions in the entire bank. During these halcyon days of question review, everyone has some input into every question. Agreement is reached on the wording of every question or the SME is tasked with rewriting the question and presenting it again the following day. When the review is complete, we have an entire bank of questions that are well-written, easy to understand, and most importantly they test what we are teaching. The questions are valid! We can then confidently administer tests from this bank to our students knowing we are giving them a product that truly does what it says it does.



Katrina Mann
Testing Support
Specialist

Importance of Student Feedback

In the Curriculum and Testing Office one of our main focuses is to provide quality exams to our students. As such, the student plays a crucial role in that process by alerting us to any issues that may need to be addressed. My name is Katrina Mann and I am excited to join IFSI as a Test Support Specialist. Upon completion of an exam, after all paperwork has been received back at our office, it is immediately processed and the exam is scored. Included in this paperwork, is an important document, the Student Feedback Form. We encourage each student to complete this form anytime there is a concern or observation regarding an evaluation tool, such as an exam question or performance evaluation checklist. The form can be completed at the end of an exam as so not to interfere with the time allotted for taking one’s exam.

The feedback we receive is extremely valuable in allowing us to review and reinforce a system of checks and balances to assure that course material and exam content are accurate, grammatically correct, and to achieve a standard of excellence that IFSI is known for. IFSI has staff dedicated to ongoing curriculum updates, and collaboration with our subject matter experts to develop new and modify existing curriculum. All of this is enhanced and achieved when we receive feedback direct from our students who are utilizing the end products first hand. Hearing from our students allows us to monitor and assess our work to make sure we meet this goal, to provide the highest quality of training and education. Thank you to all who have provided us feedback.

Good luck on your exams and please don’t hesitate to complete the Student Feedback Form!

From the Campus: Program Reports

Stretching Your Training Budget Dollars

With fire department budgets becoming ever stressed, Chiefs and Training Officers are looking for ways to deliver quality training to their members at a reduced cost. One way to get the most out of your training dollars is to take advantage of the IFSI online courses.

IFSI courses are delivered at a minimal cost and provide the same content and instruction of their traditional classroom counterparts. There are several benefits to taking courses online.

- Courses have easy access, are easy to navigate and understand.
- Students are provided a time frame to complete studies at their own pace within their schedule.
- Most course content is portable so students can take it with them where ever

In the past six months we have had old friends move onto new opportunities and have started to develop new friendships with those that have joined the IFSI family. We welcome three new names to the Curriculum and Testing Office's roster. In November of last year, we welcomed Katrina Mann and Janis Hooper. Their duties focus on the testing side of the house. Please take a minute to read their articles on page 26 to learn more about their roles.

In March, we welcomed Robert Simmons, who supports curriculum projects. As you interact with these new staff members, I can guarantee they will do all they can to assist you in the most professional manner. I have been exceptionally proud of their initiatives. All three new hires have already demonstrated their commitment to ensuring IFSI achieves its mission of "Helping firefighters do their work through

Online Classes

they go (work, travel, home, fire department).

- Reduced travel expenses to attend classes.
- Ability to get entire fire department trained and in many cases certified, in a specific time frame.
- Blended courses where students complete classroom activities online and practicals at their fire department or through IFSI.

Online training is not for the future, it is for the present. The limiting factor most times is that people don't understand the concept. Please visit the Online Learning area of the IFSI website or contact me directly at 217-300-1815.



*Rich Valenta
E-Learning
Program
Director*

Curriculum and Testing

training, education, information, and research."

Lastly, I would like to share about an event held in March that was sponsored by the Curriculum and Testing Office. The "Publisher Showcase" provided the opportunity for Program Directors, Managers, and Lead Instructors to interact with textbook publishers. The publishers presented information about their books and support resources. This pilot event was well received by all that attended and will definitely be scheduled again in the future. This serves as another example of how our program staff keep IFSI course materials current, utilizing the most up-to-date learning resources that the industry has to offer. Efforts such as these help our students succeed in the classroom and on the drill ground.



*Kurt Glosser
Curriculum and
Testing
Department
Director*

Library Updates & Highlights



Dr. Lian Ruan
Head Librarian

Winter Fire School was an occasion of high activity in the IFSI Library as attendees took advantage of extended library hours to access library services and resources as well as shop for IFSI brand t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other products being sold by Stan's Sportsworld. IFSI Librarians were available to provide Winter Fire School students with library orientation information, reference service, and informational materials, making the weekend a great success for library outreach to new users.

Currently the IFSI Library reference and circulation department employs four graduate students from the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Since 2000, the library has employed or provided intern or volunteer positions for 45 students from the UI Graduate School of Library and Information Science. These pre-professional graduate students have, in turn, been an excellent resource for the library.

IFSI Archives projects continue to disseminate important institutional and historical information to people across Illinois and beyond. The Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths Digital Image Collection Database (IFLODD) available on the IFSI website (<http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/library/IFLODD/>) continues to be the most comprehensive database of Illinois firefighters who have died in the line of duty.

IFLODD stats:
869 records
666 incident summaries
443 images
14 oral histories
56,161 web hits since 2007

The Archives has also been an active participant and contributor to the Illinois Digital Environment for Access to Learning and Scholarship (IDEALS) which is the digital repository for University of Illinois research and scholarships (<https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/handle/2142/57>). The IFSI "community" in IDEALS contains 52 key IFSI documents that are available to a wide audience. Documents in our IDEALS collection have been downloaded more than 63,000 times.

The IFSI Archives has also added two new exhibits in Firefighter Memorial Hall in the Learning Resource and Research Center (LRRC). The first is a rotating poster display of the Significant Fires and Emergencies in the Illinois History Collection. These posters detail events such as the Great Chicago Fire, the Our Lady of the Angels Fire, and the Cherry Mine Disaster. The second is a September 11 memorial firefighting helmet created and donated by Tinley Park Firefighter Adam Culbertson. See photo at below left.

To commemorate the 90th Fire College to be held this June, the IFSI Library is creating an historical booklet of the Illinois Fire College. The College was first held in 1925 under the name the First Short Course on Fire Prevention Control and Extinguishment. The IFSI Library collaborated with the University of Illinois and the University of Chicago to digitize the complete proceedings of this historic first event. It is available at: <https://archive.org/details/proceedingsoffir00univ>. Look for the booklet to be released later this year.

If you have an interest in seeing original archival records of IFSI's past, please contact IFSI Archivist and Metadata Librarian David Ehrenhart at ehrenha1@illinois.edu or 217-244-0783 to arrange for a visit to the Archives or just stop by the IFSI Library.



Building Corporate Relations and Developing New Partnerships

To support IFSI, go to www.fsi.illinois.edu and select Giving.

IFSI takes pride in guaranteeing 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.



*Dennis Spice
Director of
Corporate
Relations and
Development*

We salute our Partners for their support during 2013

Titanium level supporters



February 11, 2014 AEC and Holmatro received the Titanium Level Appreciation Award for their support of IFSI Vehicle/Machinery Rescue Training during 2013 by providing Holmatro tools. This is the seventh consecutive year that AEC has provided support to the Institute which has gained the company the Titanium level status, IFSI's highest level of Partner achievement. Shown (L to R) Mark Nixon, AEC Fire Apparatus Sales Manager; Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director; and John Archer, AEC President.



February 11, 2014 The Illinois Propane Education Research Council (IPERC) received the highest appreciation award offered by IFSI for more than seven continuous years of support. IPERC's support has made a very significant impact on the Liquid Propane Gas Training the Institute is able to offer to students. The Titanium Level award was presented in Springfield, Illinois at the Council's quarterly meeting. Shown accepting the award on behalf of Council is Mike Faivre (right), Chairman of IPERC. Royal Mortenson, Director of IFS, presented the award.



February 26, 2014 AMKUS received the Titanium Level Appreciation Award for their support of IFSI Vehicle/Machinery Rescue Training during 2013. This is the seventh consecutive year that AMKUS has provided support to the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in AMKUS headquarters located in Downers Grove, Illinois are: (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Alan Painter, AMKUS Production Manager; and Joe Drennan, IFSI Vehicle/Machinery Rescue Program Manager.



February 26, 2014 EMC and Genesis received a seventh year medallion as a Titanium Level IFSI Award recipient. They have provided seven consecutive years of support to the Institute. Shown (L to R) Joe Drennan, IFSI Vehicle/Machinery Rescue Program Manager; Owen Black, Vice President EMC; Teresa Simon, Owner, EMC; and Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.

We salute our Partners for their support during 2013



On November 25, 2013, Sterling Wealth Management received recognition for support of the IFSI Ag Rescue Training Fund during 2013. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI; Sharon Allen, President of Sterling Wealth Management; Dave Newcomb, IFSI Director of Agricultural Programs.



On December 12, 2013 Akron Brass received recognition for their support of IFSI. Shown in Wooster, Ohio are: (L to R) Rick Singer, Akron Brass, VP, North American Sales; Brian Brauer, IFSI Associate Director; Sean Tillinghast, President, Akron Brass; Dennis Spice, IFSI; and David Durstine, Akron Brass, VP of Marketing.



December 16, 2013 Pekin Insurance received an IFSI 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute's training programs and research. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice; Scott Martin, President Pekin Insurance; Todd Clark, Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer-Property Casualty Pekin Insurance; Eddie Bain, IFSI Program Manager Fire Investigation and Fire Prevention.



December 17, 2013 The Andersons received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award for their support of the Ag Rescue Training Program. Shown The Andersons, Champaign, Operations Crew and Management (L to R): Donald Reinier; Wes Brumfield; Rich Bishop; Bob Parr; Jason Weaver; Dennis Spice, IFSI; Chris Kernahan, The Andersons Operations Manager; Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; Tom Rayburn; Tom Blunier; Craig Halcomb; Kyle Brown.



On December 11, 2013 Draeger received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation at Draeger's headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA are: (L to R) Brian Brauer, IFSI Associate Director; Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Lothar Thielen, Draeger President, Sales & Service, Region North America; and Greg Sesny, Draeger Communications & Sales Marketing Manager Fire Service.



On December 3, 2013 Farm Credit Services received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award for their support of the IFSI Ag Rescue Training Fund. Shown at the award presentation in the Farm Credit Services offices, Mahomet, Illinois are (L to R): Dave Newcomb, IFSI Director of Ag Safety Programs; Rod Stoll, Vice President, Public Relations, Farm Credit Services; and Dennis Spice.



December 30, 2013 GROWMARK received an IFSI Appreciation Award for their support during 2013 of the Ag Rescue Training Fund. Shown: (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Kevin Frye, GROWMARK Safety Services Manager; and Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager.



January 3, 2014 Country Financial received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of the IFSI Ag Rescue Training Program. Shown (L to R) Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; Don Davis, Country Financial Loss Control Supervisor; Eric Vanasdale, Country Financial Senior Loss Control Representative; and Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



January 3, 2014 Illinois Farm Bureau received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of the IFSI Ag Rescue Training Program. Shown (L to R) Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; Peggy Romba, Illinois Farm Bureau Program Manager; and Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



January 8, 2014 Prairie State Bank & Trust received an IFSI Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Ag Rescue Training Program during 2013. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director; Jeff Jacobs, Regional President at Prairie State Bank & Trust; Collen Pihl, Commercial Loan Officer; Kevin Cross, Customer Service Representative; Jordan Engel, Secondary Market Loan Assistant; and Kristie Hayes, Mortgage Lender.



January 8, 2014 Tatman's Towing received an IFSI Appreciation Award for their support of auto extrication training program during 2013. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Jim Hampton, Owner of Tatman's Towing; and Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director.



January 9, 2014 FE Moran Fire Protection received an IFSI Appreciation Award for their continued support during 2013. Shown (L to R) Brad Bone, IFSI Director On Site Firefighting; Craig Arbuckle, FE Moran Fire Protection Inspection Manager; Jeff Keiper, President FE Moran Fire Protection; Jeremy James, FE Moran Fire Protection Designer; and Dennis Spice, IFSI.



January 10, 2014 SABIC Innovative Plastics received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of the IFSI Confined Space Rescue Program. Shown (L to R) Darren Mays SABIC EHS&S Manager; Ryan Reynolds, IFSI Confined Space Program Manager; Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Brian Lockhart, SABIC Site Manager; and Dave Parrott, SABIC EHS&S Specialist and a member of the IFSI Field Staff.



January 13, 2014 Bryant Industries received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the auto extrication training program. Shown at the award presentation at the Bryant Industries office in Danville, Illinois are: (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director; Mike Bryant, CEO, Bryant Industries; Brent Richards, Chief Operating Officer, Bryant Industries.



January 17, 2014 Honeywell Life Safety received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute's training programs. Shown at the award presentation at the System Sensors office in St. Charles, IL (a part of the Honeywell Life Safety group) Dennis Spice, IFSI; Isaac Papier, Honeywell Life Safety Vice President, Industry Relations; Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director.



January 17, 2014 Nicor Gas received an Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute during 2013. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Patrick Whiteside, Nicor Gas Vice President of Business Support; Margi Schiemann, Nicor Gas Director, Infrastructure Programs and Support; and Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director.



January 14, 2014 Global Emergency Products and Pierce received an Appreciation Award for their support during 2013. Shown (L to R) Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director; Mike Mikoola, President & CEO, Global Emergency Products; and Dennis Spice, IFSI.



January 21, 2014 Alexis Fire Equipment Company received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of IFSI training programs during 2013. Shown (L to R) Brian Brauer, IFSI Associate Director; Jeff Morris, President, Alexis Fire Equipment Company; Dennis Spice, IFSI.



January 23, 2014 Paratech received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award for their continued support of the training programs at the Institute. The Institute was honored to present the award to two employees, Phil Rasmussen and Edgar Banks, who have been employed at Paratech for the past 13 years. Top photo (L to R) Hans Frank Normolle, Paratech Chief Sales Officer; Phil Rasmussen, Paratech Engineer; Edgar Banks, Maxiforce (air lift bags) Manager; Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director; and Ken Nielsen, Paratech Chief Operating Officer.



February 6, 2014 Comfort Suites Urbana received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award for their support. Shown at the awards presentation in the hotel lobby are: (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Brian Brauer, IFSI Associate Director; Adam Friedrich, General Manager, Comfort Suites Urbana; and Laura Raney, Sales Manager, Comfort Suites Urbana.



January 27, 2014 MN8 Foxfire received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of training programs. Shown (L to R) Jim Keiken, Deputy Director, IFSI; Doug Oakes, Sales Representative, MN8 Foxfire; Zach Green, President, MN8 Foxfire; Royal Mortenson, Director, IFSI; and Brian Brauer, Associate Director, IFSI.



February 6, 2014 Commerce Bank received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their continued support. Shown (L to R) Sheri Ellenberger, IFSI Chief Financial Officer; Dennis Spice, IFSI; Brian Egeberg, President Champaign Market, Commerce Bank; Tom Whooley, Assistant Vice President, Commercial Banking, Commerce Bank.



February 14, 2014 Motorola Solutions Foundation received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute's training programs. Shown at the award presentation are: Matt Blakely, Director, Motorola Solutions Foundation; and Royal Mortenson, Director, IFSI.

February 14, 2014 US Safety Products received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute's training programs. Shown (L to R) Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director; Ryan Crabtree, President, US Safety Products; and Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director.



January 31, 2014 St. Clair County Farm Bureau received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of the IFSI Ag Rescue Training Program. Shown (L to R) Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; Dave Hankammer, President, St. Clair County Farm Bureau; and Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.

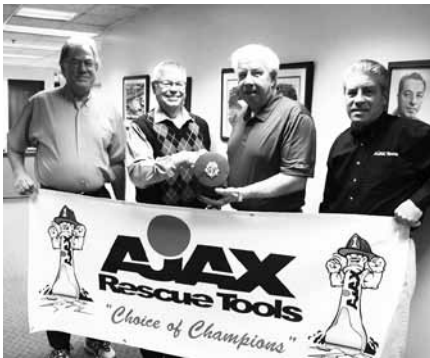


January 31, 2014 Madison County Farm Bureau received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of the IFSI Ag Rescue Training Program. Shown (L to R) Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; Steve Koeller, President, Madison County Farm Bureau; and Dennis Spice, IFSI.



February 19, 2014 Carle Foundation Hospital received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award for their support of the training programs at the Institute. Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development is shown presenting the award to Lynne Barnes, Vice President of Hospital Operations at Carle. Also shown (L to R) Paul Krusell, Carle Emergency Department Nurse; John Sollars, Manager, Arrow Ambulance; Brad Bone, IFSI On Campus Fire Fighting Program Director; and Larry Sapp, Director, Arrow Ambulance.

We salute our Partners for their support during 2013



February 24, 2014 Ajax Tools received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award for their continued support of IFSI training programs. Shown (L to R) Joe Drennan, IFSI Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager; Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Bob Benedict, President and CEO, Ajax Tools; and Bill Benedict, Sales and Product Manager, Ajax Tools.



February 25, 2014 LKQ U PULL IT NORTH received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award for their continued support of the IFSI auto extrication training program. Shown (L to R) Joe Drennan, IFSI Vehicle/Machinery Program Director; Daniel Diaz, Plant Manager; and Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



February 25, 2014 Air One Equipment, Inc. received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute's training programs. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Sandra Frey, President, Air One Equipment; David Frey, Vice President, Air One Equipment; and Joe Drennan, IFSI Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager.



February 27, 2014 WS Darley received an IFSI Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development and Jim Darley, WS Darley National Sales Manager, Fire Pump Division.



March 5, 2014 Task Force Tips received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute's training programs. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development and Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director.



March 4, 2014 Reynolds Towing received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI, Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Susan Jepsen, Chief Financial Officer, Reynolds Towing; Greg Reynolds, President, Reynolds Towing; and Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director.



March 10, 2014 Bullard received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute's training programs. Shown (L-R) Christopher Martorana, Bullard Regional Sales Manager and Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director.



March 10, 2014 the Illinois Fire Store received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute's training programs. Shown receiving the award is Nick Dinges, Vice President, Illinois Fire Store from Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director.



March 11, 2014, First Student received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of the auto extrication training program at the Institute. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Jim Ring, First Student Area General Manager; and John Nichols, IFSI Southwest Illinois Regional Representative.

We salute our Partners for their support during 2013



March 14, 2014, State Farm Insurance received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute's Auto Extrication Training Program. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Tim Magnusson, State Farm Team Manager, Claims; and Joe Drennan, IFSI Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager.



March 18, 2014, the University of Illinois Employees Credit Union received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute's Research program. Shown (L to R) Sharon Allen, UIECU Chairperson; Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director; and EJ Donaghey, UIECU President and CEO.



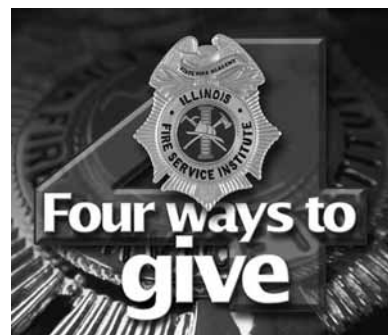
March 19, 2014, Scott Safety received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute's training programs. Shown at the award presentation in the auditorium of the Learning Resource and Research Center at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute are: (L to R) Jim Keiken, Deputy Director, IFSI; Chris Fallon, Zone Manager, Scott Safety; Matt Tandy, Regional Manager, Scott Safety; Trent Smith, Vice President, Americas Sales, Scott Safety; and Royal Mortenson, Director, IFSI.



March 20, 2014, Cook Illinois Corporation received a 2013 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute's Auto Extrication Training Program. Shown (L to R) Joe Drennan, Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager, IFSI; Roger Bannerman, Fleet Manager, Cook Illinois Corporation; and Dennis Spice, IFSI.



March 25, 2014, Brock Grain Systems received an Appreciation Award for their continued support of Grain Bin Rescue Training. Shown (L to R) Dennis Spice, Director of Corporate Relations and Development, IFSI; Greg Guthrie, Plant Manager, Brock Grain Systems; Dave Newcomb, Ag Rescue Program Manager, IFSI; Roger Hollinger, Customer Fulfillment Manager, Brock Grain Systems; Jim Strube, Human Resources Safety Committee, Brock Grain Systems; Darren Zink, Strategic Accounts Manager, Brock Grain Systems.



IFSI is offering four ways to support training and research for Illinois firefighters. Visit the web site under "Giving" to learn how you can help.



Joseph Willi, Junior at the Uofl College of Engineering was the 2013 recipient of the University of Illinois Employees Credit Union and Illinois Fire Service Institute Award for Student Excellence in Furthering Firefighter Life Safety. Willi's Heat Flux Helmet design was the winning project over three other design entries in the competition.

The Heat Flux Helmet project happening at the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will help quantify the thermal environment firefighters are exposed to during live-fire training and how these conditions compare to the building thermocouple readings.

Shown at the award presentation in the IFSI Learning Resource and Research Conference Center are: (L to R) Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director; Dr. Gavin Horn, IFSI Director of Research; Joseph Willi; EJ Donaghey, President, University of Illinois Employees Credit Union; and Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director.

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.



Chief Ed Enright



Chief Bryan Doyle



Chief Tom Shubert



Chief Dave Parrott



Chief James Moore



Chief Craig Haigh

These gentlemen shared the honor in October for the Chief's Conference



Shawn Bloemker



Pat Reynolds



Tom Rushing



Fred McCellan



Tim Bragg



Kent Becker

These gentlemen shared the honor in November

These gentlemen shared the honor in January



Steve Williams
February



Keith "Doc" Patterson
March

Get to know these instructors better at an upcoming IFSI class.

From the Budget and Finance Office

The IFSI Business Office has undergone many changes over the past year. To begin, there were three new hires:

- Sheri Ellenberger – Budget Operations and Finance Coordinator
- Lori Kelso – Human Resource Specialist
- Darce Dillavou – Account Tech

As with all changes in personnel come changes in process and procedures. We are busy identifying internal processes and operations to streamline which will ultimately help IFSI better serve the firefighters in Illinois. This is currently a work in progress. Our plan is to have these changes in place when the new fiscal year begins July 1, 2014.

We are always in search of new grant opportunities to help IFSI provide additional firefighter training for all of our programs, as well as looking for grants that will help expand our newest program for Large Animal Rescue Awareness.

This past year has also seen an expansion of our "Four Ways to Give" program. Be sure to check out this link <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/documents/flyers/Four%20Ways%20to%20Give.pdf>

Any donations to IFSI are processed through the University Foundation and are ultimately distributed to the Institute which uses the donations to further support firefighting training and programs.



Sheri Ellenberger
Business
Operations
Coordinator

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Royal P. Mortenson, *Director*
217/300-0229
rpmort@illinois.edu

Jim Keiken, *Deputy Director*
217/300-4275
jkeiken@illinois.edu

John (Mac) McCastland, *Associate Director*
708/906-6927
jmccastl@illinois.edu

Brian R. Brauer, *Associate Director*
217/333-9027
brbrauer@illinois.edu

Sheri Ellenberger
Business Operations Coordinator
217/300-5831
ellenber@illinois.edu

Terri Hopper, *Director of Class Support*
Executive Assistant to the Director
217/244-7131
hopper@illinois.edu

Sean Burke, *Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs*
217/244-8720
swburke@illinois.edu

REGIONAL/CORNERSTONE REPS

Tim Meister, *East Central Illinois*
217/300-7344
tameiste@illinois.edu

Tim Bragg, *Southern Illinois*
217/300-1817
wtbragg@illinois.edu

John Nichols, *Southwest Illinois*
217/300-1812
jocfd201@illinois.edu

Raymond Palczynski, Jr.
Northwest Illinois
217/300-1805
rpalczyn@illinois.edu

Jim Vaughn, *Central Illinois*
217/300-1809
jrvaugh1@illinois.edu

Randy Schlichter, *Northeast Illinois*
217/300-1813
schlicht@illinois.edu

Richard Stack, *Chicago Metro*
217/300-1814
rstack@illinois.edu

MARKETING

Mary Auth, *Director of Marketing*
217/351-6373
maryauth@illinois.edu

CORPORATE RELATIONS
Dennis Spice, *Director of Corporate Relations and Development*
217/898-6507
dspice@illinois.edu

LIBRARY

Lian Ruan, *Head Librarian*
217/265-6107
lruan@illinois.edu

Diane Richardson, *Reference Librarian*
217/333-8925
dlrichar@illinois.edu

David Ehrenhart,
Archivist/Metadata Librarian
217/244-0783
ehrenha1@illinois.edu

CURRICULUM AND TESTING

Kurt Glosser, *Program Director*
217/265-0582
kglosser@illinois.edu

Robert Simmons, *Curriculum Specialist*
217/300-5795
rsimmons@illinois.edu

Janis Hooper, *Testing Support Specialist*
217/300-1297
hoopr@illinois.edu

Katrina Mann, *Testing Support Specialist*
217/333-9505
kmann8@illinois.edu

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Dr. Gavin Horn, *Research Scientist*
217/265-6563
ghorn@illinois.edu

Dr. Terry von Thaden, *Research Scientist*
217/244-8667
vonthade@illinois.edu

Dr. Steve Petruzzello, *Associate Professor*
217/244-7325
petruzz@illinois.edu

Dr. Denise Smith, *Health and Safety Research*
518/496-7307
dlsmith@illinois.edu

Richard Kesler, *Research Specialist*
217/244-1002
rkesler2@illinois.edu

BUSINESS, INSTRUCTIONAL & STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF

Eric Barnes, *Fire Service Support Specialist*
217/265-0830
ebarnes@illinois.edu

Jodi Beccue, *Program Secretary*
217/244-6674
jbeccue@illinois.edu

Kristy Berbaum, *Program Secretary*
217/244-6185
kberbaum@illinois.edu

Char Cartier, *Financial Coordinator*
217/333-6284
ckmitche@illinois.edu

Ann Jack Haluzak, *HazMat Program Operations Specialist*
217/244-6228
jackhal@illinois.edu

Beth Niswonger, *Business Operations*
217/244-6004
niswonge@illinois.edu

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Tim Lash, *Manager of System Services*
217/244-6910
timlash@illinois.edu

John Boyd
217/333-2163
jgboyd@illinois.edu

Kevin Kessler
217/265-9890
kkessler@illinois.edu

Roger Eveland
217/265-0547
reveland@illinois.edu

CAMPUS SUPPORT

Bob Foster, *Facilities Manager*
217/333-9015
rfoster@illinois.edu

Mark Berg, *Operations Specialist*
217/333-2905
markberg@illinois.edu

ON-SITE OPERATIONS
Tad Schroeder, *Director*
217/333-4215
tjschroe@illinois.edu

Greg Evans
gevans@illinois.edu

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Dave Newcomb, *Program Manager*
217/300-1811
newcomb@illinois.edu

FIRE INVESTIGATION PROGRAM

FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM
Eddie Bain, *Program Director*
217/333-9014
edbain@illinois.edu

INDUSTRY PROGRAM

John (Mac) McCastland, *Chicago Metro Coordinator*
708/906-6927
jmccastl@illinois.edu

Brian R. Brauer, *All other areas*
217/333-9027
brbrauer@illinois.edu

LP, OIL AND GAS PROGRAM

Mark Clapp, *Program Manager*
217/244-7134
clapp@illinois.edu

OFFICER PROGRAM

Lew Lake, *Program Director*
217/300-1808
llake@illinois.edu

ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM

Richard Valenta, *Program Director*
217/300-1815
rvalenta@illinois.edu

WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING PROGRAM

Tom Richter, *Program Manager*
217/300-5407
trichter@illinois.edu

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Lian Ruan, *Director*
217/265-6107
lruan@illinois.edu

FIREFIGHTING PROGRAM

Brad Bone, *On-Campus Program Director*
217/265-9438
bgbone@illinois.edu

Engine Company Operations
Truck Company Operations
Phil DeMik 217/202-4760
demik@illinois.edu

Smoke Divers Program
Jason Demas
217/333-3800
jdemas@illinois.edu

FAST Program
Mike McCastland
217/300-1810
mccastla@illinois.edu

Light & Fight (Champaign Campus)
Tom Rushing
217/333-3800
trushing@illinois.edu

*Fire Apparatus Engineer/
Fire Service Vehicle Operator*
Tal Prendergast
217/333-3800
tprender@illinois.edu

*Courage to be Safe/ National Fallen
Firefighters Foundation Program*
Ralph Webster
217/333-8923
rwebstr@illinois.edu

SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING PROGRAM (SOTP)

Ray Palczynski, *Program Director*
217/300-1805
rpalczyn@illinois.edu

HazMat Program Manager
Chris Downey
217/244-4451
cjdowney@illinois.edu

Confined Space Program Manager
Ryan Reynolds
217/300-1806
rreynlds@illinois.edu

Rope Rescue Program Manager
Mike Woodard
217/300-1816
mwoodard@illinois.edu

Structural Collapse Program Manager
Mike McCastland
217/300-1810
mccastla@illinois.edu

Trench Rescue Program Manager
Heather Moore
217/244-4168
hmoore@illinois.edu

Rapid Intervention Team Rescue Technician
Gary Coney
217/333-3800
sqd2agc@illinois.edu

Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager
Joe Drennan
217/300-1807
jdrennan@illinois.edu

NIMS/ICS Program Director
Joe Gasparich
217/244-4487
jgaspari@illinois.edu

The IFSI Family



Char Carlier, IFSI Coordinator, Financial Operations, received a 2013 IFSI Appreciation Award for her routine giving through payroll deductions at the University of Illinois. Employees are allowed to make payroll deductions to a variety of not for profit organizations and Ms. Carlier has chosen the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute. If you are employed by the University of Illinois, you can learn more about this opportunity to give to IFSI by contacting Sheri Ellenberger at: ellenber@illinois.edu. IFSI Director Royal Mortenson is shown presenting Ms. Carlier her award at the Institute's Champaign office.

IFSI staff in the news

Brian R. Brauer, Associate Director, has been chosen to serve on the Committee on Accreditation for the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board). He is one of 16 members who serve on the committee from across the United States and Canada.

Dr. Terry von Thaden has been appointed to serve as vice chairperson of the U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board's study on Combatting Sexual Assault (CoSA). Dr. von Thaden is a Human Factors Research Scientist with IFSI's Firefighter Life Safety and Research Center.

Dr. Lian Ruan was named Member of the Week of March 31, 2014 by the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL). Lian has been a member of the ACRL since 2000. Dr. Ruan serves as the Illinois Fire Service Institute's (IFSI) Fire Service Library Director and Head Librarian.

New to IFSI

Robert Simmons has joined IFSI as a Curriculum Operations Specialist. He replaces Josh Zimmerman who left to be on the Champaign Fire Department.

Janis Hooper joined IFSI in January to serve as a Testing Support Specialist. Janis concentrates on tests and test banks and maintains ProBoard and OSFM certification for IFSI exams.

Katrina Mann joined IFSI in January to serve as a Testing Support Specialist. Katrina focuses on exam management and support for exam delivery.

Lori Kelso is IFSI's new Human Resources Operations Specialist. Lori came on board in January in the newly-created position.

90th ANNUAL FIRE COLLEGE

Core Classes

Basic Firefighter
Coordinated Fire Attack
Commercial Engine Operations
Pumper Operations
NWCG: G-130/190 Basic Wildland Firefighter
Fire Dynamics in Modern Construction
Fire and Arson Investigation
Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Specialist
Structural Firefighting: Fire Dynamics, Tactics, and Training
Basic and Advanced Auto Extrication
Ag Rescue Techniques

Special Event

Basic Engine Company Operations
Basic Truck Company Operations
First-In Officer

New Leadership Track

Fireground Command for Small Career and Volunteer Departments
Breaking the Mold: Fireground Decision Making
Five Combat Positions for Fireground Chief Officers
The Incident Commander Responsibilities

EMS classes return with top-notch instructors

Bob Page's "Multi-Lead Medics" and "Slap the Cap"
Chris Cook's "Tactical EMS"

Special Operations Training Program

SWMD: Rope Rescue Refresher
SWMD: Structural Collapse Rescue Refresher



Be sure to follow us on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/fsi.illinois.edu

IFSI International Programs

From December 15 - 18, a five-member delegation from the Chinese People Armed Police Forces Academy (CPAPFA) led by Vice President Jinqi Ma visited the Illinois Fire Service Institute and the University. The delegation participated in the Firefighting Roundtable Discussion that has enhanced information exchange and sharing between the two organizations. During the stay, the delegation met Chief Ken Fustin at the Springfield Fire Department and toured the headquarters station. They also met Jose Santiago, Fire Commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department, and William Vogt, District Chief Training Division and other colleagues at the Chicago Fire Academy to learn about firefighting and fire safety training programs in Chicago.

On the last day, they also met Paul Darley, President and CEO of W.S. Darley & Co. and toured the company's headquarters at Itasca. See attached photos.

The IFSI Facts Sheet and the IFSI International Programs brochure (in English and Chinese) are now available at <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/international%20programs/china/>.

In the fall 2013, IFSI received seven visiting scholars from the following organizations: Dongbei University of Finance and Economics, Lanzhou Branch of National Science Library, and Dalian Administrative College. All made donations to the China Endowment Fund, administrated by the UI Foundation.



*Dr. Lian Ruan
International
Programs
Director*

*Dir. Mortenson
and Dr. Ruan
will travel to
China in May
to present
at the INFire
Conference.*



*LEFT. Chinese People Armed
Police Forces Academy Vice
President Jinqi Ma with Jose
Santiago, Chicago Fire Department
Commissioner.*



*RIGHT. Chinese People Armed
Police Forces Academy Vice
President Jinqi Ma with Deputy
Director Jim Keiken at IFSI's Library
and Learning Resource Center.*



*Springfield Fire Department Chief Fustin with
DPAPFA Vice President Jinqi Ma.*



CPAPFA Delegation at W.S. Darley company with president and CEO Paul Darley.



Illinois Fire Service Institute
11 Gerty Drive
Champaign, IL 61820



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New formats
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Friday Night Guest speaker
Registration begins April 7
Low early registration fees
No lab fees

ILLINOIS

90th Annual Fire College
June 5 - 9
Champaign, IL



New formats
More choices
Flexible schedules
Friday night guest speaker

Classes on page 38
Details at
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