

University of Delaware Emergency Care Unit

Special Interest Articles

New MDT to be purchased for UD-1

NCEMSF Conference coming up

Sanitation Special



Spring Sirens!

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful winter and is well rested and ready to go for our spring semester. The new E-board has already started working on plans for this semester and promises that it will be a good one! The E-board sat down together and came up with many goals for this semester and will be working hard to make sure that UDECU achieves them together. Co-Coordinator, Charles Mitchell says, "I hope this semester is a

chance for UDECU to grow stronger and work as a team to accomplish our mission through training, riding, and social activities." Some activities that have already been proposed for this semester include, numerous trainings at the Solar House, a UDECU sponsored blood drive, intramural sports teams, as well as new groups such as a media and historical committee. Getting back to our mission statement to "protect against casualty

and loss of life, and to provide emergency medical care to all persons on the University of Delaware campus and neighboring communities." Hopefully this semester we will be able to make this happen!

Individual Highlights

NCEMSF	2
Sanitation	3
MDT	4

Polar Bear Plunge

An exciting event that was attended by many UDECU members this winter was the Polar Bear Plunge. Fourteen members attended the Lewes Polar Bear plunge in Rehoboth, DE to benefit the Special Olympics. Departing from the Solar House on Saturday February 2, we filled 4 cars with gas and we began our hour and a half journey south.

Upon arriving in Rehoboth, we stopped for a delicious steak dinner at The Roadhouse restaurant. We

reached the hotel and checked in soon after that and then had a fun filled night of UDECU bonding.

After waking up rather early on Sunday morning, and eating the continental breakfast at the Best Western Hotel (which left many of us still hungry), we made our way to the beach. Since we arrived early, we had some time to play Frisbee on the beach and walk up and down the boardwalk. When it was time to get down to

business we met with Gary Camaglia, the man in charge of coordinating volunteers before donning the fluorescent vests and forming a line on the beach. The participants were eager and plunged a minute before it was supposed to begin. We had no exciting saves this year at the Plunge but we did help a mother find her daughter who had been lost during the plunge,

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"Fourteen members attended the Lewes Polar Bear Plunge in Rehoboth DE."

Plunge cont...



Being that UDECU made up the majority of the security at the event, Camaglia was very happy to have us there.

After the main plunge, a second plunge for those that staffed the event was set up. UDECU's Ted Briggs and Public Safety's Senior Assistant Director, Captain Grimes participated in the

plunge. Ted ran all the way into the water far enough to give the divers positioned in the water for safety a high five! Once Ted was dry and some of the other volunteers had finished trying to convince more of us to enter the water we headed back to our cars and made our way back to Newark.

Overall, the trip went really well and we hope to have an even larger group go next year.

NCEMSF Conference Feb. 29-March 2

The National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation is set to have its 15th annual conference! It will be held in Pennsylvania and campus EMS personnel from Pennsylvania area schools will help to coordinate this year's event. This is a great opportunity for UDECU members to learn a lot more about EMS in general and to make contacts with people from other

collegiate EMS squads. The fun begins on Friday February 29th with check-in, the skills competition, and a welcome social. Activities on Saturday include lectures, the Student Speaker Competition, and the Recruitment Fair. And the fun will end on Sunday with more lectures. We hope that this event will be informative and educational for all the UDECU members

attending.

Please remember that the important meetings for those attending the conference will be held on February 26 and February 27 both at 9 PM at the Solar House. For more information on the conference you can visit the website: <http://www.ncemsf.org/about/conf2008/> or contact Kristen Fantel or Sarah Esherick

Safety through Sanitation

The occurrence of, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) has increased significantly over the past few years, and UD-1 had its first case last semester. Because of this, it is extremely important that we take safety precautions to ensure that this resistant bacterium does not have its first case in a UDECU member or in a patient that has been on UD-1! Alumni Steve Snow took cultures from numerous places in the bay as well as in the living room and on the ambulance that he expected might test positive for bacteria. His results were surprising. There was no growth at all on the stretcher in UD-1 or other apparatus such as the Reeves stretcher which was good news because these are things that we clean regularly after using. However, the door handles and countertops in UD-1 as well as the keyboards for the computers in the family room all tested positive for MRSA. In addition, the steering wheel of UD-1 also tested positive for Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE), which is another bacterium resistant to



antibiotics. Snow stated at the general membership meeting this month that although these results are surprising, the findings might be worse in other ambulance companies. This means that we are doing a good job cleaning the equipment we use, but now we need to focus on other areas as well.

Therefore Snow suggests that it is extremely important that we continue the decontaminating procedures that we are engaging in and perhaps be even more thorough. It is essential that we wear gloves when having patient contact and to be sure to change gloves at any chance that they might have been contaminated. Also thorough hand washing is essential in keeping clean. Hopefully we can all remember this and keep UD-1 and the solar house clean!



MDT in the works for UD-1

UDECU has been working with Aetna so that we can get an MDT to put in UD-1. MDT stands for Mobile Data Terminal and it shows the location of a call, has a Global Positioning System, as well as Incident Information. In order to get an MDT for UD-1 we had to find a laptop that we could program with the information that it needs. The laptop that Aetna provided for us

unfortunately did not work; therefore we are experiencing a minor setback in the process. Because of this issue, we will have to purchase a laptop that will work with the programs that need to be installed on it. Sarah Esherrick has taken charge of this process, and she stated at the February general membership meeting that the cost of getting a new laptop and installing the programs will be around \$4800. However,

before we can do this, we need to hear about what make and model of laptop that we will need. Hopefully we will have the MDT on UD-1 this semester!