



From the Director's Desk

It is hard for me to believe it has been a full year since I took over as your Director. Time has gone by quickly as I learned about how we do our mission, who we are, and how I can contribute. Since my update in the spring 2013 newsletter I have continued my efforts to listen to the fire service in Illinois and to our instructors with the single-minded goal of ensuring IFSI has the highest quality training, education, research and information services in the nation. With the help of Illinois fire service leadership and the dedicated staff of the institute we have moved forward in positive ways in multiple areas.

1. Curriculum Review. In November of 2012 we began a yearlong effort to review, update and standardize the entire curriculum for IFSI classes and courses. This was, and is, no small undertaking. We are, in fact, "changing the wheels of the bus while it is moving." As of this writing, the hard work of instructors (subject matter experts), our Curriculum and Testing (C&T) Department, the Deputy and the new Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs, has resulted in 77 of our 169 courses being fully updated. Another 43 are in C&T for review and 49 are due into C&T by 1 November. This effort will pay dividends for years to come and will be completed by 31 December 2013.

2. Re-organization. In November 2012, after two months of analysis, we reorganized the staff and staff functions to make us more efficient and build accountability in to how we are organized. We created the Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs position and hired Chief Jim Keiken, consolidating ALL firefighting programs under his position. We re-organized the Business, Budget and Finance (BB&F) office making it stronger and deeper. We hired Sheri Ellenberger as the new Business Operations Coordinator and under her leadership, the BB&F office is excelling. (A special thank you to a long-time friend of IFSI—Marcia Miller—for her coming back on a part-time basis to help with the BB&F reorganization and training effort).

3. Training and Education. We have completed the development of and now offer eight-hour technician-level refresher training blocks for all SOTP disciplines. Additionally, we have added new courses:

- Large Animal Rescue Awareness
- IS 100 and 700
- Grain Bin Rescue Technician

- All Hazards Position-Specific Liaison Officer

- NFFF: Courage to be Safe and Leadership, Accountability, Culture, and Knowledge

- Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training

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 will expand from four to five off-site deliveries of Explorer/Cadet training this year while maintaining the June Explorer/Cadet weekend.

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

- Our relationship with the Chicago Fire Department 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, IAAI.

- We had another successful Fire College in June—the 89th in our history. I have initiated an internal strategic review of Fire College to ensure it remains fresh and connected to the needs of the fire service.

- And we continue to work with OSFM to ensure our courses are connected to the state certification process, as well as working 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 working group. The mission of this group of IFSI instructors is:

"Create a 'cradle-to-grave' fire service leadership development/decision-making training and education continuum that has consistent themes, priorities, and lines of education in order to institutionalize the highest quality leadership in the fire service for the state of Illinois."



Royal P. Mortenson
Director

continued on page 4

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Royal P. Mortenson

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

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

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

Persons interested in furnishing articles should forward materials to: IFSI Newsletter, 11 Gerty Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 or email information to Terri Hopper at hopper@illinois.edu. 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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Want your own copy of the IFSI newsletter?

Ask to be added to the mailing list by email to Terri Hopper (hopper@illinois.edu)

OR

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

In 1925 the IFSI history began with the first annual fire college. That training event had 219 participants. In FY12 we delivered training to 65,143 students. Obviously the number of training events, the number of participants in IFSI training events, and the number of training topics has grown significantly since 1925. However, with that growth, we did not always institutionally standardize the delivery and content of our training materials.

A large portion of our courses have always had fully-developed curriculum packages. Most are upper level courses, such as the Basic Firefighter Academy, Fire Officer Class series and the Special Operations Training Program group of courses. Over the last ten months, a great deal of time, thought and work has been devoted to the standardization of the entire IFSI curriculum. This endeavor included not only the review of established upper-level courses, but the lower level (One to 16-hour Cornerstone field classes), and special events like Fire College and Winter Fire School.

What will soon be a 12-month project has rewarded many of us with a sense of professional achievement that will benefit our instructors and students. It has also nurtured a few headaches and moments of frustration. Whatever the emotion, the root cause was usually triggered by not understanding why an existing good program must be placed in a different format or because the process of starting from scratch to standardize a single course or class was daunting.

I cannot promise that challenges do not remain before us as we move to the final months of the curriculum project; however, I can provide a listing of some of the benefits that make all the work and the varied personal experiences worthwhile.

In November 2012, Director Mortenson issued the following directive. It entails a three-step process with a completion date of no later than November 2013:

1. Each IFSI class will have a deadline to be completed by the Program Directors/Managers and returned to Curriculum for checking.
2. If there are minor errors, the Curriculum staff will make corrections. If there are major errors, the curriculum will be returned to the Program Director or Program Manager for rework.
3. Once the PD/PM and Curriculum staff have signed off on the product, it goes to the Deputy Director for approval.

The following bullet points reflect some of the benefits and reasons for the standardization of the curriculum of our 169 courses.

- Consistency of currency, quality, ease of delivery, and format, regardless of instructor or region.
- Consistency of Tactics/Techniques/Procedures [TTPs] taught across different classes/courses.
- Ease of use—the same content is in the same place in each lesson plan in each course.
- Institutionalize quality: our “brand.”
- Makes updating and maintenance of curriculum easier.
- Accessibility of IFSI curriculum for instructors and staff.
- Maximize content sharing and use among instructors and programs.
- Reduce preparation time by providing developed curriculum to IFSI Instructors.
- Increase training effectiveness by institutionalizing best practices.
- Organizational ownership of training materials.
- Documentation of what we do:
 - ✓ Individual documentation of training standards
 - ✓ Liability
 - ✓ Department training questions
- Third-party evaluations
 - ✓ Homeland security approval
 - ✓ College credit
 - ✓ Pro-Board
 - ✓ EMS continuing education approval
 - ✓ NFA endorsement
 - ✓ OSFM
- Second-order effects are:
 - ✓ Clear lines of responsibility and accountability for each class/course.
 - ✓ Subject Matter Expert (SME) ownership of curriculum.
 - ✓ Increased instructor/SME understanding of curriculum and its importance in training and education.

The newsletter venue simply does not provide the space to share all the history and critical support decisions and activities that have gotten us to the current curriculum standardization project. I can state with the certainty of experience that we have made and continue to make giant strides in the improvement of our curriculum. The benefits identified above have already been realized.

News Notes



*Roger Lunt
Deputy Director*

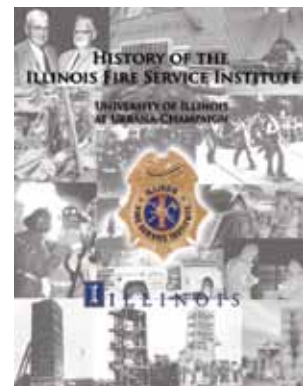


Table Talk



Mac
McCastland
Associate
Director

Time to bond with the “magic machine” and talk to the Illinois Fire Service, since this whole article writing “thing” began, most of my material has been grant related, but this time a different theme.

If someone accused you of being firefighter, would there be enough evidence to convict you? Does that seem like a reasonable question to ask of yourself? When you join the fire department the only ones who know why you are there is YOU & GOD!! In time – a very short time – your true colors will show. There is no gray area to being a firefighter; it is black and white. You either love it or you don’t. What brought you to the Fire Service? Many folks will give a purely political – I call BS – answer that they want to help mankind. I feel that in reality, those that are good in this business, come for the challenge, the satisfaction that comes from facing an enemy that only knows death and destruction – and when you face it and beat it, the feeling is great. If you learn the trade of firefighting and apply it, then mankind will benefit.

What are some key points that will be brought to bear as evidence? What was your COMMITMENT? It takes time to learn the craft of the fire fight, time to embrace the profession, time to know other members of the Company/Department. You must accept the fact that you are always going to be acquiring knowledge and training to hone your skills. And are you committed to accepting the ultimate question the profession may ask: “are you ready to give your life”?

How about COURAGE? To be all that is expected of those who wear the Maltese Cross – “to be worn by the bravest” – the reliance on those who work with you and their

reliance on you. We work as a team and, most of the time, the acts that are performed on the fireground are accomplished because we know the rest of the companies are doing their jobs. If we do not believe that, in our hearts, we can’t make that leap into that black hole of search, rescue and aggressive firefighting. Did you have the courage to be the person that the school kid saw when he/she looked at you, to be the hero they needed at their worst hour? Did you have the courage to do what is right and moral – “what is done in peace will be done in combat.”

Were you HONORABLE? Did you embrace the tradition of the Fire Service which is the essence of the human spirit which is passed from generation to generation? Did you relish the pride of being a part of a small elite group that is set aside by training and mission? Were you dedicated to not only act, but to give back to a profession that gave you so much. Could you be trusted to perform?

The jury realizes that you did not create the Fire Service and you had no right to discredit or embarrass it. Did you accept that each day you stood under the watchful eyes of all who have gone before, with the responsibility to:

Honor the community you served,

Respect those you served with,

Never forget the family at home – they will see you through the difficult times?

And as we have been instructed “leave the place a little better for the next generation.”

The jury is out, but the verdict will be announced a lot quicker than you may think!

Well that should bring us to the time to strike it out, so stay SMART. Yes SMART, we always do unsafe things, so stay SMART!!

Put the coffee pot on and let’s talk.

MAC

Director’s Message continued from page 1

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. We are expanding the Professional Development Program for our instructors, working Step-1 learning design for all courses, 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 fire ground.

6. Training and research funds. We have solidified the IFSI Ag Fund, IFSI Training Fund, and the IFSI Research Fund as ways in which

Why China? 为什么中国?

I have the opportunity to give many tours of our training facility. Burn buildings and TRT prop, collapsed buildings, cut-up cars, turned over tractors, and other IFSI Training Center features, including the new Learning Resource and Research Center (LRRC). There are always comments from the groups visiting IFSI that they are impressed with the props we offer, and that the facility is impressive. Typically we wrap up the tour in the Memorial Hall in the LRRC, and I include a mention of our library and our extensive relationships with agencies and universities in China. This always leads to the question: Why China?

In the late 1800s, Chinese peasants created the "Boxers," a secret society that practiced martial arts that resembled boxing. These groups began killing Christian missionaries and Chinese Christians, and eventually proclaimed that all foreigners should be killed. These battles eventually spilled into the streets of Peking (now Beijing), and Russia, Germany, France, Great Britain, Japan, and the U.S. sent troops to subdue the uprising. Following the Boxer Rebellion, China was fined war reparations and ordered to repay the suppressing forces.

In 1906, Edmund J. James, President of the University of Illinois, lobbied U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt to use a portion of the reparations paid to the U.S. to set up a fund that led to the establishment of a school in Peking to prepare Chinese students to study in the U.S., a scholarship program that

allowed these students to travel from China to the U.S. to study, and later (1911) led to the creation of Tsinghua University, China's flagship university. Later Great Britain asked that some of their reparation funding be earmarked for a similar purpose.

In modern times, these research collaborations allow us to learn how firefighters are being trained in China. On a visit to research a new relationship last fall, I had the opportunity to experience a virtual reality simulator that was unlike any training available in the U.S. I stood on a mat in the middle of a semi-circle of screens, and on the screens was an oil refinery fire. I used a gloved and instrumented-hand to move resources to fight the fire, and the computer simulation responded based on my actions. It was like the simulations we see at trade shows and training centers in the U.S., but the immersive and comprehensive experience of being IN the emergency, not just in front of the emergency, was a unique educational experience.

It is collaborations like this – seeking to take the best of our training for firefighters in the U.S. and share with fire trainers from other countries – that allow us all to be more aware of our training and tactical options, and to learn from each other. While the fire is the same fire we fight in Illinois, the tactics and training, as well as department make ups, can teach us a lot about how to do our jobs more effectively. And it all started with a peasant uprising 11 decades ago.



Brian R. Brauer
Associate
Director

people and organizations can contribute to training and research in the Illinois fire service.

We have done much more but space is limited here. 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. We have much to be proud of. We have much to do. I am 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Royal P. Mortenson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Royal P. Mortenson
Director

Firefighting Programs



*Jim Keiken
Assistant
Director for
Fire Fighting
Program*

AN INTRODUCTION

Hello my name is Jim Keiken and I am the new Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute. I have been in the Fire Service the past 33+ years – beginning my career as a volunteer EMT in Lodi WI and part of a rural, small town EMS service. In 1980 I was hired by the Janesville WI fire department and spent the next ten years there. I worked first as a Firefighter then as a Firefighter/paramedic.

In 1990, I was hired by the Madison WI Fire Department initially as a firefighter. Later that same year I was reassigned as part of the “Level A” Hazardous Material team and was also activated as a paramedic. I was a paramedic instructor and lead instructor for Rockford Memorial Hospital EMS program. After four years I became the EMS coordinator for Beloit Memorial Hospital in Beloit, WI.

In 1996, I moved to the Madison Fire Department’s training division as a Training Officer and Fire Lieutenant. In training, I later became the lead instructor for recruit training. When not running recruit academies, I oversaw and delivered the department’s EMT continuing education as well as delivery of other department’s fire training programs.

In 2002, I was promoted to Division Fire Chief responsible for grants, planning technology, as well as west side stations. In 2004 and for the next eight years, I was the Assistant Chief responsible for Personnel, Planning and Training. The department grew to 389 commissioned and non-commissioned personnel. I became the second in command of the department in 2006 and worked closely with the Chief on all department issues.

In 2012, I was reassigned to the Assistant Fire Chief for Operations and Administration and oversaw emergency operations for 12 stations (78 daily staffing) and 398 personnel until my recent retirement on June 2, 2013.

As the IFSI Assistant Director I oversee all firefighting related programs including:

- Fire Investigation
- Fire Prevention
- Wildland Firefighting
- Firefighting
 - o Smoke Divers
 - o FAST
 - o Engine Operations
 - o Truck Operations

- o Fire Apparatus Engineer
- o Light & Fights
- Fire Officer
- Region Reps
- Agriculture Rescue
- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Programs

I am working closely with Deputy Director Lunt on a number of projects including updating all firefighting programs curricula, firefighting policy and procedures and specification of various training props. My main task will be overseeing all on- and off-site firefighting programs to assure that every class has what it needs to guarantee the highest quality programs for responders as well as assure effective communication between IFSI staff and leadership.

I have begun traveling the state with each IFSI regional representative to meet local chiefs and training officers and to learn about the unique needs each area have, as well as specifics on the programs IFSI delivers throughout Illinois. I recently spent some time in the Chicago metro area and on the opposite end of the state traveling through southern Illinois visiting departments as well as the July Coal Belt Association meeting. It was a great experience both personally and professionally and I look forward to spending time in every region of the state attending classes and fire service meeting on a regular basis.

I am very excited to have this wonderful opportunity to be part of IFSI’s team and the chance to work with the cadre of staff and world-renowned instructors. I also look forward to the prospect and the chance to be part of the exciting future here at IFSI.

If there is ever anything I can help you with or if you would like me to visit your department or attend an area association or county/department meeting please feel free to contact me at IFSI.

jkeiken@illinois.edu



Annual Fire College

This year's annual Fire College was another success. Thank you to all who attended and also those who worked the event. You are the ones who make it happen. As we plan for next year, we hope to expand the course list with some new topics and possibly some one-day workshops for those who cannot get away for more than a day. Stay tuned for more details.

Explorer's Conference

The Explorer Conference was attended by 231 students and 97 adults. They had great weather this year and with the exception of one storm passing through on Friday, the weekend went off without a hitch. The new Cadet Officer track was well received by those who attended. I plan to make some modifications to that class to include a little more live burn time for next year. I highly recommend this class for those of you who have been attending for more than three years. At some point in time it is your responsibility to begin to prepare yourself as a leader instead of just coming to have fun. Once again, we are all grateful to Larry Matkitas and the Office of the State Fire Marshal for securing the grant to support the conference. Tuition was more than \$100 less than last year and we look forward to the same for next year.

What is happening on campus?

For the first time in more than two years Engine Company Operations and Truck Company Operations are on the calendar! Be sure to check for the dates on our website. Jason Demas is the Program Manager for Engine Company Operations and Phil Demik is the Program Manager for Truck Company Operations. All three of us are excited about getting these classes back on the calendar, but they will only stay on if you sign up. These two classes are great for any rank.

The OSFM Basic Firefighter/NFPA Firefighter I Fall Academy is full! The curriculum was updated and the course extended to seven weeks to include: NIMS 100/700, Technical Rescue Awareness, Hazardous Materials Awareness, Fire Service Vehicle Operator (classroom portion only), and Courage to Be Safe. This course has also received some grant funding assistance. As a result of the generosity of the Motorola Foundation, a portion of each student's tuition is covered by the grant reducing the cost from \$3,000 to \$2,100. Motorola has approved the grant for the 2014 spring and fall classes so next year's Academy students will get a break as well.

Hope to see you next year at one of our on campus classes!



*Brad Bone
On Campus
Firefighting
Program
Director*

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports



Greetings from the Northwest Territory. The region is ripe with training opportunities heading into the early fall. There is an increasing demand for the Courage to Be Safe

program, which is good. If you are not on my email mailing list and want to be please send me an email at rpalczyn@illinois.edu and I'll add you to my list. Feel free to share what I send you with any other agency that might be interested.

Recently I had several departments with questions about what to do with the paperwork you receive from IFSI when processing your Cornerstone class requests. You will receive two copies of the same document. One is for your records and the other needs to be signed and returned to IFSI at your earliest convenience. Once the signed copies are received at the institute, your class can be posted on

Northwest Region

the website enabling online preregistration. Preregistering for any class is always preferred. While we do allow walk-in students in Cornerstone classes, preregistering is always the best way to go. We absolutely need you to have your registration form signed by you – the student – and your designated department representative (Chief or Training Officer). If both signatures are not in place by virtue of the online preregistration or in writing on a paper form you will not be allowed to participate in the class. All this takes is a little preplanning and preparation.

If you are interested in hosting a class please let me know and we'll line it up!



*Ray Palczynski
Cornerstone
Northwest
Region*

To get on Ray's list for the latest lineup of classes in the Northwest Region, email Ray at rpalczyn@illinois.edu

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

East Central Region



Tim Meister
Cornerstone
East Central
Region

The East Central Illinois Cornerstone training calendar is filling up. Numerous fire departments are taking advantage of the free training opportunities. The following are a few of the classes that already scheduled: Clinton – Live Acquired House Burn (October 26), MABAS 28 – Live Acquired House Burn (October 26), Normal – Thermal Imaging Camera class (December 3, 4, 5). These trainings are open to all firefighters throughout Illinois, so please feel free to attend. Registrations are available on the IFSI website.

If you are interested in scheduling a Cornerstone class please contact your regional rep in your area or go to the IFSI website and fill out a Cornerstone request for training form. Please keep in mind when hosting a Cornerstone class there are a few requirements that must be met. First of all, please allow 30 days between your initial request and the 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.



All request forms are located on the IFSI website. Click Cornerstone under the Programs tab and follow links to Forms above the Regional map.

Northeast Region



Randy
Schlichter
Cornerstone
Northeast
Region

Greetings from the land up north.

Once again, the Cherry Valley FPD will host three, **no cost** live fire “Light & Fights”

October 19, 2013

March 29, 2014

May 3, 2014

The classes will be held at the Cherry Valley Regional Training Center (RTC) 4919 Blackhawk Road Rockford Ill. To register call Sue at 815-332-5382.

New: The Huntley FPD will host two FREE 8-hour “Grain Bin Rescue” classes in February. Yes, February. The classes will be held inside Huntley’s Annex building at 1118 E Main St. Huntley, IL. This location off I-90 & Rt. 47 should accommodate multiple MABAS Divisions.

Watch for dates and times on my monthly Cornerstone flyer and the IFSI web page.

To sign up for my monthly flyer, contact me at schlicht@illinois.edu.

Be Safe
Randy



From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Keep Goin' South

Southern Region

We are going strong in the South Region – requesting and furnishing Cornerstone classes that meet firefighter's needs.

Asst. Firefighting Director Jim Keiken and I took a two-day trip down in the South Region on August 1 and 2. We stopped at 16 different fire departments visiting with Fire Chiefs, Training Officers and firefighters. The trip crossed 12 different counties and went from southwest to southeast Illinois. We also attended a Coal Belt Association meeting with 26 different fire departments represented. During the trip, we talked to many great people and had some good suggestions on how to serve southern Illinois firefighters better.

All of the following future classes have "open seats"

Oct. 21-25	Command & General Staff for Local IMTs	Newton
Oct. 25-27	ICS 300	Oakland
Nov. 2	Effingham/MABAS 54 Fall Fire School	Effingham/TBA
Nov. 9-10	ICS 400	Oakland
Nov. 12	Building Construction	Benton FD
Nov. 16	Firefighter Rescue & Survival	Fairfield Rural FD
Nov. 16	RIT-Theory, Tools & Implementation	Fairfield Rural FD
Jan. 6-8	ICS 300	Mattoon SBLHC
Jan. 18 & 19	NFA Decision Making for Initial Company Operations	Shumway FPD
March 15 & 16	NFA Decision Making for Initial Company Operations	Olney FD
March 22	Large Vehicle Extrication	Fairfield Rural FD
April 5	Light & Fight	Effingham FD
April 26	Light & Fight	Carbondale FD



*Tim Bragg
Cornerstone
South
Region*



The South Region is still putting together Fire Officer Classes for folks wanting and needing them. These are great classes designed to help "soon to be officers" or officers already in grade to become better fire officers. Please make a request if your department would like to host a Fire Officer Class.

If you would like me to attend your 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 wbragg@illinois.edu.

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From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Southwest Region



*John Nichols
Southwest
Regional
Representative*

Hello everyone from the Southwest Region. Cornerstone classes have been held throughout the region and attended very well by firefighters.

A recent highlight was a vehicle firefighting class held in Fairmont City on August 3. More than 30 firefighters from Fairmont City, State Park, Church Road and Prairie Du Pont Fire Departments attended the event. I extend a very big thanks to Chief Bob Allen from Fairmont City FD and his men for hosting the class and providing a great lunch.

Coming in early spring is a one-day Bond County Fire School in Greenville, IL. I will

share more information as I get it. It is not too late to apply for a Cornerstone class for your department. These classes are available at no cost, with the only requirement is at least 15 students attending. If you need any assistance with applying for a class, or have any questions, do not hesitate to call me at 618-973-2059. I would be more than happy to assist you in setting up the class you request.

There are classes going on constantly in the area, so if you would like to be on the email list of classes sent out each month, please send me your email at jocfd201@illinois.edu.



Central Region



*Jim Vaughn
Cornerstone
Central
Region*

As the summer activities wind down and we look into fall and winter, don't forget to take advantage of all the training opportunities that are available for the IFSI Central Region.

The new fiscal year started on July 1 and I have funds available to provide your department with the Cornerstone training that you want. For scheduling classes, I offer a few tips to facilitate the process.

- The earlier that you request your classes, the better. This gives us more time to identify and schedule an instructor that best fits your department's training class needs, and ensures that funds are more likely to be available.



- From the date that you schedule a class with your instructor, IFSI staff needs a minimum of four weeks to process the paperwork and get the class up on the website for other departments to see.
- Once you schedule a class, you will be sent a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that you will need to sign and return to IFSI. IFSI cannot hold the class without this paperwork being submitted.

IFSI has tremendous training opportunities available through the Cornerstone Program that can be hosted for your department at no cost. Please don't hesitate to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities.

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Hello from the Chicago Metro Area.

Summer is over and it is the perfect time for your department to schedule a Cornerstone class. Recently we had a forcible entry class in Glen Ellyn and were fortunate to have a door prop from a neighboring department to use. We had 25 students attending from four different departments and a great day of training. (see photos below)

There are a few classes coming up for those who are looking to get some of the required certifications for Advanced and Basic Firefighter completed:

Technical Rescue Awareness - Winfield on November 11 and 12. 6pm – 10 pm each night. The state test will be held on the second night.

Courage To Be Safe - West Chicago on November 14. 6pm to 10pm.

Fire Service Vehicle Operator - West Chicago on December 11 and 12. 6pm to 10pm

Chicago Metro Region

each night. The state test will be held on the second night.

To register for Cornerstone classes go to IFSI web site www.fsi.illinois.edu on the top of the page look for the tab titled Programs. That will open a drop down window. Find the word Cornerstone and click on it. The next screen you will see is where you can find a list of all the Cornerstone classes, the request forms for Cornerstone classes, and a list of all the Regional Representatives.

Please reach out to your Regional Representative and take advantage of this great program. We are here to serve you and your department's needs. Hope to see you soon!

Train like your life depends on it - because it does!

Thanks
Rich Stack



*Rich Stack
Chicago Metro
Regional
Representative*



From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports



Ray Palczynski
SOTP Program
Director

The buzz in the Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials Response Training world is that through March 2014 the tuition fees are being waived for any firefighter who wants to take a technical rescue or hazardous materials training class. In 2012, the Federal Government changed the restrictions on how sub-grantees could spend grant funds on training first responders. This change is why IFSI is able to offer the SWMD Hazmat and Technical Rescue core courses to all firefighters, independent of team status, and cover the class tuition for non-rostered team members. It should be understood that the IFSI classes that appear on the calendar or website, must be filled before any consideration will be given to a requests to host a class site.

The classes available include the following:
SWMD Response: Confined Space Operations
SWMD Response: Confined Space Technician
SWMD Response: Hazardous Materials Operations
SWMD Response: Hazardous Materials Technician A
SWMD Response: Hazardous Materials Technician B
SWMD Response: Rope Rescue Operations
SWMD Response: Rope Rescue Technician
SWMD Response: Structural Collapse Operations
SWMD Response: Structural Collapse Technician
SWMD Response: Trench Rescue Operations
SWMD Response: Trench Rescue Technician

The main intent of this effort is to fill all the seats in the classes that are already scheduled. We are not necessarily looking to add new classes to the calendar; however, if the current classes fill and funds are available additional classes may be considered.

As with any TRT course offering, we will only deliver a class at a site that can support the training.

1. We have opened the already scheduled TRT courses that are on the calendar (between now and March 2014) to first respond-

ers (not rostered on a team) minus the tuition fee. Filling those courses to capacity is our first priority.

2. Based on instructor, calendar day and resource availability, we will consider requests for additional TRT/HazMat Operations and Technician 40-hour course deliveries.

3. We will not grant every request.

4. Seat priority will always go to a rostered team member first. MABAS team training is our first priority!

5. We will monitor our 2011 and 2012 grant funds to ensure we don't over extend. We have to ensure we execute the courses that are already on the calendar.

I hope this helps clear up any confusion surrounding the tuition free TRT and HazMat training available. As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Special Operations Training Program: SOTP

As part of an effort to pair leaders with class responsibilities and oversight, IFSI has designated individuals to oversee certain classes. A listing of those individuals responsible for each program area is shown on page 29.

SWMD Refresher Training

Beginning in October, members of state deployable teams or those who have completed technician-level training (documented by IFSI records) will be able to enroll in "hand-on skills" refresher training for SWMD Response classes. Students can choose which hands-on skills they would like to "refresh" and will work at selected regional training centers or approved sites under the guidance of IFSI instructors. Through this program, students have access to tools and equipment to review technician-level objectives. Selections will be offered in eight-hour increments and require a commitment of a minimum 15 students per session, with a maximum of 30. Complete details and "request for training forms" can be found on the IFSI web site.

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

Through the help and donation of ABS pellets from SABIC Innovative Plastics in Ottawa, IL we have constructed an engulfment training prop on site at IFSI. This prop features approximately three feet of inert ABS pellets that are about the size of a pencil lead. This prop allows for us to replicate engulfment scenarios that require students to actually work in and extricate victims from a somewhat dynamic, yet controlled environment. These pellets can simulate any kind of dry bulk inert material such as sugar, pellets, flour, salt, and grain. A variety of hazardous materials scenarios can also easily be replicated. These engulfment drills have recently been added to the Confined Space Technician program.

A special thank you to field staff instructor Dave Parrott and SABIC Innovative Plastics in Ottawa, IL for the help, delivery, and donation of these ABS pellets, which made this prop enhancement possible.



Confined Space Rescue



*Ryan Reynolds
Confined Space
Program
Manager*

With fall approaching and the weather turning colder, the ability for you rope gurus to work on keeping your skills up sometimes goes on the back burner until spring. It has been my experience that rope rescue is not always utilized when the weather is not warm and sunny. One that comes to mind is auto accidents with victims on an icy hillside. This is one of the most common occurrences where a little help with some rope and basic rigging and a rescue litter can effectively be utilized to expedite the removal of the victim to safety and ensure the safety of the rescuers.

On those cold days, tying knots and setting up rigging is hard on your hands and can also be hard on equipment. Your ability to grip the rope, keep good footing and just keep track of equipment are all harder. Slippery hill sides, icy conditions, and – worst case scenario – freezing rain that can affect the ability of equipment to grip or equipment to stick or freeze open or closed can be extremely dangerous. Going out in the cold at the station and setting up equipment in the cold quickly can be a sobering experience. Wet software, when used under load after

Rope Rescue Program

becoming wet and frozen, can be significantly damaged and should be retired. Hardware that gets wet should be cleaned, dried and lubricated with white mineral oil before being placed back in service. We need to remember and understand the importance of properly working equipment, not just for the rescuer but for the individuals being rescued. Be proud of your skills, you worked hard to get there. And as always keep your rigging safe.



“Rope Rescue Technician Field Rope Operation Guide” can be ordered from IFSI for \$75. The proceeds from the book go into IFSI’s Fire Fighting Fund.



*Mike Woodard
Rope Rescue
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports



*Chris Downey
HazMat
Program
Manager*

Hazardous Materials

The hottest ticket in town: Hazmat Operations. Since OSFM added the requirement of Hazmat Ops to the Firefighter Basic certification, our requests for Hazmat Ops classes have at least doubled. We try to honor as many requests as our funding and resources will allow, but with the overwhelming amount we have received we are beginning to prioritize. The two main criteria we are using to prioritize classes are location and number of attendees. Essentially, a host who doesn't

have another Ops class in their area AND has a minimum of 20 students committed, will get first priority. Remember, the MINIMUM number of students needed is 20, with a maximum of 30. Another important factor is the prerequisite of Hazmat Awareness. IFSI has determined this course is needed prior to Hazmat Ops. Please ensure that your Hazmat Ops student has met the prerequisite of Hazmat Awareness. HazMat Awareness is available online through the IFSI web site.

The change by OSFM is most certainly a good thing. What we are doing is essentially putting more Hazmat Ops trained personnel out on the street. We are more than happy to work with a host to make a Hazmat Ops class a reality for their region.

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



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

NIMS Training

The Command and General Staff Class is designed to give students operational knowledge of the Incident Command System and the development of incident action plans. The students in the class were from several different disciplines including emergency management, law enforcement, firefighters, public health, private industry, and public works. The class was conducted in the lower level of IFSI's Library Learning and Research Center (LLRC) in the classrooms specifically designed for NIMS/ICS training.

Students in the Command and General Staff class benefit from a diverse group of students from various disciplines. This helps students understand how responders can work together under a standardized system to solve complex problems through the use of the Incident Command System.

Upcoming ICS and Command & General Staff Classes:

Command & General Staff, Newton, October 21-25
Command & General Staff, Rochelle, November 18-22
Command & General Staff, Springfield, December 16-20
ICS 300, Springfield, November 1-2
ICS 400, Galva, November 9-10
ICS 400, Springfield, December 7-8
ICS 300, Mattoon, January 6-8
Command & General Staff, Edwardsville, January 6-10



Instructor Matt Bryan assists students how to construct an ICS chart on a ICS 207 form.



Instructor Tim Bragg assists students in preparing the Operational Planning Worksheet. The sheet allows students to place resources in an incident for effectiveness and efficiency

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

Add another acronym to your vocabulary: PTOI (Professional Tow Operators of Illinois). I have had the opportunity of working with a couple of PTOI members teaching the IDOT Traffic Incident Management (TIM) class, and realize that the towing and recovery industry has been an underutilized asset for the Illinois fire service. How many departments have responded to a motor vehicle accident to find that they do not have the stabilization equipment needed to stabilize, support or even reach a purchase point to begin disentanglement?

Consider contacting the Tow and Recovery Operators within your jurisdictions and see how they may assist you at an incident. Speak to your local police agencies to see who they use and recommend. Building relationships with these professionals has several advantages.

Flatbed tow trucks may be utilized to provide a platform to safely stand on when you have high access points. Depending on the type and size of vehicle, your local operators may be used in supporting and/or stabilizing a vehicle or vehicles. But keep

Vehicle/Machinery

in mind, especially when soliciting the assistance of a medium- or heavy-duty tow truck, are the operators properly trained, and in some cases certified and experienced? With the proper understanding of your rescue situation, the tow truck can be sure to bring out the right piece of equipment and not delay disentanglement, extrication and removal of victims to a medical facility.

Upcoming classes at the institute aimed at the volunteer and paid-on-call departments:

Weekend Vehicle/Machinery Operations class October 26-27 and November 2-3.

Weekend Vehicle/Machinery Technician class November 9-10 and 16-17.

Go to the IFSI web site for more details and to register.

As always, be careful safe and have a great day.



*Joe Drennan
Vehicle/
Machinery
Rescue
Program*

As fall is upon us, the Collapse Program is underway. Since holding the first class in 2001, we have trained thousands of rescuers and held them to the same national standards year after year. This consistency is important as it ensures compatibility among the rescue teams, allowing them to work together both cohesively and safely. We continuously look for ways to improve the curriculum, taking

Structural Collapse

“real-life” situations and incorporating them into the program.

These classes offer hands-on, lifelike experiences, including a bridge collapse simulator and an elevator shaft to the Technician pile, in addition to a number of props to further challenge and develop rescue skills. This fall we will be delivering two Operations classes and three Technician classes to members of the Chicago Fire Department and MABAS.

The new schedule for 2014, including an early spring class at the Frankfort RTC, should be out shortly and unfortunately next year there will be fewer classes. If you're interested in attending, please register soon to secure your spot. We hope to see you there.



*Mike McCastland
Structural
Collapse
Program
Manager*



From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports



Heather Moore
Trench Rescue
Program
Manager

Trench Rescue

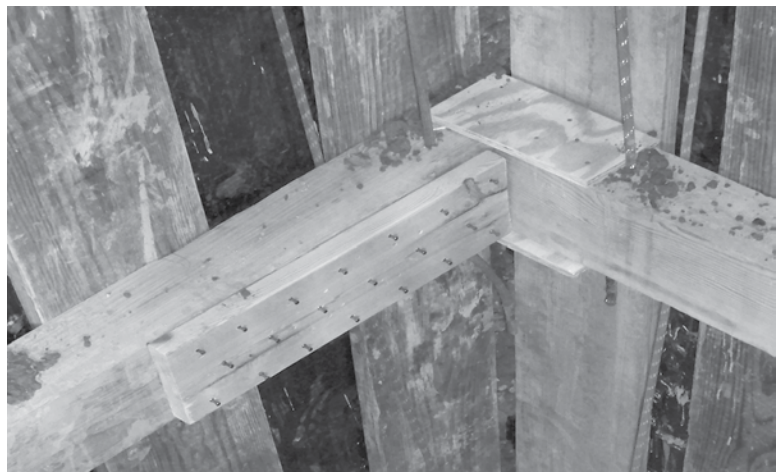
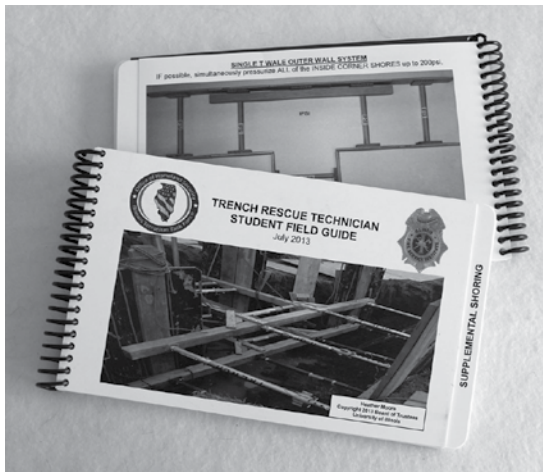
IFSI has updated and released its Trench Rescue Technician Student Field Guide (TFOG). Originally introduced in 2012, the updated version has more comprehensive photographs and diagrams.

The handy pocket-size guide was developed by IFSI instructor Heather Moore. The TFOG features Incident Command and Technical Rescue Ops check list, step-by-step intersecting trench shoring diagrams, manufacturer's tabulated data, and OSHA interpretation reference material. A new

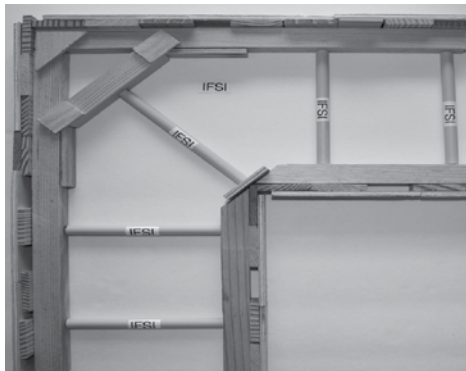
section in the TFOG includes updated timber shoring and end wall shoring tabulated data from California State Fire Training.

The book is used as part of IFSI Special Operations Training Program's Trench Rescue Technician classes. The book includes fully-illustrated with easy-to-follow photographs and diagrams of shoring systems critical to successful rescue operations, including "T" Wale System, "L" Cantilever System, "L" Horizontal Raker System, and the "L" Cantilever with Corner Strut System.

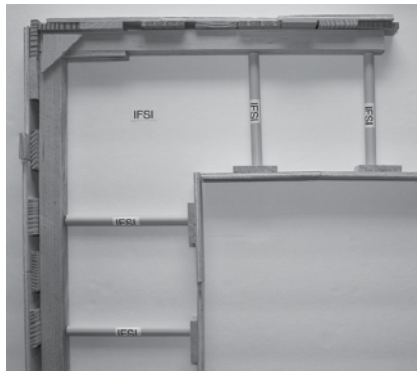
The book can be ordered for \$75 from IFSI's web site: www.fsi.illinois.edu.



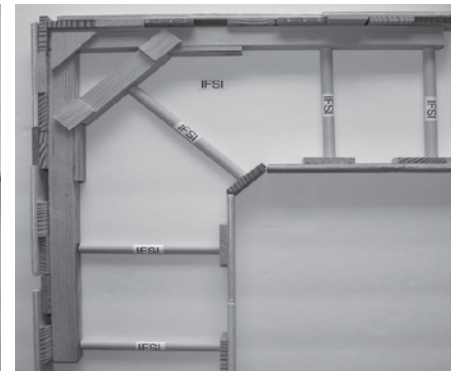
L Cantilever Corner Connection



Horizontal raking



L cantilever



L cantilever with corner strut



T shoring

AN INTRODUCTION

Gary Coney is the new Program Manager for RIT Under Fire.

I have been on staff with IFSI since 2000 and am in my 18th year serving on the Chicago Fire Department as a Relief Lieutenant in the 5th District. Prior to the promotion, I served at Squad Co 2 and Truck Co 15, giving me insight to firefighter rescues. Having served in two Chicago area suburban departments, I also understand the difficulties of limited manpower and resources for effective rescues.

The RIT Under Fire program takes the basics of Rapid Intervention Team firefighter

R.I.T. Under Fire

rescue and pushes them to a new level. All the basics are reviewed and then used under live fire and smoke conditions. Students are tasked to overcome various objectives and are forced to continuously reevaluate their progress.

With Maydays being called more frequently, the demand for successful Rapid Intervention Team concepts has risen. IFSI is responding to this need by adding more RIT Under Fire classes for 2014. This class is popular and fills quickly. Watch the IFSI web site for upcoming classes. In the meantime, you can contact me at sqd2agc@illinois.edu.



Gary Coney
RIT Under Fire
Program
Manager

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs

The Fire Attack Suppression Techniques (FAST) program is still alive and well and living at IFSI!

For those of you not familiar with the class, FAST has been taught since the early 1980s. (More on its history and fire service iconic leaders, past and present, in the next newsletter.) FAST was designed to help firefighters leverage what was learned at the academy and take those basic skills to the next level by becoming more proficient at those tasks, and doing them more easily and confidently to allow a more “out of the box” thought process.

We not only use the IFSI burn buildings, but we also use acquired structures to allow

more realistic and hands-on training scenarios. With manpower down within the fire service, this class is a “must have” to enhance your firefighting ability and allow you to learn ways to do more with less. Class will be held in the spring of 2014 and it will fill up quickly. If you’re interested, please register before it’s too late.

This year’s spring class was a full class, with a number of students on the waiting list. I’d like to send a big “shout out” to the Evanston Fire department who sent 12 students to this class. Thanks for your commitment! FAST also went international by having a student attend from Ontario, Canada.

Stay Safe
Mike McCastland



Mike McCastland
FAST
Program
Manager

Smoke Divers – we got your back

2013 was a great year for the Smoke Divers program. The 2013 spring class was full, with a waiting list. Due to the dedication of the staff, the students on the waiting list were able to attend by extending the allotted enrollment numbers. This year, the program also saw some changes to both the curriculum and staff.

After almost 30 years of involvement with the smoke divers program, Hugh Stott passed the torch off to the next generation of instructors. Hugh has impacted hundreds, if not thousands of past smoke divers, and his lessons will be passed on to the future smoke divers as the program continues to move forward.

The Smoke Divers curriculum was transformed into the new curriculum standard set forth by the curriculum office, this standard will allow for all the drills and lesson plans to follow a standard format. The curriculum process took a lot of man hours to complete. The next step for the program is to the move toward a blended training environment, incorporating an online component and allowing for more time with hands-on skills.

As Smoke Divers moves into 2014, we are looking at holding off-site classes. The goal is to find a training site that can deliver the same environment as the IFSI campus. If you are interested in hosting any type of SCBA class at your department please feel to contact Jason Demas at jdemas@illinois.edu or 217/333-3800.



Jason Demas
Smoke Divers
Program
Manager

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs



*Tal Prendergast
FAE/FSVO
Program
Manager*

Fire Apparatus Engineer Program

We have revised the format of the Fire Apparatus Engineer Online course to have more personal interaction between the students and instructors. This “blended” approach allows the students to have the flexibility of an online course that they are looking for, while the hands-on sessions allow for the personal interaction that is necessary to teach the more difficult class content. Students are now only required to come to IFSI’s main campus for three Saturdays to complete the practical sessions. The third Saturday is the OSFM exam and final OSFM practical. So far, the student feedback has been positive for the new format.

The new blended format is designed with both career and volunteer firefighters. For

career departments, budgets are being cut, making it more difficult to afford the expenses of sending personnel to a two-week class. The practical sessions are single days, therefore saving on travel expenses. For volunteer departments, it is difficult for volunteer personnel to take two weeks off of their regular job to take a class for their Fire Department. The practical days are scheduled on Saturdays to allow volunteer personnel to attend without interfering with the normal workweek.

The next FAE Online class will begin in the first quarter of 2014. For more information visit the course information website:

If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact me, tprender@illinois.edu.

AN INTRODUCTION

Greetings one and all!

I would like to introduce myself as the Program Manager for Truck Company Operations here at the Illinois Fire Service Institute. I have been with the institute since 1999, working in several programs including Tactics and Strategy, Saving Our Own, Vertical Rope Rescue, and a few stints in the Basic Officer/First in Officer Programs.

My professional background includes 24 years in the fire service, beginning with the Evergreen Park Fire Department. I recently started my 23rd year as a career firefighter with the City of Naperville.

The dates for the 2013 Truck Operations Class are October 21 through 24. I’m also looking forward to getting re-acquainted with the staff along with the vision and expectations of Director Mortenson.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to drop me a line.

Phil De Mik
Truck Company Operations
Program Manager

217/202-4760
demik@illinois.edu



*Phil DeMik
Truck Company
Operations
Program
Manager*



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

This year’s Light and Fight season was very rewarding, not only to IFSI, but also to the 271 firefighters that enrolled in these one-day classes that were offered on three Saturdays during the first six months of this year. This training was developed to work on the fundamental firefighting skills such as search, hose advancement, ladders, SCBAs and many other coordinated fire attack objectives.

There is one more date on the fall schedule at IFSI: November 2

If you or any one on your department would like to sign up for Light and Fights, please check the IFSI web site for dates and submit your request to participate.

Tom Rushing
Light & Fight / Tower Burn
Program Manager
trushing@illinois.edu

From the Campus: Program Reports

As we move in to our fall program for Fire Officer, I keep hearing a common theme amongst many of the firefighters we train. The common theme is "I really need these classes to get promoted." Back in "the day" fire officer classes may or may not have played a critical role of making oneself promotable.

Fortunately, today we have set higher standards and greater expectations for our officers. Training AND education have become absolutely necessary in the evolution of today's company and chief officers. We have all heard that our jobs have changed over the last 25 years. Fires burn hotter, buildings

Fire Officer Program

deteriorate faster, etc...etc... Hopefully we can all agree that along with these changes we have seen greater demands placed on our officers to become a *student of the fire service*. Being a student of the fire service, education and training, along with a strong commitment and determination will lead you in the right path of becoming promotable. What's your plan?

Fire Officer I and II classes take place this fall in Carol Stream as well as on campus at IFSI.



Lew Lake
Fire Officer
Program
Director



Oil and gas sometimes lumped together as the same because they are in the hydrocarbon family. Well, it's a big family. Like the fire service family, we have our way of doing things that sometime shows our individual thoughts and traits from where we have come and what we have done. Hydrocarbon family has its own individuals, which need to be known.

Propane, one of the lighter products in the family to crude oil heavy, they each have properties and characteristics that make them unique, we cannot treat our family all the same. We need to learn each one as an individual so we can manage the problems that may occur. This may take time, and IFSI is here to help. Simply contact Mark Clapp at Clapp@illinois.edu or visit the IFSI website calendar and look for Propane Classes. Live burn training is occurring all over the state, if you do not see one near you consider hosting

LP Gas / Oil Well

a class. Classes are covered under a grant from the Illinois Propane Education and Research Council (IPERC).

Also, look out for an Oil Well Class coming this fall to the Salem Regional training site in Salem, IL. Class is covered with supporting funds from the Illinois Petroleum Resources Board. Tank batteries are covered as well as live burn training with crude oil.

Remember, that a happy family is one we know but, sometimes, we need to know them better.

Propane Gas Training:
Shelbyville, October 16; Raymond, October 28; Spring Grove, October 30; Staunton, November 18.



Mark Clapp
Propane/Oil
Well
Program
Manager

From the Campus: Program Reports



*Dave Newcomb
Ag Rescue
Program
Manager*

Agricultural Rescue

Greetings. It has been a busy summer. We had another successful Fire College with 30 students working on different agricultural-related rescue scenarios. A new corn head was put into service during Fire College as a training prop. Another new addition – a mower – is being adapted for PTO related emergencies.

Demand and delivery of Grain Bin classes are on the rise with a rash of entrapments in Illinois recently. Sadly, as of July, we have had 20 known entrapments and nine fatalities, which surpassed the number of entrap-

ments and deaths occurring nationwide in all of 2012. Illinois is once again leading the way in the number of entrapments. This is very discouraging! The common cause in these entrapments is people entering the bins to dislodge out-of-condition grain while leaving the unloading augers running.

The Grain Bin Program has been expanded to include Awareness, an Operations component incorporated in the Confined Space Operations class and an eight-hour Grain Bin Technician class.

Thanks again to all who have sponsored a class in your area this year. Stay safe and always look out for each other.



*Tom Richter
Wildland
Program
Manager*

Wildland

This has been an especially tough year in the wildland community. We lost 19 firefighters at the Yarnell Hill fire near Prescott, Arizona and then three more in Oregon during July and August. One of those Arizona fatalities was one of our own from Lake County. The really scary part is that the loss in Arizona came about due to the same environmental factors that we face here in the state of Illinois: light flashy fuels, and the alignment of wind and terrain. Frankly it makes me sick to my stomach every time we lose someone in a circumstance that could have been avoided. I know there are a lot of fire service disciplines and training needs in every regard, but responding

to wildland fires is something fundamental in this state and almost every department and district is engaged in these operations from large city to small rural towns. Please, please, please take heed in these situations, they are life threatening and far from ordinary.

If you are unfamiliar with the basics of dealing with these scenarios or you need a refresher regarding the fundamentals of small engine tactics or urban interface fire operations, get in touch with us. We can assist you in being better prepared to respond to your field and ground cover fires. The very last thing I want to do is attend another firefighter funeral...especially one that we could have avoided through training and preparation.

Basic Wildland training will begin in earnest in October and will continue through December – beginning again in February through May. If those dates do not meet your needs, get in touch and I will schedule something that will meet your schedule. So check out the IFSI website under programs, click WILDLAND and find a location and date to make your next response safe and proficient. YOUR LIFE IS WORTH IT!!

As always, stay calm, think clearly, act decisively.

Someone placed an IFSI t-shirt at the Granite Mountain Hotshot Memorial in Prescott AZ.



From the Campus: Program Reports

I've always made an effort to deliver the Fire and Arson Investigation classes at different locations around the state – keeping in mind the areas of high demand and available resources have played an important role in the class site selections. The investigation classes depend heavily on a host department to support the class with significant help necessary to ensure a quality learning experience for the students. The host department is responsible for a large classroom, all electronic presentation needs, fire suppression support, a site to conduct burn cell demonstrations, a structure in which to conduct “room and content” fires and vehicles to burn for class activities. While many departments want to have the classes held at their location they are unable to fully support the class needs. Those departments that are able to host the classes usually find the experience as helpful and supportive to their training needs and overall public safety mission.

Beginning in February 2014 two complete series of the “Fire and Arson Investigation” classes (Modules 1, 2 & 3) will begin simultaneously in the southern and north/central areas of the state. These series are also



Investigation/Prevention

planned for the weekends to provide the more flexible schedule that has become popular among departments statewide. The north/central location is at the Washington Fire Department just east of Peoria. The southern location is at the St. Louis Airport along with co-host Cahokia Fire Department.

Three additional Monday through Friday full series of the fire investigation programs are also scheduled for 2014.

Details and registration information for these and other fire investigation classes will appear on the web site this fall. Please register early to help us make necessary business decisions and to ensure seats are available for you. Contact me at edbain@illinois.edu if you have questions about the program or need additional information about these classes.



*Eddie Bain
Fire Investigation
Fire Prevention
Program Director*



Arson Investigation Scholarship created

The William (Bill) R. Glover Arson Investigation Scholarship – an annual \$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



*Rich Valenta
E-Learning
Program
Director*

Online Classes

Illinois Fire Service Institute Firefighter Basic Certification Courses

Last spring the IFSI resident Fire Academy delivered at the IFSI training campus made a significant change and added an extra week to provide students with a mechanism to take the required courses for Firefighter Basic Certification.

For those students wishing to obtain certification by taking the online Firefighter Basic course we have provided a quick access page on the IFSI website to obtain information and register for required courses in addition to the Firefighter Basic three modules.

Courses are delivered in the traditional or online format. We have also provided links to courses from the United States Fire Administration (NFA) and National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) on our web site.

If you have any questions, you will find course contact information under the ONLINE LEARNING TAB and click OVERVIEW, then select FIREFIGHTER BASIC CERTIFICATION COURSES. Your IFSI Regional Rep-

resentative can also provide you with course information. See page 9 for regional map.

IFSI Firefighter Basic Courses: Firefighter Basic

Online Course (Delivered in module format)

Fire Service Vehicle Operator

Classroom Course

Online Course

Hazardous Materials First Responder (Operations)

Classroom Course

Technical Rescue Awareness

Classroom Course

Online Delivery

NIMS 100

FEMA Course

NIMS 700

IFSI Course

FEMA Course

Courage to be Safe

IFSI Courage To Be Safe

NFFF Courage To Be Safe



*Kurt Glosser
Curriculum and
Testing
Department
Director*

Curriculum and Testing

I would be remiss in this newsletter edition if I didn't acknowledge all of those that have and continue to work hard towards reaching IFSI's goal of having complete curriculum packages for all its classes by the end of 2013.

In the past nine months we have seen every program here at IFSI connect with the Curriculum and Testing Office (C & T). More than 60 courses have been completed through the numerous hours and persistence shown by the Program Directors, Managers, and their Course Designers, (lead instructors that have demonstrated subject matter expertise and the ability to develop course materials). Also, thanks to the knowledge, skill, and patience

of the full and part-time staff of C & T for their continued support of this effort.

It is clear to see IFSI has a good understanding of this basic formula for producing the best training experience possible. It has invested heavily in the past few months in these essentials components. There is still much work to do as we strive for constant improvement and prepare for the future, but we all understand that this work of identifying the, "what we teach" is critical in establishing a solid foundation.

With the end goal in site, these development teams look towards the numerous benefits of their labor. Learning outcomes focused on changing on the job performance, higher retention rates, and improved efficiency of student contact hours, are just a few benefits. These dedicated professionals hope you notice their efforts during the next IFSI class you attend. Please, take the time to share your observations; they take pride in each course delivery, ensuring it has met your professional development expectations.

**Quality Curriculum +
Quality Instructors +
Quality Facilities, Equipment, & Props =
High Quality Training**

From the Campus: Program Reports

The Illinois Fire Service Institute Firefighter Life Safety Research Center (FFLSRC) continues to develop relationships with other fire service research institutions across the country to help expand our ability to improve the health, safety, and effectiveness of firefighters. As a result, students at the University of Illinois have been involved in some of the most interesting research on firefighter equipment and tactics at the UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute (FSRI) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Fire Fighting Technology Group.

Jack Regan, a junior in Civil Engineering, Joey Willi, a junior in General Engineering and Nick Traina, a PhD student in Mechanical Engineering have assisted with setting up experiments, analyzing data and translating research into tactical consideration over the past year. Jack and Nick have worked with Steve Kerber at UL FSRI on various projects ranging from the recently released Vertical Ventilation study and current projects involving attic fires and standard fire test development.

Joey received a prestigious Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship to work with Dan Madrzykowski at NIST, where he spent the summer focused on testing the thermal properties of polycarbonate firefighter PPE. In addition to being students at the University,

Research

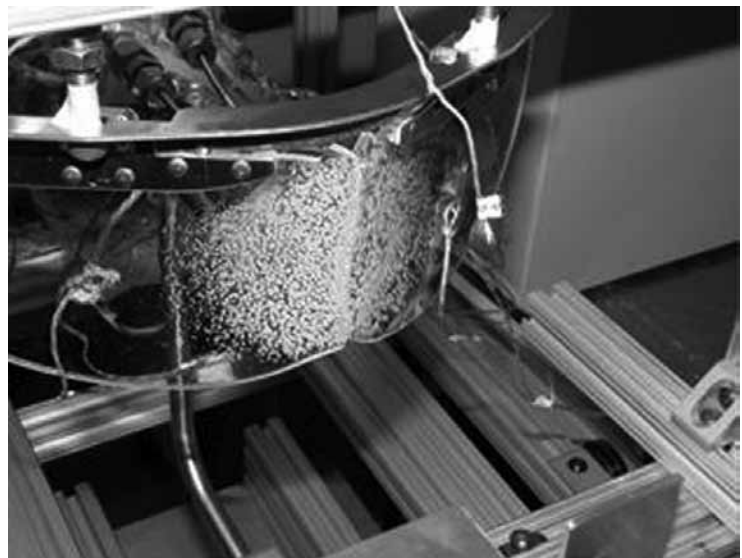
Joey and Jack are both volunteer firefighters with Edge-Scott Fire Protection District.

While their research will go a long way to understanding the effects of firefighter tactics on the fireground environment and risk of damage to firefighter equipment, they have also brought this critical knowledge home to IFSI so that we can share it with our instructors and firefighters throughout the state. For example, at IFSI's Annual Fire College in June, professionals from UL, IFSI, NIST, and FDNY taught a packed classroom about their research and tactical implications that each firefighter could bring home and consider with their home department. We have also incorporated this information in a broad range of courses at IFSI to bring this science to the streets.

The FFLSRC is always available to help Illinois Firefighters learn about this research. For more information on the projects mentioned above and the other great research conducted by these partners, please check out UL FSRI's new website at: <http://ulfirefightersafety.com/> and NIST's site: <http://www.nist.gov/fire/>.



*Gavin Horn, PhD
Research
Department
Director*



This summer, Jack Regan worked with UL to study exterior fire spread into attic spaces (left), while Joey Willi conducted experiments at NIST on the thermal properties of polycarbonate firefighter PPE (right).

Building Corporate Relations and Developing New Partnerships



Dennis Spice
Director of
Corporate
Relations and
Development

Three funds are now available for online giving.

The IFSI Fund is a general use fund which allows the institute to provide and enhance training across the full spectrum of first responder needs.

The Firefighter Life Safety Research Fund is an endowment which is used to support firefighter life safety study and research.

The Ag Rescue Training Fund is also an endowment which is used to support the various Ag Rescue courses at the Institute.

You can play an important role in delivering training and building safer communities by becoming an IFSI Partner.

Go to our web site at: www.fsi.illinois.edu and click on the **GIVING** button and choose the program you would like to support at IFSI. You will receive step by step instructions on how to donate to the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute by credit card.

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 and Development at 217-898-6507 or by email at dspice@illinois.edu.

William (Bill) R. Glover Arson Investigation Scholarship created

Ms. Susan Glover, wife of Bill Glover, created the William (Bill) R. Glover Arson Investigation Scholarship to honor her late husband who spent his entire career in arson investigation. A \$200 annual scholarship will be awarded to a downstate Illinois volunteer firefighter. Contact Dennis Spice at 217-898-6507 or by email at: dspice@illinois.edu or Eddie Bain at 217-333-9014 or by email at edbain@illinois.edu for more information about this scholarship.

“Snowy Rapid Oxidation Learning Event MMXIV” AKA Winter Fire School 2014



Eddie Bain
Winter Fire
School Director

As I'm writing this article it's almost 90 degrees outside. It seems a little crazy to plan for Winter Fire School. But before you know it, IFSI's 19th annual Winter Fire School will soon be here. The dates next year are January 25 and 26, 2014. There's a foundational registration change coming for the program. Many of you have been asking if it would be possible to sign up for specific classes when you register and not just hope there is room in the class when you arrive. This time for registration you will be able to prioritize the six classes available and then receive a confirmation before the event indicating which three classes you can attend. This is the same process used for IFSI Fire College and will help you better plan the training weekend. This will also allow you to print your class specific certificates for your training records. The process will also help me better assign classroom space to each class session.

Finalized class topics include: Fire Behavior & Smoke, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, Wildland-Small Engine Tactics

& Operations, Strategy & Tactics and a fifth class still to be determined. The sixth class is a new offering that will be taught by instructors from the Illinois Police Training Institute. Many incidents to which the fire service responds (i.e. medicals, vehicle accidents, rescues and fires) often involve issues that require law enforcement support. While local SOPs usually dictate how to specifically handle such events, this class will provide some general guidance that will support your activities and help ensure your safety. The class is designed for firefighters, officers and other emergency responders who may find themselves in the middle of a fight, dealing with a weapon from a patient or victim, discovering any type or assortment of contraband or otherwise just needing direct law enforcement support. I don't yet have a name chosen for the class but you'll know it when you see it on the web site. There will also be a bonus presentation on Saturday evening.

So enjoy the warm, beautiful weather but save the date (25 - 26 January, 2014) for Winter Fire School. Watch for details and registration information on the web site around November 1.

We salute our Partners for their support during 2012



MSA receives an Appreciation Award for their support of IFSI during 2012. Shown (L to R): Jason Traynor, MSA Product Group Manager, Respiratory Protection; Brian Brauer, IFSI Associate Director; and Tom Vetras, MSA Director, North America First Responder Sales.



Streamlight receives an Appreciation Award for their support of IFSI Firefighting Training Programs during 2012. Pictured (L to R) Brad Bone, IFSI Associate Director; Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director; and Aaron Freund, Streamlight Territory Sales Manager.



University of Illinois Employees Credit Union (UIECU) receives an Appreciation Award for their support of IFSI Fire Protection Engineering Program and Research during 2012. (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations; Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director; Sharon Allen, UIECU Board Chairperson; and EJ Donaghey, UIECU President.



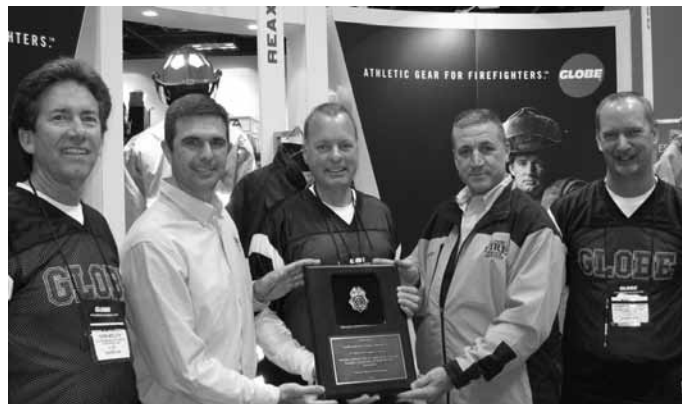
Caterpillar receives the Titanium Level Appreciation Award for their support of IFSI Firefighter Training during 2012. This is the fifth consecutive year that Caterpillar has provided support to the institute which has gained the company the Titanium level status, IFSI's highest level of Partner achievement. Shown (L to R) Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director; Scott Kelso, Facility Security Manager at the Caterpillar East Peoria Plant; Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Chuck Lauss, Fire Chief, Pinkerton Government Services, Inc.



Akron Brass receives an Appreciation Award for their support of IFSI during 2012. District Manager; Brian Brauer, IFSI Associate Director; Tom Hudak, Akron Brass President; Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director; Rick Singer, Akron Brass VP North American Sales.



Draeger receives an Appreciation Award for their support of the IFSI during 2012. (L to R) Lothar Thielen, President, Sales & Service, Region North America; and Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director.



Globe Manufacturing Company receives an Appreciation Award for their support of the IFSI Research program during 2012. (L to R) Don Welch, Globe President; Dr. Gavin Horn, IFSI Director of Research; Rob Reese, Globe Senior Vice President, Marketing; Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director; Chris Moelker, Globe Regional Sales Manager.

Library Updates & Highlights



Dr. Lian Ruan
Head Librarian

Grant Award: Recently IFSI was awarded a grant to further our mission.

The *Back to Books* grant allowed the IFSI Library to purchase DVD library materials focusing on firefighting skills training. Twenty-nine DVDs were purchased and are available at the IFSI Library or via interlibrary loan through public libraries throughout Illinois.

A partial list of the DVDs purchased with the grant:

Essentials of Fire Fighting Skills Video Series: four-DVD set that features 192 clips to coincide with the 6th edition of the *Essentials of Fire Fighting and Fire Department Operations*.

Fire Attack (2nd ed.): six-DVD set that gives firefighters a solid understanding of fire behavior and equips them with proven attack strategies and techniques, including the following: successful scene management, positive-pressure ventilation, recognizing defensive conditions, and effective search operations.

Fire Officer I DVD Series: seven-DVD set designed and referenced to meet NFPA 1021 (*Standard for Fire Officer I Professional Qualifications*, 2003 edition).

Ground Ladders: DVD presents common-sense approaches to quickly and safely placing and adjusting ground ladders, as well as ways to operate on ground ladders more safely and effectively.

HAZMAT Response DVD Series: seven-DVD set that comprehensively and sequentially reflects NFPA 472. The series also includes Awareness Level information about terrorism and weapons of mass destruction as it relates to the fire service.

Hazardous Materials Awareness DVD Series: two-DVD set teaches to NFPA 472.

Pride & Ownership: A Firefighter's Love of the Job – Full Day Seminar: two-DVD set consisting of a seminar on instilling pride and ownership in the fire service. Offers upfront criticism on the need to reignite the love of the job at every level from chief down to the probationary firefighter.

Contact the library at 217/333-8921, fsi@library.illinois.edu, or place a web request at <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/library/search/> to borrow these DVDs and other library materials.

Public Outreach – here and abroad.

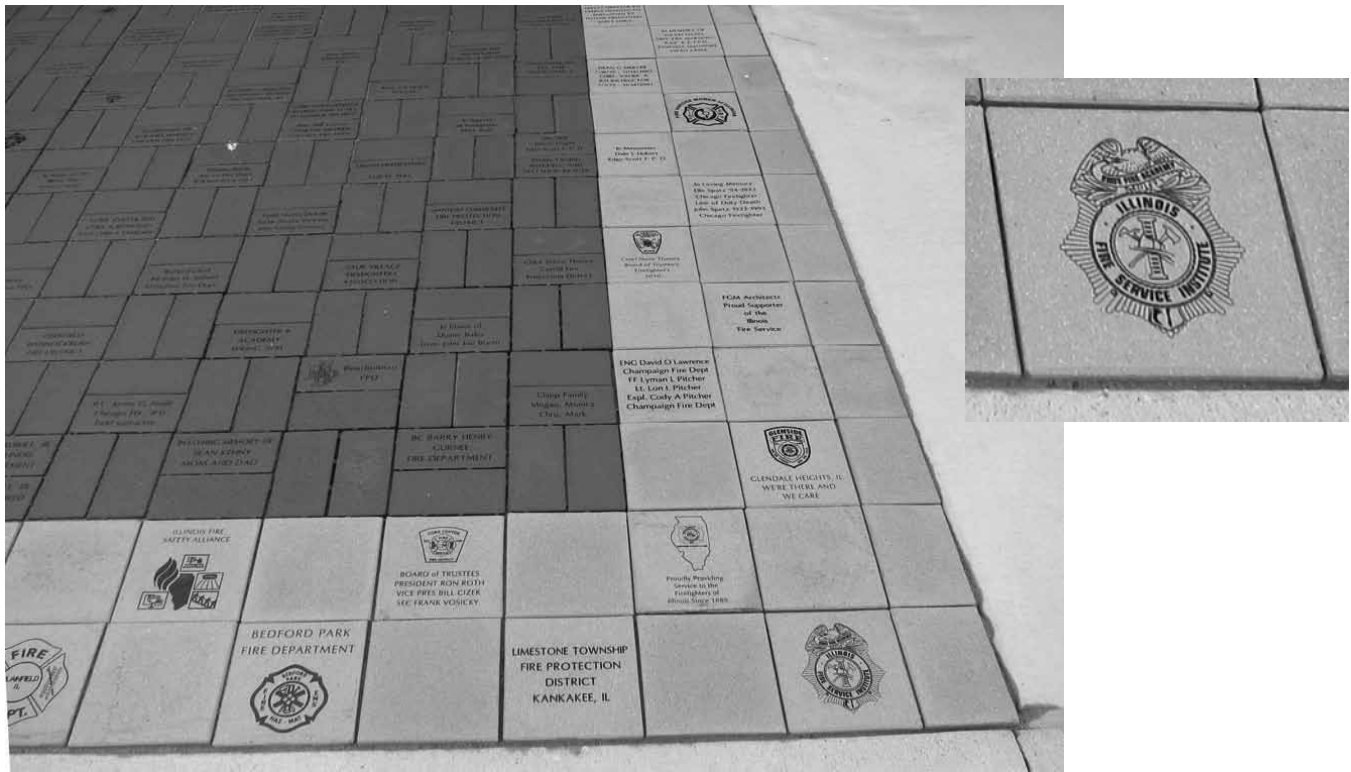
Diane Richardson, IFSI Reference and User Training Librarian and David Ehrenhart, IFSI Archivist and Metadata Librarian, made a presentation on the IFLODD resource at the Illinois Library Association 2013 Annual Conference. Lian Ruan made a presentation about the IFSI Library at the 2012 Annual International Symposium on Firefighting and Emergency Management in Langfang, Hebei Province, China. She also made a presentation on her dissertation research at the 2013 Annual inFIRE Conference in Oklahoma.



Twenty-six librarians along with four visiting scholars joined the 2013 Chinese Librarians Summer Program for a four-week long program. This successful program marked the 9th anniversary and has trained 220 librarians from 83 Chinese universities and organizations. Besides residential study in Illinois, the participants visited libraries in the East and West Coasts, including the Library of Congress, Columbia University Library, Princeton University Library, Yale University Library, MIT Library, Harvard Library, UC Berkeley Library and Stanford University Library. The program was well-received by participants and made far-reaching impact on their careers and lives.

Another dynamic feature: The IFSI Library has unveiled the only publically-available online database of the recipients of the Illinois Firefighter Medal of Honor and Medal of Valor. It can be accessed on the IFSI website at <http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/library/medals/>. The Medal of Honor and Medal of Valor are awarded each year in Springfield as part of the Illinois Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Firefighter Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony. Both medals are given for acts of bravery or heroism, and the Medal of Honor is the highest award given to an Illinois firefighter. The new database describes the actions that each firefighter took to receive the award and includes the ability to search by agency, name, and other criteria. If you have information about a Medal of Honor or Medal of Valor award recipient that you would like to contribute, please contact IFSI Archivist and Metadata Librarian David Ehrenhart at ehrenha1@illinois.edu or 217/244-0783, or you can directly submit comments for a firefighter using a link within each record in the database.

A perfect gift for Christmas.



Go to the IFSI web site to reserve your brick and honor a loved one or recognize your department as a supporter of IFSI training.



In the early morning hours of January 19, 2000, on the campus of Seton Hall, an arson fire was started in the 3rd floor lounge of the six-story freshmen residence hall. Alvaro Llanos and Shawn Simons, 18-year-old roommates at the time, were two of the most severely burned students. They brought their story to Champaign in September. It was a dynamic presentation that included the film "After the Fire" - inspired by their story with a powerful message about campus fire safety. Members of local fire departments were in the audience to hear their story.

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The IFSI Family

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

IFSI has been accredited by Pro Board since 2009 and offers 24 Pro Board-accredited programs. IFSI is one of 70 accredited agencies worldwide.

Leon Duncan was deployed in August to serve for 16 days on the command staff for the Incendiary Creek Fire in Idaho. He served as the Document Unit Leader for the Northern Rockies North Idaho Incident Management Team. He was responsible for maintaining incident documentation, including the Incident History File, and applying the Incident Command System relative to documentation creation and distribution.

Leon was one of 20 IFSI staff members to be qualified to respond to wildfire events at the Command level. Duncan, along with Joyce Davis and Bob Doty (also part of the IFSI staff) was qualified earlier this year by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. Davis is qualified as a Status Check-in Recorder. Duncan is an instructor for Command and General Staff classes and Davis is part of the IFSI support team. Doty is part of the ICS300-400 instructional team.

This last summer, six members of the IFSI staff were deployed to the Oregon Labrador Fire as part of the all Illinois Initial Attack Group.

Dan Martin, a research specialist with the IFSI, left for two years in Europe to study engineering at three prominent European Engineering Schools. His studies will focus on Fire Safety Engineering. Dan received a scholarship from "Erasmus Mundus" to cover his tuition.

Dan will be studying at Ghent University in Ghent, Belgium; Lund University in Lund, Sweden and Edinburgh University in Edinburgh, Scotland. At the end of each semester he will switch universities to gain an international understanding of how to tackle problems that Fire Safety Engineers face around the world.



Bill Cosgrove, retired fire investigator for the Chicago Fire Department, was in Champaign on September 9 for the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators Training Conference. He is the author of these four books and donated the books to the IFSI library while he was in town.

Explorer Field Training

The Explorer Field Training sessions for the 2014 budget year have been expanded to five dates and locations. IFSI conducted four of the one-day field training sessions last year, with an excellent turnout at all of the locations. Overall, IFSI trained 169 Explorers and plans to exceed those numbers this year.

The first training session was held in Frankfort, IL on October 12. The training sites this spring will be Cherry Valley, Galesburg and the St. Louis area. The fifth location is pending, so more details will come as soon

as that location is established. These one-day trainings are key in introducing aspiring young firefighters to a hands-on firefighting skills lab, in which they will be educated on fire hose and appliances, self-contained breathing apparatus, search and rescue, ladders, live-fire behavior, and hand tools. The objectives for this training will continue to follow the Illinois OSFM Basic Firefighter objectives. Please contact Tim Meister if you have any questions. He can be reached at 217/300-7344 or tameiste@illinois.edu.



Photos from last year's Explorer Field Training in O'Fallon.



A group of firefighters from Mexico were in the United States to attend the FRI conference and participated in a rope rescue class taught by IFSI instructors at the Quinn Fire Academy.



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

IFSI International Programs

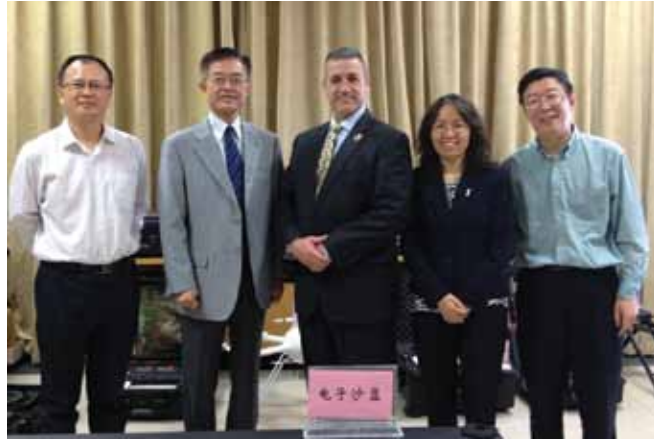
From September 17 to September 26, Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director and Lian Ruan, IFSI Director of International Programs visited China to meet with leaders, faculty, researchers and managers to discuss collaborations and partnerships in the field of fire emergency services. While there, Director Mortenson renewed the Memorandum of Understanding agreement with Tsinghua University. A new MOU agreement in English and Chinese, signed by the U of I Chancellor Phyllis Wise and U of I officials,

was delivered by Director Mortenson and signed by President Yang Jun of the Chinese People's Armed Police Forces Academy. Director Mortenson made several presentations over the nine days.

In the two weeks prior to Director Mortenson joining Lian in China, Lian met with library directors at 19 higher education libraries. She made several presentations and promoted the Chinese Librarians Summer Program.



*Dr. Lian Ruan
International
Programs
Director*



Left photo: Director Mortenson meets with Director Chan of the Hong Kong Fire Services Department.

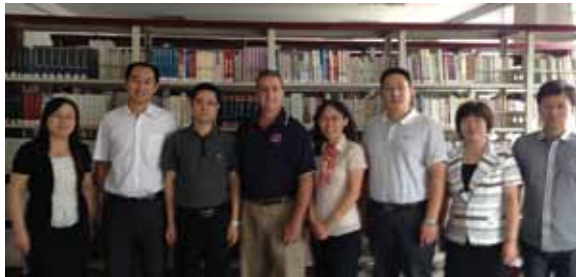
Right photo: Director Mortenson (center) with Lian Ruan (second from right) meet with Professors Fan, Zhang, and Yuan of the Institute of Public Safety Research at Tsinghua University to renew the Memorandum of Understanding with Tsinghua University.



Director Mortenson meets with President Yang and Administrators from the Chinese People's Armed Police Forces Academy to deliver a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the University of Illinois.



Director Mortenson meets with representatives of Dalian Jiaotong University.



A meeting with the Dalian Maritime University.



A meeting with Jinan University officials.



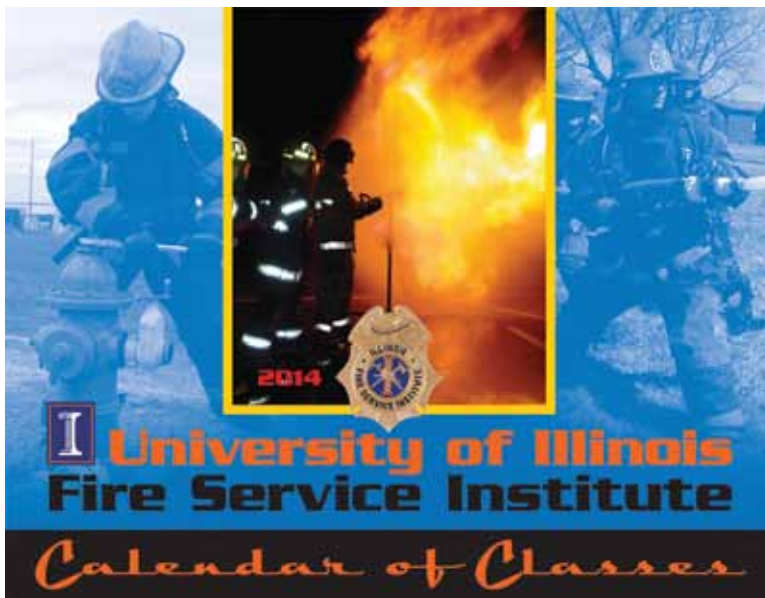
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The IFSI newsletter is distributed twice a year to fire departments and individuals to keep the Illinois Fire Service up to date on program activities and what classes are available.



***Watch for the
2014 calendar in
the mail in early
November.***